April 7 Ballot—Sustainable Funding
Issue for Mercer 4-H and Extension

The Mercer County Extension Council has formed a “district” and will place a property tax levy on the April 7th ballot. This measure is designed to support 4-H and Extension programming. University Extension is funded by a partnership between county, state and federal government. Due to county funding cuts, Mercer County Extension does not have enough funds to house a full time specialist based in Mercer County.

What will the Extension District do with the funds?

- Provide support to bring a full-time Extension Specialist based in Mercer County
- Provide funding to keep the office open 40 hours/week (currently open 12 hours/week due to county funding cuts)
- Support 4-H and Extension programming so that more great programs can be offered to Mercer County Citizens

### Historical Funding in Mercer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Princeton</th>
<th>Mercer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$5000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$5000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$16,500</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1500</td>
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(City of Princeton-2004-11 avg. of $4771/year)

Local Funding in 2010—$23,500/year
Local Funding in 2015—$6500/year

Grundy and Mercer Co. 4-H council Scholarship applications are due to the County office by April 15, 2015.

### Members in Good Standing

Members, now is the time to make sure you are getting enough meetings to qualify to show at the fair and participate in other activities like camp this summer. Per council guidelines, members must attend at least 1/2 of club meetings (typically 6) to be a member in good standing. Questions? Contact your club leader or contact the office.
4-H Camp apps.—DUE May 6
Camp #1 dates are during the week of June 1–4. Camp #2 dates are during the week of June 8–11. Cost will be $110. Applications are online, or your local office.

Shooting Sports Contests

Ravenwood Shooting Sports Contest
Saturday, May 2
Deadline for registration will be April 24

Andrew County Shooting Sports Contest
Saturday, May 30

Shooting Sports Calendar/Gun Raffle
Missouri 4-H is again partnering with the Missouri Friends of the NRA in a giant raffle/fundraiser. Last year, more than $98,000 was raised for Missouri 4-H. Proceeds from this fund-raiser will be split 50/50 between 4-H and the NRA Foundation (MO Friends of NRA Committee). The raffle is for 104 guns to be given away during the year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) – two per week. The calendars actually serve as the raffle tickets and are sold for $50 each. Photos of Missouri 4-Hers are featured on 8 of the monthly pages. Our shooting sports program should expect to receive about $15 for each calendar sold.

Grundy Co Shooting Sports will be selling these this year. Please contact the Persell Family. anna.persell@yahoo.com

Show Stock Clinic
Date: Saturday, April 11
Where: N. MO Lvst. Auction—Milan
Schedule: Registration, 8-8:45
        Clinic, 9 am—1 pm
Species: Meat Goats, Mkt. Lambs, Mkt. Swine, Beef, Bucket Calves.
Topics: Selection, Showmanship, Nutrition, Housing, Handling, Health, Show Ring Ethics
Live animals on hand for practice, give-a-ways!
Early Reg: $10/person postmarked by 4/1
Late Reg: $12/person (including day of event)
Lunch provided for youth, additional $5 for parents.
STATE CONGRESS

June 3-5; registration DUE April 15. Ages 14 and older
For more information and to register online, go to:

http://4h.missouri.edu/events/congress/

What You'll Do at State 4-H Congress

- Learn the life skills of a super leader, connecting with experts in quality workshops and learning opportunities!
- Experience campus living – residence halls, cafeterias, classrooms, you name it!
- Elect your representatives on the State 4-H Council!
- Get to know other 4-H youth from across Missouri...and HAVE FUN!

Missouri Sheep Producers to Offer Another Round of Starter Flock Grants

In an effort to promote the sheep industry to Missouri's youth, MSP has initiated a starter flock grant program. This year marks the seventh year MSP has offered this program with nine grants being awarded. The deadline of May 1 is fast approaching for submittal of the 2015 applications. This year MSP has teamed up with FCS Financial to offer up to three $600 starter flock grants to 4H or FFA youth to purchase ewes.

Grant eligibility, requirements and applications can be view and downloaded from the MSP webpage at www.missourisheep.com. Questions can be directed to Scott Kaden at rollakadens@embarqmail.com or 573-578-9801. Applications must be postmarked by May 1 and mailed to:

Scott Kaden
15850 CR 7200
Rolla, MO 65401

**Mercer and Grundy Counties 4-H members please be watching your email for upcoming project meetings. Please note that in the email it will have an RSVP date and items that you might need to provide for the meeting. Also you do not have to be registered in the project to attend these events.**

4-H PROJECT BRIEFS

Looking for a way to get started on your new project? The Project Briefs were written for both leaders and members as a supplement to the 4-H project curriculum & offer project ideas, meeting suggestions, demonstration ideas, tours, and more!. Project briefs are being developed for each project and will be posted as they are developed. Project briefs are on-line at the Missouri 4-H Website.

http://4h.missouri.edu/projects/briefs/
MISSOURI SHOW ME QUALITY ASSURANCE (SMQA)

By June 1st, all 4-H members enrolled in food animal projects (including beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, meat and dairy goats, rabbits, and poultry) must complete the appropriate level of SMQA certification to be considered in good standing. Youth must attend 2 consecutive years between the ages 8-13 and once after age 14. So How Do I Complete SMQA?

Complete online certification at: http://agebb.missouri.edu/smqa/

4-H Center for Youth Development

Interest-Free Funding Available for 4-H and FFA projects

FCS Financial is launching a new agricultural youth funding program to assist Missouri 4-H and FFA members with their agricultural projects. The agreement provides interest-free funding for qualifying projects, is available to all 4-H and FFA members in the association’s lending service area and is repayable within one year.

“Missouri is home to more than 105,000 4-H members and supports 324 FFA chapters consisting of 25,000 students,” says Scott Gardner, FCS Financial Marketing and Sales Vice President. “There is no better way to prepare these future farmers and ranchers for their career in agriculture than providing financial assistance and education at this point in their lives.”

FCS Financial will require a detailed projected cash flow as part of the application process. If approved for funding, the applicant must keep accurate records available for FCS Financial to review throughout the term of the agreement.

Available funding is based on FCS Financial’s capital and, in 2014, $300,000 has been reserved for the program. Funds are available for one project per year, per student. For more details or to apply, visit www.myfcsfinancial or contact your local FCS Financial office.
4-H Contest Day
April 10th
Mercer County
April 24th
Grundy County

Check out the county web page:
http://extension.missouri.edu/
Mercer or Grundy
For the newsletter, entry forms, and other 4-H information.