Checking Account Balance Carry Over 2008

Postage Fund

Miscellaneous Income

Governmental Appropriations Income

Budget Summary

Revenues: $30,394.49
Expenses: $27,852.87

Income

Student Fees - $134.46
Governmental Appropriations
  County - 16,500.00
  City of Princeton - 5,500.08
  City of Mercer - 1,500.00
Gifts/Grants/Contracts - 1,460.00
Resales/Edue Services Fees - $1,551.00
Miscellaneous Income - 2.10
Postage Fund - 800.00
Checking Account Balance Carry Over 2008 - 2,946.85

Expenses

2800-Payroll Expenses - $15,860.42
2900-Non Payroll Salaries - 1,367.04
3100-Travel - 3,443.36
3600-Postage - 344.68
3700-Telephone Serv.-Local - 854.67
4400-Rent/Lease Equipment - 1,541.78
4800-Reproduction/Copy Services - 910.74
5100-Supplies/Services - 1,265.11
6400-Other Contract Services - 300.00
6800-Insurance - 100.00
7000-Miscellaneous - 66.50
7010-Extension Council Election Exp. - 105.75
7020-Petty Cash - 82.00
7100-Soil Test Expenses - 1,222.00
7200-Publications for Resale - 140.94
7700-Furniture/Equipment - 207.88

Equal opportunity is and shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations.

H  & Youth

Message from the Vice Provost of Extension

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:

As we approach the end of another year and the beginning of a new year, I want to thank you for the support you have given to your local University of Missouri Extension Center during these difficult economic times. Your partnership with federal and state government and many other entities through MU Extension has made it possible for:

- Young people to learn life skills that make them contributing, caring members of the community; prepare them with science-based education for higher education and careers of the future; and help them avoid risky behaviors.
- Aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses to be more efficient and profitable, thereby helping to strengthen the local economy.
- Farmers and agribusinesses to incorporate new, research-based production techniques and best practices into their operations to improve their bottom line while protecting the environment.
- Families to learn and engage in healthy nutrition, fitness and lifestyle behaviors, which also help them reduce medical costs.
- Firefighters, nurses, law enforcement officers, teachers and others maintain and upgrade their professional skills and certifications.
- Communities to develop local leaders and deal with critical issues in a non-biased, neutral way for the public good.

The funds invested in MU Extension are well managed. $11 million in county council funds, combined with other public and private funds, allow us to deliver $99 million worth of educational programs statewide. While the methods for delivering educational programs continue to evolve – including the Web, videos, social networking media, print materials and face-to-face meetings – the core of MU Extension’s mission remains: “...to improve people’s lives, communities and the economy by providing Relevant, Responsive and Reliable Research-based education.”

If you have suggestions for how MU Extension can better serve your needs, please contact me or your local extension center.

Sincerely,

Vice Provost and Director
Mercer County Extension Council Chair - Marsha Shew

Dear Mercer County Citizens:

We are coming to the close of another successful year in Extension. Extension personnel continue to work with students at Princeton and North Mercer schools on various programs including the Water Festival, and the Local Government, 4-H also continues to be an integral part of the youth programming in Mercer County. This year, five adults were certified in different shoots sports which allows us to offer more project opportunities for our youth.

The focus on adult education has brought programs on weatherization, energy conservation and safeguarding personal savings. Wilson Majee is spearheading the Community Garden project, which will be in the lot north of the American Legion building. Tim Baker, horticulture specialist, has made several visits with producers in the county to help them with production issues and questions. Heather Benedict and Kevin Hanson and Shaw Deering held a forage field day for livestock producers. Extension has partnered with the US Census Bureau to distribute materials alerting people in the county to the importance of being counted in the upcoming census.

With the support of the County Commission, and the cities of Princeton, and Mercer, Extension looks forward to another year of informative programming helping the residents of Mercer County to enjoy a better quality of life.

If you have programming requests or questions about agriculture, family, nutrition, or any of the other areas Extension covers, please contact the Extension office.

Sincerely,

Marsha Shew

A Note from the County Program Director

As I write this, Wilson Majee is preparing to step into the position of County Program Director. I am certain he will do a great job and Mercer County is fortunate to have him serving the community.

2009 has been a fun year. We started the year at a budget unchanged from 2008. While it would be nice to have more resources, we were grateful to not receive a cut in spite of the downturn in the economy. I would personally like to thank the County Commissioners for their continued support. The cities of Mercer and Princeton have also made it possible to keep our office open and programs available in the community. I would like to thank them as well.

When you read through this annual report, I hope you will see the Extension office has had in lives of the people of Mercer County, as well as the value the University of Missouri brings to the county.

I have truly enjoyed working with the council and the community as the interim Program Director. I hope I will have opportunities to come back to Mercer County and participate in programming.

I wish all of you the best in 2010.

Sincerely,

Meridith Berry
Interim CPD

Mercer County Benefits from MU Education & Services

Mercer County has several ties to the University of Missouri. In addition to 1,504 contacts with the Extension Office in Princeton, the UM System provides our county with other benefits.

Thirteen students from Mercer County are currently enrolled in higher education courses through the University of Missouri System. Over 60 residents are alumni of UM System schools. Among the alumni, 6 graduated in the field of medicine, 6 in law, 4 in teaching, 1 in engineering, and 16 in agriculture.

The University provides $180,041 in salaries and retirement income to Mercer County residents.

Forty one patients utilized UM Health Care and received $49,427 in uncompensated care.

Source: Office of Government Relations, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211

Community Development: Dancing to the song the people are singing.

The current economic recession has caused many, if not most, communities to seriously re-examine and evaluate past strategies to promote community and economic development.

Your Extension office has likewise been working to promote active and representative participation toward enabling all community members to meaningfully influence the decisions that affect their lives. To this end, several meetings and events were conducted in year 2009.

Early in the year, following a community meeting, a Community Clean-Up Task Force was formed. This Task Force, chaired by Rev Dan Strattmann, continues to explore ways to improve the outlook of our community, particularly towards reducing community blight, the demolition of dilapidated structures. This will go a long way in keeping our county safe and valuable.

Also initiated in the course of the year was the idea of a community garden in Princeton. Research shows that community agriculture and conservation initiatives have become increasingly important components of sustainable development strategies, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Community gardens are believed to assist in fostering community social ties and interaction, neighborhood cleanliness and pride, community involvement, and access to fresh and healthier food.

The Extension office is looking for community members interested in community gardening, who will be willing to move this project forward. Land has already been identified and we are working with Green Hills Community Action Agency to source funding for the project. At the time of writing this report, two similar projects are in the works in Tren-ton and Bethany. Extension stands ready to see this project come to fruition. The wind of change is blowing – let us not be left behind.

Towards the end of the year, Extension, in partnership with Green Hills Community Action Agency, embarked on a project to understand and identify possible solutions to the problem of poverty in our communities. The effort, known as Community Empowerment Collaborations (CECs), is happening in all 9 counties of GHCAA, Mercer included. CECs provide a platform through which local community members can have a voice to influence decisions that affect their lives, a means for people to come together and deliberate on poverty issues in their communities. Let us remember that within our richness as families, societies, cities, or states, poverty will always lurk in the shadows ready to pounce when temporary (job loss, accident) events strike. Even in normal times, poverty preys on the weak (old age, disadvantaged, bereaved) living along with us, in the shadows, waiting for its opportune time. Going forward, let us make it our new priority to engage ourselves, to participate in (re)building our communities.

As a community development specialist, participatory development thrills me - hearing and seeing local community members take charge of the development process to improve their well-being and that of the community. I am looking forward to the establishment of the CEC for Mercer county.

December 2009

The success of Extension is enhanced by the sponsors of our programs. Thank you to the following: Green Hills Community Action Agency, Princeton Chamber of Commerce, United Methodist Church, Grand River Mutual, Grundy Electric Cooperative, First Baptist Church – Princeton, Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation District, and all of the sponsors for the Water Festival listed on page 4.
**Business Development Programs**

Overall, the University of Missouri’s Business Development Programs (BDP) served 29,423 people and their businesses state-wide. The total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

- New jobs: 7,209
- Sales increases: $135,921,024
- Government contracts: $256,800,000
- New businesses: 273
- Jobs retained: 2,913
- Loans and investments in business: $138,823,077
- Acquired assets: $63,048,551
- Investment in commercialization: $20,007,617 in SBIR/STTR or research proposals submitted with $55,120,613 awards received
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 4,374
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 25,049

**Regional Specialists Provide Diverse Programming**

**Ag Update 2009**

Heather Benedict, Agronomy specialist from Harrison County held a forum for farmers and other ag-related businesses concerning the threats and opportunities facing agriculture in 2009. Participants were able to update pesticide applicator licenses and learn about the latest research from the University of Missouri.

**Conserve Energy - Save Money**

Jim Crawford, Natural Resource Engineer Specialist from Atchison County was the featured speaker at a forum for Green Hills Community Action clients. Crawford provided information to participants about inexpensive ways to weatherize homes and keep the cold air outside.

**Century Farm Recognition - Mercer County**

The University of Missouri is delighted to recognize two century farms in Mercer County this year. The first award went to Guy O. Thomas Jr. and Kathy-Evortit-Thomas. The land measuring approximately 40 acres was acquired in 1890. The land is originally from great-grandmother Burks’ side of the family. George’s grandmother, Vernie, inherited the land which she passed down to George’s father, Loris Nigh. Loris gave the farm to George, who is in turn, is planning on passing it on to his son, David Nigh. George Nigh grew up in Mercer County and went to school here. He ran a garage in Mt. Moriah until the late 1950’s. In 1960, he joined the Kansas City Police Department, where he worked for 25 years.

He then came back here and farmed for a while and then began to cut back. His wife, Twila Nigh is retired from Sears. The Missouri Century Farm program’s history dates back to 1976 as a result of the Missouri Committee for Agriculture which was co-chaired by James B. Boillot, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and Elmer R. Kiehl, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri. This program has been sustained as a yearly event with over 100 farms recognized each year. In 2008, Missouri Farm Bureau became a program co-sponsor.

**Census Partnership**

The year 2010 is the decennium for the United States census. The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. Mercer County Extension has partnered with the Census Bureau to provide information to the citizens of Mercer County concerning the upcoming census.

- Census questionnaires will be sent to every resident in the nation in March 2010. Responses from the questions asked are kept private.
- Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections.
- Extension will pass out information at public events to encourage citizens to fill out the questionnaire. Census information is used to allocate over $400 billion dollars of federal funding to infrastructure and services like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects, emergency services.
- The Extension office will provide help in promoting the Census through news releases and handing out materials at public events.

Every household should receive a census questionnaire by April 2009. The Extension office will have additional forms if you do not receive one.
Over 120 students from Mercer and Harrison Counties attend 2009 Water Festival

Fourth grade students from Mercer and Harrison Counties gathered at the Princeton Baptist church to learn about Ecology, water quality and soil erosion. Students were divided into small groups and moved through eight learning stations. These stations included Birds and Beaks, Enviroscape, Microscopes, Stream Table, Ground Water, Soil Bottles, Food Webs and Soil Layers. The sessions were taught by NW Missouri Extension specialists, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Soil and Water District. Students scored an average of 18% on the pretest and an average of 71% on the post test. Students filled out a workbook at each station where they made a hypothesis and recorded conclusions to the activities. Teachers commented “This is useful and helpful to get across difficult science curriculum.” It was a…” good review of materials prior to MAP”.

Thanks to generous sponsors, we were able to provide curriculum materials for the classrooms as well as a snack and lunch for the group.

(Cont. from page 7) pull, talent show, a side by side Mud Run, the Super Farmer Event, a pet show, a Tractor Pull and a Draft Horse Pull.

In addition to the Mercer County Fair, 4-H members participated in the North Central Missouri College Fair in Trenton and the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. Mercer County 4-H held its annual Contest Day in April. MEET THE FUTURE 2009 theme for 4-H week was “Meet the Future”, 4-H clubs celebrated by decorating local businesses and participating in special activities. FLOAT TRIP For an outdoor adventure, the region’s 4-H members headed to south Missouri for a 3 day float trip on the Meramec River. The group toured a cave at the Meramec State Park and camped out. MULTI-COUNTY EVENTS Along with competitions and camp, the 4-H groups in the region get together for fun activities. Mercer and Grundy clubs met at the Stacy Center in Princeton for a swim party. All 15 counties met in St. Joseph for Move Across America Event. SERVICE As a service project to the community, the Mercer 4-H clubs helped the Green Hills Community Action Agency stuff backpacks to welcome new students at the Back to School Fair.

EDUCATION 23 Mercer students and 16 Princeton preschoolers participated in the 4-H embryology project. Extension provided fertilized eggs and incubators along with curriculum to teach students about how chicks are formed and hatched. This remains one of the most popular programs offered to the schools on a yearly basis.

FUND RAISING Mercer 4-H clubs served 477 people at the Grundy Electric Cooperative Dinner. They also manned the concession stand at the home softball games for the Princeton Lady Tigers. Both of these events served to help raise money to help pay for the activities of the year.

4-H Programs Keep Mercer Youth Busy

4-H Members Develop Strong Values

A ground-breaking national study has confirmed what we already knew: Kids who are active 4-H members excel in leadership and volunteer service. Equally important, active 4-H’ers report fewer unhealthy behaviors such as drinking, smoking, and other drug use. That’s good news for parents, community leaders, and citizens. The 4-H Study began at the national level in 2002. Since then, nearly 5,000 adolescents from 34 states have been surveyed. In 2007, 338 Missouri youth at 21 sites around the state were surveyed. The Missouri students were evenly divided between 4-H and non-4-H participants. Most were in the 8th or 9th grades. Significant differences were found between active 4-H participants and non-4-H’ers. Active 4-H participation is defined as participating in a 4-H activity at least twice a month. Active 4-H’ers had higher scores on service, more leadership experiences and more adult mentors. Plus, they had lower scores on unhealthy behaviors. Clearly, 4-H is a good investment for kids, parents and civic leaders.
University of Missouri Extension is working to prepare the next generation to take on the roles of leadership in our local communities. One of the programs offered is the MY LOGO (formally the CECH-UP program) taught to 6th grade students in Princeton and Mercer schools by Community Development Specialist, Wilson Majee.

The goals of the MY LOGO are to:
1. Teach students about, and involve them in, an understanding of local government.
2. Bring students into direct contact with local governments and local government officials.
3. Familiarize students with the profession of city management and public administration.
4. Provide opportunities for students to research and discuss problems and challenges facing local government in their communities.
5. Enhance the learning process by having students develop class, small group, and individual projects related to some aspect of local government.
6. Offer schools local government curriculum resources that can be tailored to local government and issues.
7. Foster the development of a MY LOGO (Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government) network among teachers, students, University of MO-Extension field staff, and local government officials across Missouri, and
8. Strengthen the relationship among local government officials, schools, and University of MO-Extension across the state.

"My son said 'I really like Wilson, but he made us work on that assignment.' I believe that says a lot about you, when my sixth grade son is impressed."

Letter to Wilson Majee from a parent of a 6th grade MY LOGO student.

Grundy Electric Cooperative Supports Extension Programming

Mercer County Extension was the recipient of a Community Foundation grant awarded by Grundy Electric Cooperative. The grant award was used to purchase a small television with DVD player which is used for pesticide licensing and other Extension programming.

"We are so grateful community organizations provide grant opportunities which enhance our ability to bring programs to the citizens of Mercer County", said Meridith Berry, County Program Director. "We have been fortunate to find support for our programs from several different organizations."

Student changes reported by teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of teachers who observed each type of student change</th>
<th>Percent of teachers whose students talked about this change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More aware of nutrition</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make healthier meal and/or snack choices</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat breakfast more often</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More willing to try new foods</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved hand washing</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved food safety other than hand washing</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased physical activity</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"This is a wonderful program, the students really enjoyed it. I hope you will continue this next year." 6th grade teacher

"I think it is wonderful you've taken the initiative to become involved in our community in such an active manner. Our Extension office is a great source of resources for our community and I appreciate your willingness to share this with our young people."

Letter to Wilson Majee from a parent of a 6th grade MY LOGO student.

Educati n Your Our Make Better Choices for a Healthier Life

University of Missouri Extension (UME) Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 262 low-income participants with nutrition education in Mercer county during 2008-2009. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. Nutrition education for youths provides information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. Education for adults includes nutrition, food safety, physical activity, and food resource management. This school year a new 3rd grade curriculum was piloted, revised and implemented. The revisions were made to make it better fall in line with what schools want their students to know, based on the Grade Level Expectations. Evaluation data collected across the entire state reflects the positive impacts that occur in every county with FNEP. For youths who participated in FNEP, results summarized for the state revealed the following positive impacts:

- 65% have participated in FNEP for 3 or more years.
- 99% (3,375 teachers) reported one or more changes in students after FNEP.

CAREER DAY

Third Graders from Princeton Elementary school stopped by the University of Missouri Extension office on Career Day. Lisa Delameter, Wilson Majee and Kelsey Jmcks greeted the students, talked about their jobs and other jobs with Extension.

The students left with a University lunch bag filled with promotional items.
Missouri youth attend National 4-H Congress

Thirty 4-H members and three advisors from across the state represented Missouri at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga., November 26 – December 2, 2009. Mercer County was represented by Jessi Linebaugh.

They were among more than 995 4-H members from 46 states across the country and the U.S. territories to participate. Delegates were inspired to “Accept the Challenge to set the stage”, for Global Awareness, to Explore, to Serve, and for Action! Some of sites toured by delegates were Centennial Olympic Park, the Carter Center for Mediation and Presidential Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Center, CNN Center, the Aquarium, Atlanta Speedway, ESPN, the Zoo and the World of Coca-Cola.

Conference speakers enhanced the National 4-H Congress experience for the delegates as well as the adults. Dan Thurman, motivational speaker, challenged the delegates to improve performance while juggling multiple tasks. Katie Stam, Miss America 2009, discussed the importance of community service and making it an important part of your life. She challenged delegates to set a goal to participate in community service and work towards achieving that goal.

Cap noting the event, Dan Clark, contributing author to "Chicken Soup for the Soul” challenged the delegates to reach deep within to address challenges they may encounter in life.

“Leadership workshops, engaging in community service, cultural opportunities and experiencing the great tour attractions Atlanta has to offer helps contribute to the development of capable, competent and caring young people,” said Diana Duncan, Interim State 4-H Youth Specialist and State Conference Coordinator. National 4-H Congress is the preeminent 4-H event nationwide. Throughout its eighty year history, National 4-H Congress has been a stage for the very best and brightest, most accomplished 4-H member from throughout the nation. Duncan commented that many delegates comment that this experience is the highlight of their career.

Missouri delegates are selected on a multi-level selection, including a comprehensive written report and interviews at the regional and state levels. Delegates are announced each year during the Missouri State 4-H Congress held at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Across the state, 4-H members are preparing to apply for National 4-H Congress, 2010. Written applications and regional interviews held prior to April 1 narrow the field from over 1000 members to more than 50 applicants. The applications are reviewed by teams of MU faculty and top applicants are interviewed during State 4-H Congress. Up to thirty young people are selected to represent Missouri at National 4-H Congress each year.

2009 was another busy year for the Mercer County 4-H youth. The year was filled with opportunities to camp, travel, compete, and learn.

CAMP
The month of June was busy with annual 4-H camp at Crowder State Park in Tren ton, Missouri. 199 counselors and campers attended the “Fun in the Sun” camp. Despite the wet weather, they were able to canoe, swim, shot archery and paintball and do leatherwork. The campfire and dances kept everyone busy from sun up to late night.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Nine 4-H members from Mercer County loaded on a bus for a twelve day trip to D.C. The group toured the Capitol, the national monuments, and Mount Vernon. They visited the National Zoo and saw the fireworks over the capital of our nation on July 4. They also attended a production of The Color Purple at the Kennedy Center.

A side trip to New York City allowed the group to visit Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and see a Broadway production of West Side Story.

FAIRS & ACHIEVEMENT DAYS
4-H members spend a lot of time preparing their animals and projects for show. In January, members had the opportunity to attend a live-stock judging class in Columbia, Missouri. In February, thirteen members attended the Show Me Quality Program, which is required for 4-H members who show animals at the State Fair.

On July 13, the Mercer County Fair kicked off with the Green Hills Circuit Horse Show. Other events in the week long show included livestock shows and judging, a baby show, a pedal (continued on page 9)