

The Mississippi County Extension Council thanks the County Commission for their financial support in 2006. County Commissioners were Jim Blumenberg (Presiding), Homer Oliver and Martin Lucas.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**  
**COUNCIL**  
**2006**

*Our Mission...*

*To extend the educational resources and knowledge base of the University of Missouri to the people of Mississippi County.*



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**M** Extension

**109 N. First St.**  
**Charleston, MO 63834**

*University Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or status as a Vietnam era veteran in employment or programs.*

The County Extension Council consists of dedicated volunteers who meet monthly to help determine the programs that will best meet the needs of Mississippi County citizens, approves personnel headquartered in the county and maintains the Extension Center from funds provided by the Mississippi County Commission.

#### OFFICERS

Britton Ferrell, *Chairman*  
Dick Brown, *Vice-Chairman*  
Faye Moxley, *Treasurer*  
Sabrina Harris, *Secretary*

#### APPOINTED MEMBERS

Martin Lucas, *Miss. County Commission*  
Justin Harper, *Farm Bureau*  
Gerald Penn, *City of Wyatt*

#### ELECTED MEMBERS

Shirley Bryant	Dana Ellis	Dick Brown	John Bledsoe
Maureen Carman	Jeff Renaud	Glenda Manche	

### **COUNTY-BASED EXTENSION STAFF**

Anthony Ohmes, *Agronomy Specialist*  
Mary Engram, *Human Development Specialist*  
Marilyn Williams, *Youth Development Education Assistant*  
Ann Cleaves, *EFNEP Nutrition Education Assistant*  
Dorothy Blissett, *FNP Nutrition Assistant*  
Paula Cates, *FNP Nutrition Assistant*  
Gail Pang, *Office Manager*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Janet Kline, *Regional Director*  
Linda Morgan, *EFNEP Supervisor*

#### AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES

Van Ayers, *Ag & Rural Development*  
Vacant, *Horticulture*  
Jeff House, *Agronomy - Soybeans*  
David Guethle, *Agronomy - Rice*  
Mike Milam, *Agronomy - Cotton*  
Roger Eakins, *Livestock*  
David Reinbott, *Farm Management*

#### HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Maude Harris, *Health & Nutrition*

#### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Clara Green, *4-H*

#### COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richard Proffer, *Business & Industry*

## Human Development

*Each year our goal is to offer un-biased, research-based educational programs to families in Mississippi County with the goal of improving their quality of life in the environments in which they live, work, learn and relax.*

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

According to the U.S. Census, there are over 300 grandparents raising grandchildren in Mississippi County. In March and April, 2004 a five-session workshop was offered for grandparents who are currently raising grandchildren. Following the workshop a support group was formed and has continued to meet each month. In 2006, nine support group meetings were held at the Mississippi County Library with an average attendance of 6 grandparents.

### **Focus on Kids**

The "FOCUS ON KIDS" program for divorcing parents is offered every month in Mississippi and Scott counties. The program has the support of Judge Lynn Brown, Judge David Dolan, and Judge Winchester who refer parents to the class. The purpose of the class is to help parents learn about the needs of their children and their common reactions to divorce. In 2006, 22 parents attended class. To date, over 200 parents in Scott & Mississippi Counties have attended the class.

### **Making a Difference**

HIV/Aids curriculum training for teachers and other community partners was offered for the 11th year in the Southeast Extension region. The June, 2006 all-day training was held in Cape Girardeau with 9 total participants from the SE Region. This program is a partnership with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Centers for Disease Control.

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Regional Conference**

In October 2006 a regional conference was held in Jackson, MO for grandparents who are raising grandchildren with a national speaker and numerous educational sessions.

### **Resource Guide for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

An updated version of the SE Missouri resource guide for grandparents who are raising grandchildren was created and distributed throughout the southeast region, including Mississippi County. Funding for this project was provided by AARP. The Kinship Care Committee of SE Missouri provided their time and expertise in putting together the information for the guide.

## Youth Development

*Since its creation, 4-H helps communities create opportunities for young people to be valued, contributing members, who have the opportunity to learn by doing under the supervision of caring adults.*

### **4-H Youth Program**

59 youth in organized clubs

3,594 youth reached in school and community

177 adult volunteers

### **4-H Club Activities**

**Military packages:** care packages prepared and shipped to soldiers overseas.

**Community service projects:** Azalea Festival -leaders and members set out over 500 candles for candle light walk and passed out 4-H book marks. Additional: assisting elderly- raking leaves, planting flowers and Christmas decorations; donated clothes, shoes and toys to the needy

**Workshops:** 4-H leaders and members worked for Bootheel Healthy Start at two Day Care Workshops

**Heartland 4-H Camp:** Four 4H'ers attended this overnight camp. Second time in several years that Mississippi Co has sent members to participate in this event.

**Color Guard** performed at 4-H day camp.

**Leader/Officer Training:** Club leaders and Officers attended a 7 county training to broaden their leadership skills.  
**Recognition:** 4-H leaders and members were recognized at Cardinal Baseball game, and for volunteer service in Mississippi County.

**Fairs:** Delta at Kennett – 3 ‘Best in Show’ ribbons awarded for Craft, Food and Clothing; Mid-South Fair – Youth placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in attendance

#### **School Enrichment Programs**

Charleston and East Prairie Schools – portable gardening and embryology projects taught responsibility and an appreciation of the hard work of our agricultural producers.

Solar Day – 165 youth learned about bicycle safety

Career Day at Morehouse Elementary – bicycle safety and character counts

#### **4-H Fund Raisers**

4-H cookies and Jaycee Rodeo sales earn money for educational trips.

### **Agriculture/Horticulture**

*Every farmer in the county is reached whether by media, direct mailings, pesticide certification, soil testing, meetings or one-on-one. Extension also reaches many home gardeners as well as commercial horticulture producers.*

#### **Crop Management Conference**

**85 producers and CCA’s** attended the 2006 soybean production meeting. Soybean diseases and varieties were priority topics in 2006. This program is sponsored by the MO Soybean Association.

#### **Regional Scouting and Sentinel Plot**

Rust scouting was conducted. Published a weekly scouting update via email to over 120 clients in 2006.

#### **Rust Discovered in 2006**

Rust confirmed in Miss. Co. late season. A rust ID clinic was conducted at the Miss. Co. Library

#### **Regional Corn Meeting**

**3rd Corn Meeting brought in 91 producers and CCA’s.** Disease management and fungicide timing along with weed resistance were topics. This meeting was sponsored by local businesses and industry.

#### **Master Gardener Training**

Conducted over 10 weeks in Spring. 17 participants completed training. Master Gardeners will log in **over 250 volunteer & continuing ed. hours.**

#### **Pesticide Applicator Training**

Producers receive training for license to purchase and use restricted use pesticides.

#### **Youth Programs**

-Solar Day (Mississippi) – over 100 elementary students learned about soil conservation and water quality

-SEMO District Fair – FFA Crop Judging

-Ecology Day – 300 youth attend in Scott Co.

#### **Programs Reaching Mississippi Co. Residents**

-Rice & Cotton Producers Conferences

-Watermelon and Peach Grower Meetings

-Rice Farm Field Day

-Delta Center Field Day

-Farm Management Programs included Ag Lenders Meeting (28 attended), Marketing & Outlook Meeting and Localized Crop & Irrigation Budgets

#### **Soil Testing & Analytical Tests**

Numerous, non-biased soil tests and consultation

Seed germination samples processed

Plant diagnostic testing: home and farm

#### **Media**

**Agronomy Newsletter; Newspaper Releases Mississippi County Website; Weekly Scouting Report Email**

## Nutrition and Health

### 3rd Annual Multi-County Women's Health Conference

175 participants. Health and education information on disease prevention & intervention strategies.

#### Dining w/ Diabetes

Increased knowledge on eating, cooking and general info on diabetes

#### Family Nutrition Education Program

**EFNEP** - Works with homemakers in their homes and in group settings. 67 home makers and 202 youth were taught nutrition in Mississippi County at home, WIC, Head Start and Day Care Centers

**FNP** - 288 youth from schools in Mississippi County were taught nutrition classes. Worked w/ DAOEC teaching nutrition classes. Youth camps.

## Business Development

*Small businesses continue to be a source of strength in Missouri and nationally. In Missouri, nearly 98% of all businesses are categorized as small with fewer than 500 employees. In assisting the owners and managers of those businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county's economic development and well being of citizens.*

#### Business Consultation and Assistance

Business Development program specialist and counselors w/ MU Extension, MO SBDC, MO PTAC, MO SBTDC and MO Market Development program served 23 people and their companies w/ business start-up and management counseling, and training.

# UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension

University of Missouri Extension's mission is to improve the lives of citizens in Mississippi County. The Mississippi County Extension Center is open to all and can be contacted the following ways:

Mississippi County Extension Center - Phone: 683-6129 and 683-6130

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