The Mississippi County Extension Council thanks the County Commission for their financial support in 2014. County Commissioners were Carlin Bennett (Presiding), Mitch Pullen, and Darrell Jones.

**ANNUAL REPORT MISSISSIPPI COUNTY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COUNCIL**

2014

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

**COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL**

The County Extension Council consists of dedicated volunteers who 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**
Mike McIlroy, Chairman
Scott Vowels, Treasurer
Hamil Corse, Secretary

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**
Carlin Bennett, Miss. County Commission
Scott Vowels, Farm Bureau
Bill Feezor, Delta Growers
Bryan Mainord, City of East Prairie

**ELECTED MEMBERS**
John Bledsoe Taylor Burke
Jason Renaud Bryan Feezor
Daniel White Glenn Merrymann
Kevin Renaud Trent Hurley

**COUNTY-BASED EXTENSION STAFF**
Anthony Ohmes, Interim CPD
Rick DeLoughery (new hire 12/1), Agronomy Specialist/CPD
Mary Engam, Human Development Specialist
Vacant, Youth Education Assistant
Ann Cleaves, FNP Nutrition Assistant
Paula Cates, EFNEP Nutrition Assistant
Gail Pang, Office Manager

**SUPPORT STAFF WITH COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**
Janet Kline, Regional Director
Linda Morgan, EFNEP/Supervisor

**AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES**
Sarah Denkler, Horticulture
Sam Arweil, Agronomy - Rice
Mike Milam, Agronomy - Cotton
Roger Eakins, Livestock
David Reinbott, Farm Management

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**
Maudie Harris, Health & Nutrition
Don Ray, Family Financial Education

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
Vacant, 4-H

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Richard Proller, Business & Industry
Van Ayers, Community Development

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
Email: Mississippico@missouri.edu
Website: http://outreach.missouri.edu/mississippi/

**FNEP** - University of Missouri Family Nutrition Education Programs reached 14,748 participants with nutrition education in Mississippi County during 2014. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. Included were youth and adults reached at Charleston R-1, East Prairie R-2, and St. Henry schools, DAEOC Headstart, Funtime, Kindersteps, and Busy Bee daycares, Senior Centers, Library, and summer programs such as Eating from the Garden was taught at the Extension office. Survey results indicated that 90% of students were more aware of nutrition and 80% of them were more willing to try new foods. Hand washing awareness also increased in 83% of students.

**Nutrition and Health**

Each year citizens have an opportunity to further their education through MU continuing education program. Programs that residents have participated in include: Fire and Rescue Training - 66 participants
MU Conferences - 31 participants
Continuing Medical Education – 1 participant
Other programs available that have had participation include:
Law Enforcement Training
Missouri Training Institute
Nursing Outreach Education
**Human Development**

Each year our goal is to offer unbiased, 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.

**Focus on Kids**

The “FOCUS FOR KIDS” program for divorcing parents is offered every month rotating between Mississippi and Scott counties. Parents are referred to the class by the circuit clerk and/or their attorney. The purpose of the class is to help parents learn about the needs of their children and their common reactions to divorce. To date, over 200 parents in Scott & Mississippi Counties have attended the class.

**The Marriage Garden**

A new program that started in 2013 was continued in 2014. The Marriage Garden is an effort to provide information to newly married couples. It is a self-study packet given to each couple requesting a marriage license in Mississippi County. The study focuses on commitment, communication and community. Over 100 packets were distributed from January – December 2014.

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Regional Conference**

In October and November 2014, two regional conferences were held for grandparents who are raising grandchildren and other relative caregivers. The locations were Cape Girardeau and Hayti and numerous educational sessions were available for participants. A 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 AAPR.

**Multi-County Women’s Health Conference**

For the 11th year a multi-county conference on women’s health was held in Sikeston with 202 participants attending from the surrounding counties, including Mississippi County. The goals of the conference are to provide health and educational information to the participants with keynote speakers, individual breakout sessions, and vendors representing services in the area. The conference includes breakfast and lunch and was free to the participants.

**Tackling the Tough Skills**

In partnership with the Mississippi County Probation & Parole, a job readiness/life skills class was offered to ex-offenders in Charleston in July. Tackling the Tough Skills teaches soft skills such as responsibility, attitude and communication as well as how to interview, create a resume and fill out job applications.

**Health Insurance Education**

In March, 2014, in a joint effort with DAEOC, a Health Insurance Education forum was held in Portageville. The format was a short educational session where participants could get an overview of health insurance, then meet one-on-one with a DAEOC employee who could help them with more individualized information. The program was promoted to include a 4 county area, including Mississippi County.

**Youth Development**

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 is currently without a Specialist that covers Mississippi County.

4-H Club Activities: River Rascals 4-H Club

**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**

Producers and CCA’S, 200 attended the 2014 soybean production meeting. 100 Bushel soybeans, resistant weeds, insects, varieties, cover crops, drones and sudden death syndrome were some of the topics in 2014. This program is co-sponsored by the MO Soybean Assoc. and local businesses and industry.

**Crop Advisor Meeting**

Crop consultants from around the bootheel participated in a regional meeting, including several that work in Mississippi County. The emphasis is on research that can be used by consultants in the ag industry. This 2 day event in November provides 16 hours of CEU credit.

**Regional Corn Meeting**

The 2014 Corn Meeting brought in 130 producers, CCA’s, & Ag Businesses. Corn fertility, weeds, water systems, corn residue in relation to wheat disease were some of the topics this year. New Farm Bill education was presented also. This meeting was co-sponsored by Corn Growers Assoc. and local businesses and industry. The impact is widespread helping producers make informed decisions.

**Farm Bill Education**

2014 Farm Bill has been restructured and new decisions must be made by producers. University of Missouri has teamed w/ USDA to educate producers in the county. One regional event and two county events were provided, educating over 150 regionally and 71 producers in the county.

**Regional Insect Scouting and School**

Each year a scouting school is held at the Delta Center for the region. Participants learn all aspects of crop scouting. In addition, individual education of pest management provides producers and consultants information they can use to make non-biased decisions that can save money either by reducing yield loss or eliminating unnecessary application costs.

**Lawn and Landscape Workshop**

In addition to individual education on insect, weed and disease ID and area Master Gardeners logging 304 hours. A local workshop on lawn establishment and care and diagnosing knockout rose, azalea, and dogwood issues and management options reached 22 citizens.

**Pesticide Applicator Training**

Producers receive training for license to purchase and use restricted use pesticides. This program was presented several times over the season reaching 47 citizens. In addition, herbicide MOA and drift education was provided to 18 producers and consultants through the growing season.

**SOLAR Day**

Agronomists provided water quality education and nutrition assistants provided nutrition education seminars.

**Programs Reaching Mississippi Co. Residents**

Delta Center and Rice Farm Field Days, Irrigation Conference, Watermelon Conference, Ag Lenders Meeting, Local Food Markets Workshop, Winter Storm Preparedness education, Show- Me-Select

**Soil Testing & Analytical Tests**

87 soil tests and consultation Seed germination samples processed Germplas testing for soybeans.

**County Century Farm Program**

In this 100+ year of extension, two century farm families were recognized. 232 farms were recognized in Missouri in 2014.

**Media**

Newspaper Releases; Mississippi County Website;Crop Updates sent via Email; Facebook posts; Regional Electronic Newsletter

**Business Development**

Business Consultation and Assistance

In Mississippi County, during 2014, business development professionals, specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Environmental Program, Missouri Career Options (MO SBTDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Environmental Program, Missouri Career Options Program, and the Missouri Market Development program served 3 clients and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. One new business start-up was reported. Statewide MU BD counseled 1,138 clients in 2014 and assisted with 238 new business start-ups.