

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
M Extension

"IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES"

**OZARK COUNTY
2006
ANNUAL REPORT**

OUR MISSION....

To serve Ozark County by extending research-based knowledge and top quality educational programs to address high priority needs to citizens at the local level. University of Missouri Extension faculty help individuals and organizations turn knowledge into action, thus improving the quality of life for all.

Courthouse Basement

**P.O. Box 187
Gainesville, Mo. 65655**

**(417) 679-3525
Fax: (417) 679-3209**

**Email
ozarkco@missouri.edu**

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday**

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

Agriculture In The Ozarks

Agriculture is a vital and important part of the Ozarks economy. When Agriculture profits decline, the Ozarks economy suffers. Improving Agriculture's profitability or minimizing its losses is a major issue for University of Missouri Extension in DOW and HOST counties.

Besides full-time farmers, many part-time producers use Agriculture to supplement regular or retirement income and to provide quality food and a higher standard of living, on limited incomes, for their families.

Up to 99% of these counties' agriculture income is derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products. The remaining income is derived from hay, forage seed, fruit orchard and vegetable production.

Economic efficiency of production is completely interrelated with nutrition, reproduction, health, genetics, facilities, fertilization, management and marketing decisions. All of these, as well as protection and the wise use of our natural resources through education will, over the long term, increase profitability.

This Agriculture is based on livestock production associated with its forage production abilities. Terrain and soil properties negate traditional crop production possibilities. New and/or unused concepts in sustainable agriculture, new enterprises, value-added concepts, and market options, while protecting our environment, will be educational areas of emphasis.

Forages, used for livestock production, must be produced in an economic and productive manner. Research based information, is provided to clientele, on the county level by several methods. Methods include: news articles, columns, workshops, schools, fairs, field days, personal consultations and telephone consultations.

Management Intensive Grazing Workshop

Five Management Intensive Grazing Workshops were planned and conducted in the southern seven counties of the South Central Missouri Region. These counties include Ozark, Douglas, Wright, Howell, Oregon, Texas and Shannon. The workshops lasted 2-2 1/2 days. Facets of management intensive grazing taught included; farm planning economics, soil fertility management, designing fence systems, planning forage needs, planning economics, designing water systems, planning for water needs, cattle nutrition, pasture growth, pasture condition scoring, forage quality, economic considerations, grazing

system layout, matching livestock and forages, grazing system design, good cheap fencing and water ideas and farm tours. During the last day, participants are divided into groups and walk over an actual farm, design a grazing system for that farm and present their plan to the group. This gives them a chance to build confidence and use knowledge acquired during the previous two days to plan a grazing system for their farm.

Workshops were conducted in these five locations:

Rockbridge	June 2006
Koskonog	May 2006
Mtn Grove	May 2006
Houston	July 2006
Willow Springs	September 2006

Over one hundred participated in the Grazing Workshops. About 20% of the participants were female while about 80% were male.

University Extension staff members, Vance Hambelton, Stacy Hambelton, Mick Gilliam, Ted Probert and Randy Saner teamed up with Natural Resources Conservation Service staff members, Stacie Mannis, Adam Reed, Gorman Bennett, Mark Kennedy, April Wilson, Steve Robbins and Randy Miller along with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to organize and conduct these grazing schools. Danny Billings and Brad Mckee, MDC, and landowners also helped in the program.

Attending and successfully completing the grazing school also allows landowners to participate in the SWCD administered cost-share DSP-3 practice of installing a grazing system. Participants may receive up to \$9,000 in cost-share.

Fertility Management

The basic soil fertility management tool for producers is soil testing. Fertility management is of utmost importance to the production of quality forages, at the least, testing. The economics of forage production is based on soil type, soil fertility, forage species, forage quality, and forage utilization. The bottom line to be answered: will dollars spent on fertility decrease the cost of production below purchased feed costs; will it increase forage viability? Methods used to educate clientele include meetings, field days, personal consultations, and telephone consultations.

Down to earth practical information seems to be best received by producers. Many producers have

fertilized according to tradition rather than soil testing. Through soil testing, many of those fertilizing by traditional triple analysis (17-17-17) have saved \$5-\$15 dollars per acre by not applying unneeded nutrients. These savings amount to thousands of dollars each year to producers.

This basic soil fertility information has been provided to clients in the intensive management grazing schools, at field days, and through consultations.

Weed and Brush Control

Producing quality forages and maintaining viable productive stands of the desired species, most economically, is a constant uphill battle. Producers can't control the weather but they can give their forages the opportunity to be most productive by decreasing brush and weed competition. Educational programs, with the main emphasis on brush and weed control, have and will continue to be presented to producers. These programs include, but are not all inclusive; meetings, field days, demonstrations, farm visits, radio program, personal consultations and phone consultations. Meetings were held in Ozark, Howell, Wright and Oregon counties. Radio programs were presented in Douglas County. Farm visits, personal consultations and telephone consultations were conducted in Ozark, Douglas, Wright, Texas, Shannon, Howell and Oregon counties.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT)

To insure proper care in storage and use of selected agricultural chemicals used in the control of certain weeds and insects, a certification from the Missouri Department of Agriculture, is required to purchase these chemicals. Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT) meetings were held in Mansfield, Gainesville, West Plains, Hartville, Alton and Houston, qualifying participants for certification or recertification. New certifications and recertifications may also be received through local extension offices, by using technology available.

Show Me Select

The Show Me Select Replacement Heifer Program produces heifers to replace aging He cows and improve farm profitability. 755 heifers from 13 farms are enrolled in the program, with a 2006 spring sale average of \$1,245 and fall sale of \$1,108 per head. A total of 2,114 heifers have sold through the South Central sale with a sales total of \$2,183,560 over eight years.

Meat Goats

Eighty-five Southern Missouri meat goat producers from 12 counties and 56 farms participated in a Meat Goat ITV Workshop designed to help advanced meat goat producers increase their goats' reproductive rate, reduce the amount of chemical wormer used, improve herd health, increase profitability, and update knowledge on the latest research and management techniques for meat goat production. Two basic meat goat production seminars were also offered to 61 beginning producers. Two FAMACHA trainings were sixty-six producers attended and were certified to use the FAMACHA system to estimate parasite load in their goats. Seventy-three percent of participants plan on making changes in their operation due to what they learned at the seminars.

Other Agricultural Programs during 2006:

- Premier Beef Marketing
- Equine Health Day
- Ag Lenders Seminar
- Dairy Graziers
- Master Gardner
- Pesticides & Gardening

FAMILY ISSUES

Family Nutrition Program

Chrystal Meek, Nutrition Program Associate, delivers nutrition programs to students in the schools, families in their homes or in group settings. The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is a federally funded program designed to increase the quality of nutritional intake for youth. The FNP is administered through the United States Department of Agriculture and through University of Missouri in Missouri in cooperation with the Division of Family Services.

The Family Nutrition Education Program provides Ozark County citizens with knowledge and skills for a healthy life. Nutrition educators teach school children & parents the value of making healthy food choices, staying physically active, practicing food safety methods and stretching food dollars. Emphasis is placed on school classes from Bakersfield, Dora, Gainesville, Lutie and Thornfield.

The "Pyramid of Power" Assembly was held in Lutie and Gainesville Schools to educate elementary

students on the benefits of eating breakfast, drinking milk and staying physically active.

Chrystal reached 1,702 youth and adults in Ozark County. The EFNEP educator Terri Fossett reached 3 families and 20 youth in Ozark County.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H and Youth Programs

No 4-H clubs were enrolled, in Ozark County, for 2006.

Natural Resources and Youth

The 4-H School Enrichment Program includes a wide variety of subject matter. It is a term used to describe University of Missouri Extension's involvement with school systems in educational endeavors for youth. The 4-H Ecology Program, in Ozark County, is a 4-H school enrichment program that teaches youth terms and concepts relating to wildlife, soils, plants, water and their ecological importance and relationships to each other.

The protection of our natural resources through education and ultimately through practice is important to Ozark County. These natural resources include our soils, beautiful clear fishing streams, which end up in two lakes and serve as magnets to tourists, wildlife, ground water supplies and plant resources. Farmers and other citizens must manage their land resources to protect these water resources. Sixth graders from all elementary schools in Ozark County were invited to participate in the 4-H Ecology Study Program. The program is a cooperative effort between University of Missouri Extension, Ozark County's sixth grade teachers and Missouri Department of Conservation. Vance Hambelton, Agronomy Specialist, coordinated the program. Vance also provided instructional materials, standardized tests, instruction, and ribbons. Department of Conservation personnel and Vance Hambelton provide instruction and historical aspects of Caney Mountain Wildlife Refuge.

In order to work to this end, people must be educated to the way organisms are related to and depend on their environment and each other. This education needs to start at an early age. This education must be accurate and not one-sided.

Following the study areas of instruction, Fallis Frazier took students on a tour of Caney Mountain Wildlife refuge. The students were given a historical overview and the importance of Caney Mountain Refuge in terms of deer and turkey restoration in Missouri was emphasized. They also noted that the state's wild turkey population was restocked from the refuge.

After the field trip, the students took a standardized test. Six sixth grade classes in the county participated in the ecology program.

Dow Camp

The DOW Youth Camp is made possible through the efforts of staff and over 20 volunteers. Volunteers serve on the DOW Camp Board, but also conduct camp programs, collect donations, provide transportation and serve on county committees.

Repeat donations, volunteer time expended and Family Service's willingness to help with the camp, indicate the perceived importance of the DOW Youth Camp for the underprivileged.

Over 90 youth from Douglas, Ozark and Wright Counties enjoyed four days at DOW Camp. DOW Camp is held at Hammond Mill Camp in Ozark County. The Missouri Division of Family Services recruited these youth. Family services social workers also stay and help at the camp.

These "youth at risk" are provided the opportunity to participate in educational and physical programs designed to increase their social and citizenship skills by cooperating and coping with each other. At the same time, they have fun, learn to be part of a group and make a new friend.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In Ozark County, during 2006, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business Development Centers (MO SBDC), Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC)—including the MoFAST program, and the Missouri Market Development program served 24 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. In addition, business owners and managers in Ozark County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

- New jobs: 6
- Loans and investments in business: \$1,180,500
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 12
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 11
- Information transfers: 1

INFORMATION

The local Extension office provides one of the most important roles in education transfer, from the University of Missouri, to Ozark County citizens. The office is the first line of contact for local clientele whether it is by telephone or personal contact. Over 1000 contacts are made by telephone and hundreds walk into the office.

2006 OZARK COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICERS:

J. D. McKee, Chairman Tandy Strong, Vice Chairman
Marty Morrison, Secretary Gary Collins, Treasurer

APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:

J. D. McKee, Farm Bureau
Gary Collins, County Commission

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Les Snorgrass Marty Morrison
Steve Howard Austin Donley
Bill Cockrum Robert Edwards
Kelly Thomas Hershel Myers
Joe Strong Buzz McKee
John Green Tandy Strong
Theron Oxley

OZARK COUNTY STAFF

LOCAL STAFF:

Vance Hambelton, Agronomy Spec., County Program Director
Chrystal Meek, Nutrition Prog. Associate
June Rowlett, Secretary

OTHER STAFF AVAILABLE:

Richard Sparks, Regional Director
Richard Atkinson, Natl. Resource Eng. Spec./Howell Cty.
Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist/Wright County
Randy Saner, Livestock Specialist/Howell County
Willis Mushrush, Business Development Spec./Howell County
Stacy Hambelton, Ag. Business Specialist/Oregon County
Brenda Bell, Human Development Spec./Howell County
Mick Gilliam, Agriculture Business Specialist/Douglas County
Angela Fletcher, Human Development Spec./Douglas County
Gary Cross, Community Development Spec./Oregon County
Doralee Ely, 4H Youth Specialist/Laclede County

2006 OZARK COUNTY BUDGET

County Court Funding	26,000.00
Vending Machine Commission	115.10
Interest	175.87
Beginning Balance	<u>4359.23</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	30,650.20
Salaries/Wages	21,678.50
Benefits	1,570.46
Travel	1,900.01
Office Supplies/Postage	1,679.33
Telephone	790.31
Miscellaneous	300.82
Ending Balance	<u>2,730.77</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,650.20