



"IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES"

**OZARK COUNTY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
EXTENSION COUNCIL
2008
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.

**Ozark County Courthouse
Courthouse Basement
P.O. Box 187**

**Gainesville, Mo. 65655
(417) 679-3525**

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**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.

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:

As we begin another year, I want to thank you for your continued investment in University of Missouri Extension. Your investment makes it possible to provide educational programs to residents in your county that are **Relevant, Responsive and Reliable**. In these difficult economic times, it is particularly important that the programs you support show a return on investment.

Recently, the MU Community Policy Analysis Center completed an analysis of the economic impact of MU Extension programs statewide and found that:

Every \$1 million dollar of investment in a broad range of programs:

- **Generates more than \$24 million in new or retained private sector jobs, sales and investments;**
- **More than \$1.2 million in families' reduced health care expense;**
- **Nearly \$2 million in increased state, sales and property taxes**

Your county's contribution is leveraged with other public and private funds, which allows MU Extension to deliver \$96 million worth of educational programs. Each year, MU Extension helps more than 1 million Missourians add value to their communities and improve their quality of life. The programs showcased in your county's annual report give you a snapshot of MU Extension at work in your community.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Quart".

Michael D. Quart, Vice Provost and Director

AGRICULTURE

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 Ozark County.

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. 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.

Vance Hambelton Retires from University Extension after 30 years of Service to Ozark County



Vance started at the Ozark County Extension Office in 1978 as a 4-H Youth Specialist. During his career with University Extension he served as a 4-H Youth Specialist, County Program Director, Agricultural Specialist and an Agronomy Specialist. There was a retirement party given in his honor at the Gainesville Church of Christ.

Grazing School Report

Grazing schools have played an important part in educating and informing land-users of proper grazing management. The target audience is the grassland managers. By attending this school we help farmers improve utilization of their forage, reduce costs, improve efficiency, increase farm income and reduce soil erosion. Information taught during this time is; resource inventory, farm planning economics, planning forage & water needs, soil fertility management, designing fence & water systems, farm tours, partial budgeting, breakeven analysis, cattle nutrition, grazing system layout and design, good cheap fencing & water ideas, matching livestock & forages, pasture growth & forage quality, and pasture condition scoring. During the last day we divide the farmers into groups and let them design and present a farm plan. This gives them a chance to build confidence and use the knowledge that they have acquired. Now they can go home and plan their own farm.

One hundred seven producers completed the 5 grazing management schools in 2008 within our grazing school region. The length of the school was 2 to 2 1/2 days.

NRCS has been a great partner in this program. They have taught parts of the program, helped make-up our books, set up the farm visits and encourage the farmer to participate.

Completion of a grazing school makes people eligible for participation in the NRCS District Special Program (DSP 3), a cost share program for installing a grazing system. Also, it will make the farmer more eligible for incentive payments in the EQIP program.

Grazing Schools held from April 17, 2008 to Sept. 20, 2008.

Dates	Location	Attendance
April 17 - 19, 2008	Koshkonong	11
April 24 & 25, 2008	Theodosia	18
May 21 - 23, 2008	Mtn. Grove	15
July 16 - 18, 2008	Houston	33
Sep 18 - 20, 2008	Willow Springs	30
	Total	107

New Specialist to Serve Ozark County



Stacy Hambelton Ag Business Specialist was assigned to Ozark County as his home county in June of this year. He is an Ozark County Native. He started his career with University Extension in May 1983 in Bowling Green, MO. He transferred to Alton, Mo were he has served for the past 18 years. Now he has comes to Ozark County to serve the people of our great county.

Ag Lenders Seminar 2008

Thirty two ag lenders from 8 surrounding counties attended the 2008 Ag Lenders Seminar. Research-based information is needed for lenders to make sound business decisions for their lending institutions. Lenders must consider many economic forces when making lending decisions and this seminar focuses on key issues affecting those decisions. Many times the person holding the "purse strings" of many operations can have a tremendous influence on the management behavior of the producers. Topics taught and discussed were: What Hit Us and What's Still in Store? Commodity Outlook, Missouri Beef Tax, Risk Status of Missouri Representative Farms, COOL Update.

Each participant receives a book "Missouri Farm Financial Outlook 2009." The Seminar booklet contains current articles on farm outlook, management and budgets for planning next year's farm operations.

Evaluations indicate that the lenders appreciate all parts of the program. When participants were asked:

Overall, how do you rate this seminar? 8.83 out of 10.

Approximately how many ag loans do you personally review in a year? 6 - 300.

What is your estimate of the total value of these ag loans? \$200,000 to \$35,000,000

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 is; will dollars spent on fertility decrease the cost of production below purchased feed costs; will it increase forage viability?

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.

Weed and Brush Control

Producing quality forages and maintaining viable productive stands of the desired species 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 weeds. Educational programs, with the main emphasis on brush and weed control, have and will continue to be presented to producers. These programs include; meetings, field days, demonstrations, farm visits, radio programs, personal consultations and phone consultations.

Other Agricultural Programs during 2008:

- "Show-Me-Select" Heifer Replacement Program
- Premier Beef Marketing
- Dairy Grazers
- Master Gardner
- Pesticides & Gardening

Pesticide Applicator Training

Because certain pesticides can pose a hazard to human health and/or the environment even when used in accordance with label directions, the EPA has determined these products be labeled as Restricted Use Pesticides. The "Restricted Use" classification restricts a product, or its uses, to certificated pesticide applicators or individuals under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. The Missouri Department of Agriculture requires a license to purchase these chemicals. The Private Pesticide Applicator Program trains farmers on the safe and proper use of pesticides. Private applicator training is available through our local extension office.

FAMILY NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM

University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 1,618 low-income participants with nutrition education in Ozark County during 2008. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. Chrystal Meek is the Nutrition Program Associate in Ozark County.

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 resources management.

Additional programs being offered in Ozark County included Jump Into Foods and Fitness, Health Fairs, the Pyramid of Power assembly play, and the Food Power Young Adventure interactive exhibit.

During 2008, 1,601 youths and 17 adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served:

Schools: Gainesville, Dora, Bakersfield, Lutie and Thornfield.
Agencies: Health Department, Parents As Teachers, Senior Center and Ozark County Library.

It has been a successful year in Ozark County for FNEP.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Parenting Workshops - A four-session course was held for 37 parents from Douglas, Ozark and Wright Counties parents designed to enhance their parenting skills. Topics included ages and stages, kids and self-esteem, communication and discipline.

Kids In The Kitchen - Banana bats, pizza cake, farmer's market salsa and breakfast banana splits are just a few of the recipes participants prepared during the Kids in the Kitchen program. Participants in DOW Camp attended classes that emphasized basic cooking skills, healthy food choices, food safety and physical activity. Children learned to prepare simple snacks and recipes that included the five food groups.

DOW Area Homemaker's Clubs - Clubs established in Douglas, Ozark and Wright counties meet monthly and receive information on various topics. Topics for 2008 included: Stretching Your Dollar, Gardening, Missouri Vacations and Crafts.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H in Missouri and Ozark County

An Ozark County 4-H club of 55 youths are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. One of every ten Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2008.

Ongoing participation in extracurricular activities, such as 4-H, can lead to long-term payoffs. Regardless of family background, studies find that teens who consistently participate in extracurricular activities from eighth through 12th grade are 70 percent more likely to attend college. The College Board's Trends in Higher Education Series says that over their lifetime, college graduates will earn an average of \$2.5 million, or \$1 million more than peers with high school educations.

Communities reap long-term benefits by supporting programs like 4-H. Youth engaged in the programs are 60 percent more likely to vote than their non-engaged peers. In addition, 4-H youth are more likely to volunteer and contribute to their communities than youth participating in other youth programs.

Ozark County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers.

4-H School Programs

Ozark County 4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Most are led by teachers or 4-H volunteers. 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. Stacy Hamblton, Ag Business Specialist, coordinated the program. Stacy also provided instructional materials, standardized tests, instruction, ribbons, and medals.

Following the study areas of instruction, Randall Roy, MDC, 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.

All seven sixth grade classes in the county participated in the ecology program.

4-H Special Interest Programs

The DOW Youth Camp is for the underprivileged, and 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.

Over 150 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 participate in educational and physical programs designed to increase their social and citizenship skills by cooperating and coping with others. 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 2008, business development program 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 Project, and the Missouri Market Development program served 14 people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners 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: 2
- Sales increases: \$12,000
- Jobs retained: 11
- Loans and investments in business: \$5,000
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 4
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 10

INFORMATION

The local Extension office provides one of the most important roles in educational information, dissemination. 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 of personal consultations were conducted.

2008 OZARK COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICERS:

J. D. McKee, Chairman
 H. K. Gaulding, Vice Chairman
 Marty Morrison, Secretary
 Gary Collins, Treasurer

APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Steve Howard	Marty Morrison
Joel Smith	Larry Warrick
Bill Cockrum	Robert Edwards
Ronnie Hamblton	Hershel Myers
Robert Jones	Larry Pendergrass
John Green	Melisa Myers

Joe Strong

OZARK COUNTY STAFF

LOCAL STAFF:

Stacy Hamblton, Ag. Business Spec., County Program Director
 Vance Hamblton, Agronomy Spec., CPD (retired)
 Chrystal Meek, Nutrition Prog. Associate
 June Rowlett, Secretary/Bookkeeper

OTHER STAFF AVAILABLE:

Richard Sparks, Regional Director
 Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist/Wright County
 Randy Saner, Livestock Specialist/Howell County (Jan-June)
 Bill Doig, Livestock Specialist/Howell County (Nov.& Dec.)
 Willis Mushrush, Business Development Spec./Howell County
 Brenda Bell, Human Development Spec./Howell County
 Angela Fletcher, Human Development Spec./Douglas County
 Will McClain, Agronomy Spec./Crawford County
 Andy Read, Horticulturist Spec./Phelps County
 Gary Cross, Community Devel. Spec./Oregon County

2008 OZARK COUNTY BUDGET

County Court Funding	28,000.00
Vending Machine Commission	85.60
Interest	65.75
Transferred Funds	1,527.39
Beginning Balance	<u>18.22</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	29,696.96
Salaries/Wages	23,171.50
Benefits	1,794.47
Travel	1,571.40
Supplies/Postage/Printing	1,791.46
Telephone	872.23
Equipment, Repairs, Misc.	495.90
Ending Balance	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	29,696.96