Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

As we enter 2014, we at University of Missouri Extension celebrate our 100-year partnership with you, with the State of Missouri and with the federal government. Through the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the Cooperative Extension Service was established to provide practical application of research knowledge “to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities.” Over the years, the mission to bring you relevant, reliable and responsive education to improve lives and local economies remains the same. Yet, we also have changed to help you meet emerging issues and to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Every day, MU Extension helps create value for citizens. For example:

- Throughout the state, MU Extension provides information to help address issues and opportunities related to Missouri’s economic infrastructure, public services, economic development, jobs and educational access. **Counseling more than 3,000 business clients** in FY12 resulted in 9,328 new jobs, sales increases of $188 million, $213 million in new business financing, and government contracts of more than $195 million.

- Our state and nation are in need of workers who are highly proficient in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Research has shown that 4-H members develop an increased interest in science three times higher than their non-peers. Both non-traditional activities, such as robotics, and more traditional activities, such as livestock judging and food preparation, are doorways to science-related careers.

- Livestock production accounts for about 53 percent of the state’s agricultural receipts. MU Extension’s **Tier Two Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program**, which improves reproductive efficiency of beef herds, has garnered producers $237 to $357 per heifer, depending on breeding protocol followed. Statewide economic impact of the program has exceeded $65 million.

These are just two examples of MU Extension’s impact – made possible through your support of MU Extension in your community. I look forward to our continuing partnership, and as always, your ideas for improving our partnership are welcome.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director