MU Extension is a Major Driver of Economic Recovery and Jobs

- Missouri’s unemployment rate stands at 7.5% -- January 2012
  Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center
- As tough decisions have to be made about what can and cannot be funded, Missouri citizens and legislators are increasingly focused on jobs.
- MU Extension focuses on JOBS. All MU Extension programs contribute to job creation and sustainability. Examples:
  - **Business Development** – Counseling/assisting business owners/managers and would-be entrepreneurs through programs in business start-up, marketing, management, finance, government contracting and leadership. Helping people redirect to new jobs after they’ve been laid off. *The Business Development program achieved $2.4 billion in economic impact FY2009-FY2011, and assisted its clients in creating or retaining 35,008 jobs. Examples: FastTrac New Venture and Strategic Management Analysis Tool (SMART).*
  - **4-H Youth Development** – Preparing young people with job-related attitudes and skills; teaching them how to be entrepreneurs. Examples: *4-H SET (science, engineering, technology projects).* One of every 14 youths in Missouri participates in 4-H. Their involvement in SET projects is shifting 1,500 Missouri youth annually into science-related jobs.
  - **Entrepreneurship** – Giving people resources and skills to own and maintain thriving businesses. Examples: *Pasture-based dairies have added 1,110 jobs in Missouri.* Record grain and feeder calf prices in 2011 resulted in *more than a billion dollars of additional economic output* in rural Missouri. MU research and extension underpins the practical application of new production technology that generates these dollars.
  - **ExCEED (Extension Community Economic and Entrepreneurial Development program)** – Regionally based community development programs have generated *152 new jobs, retained 68 jobs and produced $12.2 million in new business investment, FY07-FY11.* In addition, MU Extension has supported development and expansion of wind energy enterprises in Northwest Missouri. The newly formed *Old North (St. Louis) community-owned grocery* contracts with 27 local vendors to stock fresh produce and local products. During the summer growing season, 90 percent of the produce is locally grown within 100 miles of the store.

**Continuing Education** - Providing training to professionals, such as nurses, physicians, firefighters, law enforcement officers, business employers and employees, veterinarians and others, to help them maintain the necessary skills and knowledge to keep or advance in their positions. Examples: *Labor Education, Fire and Rescue Training Institute, Law Enforcement Training Institute, Missouri Training Institute.*

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