Live. And Learn.

MU Extension is Missouri’s one-stop source for practical education on almost anything.
To the people of Ste. Genevieve County:

The Ste. Genevieve County Extension Council is pleased to present our 2009 annual report, a brief overview of the educational programs and services offered through your local Extension office.

The Ste. Genevieve County Extension office opened during the height of the Great Depression, providing critical resources and technical assistance to area farmers, businesses, and families. We’re proud that this tradition of addressing high priority local needs endures in Extension programming to this day, and we look forward to continuing to make positive impacts in the years to come.

The success of University of Missouri Extension programming in Ste. Genevieve County would not be possible without the help and support of individual volunteers, groups, organizations, businesses, local and county government officials, and the research-based information provided by the land-grant university system. On behalf of the Extension Council and the people of Ste. Genevieve County, we thank you all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phillip Tucker, 2009 Council Chair

University of Missouri Extension
Ste. Genevieve County
255 Market Street
Ste. Genevieve MO 63670
(573) 883-3548

Our Hours:
8:00—4:30
or by appointment
Monday-Friday

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Stegenevieveco@missouri.edu

On the Web:
extension.missouri.edu/
SteGenevieve

2009 Extension Council
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Through the Ste. Genevieve R-II “Dragon’s Den” after-school program, the number of kids experiencing 4-H has more than doubled. Both Ste. Genevieve Elementary and Bloomsdale Elementary have 4-H clubs, each led by a teacher/4-H Volunteer. Each club meets every Tuesday for an hour. Every quarter new kids have the opportunity to sign up for the club. The average number of kids in the club each quarter has been 20.

These after-school 4-H members have done a variety of project areas, including crafts, poultry, rabbits, and cooking. They have also completed several community service projects and held offices, just like a traditional club. There have been after-school members who have went on to join traditional 4-H clubs, participate in 4-H camp and other Ste. Genevieve County 4-H events. This is a wonderful opportunity to allow kids who normally wouldn’t have been in 4-H to learn what 4-H has to offer.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

GRETCHE N JACOB is the 4-H Youth Program Assistant serving Ste. Genevieve County. In addition to the “usual” club activities and individual project areas, 4-H engages in innovative programming that support youth development.

“Outdoor Challenge” was an adventured-themed summer camp for youth from Ste. Genevieve, St. Francois, and Washington Counties. Over thirty 4-H youth participated. This year 4-H camp was held at a new location, Camp Butterfly, which is located in western Ste. Genevieve County. Members had a great time participating in various activities during their three day stay at Camp Butterfly. Some of the activities members participated in included a scavenger hunt, a field trip to the Ste. Genevieve Community Center, project-based craft sessions, water games, team building exercises and educational conservation workshops conducted by Hawn State Park Superintendent Ed Schott.

4-H camp provides the forum for children to discover and explore their interests, values, and talents. Youth acquire life skills, make new friends, and explore leadership roles. Parents and Guardians identified significant gains in their children in the areas of responsibility for actions, work responsibility, and increasing initiative as a self-starter.
KATIE KAMMLER is the Plant Science Specialist serving Ste. Genevieve County. In 2009, over 400 people contacted the office for assistance and information on a variety of topics, such as vegetable gardening, small fruits, grapes, soil testing, establishing forages, insect problems, weed problems, and disease diagnostics.

Katie coordinates several local Master Gardener groups. She conducts level one and advanced training, bringing in other professionals to teach in their areas of expertise. Master Gardener activities include spring garden symposiums and an annual garden walk in the Ste. Genevieve historic district. Katie is also co-editor of a monthly newsletter with articles about current garden issues and trends. It can be found online at http://extension.missouri.edu/stfrancois/County/master_gardeners.htm

Katie organizes the annual Soils and Crops Conference, which features speakers on current agricultural topics. This year the speaker was from University of Missouri Food and Agriculture Policy Research, who spoke about the implications of the new farm bill. Three Century Farm families were recognized for their contribution to agriculture in Ste. Genevieve County.

Katie regularly consults with local farmers and gardeners on-site, addressing such issues as potassium deficient soybeans, deer problems in soybeans, pruning fruit trees, landscaping problems, blueberry disease, grape pruning, forage diseases and tree problems.

Top Information Requests:
- Starting a Vegetable Garden
- Organic Gardening
- How to Interpret Soil Tests
- Control of Japanese Beetles
- Insect Identification
- Fruit Tree Pruning
- Plant Diagnostics
- Establishing a Vineyard
- Weed Identification and Control

Programs for 2009 included:
- 79th Annual Ste. Genevieve Soils and Crops Conference
- Southeast Missouri Horticulture Tour
- Grape Growers Short Course
- Organic Gardening
  - Pruning
- Private Pesticide Applicators Training
- Fruit Production
- Vegetable Gardening
- Heartland Forage Day
- Ste. Genevieve Garden Walk
  - Plant Anatomy
JUDY COLLIGAN is the Nutrition Education Assistant serving Ste. Genevieve County. Through the Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP), 237 low-income residents of Ste. Genevieve County increased their knowledge about nutrition during 2009. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness.

Nutrition education for youth 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 resource management.

Children at Bloomsdale Elementary were among those reporting positive impacts in Missouri. Statewide, teachers reported of their students that:

- 91% were more aware of nutrition
- 73% were more willing to try new foods
- 86% improved hand washing
- 59% increased their physical activity

There are many success stories in FNEP. Judy enjoys it when enthusiastic parents report with amazement that their children ask the parents to buy more vegetables, request fresh fruit for snacks, and even ask that carrots be included in their lunches!

First-time Home Buyer’s Education

REBECCA BLOCKER is the Housing and Environmental Design Specialist Serving Ste. Genevieve County. Her programming includes Extension Home Buyer Education, which focuses not only on buying a home, but on preventing foreclosure. Nationally the foreclosure crisis has been well-documented. In Missouri, 27% of homeowners are past due on their mortgages.

By completing the First-time Homebuyer’s class, five families in Ste. Genevieve County qualified for special USDA financing and learned home maintenance skills that might avoid future costly repairs. Participants learned money management skills, how to improve credit scores, financing and insurance options, home maintenance, inspections, energy efficiency, moisture problems and healthy home issues to protect their housing investment.
LYNN HEINS is the Ag Business Specialist serving Ste. Genevieve County. In addition to one-on-one consultations with area producers, Lynn’s programming addresses such issues as women in agriculture, legal issues for landowners, and profit-focused agriculture.

**Annie’s Project** empowers farm women to improve their decision-making skills and builds local networks throughout the state. The program addresses areas of risk, including marketing, production, financial, legal and human resources. Participants develop a mission statement for their farms, complete a balance sheet, learn how to calculate financial ratios, and enhance their communication skills. In 2009, eleven women from Washington, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve Counties completed the Annie’s Project program.

**Fence and Boundary Laws** can be challenging to interpret for both farmers and legal professionals. Higher land values and the influx of folks from the city have made fence and boundary concerns a significant issue. Many new landowners incorrectly assume that their property surveys show where fences can be placed. Fence and boundary law education remains a critical area of need and is requested numerous times throughout the year. Participants in the Fence and Boundary Law workshop avoid costly legal mistakes, and are often able to settle boundary conflicts amicably with neighbors.

**Farm Leases** are impacted by rising input costs and land values, creating a significant increase in farm lease questions and information. Many landowners today are not rural residents, and as such are not familiar with common agricultural practices. Cash rents in Missouri have gone up anywhere from $15 to $100 per acre due to these factors and landlords want to be certain they’re getting their “fair” share of those rents. Participants in Extension’s Farm Lease Program gain a better understanding about current rental rates and trends, as well as specific items to include in a farm lease, how to correctly terminate a farm lease, hunting issues, and crop and livestock share lease concerns.

**Profit-Focused Agriculture Programs**

- Annie’s Project
- Fence and boundary laws
- Farm lease agreements
- Soil testing and fertilizer
- Using Microsoft EXCEL
- Market outlook sessions
- Agriculture Advisory Board

**Trend Watch:**
**More Women in Agriculture**

According to the 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture, since 2002 the number of female principal farm operators in Missouri increased 15% to 10,818. Farmland owned by women increased 7.8%, accounting for more than 1.95 million acres.
LETITIA “TISH” JOHNSON is the Community Development Specialist serving Ste. Genevieve County. She also serves as the County Program Director. Her programming addresses a wide variety of public issues, including regional food systems, emergency management, local government support, organizational development, tourism, and entrepreneurship support.

Emergency planning is always a concern in Ste. Genevieve County, and this year Extension worked with the local emergency management to develop a disaster plan for the annual Jour de Fete, a large craft festival that draws thousands of visitors each year. An informal survey of other Missouri counties revealed that there are very few event disaster plans to use as models. Once the local plan was completed, several Missouri communities requested copies. Currently the Ste. Genevieve group is working on a disaster plan for the County Fair, which they also plan on sharing with other communities.

Community Gardens are becoming popular throughout the U.S., but Ste. Genevieve County was slightly ahead of the trend. In 2009 the Ste. Genevieve Community Garden was established in the “big field” area adjacent to the marina. In addition to individual family plots, the garden provides produce to the local food pantries.

Support to local governments is a frequent area of focus, whether assisting with the preparation of a grant proposal, hosting seminars on Missouri Sunshine Law (conducted by a trainer from the State Attorney General’s office), facilitating the development of a public survey, or hosting a candidate’s forum.

The formation of the Mississippi River Hills Association has been a major area of focus. The MRHA seeks to create a stronger rural economy by networking small businesses and educating consumers about the benefits of buying locally.

Formed in 2007 and “incubated” at the local Extension office, this year the MRHA became independent, moving into their own office space and receiving their federal tax-exempt status as a 501(c)6 corporation. Currently there are approximately 60 different businesses in the MRHA.

Chef Adam Lambay and beef producer Bob Eckenfels working together at the “Farm Fantastic” farm dinner fundraiser.
# Financial Report

## Extension Faculty and Staff Serving Ste. Genevieve County

**Housed locally**—
- Letitia ‘Tish’ Johnson, Community Development Specialist and County Program Director
- Gretchen Jacob, 4-H Youth Program Assistant
- Katie Kammler, Plant Science Specialist
- Cindy Otte, Office Manager
- Lisa Palmer, MRHA Coordinator

**Housed in other counties**—
- Rebecca Blocker, Housing and Environmental Design Specialist
- Judy Colligan, Nutrition Education Assistant
- Ben Davis, Livestock Specialist
- Mary Schroepfer, Nutrition Specialist
- Richard Proffer and Lynette Watson, Business Development Specialists
- Frank Wideman, Ag Engineer

### 2009 Financial Report

#### Income

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>County appropriations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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#### Expenses

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<td>Wages (1 FTE)</td>
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<td>Temp wages</td>
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<td>Phone: long-distance service</td>
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<td>Supplies &amp; services</td>
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**Balance** $0

*The majority of postage is paid from allotted federal funds.*

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**The Land-Grant Mission**

MU is a land-grant university, meaning it is a part of a federally mandated mission to carry the benefits of university research beyond campus. Federal legislation in the 1800s provided for the donation of public land to individual states. Missourians chose to apply their land grants to the existing Columbia campus. This created two universities in one — a land-grant institution leading in research for all citizens of the state, across the nation and around the world, and an intellectual center to advance liberal arts scholarship. Today, through statewide offices, publications and Web-based services, extension faculty in every county of Missouri continue to carry the benefits of MU research throughout the entire state.