

For Immediate Release



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University of Missouri Extension Welcomes Justin Keay as Horticulture Specialist for St. Louis and St. Charles County

Saint Louis County, MO – University of Missouri Extension has hired Justin Keay as the next Horticulture Specialist for St. Louis and St. Charles County. Justin has worked as an agricultural research associate with Lincoln University, an organic farm inspector, owner and operator of North County Produce Farm, a territory manager for Hummert Horticultural Supply, and served as a buyer for Whole Foods Market, helping local producers comply with insurance, food safety, and animal welfare standards.

Justin completed his M.S. in Integrated Agricultural Systems at Lincoln University. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Washington University, and he has additional academic training from St. Louis Community College.

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Justin grew up fishing, canoeing and camping across the Ozarks. His passion for protecting the environment and natural resources of Missouri led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. His love for being immersed in the natural world led him into his work of running an organic farm, where his observations of soil life, and plant and animal communities created new questions and opportunities for exploration. Justin has extensive training in soil ecology and health, fertility management, and integrated pest management. Justin is a lifelong resident of north St. Louis County where he was a student in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. Justin bought a small farm in Florissant and sold produce at the Ferguson Farmers Market.

“Food production is a great passion of mine. I have devoted my adult life to developing an understanding of how local food producers can grow successful and sustainable businesses, contribute to the community, and exist in harmony with the natural world,” Mr. Keay said. “I look forward to serving the citizens of St. Louis City and County, as well as St. Charles County.”