RETURN ON INVESTMENT

University of Missouri Extension

Texas County 2010 Annual Report
December 2010

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:
When you invest public funds, you want to know that those funds are making a real difference – that the program has value to the public. And in these tough economic times, you especially are interested in programs that create and retain jobs. Fortunately, that is exactly the case with your investment in University of Missouri Extension programs.

Here are just a few examples:

The FastTrac NewVenture course creates new jobs by providing tools to those who want to start their own business. Entrepreneurs determine the economic feasibility of their business concept, design a business model that matches their personal vision, and create a business plan to communicate the opportunity to investors.

Pasture-based Dairies, modeled on MU Extension’s rotational grazing systems, have generated 1,100 jobs and added more than $124 million to Missouri’s economy.

The Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis works with the Missouri Department of Economic Development to provide an online career exploration tool, which provides information about promising employment arenas.

Eat Well Be Well with Diabetes provides practical information and skills to self-manage the disease and promote optimum health. Employees who have better control of their blood glucose levels have reduced rates of job absenteeism.

4-H science, engineering, math and technology projects, such as robotics and computing, are preparing youth for jobs of the future. Teens are learning how to be team players, to be lifelong learners, and to approach problem-solving with confidence.

Leadership education for steelworkers, pipe fitters and other union workers prepares shop stewards and others to understand how global issues affect today’s workforce and how to secure jobs using practices that reflect joint employer-employee goals.

MU Extension programs are tailored to meet local needs. Visit your local extension center or go online to learn more about the MU Extension programs that create and retain jobs in your community.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director
Texas County Council

Chairman
Delinda Dixon, elected member,
Vice Chairman
John Williams, elected member,
Secretary / Treasurer
Tonya Cope, elected member

Other Members:
Dick Nugent, elected member
Traci Enfield, elected member
Dick York, elected member
Angie Stilley, elected member
Kathy Sirdorous, elected member
Dawn Sprouce, elected member
Daryl Colborn, elected member
Kathy Grim, elected member
Kavin Keller, elected member
Paul Campbell, elected member
Carolyn Campbell, elected member
Linda Garrett, appointed member from Commission
Bobby Richards, appointed member from MFA
Robert Rouse, appointed member from Missouri Farm Bureau

Unique partnership
Texas County’s University of Missouri Extension County Council is a full partner with Missouri's land-grant universities to deliver high-quality education and research-based information that helps people solve real-world problems and take advantage of opportunities. Council members:

- Work with extension specialists to provide the county with quality educational programs;
- Manage finances of local extension operations;
- Provide personnel to carry out extension activities; and
- Elect and organize the local extension council.

TEXAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Don Shelhammer, Presiding Commissioner
Linda Garrett, Northern District Commissioner
John Casey, Southern District Commissioner
Texas County
University of Missouri Extension Staff

Cammie Younger
County Program Director
Nutrition & Health Education Specialist
Amber Dailing
Secretary
Betty Baney
4-H Youth Development Program Assistant
Terri Fossett
Family Nutrition Program Manager
Dana McGuire
Lorette Smith
Kelly Younger-Shannon County
Nutrition Program Associates

South Central Regional Director:
Rick Sparks
1300 N. Bishop Avenue
302 USBM Bldg. No. 1
Rolla, Mo. 65409-1040

Regional Staff Members with program responsibilities within the county:

Jenny Flatt, 4-H Youth Development Specialist - (417)-256-2391
Brenda Bell, Human Environmental Science Specialist - (417)-256-2391
Pat Snodgrass, EFNEP Supervisor - (573)-775-3826
Stacey Hambelton, Ozark County Ag-Business Specialist - (417)-679-3525
Logan Wallace, Howell County Livestock Specialist - (417)-256-2391
Ted Cunningham, Dent County Livestock Specialist - (573)-729-3196
Willis Mushrush, Howell County Business & Industry Specialist - (417)-256-2391
Sarah Hultine, Community Development Specialist—(573)-729-3196
Family Nutrition Education Program

The FNEP program consists of two programs, the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program (FSNE) and the Expanded Food Nutrition Program (EFNEP). These two programs serve over 240,000 limited income Missourians combined. Over 3,000 individuals were served in Texas County. The programs enable both youth and adults to improve their food intake; increase their physical activity levels; manage their food dollars; and keep their food supply safe. **Research has shown that for every $1 invested in these programs there is an average of nearly $9.00 reduction in future health care spending.** On going training for Nutrition Program Associates who deliver these programs is provided creating changes in the lives of those they serve. These changes include improved life skills and often the clients are empowered to seek further education and/or employment. These programs are grant funded with the South Central region receiving nearly $1,000,000.00 of the $8,000,000.00 state wide monies.

Food Power

Food Power is a life size simulation of the path that food takes from the farmer’s field to the sports field. Upon completion of the program, students are aware of where the food they eat comes from and how it gives them the energy to grow and play. They also learn the importance of healthy food choices and regular physical activity.

Pyramid of Power

Pyramid of Power was developed by the South Central FNP unit. It is an assembly consisting of life size food characters presenting healthy food choice information delivered free to the public schools. The script is designed to meet the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) required in the MAP testing. Students learn through fun hands on physical activities and songs as well as lecture style teaching. Students learn the importance of healthy food choices and being more physically active. Hundreds of students throughout the South Central region including Texas County participated in this exciting assembly.

Health Fairs

Nutrition and health education materials and programs were delivered to clients through Health Fairs, Back to School Fairs, and Parent Fairs. Hundreds of citizens, adults and children, received life changing education improving their health and wellbeing.
**Nutrition & Health Education Program**

**Impact 2010**

**Eat Well, Be Well With Diabetes**

Eat Well, Be Well with Diabetes, an updated version of Extension’s Dining with Diabetes class, is a four-class series that provides practical information and builds skills. Eat Well, Be Well with Diabetes teaches about: healthy food choices for people with diabetes; healthy versions of familiar foods that are easy to prepare; cooking techniques that use new or more healthful ingredients; self–management skills to avoid diabetes complications. Classes are two hours in length and include instruction, cooking demonstrations, food tasting and light physical activity. Diabetes self-management and working with a health care team are also stressed. Participants receive copies of the recipes prepared in the class. 100% of students attending as EWBW program report a better awareness of necessary changes in their eating habits and food choices. These students report improvements in physical activity as well. These changes will create many dollars saved in health care costs for these students as well as a higher productivity level that will benefit their community.

**Food Preservation**

With the high costs of fuel came the skyrocketing prices of food. A food preservation program was conducted at the women’s health fair at Wal-Mart to combat this issue. Many students participated in this class with 100 % stating the need for more education in this area. These students learned the safe process of pressure canning, including preparing food for canning and the benefits of home food preservation. Students now have the knowledge of how to make their food dollars stretch by preserving some of their own food.

**Community Garden Project**

The Texas County Extension partnered with the Gentry Residential Center and the Texas County Food Pantry to create a Community Garden in order to help supplement the diets of many citizens through food distribution of the Texas County Food Pantry. This program has grown with new gardens being organized throughout the county. This includes gardens located at the Gentry Residential Center, The Justice Center, Cabool Apartments and many individual home gardens. The impact of the Community Garden Project has been the achieved knowledge of proper gardening including healthy soil preparation, planting, maintaining, harvesting, preparing and preserving the harvest. Other impacts include many citizens increasing healthy fresh fruits and vegetables in their diets and increased physical activity. Plans for the garden project for the upcoming year include a Kids Garden, Eating From the Garden with area elementary students and workshops with the Justice Center.
**Nutrition & Health Education Program**

**Impact 2010**

**Chronic Disease Self-Management Program**
The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) is a workshop given two and a half hours, once a week, for six weeks, in conjunction with local area hospitals and health facilities. People with different chronic health problems attended the program together. The subjects covered included:
- Techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation.
- Appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility and endurance.
- Appropriate use of medications.
- Communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals.
- Nutrition
- Making informed treatment decisions

It is the process in which the CDSMP is taught that makes it effective. Sessions are highly participative, where mutual support and success builds the participants’ confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilling lives. The Self-Management Workshop does not conflict with existing programs or treatment. It is designed to enhance regular treatment and disease-specific education such as Better Breathers, cardiac rehabilitation, or diabetes instruction. In addition, many people have more than one chronic condition. The program is especially helpful for these people, as it gives them the skills to coordinate all the things needed to manage their health, as well as to help them keep active in their lives. There were 15 people who attend the CDSMP program and all report the program being a success.

**Focus on Kids**
Focus on Kids is a highly effective program for families experiencing separation and/or divorce through learning better communication skills and how both parents can interact even through differences of opinions and lifestyles. The curricula used for Focus on Kids uses real life situations on video for clients. These videos sessions are extremely effective in giving clients a "hands on" learning experience. Summary points of Focus on Kids are:
- Avoid Putting Children in the Middle
- Transitions Between households
- Money Matters
- Parenting Time

Focus on Kids is offered in 3 counties in the South Central Region. They are Pulaski, Phelps and Texas County. Texas County served 15 adults in the program. This generated information that impacted approximately 30 children.
The Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) in Missouri brings helpful information about food and nutrition to limited-resource families. FNEP is the term used to refer to MU Extension’s two key nutrition programs for low-income Missourians: the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). FNP funds come to MU Extension from USDA, Food & Nutrition Services through Missouri’s food stamp program. The main focus of FNP is on youths and the adults who support them. FNP nutrition educators work primarily in schools, helping students achieve lifelong health and fitness.

Expanded Food & Nutrition Program (EFNEP) are trained to teach homemakers and youths in small groups, in neighborhoods or in homes to learn about good nutrition and good food through activities for adults and youths. These assistants receive training and help from the county nutrition specialist as well as the University of Missouri-Columbia and from Lincoln University. The program helps participants find out about stretching food stamps or money; fixing low-cost foods; eating better when pregnant; planning meals for babies, children and teen; storing food safely; controlling weight; helping with referrals for family problems; using food received from Women, Infants and Children’s (WIC) Program or commodity distribution; and freezing, canning and growing food.

Impact in 2010

Family Nutrition Education Program

University of Missouri Extension (UME) Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 3,396 low-income participants with nutrition education in Texas County during 2010. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. Dana McGuire and Lorette’ Smith are Nutrition Program Associates in Texas 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 resource management. Back-to-school Health Fairs, the Pyramid of Power play, and the Food Power interactive exhibit were all also featured this year.

During 2010, both youths and adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served:

Schools:
Cabool Elementary and Middle, Houston Elementary, Middle, and High, Licking Elementary and High, Plato Elementary, Raymondville Elementary, and Success Elementary.

Agencies:
4-H DOW Camp, Cabool Housing Authority, Libraries in Cabool, Houston, Licking and Summersville, Texas County Food Pantry, and various home visits.

In summary, it has been a successful year in Texas County for FNEP.
**4-H & Youth Development**

Missouri 4-H, University of Missouri Extension's youth development programs, help to create opportunities for young people to be valued, contributing members of their community. Providing opportunities for youths to develop positive self-esteem, leadership skills, decision-making skills, citizenship and practical life-skills are objectives of the extension youth program. Missouri 4-H connects kids and caring adults for learning-by-doing experience in organized clubs, enrichment programs, special-interest groups, camps, Character Counts with the Six Pillars of Character and school-aged child care programs. To learn more about 4-H -- the world’s largest youth-serving organization -- visit http://mo4h.missouri.edu.

**4-H Impact in 2010**

**Life Skills learned at 4-H Programs and all 4-H Events**
The 4-H members are taught life skills such as character the individual trait that makes them who they are, Respect for others, responsibility, social skills, cooperation, goal setting, record keeping, leadership, teamwork, self-esteem, self-responsibility, self-discipline, respect for others, personal safety, critical thinking, problem solving, contributions to group efforts, and community service, caring for themselves & others, and being trustworthy. This is just a few life skills learned by 4-H members each year.

**Texas County 4-H 2010**
Texas County 4-H Year always begins with new enrollments. We had 137 members for the 2010 4-H year. We encourage families to find a 4-H Club for their children to join in the County or to start a club that kids can have a place to learn and grow, Developing Leadership Skills, abilities to accept responsibilities, Goal settings, Develops Character, giving the 4-Her Learning Activities and Opportunities that they might never get.

Anyone wishing to be part of the 4-H family with a skill that could be taught to our youth we would appreciate you letting us know so our 4-H’ers can learn more skills to prepare them for the future.

All leaders must take either and on line volunteer training or a training given by the 4-H Specialist in each county. Also all leaders must have a background check to work with our 4-H members.

If interested please call the Texas County University of Missouri Extension Office for Betty Baney 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant, 417-967-4545 or email baneyb@missouri.edu

**TEXAS COUNTY 4-H STATISTICS 2010**
Texas County has 12- 4-H clubs with approximately 137 members and 21 leaders-project leaders. Some of these Clubs are family clubs and some are Home Schooled Clubs. These are the Texas County 4-H clubs and the communities they represent are:
- Summersville Explorers – Summersville; Ridge Runners – Bendavis; Texas County 4-H
- Shooting Sports Project—Houston; Cabool Kids—Cabool
- Rangers’ 4-H Club – Houston; Hill Country Family 4-H –Licking;
- Licking Lucky Clovers—Licking; Blue Fire 4-H— Houston
Texas County 4-H Shooting Sports 2010

The new year of 2010 got started with the Shooting Sports Safety Classes. This year we will be doing the Safety Classes again this January 25 and 27, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Any child from age 8 to 18 as of December 31, 2010, that are interested in the 4-H Shooting Program, MUST attend these’ two trainings. NO EXCEPTIONS unless you have already taken the 4-H safety class. This class must be taken even if you have had the Hunter Safety Course given by the Conservation.

In late August, 4-Hers in trap shoot had the opportunity to participate in the annual State Trap Shoot event where a total of 912 different 4-H members from 65 counties participated in one or both of two days…setting a new record for participation. During this event 27,900 clays were thrown.

The Texas County Trap Team took 2nd in the senior age division. They were Dusty Smith, Corey Stallcup, Jake Scheets, Tanya Duncan and Dustin Smith with a score of 475 and the winning team had 478. Individual Senior Single Shot Gun scores- Dusty Smith 2nd place with a 99, Corey Stallcup 97, Jake Scheets 95, Tanya Duncan 92, Dustin Smith 92 and Cody Huffman 90, Senior Doubles Shoot Gun Scores- Jake Scheets 79, Corey Stallcup 63. Intermediate Single Shotgun Scores were Travis Hutson 44 and Dalton Grider 42. Skeet Scores Senior B (50) Dustin Smith 46 first in the division.

Senior Air Rifle Pellet team took first place, Kirsten Nugent 245, Catherine Nugent 214, Allison Williams 133 and Hannah Nugent 70.

Intermediate Air Rifle team took 2nd place, the # 1 team had 971 points and the Texas County Team had 856 points, their scores were Makaylie Coble 296, Jonathan Wright 231, Jacob Nugent 209 and Megan Bever 120.

Senior 22 Rifle Aperture 3P scores, Zachary Collins 392 4th place, Allison Williams 273-10th place.

Senior 22 Rifle Standard 4P scores Zachary Collins 1st place with a 381 score.

Intermediate 22 Rifle Aperture 4P scores, Makaylie Coble 343- 1st place, Meagan Bever 183-9th place.

Intermediate 22 Rifle Standard 4P scores Jacob Collins 368-1st place.

Archery Intermediate Compound Fingers scores, Jacob Nugent 166.

Intermediate Compound Release Scores are Courtney Camden 54.

4-H members demonstrated their shooting skills in archery, air rifle, air pistol, muzzle loading, small-bore rifle and pistol, shotgun and hunting skills events at the annual Missouri 4-H State Shoot. The event was held on Saturday, September 18 at the Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports ranges near Columbia with 746 present!

The State Shoot remains the largest 4-H competitive event in Missouri. The 4-H shooting sports are one of our most popular projects.
4-H & Youth Development

2010 National 4-H Shoot in Kerrville, Texas
This shoot was held June 28 – July 2, 2010 and for the first time ever the National Grand Aggregate Trophy came to Missouri, for the past 9 years Texas has held the trophy. Texas County had a 4-H member on the Missouri State Team; this was Zachary Collins of Willow Springs. Zachery shot in 22 small-bore where he won a Silver Metal for High Individual Aggregate Score, 2nd in daily Silhouette event, 4th in CMP event, The Missouri team he was on placed 3rd in Silhouette and 3rd in CMP and 4th in 3 position. Texas County has a lot to be proud of its 4-H Shooting Program.

Mountain Grove 4-H Banquet 2010
Mountain Grove 4-H / FFA Junior High Club is the oldest in the state to join 4-H and FFA as a combined club. The banquet was planned and developed by the 4-H’ers themselves. Their speaker was Coach Ary Mountain Grove Football Coach; he did a terrific job comparing the game of ball, the game of life and 4-H and how they go hand in hand. There were 68 kids present and 140 parents, grandparents and other adults plus 2 Extension Staff. RaMonna Andrus their instructor and Leader presented the awards the students had gotten throughout the year. This is always a great time to see the achievements and accomplishments of the 4-H’ers throughout the year. This is a very unique 4-H club.

4-H and White Oak Camp 2010
This year we saw and increase in our 4-H numbers and we plan on that to continue. This year without community support we would not have been able to hold camp. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of people here in Texas County who provided both money and time to make this camp successful.
We had many educational programs, crafts where the kids get to make items to take home, they get to make their own bags with the country flag their cabins represented, shot archery, swim & canoe at the river. We had lots of volunteers to help at camp this year and 50% of these helpers came from Texas County citizens.
Larry Dablemont a Houston Native, came to camp and told stories to the campers.

The campers start arriving at camp between 8 and 10 AM at this time we do Check-in, Health Checks and get the campers assigned to the cabins. During these times we have Challenge games going on to keep them busy until we get all the campers settled into their cabins and get acquainted with their counselors. At noon we have lunch where each cabin of children can set with their counselors and cabin mates. Throughout the week the campers learn about Character education, plan skits, swim and canoe at the river where we have a licensed lifeguard and other river helpers, they do crafts, Archery, they get to help with snacks with our FNEP staff teaching them nutrition, each year we have different workshops and this year we had groups from foreign countries, plus the square dancers from the Mountain View area, the campers did challenges, and Inter County Electric also set up a electricity exhibit for the camper, Then one night they got to walk to the Blue Hole a large spring at the edge of the river.
We have a night around the campfire with a story teller and the past 2 years we have been blessed with Larry Dablemont telling the kids stories about his life here in the Houston area and along the Piney river, also things and people that happened at his grandpa’s Pool Hall. Each time he so graciously gave each child one of his books of which they were very proud of. A few years ago Larry was a counselor at our camp and we appreciate his coming and inspiring our campers to be all they can be. He left them with the message they can do anything in life that they want if only they work toward that goal. Then Larry gave each camper a book he had written. What a gift to our campers.

This year we had 84 campers, 23 youth counselor and 23 adult staff and presenters. We appreciate all those who helped with our camp. Many adults donated their time, making it possible for us to have a great camp.

Tri-County Fair 2010
Tri-County fair was immediately after camp. We had 40 plus exhibits in the 4-H building this year. These exhibits are mainly from 4-H’er in Wright, Texas, and Douglas counties. This fair offers the opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit articles they have made in their many 4-H projects. These 4-H members participate in exhibiting woodworking, arts & crafts, computers, and educational displays as well as dairy, sheep, goat, swine and beef in the livestock shows.

Achievement Day 2010
Achievement day was attended by 12, 4-H members and 8 adults. Each member had at least 2 projects to be judged. This is a time to see what the 4-H’ers has accomplished in their projects and help them get their project ready for the upcoming fairs. There was Archery projects, sewing and art projects and many animal projects.

Clover Kids Camp 2010
Each year before the Texas County Fair we do a Clover Kids Camp here at the Extension Office. Clover Kids is part of the 4-H program with children ages 5-8. This is a day camp for the children to learn about character, and Nutrition with our Food Nutrition ladies Dana and Loretta, they also help the kids make their own snacks and about what is healthy for them they also read them a story. We also do age appropriate projects. This year we learned about gasses by putting soda in a balloon then putting vinegar in a bottle, the child got to put the balloon over the bottle and dump the soda into the vinegar causing the balloon to fill with air or gas from the soda and vinegar. They also got to find bugs, leaves; flowers etc then take a magnifying glass and see what they could see that they didn’t see with the naked eye. They also got to mix water color paint with a dropper to see how many colors they could make from red, yellow, green, and blue.
All kids in the community ages 5-8 are welcome to attend this Day Camp.
Texas County Fair 2010
The Texas County Fair had 22 young people with 179, 4-H, FFA and Youth Exhibit’s and 9 adults with 47 entries and there were 26 flower entries. Entries were down this year but we hope to have a larger fair next year with more youth and adults entering their art, foods, gardening, sewing, vegetables, canning, foods, cakes, cookies, photography and Etc. Most items should be in the fair book.

Horse Jamboree 2010
The past 2 years in the fall the 4-H has had a horse jamboree at the Big Creek Trail rides, with seminars about horse care. There are also trail rides each day during the event. This event is done with the youth in mind but is a family event where families may come and enjoy the outdoors and horse riding and learning all at the same time.

Recognition Night 2010
4-H Recognition Night was held at the Houston Christian Church November the 9th. This event is to recognize all 4-H’ers who have turn in their year-end report on their completed projects. The youth get their year pins and certificates for the 4-H year. We had a pot luck dinner with 23 youth present and 28 adults. Many who turned in their report form were unable to attend due to many other events taking place.

4-H Energizer 2010
The 4-H Energizer for the HOST area was January 30 at the Mountain View Christian Church in Mountain View, MO. This event is open to both 4-H and non 4-H Families in Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon and Texas Counties. “The event is gives an opportunity for parents and children to learn about 4-H projects such as livestock, dance, theater arts, character education, How to make club meetings fun, Shooting Sports, Leadership, Public Speaking, Scrapbooking, crafts and clover kids”. This workshop is open to all youth ages 8-18 and their parents, also activities for the youth 5-7, the clover kid age occurs throughout the day in separate sessions. This event was attended by 30 youth and 10 adults.
Agriculture and Environmental Quality

The purpose of the agriculture program is to provide information and to make recommendations that will help individuals, groups and agribusiness firms apply this knowledge. Academic support for this program comes from the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in cooperation with Lincoln University and county, state and federal governments.

Impacts in 2010

**Beekeeping for Beginners** – There is a good deal of local interest in beekeeping. A four session short course detailing the basics of beekeeping was offered in Mansfield. Beekeepers attending had the opportunity to learn about getting started with beekeeping, setting up hives, buying bees, feeding and managing the hive for honey production, disease and pest prevention, harvest, and preparing hives for wintertime. Thirty nine bee enthusiasts took part in the short course.

**Utilizing Corn Silage on South Missouri Dairy Farms** – Increasing feed and fuel prices have dictated that area dairy producers search for more cost effective feed options for their milking herds. An option that has enjoyed considerable interest in recent years is corn silage production. This workshop held in Mtn. Grove, served to increase producer knowledge of the silage fermentation process, management techniques for enhancing fermentation, proper moisture content for silage, monitoring corn maturity by watching the milk line, packing and sealing silos, benefits of silage processing, benefits of inoculants, considerations for pricing silage, nutritional value of corn silage and how to use silage in ration formulation.

**South-Central Dairy Grazers** – Enthusiasm remained high among group members in 2010. This group met monthly during the pasture growing season on members’ farms for “pasture walks”, where they learned together about new ideas concerning forage programs, cow management, facilities, and dairy economics. The group has averaged between thirty and forty participants from Wright, Texas, Laclede, Douglas, Ozark, Howell and Webster Counties during 2009. Pasture based dairy producers continue to be among the most profitable in our area.

**Advanced Grazing School** – A one day workshop was offered to producers who had previously attended a basic grazing school. The objective of the class was to provide additional training in the areas of forage species and variety adaptation and selection, methods for extending the grazing season through earlier spring grazing and winter grazing, proper management of turn in heights and residual heights and methods for improving the persistence, productivity and utilization of pastures. Twenty pasture-based beef and dairy producers attended.

**Pesticide Applicators Training** – Twenty-one persons attended private pesticide applicators training in Texas County in 2010. Successful completion of the course qualifies participants as Certified Private Applicators, and allows them to purchase and use restricted use pesticides.

**Grazing Schools** – Texas County hosted another successful grazing school in 2010. Thirty-seven people attended this year’s school. Schools are conducted as a partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This very popular course helps producers improve in the areas of farm resource management, pasture growth and quality, livestock nutrition, soil fertility, grazing system economics, and matching forage and livestock production.
Thirty-one agricultural lenders and Farm Service Agency personnel from Dent, Douglas, Howell, Laclede, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Wright Counties in Missouri and 2 from Arkansas attended the 2010 Ag Lenders Seminar in West Plains, Missouri. Agriculture lenders come in contact with more people involved in agriculture than any other single commercial institution. Many times the person holding the “purse strings” of many operations can have a tremendous influence on the management behavior of the producers.

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.

Ag Lenders program was held on December 16, 2010 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Cafè 37 Restaurant in West Plains, MO.

Topics taught and discussed were:
- Commodity Outlook . . . Ron Plain - State Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Missouri
- Our General Economic Outlook . . . Scott Brown - Market/Policy Research Assistant Professor, FAPRI, University of Missouri
- New Packer and Stockyard Rules & Implications of Proposition B . . . Ron Plain - State Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Missouri
- 2012 Farm Bill Discussion . . . Scott Brown - Market/Policy Research Assistant Professor, FAPRI, University of Missouri
- MAESTRO and Other Energy Programs Available to Farmers. . . Stacy Hambelton - Ag Business Specialist University of Missouri Extension

Each participant receives a book titled “Missouri Farm Financial Outlook 2011.” The Seminar booklet contains current articles on farm topics such as outlook, management and budgets for planning next year’s farm operations.

Evaluations indicate that the lenders thought that the program was very valuable. The participants were asked to rate the program on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being very valuable: The lenders were asked the following question: “Overall, how do you rate this seminar?” The average rating was 8.13 out of 10
**Grazing School**

Better utilization of forage and improved livestock operations through enhanced grazing management is the focus of our Grazing Schools. Classroom sessions and on-farm tours are used to demonstrate the principles and variations of designing a grazing system. The schools last for approximately 2 ½ days. Topics taught during grazing school are; Soil Fertility Management, Designing Fence and Water Systems, Farm Resource Inventory, Wildlife Habitat in Grazing Systems, Pasture Condition Scoring, Using a Grazing Stick, Economic Considerations for Grazing Systems, Matching Livestock & Forages, Livestock Nutrition, Grazing System Layout and Design, Pasture Growth & Plant ID, and Electric Fence Construction and Demonstration. Then during the last day participants are divided into groups and they design and present a planned grazing system. This gives producers a chance to build confidence and gain hands on experience using the knowledge that they have acquired.

Upon completion, an evaluation is given to each participant. The question: “Would you recommend this grazing school to other producers?” was answered YES by 100% of participants. Young and old, male and female, experienced and inexperienced have attended and they all enjoy and learn from this program.

For producers interested in cost sharing for planned grazing systems, the local Soil and Water Conservation District has a program to cost share in “Planned Grazing Systems (DSP-3).” To participate in this program you are required to attend an approved grazing school. For more information on this practice or other cost share programs call your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

One hundred and forty five producers completed the 6 grazing management schools in 2010 within our grazing school region.

Grazing Schools held from May 11, 2010 to Sept. 3, 2010.

A total of 145 clients participated in the grazing schools across the area.
Business Development Specialist
Willis Mushrush

As entrepreneurs and innovators, Missouri’s small businesses are becoming a more diverse group that continues to make the state’s economy productive. There are approximately 500,000 small businesses in Missouri. Nearly 98 percent of all businesses with employees are categorized as small businesses. In assisting the owners and managers of those businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county’s economic development and the well-being of its citizens and communities.

In Texas County, during 2010, 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 Texas County reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

- New jobs: 28
- Sales increases: $1,281,728
- Government contracts: $18,691
- Jobs retained: 9
- Loans and investments in business: $55,000
- Business Acquired assets: $186,000
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 14
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 14
University of Missouri’s Contribution to Texas County Extension Program

University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for University staff members headquartered in Texas County.

The University provides in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for staff, postage for staff communications and matching funds for computer equipment costs and maintenance.

In total, the University of Missouri provided support during 2010 to the extension program in Texas County valued at approximately $185,000.