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.

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Office Hours:
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Monday–Friday

University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, martial or family status in employment or in any program activity.
December 2012

Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

At MU Extension, we know that citizens want their taxpayer-supported institutions to be responsive to their needs. Our distinct land-grant mission is to provide relevant, reliable and responsive education that improves Missourians’ lives, communities and the economy. We fulfill that mission by providing access to many research-based resources of the University of Missouri, in partnership with local and statewide organizations and groups.

Funded through the support of federal, state and county government; grants and contracts; fees for services; and private gifts, MU Extension leverages every dollar received to create expanded educational opportunities. Every dollar appropriated from county government is leveraged with $6 to create a significant return on investment.

MU Extension creates value for citizens – including those who do not participate directly in its programs. For example:

The MU Extension Fire and Rescue Training Institute teaches volunteer and career firefighters how to handle or mitigate fires and disasters, resulting in safer firefighters, citizens and communities. In FY2012, MU FRTI trained 17,096 fire and emergency service personnel through 217,000 instructional hours of training. Enrollees were from all of Missouri’s 114 counties.

This summer’s severe drought put MU Extension faculty in an active leadership role in helping Missourians deal with the crisis. MU Extension developed educational materials and programs and provided technical assistance for homeowners, businesses and the agricultural community. Social media, including Facebook, YouTube and websites, were used to inform citizens on such topics as animal nutrition, including nitrate poisoning; heat-related disabilities; government programs; wildfires; and more. Extension faculty also worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement drought cost-share practices, which allowed more than 11,000 landowners to apply for state assistance to access adequate water supplies for livestock and crop production.

These are just two examples of MU Extension’s public value impact. I’m sure you will find many other examples in your local community.

I want to thank you for your support of MU Extension as a critical team player in your locale. Your ideas for improving our partnership are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Ouart
Vice Provost and Director
Houston Grazing School
Forty-four area landowners attended the 2012 Houston Grazing School. Grazing 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. Since 2007, 238 producers have attended grazing schools in Texas County where sixty-one systems have been installed that encompass 6,273 acres. Ninety-four percent of grazing school attendees report greater profits through application of managed grazing concepts.

Soil Testing
The Texas County Extension Center serves to assist landowners with understanding the nutrient needs of their soils. 336 soil test reports were received by the Oregon County Extension Center is 2012, belonging to Texas County residents. Soil testing helps producers determine the best course of action for fertilizing pasture and crop ground. While soil testing is unlikely to save producers money it does enable them to determine how best to spend their money in order to get the most bang for their fertilizer dollar.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT)
Private Pesticide Applicator Training is a program which trains Missouri farmers and landowners proper safety and use of different chemicals, and enables them to purchase and use on their operations restricted use pesticides and herbicides. In 2012, 66 Texas County residents received PPAT and either were newly certified or received re-certification for their enterprises.

Drought Management Field Day and Program:
This program, held September 13th, provided over 90 livestock producers from Texas and surrounding counties an opportunity to learn about drought management strategies for their livestock enterprises. The event included an afternoon field day, held at Martin Cattle Company, near Anutt, MO, and concluded with an evening meal and program at Victor Baptist Church in Anutt, MO. The focus of the field day was to educate producers on alternative feedstuffs for wintering beef cattle. A demonstration of ammating corn stover round bales was set-up and the process detailed by MU Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist, Justin Sexten. Other alternative feeds and methods of feeding were discussed and Sydenstricker John Deere provided a demo of their line of vertical mixers and a hay processor that could be used to make Total Mixed Rations, and improve utilization of poor quality roughages.

The evening program featured Stacy Hambelton, Ag Business Specialist, who spoke on tax ramifications of drought and the Imported Red Fire Ants that could come from hay being brought in from southern states. Additionally, Dr. Mac Devin with Boehringer Ingelheim gave a presentation on animal health and management during drought.

Master Gardener Program
In the spring of 2012 the Texas County Extension office held a Master Gardener Program. Twenty-one residents from Texas County completed the program that consisted of 10 sessions throughout the course of five weeks. The Master Gardener Program provides in depth horticulture training to individuals throughout Missouri who then volunteer their time applying what they have learned to help others in their communities to learn about gardening and the environmental education. In Texas County 1033 volunteer hours were reported in 2012. The Master Gardener Program throughout Missouri promotes and raises public awareness of the University of Missouri Extension as a source of unbiased, research based gardening information.

2012 Drought:
2012 will likely be long remembered for the extreme drought and heat that gripped the Midwest. County’s reported suffering from a deficit of approximately 15 inches of rainfall, with the majority of that deficit coming in the first 7 months of the year. First cutting hay crops of cool season grass were estimated at 30-50% of normal. Due to a warm and dry winter of 2011-2012, stock ponds and other water sources were compromised, and even as of January 2013, continue to be well below normal levels. MU Extension provided assistance to agriculture producers stricken by drought in a number of ways. Sourcing feedstuffs, forage testing for nutrient analysis as well as toxic nitrates, pasture renovation, consulting on herd reduction and drought mitigation strategies, water systems, etc. were a few of the common areas of assistance.

Garden N Grow
Garden N Grow, a nine week program, was designed to enlighten youth participants about the many aspects of vegetable gardening. A group of 15 kids ages 8-12 from the Houston Optimist Club’s after-school program took part in the first ever local version of the program in 2012. Through the program the youth learned about the science behind growing crops, the math of weighing and pricing produce, and even language arts and community service skills. Through the Garden N Grow program nearly 800 pounds of produce was donated in 2012 to the local food pantry.
South Ozarks Premier Beef Marketing Program (SOPBM):
SOPBM allows producers to cooperatively market beef calves in 50,000 lb semi-truck loads, and receive performance and carcass data which allows them to make management decisions about their cowherds. To date, fifty-two producers have backgrounded twenty-six groups and 11,165 head of cattle in the program. In 2012, producers enrolled a total of 270 head of steers and heifers for the spring and fall commingling groups. Producers involved in SOPBM learn advanced marketing and management techniques for their beef operations, and improve profits from their beef enterprise.

Nutrition and Health Education

Food Preservation
With the high costs of fuel came the skyrocketing prices of food. Classes were held in Texas County to combat this problem. 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. The classes had 10 participants in Texas County in 2012.

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, senior citizen centers, 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 video 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

Family Nutrition Education

University of Missouri Extension (UME) Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reached 5,083 low-income participants with nutrition education in Texas County during 2012. 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. Special programs like Cooking Matters, Back-to-school and other Health Fairs, the Pyramid/MyPlate of Power presentation, and the Food Power interactive exhibit were also featured this year.

During 2012, both youth 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, Houston Elementary and Middle, Licking Elementary and High, Plato Elementary, Raymondville Elementary and Middle, and Success Elementary.

Agencies:
Texas County Food Pantry, Department of Social Services, Summersville Head Start, Town & Country Supermarkets, First Baptist Church Food Bank, Community Gardens, and Cabool Housing Authority.

In summary, it has been a successful year in Texas County for FNEP.
Focus on Kids is offered in 3 counties in the South Central Region. They are Pulaski, Phelps and Texas County. Texas County served 11 adults in the program. This generated information that impacted approximately 30 children.

Strong Women– Healthy Lives Expo

The Strong Women–Healthy Lives Expo included the very best education in beauty, health, nutrition, fitness, financial planning, and entrepreneurship. This expo reached nearly 300 women from across the county. Women who attended the event reported increases in physical activity, while businesses that attended reported increases in their sales following the expo.

Business Development

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 through growth in jobs, sales, innovation, technology development and commercialization.

In Texas County, during 2012, 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 28 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:

- Sales Increases: $456,231
- New investments: $330,000
- Jobs Retained: 28
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 20
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 8
- Government Contracts: $869,256

Working with the Ozark Heritage Region economic developers which includes those from Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas, and Wright counties, University of Missouri Extension received grant money from the Small Business Administration to continue working with entrepreneur programs in these counties. A program entitled Youth Biz has been ongoing for the past six years. This program teaches entrepreneur skills to high school seniors through funding “hands-on” in-school projects as well as classroom training. These funds were awarded to continue this effort as well as expand the effort to adult entrepreneurs through training programs in all 7 counties.

In 2012, this program also assisted the Ozarks Small Business Incubator and its partner’s by funding a program called Operation Jumpstart and Biz Boot Camp.

4-H Youth Development

One hundred eighty-nine members and fifty-five volunteers represent Texas County 4-H. Across the state, one of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2012. 4-H positive youth development programs deliver opportunities for you to build life skills, engage in science and connect with the community.

4-H Connects Kids to College and a Higher Quality of Life

Missouri 4-H Members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. MU is by far the campus most frequently visited and 4-H is the second most reported reason to be on the MU Campus (Lerner, 2008). In 2011, MU Extension 4-H connected 8,500 young people age 8 to 18 to University of Missouri campuses and faculty. Being on a campus is a predictor of youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006)

These students are more likely to go to college and enjoy increased financial success for themselves and their offspring
be better consumers
improve quality of life through more opportunities for leisure and hobbies
improve health for themselves and their children
(Porter, 2003)
more likely to vote as adults
more likely to contribute to their community
(Lerner, 2009; Zaff et al, 2003)

Youth who earn their earn bachelor’s degree, increase annual earnings by $2.01 million over their lifetime (Porter, 2003). If Texas county youth participating in 4-H programs, go on to earn their Bachelors, 4-H would help young people earn $24.34 million more of lifetime earnings.

According to a national study of positive youth development conducted by Tufts University, compared with non-4-H youth, young people participating in 4-H programs are:

- 300% more likely to contributing to their communities
- 300% less likely to engage in risk behaviors
- 76% more likely to make better grades
- 70% more likely to go onto college
- 40% more likely to science or engineering courses or careers
4-H offers long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, environmental conservation and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from aerospace and arts to veterinary science, welding, photography, cake decorating, and shooting sports. 4-H also involves children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H Programs
Texas County communities have strong support for youth programs of the University of Missouri Extension through local partnerships, the dedication and commitment of volunteers and communities, which is vital to our success. The many contributions of volunteers, county leaders, local organizations and businesses provide youth with opportunities to grow and learn outside of the classroom to better prepare for their future. We are always looking for new ideas to help serve youth better; you are invited to join us in our efforts to conduct innovative programs in the exploration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

4-H School Programs
4-H school enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Most are led by teachers or 4-H volunteers. Houston Aggies and Mtn. Grove 4-H provide school based 4-H experiences for youth.

Clover Kids Camp
12 kids participated in Clover Kids Camp at the Texas County Extension Office. Camp started with a lesson in Character Counts, and then youth participated in crafts and science projects. The kids love the science projects that they get to do each year. The Food and Nutrition staff prepares snacks with the kids, which is always one of the highlights of the day. The day ends with fun games that the youth always enjoy.

Shooting Sports
Texas County 4-H has a Shooting Sports Program that holds its own with 4-H shooters throughout the state. Texas County has had many individual first place 4-H’ers at the state competitions in disciplines. Shooting Sports is a great success in Texas County with some of the best instructors in the state. Texas County 4-H Shooters always take top honors at the State competitions. 4-H participants average 20 kids in all disciplines including: Shot Gun, Archery, Small-bore 22, Pellet and BB.

4-H members supported by adult volunteers
Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at $18.80 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Texas County 4-H volunteers was worth more than $103,400 in 2012! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into healthy adulthood, priceless.

County Fairs
The Texas County and Tri County Fair is a great showcase of the 4-H activity, projects, and education that have taken place within the county throughout 2012. The livestock show and auction for the Texas County fair had sales in excess of $100,000 in 2012.
2012 Council Officers

Chair: Cathy Sirdoreus
Vice-Chair: Charles Dyer
Secretary/ Treasurer: Tonya Cope

2012 Elected Council Members

Doris Altom  Caroline Nugent
Angie Stilley  Josh Dixon
Dawn Sprouse  Tracie Enfield
John Williams  Verlin Altom
John Cope  Dick York
Kieth Bridwell

Appointed Members
John Casey, County Commission
Bobby Richards, MFA
Robert Rouse, USDA

Texas County Extension Staff

Cammie Younger
County Program Director
Nutrition & Health Education Specialist

Amber Dailing
Alaine Ashton
Secretary

Betty Baney
4-H Youth Development Program Assistant

Terri Fossett
Family Nutrition Program Manager

Dana McGuire
Lorette Smith
Nutrition Program Associates

Staff Serving Texas County
Amy Patillo, 4-H Youth Development Specialist
Brenda Bell, Human Environmental Science Specialist
Pat Snodgrass, EFNEP Supervisor
Stacey Hambelton, Ag-Business Specialist
Logan Wallace, Livestock Specialist
Ted Cunningham, Livestock Specialist
Willis Mushrush, Business & Industry Specialist
Sarah Hultine, Community Development Specialist

Financial Statement

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Gross Profit

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Net Income  -5,420.91