December 2009

Dear County Commissioners and Stakeholders:

The University of Missouri Extension council and staff would like to thank the Webster County commissioners for their support and funding for programs during this past year. In turn, the council, faculty and staff remain committed, despite significant financial constraints, to improving people’s lives by helping them meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.

The mission of University of Missouri Extension is to serve Missouri by extending the unbiased research-based knowledge and problem-solving resources of the University of Missouri to focus on high-priority needs of people throughout the state. As a land-grant university, the University of Missouri is charged by federal acts of Congress to deliver extension programs. This mission is accomplished through a partnership of the University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, the people of Missouri through county extension councils, and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Current program emphasis areas in Webster County include:

- agricultural sustainability and community food production
- wise use of our natural resources of land, water and air
- youth development
- human development, health and safety issues
- community emergency preparedness and response
- small business development and marketing

Following the long-range program plan developed with input from county residents, we are taking appropriate steps to be sure the local direction of extension’s educational programming continues to meet the highest priority needs of our county’s residents in the coming years.

The contents of this report are a summary of the highlights of our educational efforts during the past year. We hope this report provides you a greater understanding about University of Missouri Extension programming efforts in Webster County. Please contact us if we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Ember Mikkelsen   Tom Yearian   Bob Schultheis
Council Secretary   Council Chairman   Natural Resource Engineer
& County Program Director
December 2009

Dear Members of the County Commission and the Community:

As we approach the end of another year and the beginning of a new year, I want to thank you for the support you have given to your local University of Missouri Extension Center during these difficult economic times. Your partnership with federal and state government and many other entities through MU Extension has made it possible for:

- Young people to learn life skills that make them contributing, caring members of the community; prepare them with science-based education for higher education and careers of the future; and help them avoid risky behaviors.
- Aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses to be more efficient and profitable, thereby helping to strengthen the local economy.
- Farmers and agribusinesses to incorporate new, research-based production techniques and best practices into their operations to improve their bottom line while protecting the environment.
- Families to learn and engage in healthy nutrition, fitness and lifestyle behaviors, which also help them reduce medical costs.
- Firefighters, nurses, law enforcement officers, teachers and others maintain and upgrade their professional skills and certifications.
- Communities to develop local leaders and deal with critical issues in a non-biased, neutral way for the public good.

The funds invested in MU Extension are well-managed. $11 million in county council funds, combined with other public and private funds, allow us to deliver $99 million worth of educational programs statewide. While the methods for delivering educational programs continue to evolve – including the Web, videos, social networking media, print materials and face-to-face meetings – the core of MU Extension’s mission remains:

“... to improve people’s lives, communities and the economy by providing Relevant, Responsive and Reliable Research-based education.”

If you have suggestions for how MU Extension can better serve your needs, please contact me or your local extension center.

Sincerely,

Vice Provost and Director
$48,200 of county general revenue appropriations to Webster County Extension

$109,245 of matching support provided by the University of Missouri to Webster County

$39,384 of matching support from Webster County schools for Food and Nutrition Education Program

8,725 individual requests for help were answered

$317,363 estimated market value of individual consultation services provided

7,040 people were involved in group educational activities

3,049,000 people were reached through regional media (newspaper, radio, television, magazine) efforts

6,000,000 people were reached through statewide and national media

988 MU guidesheets and 4-H publications were distributed through the Extension Center

59,990 copies of information and newsletters were distributed through the Extension Center

241,024 accesses were made to the Webster County Extension Center’s website

18 persons received a 3-hour training course to allow them to buy restricted-use pesticides

21 exams were proctored for students wanting to complete high school or college by independent study

299 persons from Webster County took continuing education courses through MU Extension

161 agricultural & horticultural soil samples were tested for fertilizer and liming recommendations

34 forage samples were processed and advice given on adjusting animal rations

14 drinking water samples were tested for mineral and nitrate contaminants, with four NO₃-positive

60 food canner pressure gauges were tested to prevent food poisoning, with 38 percent of gauges faulty

6,310 volunteer hours were provided by Webster County 4-H youth leaders, Master Gardeners, and Extension Council members

$112,067 value of volunteer hours provided by Webster County 4-H youth leaders, Master Gardeners, and Extension Council members, based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ $17.76 per hour volunteer value for Missouri in 2007

$20,878 value of 1,898 hours of donated (unpaid) labor provided by Webster County Extension faculty and staff for client service, building maintenance, equipment repair and janitorial work, based on a $11 per hour rate

$3,816 of unreimbursed job-related expenses of Webster County Extension faculty and staff for cell phone use, travel, reference journals, teaching aids, professional improvement training, etc.

2008 Leaders Honor Roll Award Recipients:
— Lesley Howard, Marshfield, MO
— Elizabeth Sims, Marshfield, MO

2009 Webster County Farm Family:
— Brad and Marci Chisum Family, Niangua, MO

2009 Century Farm Families:
— Glaubitz Farm (Mary Ruth Glaubitz-Fields), Rogersville, MO
— John and Lucy Harvey Farm (Shirley Harvey Wissbaum), Conway, MO
— Lorenz Farm (Arthur, Pat and Chris Lorenz), Seymour, MO
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Diverse, Experienced and Well-Trained Faculty and Staff

The faculty and staff of the University of Missouri Extension Center in Webster County are diverse, representing a variety of backgrounds, experiences and educational levels. They have owned their own businesses, worked for other educational institutions, worked in the public and private sectors, and collectively have over 71 years of work experience with University of Missouri Extension.
4-H and Youth Development

Missouri 4-H is University of Missouri Extension's youth development program, and helps to create opportunities for young people to be valued contributing members of their community. Developing positive self-esteem, leadership skills, decision-making skills, citizenship and practical life skills are objectives of the extension youth program. To learn more about 4-H -- the world’s largest youth-serving organization -- visit http://mo4h.missouri.edu.

Impact in 2009

School Enrichment Programs — School enrichment programs are short-term educational hands-on experiences that supplement learning in the classroom and take advantage of children’s natural sense of curiosity about living things in the world around them. By hatching chicks from eggs, students learn about embryology, biology concepts, and the natural life cycle of living things. Webster County Extension partnered with teachers in Fordland, Marshfield, Marshfield Christian and Head Start to offer embryology training to 596 students in kindergarten through 8th grades (including a special education class).

4-H Clubs & Volunteer Service — The three established 4-H clubs in Webster County are Heartbeat of the Ozarks at Marshfield, Webster County Trail Blazers at Fordland and Country Cardinals at Niangua.

Some of the club activities guided this year by volunteer leaders included horse show and poultry show, and collecting canned goods, coats and mittens for needy children. 4-H members also served a day as Salvation Army bell-ringers in Marshfield. Valuing their time at $17.76 per hour, Webster County’s 57 adult volunteers contributed over 4,788 hours of service, worth more than $85,035 in 2009, working with the county’s 46 4-H members.

4-H Honor Award Winners — The following youth received awards for completion of service requirements at the Club, County, District and State levels.

- Clover Kids Division: Avonlea Bergthold
- Junior Division: Erin Ingalsbe, Kylie Kirk, Mark Lawrence, Nick Mikkelsen, Deena Robertello, Monica Stewart, Ellie Wantland, Katie Wantland and Bayleigh Ward
- Senior Division: Katie Reuther, Emily Quas and Sheyann Ward

Over 75 project pins were given out to 4-H members who have completed the year.
Agriculture

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

Impact in 2009

Individual Assistance — Over 1,690 one-on-one requests for help on production agriculture concerns were handled through office visits, field visits, phone calls, mail and e-mail. Topic areas addressed included:

- soil testing and crop fertilization
- corrals, fencing and watering systems
- weed, insect and disease identification and control
- computers & recordkeeping
- custom farming
- poisonous plants
- farm leases and tax issues
- forage and crop selection, production, storage and testing
- ice, freeze, and flood-related crop damage
- soil conservation
- irrigation
- pond construction & management
- livestock nutrition
- pasture renovation, management and controlled grazing
- pesticide use, training and recommendations
- poultry production
- dead animal composting
- farm building construction

Soils & Crops Conference — In January, 92 people from four counties participated in the 85th Annual Soils & Crops Conference. Major topics were: Country of Origin Labeling, noxious weeds update, energy alternatives, soil sampling and using the results, how to spend limited forage dollars, and forage sampling for best results. On evaluations, 74 percent of participants listed changes they plan to make as a result of what they learned.

Spotted Knapweed Control — A University of Missouri Plant Protection Program grant helped fund the release of flower weevils (*Larinus minutus*/*obtusus*) in July and root weevils (*Cyphocleonous achatas*) in August on the Greg Samuel and Tom Bitting farms. Over time, these weevils will offer biological control of the spotted knapweed, which was first identified in Webster County in 2006, and classified as a noxious weed in 2008. The website at extension.missouri.edu/webster provided information to landowners statewide about control options, and Webster County Extension coordinated knapweed monitoring efforts with the Missouri Department of Transportation along road rights-of-way.

Soil Testing & Forage Testing — A total of 88 agricultural soil samples were submitted and analyzed through MU Extension testing facilities. Producers received recommendations for fertilizer, soil liming, weed control, and cropping options to rebuild their soil fertility and forage supplies. Referrals were made to the USDA Farm Service Agency and Webster County Soil & Water Conservation District for cost-share assistance. Late-cut forages caused by excessive spring rainfall and weedy pastures caused by successive years of drought made forage testing essential to assuring adequate proper nutrition for livestock. A total of 34 samples were processed through the MU Extension Center and advice given on adjusting animal rations.
**Horticulture & Master Gardeners**

Southwest Missouri and Webster County have a great blend of commercial and home horticulture. Commercially, there is a growing number of fruit and vegetable growers, greenhouse producers, and numerous businesses associated with the “green industry” including nurseries and lawn/landscape businesses. Traditionally, southwest Missouri citizens have a great impact on the horticulture industry.

**Impact in 2009**

**Individual Assistance** — Over 2,540 one-on-one requests for Extension Center assistance on horticulture and healthy living concerns were handled through office visits, field visits, phone calls, mail and e-mail. Requests took from 10 minutes to several hours each to research and answer. Topic areas addressed included:

- soil testing
- wildlife control
- weed, insect and disease identification and control
- greenhouses & high tunnels
- fruit and vegetable production
- tree, lawn and flower care
- ice, freeze, and flood-related tree and crop damage
- irrigation & water management
- mulching and composting
- pesticide selection and use
- produce marketing (organic and conventional)
- poisonous plants

**Master Gardeners** — To help address the strong demand for general horticulture and gardening education, the Master Gardener program continued to grow in Webster County with a class of 14 graduates in July, and a new class of 14 trainees beginning in October. These University of Missouri-trained volunteers received 30 hours of instruction, in return for each providing 30 hours of horticulture education programs for the gardening public over the coming year.

Extension-trained Master Gardeners volunteered 1,018 hours of service, valued at $18,081, in Webster County communities in 2009. They reached 821 people in person with horticulture education and advice through group programs or individual consultations, and the Master Gardener website was accessed 5,656 times.

Projects Master Gardeners were involved in include:
Hidden Waters Nature Park improvements in Marshfield, Fair Haven Children’s Home garden planting in Strafford, Niangua School and city beautification, gardening instruction for summer school children, and Master Gardener website updating.

**Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop** — This hands-on workshop, held at Uncle Rooster’s Orchard near Seymour in February, drew 29 producers and homeowners from nine counties to learn the proper way to prune apple and peach trees and grapevines.

**Soil Testing** — A total of 73 horticultural soil samples were submitted during the year and analyzed through University of Missouri testing facilities. Homeowners were then provided advice on fertilizer, soil liming, weed control, and plant care to improve their commercial and home gardens, lawns and flower beds.
Environmental Quality & Energy Stewardship

The purpose of this program is to provide up-to-date information and advice on environmental and energy issues, and to provide public education and relay programs and guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Missouri Conservation Department (MDC), and the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Academic support for this program comes from the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, in cooperation with county, state and federal governments.

Impact in 2009

Individual Assistance — Some 667 requests for assistance from the MU Extension Center on environmental quality concerns were handled through office visits, field visits, phone calls, mail and e-mail. Requests took from 20 minutes to several hours each to research and answer. Topic areas addressed included:

- human and animal waste treatment options & regulations
- hazardous-materials use, storage and disposal
- geology, sinkholes and land use
- energy-efficient house construction
- water supply development, testing, treatment and protection
- indoor air quality, mold control and EMFs
- planning and zoning
- heating fuel economics
- water quality and risk assessment
- solid-waste management and recycling
- radon and lead testing
- alternative energy options

Energy Efficiency Seminar — A March seminar in Marshfield on improving home energy efficiency helped 13 members of the Webster County Landowners Association identify cost-effective solutions for saving on utility bills in the rental properties they manage in communities throughout the county.

Prescription Medication Take Back Day — The goal of this event was to legally dispose of unused medications to prevent contamination of surface and groundwater supplies from flushed medications, and to prevent illicit drug use by teens. Twelve participants brought in 3,386 pills for disposal, plus ointments, nebulizer vials, and liquid codeine. Partners on this project were MU Extension, the TEACH Coalition, Sheriff’s Department, Marshfield Clinic Pharmacy, and Community Partnership of the Ozarks.

Water Testing — Fourteen drinking water samples were tested for mineral and nitrate contaminants and the homeowners were referred to the Webster County Health Unit for bacterial testing kits to assure drinking water safety. Four samples tested positive for nitrates, and the homeowners were advised how to avoid potential health problems for infants.

Yard Waste Composting Program — Webster County Extension helped coordinate the yard waste composting program for the City of Marshfield for the 21st year. Working with nine Knights of Columbus volunteers, a Leaf Pickup Days in November helped 30 elderly residents solve a waste problem by diverting 245 bags of leaves into useful mulch and compost for Master Gardeners.
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 about 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.

Agriculture and business specialists work to make Missouri’s businesses successful by helping identify problems and providing information and training. Specialists have access to a broad range of university and governmental resources including faculty experts, research centers and the library system.

Impact in 2009

Business Consultations — In Webster County during 2009, 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 four people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. An additional 22 persons participated in business training conferences.

Farmers’ Market Support — With advisory and marketing assistance from Webster County Extension, the Marshfield Farmers’ Market successfully completed its fifth year of operation. An average of 26 vendors per week (a 52 percent increase over 2008) sold locally-grown produce and home-baked items throughout the season. The 50 dues-paying vendors realized over $40,000 in sales. This was down 13 percent from 2008 sales, as consumers reduced their buying of somewhat more expensive locally-produced food in the struggling economy.

Individual Assistance — During 2009, many dozens of questions were answered via e-mail, phone conversations and office visits on developing home-based businesses of all types for full-time or supplemental family income. Interest continues strong in developing niche markets for eggs, processed meats, poultry, fruit crops, greenhouse-produced vegetables, and heirloom organic crops.

Extension Center Website — The Webster County Extension Center website at http://extension.missouri.edu/webster has been an effective way to provide clients with valuable information, even as staffing shortages and underfunding continued through 2009. Some 241,024 accesses were made to the website during the year, shifting the cost of the publications to the user, while simultaneously providing them information access at any time of day or night. Many clients expressed their appreciation for the ready access they have to the unbiased information and high-quality content.
The education provided for today’s graduating students and working adults is soon obsolete unless periodically updated. Readjustment and retraining is a shared responsibility of many agencies and organizations, including MU Extension. Professional updating is provided by MU Extension in such fields as accounting, dentistry, engineering, firefighting, law, library science, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and professional education.

MU Extension also provides continuing education for life-long learning through workshops, institutes and short-courses. Examples of topics include: educational programs for teachers, librarians, school administrators and other professionals; supervision- and management-skills training; independent study credit courses; educational resources and courses for personal growth-skill areas; personal- and professional-development programs; programs focused on family health and aging issues; child care provider training; workplace development programs; and seminars focused on community and leadership development.

**Impact in 2009**

**Continuing Education Courses** — In 2009, a total of 299 persons from Webster County took continuing education courses through MU Extension. This included 103 students who received emergency responder training by the MU Fire & Rescue Training Institute, to prepare them for medical emergencies, hazardous materials response and acts of terrorism, as well as fires.

The Webster County Extension Center serves as a testing site for county residents interested in furthering their education outside of on-campus courses. In 2009, 21 exams were administered to students studying for their high school, college or advanced degrees, or professional certifications.

**Private Pesticide Applicator Training** — Testing was provided to 18 individuals wishing to receive or renew licenses to buy restricted-use pesticides. Following successful completion of the 3-hour training course, the Missouri Department of Agriculture issues a license good for five years.

**FCE Clubs** — Webster County Extension assists the volunteer efforts of the Webster County Association for Family and Community Education, which has 29 members in three clubs. Clubs are Bowen Happy Hour, Community Sunshine, and Friendship Extension Homemakers.

These clubs promote building on the strength of the family as a center for a strong citizenry. Their projects this year included Stuffed Animals for the Sheriff’s Department, dolls to lobby legislators for Child Advocacy, personal care kits for Victim Assistance support, Head Start support, and the Fourth Grade Essay and Artwork Contest featuring “fairness” as one of the Pillars of Character, and numerous other community service activities.

Jeannie Moreno (standing at left) explains to children at the Niangua School Health Fair in April about poison look-a-likes commonly found in the home. MU Extension displays and instruction for the 152 students and adults also covered lawnmower, all-terrain vehicle, tractor, auger and PTO safety, and mold control. Similar presentations by Bob Schultheis reached over 120 people at the Webster County Health Fair in Marshfield in June.
Pressure Canner Testing — Pressure gauge testing of 60 food canners found 38 percent were faulty, and helped prevent these families from having potentially deadly cases of food poisoning. High food prices and a desire for more flavorful vegetables encouraged more people to learn to grow their own food. Throughout the year, hundreds of food and nutrition questions were answered via e-mail, phone conversations and office visits. The majority of these questions were on home food preservation, food safety, and special diet recipes.

Basic Parenting and “Tackling Tough Skills” Workshops — Two workshops, taught by Renette Wardlow, helped 36 and 17 parents, respectively, understand and cope with children’s behavior, stress, self-esteem, depression, and job issues. As one parent stated, "We really needed this class. It is so hard to positively discipline my children when living in a situation where other moms aren’t disciplining their children."

Community Emergency Management

MU Extension’s Community Emergency Management Program provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, businesses, schools and organizations in preparing and responding to natural and man-made disasters. Empowering them to become ‘part of the solution’ instead of ‘part of the problem’ is critical to building disaster-resilient communities. To learn more, visit http://extension.missouri.edu/cemp.

Impact in 2009

Individual Assistance — Over 1,080 residents were provided individualized information and advice to help them deal with damage from the severe storms that hit the county over the past three years. Requests took from 20 minutes to several hours each to research and answer. Topic areas addressed included:

- restoring or rebuilding tornado- and flood-damaged homes
- making drinking water safe
- standby generator selection
- chain saw safety
- salvaging damaged trees
- alternative power options
- storm shelter construction

Disaster Response Support — Over 270 hours of assistance was provided by Bob Schultheis to the volunteer-based Webster County Long Term Recovery Committee (WCLTRC), which helps resolve unmet needs of disaster victims, and to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which is responsible for hazardous materials mitigation and public safety.

Chain Saw Safety Workshop — Twelve Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers received training on chain saw use and protective gear, along with hands-on evaluation of tree removal options, at an August workshop in Seymour. On evaluations, 80 percent of the participants listed changes they plan to make as a result of what they learned, including upgrading safety gear and educating others.
Family Nutrition Education Program

Choosing healthy foods and engaging in regular physical activity are lifelong habits encouraged by the Family Nutrition Education Program (FNEP). This federally-funded program is administered through University of Missouri Extension at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

In southwest Missouri, programs for youth and adults provide information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness. Nutrition program assistants (NPAs) work primarily in schools to teach youths and the adults who support them about good nutrition and good food through various fun group-learning activities. Partners include schools, after-school programs, summer youth programs, WIC, Head Start, Health Departments, Food Stamp offices and a variety of social service agencies providing services to limited-income families.

Impact in 2009

FNEP Program — The Family Nutrition Education Program operates in 16 counties in southwest Missouri, with a county funding match required for participation. Under the leadership of Pam Duitsman, an in-kind match of $39,384 was obtained from Marshfield (Webster, Hubble and Junior High), Fordland, Niangua, and Seymour school personnel for the program to work under the auspices of University of Missouri Extension and the Webster County Extension Council.

During 2009, the FNEP reached 2,453 low-income participants with nutrition education in Webster County. Nutrition education for youths provided information in kid-friendly terms and lessons with hands-on activities. Activities included 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.

Evaluation data collected from 3,411 teachers across the entire state, including those in Webster County, reflect the positive impacts for youth that occur with FNEP participation (see Table 1 below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student changes</th>
<th>Percent of teachers who observed each type of student change</th>
<th>Percent of teachers whose students talked about this change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More aware of nutrition</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make healthier meal and/or snack choices</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat breakfast more often</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More willing to try new foods</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved hand washing</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved food safety other than hand washing</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased physical activity</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the teachers themselves are becoming role models for these behaviors, with 89 percent more aware of nutrition, 87 percent making healthier food choices, 88 percent doing improved hand washing for food safety, and 79 percent reporting increased physical activity.
Kathy Embrey, nutrition program assistant, said encouraging children to try new foods is just one of the many things that we teach. A student came to me and was excited to tell me how he had tasted some spinach leaves, just like the ones we had in class. “My parents were surprised that I liked them,” he said proudly.

In another instance, a student was waiting to enter into the Food Power exhibit when the instructor began to talk about healthy foods. The student excitedly commented that “Mrs. E. teaches us that.” It’s good to see students retain and associate the different programs we offer.

“Think Your Drink” — This March program by Nutrition Specialist Tammy Roberts taught Seymour High School students how to tell how many teaspoons of sugar are in soda by reading the label, and how to make healthier choices with what they drink. Discussion also included energy drinks.

**Out-of-County Specialists Serve Webster County**

University of Missouri Extension field faculty have multi-county responsibilities for educational programming. This is a tremendous benefit to Webster County because expertise can be borrowed from neighboring counties in the region to assist local producers and residents with professional advice to improve their families and farming or business operations.

The following extension specialists from other counties were called upon to support extension educational programming in Webster County in 2009.

- Jeff Barber, Housing & Environmental Design, Greene Co.
- David Burton, Civic Communication, Greene Co.
- Patrick Byers, Horticulture, Greene Co.
- Gordon Carriker, Ag Business, Christian Co.
- Richard Crawford, Superintendent, SW Research Center
- Dona Goede, Livestock, Cedar Co.
- Angelia Ham, Youth, Polk Co.
- John Hobbs, Ag/Rural Development, McDonald Co.
- Amanda Marney, Ag Preparedness, SW Research Center
- Brie Menjoulet, Agronomy, Hickory Co.
- Gary Naylor, Livestock, Dallas Co.
- Ted Probert, Dairy, Wright Co.
- Tony Rickard, Dairy, Barry Co.
- Tammy Roberts, Nutrition, Barton Co.
- Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy, Stone Co.
- Jim Thompson, Ag Business, Laclede Co.
- Wesley Tucker, Ag Business, Hickory Co.
- Renette Wardlow, Human Development, Christian Co.
- Jim Wirth, Human Development, Greene Co.

**Southwest Region News Service** — This weekly news service at [http://extension.missouri.edu/swregion/news](http://extension.missouri.edu/swregion/news) highlights University of Missouri Extension programs in southwest Missouri. Articles, containing useful information from extension specialists, were delivered by e-mail and reach every newspaper, magazine, television and radio station covering the issues important to area residents.

In total, over 3,200 reporters, editors, council members, and individual members of the public received Southwest Region News Service. Webster County accounted for about five percent of the individual readers. The articles were often published or led to other story placements (even television and radio interviews). Through this effort, the Webster County Extension Center was able to use a variety of media to reach county residents with practical education on a wide variety of topics.

**Leaders Honor Roll Awards**—Lib Sims (left) and Lesley Howard (right) were recipients of the Leaders Honor Roll Award for 2008. They were selected for the honor by the Webster County Extension faculty and staff for their long-time service and support to University of Missouri Extension.
2009 Webster County Extension Council

Chairman
Tom Yearian, elected member, term ends 2010

Vice Chairman
Greg Samuel, elected member, term ends 2010

Secretary
Ember Mikkelsen, elected member, term ends 2011

Treasurer
Laura Vinehout, elected member, term ends 2010

Other Members:
Gladys Gaeke, elected member, term ends 2011
Champ Herren, elected member, term ends 2011
David Sherertz, elected member, term ends 2010
Lindy Grier, elected member, term ends 2010
Helen Lamb, elected member, term ends 2011
Laura Cooley, elected member, term ends 2011
Dee Lewis, elected member, term ends 2011
Ray Schooley, elected member, term ends 2010
Jody Boles, appointed member from MFA, term ends 2011
Denzil Young, appointed member from Webster County Commission, term ends 2011
Larry Baker, appointed member from City of Marshfield, term ends 2011
Evelyn Cunningham, appointed member from Farm Bureau, term ends 2011

A Unique Partnership

Webster County’s University of Missouri Extension Council, comprised of elected and appointed citizens, is a full partner with Missouri's land-grant universities to deliver high-quality education and unbiased, 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.

WEBSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Paul Ipock
Presiding Commissioner

Lyndall Fraker
Northern District Commissioner

Denzil Young
Southern District Commissioner

Webster County Courthouse, Marshfield, MO
Current county and state appropriations do not fully fund the 1.0 FTE (full-time equivalent) Extension specialist, 1.75 FTE program assistants, and 1.0 FTE administrative assistant positions in the county. To meet the client needs and financial obligations for office operations, the Extension Council and Center personnel sought out grants and donated time and resources to keep the Center available to county patrons. Below are examples of the 2009 fundraising projects.

2009 Fundraisers

Donation Request Letter — A November 2008 letter and followup reminder included with the January 2009 extension council election ballot brought in $3,477 in donations from residents of Webster County, who valued Extension programs and services and wanted to see them continue.

85th Annual Webster County Soils and Crops Conference Sponsors

Special thanks go to the following sponsors for their donation of $1,732.26 of financial or product contributions to make this conference possible.

- Marshfield Lions Club
- Marshfield MFA
- Marshfield Clinic Pharmacy
- Metropolitan National Bank
- Dairy Farmers of America
- The Seymour Bank
- Southern Missouri Bank
- Farm Credit Services
- Charles & Joyce Embree
- Case Real Estate Company
- Gary D. Letterman

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast — Trinity Council #10844 members donated their time and ingredients in October to serve a breakfast of pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, orange juice and milk to the community, and gave the proceeds of $724 to help with Extension Center operational expenses.

Webster County Master Gardener Association

Master Gardener volunteers contributed $240 to help cover the cost of the Extension Center water bill and the cost of gasoline for mowing the lawn through the growing season.
What Our Clients Say

“Thank you SO MUCH [for sending me the info on mold control.] The problem has disappeared because of your advice. I wish more people would use Extension services. You are a wealth of great information.”
— Gary Feaval, Taney County

“I never had the opportunity to thank you for standing up for the water issue [related to the ethanol plant construction.] I really appreciate YOU!”
— Susan Toller, Fordland MO

“You don’t know how much I appreciate this [lead testing of glazed dishes.] It’s good to know they are safe to use.”
— Bobbi Carter, Marshfield, MO

“You brought up several things I hadn’t even though of [in updating my HVAC system.] Thank you very much for all your help.”
— Joanne, Webster County

“Your suggestion on irrigation sensors will save me $300 of the $400 system cost I was considering. You’ve been most helpful.”
— Larry Lillie, Springfield, MO

“Thank you for presenting the program [on energy savings] at the Webster County Landlords meeting. Everyone really enjoyed you taking the time to come.”
— Doris McFarland, President

“I am so glad you exist and pay attention to things! Thank you for getting the facts [about the legitimacy of the new dollar coins] and passing them on to us.”
— Jackie Sexton, Fordland, MO

“Thank you SO MUCH for your service. I really, really appreciate it. I think you solved my problem [why my horses are losing weight.]”
— Laurie Richards, Howell County

“I appreciate you providing this service. I had a hard time finding someone to proctor my [Cox College online] exams.”
— Tammi Packer, Marshfield, MO

“Thank you so much. You are extremely knowledgeable [about mold control.] I’m keeping your phone number in case I have more questions.”
— Darlene Page, Reeds Spring, MO

“Thank you very much for heading me in the right direction [on no-till planting.]”
— Justin Allen, Rogersville, MO

“I was looking for composting info, and your website has the best, easy-to-understand explanation I found. I knew the Extension Center would have the answer [on millipede control.]”
— Gail Hamilton, Marshfield, MO

“You did a tremendous job [with the Soils and Crops conference.] I’ve been missing out by not attending. You gave a dynamite presentation.”
— Gene Kinslow, Rogersville, MO

“That’s a lot of good information [on transplanting trees.] I really appreciate it. I would never have known that.”
— Angela Davis, Marshfield, MO

“Thank you so much for sending the farm building issue stories. It is Extension people like you that have made FarmTalk successful for over 30 years.”
— Doug Toburen, Editor, FARM TALK Publishing

“I really appreciate you being candid with me and helping me think through this [idea on starting a community garden.]”
— Jimana Murray, Grovespring, MO

“You have sure given us some food for thought. I can’t thank you enough [for pros and cons on windmills and solar panels.]”
— Marsha Colvin, Marshfield, MO

“You have just printed off the standard/metric wrench conversion chart from your Extension webpage. We thank you so much; it is exactly what we were looking for.”
— Bob and Ruth Wilkerson, Dallas County

“You have been a wealth of information on helping me [diagnose my pond problem.] I’m going to save the money I would have spent on water testing.”
— Donya, Greene County

“Thank you all for the valuable and timely information you provided [on working with the Plain-Sect (Amish) community!] It is much appreciated.”
— Carol Galloway, U.S. EPA, Kansas City, MO

[Calling about a collapsed sewage drain pipe] “We have really appreciated Extension through the years. We hope the funds will continue to be there for Extension to continue operating in the communities.”
— Jennie Rippee, Webster County

“Excellent, excellent! That’s exactly what I was looking for [who does aerial application of insecticides.]”
— Danny, Buena Vista Ranch, Strafford, MO
Office is located at:
800 S. Marshall St. (next to City Hall)
Marshfield, Missouri

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Contact us:
Mail: 800 S. Marshall St.
Marshfield, MO 65706
Phone: 417-859-2044
Fax: 417-468-2086
E-mail: websterco@missouri.edu
Web: extension.missouri.edu/webster

From Interstate 44 (traveling from Springfield/Lebanon):
Take the Marshfield exit (Exit 100) and go south 1.5 miles on Highway 38 to 4-way stop, turn right and cross railroad tracks. At stop sign, turn right onto Highway A and go 0.4 mile to red brick building just south of City Hall on east (left) side of road.

From Highway A (traveling from Rogersville/Fordland/Seymour):
Follow Highway A north into Marshfield, past Fraker Funeral Home and Marshfield Christian Church to red brick building just north of Kay's Country Store on east (right) side of road (0.3 mile inside city limits).

From Highway 38 (traveling from Hartville):
Follow Highway 38 west into Marshfield, past MFA on right and Marshfield Christian School on left. Road curves south around building. Follow it 0.4 mile to red brick building just south of City Hall on east (left) side of road.
State, Federal and County Funding for Extension

University of Missouri Extension programs in Webster County are funded by county, state and federal appropriations, grants and contracts, and private donations. Local funding for support of the Webster County Extension Center provides for office space, clerical and 41.7 percent of the youth program assistant’s salaries, communications, office supplies and equipment, building maintenance, and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Webster County.

A special acknowledgement and appreciation is given for the financial assistance from the Webster County Commission, the Webster Electric Foundation, and the county residents and businesses who donated their time and funds for Extension Center operations.

University of Missouri’s Contribution to Webster County’s Extension Program in 2009

University of Missouri provided salaries and benefits for one specialist and 1.44 para-professionals headquartered in Webster County.

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

In total in 2009, the University of Missouri provided support valued at $109,245 to the extension program in Webster County.

Financial Statement

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