Over 100,000 residents of southwest Missouri annually turn to University of Missouri Extension to gain practical knowledge, solve problems, adapt to change and make informed decisions. There are some MU Extension programs that are unique to southwest Missouri and provide tangible benefits.

An active Southwest Region Extension Council also provides a forum through which member county councils cooperate in providing effective educational programs for the entire region.

**Regional Business Specialists Aid Entrepreneurs**

*Clients helped at Small Business & Technology Development Centers.*

- Regional business clients achieved $27.2 million in sales.
- Assisted clients made $23.4 million in investments during 2012.
- Clients created or retained 951 jobs and started 27 businesses.

**Community Visioning Has Tangible Benefits**

*This joint program with Drury University helps communities plan.*

- 26 Missouri communities have been helped since 2006.
- This collaboration has attracted over $129,000 in fees.
- Over $25 million has been awarded to partner communities.

**Agricultural Research that Helps Area Farmers**

*Work at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon:*

- New pasture-based dairies, modeled on MU Extension’s rotational grazing system in southwest Missouri, have generated 1,100 jobs and added over $124 million to Missouri’s economy.
- An agricultural preparedness specialist coordinates bio-security training for the agriculture community in the region.

**Southwest Region News Service Shares Research**

*Different techniques are used to distribute research-based info.*

- Over 9,000 subscribe to news content that is e-mailed weekly.
- Over 3,000 in the region interact with us through social media.
- More than 200,000 read or hear our news content each week.
Webster County

There are also many University of Missouri Extension programs that have a positive benefit to residents of Webster County. Local efforts like 4-H, Master Gardeners, and the Family Nutrition Education Program have great impact along with other county-specific efforts determined by a publicly-elected council.

Local Master Gardeners Volunteer in the County
*Master Gardeners provide educational programs, tackle community projects, and answer horticulture questions from the public.*
- 25 locally trained active Master Gardeners.
- Over 1,509 hours volunteered during 2012, valued at $28,360.

Nutrition Education Helps Local Families
*Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) reach families at clinics, in community programs and children in public schools.*
- 3,468 children and adults attended FNEP classes, and 1,730 clients received nutrition education and food handling safety training through indirect methods, such as health fairs, during 2012.
- As a result, 77 percent of students are more willing to try new foods, 65 percent make healthier meal choices, and 62 percent have increased physical activity, all helping lower health care costs to the public.

4-H Develops Youth to Lead, Volunteers to Serve
*Studies show 4-H’ers have three times greater interest in science than non-4-H peers and are 70 percent more likely to go to college.*
- In Webster County, 56 youths are enrolled and participating in 4-H programs, guided by MU Extension and 55 volunteer leaders.

Educating Professionals in Webster County
- MU Extension provided education and/or training to 311 people from Webster County during 2012 at the Fire & Rescue Training Institute, the Law Enforcement Training Institute, MU’s Nursing Outreach and Distance Education, the Missouri Training Institute and Office of Continuing Medical Education.

Community Guided Programs Reach Thousands
*The county extension council guides MU Extension programs in Webster County, which were accessed by 20,168 people during 2012.*
- County extension faculty and staff provided free consultation, valued at $330,164, to 10,938 individuals on a wide range of topics.
- 221 soil tests processed for area farmers and gardeners saved money on fertilizer and helped protect the environment.
- 513,912 accesses were made to the Extension Center’s website at extension.missouri.edu/webster