
The Worth County extension office continues to receive strong support from the County Commission. Providing research-based information to clients that is relevant, reliable and responsive to specific needs is a mission and purpose of MU Extension.

Access to contact information for the MU Extension Specialists serving the area is located online at: http://extension.missouri.edu/worth

To contact the Worth County Extension Office, call 660-564-3363 between the hours of 8:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M. Voice messages may also be left.

Donated books to the Worth County Library from University of Missouri Extension focused on relatives raising children.

The books were purchased by University of Missouri Extension with funds from the Brookdale Grant for Relatives as Parents Program and the Relatives as Parents University of Missouri Mini-Grant.

Relatives raising children are often able to address sensitive family issues through a shared reading experience.

Some of the book titles included Uncle Daddy by Fletcher; The Adventures of Nana Cat and Her Children Moving In by Catherine, and The Family Book by Parr, and Nana’s Getting Married by Hartt-Sussman.

Librarian Mary Seat receives books from Jessica Trussell, MU Human Development and Family Studies Specialist.
4-H Program

Worth County 4-H had 42 members enrolled in four organized clubs for the program year. Each of the four clubs operate independently but join together when working on projects and participate in the Worth County 4-H Council that meets four times each year.

Youth engaged in the 4-H programs are 60 percent more likely than their non-engaged peers to vote, volunteer and contribute to their communities. One of every four Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a 4-H program in 2010. Annette Deering serves as the 4-H Youth Development Specialist. Karla Parman is the Worth County Youth Program Associate.

4-H Highlights

Achievement Day was held on July 26. Sixty-eight projects were evaluated and awarded ribbons with 36 exhibits eligible to participate in the State Fair held in Sedalia. Clover Kids received participation ribbons for 24 exhibited projects. The Worth County Senior Citizens Center in Grant City showcased several of the projects in a week-long display.

The 4-H and FFA Junior Livestock Show was held on July 22. Sheep, swine and cattle were shown during the sessions. Members competed in various classes for blue and red ribbons. Plaques were awarded for each species as well as for Junior and Senior Showmanship. Fifteen regular members participated in the show and “premium only” sale.

On September 26, a skating party was held for all 4-H members and their families. All previous members received their recognition pins for the new year. New members joining for the 2011 year received a 4-H pencil and 4-H cling. Forty people attended the event. Danielle Funk, Lindajoy Peterson and DeAnn Wame participated in the Interstate Show in St. Joseph on October 9. Danielle performed in the talent contest and also did a demonstration. Lindajoy and DeAnn both participated in the Fashion Revue. This interstate show includes counties from NW Missouri and Kansas.

Character Counts

Good character does count in Worth County! During October, November and December, Karla Parman held four six-week sessions on “Character” with Worth County RIII’s 5th and 6th grade students. The Show-Me-Character program teaches young people to make sound moral judgments and encourages adults to become more involved in helping youth develop positive character traits. The program encourages youth to incorporate ethical values in their daily lives: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Poison “Look-a-Like” Programs

Poison prevention programs were presented to county residents and families including Community Service clients. Hands-on illustrations of “look-a-likes” are provided.
Community Development

The Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government program focuses on the functions of governments at the city, township and county levels. More than 120 eighth grade students participated in local government trainings during the year. In addition, 160 students participated in local government days at the county courthouses. Student reports indicate they learned about the functions, taxation strategies and the benefits of local government operations. More than 80 percent of the student evaluations indicated they gained an understanding that "All governments exist to do the people's business" and that taxes help support local government operations.

The Missouri Sunshine Law details were provided to more than 50 individuals and groups who ask about the law. The Sunshine Law continues to be an concern for public groups who want to "get it right."

Questions asked often referenced public policy regarding the hiring of relatives. A very specific resource explaining the hiring of "relatives to the fourth degree" was distributed to participants.

In addition, a frequent question asked referenced executive session procedures. Entrepreneurship awareness training was offered to more than 370 adults and students.

Program emphasis stresses the need to become aware of business activity opportunities for youth and adults on both full-time and part-time basis.

Displayed items illustrated to participant marketable products that have financial opportunity. Participants were asked how they could improve the items to increase product profitability.

Also included in the trainings was the University of Missouri Extension access to developing a start-up business plan.

After one of the training sessions, a retailer asked if they could inspect the displayed products. The immediate reaction was, "I can learn to how do this." And, I can make some money at it, too.

Entrepreneurship planning for learners explored how increasing business asset mapping skills can increase not only the cash flow, but it can also increase an understanding of marketing strategies that increase the overall business development concepts.

Participants designed a personal plan and plotted the frequency of contacts regarding "sales pitches."

After each session, participants listed at least three "I learned" statements. Entrepreneurship development is an ongoing activity in many communities throughout the Northwest Missouri Region.

The Power of Wind 4-H Curriculum stressing the inquiry learning method was evaluated in multiple settings. Regional 4-H'ers were asked to design and develop a construction plan and test their device.

The learner's success in the conceptual design and the operational tests were used to determine project design effectiveness. If the project didn't work well, the learners were ask to determine why and what could make it work better. Participants were able to then redesign their project.

Strategic planning involved groups where more than 100 people participated in multiple session trainings. Participants learned to collectively develop a plan of work to broaden their group's goals and to improve the intended end results.

Public, non-profit and faith based groups attended the trainings.

Successful plans include multiple participation levels from committee members.
A meeting was hosted with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to help livestock producers prepare for potential agricultural emergencies, particularly livestock disease outbreaks. In addition, all three Worth County Commissioners were in attendance as well as the Worth County Emergency Management Coordinator.

The water festival is designed to provide students hands-on learning in the areas of soil and water conservation, the water cycle, food chains and eco-systems. Pre- and post-tests are administered to determine the increased understanding of these categorical items.

Shawn Deering and Amie Schleicher, MU Regional Livestock Specialists and program organizers were pleased with the large number of attendees indicating an interest in the meat-goat industry.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert from Lincoln University’s Small Ruminant Extension Specialist. Her presentation covered two timely topics on kidding season and doe nutrition.

Chretta Martin, Missouri Department of Agriculture Compliance Officer, discussed the details involved with direct marketing meat products directly from the farm.

Deering and Schleicher shared several additional resources.

Participants were able to ask questions throughout the meeting with some lively discussion that continued after the conclusion of the meeting. Throughout the presentations, the audience learned the strategies used to feed and care for the animals.
**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 Worth County during 2010, business development specialist and MU Extension Counselors along with the Missouri SBDTC and the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers served people and their companies with business start-up and management counseling, training and other assistance.

Overall, Missouri’s Business Development Programs served 25,096 people statewide.

- New jobs: 12,939
- Sales increases: 514,599,270
- Government contracts: 467,712,268
- New businesses: 265
- Jobs retained: 3,234
- Loans and investments in business: $204,073,294
- Acquired assets: $88,254,348
- Investment in commercialization: $47,083,591 in SBIR/STTR or research proposals submitted with 8,457,408 awards received
- Clients/companies receiving business counseling: 3,096
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 22,000.

**Family Nutrition Education**

More than 74 youth and 247 adults had contact with the Food Nutrition Program.

Youth and Pre-school to 5th and 6th grade learned through kid-friendly hands-on lessons and activities that included taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. During the 2009-2010 school year, the FNEP team used Show-Me Nutrition Educational Displays to get the message out to teachers and families in a great way.

Nutrition Program Associates (NPA’s) go into the schools and interact with the community members to help them make healthier choices and build healthy habits.

Evaluation data from across the state reflects the positive impacts that occur with FNEP programming.

Three thousand one hundred thirty-eight teachers provided feedback indicating the following student changes: creating more awareness of nutrition; making healthier meal and snack choices; eating breakfast more often; being more willing to try new foods; improving hand washing; improved food safety; and, increased physical activity.

Adults reported participation in FNP resulted in significant improvements in areas such as: using the “Nutrition Facts” labels to make food choices; exercising for a total of 30 minutes each day; and, thinking more about healthy food choices when deciding what to feed their families.

Food resource management improvements included planning meals ahead of time and using a “grocery list” when shopping.

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An FNP provides instruction to school students.

Students take time to practice making healthy foods.

**THE SUPERSIZING OF AMERICA**

Pennywise or Pound Foolish?

The American food culture has several items that make it necessary to exercise healthy food choices and count the calories.

Supersizing may be good for your wallet but it’s not good for the waistline. Supersizing often provides enough food for two meals.
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. Quall
Vice Provost and Director

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local Extension Councils Cooperating

EQUAl OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS
2010 Worth County Council Members

County Commissioners:
Presiding Commissioner - Kevin Austin
West Commissioner - Dennis Gabbert
East Commissioner - Rob Ruckman

Officers:
Chairperson - Ben Abplanalp
Vice Chairperson - David Hunt
Treasurer - Julie Tracy
Secretary - Helen Foster

Elected Members:
Ben Abplanalp  Helen Foster
Dawn Brown  Jane Gabriel
Meggan Brown  Pat Kobbe
Chris Cadle  Miranda Lyle
Dale Findley  Kelsey Ridge
Ted Foland  Sherri Runde

Appointed Members:
County Commission - Rob Ruckman
City - Charity Austin
MFA - David Hunt
Farm Bureau - Julie Tracy

Youth Representatives: (appointed)
Alexis Hann  Ashley Reynolds
Garrett Hawk

Missouri Legislators:
Casey Guernsey, District 3 Representative
Mike Thomson, District 4 Representative
Brad Lager, District 12 Senator

Office Staff:
Jerry Baker, County Program Director
Karla Parman, Youth Program Associate
Stephanie D. Hardy, Secretary/Office Manager

Specialists Assigned to Worth County:
Karma Metzgar, Regional Director
Jerry Baker, Community Development
Heather Benedict, Agronomy
Meridith Berry, Information Technology
Sara Brooke, FNEP Program Manager
James Crawford, Natural Resource Engineer
Annette Deering, 4-H Youth
Shawn Deering, Livestock
Randa Doty, Agriculture Business
Clint Dougherty, PTAC Business
Thomas Fowler, Horticulture
Janet Hackert, Nutrition
Tom Kelso, Business and Industry
Rebecca Travnichek, Family Financial Education
Jessica Trussell, Human Development & Family
Robin Davidson, Nutrition Program Associate

2010 Worth County Extension General Operation Budget

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*The Worth County MU Extension Expendable Income account on deposit at University of Missouri Extension balance as of December 31, 2010 was: $53,588.38. The checking account balance was $3,617.76. These resources are utilized to fund the budget shortfall.

Federal and state funds provide salaries and benefits for professional staff assigned to the county, expenses for professional development, official mail, and cost sharing on computer technology. The University also provides educational materials and faculty support for extension programs.