
The Worth County Health Fair this year reached 154 citizens—56 adults and 98 youth. The 4-H program also involves adults and youth in its programming.

The primary purpose of University of Missouri Extension is to serve Missouri by extending the research-based knowledge and problem-solving resources of the University of Missouri System to people throughout the state. Extension is an integral part of the land-grant system and provides unbiased, research-based knowledge and access to the total knowledge base of the University of Missouri campuses.

Another of Extension’s important resources are people. The Worth County citizens, the County Commissioners and volunteers who serve Extension are very supportive. To contact the Worth County Extension Office call 660-564-3363.

The Worth County Junior Livestock Show is a major summer event for 4-H youth and the local FFA members.

The event is sponsored by several entities in the area including MU Extension. The 4-H staff and parent volunteers staffed the kitchen activities during the event.

The event allows participants to develop skill sets in handling their animals before a live audience.

The 23 participants gathered for a group photo following the show.
Worth County farmer, Brett Hardy, Grant City, was selected as a winner in the Monsanto America’s Farmers Grow Communities program that gave farmers an opportunity to win $2,500 for their favorite local non-profit organization. Winning farmers designate a local nonprofit organization to receive the donation.

Hardy designated the Worth County 4-H Program as the recipient of this year’s donation.

Hardy said he was very excited to have been selected as the Worth County recipient of this program that gives back to the community.

Karla Parman, Youth Program Associate, said, “We are very excited to receive this award as we are the smallest county in the state. We don’t have a lot of money-making projects and we can use this great donation. We appreciate it.”

The $2,500 donation was awarded in a courthouse ceremony on March 20.

Following Achievement Day, several 4-H members had their projects displayed at the Worth County Senior Citizens Center. This week-long display allowed members of the community to see how much work the 4-H members do on projects throughout the year.

The 4-H and Junior Livestock Show was held on July 21. Sheep, swine and cattle were shown during the sessions. Participating members competed in the various classes for blue and red ribbons. Plaques were awarded for each species as well as for Junior and Senior Showmanship.

Twenty-one regular members participated in the show and “Premium Only” sale.

Worth County 4-H had 48 members enrolled in five organized clubs for the 2011 program year. Although the five clubs function independently, they all work together on various projects throughout the year and have members serving on the Worth County 4-H Council that meets four times each year.

Youth engaged in the programs are 60 percent more likely to vote, to volunteer and contribute in their community than their non-engaged peers. One of every four Missourians between the ages of five and eighteen participated in a 4-H program in 2011.

Annette Deering, Nodaway County 4-H and Youth Specialist, also serves Worth County.
Community Development

Youth and Local Government:
More than 1,000 contacts with youth in the NW Region were made explaining multiple ways that federal, state and local governmental units operate and collaborate.

Abraham Lincoln’s comment, “Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth,” is one of the basic principles used in teaching how citizens help create, fund and maintain local government.

Approximately 80 elected local government officials attended training on the principles of the Missouri Sunshine Law. Many adults asked questions on the “How to…” components for running a public meeting.

Teaching “It is public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law” is fostered by the local county government day in the counties.

Community service projects are available to youth in communities.

The five most frequently listed values by students as “things learned” included the differences between general and specific purpose governments, how important tax revenues are to local governments and how those governmental units use their allocations, the principles of planning and zoning, the duties of local governmental officers and that participation in local government is important.

Community Disaster Restoration:
MU Extension provides a number of resource assistance programs to help communities come through a disaster—whether it is the result of wind, water or fire. In 2011, all three of those disaster types were events in NW Missouri.

This year’s flood along the Missouri River Corridor created multiple needs for community restoration programs.

The recent floods from 2010 and 2011 created multiple community issues including the need to bring a local citizen group together to assist qualifying permanent residents whose homes were severely affected by the disaster.

Assistance was provided to these two different long-term recovery volunteer groups for each of the 2010 and the 2011 floods.

MU Extension provided numerous resources to the general public through a listing of area agencies that provide services in disasters, print resources and community volunteer committee assistance.

MU researchers also provided a composite assessment of the crop value flood damage along the river’s corridor.

Working with FEMA/SEMA, faith-based groups and collaborators is an ongoing activity for disaster recovery. For the past two years, providing resources and serving in an advisory and record keeping role for the volunteer committees in the area has resulted in approximately 1,000 direct and indirect contacts.

Entrepreneurship:
Ongoing contact continues with those who have been involved with the ExCEED Project.

Information promoting entrepreneurship reached approximately 300 youth and many adults at the MU Research Center Field Days. Contact continues with entrepreneurs who have an interest in or who have started a business throughout the area.

Developing Tourism:
In the counties along the Missouri River Corridor and along Highway 36, MU Extension is participating in an emerging development of a regional and multi-state tourism projects. MU Extension and community volunteers engaged in these projects have participated in several planning meetings to explore ways to assist communities in the tourism development process.

The value in the development and promotion of local history is that it gives the public information that can be used for increasing revenue streams for the specific location and the region.

Northwest Missouri has many histories that create unique stories for visitors.
Farm lease concerns are still high on people’s mind. Lease questions may arise resulting from high crop prices and higher return for land than other investments.

Topics included current rental rates and trends, specific items in a farm lease, terminations, lease hunting issues and crop and livestock lease concerns.

Farm leases are likely to remain a critical area of concern with the number of absentee landowners growing and so this information is valuable to those folks as well as to our local producers.

Twenty-two persons attended the ITV session.

When you support MU Extension’s Farm Lease program, you help promote better landlord-tenant communications and lessen conflict and potential litigation.

Poison Look – Alikes

Karla Parman, YPA, makes poison prevention information available to youth and adults. The Head Start program was held in January for both youth and adults.

Participants took a quiz to see if they were able to identify safe and non-safe items.

Farm Leases, Agriculture and 4-H Continued....

The Reap What You Sow program was a bi-county program open to all this past year. This six-part series was developed to target new and experienced land owners who would like to market their home-grown products for additional income and for recreational purposes.

The USDA logo above indicates that people purchase food from reliable sources—the local farm producers.

Participants were asked to identify what they would produce on their farm and all indicated they could identify what they would produce in the future.

As a result of the Reap What You Sow program, small farm owners were given tools to develop a successful operation that should stimulate the local economies and develop resources for local foods.

Our Northwest Region Specialists program presenters included Rhanda Doty, Jerry Baker, Tom Fowler and Amie Schleicher. Other regional specialists, Department of Conservation and USDA resources were also used.

A Farm and Business Accounting class was presented in Worth County targeting the use of the QuickBooks computerized record keeping system for farming operations.

Fifteen people from the area attended the four-session series. Participants learned how to keep farm or business records and to run and analyze reports.

Program participants have the tools to track receipts and expenses, set up a chart of accounts and generate reports.

4-H continued....

The 4-H Recognition event was held for all members and their families on September 25. Everyone enjoyed skating at the Grant City Rink.

Afterward, a short program was held for older members to receive their recognition pins for the year. New members joining for the 2011-2012 year received a 4-H pencil and cling. Forty-three people attended the skating party and recognition program.

Good Character does count in Worth County! This year our Character Counts program teamed up with Worth County R-III Schools and offered Character Education to Grades 2, 3 and 4. Thirty-six sessions were held on Character during the months of January, February and March.

The Show-Me-Character program teaches young people to make sound, moral judgments. It also encourages all adults to become more involved in helping youth develop positive character traits.

Effective character education encourages youth “to do the right thing” by incorporating these core ethical values in their daily lives: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

These six “pillars” describe character and ethical behavior in ways that youth understand how a person of character thinks and behaves.
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 17,207 people statewide.

Family Nutrition Education

University of Missouri Extension Family Nutrition Education (FNEP) reached 16,971 low-income participants with nutrition education in the Northwest Region in 2011. FNEP provides information on nutrition, food safety and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness.

This year FNEP was able to extend the importance of nutrition and physical education to the adult audience.

During 2011, 17,744 youth and 2,227 adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies.

Three thousand three hundred sixty teachers provided feedback to FNEP.

Fifty-three percent have participated in FNEP for three or more years.

Ninety-eight percent (3,305 teachers) reported one or more changes in students after FNEP.

FNEP brought $8,951,000 in Federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 433,152 food stamp recipients and food stamp eligible citizens of the state.

Participants in FNEP become more aware of nutrition, make healthier meal and snack choices, eat breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their activity and, in general, make healthier food choices.

A healthy labor force is critical to attracting and maintaining jobs in Missouri. In addition, this programming effort serves to reduce healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.
January 2012

Dear County Commissioners and Associated Friends of MU Extension:

“Efficiency” and “Innovation” are two watchwords of citizens and government in our currently challenging economy. I am pleased to report that University of Missouri Extension has kept these words in the forefront and acted accordingly for the benefit of Missouri residents statewide.

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 provided from counties is leveraged with an additional $6.00 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 federal Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program** provided $1.6 million to the state of Missouri. These funds provide nutrition education to limited-resource families. Participants who graduate from the program improve the way they manage their food dollars; demonstrate acceptable food safety practices and make healthier food choices. A healthy labor force is critical to attracting and keeping jobs in Missouri. In addition, this important program reduces healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

- **2011 has been a difficult year due to natural disasters in Missouri. The MU Extension statewide Community Emergency Management Program** and local emergency management groups provided immediate on-site assistance by coordinating with the State Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross and other groups and by providing online resources through web pages and other media. As a result, citizens learned how to avoid scammers, ensure safe drinking water and food, and recover from a disaster. MU Extension’s emergency management program helps communities, businesses, schools and residents reduce a community’s disaster recovery period. This action saves lives and countless dollars in emergency recovery operations and avoids job loss. Additionally, the whole community builds a greater sense of cohesion.

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

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS
**Worth County Extension**

Courthouse  
Grant City, MO 64456  
Phone: 660-564-3363  
Fax: 660-564-3364  
Email: worthco@missouri.edu  
Web: http://extension.missouri.edu/worth

**County Commissioners:**  
Presiding Commissioner - Ted Findley  
West Commissioner - Dennis Gabbert  
East Commissioner - Rob Ruckman

**2011 Worth County Council Members**

Office:  
Chairperson - David Hunt  
Vice Chairperson - Pat Kobbe  
Treasurer - Julie Tracy  
Secretary - Helen Foster

Elected Members:  
Dawn Brown  
Meggan Brown  
Miranda Lyle  
Sherri Runde  
Kelsey Ridge  
David Hunt  
Ted Foland  
Linda Brown  
Beverly King  
Tammy Ueligger

Appointed Members:  
County Commission - Rob Ruckman  
MFA - Helen Foster  
Farm Bureau - Julie Tracy

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

**2011 Worth County Extension General Operation Budget**

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*The Worth County MU Extension Expendable Income account balance on deposit at University of Missouri Extension as of December 31, 2011 was $51,566.61 and the checking account balance was $1,706.15. 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.