Celebrating Extension in Warren County

2009 Annual Report
Every Missouri County has an extension council, comprised of elected and appointed citizens. Members are partners in the educational process from needs assessments through program implementation and evaluation of outcomes.

Extension Councils:

- Work with regional faculty to determine educational programs for the county.
- Manage finances of local extension operations.
- Provide personnel to carry out extension activities.
- Elect and organize the local extension council.

When tough times strike, University of Missouri Extension steps up to the challenge. This past year, Missourians dealt with an unstable economy that left people without jobs and some without homes. Businesses cut back on employment and production. Local governments were stretched to the limit following much-reduced tax revenues. Through all these situations, MU Extension educational programs connected those in need with resources to help.

The Warren County University of Missouri Extension Center is the front door of the four campuses of the University of Missouri System. University of Missouri Extension maintains a unique partnership among federal, state, and local government that provides access to research based resources. UME provides timely educational programs on programs of highest priority to meet the needs of Warren County citizens. In partnership with the 16 member, Warren County Extension Council, the Warren County Extension Center serves citizens of our community. The following report highlights 2009 activities that improved people’s lives in our county.

The Warren County Extension Council and staff wish to thank volunteers and partners for their support and hard work. We would also like to thank the Warren County Commission for their financial support. We look forward to working together to meet the needs of the citizens of Warren County in 2010.

Sincerely,

Anita Brace
Council Secretary

Shelley Bush Rowe
County Program Director
Community Development Specialist

2009 Extension Council

Carl Garrick, Chair..............................................Innsbrook, appointee
Beverley Martin, Vice Chair.................................North Hickory Grove Township
Anita Brace, Secretary..............................Wright City School District, appointee
Helen Duckworth, Treasurer.........................Farm Bureau, appointee
Ben Avis..................................................Elkhorn Township
Dan Busch..............................................Elkhorn Township
John Caviness.............................................MFA, appointee
Gabrielle Currie........................................City of Warrenton, appointee
Scott Jacob..............................................Bridgeport Township
Hubie Kluesner...........................................County Court Commissioner, appointee
Rusty Lee...............................................Camp Branch Township
Jim Marschel..............................................Charrette Township
Diane Miederhoff........................................Warren County School District, appointee
Kathleen Pottebaum...................................Pickney Township
Dave Reckamp...........................................Hickory Grove 2 Township
Dale Toedebusch........................................Elkhorn Township
Stacey Ward..............................................Charrette Township
Leadership Programming

We are facing a rapidly changing and very small world. If communities are going to compete in this environment, they have to invest in the development of their people. In Warren County, we are facing those challenges through the development of our leaders. The Warren County Leadership development program, Quest was developed in 2008. The purpose of Quest is to promote community leadership by supporting the growth of knowledgeable, skilled leaders committed to supporting exceptional quality of life and positive growth in Warren County. Participants of the 2008-2009 Quest Class successfully initiated multiple community projects that supported our community. Those projects included a dinner for homeless veterans and at risk families, a Christmas toy drive, creation of a community information/welcome packet and discussion with institutions of higher education to develop post secondary education opportunities in our community. In addition to Quest, a second leadership development program was held in our community. The Warren County Extension Center teamed up with the North East Community Action Corporation to offer the Step Up to Leadership program. It is a program that builds the capacity of community minded people who desire to make a difference and who are willing to assume leadership positions in the community. Throughout the program, participants investigate their passion for service, learn skills they can use when joining a board and even have the opportunity to write a grant to initiate a community service project.

FNEP—Family Nutrition Education Programs

University of Missouri Extension is dedicated to providing research-based nutrition education to Missouri’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligibles. MU Extension faculty and staff provide education to youth and adults throughout the state of Missouri. The FNEP program in Warren County has reached over 787 school age children in the past year. Nutrition Program Assistant Chris Merritt also assists surrounding counties with implementing this program. For more information about this program please contact Chris Merritt at 636-456-3444.

Master Gardeners and Garden ‘n Grow

Warren County Master Gardeners continue to volunteer hundreds of hours in the community ranging from beautification to education. We are proud of the many hours of hard work they dedicate to our community. The Master Gardeners continue to volunteer on the Schowengert Historical House by enhancing and maintaining the landscape area around the property. This year several Master Gardeners offered the Garden ‘n Grow Program to youth ages 9-13 years old. In the program students learned to plant a vegetable garden while cultivating friendships and sharpening their science, math, and language arts skills. The Garden ‘n Grow raised beds were located behind Farm Bureau in Warrenton. We appreciate their support in making this program a success for our youth.
4-H Development Programming

Warren County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. In 2009, Warren County had 8 clubs that involved 214 youth from 5-18 years of age. 4-H members learn by doing through their involvement in over 61 project areas under adult guidance of adult volunteers. Some of these educational projects included food and nutrition, shooting sports, leadership, livestock, and forestry. 4-H members also participate in a variety of community service projects and citizenship education.

Another outreach program that Warren County offers is the embryology project. In March and April more than 1,200 Warren County youth participated in the embryology project. In March and April more than 1,200 Warren County youth participated in the embryology project offered by the University of Missouri Extension 4-H School Enrichment Programs. The program shares the miracle of life as chicks hatch in the classrooms. Participants see an egg transformed to an active living being, experience the miracle of birth, learn about development of an embryo and learn social order of chicks. Students are able to observe and help with the pre-incubation stage of the chicken eggs. They turn the eggs like the mother hen would. Temperature must be maintained in the incubator. Then they experience the thrill of observing the chicks hatching from their shells.

ACRE—Average Crop Revenue Election

Many producers in Warren County received help in making important decisions about farm payments. The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety net. ACRE is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. It offers whole-farm analysis, and it adds risk analysis to the simulations, based on the FAPRI 10-year baseline. Peter Zimmel, MU FAPRI economist developed a spreadsheet that brings national policy down to understandable levels on the farm. This program calculates potential payments from the ACRE program in the farm bill.

Many producers in the Warren County area brought their records in and were given help entering data for one of their farm units. They were then able to take home the spreadsheet with a start on their operation.

Ag Café

During the Ag Café farmers discuss the: who, why and how and “so what” questions and answers that are the lifeblood of keeping farming profitable. “It’s a great chance to go over a profitable research topic that is timely, adapted to local operations or maybe hear just what others are talking about,” says Shelley Rowe, County Program Director. The Warren County extension staff provides breakfast that allows Warren County farmers a chance to participate and keep on schedule. The Café is currently scheduled bi-monthly. Please call the office at 636-456-3444 for more info.
Heart Healthy Cooking & Food Preservation

Heart Healthy Cooking was the focus of a lunch and learn session presented for the Warren County Health Department in February 2009. The Health Department provided the 41 participants with a heart healthy lunch to illustrate many of the topics presented. Those attending learned techniques to help control portion sizes, use nutrition labels to make healthier food choices at the grocery store or when eating out and how to prepare tasty and healthy foods. Each person took home handouts and a paper plate divided according to a healthy eating pattern as a visual reminder to continue to eat in a heart healthy way.

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Preserving food at home is increasing in popularity and doing it safely is critical in order to prevent food borne illness that can be deadly. A food canning workshop was held in Warrenton jointly sponsored by Master Gardeners. The 23 people who attended learned how to decide which canning method was safe and best to use and then were shown step by step how to do both methods correctly. With home canning, having safe, reliable information and recipes is critical. Those who came to the workshop took home University of Missouri Extension canning guides and learned about other trusted sources of information.

Computer Program Training & Electronic Recycling

In 2008 Warren County Extension became a host site for this program. One on one classes are scheduled on Wednesday’s from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in one hour increments. We have 2 individuals that volunteer their time and skills to teach these sessions.

These training sessions are offered free to citizens that are 55 and over. The sessions allow participants to learn at their own pace and choice of topics. To schedule an appointment for class call the office at 636-456-3444.

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In April of 2009, Warren County Extension Council hosted a Computer recycling event in cooperation of the East Central Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. More than 2.5 tons of electronic waste was collected. Approximately 600 lbs. of lead from televisions and monitors was diverted from local landfills.

Recognition Awards

The Dave & Marlin Reckamp and Family was selected as the 2009 State Fair Farm Family representing Warren County.

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Marsha Parsons, Secretary won the Junior Clerical Award in recognition of her outstanding service during her 8 years of service for Warren County Extension Office.
Faculty in a number of specialty areas also serve Warren County as needed and requested including:

- Lynette Watson, Business Development
- Linda Rellergert, Nutrition
- Rich Hoormann, Agronomy
- Charlie Ellis, Agricultural Engineer
- Wayne Shannon, Livestock
- Rhonda Shaffer, 4-H Youth Development
- Shelley Bush Rowe, County Program Director
- Chris Merritt, Nutrition Program Assistant
- Dale Davis, 4-H Youth Program Assistant
- Marsha Parsons, Secretary/Bookkeeper

How is University of Missouri Extension Funded in Warren County?

Extension funding is a three way partnership of federal, state and local governments. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri, pay professional staff salaries, benefits, training costs, and part of the communication equipment used in the local office. Local funds provide for operation of the Extension Center, 50% of 4-H Assistant salary, secretarial salaries, and mileage for staff, telephone, supplies and council costs.

2009 Warren County Extension Council Financial Report

**2009 Revenue:**
- County Appropriation: $46,800.00
- Balance Transfers: 1,858.66
- **Total Revenue:** $48,658.66

**2009 Expenses:**
- Salary & Wages: $35,281.75
- Benefits: 1,728.27
- Services & Supplies: 1,519.76
- Utilities: 3,091.53
- Contract Services: 2,595.03
- Telephone: 1,048.58
- Travel: 3,083.74
- Insurance: 310.00
- **Total Expenses:** $48,658.66

**2009 Financial Summary:**

- **Revenue:** $48,658.66
- **Expenses:** $48,658.66
- **Balance Transfers:** 1,858.66
- **Net Income:** 0

Mission

University of Missouri Extension serves Missouri by extension research-based knowledge and high-quality educational programs to address the high-priority needs of citizens at the local level.