



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Carter County

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Vice Chancellor's Office

108 Whitten Hall

Columbia, MO 65211

PHONE 573-882-2394

EMAIL StewartMars@missouri.edu

December 1, 2021

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we look forward to 2022, I want to take a moment to celebrate all that we have accomplished together this year. You, our closest partners, are key to improving Missourians' lives and opportunities.

You have been vital to the work that has already extended broadband access and workforce development strategies statewide. You have helped us connect with the right partners, working together toward meaningful outcomes that will help our communities thrive in our areas of greatest need around the economy, education and health.

During MU Extension and Engagement Week in October, we learned about some of the ways that MU's NextGen Precision Health Initiative will help Missouri improve statewide health care indicators from our current ranking of 38th in the nation to 25th.

COVID-19 has shown us that we must expand investment in our health care resources, knowledge and infrastructure. It has exposed the urgent need to make research and expertise available in communities and to empower individuals and providers to address every aspect of individuals' and communities' health needs — including the inequities of social determinants and their effects on people's health.

Our extension faculty is poised to help identify those needs and be the bridge to the health care providers and caregivers, the clinical trials and public health initiatives that can deliver improved healthcare access and outcomes in every county across our state.

I hope you see the impact of your hard work this past year throughout this county annual report. I thank you for your continuing support as we recommit ourselves to do what we do best: help communities thrive through civic engagement, community building and neighborliness. We look forward to continuing the programs, partnerships, and sharing of knowledge that foster kindness, caring, respect and deep connections in the year and decade to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Stewart".

Marshall Stewart, EdD
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Jennifer R. Williams
County Engagement Specialist
in Community/Economic
Development



Diane Oesch
Youth Program Associate



Sue Miller
Office Support

Council members

Alan Snider, Chairman
Erik McSpadden, Vice-chairman
Sherilyn Clark, Secretary
Erica DeWolf, Treasurer
David Baldridge
Sara Cooper
Jeanette Heavin
Diana Higgins
Sara Newberry
Crystal Robinson
Rebecca Tindall



County commissioners

Ron Keeney, Carter County Commissioner
Tom Wilder, Eastern District Commissioner
Lynn Murdick, Western District Commissioner

Income	
County Appropriations	16,400
Rent	3,600
Total Income	20,000
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	20,277
Rent	4,800
Travel	531
Telephone	1,218
Office Supplies/Service	1,980
Utilities	2,750
Insurance	800
4-H Expenses	1,300
Council Expenses	500
Capital Repairs	25
Total Expenses	34,181

Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ Inaugural Current River Food Truck Festival sees approximately 2,500 attendees.
- ✓ Choices, a program to help youth identify potential career paths, was offered at East Carter, benefitting almost 70 students.
- ✓ Carter County 4-H programs grew and expanded! The Van Buren 4-H club grew to 30+ members and a new club in Ellsinore launched, which also has 30+ members.
- ✓ **3,069 contacts** made by MU Extension in Carter County through education opportunities.

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The Carter County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Carter County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Carter County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners. Donate Here: <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/carter/donate>



County highlights

Inaugural Current River Food Truck Festival

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, MU Extension in Carter County hosted the inaugural Current River Food Truck Festival. The festival drew seven food trucks, 24 handmade craft vendors and community partners, and approximately 2,500 attendees to Carter County for the day.

Plans are already in the works for the 2nd annual Current River Food Truck Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2022.





County highlights

Carter County 4-H Grows & Expands!

During 2021, Carter County 4-H was busier than ever! The Van Buren 4-H Club grew and a new chapter was started in Ellsinore. The Van Buren club participated in The Heart of the Ozarks Fair and the Ripley County Fair, with members showing rabbits and goats. The East Carter Redbird Dream Team club participated in the Wayne County Fair and the Ripley County Fair, with members showing rabbits and photography. Members of both Carter County 4-H clubs participated throughout the year in shooting sports, United States flag retirement exercises, regional 4-H camps, community service projects, and 4-H recruitment efforts by painting clovers in Ellsinore and Van Buren. Both clubs also worked together in a number of fundraisers, including having booths at the Current River Food Truck Festival for face painting and popcorn, and a booth at the Festival of Lights for chili and baked goods.





County highlights

This has been a trying couple of years, including many new stressors and challenges that some of us have never seen. This year Carter County saw the need to help and asked Mary Engram and John Fuller to do a class on Adult Mental Health First Aid. How do you notice when someone is really struggling and needs help? How do you ask someone about mental health, especially if you feel they may be suicidal? Participants of the course realized the importance of addressing those concerns head on. You can save a life by attending a class that equips you with the knowledge and confidence to help someone in need.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Each year, Carter County Extension gives two scholarships to Carter County youth. 2021 recipients were Kylee Reed from Van Buren and Dana Shaffer from East Carter.

In order to fund these scholarships, Carter County Extension holds a gun raffle each fall. In Fall 2021, two guns were raffled off, a Mossberg 6.5 Creedmoor and a Keltec PMR 30 .22. Winners of the raffle were John Gargac of Grandin, MO and Theresa Wheelis of Poplar Bluff, MO.

Carter County Extension Scholarship Gun Raffle

In Fall of 2021, County Engagement Specialist Jennifer R. Williams and her colleague Amber Childers taught a three-day course called Choices at East Carter High School in collaboration with the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program. Almost 70 students were able to learn more about their personality types using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, which in turn helped them identify more career options that might be suited for their specific personality type.

Choices! Course Held at East Carter High School

Thank you for coming to our class and helping find good career ideas. You also helped us know about ourselves. You helped me especially. You opened my eyes to everything I could possibly be.

- C. (ESFP - PERFORMER)

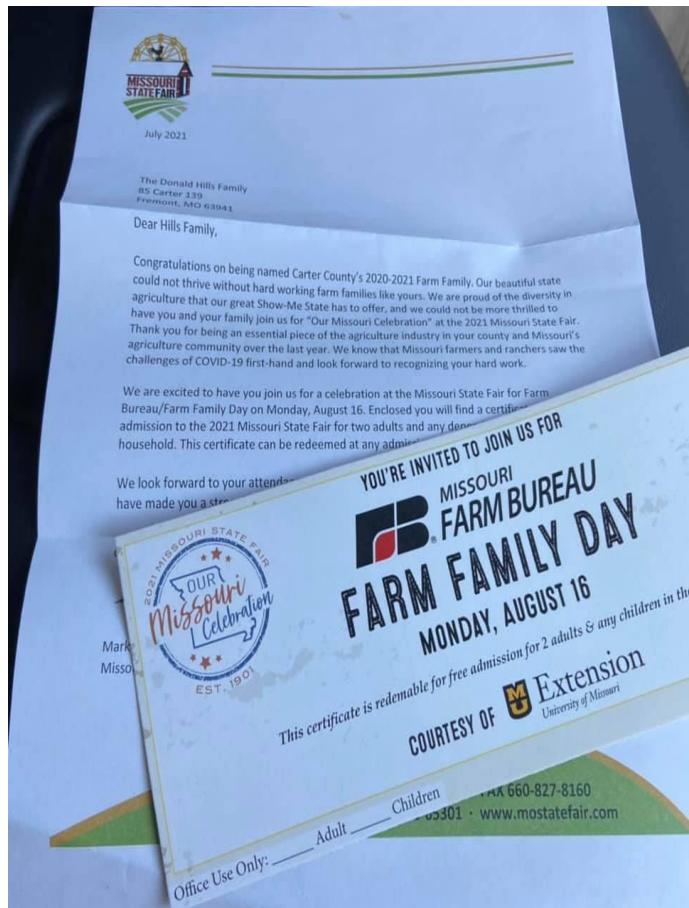
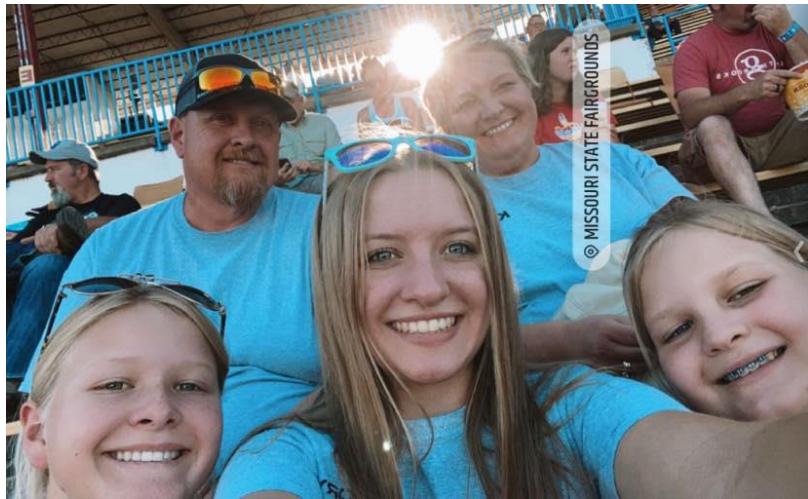
Thank you for helping me have a better view of myself and showing me options in life. You've given me options I never even thought about.

- T. (ESTJ - DIRECTOR)



County highlights

Each year, the MU Extension Council in Carter County chooses a family to represent the county at the Missouri State Fair. In 2020, the council chose Donald and Kerri Hills and their three children, Mallory, Cassidy & Natalie Hills. Due to COVID, the 2020 Missouri State Fair was severely limited and the farm families were unable to attend, but the designated farm families from 2020 were able to attend in 2021 instead. We were delighted to have Don and Kerri and their kids represent us at the Missouri State Fair for 2021!





County highlights

Family Nutrition Education Program

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2021

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$9,646,109 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 485,010 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 321,372 direct educational contacts. This year we had 1,383,799 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

827 direct and indirect contacts were made in Carter County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

A total of 827 direct and indirect contacts were made in Carter County.

