

2023 Extension Council Candidate Bios

Central District (5 open seats)

Elizabeth Burrus Barnett

Elizabeth spent her childhood running around her family farm and summers of her high school years working in her grandparent's restaurant, Stephen's Steak House. Her adult years took her all over the Midwest and Florida. Elizabeth has returned to Salem with her husband and stepchildren, where they recently renovated her childhood home, located on the family farm. She is a third generation participating in raising cattle. Elizabeth holds a master's degree in Human Resources Management. She spent fifteen years as a Human Resources Director and five years at a John Deere dealership, where she loved learning about the agricultural industry. Elizabeth underwent a heart and liver transplant, almost eighteen months ago. After spending her whole life with a defective heart, she is now enjoying doing all the things she's never been able to do. Elizabeth is currently a stay-at-home mom and caregiver to her in-laws. She loves being back in Salem. Her whole family, including her brother and his family, all live here. It's an amazing gift to spend her days surrounded by the people she loves, in the beautiful, peaceful, rural splendor of Dent County.

Randy Burrus (re-election)

Randy was born and raised in Dent County. He and his wife, Kathy, currently reside north of town on the family farm. Randy was a teacher and principal until his retirement in 2009. Randy has worked with and used the services of the Extension office for over 40 years and if elected, he looks forward to serving the community.

CarrieLee Holliday

CarrieLee is a fifth-generation cattle producer in Salem. Her and her family own and operate a commercial black angus cattle operation. CarrieLee is a graduate of Salem High School and is continuing her education at Missouri State University in Springfield. She has a degree in Bachelor of Animal Science and will graduate with a Master of Science in Agriculture, cow calf production in May of 2023. CarrieLee is thankful for the opportunity to be nominated for the Extension Council. Her passion for the agricultural industry and love for the community, is unmeasurable. She hopes to bring a fresh new perspective to the council with her education, communication skills and personal experiences advocating for our industry.

Dru Howard (re-election)

Dru is a Dent County native. Her and her husband, Dustin, are raising their children, Kash and Josie, on a farm just outside the city limits of Salem. Dru is currently employed as the Chief Financial Officer for Town and Country Super Market, Inc. Dru and Dustin both have deep family roots in Dent County and have always believed it is a responsibility and privilege to support and serve the community.

Dalton Sanders (re-election)

Dalton has a degree in Agriculture Education Major at Missouri State. He is currently the FFA Ag teacher at the Salem High School. While in high school, he was the first student to do internship with Extension.