

Monthly Report of MU Extension in JEFFERSON COUNTY: April 2019



Extension

University of Missouri

In April of 2019, the Office Support Assistants at the Jefferson County Extension Center:

- Received **87** phone calls, which included over **5** information calls for county government.
- Greeted and supported **41** visitors to the MU Extension Center at 301 3rd Street, Hillsboro, MO.
- Sent our monthly e-newsletter to **1,653** working emails, adding appx **71** new emails to the list in April.
- Reached appx. **2943** people through **21** posts supported by **485** post engagements and added **10** new page likes.
- Distributed over **867** pieces of educational material by mail, workshop handouts and community literature racks.
- Processed **33** soil tests serving **485.5** agronomic acres and **33,297** horticultural sq. footage (lawn & gardens);
- Assisted with **2** Insect Identifications.
- Sold **1** Plat Books and **2** Private Pesticide Applicator Manuals.

Mistti Ritter – County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development

- In April 2019, I supported staff and specialists in requested changes to the office's facilities including movement of cabinets and files, desk changes, reorganizing the storage area, and expanding access to networked color printers and technology tools. Additionally, the middle hall office is being prepared to house two workspaces for use by visiting specialists, office guests or future expanded staff. A list of maintenance requests is being developed as well as a list of possible future improvements to the conference room, offices displays and signage. A digital informational sign has been installed in the entry hallway using a recently donated TV monitor.
- I attended the Urban East Regional Extension Council meeting on April 17 in Kirkwood, MO. Additionally, I participated in the workshop: *Communication Skills Training for Marketing MU Extension* hosted on April 27 by St. Louis County Extension presented to MU Extension Staff and Council members with a goal to help create skills needed to develop marketing messages for programs & services.
- As MU Extension's **Community Emergency Management Program (CEMP)** representative for the county, I remotely participated in the local **COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster)** quarterly meeting on April 5, and attended a **Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) Training** on April 23 hosted by *Catholic Charities – Archdiocese St. Louis*.
- I supported **4-H and youth development-related activities** by training remotely on topics regarding 4-H volunteer management with Eric Jackson, MU Extension Volunteer Specialist on Apr 10; attended a **Healthy Habits** workshop conducted by Fox 4-H Club youth volunteers presented to 2nd graders at Fox Elem; and participated in the **Jefferson County 4-H Council** monthly meetings Apr 25.
- Additionally, I supported Melissa Scheer in meeting with **Jefferson College** and redeveloping the funding plan to continue to provide a **Youth Programming Assistant (YPA)** as a part of the **Youth Futures College Within Reach** program in Jefferson County. I am working with **UMSL Admissions** to expand enrollment information availability for Jefferson County students and Dual Credit Enrollment opportunities with county high schools starting with **Fox High School** and **UMSL Art Department**. And I participated **Hillsboro High School Career Advisory** meeting on April 12.
- I observed a community focus group hosted by **St. Louis County Extension** examining the **St. Louis Zoo's** North County Expansion. This summer, as a Community Development specialist, I will participate as a team member in future focus groups and apply this experience to MU Extension's **Connect Strategy**, helping to interpret the future focus of local Community Economic Development efforts. Additional remote training was hosted by campus on April 10 involving stakeholder interview techniques. And campus support includes being assigned a CES CED Cohort group which met for the first time on April 12 in addition to the monthly Community Development meetings hosted remotely the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- Additional activities: **Jefferson County Health Network** update & website rollout meeting at Jefferson College in Arnold on Apr 5; **MU Extension Labor Law Breakfast** with MU Extension State Specialist Mark White on Apr 10; and **Jefferson County Master Gardeners** class on fruit production on Apr 22 hosted by Horticulture Specialist Debi Kelly.

Debi Kelly – Field Specialist in Horticulture

Agriculture

-  Attended the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.
-  Graduated 11 farms with 13 beginning farmers in the Grow Your Farm course for beginning farmers.
-  Met as the MU Extension partner on the Beginning Farmer Grant to plan upcoming events for beginning farmers.
-  Attended the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club Luncheon at the St. Louis Science Center where the keynote presenter was Dr. Marshall Stewart.
-  Continued meeting with the Congressional Staffer Agriculture Tour Planning Committee of the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club which will take place August 21-23.
-  Did a radio interview with Mark Toti on KTJJ in Farmington. We discussed the upcoming beginning farmer events.
-  The Mizzou Magazine, the magazine of the Mizzou Alumni Association wrote an article about a Grow Your Farm graduate with quotes from Debi Kelly.

Horticulture

-  Continued mentoring Justin Keay, the new Field Specialist in Horticulture for St Louis and St Charles counties.
-  Participated in the Metro Food Team's subcommittee zoom meeting.
-  The 2019 Master Gardener course continued with sessions on "Turf", "Vegetables", "Landscape Design", "Fruits" and "Flowers".
-  Participated in the IPM Horticulture weekly zoom meetings for the new growing season. I will participate each Wed morning until the end of the growing season.
-  Taught "Landscape Design" to the St. Charles County Master Gardeners.
-  Participated in the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Review Panel in Jefferson City.
-  Held a Beginning Farmer Workshop – "Crop Planning For Success Focusing on High Value Specialty Crops". Twenty-three individuals attended this all day workshop. Comments included: Increase pricing; new variety tests; how to better plan crop plantings; more planning; better understanding of how much to plant to get the amount needed per bed.
-  Met with the Jefferson County Master Gardener executive committee to plan the next Bimonthly meeting.
-  Attended the Jefferson County Health Department's Farmers' Market Manager training.
-  Participated in the Great Plains Growers Conference Planning Committee meeting.
-  Met with District Supervisor for Rehabilitation Services for the Blind and a Jefferson County farmer to continue working on his new specialty crop business plan.

General

-  Attended the Jefferson County Extension Council meeting.
-  Participated as the Grant Panel Manager for USDA NIFA's SBIR Phase 2 Grant.
-  Participated with the University of Missouri – St. Louis course "Social Enterprise Business Entrepreneurs" who as a class project were putting together social enterprise business plan for a church that would convert the kitchen to an approved license kitchen for rent who would then create ready to make meals for the lower income residents of the neighborhood as well as their parishioners. They also want to use the kitchen to teach youth about healthy eating and healthy cooking.

Melissa Scheer – 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Since the last report in April, Melissa did the following:

- ✿ Set-up the 4-H display for the **Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign** (4/1 & take down 4/29).
- ✿ As a result of the state-wide community conversations, University of Missouri Extension has a goal to increase the rate of college attendance from 51% to 60%. One way to do that here is to increase career exploration and college preparatory programs. Since Cornita Robinson left working with **Jefferson County Youth Futures** we have been looking for other staff options to sustain the program. Mistti Ritter and I met (4/12) with Kathy Johnston, Jefferson College Director of Enrollment and Retention about partnering to provide more support to the program in anticipating the end of the grant. I provided programing (4/1 & 4/24), students made plans for summer, practiced teambuilding related to work, learned about interviewing and applied to summer jobs and careers.
- ✿ We continued work with the **Embryology Hatching chicks in the classroom program**. We delivered eggs (4/2), picked up incubators (4/16). I did a specialized program with students in 11 First grade classrooms at Festus Elementary (4/4). Thanks again to Wendy Miller and Mary Ann Gebhardt! For helping with egg and incubator delivery and pick-up! We are continuing to receive and process payments, participation forms and evaluations for the program.
- ✿ Met with Youth Futures Members (4/25) when they worked together on tea challenge activities and discussed summer opportunities and upcoming 4-H events.
- ✿ On April 25, **4-H Council** approved the annual budget, planned camp, started discussing the fair and other opportunities. I again offered zoom as an optional why to be included in the meeting for those not able to meet in person. The meeting worked very well with 4 people face-to-face and 5 people attending via Zoom.
- ✿ We continued planning summer camp. We are planning to use facilities at Oak Valley Resort and Golf Course in Pevely.
- ✿ Several of our teen leaders continued to teach **Healthy Habits**, a grant funded program where teens teach younger 4-H'ers about **health, nutrition, exercise**, and safety. The grant pays the teens an educational scholarship, an evaluator, and for food and supplies. I have been working with teens and volunteers who are leading 3 programs: with Fox Elementary afterschool program, with a group of Homeschool youth and a group of youth from both an existing club and the public. This is a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation.
- ✿ I attended **professional meetings** via computer unless otherwise noted: ESP Professional Development Organization Officer Team meeting (4/8), county staff meeting at the office (4/8), State 4-H Team meeting (4/11), 4-H Category & Regional Embryology Meetings in Kirkwood (4/16), Healthy Habits Staff Update (4/16), Youth Futures planning (4/24). I also **worked with Jody** to do transfers in QuickBooks (4/23).

Family Nutrition Education Programs - FNEP
Gidget Mudd & Darla Wood, Nutrition Program Associates

First Saturday of the month May through October, Kids Korner and Healthy Change Workshops at De Soto Farmers Market.

Gidget Mudd – April/May 2019

Site Name	List curricula name (acronym) or SNAP Outreach	Youth Grade Level(s) <i>(if not adult audience)</i>
Sunrise Elementary	Kids in the Kitchen	6th, 7th, & 8th Grade
Crystal City Elementary	Eating from the Garden	3rd Grade
Pevely Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	1st Grade
Vineland Elementary	Eating from the Garden	2nd Grade
Vineland Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	1st Grade
Pevely Elementary	SMN	3rd Grade

Finishing up all classes by mid-May and getting ready for Summer School programs.

Darla Wood – April 2019

Site Name	List curricula name (acronym) or SNAP Outreach	Youth Grade Level(s) <i>(if not adult audience)</i>
House Springs Elementary	Adventures in Nutrition Fun with Food and Fitness	Kg 1st
Maple Grove Elementary	Adventures in Nutrition Fun with Food and Fitness	Kg 1st
Athena Elementary	Fun with Food and Fitness	1st

The Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) are an important part of the University of Missouri Extension- bringing the latest nutrition information to low-income Missourians.
