

Monthly Report of MU Extension in JEFFERSON COUNTY: August 2019



Extension

University of Missouri

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

- Received **121** phone calls, which included **2** information calls for county government.
- Greeted and supported **63** visitors to the MU Extension Center at 301 3rd Street, Hillsboro, MO.
- Added **22** new emails to the list in August for a total of **1,134** working email addresses.
- Reached appx. **1,658** people through **19** posts supported by **319** post engagements and added **6** new page likes.
- Processed **24** soil tests serving **151.3** agronomic acres and **24,590** horticultural sq. footage (lawn & gardens).
- Assisted with **2** plant diagnostic tests.
- Sold **1** Plat Book.
- Distributed over **1,632** pieces of educational material by mail, workshop handouts and community literature racks.
- Assisted Leslie Bertsch with **1** Pressure Canning test.

Mistti Ritter – County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development

- In August, I supported *Jefferson County Extension Council's* activities by attending the monthly Extension Council meeting on Aug 1, the budget committee meeting Aug 27, and worked with Melissa Scheer to research financial needs for the development the 2020 budget request. Additionally, reviewed the proposed changes to our accounting and cash handling procedures as recommended by the finance committee's biennial review of the accounts.
- Mid-month, I worked with our county's specialists to identify current and future needs that could be supported by our office staff, and discussed strategies on how to organize and communicate these as to not interrupt their workflow and priorities.
- I supported 4-H Youth Development activities by participating in the hiring committee for the new Youth Programming Assistant.
- In collaboration with the St. Louis County programming director, we arranged for the county's office support staff to train with St. Louis County Extension marketing staff on using the new Dot Mailer email distribution system and other marketing and communication tools including Facebook. The staff traveled to the Kirkwood office on Aug 21 for a half day while the specialists covered the office.
- On August 20, I hosted a meeting between representatives of the **Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation**, the new regional field representatives of the **Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED)** and the MU Extension's regional coordinator of the **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** activities. The group identified the various services and resources they offer to Jefferson County and agreed to develop a relationship to identify and mitigate overlap of services and support, if possible.
- On August 23, I was invited by Dan Govero of the **Jefferson County Growth Association** to join in a discussion of various **community Chambers of Commerce** and hosted by **Jefferson College President Dr. Cummisky**. Discussion focused around Jefferson College's efforts to meet workforce training needs. The group will meet again in the fall to discuss local business needs. As Dr. Cummisky is retiring (but plans to stay in contact with the group) the President-elect Dena McCaffrey was introduced along with Chris DeGeare, Dean of Instruction.
- A brief reviewed the current use of traditional plat books as a resource was made by contacting regional land survey specialists at *Govero Land Service*. We initiated communication between the extension office and regional utilities regarding potential distribution of books to their county field agents. We have 36 plat books on hand which were printed in 2016.
- Analysis was made by county office support staff along with horticulture & agronomy specialists to analysis current costs of procedures of soil testing services, implement immediate changes in shipping procedures to reduce current costs. Additionally, changes in future prices for tests may be recommended. MU Extension in Columbia may soon recommend a system wide change.
- The Hillsboro Chief of Police requested and received support from the Extension Center to identify population-related data analysis resources for use in a grant application.

- On Aug 29th, Urban Region Extension Council member Phil Gebheart and I visited **Kress Farm** board members and presented an overview of a potential Social Entrepreneurship Design Thinking workshop as a tool for nonprofit organizational development. Later this fall, the entire organization and its stakeholder will participate in workshop to help improve their organizational capacity. A similar workshop was hosted by Extension Council members in Oct 2018 at the St. Louis County office. As a Community Economic Specialist, I plan to explore this workshop technique to see if it an asset for organizations with ‘sticky’ human-related problems. Kress Farms has agreed to participate during this early phase of creating this new tool for extension. The members of Kress Farm board reciprocated by participating in a **Connect Strategy** focus group, an ongoing project of the CES CED on behalf of **MU’S Community Development** department. Information collected will be pooled in with other county leaders’ data and applied to an ongoing county needs assessment for the state.
- On Aug 29, I was contacted by MU to assist in identifying additional community or civic groups in the region interested in collaborating on a grant-funded study of *flash flood-related contamination impacts* on communities. This study is being conducted conjunction with the community of **Desoto** along the **Joachim Creek**. Campus would like additional test sights, particularly along the **Big River**.
- I have been accepted to the UMSL’s doctoral graduate program offered through the *College of Education*. This Ed.D. Program is part of a group cohort learning community under the theme: *Heritage Leadership for Sustainability, Social Justice and Participatory Culture*. Much of the coursework and accompanying analysis will be directly applicable to my work the MU Extension’s Community Economic Development activities and the needs of Jefferson County residents. The estimated completion date is August 2022. This semester, my classes meet online Wednesday evenings.

Debi Kelly – Field Specialist in Horticulture

Agriculture

-  Attended the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.
-  Interviewed by Mark Toti on KTJJ radio discussing about any horticulture issues at the moment as well as promoting Extension workshops and farm tours upcoming.
-  Met with the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce along with 5 other colleagues to plan the booth which will be held at the National Association of County Agriculture Agent’s Annual Conference in September in Indiana. MAEP (Missouri Agriculture Extension Professional Association) hopes to “win the bid” to host this prestigious conference in St. Charles in 2023.
-  Attended the East Central Region Agriculture Specialists Meeting in Davisville. I saw firsthand the erosion on the Huzzah River along with how the farmer is trying to remedy the loss.
-  Participated in a 3-day farm tour with the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club where we hosted 22 Congressional Staffers from Washington DC. We toured the following: Danforth Center, BRDG Park, Boerding Farm, LLC, Mel Price Lock and Dam where we actually traveled on a bar and tugboat through the lock, Bunge Elevator, National Corn to Ethanol Research Center, Elms Farm, Eckert’s Farm, Nestle Purina and Anheuser Busch Brewery.
-  Met with Karen Funkenbusch on campus to close out the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers grant.
-  Held one Twilight Farm Tours as part of the Beginning Farmer Grant.
 - *Julie’s Produce* highlighted specialty crop producer. We visited Julie’s Produce in May to see the farm in “spring mode”. This month we visited the farm in “summer” mode.

Horticulture

-  Participated in the weekly Horticulture zoom meetings where Extension Field Specialists in Horticulture gather to discuss issues occurring in their area of the state around home and commercial horticulture.
-  Participated in the Great Plains Growers Conference planning committee via zoom. I am working with planning one track on business and marketing and designing the hands-on activity area.
-  Participated in the Farmers’ Market Price Data Collecting zoom meeting. This is a summer research grant provided by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Field Specialists in Horticulture visit area farmers’ markets to collect price data on produce, honey and meat. I gathered price data for 4 farmers’ markets in June.
-  Participated as a grant reviewer for USDA – Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS)’s Local Food Promotion Program that offers grants to nonprofit organizations who seek funding to aggregate and distribute farmers’ products.
-  As part of the Beginning Farmer Grant, held a one-day workshop on High Tunnel Winter Production with 23 attendees. Liz Graznak, Happy Hollow Farm, was the featured presenter.
-  Attended the Metro Food Team where we spent time revamping the direction of the team to meet the needs of the local food system as outlined by Dr. Marshall Stewart.

Melissa Scheer – 4-H Youth Development Specialist

In August, Melissa did the following:

- ✿ Jefferson County 4-H Day Camp and Campout – wrap up. We are still working with Oak Valley Resort and Golf Course in Pevely to get the final bill. At the 4-H Council meeting we began talking about 4-H Camp for next year. We are planning a teen camp counselor experience.
- ✿ College and Career program planning at Jefferson College continued. We posted and advertised the position. At the end of August we are planning to review application. We are looking forward to the possibilities and benefits from having a 30 hr / week position with benefits instead of the current 20 hours /wk position with no benefits. We reviewed applications on 8/28.
- ✿ Missouri State Fair - Bryce Garzia, Kateryna Glass, Sara Onanian, Holle Ritter and JT Shepard had items selected for state fair. Items were on display in the 4-H building. I took the items to Sedalia (8/5) and Janie Lewis brought them back to St. Louis.
- ✿ 4-H Council Meeting – The 4-H Council met and made several significant decisions. They are going to meet less often, and schedule special working meetings for events such as camp, fair, etc. Hopefully this will alleviate schedule conflicts.
- ✿ The new 4-H Club in High Ridge continued to meet on Tuesday mornings in August. They checks out 5 robotics kits and made plans for project work. They are still deciding on a new club name. They are still looking for a place to meet in the High Ridge to Fenton area – If you know of a place, please let me know.
- ✿ I attended professional meetings via computer/telephone unless otherwise noted: Youth Experiencing Homelessness Committee (8/21), Extension Council Budget Meeting at our office, Urban East 4-H Embryology Meeting in Kirkwood (8/26). I also took annual leave 8/9-13 & 8/29-30.

Family Nutrition Education Programs – FNEP

Gidget Mudd, Nutrition Program Associate - August

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

Current /Upcoming	Activity / Location / County	Description of Engagement and Impact to County
Current	Healthy Plants, Healthy Bodies/Pevely 1 st Grade/Jefferson County	✓ Hands on gardening activities and nutrition activities
Current	Eating Smart, Being Active/A Safe Place/Jefferson County	✓ Nutrition and cooking
Current	Eating From The Garden and Building My Body/Crystal City 3 rd Grade/Jefferson County	✓ Hands on gardening activities and nutrition activities
Upcoming	Building My Body/Vineland 3 rd Grade/Jefferson County	✓ Nutrition
Current	Healthy Changes Workshop and Lets Read About Healthy Eating/DeSoto Farmers Market/Jefferson County	✓ Nutrition Information
Upcoming	Kids In The Kitchen/Sunrise 6 th , 7 th and 8 th Grade/Jefferson County	✓ Nutrition and hands on cooking activities

Upcoming	Cooking Matters with Leslie Bertsch/DeSoto Public Library/Jefferson County	✓ Nutrition and physical activity
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Darla Wood, Nutrition Program Associate - August

Current /Upcoming	Activity / Location / County	Description of Engagement and Impact to County
Finished August 1, 2019	Kids in the Kitchen/Immanuel Lutheran Daycare/Jefferson County	✓
Finished August 13, 2019	Kids in the Kitchen/Crystal City Library/Jefferson County	✓
Current	Eating Smart and Being Active/Safe Place/Jefferson	✓
Current	Building My Body/House Springs & High Ridge Elementary/Jefferson	✓
Upcoming	Food Group Express 2 nd /Hillsboro Primary/Jefferson	✓ New grade I acquired with the assistance of a Kindergarten teacher whose class I teach in at Hillsboro.
Upcoming	Food Group Express 2 nd / House Springs Elementary/Jefferson	✓
Upcoming	Healthy Changes Workshop/Peace pantry/Jefferson	✓ New location I will be working at with Mary B.

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.
