

Monthly Report of MU Extension in JEFFERSON COUNTY: June & July 2019



In June and July of 2019, the Office Support Assistants at the Jefferson County Extension Center:

- Received **222** phone calls, which included **4** information calls for county government.
 - Greeted and supported **121** visitors to the MU Extension Center at 301 3rd Street, Hillsboro, MO.
 - Added **202** new emails to the list in June and July for a total of **1,112** working email addresses.
 - Reached appx. **2,900** people through **24** posts supported by **376** post engagements and added **13** new page likes.
 - Processed **29** soil tests serving **87** agronomic acres and **14,000** horticultural sq. footage (lawn & gardens).
 - Assisted with **1** plant diagnostic test and **1** water test.
 - Sold **1** Plat Book.
 - Distributed over **1,402** pieces of educational material by mail, workshop handouts and community literature racks.
 - Sent out **1,098** E-newsletters and **88** 4-H newsletters by e-mail.
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Mistti Ritter – County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development

- I support 4-H Youth Development as being a staff member on duty at 4-H camp and provided supervision and archery instruction.
- 160 entries provided by 43 participants along with 11 4-H youth members participated in the **“Show-Me Your Best” Open Exhibits Competition** at the county fair. Many volunteers supported various aspects of the county fair, held in conjunction with the **Hillsboro Civic Club** and 4-H.
- As part of the **Connect Strategy** in collaboration with the University of Missouri Community Development Department, I interview 6 community leaders and began to identify key issues within the county including leadership and workforce development.
- I attended several engagement opportunities with community leaders and service providers including the **Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation BBQ Legislator Bash** luncheon on June 16 along with Extension Council county, regional and state Extension Council members Brenda King, Phil Gebhardt and Paul Klossner, respectively. Additionally, on June 20, I attended the **Legislative Breakfast** with King and Klossner hosted by the **Jefferson County Growth Association**. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the **Legislative Farm tour** on July 29th due to a previous family commitment.
- On Jun 19, I attended **Urban East Region Extension Council** Meeting in Kirkwood. Also, I participated in the regular monthly Urban East Region training, the summer AG Committee meetings at the Jefferson County Extension Center, an online **MU Extension Non-Tenured Track (NTT) promotion** training seminar, and monthly virtual meetings of my new CES CED cohort and the Community Development Leadership working group.
- July 23-25th I traveled to Columbia to participate in the MU Extension’s **Business & Community Development’s** summer meeting and learned more about our county’s role in an upcoming workforce development grant project funded by **Jefferson Foundation**. Additionally, I attended the July 16 **Community Development Society Annual Conference/50th Anniversary** hosted by University of Missouri- Columbia to learn more about this academic discipline as a whole.
- One Jun 26, I supported Office Support Assistant/bookkeeper and the Extension Council in performing the biennial financial review, and helped prepare the 2020 county budget and appropriations request.
- Additional activities within the center included preparing for a state wide Civil Rights audit of extension activities within Jefferson County and scheduling additional training opportunities for its Office Support Assistants in using the new email distribution system Dotmailer, MU Extension’s preferred public communication system.
- Complete boardroom and conference room updates include new monitors, wipe boards, and a new conference microphone system and camera system. The project remains under budget. Pete Ritter, Fox 4-H Club leader assisted in painting the boardroom and mounting the new monitor and wipe boards.

Debi Kelly – Field Specialist in Horticulture

JUNE

Agriculture

-  Attended the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.
-  Met with the Ag Committee to continue planning an exhibit for the Jefferson Fair. The Jefferson County Beekeepers and the Jefferson County Cattlemen and Grandview FFA will also be participating with the “Agriculture in Jefferson County” exhibit that will be located near the barns at the Fairgrounds.
-  Interviewed with Louie on KREI radio discussing about any horticulture issues at the moment as well as promoting Extension workshops and farm tours upcoming.
-  Participated in the USDA – NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) grant review process for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant Program.
-  Attended the Farm Service Agency’s Emergency Board Meeting to discuss the damage to farmers due to the flooding of the Mississippi and Meramec Rivers as well as the cool and wet spring where farmers were unable to get into the fields to plant or they were unable to mow and put up hay.
-  Held one Twilight Farm Tours as part of the Beginning Farmer Grant.
 - *Twilight Tour: Urban Buds: City Grown Flowers* highlighted an acre of cut flower production both in the field and in high tunnels all in South St. Louis City. They market to 2 different farmers’ markets, area florist, florist row and design for weddings and special events. There was a total of 12 adults and 4 youth who attended.

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.
-  Attended the Missouri Master Gardener Conference in Columbia. Assisted in presenting information on *Soil Health* with Warren Cork, Natural Resource Conservation Service.
-  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.
-  Sampled farmers’ market vendor products to customers at the DeSoto Farmers’ Market. This is always a treat to see customers tasting new vegetables as well as value added products that they would have never sampled otherwise.
-  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.
-  As a member of the Search Committee for the Field Specialist in Horticulture for the Butler County position, reviewed numerous applications and made a selection for who to interview.
-  Participated as Team Chair for the USDA – AMS (agriculture marketing service) ACER Grant review panel.
-  Attended a zoom meeting on *Know Your Cost to Grow* to learn about the new and exciting educational program for vegetable producers. As part of the Beginning Farmer Grant, I hope to offer this 18 month training to vegetable producers in the area.

JULY

Agriculture

-  Attended the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.
-  Met with the Ag Committee to continue planning an exhibit for the Jefferson Fair. The Jefferson County Beekeepers and the Jefferson County Cattlemen will also be participating with the “Agriculture in Jefferson County” exhibit that will be located near the barns at the Fairgrounds.
-  Assisted with the Show*Me Your Best exhibits at the Jefferson County Fair.
-  Set up and hosted the Ag Tent at the Jefferson County Fair along with Kenny Wilson and Lewis Roop. The Jefferson County Beekeepers Association and the Jefferson County Cattlemen’s Association set up under the Ag Tent as well. A special thanks to Farm Bureau who donated the tent for us.
-  Met with Donna Hickman, aide to Congressman Smith and the Althoffs who were selected to host the 7th Annual Legislator Farm Tour. We discussed details for the event and planned the set up for lunch and the tour.
-  Attended the Natural Resource Conservation District Annual Review of Programs meeting.
-  Attended an in-service education on industrial hemp production.
-  Spent more hours than I can count working with Karen Funkenbusch (campus) writing and submitting a new grant to USDA – OAO (Office of Advocacy and Outreach) for the Outreach Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program. We hope to hear in late September if we received this 3-year grant.

- 🌳 Held four Twilight Farm Tours as part of the Beginning Farmer Grant. Locations were in St. Francois County, Washington County, Franklin County and Crawford County. Even though there was not a location in Jefferson County, as part of the grant I assisted in taking the lead to organize the events.
 - *Twilight Tour: Weed Identification Pasture Walk* highlighted the types of weeds found in pastures, why those weeds may be there such as low fertility or pH, which weeds are actually ok for cattle to graze and which are poisonous and how to control the myriad of weeds found in pastures across the area. A total of 92 adults and 1 youth attended these pasture walks.

Horticulture

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- 🌳 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.
- 🌳 I gathered Farmers' Market Price Data Collection for 4 area farmers' markets.
- 🌳 Taught 3 sections of the Food Safety Modernization Act training to 10 inmates at the Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston MO. Only a select Field Specialist in Horticulture can teach this training. The 10 inmates expect parole within a year and are going through a Horticulture 12 week training to gain new skills to meet market demand for help on specialty crop farms.
- 🌳 As a member of the Search Committee for the Field Specialist in Horticulture for the Butler County position, interviewed two candidates for the position.

General

- 🌳 Participated in the "GROW" zoom meeting along with Craig Roberts, Educational Director for Plant Sciences Extension and Jody Squires, Urban West Regional Director reviewing Justin Keay's 6-month review.
- 🌳 Attended a zoom meeting with Craig Roberts, Educational Director for Plant Sciences Extension who assisting those of us who are submitting for NTT (non-tenure track) promotion this year.

Melissa Scheer – 4-H Youth Development Specialist

- 🌳 Show Me Quality Assurance Animal Food Safety program (6/3) - I taught this program to 10 youth who are producing meat for market. Youth learned about animal health and safety including: water and space requirements, bio-security, bruising and animal handling practices.
- 🌳 Children Youth and Families at Risk Professional Development Conference, Washington D.C. (6/5-8). I presented as part of a panel, on the topic "Is it Really Not "Traditional" 4-H? Integrating CYFAR and 4-H Programming, Three States Perspectives" I was also a learner at the conference and now I have more tools to understand: program sustainability, federal funding sources, ways to reduce childhood poverty, evaluation, Native American tribes in Missouri, group processing methods, reaching teenage youth and more.
- 🌳 Jefferson County 4-H Day Camp and Campout was a great success (6/11-14). Camp at Oak Valley Resort and Golf Course in Pevely with just Jefferson County Youth and volunteers. Staff from St. Louis and the state 4-H office came to visit. We had 28 youth participate, of those 13 had leadership roles as workshop leaders or counselors. A huge thank you to the 17 parents and volunteers that were there (of which 10 were officially supervising youth at various times). Youth learned about healthy snacks, robotics, circuits, horsemanship, archery and more. This was a huge increase in participation from previous years when we would have 10 to 20 youth and volunteer participate.
- 🌳 Youth Futures plans at Jefferson College continued. We completed the plans for hiring and advertising the position in June and July. I completed the necessary paperwork to get the position filled with campus HR. 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. The position is now posted!
- 🌳 Youth Futures Conference. I had one youth who was prepared to attend the youth futures conference, I met with the family (6/17) and helped the youth prepare for the conference (6/22). The Homeless Youth Initiative supports this financially. At the last minute the youth was unable to attend. I served as a mock-college interview score keeper one day of the conference (7/17)
- 🌳 Exploring 4-H SPIN Club - This new SPIN Club continued to meet as a way to offer more opportunities to youth and to recruit more volunteers. The club met at Dreamcatcher's 4-H Club (7/10). The group is working on a Cardboard boat event

and organizing a county-wide cleanup of the creek around Sandy Creek Covered Bridge. Eight youth and 6 potential parent volunteers have participated so far. Results are the youth attended camp, are continuing to participate and joining other clubs.

- ☼ Jefferson County Fair – Commodity Carnival, I worked with co-workers this month to prepare for the 4-H and Ag activities at the fair. I worked with the Ag Committee (7/9) and we hosted the Commodity Carnival in the tent Friday (7/19) and Saturday (7/20) of the fair, Sunday items were moved to the Kids Day Activity area. Nine 4-H'ers led the Commodity Carnival Activities to others at the fair at various times. We were approved to have the commodity carnival at other 4-H and Extension Events in the Fall and Spring.
- ☼ Many of the fair exhibits were from the 4-H Ugly Cake Class (7/12), in which youth new to 4-H and current 4-Her's were supplied with materials and directions to create a decorated cake. Thirteen youth participated. A huge thank you to Pete Ritter and Mistti Ritter for putting on the class.
- ☼ I helped the Ace Bronco Bunch 4-H Club advertise and manage risk for their 2 horse shows that were held June 29 and July 13. The group works each year to put on these English and Western youth horse shows.
- ☼ Jefferson County 4-H members had two chances for conference judging this year, in Arnold (7/10) and Hillsboro (7/15). Our 4-H youth exhibit judging was low this year with 34 exhibits shown by 17 youth. A huge thank you goes out to the judges: Jim Osia, Kathy Berri and Raelynn Kemp! Also we started thinking this year about 4-H member's work being shown with the Open Exhibits.
- ☼ Seventeen (17) 4-H'ers showed 22 hogs and 10 steers at the county fair. I helped with the registration and requirements, helped with the show paper work (7/19) and for the auction (7/20). Youth were supported by a huge variety of community members and businesses who buy their animals at the auction.
- ☼ Kid's Day Games at the Fair was a great success again this year, with over 80 participants (7/21). Activities included egg toss, watermelon eating, water games, Commodity Carnival, small animal show, ball games, Healthy Habits snacks, healthy food demonstrations and more. A huge thanks to all the members and volunteers that made the day a huge success!
- ☼ 4-H Council Meeting - The 4-H Council officers were busy with 4-H activities at camp, fair, with their clubs and more, but the regular meetings were not held due to a variety of schedule conflicts. We are going to be thinking strategically about 4-H Council and it's meetings.
- ☼ The Jefferson County Legislative Farm tour (7/29) was great – I was proud of the Althoff family, full of 4-H members and parents for hosting. I helped with the dinner. Thanks to the Extension Council members who help make this a great event every year.
- ☼ We started a new 4-H Club in High Ridge that will continue meeting on Tuesday mornings this fall. At the first meeting (7/30), we had 11 families attend the first meeting. Youth had the chance to make a craft for the fair and play an ice breaker with Legos. We are looking for a free location available Tuesday mornings in the High Ridge to Fenton area – If you know of a place, please let me know.
- ☼ Also I had an incident that I reported to the child abuse and neglect hotline, so I followed the procedures that were required and spent time documenting and communicating as appropriate.
- ☼ I attended professional meetings via computer/telephone unless otherwise noted: County Staff Meeting at our office about the fair (6/25), Urban East 4-H Meeting (6/14), Urban East regional Meeting in St. Louis (6/18), CYFAR Youth Futures Meetings (7/24), I also helped prepare for the financial review (6/26) and budget process.

Family Nutrition Education Programs - FNEP
Gidget Mudd, Nutrition Program Associate

For the month of June, I have been teaching gardening with incoming 1st graders at Pevely Elementary. We planted sugar snap peas, cucumber, zucchini, tomato, peppers, sweet potatoes. We tasted spinach, lettuce, carrots, sugar snap peas, cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers and potatoes. I have also taught Kids In The Kitchen with Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade at Crystal City Elementary. We learned six recipes for easy, healthy snacks and how to make them ourselves for the summer. I visited the Farmers Market with information for adults and children on protein and the children made Peanut Butter Banana Roll-ups.

For the month of July, I have a Kids In The Kitchen program scheduled at the Crystal City Library and Immanuel Lutheran Child Care for the school age children. I will also be at the Farmers Market for the topic of Dairy for adults and children and will be making Orange Julius's with the children. Lastly, I will be attending the Back To School Fair in July at Jefferson College.

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

Gidget Mudd – June/Aug. 2019

Site Name	List curricula name (acronym) or SNAP Outreach	Youth Grade Level(s) (if not adult audience)
Crystal City Library	Kids In The Kitchen	Youth
Immanuel Lutheran Preschool and Childcare	Kids In The Kitchen	Pre-K through 6 th Grade
Affton Christian Food Pantry	Make A Change	Adult
Jefferson College	Make A Change	Adult
DeSoto Farmers Market	Make A Change/SMNED	Youth and Adult

Darla Wood, Nutrition Program Associate

Darla Wood – June 2019

Site Name	List curricula name (acronym) or SNAP Outreach	Youth Grade Level(s) (if not adult audience)
Maple Grove Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	Kindergarten
Murphy Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	Kindergarten
High Ridge Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	Kindergarten
House Springs Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	Kindergarten
Crystal City Elementary	Grow It Try It Like It	Kindergarten

Darla Wood – July 2019

Site Name	List curricula name (acronym) or SNAP Outreach	Youth Grade Level(s) (if not adult audience)
Immanuel Lutheran Daycare	Kids In The Kitchen	Youth all ages
Crystal City Library	Kids In The Kitchen	Youth all ages
Jefferson County Back to School Fair	Healthy Changes	Adult

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.
