

## Monthly Report of MU Extension in JEFFERSON COUNTY: May 2019



# Extension

*University of Missouri*

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

- Received **113** phone calls, which included **4** information calls for county government.
  - Greeted and supported **21** visitors to the MU Extension Center at 301 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hillsboro, MO.
  - Added **119** new emails to the list in May for a total of **940** working email addresses.
  - Reached appx. **1895** people through **13** posts supported by **551** post engagements and added **5** new page likes.
  - Processed **10** soil tests serving **17 ¾** agronomic acres and **6387** horticultural sq. footage (lawn & gardens).
  - Distributed over **1032** pieces of educational material by mail, workshop handouts and community literature racks.
  - Mailed out **1050** and emailed **940** *2019 County Fair Exhibit Guides*. **400** were distributed through literature racks.
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### Mistti Ritter – County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development

- Several maintenance requests were quickly responded to by county maintenance staff including moving the light switch in the storage room to a more accessible location; installation of a new power outlet in the hallway to run the new digital sign; along with re-keying of external locks and the internal janitorial and server room doors. Additionally, Animal Control monitored for attic infestation after county maintenance sealed several possible entry points along the exterior roofline.
- Volunteers support of the MU Extension Center included: donation and delivery of mulch for the front courtyard by Gery Marmaduke, and a case constructed to enclose the newly installed digital sign in the main hall by 4-H youth member Holle Ritter and volunteer Pete Ritter.
- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended the **Jefferson County Civic Center Club** meeting and confirmed Jefferson County Extension's continued management and budget to run the community home economics fair, 4-H's participation in hosting kid's day activities, and the Ag committee's new activity tent. The Club's board encouraged projects to remain visible to the public during Sunday's kids day creating a change in the project pick up time to now 4:30 pm and later. I also participated in the Ag Committee's planning meetings conducted May 8 and May 28.
- I led Extension Center staff and specialists in updating the Jefferson County Home Economics fair material. The guidebook features a new event name "**Show-Me Your Best**" *Open Exhibits Competition Guide* and was reformatted for easy copying, high visibility in community literature racks and email friendly formatting. For 2019, there are over 350+ classes feature many updates. Additional changes to the fair supported by staff include allowing **walk-in registration** for fresh produce and flower entries. All other entries must still pre-register. The fair book was mailed to all working mailing addresses that we do not have an email, and included an insert flyer featuring upcoming classes, 4-H camp info and soil testing services.
- I supported **4-H and youth development-related activities** by attending the Jefferson County 4-H Summer Camp leader's training on morning of May 29 and youth planning meeting on May 29 evening. As CES, I will serve as an additional staff resource during the week of camp June 11-14<sup>th</sup> to be held in Pevely. Additionally, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, I attended a **Healthy Habits** workshop conducted by Fox 4-H Club to members of the Fox Elem Afterschool Science Club in Arnold.
- On May 8, I attended a **Community Needs Assessment training** hosted at the St. Charles Extension Center sharing strategies on how to use data in identifying community and county needs. As part of the **Connect Strategy**, I have started developing a data profile for Jefferson County. This, along with beginning to conduct stakeholder interviews will help define the future focus of local Community Economic Development efforts. **Bill Haggard**, Mayor of Herculaneum and President of Jefferson County Fire Fighters Association, was my first stakeholder interview on May 29.
- **Renee Reuter**, County Council Designated Extension Council Member requested support to review EPA activities presented at the May 6 County Council Workshop. On May 9, myself along with Debi Kelly joined remotely by Steve Jeanetta from MU met in person with **Elizabeth Kramer, Community Engagement Specialist for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and several other EPA representatives (remote) that participate in the local **Big River** lead remediation planning and implementation. The meeting included an overview of the history and current status of the **Superfund** driven clean up in Jefferson County. Long term planning on how MU Extension can serve those impacted by the project will be considered.

## Debi Kelly – Field Specialist in Horticulture

### Agriculture

-  Attended the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.
-  Met with the Ag Committee to begin planning an exhibit for the Jefferson County 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.
-  Am on the *Congressional Staffer Agriculture Tour Planning Committee of the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club* who have met three times for this tour that will take place in August.
-  Facilitated the “*ABCs of USDA Programs Workshop*” for two evenings for beginning farmers. NRCS, FSA, RD and AgrAbility Programs and funding resources were presented. Twenty-six people participated.
-  Held two Twilight Farm Tours as part of the Beginning Farmer Grant.
  - *Twilight Tour: Oak Grove Valley Farm* highlighted pasture raised turkeys and chickens, along with a chicken “eggmobile” for laying hens as well as vegetable production in a caterpillar tunnel, high tunnel and in the field. 3 adults and 2 youth attended the twilight farm tour.
  - *Twilight Tour: Julie’s Produce* highlighted vegetable production in a high tunnel and in the field. Field production showcased trellising, plastic mulch laying and drip irrigation. 17 adults and 3 youth participated in this twilight farm tour.

### Horticulture

-  Met with the *International Institute of St. Louis’s Refugee Farm* Director and Justin Keay, St Louis/St Charles Field Specialist in Horticulture to discuss the needs of their refugee farmers as well as the potential of partnering on future grants.
-  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.
-  Finished the Master Gardener Course with the final presentation on “Trees”. Graduated 12 Master Gardeners this semester.
-  The Jefferson County Master Gardener Chapter held their Bimonthly Chapter Meeting. Eighteen Master Gardeners attended this meeting.
-  Attended the MU and KSU webinar training on *GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Recordkeeping* to be able to assist commercial horticulture producers on keeping accurate records in order to become GAP certified to sell to grocery stores and institutions.
-  Was interviewed by Rhonda Smythe who is doing background work on the creation of a St. Louis Food Hub for farmer participation to sell their products to institutions in St. Louis.
-  Participated in the Great Plains Growers Conference planning committee via zoom. I am working with planning one track on business and marketing and also designing the hands-on activity area.
-  Was interviewed by *KBIA, a radio station in Columbia MO*, about the GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) cost share program that MU Extension has to assist vegetable producers with expenses to cover a portion of their expenses to become certified GAP.

### General

-  Attended the Jefferson County Extension Council.
-  Participated in the May Office Staff Meetings
-  Led the USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Small Business Innovation Research Grant for Small and Medium Sized Farms virtually as the Panel Manager.
-  Continued mentoring Justin Keay, the new Field Specialist in Horticulture for St Louis and St Charles counties.
-  Participated as a grant reviewer for the USDA – Ag Marketing Services Federal and State Marketing Innovation Program via zoom.
-  Attended via the zoom, for the Regional Staff Meeting.
-  Attended the two-day *Explore Missouri* In-Service Education. We toured numerous farms and farm businesses in the Southwest Region of Missouri. The highlight tour for me was visiting Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, a nationally recognized seed saver and seller of heirloom seeds.

## Melissa Scheer – 4-H Youth Development Specialist

I am sorry to have to miss the June Jefferson County Extension Council Meeting. I will be at the 2019 Children Youth and Families at Risk Professional Development Conference. I will be presenting as part of a panel, on the topic "Is it Really Not "Traditional" 4-H? Integrating CYFAR and 4-H Programming, Three States Perspectives".

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

- ✿ Exploring 4-H SPIN Club (5/4, 5/11, 5/30) - I started this new SPIN Club as a way to offer more opportunities to youth and to recruit more volunteers. The group is planning to build and test a Cardboard boat, organize a county-wide cleanup of the creek around Sandy Creek Covered Bridge and has learned about showing chickens and rabbits at the fair, project and volunteering and is also planning to visit other 4-H Clubs. Eight youth and 6 potential parent volunteers have participated so far.
- ✿ Pet Expo - The Dreamcatcher's 4-H Club offered experiences with their horses including pony rides, petting and brushing at the Leader's Pet Expo (5/5). I provided the public with information about 4-H Clubs and upcoming events as well as planned to manage the risk. Forty-eight youth participated in the horse activities.
- ✿ Prep for the Jefferson County Fair, I worked with co-workers this month to prepare for the 4-H and Ag activities at the fair. Thanks Mistti for attending the fair board meeting when I could not make it there!
- ✿ Youth Futures (5/14, 5/15) – I met with both classes of Youth Futures Students. We made plans for the summer conference and the students completed the end-of-year surveys that are required for the grant.
- ✿ Youth Futures plans at Jefferson College (5/15) Mistti and I met with Kim Harvey, we discussed the existing Youth Futures Grant and the benefits and struggles of the program and the currently funded position. We agreed the program would benefit from having a 30 hr / week position with benefits instead of the current 20 hours /wk position with no benefits. She agrees to work on the draft agreement to jointly fund the proposed position!
- ✿ 4-H Council Meeting (5/16) - The 4-H Council met early this month because I was out during our regular meeting. Items discussed included camp, fair and marketing clothing for the 4-H Council Officers. It will be a great summer!
- ✿ Our camp management plan was submitted and approved May 3. Camp Planning with volunteers (5/29 am) and Teen Counselors (5/29 pm) led to great plans for 4-H camp. We are still accepting application until tomorrow, so if you know someone, please send them our way! Day Camp and Camp out will be Jun 11-14 at Oak Valley Resort and Golf Course in Pevly.
- ✿ National Urban Extension Conference (5/20-5/24) – I attended and presented a workshop on Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Seattle, Washington. I learned about: Innovative ideas and practices, essential competencies for staff, how 4-H can help students with academic achievement, participatory program evaluation, marketing to a variety of youth. Though we do not always think of our programs as "Urban" I found this conference to be very relevant. One speaker summed it up with a presentation about Urban and Rural areas and how they impact and rely on each other. Here is a similar presentation:  
[https://cityextension.osu.edu/sites/urban/files/imce/irwin%20may242016%20urb%20sub%20rural%20interdependence%20final%20\(002\).pdf](https://cityextension.osu.edu/sites/urban/files/imce/irwin%20may242016%20urb%20sub%20rural%20interdependence%20final%20(002).pdf)
- ✿ Ag Committee Meeting (5/28) – Mistti, Debi and I attended the meeting about the Ag tent at the county fair. I shared information about insurance, a volunteer schedule form and information about the commodity carnival.
- ✿ I attended professional meetings via computer unless otherwise noted: County Staff Meeting at our office (5/6), Youth and Families Meeting for 4-H and HES Staff in Columbia (5/7-9), Access, Equity and Belonging Committee of 4-H Program Leaders Working Group (various times, 5/14-16), State 4-H Professional Development Planning Meeting (5/29).

**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 – May/June 2019*

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

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

*Darla Wood – May 2019*

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

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