



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Mercer County

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

The past year has been extremely productive for University of Missouri Extension and Engagement. With the launch of our county engagement specialist model, which is the centerpiece of a long-overdue restructuring, we are better positioned to serve Missourians.

Most county engagement specialists are now in place and the formal training for this new position rolled out this fall. By January 2019, we expect our CESs to be well on their way to success. I see a great future for them and the communities they serve.

At the MU campus, we have been busy putting in place online resources that will benefit Missouri communities. In particular, the All Things Missouri web portal is an exciting tool that can help community leaders search for valuable data. I encourage you to check it out at <https://allthingsmissouri.org/>.

When 2018 began, we set out to meet with every county's administrative body. This effort provided valuable insight and helped strengthen relationships; and as a result, we will engage in a similar effort in 2019. Meeting stakeholders and deepening county relationships is something we truly enjoy.

As you read your county's annual MU Extension report, I am confident that you will be pleased with the results accomplished through county-based University of Missouri faculty. Our faculty take pride in their efforts to respond to local extension council input.

At the state level, we have committed to a goal of doubling the economic impact of MU Extension over the next decade. This goal of \$2 billion in public value is ambitious — but, by meeting this challenge, we will help a great many Missourians.

Your support of MU Extension and our efforts in your community are greatly appreciated. As always, I welcome your input on how the University of Missouri can better serve your community and its people.

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart

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WHO WE ARE

Mercer County Extension Council

Shelly Holt, Chairperson
 Judy Bagley, Vice Chair
 Kerri Jincks, Treasurer
 Lisa VanGenderen, Secretary
 Cody DeMoss
 Kelly Faulkner
 Christy McCracken
 Damien Miller
 Wesley Parsons
 Justin Porter
 Lance Stiles

2018 Mercer County University of Missouri Extension Council operating budget

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | |
| County | \$30,386.68 |
| City of Mercer | \$1,500.00 |
| Gifts/Grants | \$2,180.00 |
| Resale/Services | \$898.50 |
| University Funds | \$1275.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$5.45 |
| Total | \$36,245.63 |
| Expenditures | |
| Salary expenses | \$21,178.47 |
| Travel | \$1,477.03 |
| Postage | \$50.00 |
| Advertising | \$137.50 |
| Phone/Internet | \$667.55 |
| Rent/repairs | \$4500.00 |
| Lease Equipment | \$893.68 |
| Utilities | \$2,266.89 |
| Supplies | \$263.38 |
| Insurance | \$250.00 |
| Council Election/Annual Dinner | \$194.49 |
| Soil Tests | \$653.00 |
| Publications for Resale | \$83.80 |
| Equipment | \$86.67 |
| Petty Cash | \$139.27 |
| Miscellaneous | \$1,927.92 |
| Total | \$34,769.65 |

Mercer County faculty and staff

Jenna Monnig
 Livestock Specialist & County Program Director

April Meighen
 Youth Program Associate

Debbie Batson
 Office Manager

Staff serving Mercer County, (based in other counties)

Tim Baker
 Horticulture Specialist

Meridith Berry
 Business & Community Development Specialist

Jim Crawford
 Natural Resource Engineer

Micah Doty
 Nutrition Program Associate

Joe Koenen
 Ag Business Specialist

Andy Luke
 Agronomy Specialist

Shaun Murphy
 4-H Youth Specialist

Jessica Trussell
 Human Development Specialist

Mercer County Commissioners

Jerry Allen
 Presiding Commissioner

Shane Grooms
 Associate Commissioner 1st District

Zachary Martin
 Associate Commissioner 2nd District

State legislators

Senator Dan Hegeman
 District 12

Representative Danny Busick
 District 3

Congressman Sam Graves
 U.S. House District 6

Senator Roy Blunt
 U.S. Senator

Senator Josh Hawley
 U.S. Senator

About us

Location:
 807 E. Hickland
 Princeton, MO 64673

Hours:
 M-F 9-12:30, 1:30-4

Contact info:
 660-748-3315
 mercerco@extension.missouri.edu

MISSOURI'S FENCE LAW

Joe Koenen, Ag Business Specialist



Number of Mercer County residents served 9 Mercer County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2018 18

What Did They Learn? Participants learned about the 2 different fence laws in place in Missouri and what county has which law. They also learned:
 (1) what each law requires the landowner to do fence-wise
 (2) which portion of a boundary fence each landowner must maintain
 (3) where they can find additional resources and assistance on the fence law in effect in their county.

What Action Did They Take? As a result of attending the class:
 ~ 100% of participants would recommend this program to others
 ~ 57% know there is more than 1 fence law in Missouri
 ~ 57% know what fence law is in place in the county their land is located
 ~ 100% know their responsibilities under the fence law

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better? Knowing which fence law is in effect in your county and following that law helps lower conflicts between landowners. This in turn reduces litigation costs. Figuring an average of \$150 per hour for an attorney, this program can potentially save Missouri landowners \$47,250 in legal fees.
 This helps Missouri livestock producers to be more profitable due to lower fencing costs of their own in addition to less legal time and litigation fees.

MISSOURI FARM LEASE

Ken Bolte, Darla Campbell, Karisha Devlin, Randa Doty, Joe Koenen, Mary Sobba, and Raysha Tate

Brief description of the program

Number of Mercer County residents served

6 Mercer County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2018

15

What Did They Learn?

Attendees learned the value of good communication and how it can make for a better farm lease. Topics covered were:

- current farmland rental rates and future trends
- specific items to include in a farm lease
- how to legally terminate a farm lease in Missouri
- recreational leases
- crop and livestock arrangements

What Action Did They Take?

As a result of taking the class:

100% of attendees would recommend this program to others

82% of attendees know where to go for more information or assistance with their farm lease

93% of those that attended have a better idea of fair rental rates in their area of the state

100% know the correct way to terminate a farm lease.

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better?

Participants gain insight from both the landowner and tenant perspective, cumulating in leases that are fair for both parties. This promotes optimal land use leading to more sustainable profitability.

The class encourages better landlord-tenant communication which lowers conflict and avoids costly litigation.



DROUGHT CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Andy Luke, Jenna Monnig, and Joe Koenen

Number of Mercer County residents served

25 Mercer County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2018

50 hours

What Did They Learn?

Producers learned strategies about alternative and emergency forages, supplementary feeds, nitrate and prussic acid toxicity, and the economics of destocking/culling.

What Action Did They Take?

After attending the class:
~ farmers had a better idea of the importance of nitrate and feed testing.
~ knew alternative forages and feeds to make up for the lack of pasture
~knew where to go to get questions answered or services.

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better?

Weather issues such as drought and floods are a constant threat in Missouri livestock producers. Producers that have resources and understand their alternatives get through tough times better. This helps them to be more profitable and stay in business.



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING & AG UPDATE

Andy Luke, Jenna Monnig, Tim Baker, and Joe Koenen

Initial training and recertification for private pesticide applicators and update on current agricultural topics

Number of Mercer County residents served

12 Mercer County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2018

36 hours

What Did They Learn?

Applicators completed the legal requirements to obtain or renew their private pesticide applicators license. The Ag Update provided a brief update on current ag topics and trends

How Does This Work Make [insert] County and Missouri Better?

In the rural areas of Missouri, a healthy agricultural community is the backbone of economic growth and sustainability. University of Missouri Extension events provide relevant, research-based information that allows producers to make informed decisions. These decisions impact their financial bottom line and ultimately determine whether or not they stay in business.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT—4-H

Shaun Murphy—Youth Specialist

April Meighen—Youth Program Associate



Number of Mercer County residents served

91 youth in four 4-H clubs, including 31 youth enrolled in the after school program at Mercer Schools

Sample Opportunities

4-H Clubs – Mercer County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H Afterschool Program – 4-H conducts an afterschool program as part of the Mercer Afterschool Program. This program allows 4-H and MU Extension expand the reach of positive youth development in a school setting.

Show-Me 4-H Wares - The Show Me 4-H Wares program is part of the MU Extension 4-H entrepreneurship project, through which youths learn how to start a small business or a social venture that addresses a need in their community

4-H Shooting Sports - 4-H youth engage in shooting sports to learn safe handling of firearms/archery equipment, responsibility, and teamwork – plus it is a great way to compete!

Program Learning Objectives

4-H members learn to engage in their communities. Young people in 4-H are engaged in twice as many leadership roles than their non-4-H peers. This provides them with the experience in problem-solving to step up and lead in a complex, changing world. In Mercer County, 56 4-H members were engaged in leadership and/or service.

Missouri 4-H is growing future scientists. Young people in 4-H are engaged in three times more like to be interested and pursue science-based careers their non-4-H peers. Our nation needs young people prepared to live and work in a world that no one can imagine yet. In Mercer County, most 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.

4-H focuses on learning by doing through experiential learning. This learning better prepares youths for jobs critical for economic recovery. Youths are given the opportunity to put learning into action through opportunities in leadership, citizenship, teamwork, community service and other life skills.

Life skills are defined in a variety of ways. 4-H, in recent years, has given special attention to youths' interest, attitudes and engagement in science, engineering and computer technology. Active 4-H members spend almost ten times more of their out-of-school time engaged in science-based activities than their non-4-H peers. Project work builds important life skills.

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better?

4-H youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and health for the 21st century workforce. 4-H youth are engaged in programs anchored in science.

A study from Tufts University reports that young people in “4-H far outperform their non-4-H peers” in developing the skills, leadership and interest in science and science careers that drive our nation’s future. 4-H’ers are three times more likely than their peers to pursue careers related to science, engineering and technology because they spend more time engaging in science programs.

MU Extension 4-H connects 5,176 young people to University of Missouri campuses, including many from Mercer County. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going onto higher education. 4-H youth are nearly twice as likely to go to college compared to their non 4-H peers. Youth who earn their bachelor’s degree, increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime.

Missouri 4-H volunteers donate an average of 6 to 10 hours/week or 72 to 120 hours annually. The Independent Sector values a Missouri volunteer’s time at \$21 per hour. *Missouri 4-H volunteers are providing \$15 to \$25 million in volunteer services annually.*

Vita Tax Preparation

Meredith Berry, Community Development Specialist



Number of Mercer County residents served

15 participants representing 12 households.

Total dollars returned from federal and Missouri refunds

A total of \$6,489 was returned in federal tax and \$1,279 in state refunds.

What Did They Learn?

Participants learned the importance of retirement savings, savings credit, and other tax credits how to lower tax liabilities, the consequences of bankruptcy, information about student loans and paying them back, the health insurance mandate, and rules for self-employment and taxes.

What Action Did They Take?

Many clients are repeat customers or referrals from past clients. Clients made appointments to have their tax returns completed and filed at no charge. The electronic filing provided faster refunds. Additional state returns were filed on behalf of Mercer County residents.

Some clients were encouraged to change their W-4 to lessen the burden of taxes to be paid in April.

A former client set up a retirement account after learning about the Saver's Credit last year.

Strategic spending for college expenses helped to maximize tax benefits.

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better?

In addition to the income and education, an average of \$90 per return was saved by having taxes prepared by University of Missouri Extension. Regionally, federal and state tax forms were filed for more than 300 households. In addition to Missouri tax returns, state returns for seven other states were prepared.

Supporting extension saved low income families the cost of a tax preparer and brought money to the area in refunds, earned income credit, child tax credits, and other tax credit benefits.

According to the IRS, regionally, the VITA program had an economic impact of over 2 million dollars in northwest Missouri.

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Micah Doty, Nutrition Program Associate



Number of Mercer County residents served

University of Missouri Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP) reached 421 participants directly and 270 indirectly with nutrition education in Mercer County during 2018 a significant percentage of which were low income. FNP provides information on nutrition, food safety, and physical activity for lifelong health and fitness by working with qualifying schools, community groups and agencies.

What Did They Learn?

Youth from Pre-school to 8th grade learned through kid-friendly, hands-on lessons and activities. Activities include opportunities for taste-testing healthy foods and practicing skills that lead to good health. Education for adults also includes nutrition, food safety, and physical activity, as well as food resource management.

What Action Did They Take?

Nutrition Program Associates (NPA's) go into schools and other grant eligible locations and interact with community members to help them make healthier choices and build healthy habits. They see the difference the program makes in people's lives.

How Does This Work Make Mercer County and Missouri Better?

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,449,699.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 735,541 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 2,932,390 educational contacts. This year we had 2,242,249 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries and the Show Me Nutrition help line. 691 of these participants reside in Mercer County.

Participants in FNP become more aware of nutrition, make healthier meal and snack choices, eat breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity and in general make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and activity behaviors are more likely to enjoy a high quality of life as an adult and into old age. A healthy labor force is critical to attracting and keeping jobs in Missouri. In addition, this important programming effort serves to reduce healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayers money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Success Stories by Micah Doty:

During nutrition classes at North Mercer Elementary one of the lessons for third graders focused on the six essential nutrients - carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water.

The lesson also discussed why they are each important, such as giving us energy, making our eyes healthy, helping to fight off germs, and protecting our organs. The students also learned how to find these nutrients on the nutrition facts label.

A grandparent let me know that his granddaughter was excited to learn about the nutrients and what they do for our bodies.

The two of them had been looking at food labels for the nutrition facts. They then talk about if they think that the food is

a healthy choice. This is a great skill for them to build on. If they know how to read a label it will be easy for them to find foods with the nutrients that their bodies need to grow strong and to stay healthy.

FY 2018 Summary: Continuing Education Noncredit Activities

| Continuing education unit | Number of activities | Attendance total | Individual hours of instruction | Student FTE |
|---|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Continuing Medical Education | 1,726 | 25,731 | 2,332 | 216.0 |
| Fire & Rescue Training Institute | 643 | 13,494 | 11,500 | 580.0 |
| Labor Education | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Law Enforcement Training Institute | 100 | 2,145 | 1,943 | 130.0 |
| Missouri Training Institute (MTI) | 180 | 3,768 | 806 | 63.0 |
| MU Nursing Outreach | 68 | 4,345 | 281 | 41.3 |
| Osher Lifelong Learning Institute | 124 | 2,976 | 878 | 70.3 |
| Veterinary Med Ext & Continuing Education | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0.1 |
| MU Conference Office | | | | |
| Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources | 18 | 5,820 | | |
| Arts and Science | 1 | 43 | | |
| Business | 2 | 95 | | |
| Engineering | 1 | 424 | | |
| Human Environmental Sciences | 3 | 243 | | |
| Journalism | 3 | 1,235 | | |
| MU Administration | 5 | 2,065 | | |
| MU Extension | 9 | 1,880 | | |
| Veterinary Medicine | 1 | 84 | | |
| Conference Office Hosted | 21 | 8,228 | | |
| Conference Office Totals | 64 | 20,117 | 1,079 | 1,207.0 |
| TOTALS | 2,907 | 72,581 | 18,823 | 2,307.7 |

This table includes noncredit activities reported through MU continuing education units and does not include contacts by cooperative extension specialists.

Educational Contacts — FY 2018

| Impact area | Direct contact total | Indirect contact total | Total contacts |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Agriculture and Environment | 33,450 | 102,895 | 136,345 |
| Youth and Family (HES) | 677,464 | 350,822 | 1,028,286 |
| Business Development | 29,210 | 206,632 | 235,842 |
| Community Development | 21,486 | 7,096 | 28,582 |
| 4-H | 137,411 | 178,928 | 316,339 |
| Conferences & Institutes (MTI) | 141 | 157 | 298 |
| TOTALS | 899,162 | 846,530 | 1,745,692 |

Direct contacts refer to participants who engaged in programs, courses or activities individually or with a group. Indirect contacts include people reached at public events and through printed and online materials or content.