



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION  
**New Madrid County**

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

**330 U.S. Highway 61  
New Madrid, Missouri 63869  
573-748-6197  
<https://extension2.missouri.edu/>**

 **Extension**  
*University of Missouri*



December 5, 2019

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

I had the good fortune to catch up with some of you this past fall as I traveled the state to share the University of Missouri's Extension and Engagement vision and plan for the coming years. What a pleasure it is to serve this state we call home.

As you know, we've listened closely to Missourians' needs, restructuring our faculty and program delivery to better serve people and communities. With this reset nearly complete, we're better positioned to work together to strengthen our state's economy, increase Missourians' access to meaningful education and workforce development options, and improve our citizens' health and well-being.

MU Chancellor Alex Cartwright often calls us the *University for Missouri*. In very real terms this means that MU Extension is leading efforts to connect the university's powerful research, knowledge and science-based information with our state's diverse needs and local efforts to address them.

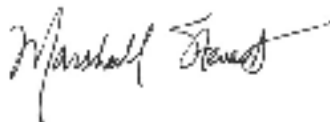
Whether you're a farmer researching the latest profitable grazing practices, a 4-H leader developing after-school robotics programs with local schools, or a community leader helping people formerly addicted to opioids return to productive work, you deserve the very best MU Extension and university engagement efforts have to give. As a comprehensive university, we can be uniquely responsive. We have schools of medicine, nursing and health professions, for instance, to support health care in rural communities, a law school clinic that helps veterans qualify for the benefits they deserve. MU education students become the teachers who enrich children's lives in nearly every school district in the state. We are here for you and with you.

Together, we can make lasting impacts. That's why in this new year we are focused on growing and leveraging local partnerships, expertise and resources. With 110 of 115 county engagement specialist positions filled — and renewed focus on responsive program development — we are ready to go.

As the first public university west of the Mississippi River, our land-grant roots run deep through Missouri's heritage and history. They help chart our future, too: What can we do to make our state better? How can we think and do different?

I know you will be proud to see your own communities' successes in the pages of this year's county annual report. On behalf of all of us at MU Extension, I look forward to your thoughts on how we can best lead, serve and grow through the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Marshall Stewart

**New Madrid County Extension Council**



**Regional Director Sarah Denkler with Robert Henry.**

- Jami Geske, Chair
- Tom Alsobrook, Vice-Chairman
- Byron McVay, Secretary/Treasurer
- Sam Anderson, Member
- Jeremy Angotti, Member
- Mark Baker, Member
- Daniel Eddy, Member
- Don Hastings, Member
- Danny Hayes, Member
- Robert Henry, Member
- Justin Ling, Member
- Blake Richardson, Member
- John Paul Wescoat, Member

**County Commissioners**

Presiding Commissioner  
Mark Baker

Associate Commissioner 1st District  
Bobby Aycock, Jr.

Associate Commissioner 2nd District  
Don Day

# Educational Excellence



4-H Youth participated in the Corteva Pollinator Grant training sessions. The training provided an opportunity for 4-H youth to prepare to train their peers the importance of pollinator sites in the area. This project was also made possible by Quail/Pheasants Forever.

**As 2019 draws to a close there are 48 and counting New Madrid County Youth and Volunteers registered for 4-H programs. The Risco Schools have started a 4-H group for elementary and high school students in the community.**



Planting a “Liberty Tree” at the New Madrid Extension Office provides the 4-H group a chance to remember those who dedicated their lives to insure our United States freedoms. The original Liberty Tree stood near Boston Commons during the Revolutionary era. The Liberty Tree became a symbol of American independence. There have been Liberty Tree seedlings planted throughout the United States. Thank you to American Forests, STIHL, and Missouri 4-H.

# County Highlights



The new MU Extension Office —New Madrid County Missouri. The new office opened in July, 2019.

Jami Geske and Byron McVay at the dedication/open house (8-21-2019) at the New Madrid County Extension Office.



The **Extension Leaders Honor Roll** program is intended to honor outstanding University of Missouri Extension community leaders who have excelled in a long term commitment to MU Extension programs. Congratulations to Jami Geske, at left (with Mayor Dick Bodi) and Byron McVay, above with Open House guests. Thank you for your commitment to MU Extension and the New Madrid County Extension Council.



# Economic Opportunity



Jeff House MU Extension Agronomist encourages you to see a sample of Southeast Missouri farm produce. It can be seen each summer at the stand of Mr. Robert Henry in New Madrid, MO.



Richard Proffer, Community Economic Development Specialist for MU Extension met with those in the community trying to make a small town difference. He met with Jeff Grunwald of the New Madrid Historical Museum to discuss available funding and to provide grant search information sources for the downtown project.

# County Highlights



New Madrid County 4-Hers competed in the Livestock Show at the SEMO District Fair in Cape Girardeau, Missouri (September 2019). Evan Pipkin from Risco, is pictured with his “Blue Ribbon” sheep.

## What participants say...

*“I really enjoy competing and winning prize money at the SEMO District Fair.”*

*Evan Pipkin, Risco 4-H*



## New Madrid County Extension

Richard Rickman, CES, and LeighAnn Blakey, Office Secretary, set up a booth at the annual New Madrid Fall Festival & Twisted Cat Tournament held in October each year in downtown New Madrid.

The booth was visited by at least 200 adults and children who enjoyed the sign-up for prizes and the “free” games provided by the New Madrid County Extension Council.

# Healthy Futures



John Fuller, MU Extension Field Specialist in Human Development and Family Science presents information on “Brain Health” at Caregiver/Grandfamily Care Day in Caruthersville. New Madrid county participants visited 15 exhibits representing local resources beneficial to caregivers. In Missouri, 119,854 (8.6%) of children under 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives.



Mary Engram, MU Extension Field Specialist (far right) with MERS Goodwill staff who completed the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid class.

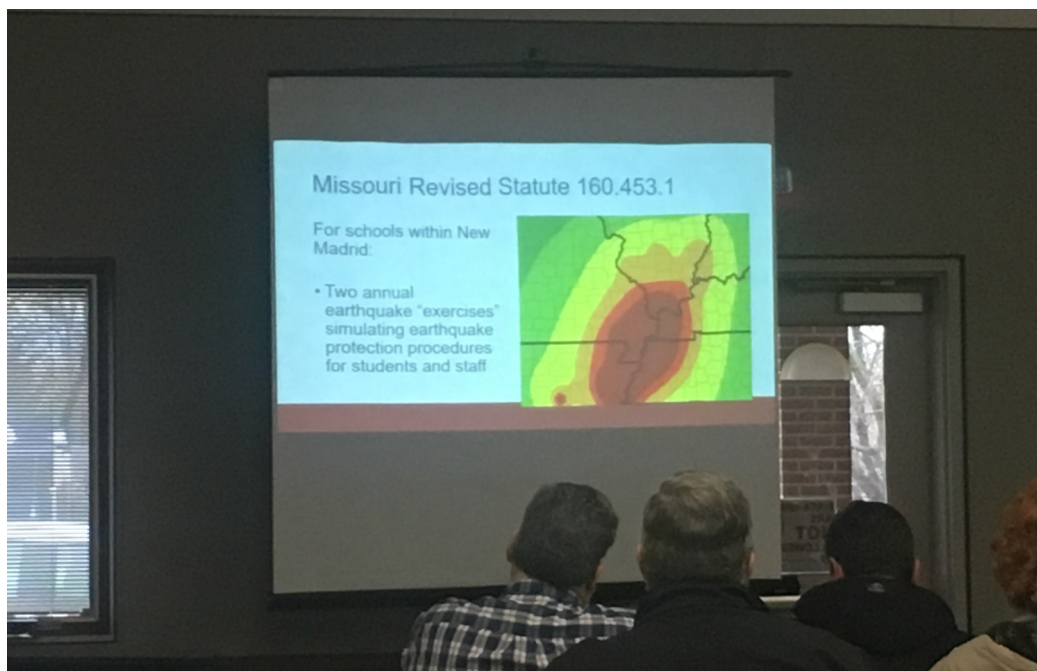
MU Extension Specialist deliver programs to Bootheel residents in a number of programs including: Nutrition and Health, 4-H Youth and Families & Adult Mental Health.

IN 2019 there were 7,967 educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of New Madrid county.

- 143 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 7,799 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 25 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



# County Highlights



In February, New Madrid County Extension CES Richard Rickman participated in Earthquake Summit 2019 along with 260+ local and state officials. Representatives from MO SEMA, the National Guard, KFVS-TV, and MU Extension trained to be prepared for any disaster.

The local New Madrid fault makes this a timely topic and a focus for MU Extension in the county.

Combined 4-H meeting of New Madrid Clubs at the MU Extension Offices in New Madrid County.

New Madrid Youth-In-Action and New Madrid River-Bend Explorers enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and 4-H activities.



MU Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP) reached a total of 4916 participants in New Madrid County during 2019. There were 3687 collective workshop hours providing participants opportunity to become aware, making healthier meal and snack choices, trying fresh foods and increased physical activity. Nutrition Program Associates (NPA's) teach in local schools, and other grant eligible locations in the county.

The FNP brought more than \$9.5 million federal dollars to the state of Missouri. One thousand forty (1040) direct contacts and 3876 indirect nutrition education contacts were made in New Madrid County, with a significant number of these participants being low income. This important programming serves to reduce healthcare costs and improves healthy behavior into adulthood and old age.

# County Highlights

Cooperation is the future for New Madrid working with downtown development, the riverfront, MU Extension partners in the community and the citizens of New Madrid.



## Congratulations

### New Madrid County Farm Family 2019

The 2019 Farm Family of the Year for New Madrid County.

### Jacob and Kimberly Jones

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies:

Missouri Farm Bureau

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Missouri State Fair Commissioners

MU CAFNR

MU Extension and Engagement

# County Highlights



New Madrid County along with MU Extension is honored to be represented in 2019 by two Century Farm families. Stan and Donna McMikle and the Scherer family– Tony and Sheryl. Congratulations.



New Madrid 4-Hers participated in the annual New Madrid Christmas Parade through the streets of our town. The theme of the float was Winter Wonderland with children, presents, a lighted tree and the fireplace with stockings.



## New Madrid County Extension Faculty and Staff

**Richard Rickman** ..... County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth  
**Jeff House** ..... Agronomy Specialists  
**LeighAnn Blakey** ..... Office Secretary

## Other Faculty serving New Madrid County

**Sam Anderson**..... Nutrition and Health  
**Juan Cabrera-Garcia**..... Horticulture  
**Sarah Denkler**..... Southeast Regional Director  
**Mary Engram**..... Human Development  
**Mike Milam**..... Agriculture and Environment  
**Richard Proffer** .. Community Economic Development  
**David Reinbott**..... Agriculture Business

2019 New Madrid County Appropriations Budget	
<b>Income</b>	
County Appropriations	\$34,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	23,123
Travel	3992
Communications	3135
Office Supplies	1200
Equipment and Repairs	2000
Misc. Council Expenses	840
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 34,290</b>

### MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial salary, staff mileage and council expenses.

**The New Madrid County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the New Madrid County Commissioners for their continued support of University of Missouri extension programs.**

### Local Support ...

*Did you know you can donate directly to New Madrid County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H.*