



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION  
**Pettis County**  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT**

108 Whitten Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
PHONE 573-882-2394

EMAIL [stewartmars@missouri.edu](mailto:stewartmars@missouri.edu)

December 1, 2020

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

Few of us have experienced a year quite like 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought each of us so many unforeseen professional and personal challenges. Yet, as difficult as the last months have been, they have also called us at University of Missouri Extension and Engagement to think about our work differently and find new ways to serve and respond to Missouri's needs.

We are working harder and more innovatively to develop local and statewide partnerships and collaborations that help us improve lives, communities and businesses across the state. Through our four UM System universities, we are working to expand our state's broadband access and support statewide efforts to prepare our workforce for 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities. This work is key to keeping Missouri's economy competitive and helping people and communities in every part of our state thrive.

We continue to expand and develop tools like the All Things Missouri web portal (<https://allthingsmissouri.org>) that provide a wealth of data local leaders can use to pinpoint county and community needs and plan for coordinated solutions. New COVID-19 tracking tools, for instance, help county health departments accurately assess the local impact of the virus and coordinate targeted responses. A new Missouri Food Finder tool (<https://mofoodfinder.org>) matches consumers with growers and producers to create a market for locally grown foods. The UM System Community Connect web portal (<https://community.umsystem.edu>) showcases the many resources, services and faculty programs available to the community through each of the four universities in the UM System. Please explore and use these tools. Tell us how we can improve them to better serve you.

Whether online or in person, we are committed to working with you to deliver knowledge, resources and programs that best meet your communities' interests and needs. I hope you see the impact of that work in this year's county annual report — just as you see your own hand, as key stakeholders, in making this work possible.

We greatly appreciate your support of MU Extension as partners within your community. As always, I welcome your input on how the University of Missouri can better serve you as we look forward to a brighter year ahead.

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff



Sherol Bose  
Administrative Assistant

Blake Gazaway,  
Community Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth  
Development

Katharine Hanlon  
Nutrition Program Associate

Eugene Schmitz  
Field Specialist in Livestock

Billie Long  
Volunteer - Master Gardener, Emertis

## Additional faculty with assignments in Pettis

Amie Breshears  
County Engagement Specialist in Agriculture and  
Environment

Kent Shannon  
Field Specialist in Agricultural Engineering

Christina Edholm  
Field Specialist in Human Development

Susan Jones-Hard  
County Engagement Specialist in Nutrition and Health  
Education

Kathi Mecham  
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Maria "Monse" Montoya De Rivera  
Nutrition Program Associate  
Pettis County Community Partnership

Todd Lorenz  
Regional Horticulture and Agronomy Specialist

Sarah Havens  
Field Specialist in Natural Resources

## Small Business and Technology Development Center at State Fair Community College

Kelly Asbury  
Director

## Council members

Jim Cave, Chairman  
Kevin Daniel, Vice-chairman  
Dana Binder, Secretary  
Kay Sparks, Treasurer  
Abigail Arnold, Extension Council Youth Liaison  
Chase Stone, Extension Council Youth Liaison  
Israel Baeza  
Fred Binder  
Kenneth Danko  
Kevin Gibbs  
Jane Henderson  
Donald Hutcheson  
Matthew Kahrs  
David McCoy  
Deanna Nelson  
Megan Page  
Nancy Sellers  
Gretchen Sims  
Tim Sims  
Patty Wood



## County commissioners

David Dick, Presiding Commissioner  
Jim Marcum, Western Commissioner  
Israel Baeza, Eastern Commissioner

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	72,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>72,000.00</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	43,915.56
Travel	2,084.00
Telephone	2,120.18
Rent	7,550.24
Office/Janitorial Supplies	2,350.78
Service	4,476.00
Utilities	2,594.79
Insurance	620.00
Council Operations	3,871.03
Capital Repairs	2,410.04
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>72,000.00</b>

## Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ 6 grazing school events held
- ✓ LETI recertified 12 officers in firearm training
- ✓ The University of Missouri has launched [MU Community Connect](#), a platform designed to improve opportunities for connection between the university and various populations in the communities they serve.
- ✓ Virtual workshops via Zoom began to inform childcare providers about the importance of sleep
- ✓ SBDC held multiple classes to help Missourians learn about starting a business and how to write a business plan
- ✓ Farm Tax Workshop classes began to help farmers navigate their taxes
- ✓ **16347 people served by university system**

## Return on Investment

University System	203,332.00
Donations	2,450.00
Program Revenue	0.00

## 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 and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

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



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Pettis 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 or Master Gardeners.



# Economic Opportunity

## Native Warm Season Grass – Gene Schmitz

Native warm season perennial grasses (NWSG) have the potential to enhance forage systems by providing abundant, high quality forage during the summer months when traditional cool-season forages are declining in productivity and quality. A NWSG demonstration plot has been established on the campus of State Fair Community College with the assistance of Dr. Todd Lorenz, MU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist, Brad Driskill, SFCC agriculture instructor, and Dave Niebruegge, MDC Private Lands Conservationist. These plots will give livestock producers and students first hand knowledge of establishment and management methods of these forages and encourage their integration into forage systems throughout central Missouri.



Aerial views of NWSG plots



## 2020 FARM BILL MEETING – Amie Breshears

Pettis County hosted the largest Farm Bill meeting in the State of Missouri on January 9, 2020, at the Thompson Conference Center at State Fair Community.

Dr. John Kruse (MU) and Amanda Brosch (FSA) were the featured speakers, providing information to help crop producers make imminent decisions about Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), market and program decision tools, and disaster programs. The meeting was organized and facilitated by Amie Breshears in partnership with MU Extension, SFCC, and USDA-FSA.





## Economic Opportunity

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training – Travis Harper



Private Pesticide Applicator Training— Private Pesticide Applicator Training teaches producers how to safely store, handle, and use restricted-use pesticides in agricultural production. Proper application of pesticides results in greater safety for both the applicator and their neighbors. Proper application of pesticides results in reduced exposure of pesticides to the environment, ultimately leading to safer living conditions for all Missourians. Approximately 20 Pettis County residents received a license in 2020.

Agronomy and Horticulture Online Classes – Due to Covid-19 limiting the opportunity for face-to-face trainings, online classes were offered on a number of topics including private pesticide applicator training, pasture renovation, spring lawn management, beekeeping, garden soils/composting, and forage pests. The classes provided an opportunity for Missouri residents to continue to receive educational resources in the areas of home horticulture, forage production and row-crop management despite the limitations we faced as a state. Twenty-three Pettis County residents attended one of the online classes in 2020.



# Educational Access & Excellence

## 4-H Live: Online Learning

Within 72 hours of the University of Missouri Extension's suspension of in-person programming, Chelsea Corkins and Blake Gazaway developed and implemented 4-H Live: Online Learning, a 9-week virtual 4-H experience.

This program crossed disciplinary lines by featuring MU Extension livestock, nutrition/health, horticulture, natural resources, and youth development specialists, as well as multiple 4-H volunteers. With more than 30 adult and youth presenters, 4-H Live showcased rapid innovation and commitment to resilient youth education with quick and effective teamwork. This effort resulted in 45 diverse, hands-on Facebook and YouTube videos premiering between March 17 and May 15 with over 500,000 reaches and 49,000 views throughout the US and Canada. 4-H Live has spurred future audio/visual efforts within Missouri 4-H including flipped classroom 4-H project delivery modes, giving MU Specialists the confidence to further engage with virtual platforming options, and was ultimately one of the first programming efforts post COVID-19 limitations that expanded the audiences and platforms available to MU Extension.

While Facebook is limited in its public-facing data collection, it is estimated that this program reached over 670 youth

and 335 adults based on average views of the videos. The most viewed video - Food Science with Rock Candy - was viewed over 5,000 times. On average, each video required 3 hours of preparation and recording by each host. Additionally, Chelsea and Blake spent approximately 6 hours per video for video processing and posting, recruitment and organization, and trouble-shooting. This means each video required approximately 9 hours of effort, resulting in 4-H Live preparation and teaching amassing over 405 hours of effort.

## Pettis County 4-H Clubs – Blake Gazaway

### Community Clubs

4-H participants = 195 youth in 11 Community Clubs

Pettis 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 computers science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.

### 4-H SPIN Clubs – Special Interest Clubs

4-H participants = 6 youth in one SPIN Club

With the onset of COVID-19, our volunteer provided recipes and instruction via the 4-H Newsletter. Our International Foods SPIN Club visited 5 Counties from Switzerland to Australia, and Stetson Mahin had this to say about making Corn Cheese from Korea, "The corn itself was strange. It doesn't sound, or look very good but it is. I'd give it a 7.75/10. The textures were awkward but were pretty good. I don't know how to explain how this tasted but it was pretty good".

### 4-H In-School/After-School programs

4-H participants = 406 youth

Pettis County 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities. The most popular 4-H school program in Pettis County is Embryology.

The Novel Coronavirus interrupted most of this year's Embryology lessons in the classroom. We just snuck under the wire three classrooms with chicks just before the schools were closed.

Another school program that was interrupted by Corona was the La Monte Vikings Adventure Club. La Monte's after school program. Pettis County 4-H is looking forward to when the schools will allow us to get back into the school system.



# Educational Access & Excellence

## Volunteers

4-H members are supported by 123 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at \$334,560.00

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$27.20 per hour (Independent Sector, 2019), the contribution of Pettis County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$334,560.00 in 2019. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

### References

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## Farm, Family, and Me Summit - Karisha Devlin

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Farm, Family, and Me – Summit for Women was held on September 3, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the two-day conference was pivoted to a 3 hour virtual event focusing on building resiliency. A total of 182 women participated in the event. Topics included dealing with financial and farm stress, self-care, and mental well-being. The event also included a panel of farm women who discussed the different ways they balanced their lives and work in agriculture. While the majority of the participants were from Missouri, 8 states and 2 countries were also represented. By pivoting to a virtual delivery method we were able to meet women where they were, while still providing them with relevant educational materials and resources. Pettis County had four participants.

On a scale from 1-5 (with 1=low and 5=high), participants rated overall conference satisfaction at 4.3. As a result of attending the conference, participants indicated the following:

Increased my knowledge about the topics – 60%

Encouraged me to find out more about the topics – 35%

Improved my skills/ability – 25%

Empowered me to develop a plan to address these topics – 34%

Validated my current practices – 36%

Encouraged me to make changes – 36%

Participant Comments:

Farm, Family, & Me webinar yesterday was truly successful---that is my opinion! Topics were relevant, and speakers were outstanding. The panel closing the "event" were excellent--diversified, thoughtful, intelligent, seasoned women. Loved it!!! A very accessible well done virtual conference.

What an amazing and strong group of women on this panel!!! Such inspiration! It fills my soul.

Thank you to everyone for presenting at the Webinar! It was very interesting and informative!

So worthy of my time to participate in this! Thanks so very much to everyone involved.

Excellent meeting, well attended. I enjoyed the webinar part as we all have busy lives. All speakers were great. Easy to register and get on webinar. More ag topics for women in the future maybe more often with this type of session would be great.

Great program, I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to next year!



## Health & Well-being

### Supporting Kinship Families – Christina Edholm

The contribution of caregivers in the U. S. today is staggering. According to AARP more than one in five Americans (21.3 percent) or 53 million are caregivers, having provided care to an adult or child with special needs at some time in the past 12 months. Included in this statistic are kinship caregivers – grandparents raising grandchildren and other relatives raising children that are not their own. In Missouri, 119,854 (8.6%) children under 18 live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives. (AARP Grandfacts)

When Covid-19 hit Missouri and quarantines began, MU Extension, MU ParentLink and local community partners came together to provide education and support to kinship caregivers statewide. On April 30, 2020 the first virtual statewide Kinship support group meeting was held. Since then, 33 weekly support group meetings have been provided to approximately 938 participants from 32 counties in Missouri. Participants included kinship caregivers and foster parents, as well as community service providers and partners who support these families.

### Creating Community in New Ways

Unprecedented times allowed the Human Development & Family Science Specialists to create new innovative ways to educate the individuals of Mid-Missouri. This year the HDFS field faculty collaborated with the Greater Missouri and Heart of America Alzheimer’s Association to provide programming statewide. Specialists provided presentations related Alzheimer’s and other dementia related to 10 warning signs, effective communication strategies, and dementia related behaviors. Through 28 classes they were able to provide education to 471 participants statewide.

HDFS Extension Field Specialists utilized Zoom to provide educational programs to allow child care providers to obtain the clock hours of professional development they need to maintain licensure. A total of 16 classes were offered with 681 class registrations from 389 different care providers living in 66 counties in Missouri and also reached individuals from outside the state. Participants included site directors, assistant directors, teachers, home visitors, partnership coaches, cooking staff and family advocates.

As the newest Field Specialist in HDFS, Tina Edholm, joined the team in January 2020 and trained in 40+ programs including **Mental Health First Aid, Focus on Kids, Taking Care of You**, and many more. Over the last year, Tina has conducted in-person and zoom classes to reached over 1400 Mid-Missourians with 2,234 hours of human development programming.

Using Zoom technology, Tina worked with 159 individuals as they participated in **Building Strong Families**. Strengthening relationships and building upon family strengths improves the lives of low-income families and enhance the well-being of children.



# 159

The number of family members who completed **Building Strong Families** via Zoom.

“Family extends far beyond the immediate household. We all have different roles we fill and others are assign to us.”- *Building Strong Families (BSF) participant*

# 127

The number of child care providers served through Child Care Provider Trainings via Zoom.



## Health & Well-being

### Clinical Rural Immersion – Gene Schmitz

The Clinical Rural Immersion program is designed for MU System medical, pharmacy, and nursing students interested in rural medicine. The 2020 program was originally scheduled to be held in the Sedalia / Pettis County area. Due to coronavirus restrictions, the 2020 program, led by Victoria McGhee, Kelly Cochran, Jana Porter, Mary Fete, and Dr. Luke Stephens was conducted virtually. Gene Schmitz assisted the program by leading two virtual farm tours utilizing drone imagery and video to replace actual farm tours. Training future rural health practitioners to care for the medical needs of rural Missourians is vital to the viability of communities and industries located throughout the state.



Gene Schmitz conducting the virtual farm tour

### Expanded Food and Nutrition Education – Michelle Chapman

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,626,730 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 1324 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 4359 family members. Additionally, 447 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

81 of these youth and adult participants reside in Pettis County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

In summary, it has been a successful year in Pettis County for EFNEP. We look forward in 2021 to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.

### Pettis SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2020 – Michelle Chapman

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$9,964,840.00 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 723,461 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,209,545 direct educational contacts. This year we had 2,817,878 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

2,037 direct and indirect contacts were made in Pettis County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.



# Educational Access & Excellence

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Pettis County:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
Horace Mann Elementary	Buckner Head Start
La Monte Elementary	Open Door Benevolent Services
Pettis Co. Elementary	Sedalia Community Center Head Start
Green Ridge Elementary	Salvation Army
Skyline Elementary	
Smithton Elementary	
Parkview Elementary	
Northwest Elementary	

In addition to the numbers, NPA's have shared these success stories demonstrating local impact:

*To supplement the vegetable lesson, I served different colored (yellow, orange, red, and green) peppers for the kids to taste. I chose peppers to visualize how vegetables, even though the same, can be different colors. The kids were surprised how sweet the peppers were and that the red peppers were NOT spicy! The following week, a teacher informed me about a conversation she had with the parent of one her students. The parent explained that, until now, she had never had a yellow, orange, or red pepper. However, because her daughter tried them in my class and liked them, she bought them for her to eat at home. Turn out mom liked red peppers and now buys them regularly!—Kate Hanlon*



Peppers of different colors being served at school during the Nutrition Program Associate's vegetable program before Covid-19 hit

## Activity Summary of the Award Winning Show-Me Master Gardener Chapter – Billie Long

Maintained 2 Gardens in Pettis County; Bothwell Lodge Gardens and Katy Depot Gardens.

With the AgExpo happening in February we were able to set up and run a question and answer booth there. Mrs. Long and Mrs. Danko held classes each day on Pruning, Raising Blueberries, and House Plants.

Covid-19 stopped the Q&A Booths at the Sutherlands Spring Sale Event and in the Floriculture Building at the State Fair. We also were not able to hold our annual Plant Sale, causing a shortage in funds to provide Horticulture Scholarships for State Fair Community College this year.

With the State Fair being canceled due to Covid, we did have Ten (10) Master Gardeners volunteer to judge both the 4-H and FFA floriculture exhibits in the newly built Governors Pavilion.



Alva Rasa, Billie Long, and Julia Bailey at the Q & A 2020 Ag Expo in Sedalia, before Covid-19 arrived.



## County highlights

### Is it live or is it virtual – 4-H Animal Shows

The Pettis County 4-H/FFA Jr. Livestock Show was held Sunday and Monday, July 12 and 13, 2020 at the Swine Pavilion on the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The 2020 Show had 38 youth showing their animals.

A virtual show was also held for those youth that were not able to attend the face to face livestock show. 23 youth showed their animals by participating virtually. The youth provided images and a video showing their species just as they would in the show ring.



Eadlin and Gannon Hedgpeth joined Pettis 4-H just in time to show at the Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show.



Oopsie Buckle entrant – Wilma Wonka and her 3 Course Dinner Chewing Gum – roast beef in the middle

### First Annual BPH Livestock Judging Clinic

The BPH (Benton, Pettis and Henry Counties) Livestock Judging Clinic/Show was scheduled to be held face to face in September, but due to COVID restraints we ended up having it virtually.

10 Youth participated in the Heifer and Steer classes. The entrants had to provide images showing the front, back and both sides of the animal along with a video of them leading the animal.

Our panel of judges provided each youth feed back on their showmanship.

We had one buckle that was an oopsie from the manufacturer, they allowed us to keep the buckle. So we had an Oopsie Show for the 4-H parents/grandparents.



## County highlights

### Pettis County 4-H Clubs Youth Service to Communities

Each Pettis 4-H Club has their own community service project that they do each year. These projects range from making cards for Veterans to revamping the community gardens.

Before COVID-19 hit the 4-H world, Pettis County 4-H Clubs recorded some of their 1,267 hours in Youth Service to Community for the year.

The Clubs held paper and canned good drives on top of participating in the State 4-H Feeding Missouri Food Drive. One club participates in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing each Christmas. Ringen Brushy 4-H in Smithton provided some financial assistance for a family in need after a home fire. The youth made care packages for the homeless, cards for nursing homes and veterans. Served a



Dresden 4-H families dropped off donations while they were running errands during quarantine.



County Liners 4-H Club cleaned up and replanted the gardens in Cole Camp.

Christmas dinner. Baked countless cookies and goodies for Relay of Life bake sale and held even more bake sales throughout the community. A stuffed animal drive was held to benefit Child Safe and the Dresden 4-H Club purchases and collects new or gently used books for children in the Cancer Center in Columbia.



## County highlights



Zachary Ayers, Benjamin "Buzz" Harris and David Thomlinson, members of the Pettis County 4-H .22 Small bore Rifle Shooting Sports Team

### Pettis 4-H Shooting Sports takes 3<sup>rd</sup> in State for .22 Open Sights Rifle

Missouri State 4-H Shoot took place virtually this year. The youth participated at the Rod and Gun Club (Pettis County's home range) and sent in their score sheets to State to be tallied.

Congratulations to Zachary Ayers, Benjamin "Buzz" Harris and David Thomlinson; the Pettis County 4-H .22 Smallbore Rifle Shooting Sports Team. They took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the State Shoot. Thanks Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Hutcheson, Mr. Mahin and Mr. Curtis for all you do.

### Show-Me Master Gardeners

The Show-Me Master Gardener chapter is a very active, self-governing group operating within the guidelines set by the MU Extension program. By the end of 2020 the Show-Me Master Gardeners membership was 33 with four Emeritus Master Gardeners. Before Covid-19 halted us in our tracks, two of us held 16 classes in Pettis County and we logged 603 hours of volunteer work beautifying and educating Pettis County.

The ability to care for and enjoy living spaces has both physical and psychological benefits for people who garden. Programs provided by Master Gardeners share the extension message to the broader public. By promoting research based gardening and pesticide information, Master Gardeners help enrich the lives of their audiences while also encouraging more sustainable environmental practices.



Iris' beginning to bloom. Show-Me Master Gardeners maintain the gardens around Bothwell Lodge State Historical Site.