

# University of Missouri Extension-Ralls County

## 2016 Annual Report



The Ralls County extension office is located in the courthouse in New London.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**

University of Missouri Extension  
Ralls County

**“Live. And Learn”**

**P.O. Box 540, 311 S. Main St.  
New London, MO 63459  
Phone: (573) 985-3911  
Fax: (573) 985-3913  
Email: [Rallsco@missouri.edu](mailto:Rallsco@missouri.edu)**

January 30, 2017

Dear Commissioners and Citizens:

This Annual Report of the University of Missouri Extension Council-Ralls County is a summary of educational programs and activities of University of Missouri Extension, a part of the University of Missouri System. We salute volunteers, community leaders, council members, extension staff, community partners and others who gave time, talent and money to help improve the lives of Ralls County citizens.

Through programs in 4-H, youth, parenting, nutrition, food safety, community development, agriculture, business and continuing education, our goal is to make Ralls County a better place to live and work. We think our annual report indicates we are accomplishing this objective and meeting the priority needs of the county. University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate. Our programs and services are available to all. If you have Internet access, please visit our Web site, at <http://extension.missouri.edu/ralls>, and learn more about how we can help you.

James E. Meyer  
County Program Director

Jan Golian  
Extension Council President





January 5, 2017

Dear County Commissioners and Friends of MU Extension:

The past year was a busy one for University of Missouri Extension. As a long-time extension professional and new-comer to Missouri, I have found the support from people like you to be remarkable. Missouri is a special place with a promising future.

Through the efforts of faculty, staff and amazing volunteers, MU Extension connects millions of Missourians with knowledge they put into action in their daily lives. Using a range of learning experiences, we reach people of all ages and backgrounds, in every corner of the state.

In response to direct input received from local councils and the unique nature of each county, extension programs vary slightly across the state. This strength of local flexibility and public engagement enables county-based Mizzou faculty to provide local learning experiences that improve lives and community vitality. For example:

- MU Extension business specialists helped local Missouri businesses achieve sales increases of \$186 million while creating or retaining 7,766 jobs.
- Helping assure access to health care in local communities, MU Nursing Outreach made it possible for 2,094 nurses keep their skills up to date.
- Our 4-H youth development specialists and other extension team members worked with volunteers and community leaders to reach 269,000 youths ages 5 to 18 across the state.
- Anticipating the needs of Missouri's aging farm population, extension faculty developed workshops that target estate planning, succession and retirement planning specific to farmers.

These are just a few examples of how Mizzou's commitment to extension and engagement benefitted Missourians this past year.

In the interest of better serving Missourians, we are conducting a statewide needs assessment. It will include extensive input from local communities and stakeholders. It will result in stronger alignment between extension programs and local needs.

I encourage you to read the attached annual report from your county office to gain an understanding of how MU Extension has worked this past year to serve your community.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Extension

# UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

## Introduction

The University of Missouri-Ralls County Extension Center is the front door to the four campuses of the University of Missouri System and Lincoln University. MU Extension maintains a unique partnership among federal, state and local governments to provide access to the research-based resources needed to provide high-quality educational programs on issues of highest priority to meet the needs of the citizens of Missouri. The Ralls County Extension Council, as established by state statute, is a partner with University of Missouri Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture in the development, implementation and evaluation of extension educational programs.

State and federal funds provide salaries and benefits for MU Extension staff and other organizational needs. The Ralls County Commission appropriates funds related to the daily operations of the Ralls County office. We thank the county commission for their support.

## Quick Facts

- More than 1,718 contacts by educational programs and events.
- Weekly news column in local paper.
- More than 210 citizens directly receive newsletters and other personalized information.
- University of Missouri had 50 students enrolled from Ralls County.
- 4-H had 93 enrolled members in five clubs.
- Fire and Rescue Training Unit trained 17 volunteer firemen. Labor Education trained 10 citizens from the county in 2016.

## Program Highlights for 2016 Table of Contents

### Agriculture

<b>Livestock</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Agri-Business</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>	<b>9</b>

### Human Environmental Sciences

<b>Family Financial Education</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Family Nutrition Program</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Nutrition and Health</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>4-H</b>	<b>14</b>
------------	-----------

<b>Council and Staff Directory</b>	<b>15</b>
------------------------------------	-----------

## Budget Summary 2016

### Revenue

County Appropriations	\$55,500
-----------------------	----------

### Expenditures

Salaries	\$44,360
----------	----------

Travel	\$4,000
--------	---------

Communications	\$3,710
----------------	---------

Supplies	\$2,500
----------	---------

Insurance	\$430
-----------	-------

Other	\$500
-------	-------


<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$55,500</b>
---------------------------	-----------------

## Livestock Education

Beef Improvement  
Show-Me-Select Heifer

Daniel Mallory  
Livestock Specialist




<b>Number of Ralls County Learners</b>	<b>Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2016</b>	<b>What Did They Learn?</b>	<b>What Action Did They Take?</b>	<b>How Does This Work Make Ralls County and Missouri Better?</b>
Two Ralls County beef producers participated in the beef improvement program.	Each producer received about thirty hours of instruction.	Producers learned the importance of keeping performance records by taking weaning and yearling weights and heights on the farm.	Two producers collected the data on their bulls and used that information to help sell their livestock in the Tested Bull sale. The other producers sold their bulls off the farm.	Seven producers from Ralls County purchased 10 bulls in the sale because they could utilize the data provided to see which bull would further improve their herd.
Five beef producers were involved in the Show-Me-Select Heifer (SMS) program.	Each producer received about 80 hours of help or instruction.	Producers learned how to produce high quality, easy calving heifers. It also helped the producers learn the cost of producing a replacement heifer and the value they add to her by going through the SMS program.	It allows the participants to create a heifer development program for their herd. They also sold heifers in the program at a value added sale. They will have more predictable replacement heifers that will be more likely to save a calf at birth and make money for the person who buys them.	When you support MU Extension's Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program beef cattle producers successfully adopt research-proven reproductive and genetic technologies developed at the University of Missouri which add value to heifers in beef herds across the state. This leads to improved profitability and sustainability of family-owned operations, positively benefiting Missouri's economy by over \$80 million since its inception in 1997.
 <p><i>A lot of heifers being sold at the Show-Me-Select sale.</i></p>				

**Livestock Education**  
Artificial Insemination (AI) Breeding  
Show-Me-Quality Assurance

Daniel Mallory  
Livestock Specialist



<b>Number of Ralls County Learners</b>	<b>Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2016</b>	<b>What Did They Learn?</b>	<b>What Action Did They Take?</b>	<b>How Does This Work Make Ralls County and Missouri Better?</b>
<p>Two producer participated in the AI breeding program.</p>  <p><i>MU Extension mobile AI barn.</i></p>	<p>Each producer received two hours of instruction.</p>	<p>The producer learned how to use the AI boxes, how the boxes make AI breeding easier and less stressful on the animal.</p>	<p>The AI conception rate is increased by 5-15 percent due to the lower stress levels on heifers/cows as a result of the design of the breeding boxes.</p>	<p>Increases the productivity of a producer's herd affecting his profitability creating a positive impact on the economy of Ralls County.</p>
<p>15 youths participated in the Show-Me-Quality Assurance program.</p>	<p>The program lasted one and a half hours.</p>	<p>The participants learned specific information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- daily care and management,</li> <li>- animal identification,</li> <li>- reading feed labels,</li> <li>- drug withdrawal requirements,</li> <li>- bio-security,</li> <li>- proper injection sites and</li> <li>- carcass quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Meets the requirements for certification required to exhibit meat producing animals.</p> <p>Allows livestock and poultry project members to meet this requirement to complete their project.</p> <p>Increases the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production.</p>	<p>Increases quality of care and knowledge of livestock produced by youth in Ralls County.</p> <p>Increased profitability from quality livestock production has a positive impact on the economy of Ralls County and the state of Missouri.</p>





# Missouri Livestock Symposium

Zac Erwin, livestock specialist

Number of Ralls County learners.	Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016.	What did they learn?	What action did they take?	How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?
----------------------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------------	---

Three people attended.

3,425 hours

The Missouri Livestock Symposium is an annual educational program and trade show that attracts participants from throughout Missouri and beyond. It is recognized nationally as an outstanding program that targets agricultural producers and landowners.

Curricula includes workshops led by nationally-known speakers in the areas of horses, beef, sheep, stock dogs, meat goats, forages, around the home, small poultry production and farm continuation planning.

Comments:

- "Interesting speakers and able to reach a group that without the Symposium we would not be able to meet."
- "Great event highlighting livestock production and ag."

Based on post-session (retrospective) evaluations:

- 82 percent of participating producers indicated that they had an increased level of understanding on the principles provided in the sections of beef cattle, horse, sheep, meat goats, forages and stock dogs.
- On average, 87.5 percent of responding participants indicated they will adopt technologies presented in their respective sessions.

Public funding helps support the Missouri Livestock Symposium with objectives to provide educational opportunities for livestock producers and landowners representing all species of livestock, forages, and renewable resources and to promote the adoption of best management practices that are economically and environmentally beneficial.

The producer benefits from this program by being better able to manage their livestock and their financial resources. Financially successful producers provide a basis for successful communities.

Missourians benefit by keeping farm and ranch families in rural communities and improved natural resource stewardship.



Above: Over 80 agriculturally-related businesses, commodity groups, and organizations displayed their products for area producers to see in the trade show. One of the trade show participants keeps coming back because this event "draws diverse crowds." Another one stated, "good attendance, with people that have a need for our product."



Left: Saturday workshop participants engaged in one of the 48 individual sessions.

## Agri-Business Education

Farm Lease Meeting  
Ag Lenders

Karisha Devlin  
Agri-Business Specialist

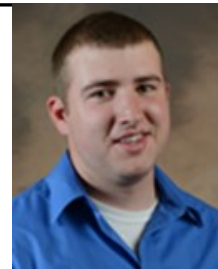



<b><i>Number of Ralls County learners</i></b>	<b><i>Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016</i></b>	<b><i>What did they learn?</i></b>	<b><i>What action did they take?</i></b>	<b><i>How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?</i></b>
Six Ralls County participants.	Three hours of instruction.	Participants learned about cash, flex and crop share leases. They also learned the proper ways to terminate both oral and written leases, and the items that make up a complete lease.	Participants gained information to help them in reaching an equitable lease agreement.	When you support MU Extension's Farm Lease program, you educate participants in lease issues and laws. This promotes better landlord-tenant communication and lessens conflict and costly litigation.
Four Ralls County participants. A total of 95 lenders attended from 18 Missouri counties plus Iowa and Illinois.	522 hours of instruction for all lenders.	<p>Ag Site Assessment, Macro Economics, Latest in Land Values and Rental Rates, Crop &amp; Livestock Outlook, Update on Taxes and Other Legal Issues, Livestock Risk Insurance, the Affordable Care Act, and new Extension curriculum.</p> <p>Lenders received the 2016 Missouri Farm Financial Outlook book which included budgets for all major crop and livestock enterprises in the state.</p>	<p>Lenders will help their agricultural customers to use the information and tools they were given. Specific actions include using the:</p> <p>Budgets; Crop &amp; Livestock Outlook; Rental Rates and Land Values; Tax and Ag Site Assessment information.</p>	<p>The lenders in attendance manage 6039 loans totaling \$637,960,000. By attending University of Missouri's Agricultural Lenders' seminars, lenders are able to help their clients make better decisions based on risk management tools, budgets, and other resources provided. This benefits their portfolio of producers and landowners by a better understanding of enterprise budgets and cash flow affecting families' and businesses' financial health. This is especially important with the downturn in the agricultural economy as both crop and livestock producers face low income, high input costs, and challenging marketing decisions.</p>



# **AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE** **EDUCATION PLUS DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES** **FOR FARM AND GARDEN SUCCESS**

Wyatt Miller  
Agronomy Specialist




Number of Ralls County learners	Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016	What did they learn?	What action did they take?	How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?
<p>Over 400 Ralls County participants that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Gardeners</li> <li>• Master Gardeners</li> <li>• Soil test customers</li> <li>• Plant and insect identification and diagnosis customers</li> <li>• Telephone and email requests for publications</li> <li>• Private Pesticide Applicator Training certification recipients</li> </ul>	<p>Over 600 hours of learning by Ralls County residents, including over 430 collective hours of learning and volunteering by Master Gardeners.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the various programs shows that participants learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic gardening</li> <li>• Pest identification</li> <li>• Soil fertility management to increase fertilizer efficiency and protect the environment</li> <li>• Pesticide application laws and best practices to safely and effectively apply pesticides deemed by the US EPA as restricted use in order to increase efficiency, reduce human health risks, and improve drinking water quality and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Management intensive grazing practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteered over 260 hours on Master Gardener projects in Ralls County</li> <li>• Used and taught proven gardening practices to grow more food</li> <li>• Used the safest and most efficient method to control the pest identified</li> <li>• Increased use of management intensive grazing practices</li> <li>• Managed fertilizer applications to row crop fields to maximize return per acre while minimizing loss of fertilizer to the environment</li> <li>• Applied restricted use pesticides using techniques and equipment that minimize human health risks and negative environmental impacts while providing the most effective pest control possible</li> </ul>	<p>By utilizing research proven best practices in their gardens and on their farms citizens of Ralls County improve their local economy. Regardless of whether research proven best practices are used to produce locally grown produce for a farmers market or corn and soybeans marketed globally, there are clear benefits to increasing efficiency, productivity, and safety. Current and future generations benefit when research proven best practices are used and result in improved productivity and reduced negative environmental impacts.</p>
				
<p><i>Groovy Gardeners of Ralls County participate in local parade.</i></p>				

## Commercial Horticulture

Beekeeping  
Pollinator Plants

Jennifer Schutter  
Horticulture Specialist



<b>Number of Ralls County learners</b>	<b>Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016</b>	<b>What did they learn?</b>	<b>What action did they take?</b>	<b>How does this make Ralls County and Missouri better?</b>
Three Ralls County residents attended the advanced beekeeping workshop held in Macon.	18 hours	Participants learned advanced beekeeping techniques from experienced beekeepers.	Participants planned to build hives and raise honey bees for honey production and pollination of crops. The afternoon session was conducted at the farm of a Macon County beekeeper. He showed participants how to smoke a hive and handle bees. He also showed how to determine if varroa mites are present in the hive among other beekeeping related techniques.	When you support University of Missouri Extension's Missouri Grown program, small scale producers and commercial growers are provided with unbiased and research-based information to make better decisions which will help them be successful with production of horticultural crops and raising bees.
 <p><i>Participants observe how to take care of a beehive.</i></p>				
Two Ralls County residents attended the Pollinators and Beneficial Plant workshop held in Kirksville.	4 hours	Participants learned how to establish pollinator plants on their property to attract monarch butterflies and other pollinators.	Participants indicated that they would plant milkweed plants and other pollinator plants in the spring.	

## Family Financial Education

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Wendy Brumbaugh  
Family Financial Education Specialist



<b><i>Number of Ralls County learners.</i></b>	<b><i>Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016</i></b>	<b><i>What did they learn?</i></b>	<b><i>What action did they take?</i></b>	<b><i>How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?</i></b>
<p>770 northeast Missouri taxpayers that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low to moderate income working families</li> <li>• Students</li> <li>• Senior citizens</li> <li>• Single parent households</li> <li>• Disabled residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1120 hours of collective learning.</li> <li>• 41 VITA volunteers provided 1230 hours to the project in the region (a value of \$26,898).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All volunteers passed Standards of Conduct and Basic certification test, Intermediate test, and/or advanced test.</li> </ul> <p>Evaluations show participants learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What credits they are eligible for</li> <li>• How to determine the amount they should have withheld from all income sources.</li> <li>• About finances from using the VITA program (Volunteers go over financial handouts clients are given on credit reports, predatory lending, budgeting, saving and more.)</li> <li>• About tax planning, options and future deduction possibilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased necessities, thus spending and recirculating money back into local communities.</li> <li>• Paid bills.</li> <li>• Reduced or paid off debt.</li> <li>• Established or increased emergency savings.</li> <li>• Repaired or replaced vehicles.</li> </ul>	<p>When you support MU Extension's MoTax Initiative Program, participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Save an average of \$200 in tax preparation fees per year</li> <li>- avoid high-cost refund anticipation loans</li> <li>- Learn basic financial management strategies.</li> </ul> <p>This leads to increased cash flow and reduced family debt, benefiting other community members by reducing demand for public assistance, stabilizing the county tax base and stimulating the economy. This change begins in the taxpayer's community, and continues through federal and state tax refund dollars and dollars from tax credits.</p> <p><b>As a result of this program, taxpayers in NE MO received \$810,141 in federal refunds and \$288,315 in Earned Income Credits.</b></p>

## Family Nutrition Program (FNP)

Nutrition and Life Skills for Missouri Families

Sarah Woodrow  
Chelsea Lippincott-Dunn  
Nutrition Program Associates



<b>Number of Ralls County learners</b>	<b>Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016</b>	<b>What did they learn?</b>	<b>What action did they take?</b>	<b>How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?</b>
University of Missouri Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP) reached 290 participants directly and 259 indirectly with nutrition education in Ralls County during 2016, a significant percentage of whom 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.	145 collective workshop hours.	Preschool to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade youth learned nutrition and health information through lessons with hands on activities. They had opportunities for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taste-testing healthy foods</li> <li>• practicing skills that lead to good health.</li> </ul> Adult education includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nutrition</li> <li>• food safety</li> <li>• physical activity</li> <li>• food resource management.</li> </ul>	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.	<p>The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$8,582,289 in Federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 951,652 food stamp recipients and food stamp eligible citizens of Missouri. 549 of these participants reside in Ralls County.</p> <p>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.</p>
<div data-bbox="289 1260 1031 1675" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Students learn about healthy eating from Sarah.</i></p>				



## Nutrition and Health Education

Diabetes Education  
Chronic Disease

Jim Meyer  
Nutrition and Health Education Specialist



<b><i>Number of Ralls County learners</i></b>	<b><i>Total hours of collective workshop participation in 2016</i></b>	<b><i>What did they learn?</i></b>	<b><i>What action did they take?</i></b>	<b><i>How does this work make Ralls County and Missouri better?</i></b>
Two residents attended a diabetes self-management program.	Diabetes Self-management is a 6 session, 2 hours a session program. The participants received 12 hours of instruction.	Participants learned to monitor their blood glucose, make healthy food choices, read food labels, manage stress, and use physical activity to help control their diabetes symptoms.	Participants made an action plan after each session. Some of the plans included increasing physical activity, checking their blood sugar and counting carbohydrates. Other plans included working more closely with their physician to manage their disease.	When you support MU Extension's Chronic Disease Self-Management program, you help participants with chronic conditions learn proven, effective interventions. These interventions can reduce symptoms, give participants the confidence to manage their condition, improve their quality of life and reduce health care costs.
Seventeen clients of Comprehensive Health Systems attended the Chronic Disease Self-management program..	The workshop lasted 12 hours for a total of 204 collective hours of instruction..	Participants learned different tools they can use to better manage their chronic disease. These tools include: using your mind to manage symptoms, getting a good night's sleep, a technique for problem solving, dealing with difficult emotions, physical activity, pain and fatigue management, better breathing, healthy eating, communication skills, medication usage, dealing with depression, making informed treatment decisions, weight management, and working with your healthcare team and organization.	Participants created action plans to change their health habits. One participant changed how she managed stress. Other participants started exercising. One participant used what they learned from the program to quit smoking.	When you support MU Extension's Chronic Disease Self-Management program, you help participants with chronic conditions learn proven, effective interventions. These interventions can reduce symptoms, give participants the confidence to manage their condition, improve their quality of life and reduce health care costs.

## 4-H

A Community of Members Build Life Skills, Engaging in Science and Connecting to Community



Patty Fisher  
4-H Youth Development Specialist



Number of Ralls County Learners	Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2016	What Did They Learn?	What Action Did They Take?	How Does This Work Make NE MO Counties and Missouri Better?
<p>There were 93 members in the traditional club program.</p> <p>Sixty three trained volunteers.</p>	<p>2,750 4-H member learning hours in 2016.</p> <p>2,375 adult volunteer hours in 2016.</p>	<p>Ralls County 4-H is a community of young people learning citizenship, leadership and life skills. 4-H continues to develop new projects to reach new interests of youth including photography, public speaking, shooting sports, computer programming, filmmaking, robotics and other interests. Through the five organized clubs, school enrichment groups, camps and more, Ralls County 4-H is offering life-long learning opportunities.</p> <p><b>County</b></p> <p>Achievement Night—27 members</p> <p>Plant Workshop - 19 members</p> <p>Officer Training - 16 members</p> <p>Project Leader Training - 10 volunteers</p> <p><b>Fair Exhibits:</b></p> <p>50 state fair exhibits</p> <p>124 county fair livestock exhibits</p> <p>372 county fair inside exhibits</p> <p>24 entries in the shooting sports contests</p> <p><b>Regional, State, and National 4-H Attendance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•4-H Camp – 21 members</li> <li>•State 4-H Congress - one member</li> <li>•State Meats Contest - four members</li> <li>•State Fashion Revue – one member</li> <li>•State Shooting Sports Contest – nine members</li> <li>•Regional Energizer - three members and one adult.</li> </ul>	<p>Missouri 4-H members spend more of their leisure time than peers engaged in projects of interest anchored in science. It is no wonder, 4-H members are three times more likely to go into science related careers than similar peers. In Ralls County, 65 of the 93 members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.</p> <p>Missouri 4-H members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. Being on campus is a predictor of a youth going on to higher education. Ralls County members participate in trips, contests and educational events on the MU Campus. These youth are more likely to go to college and increase financial success for themselves and their family.</p> <p>Youth who earn their bachelor's degree, increase their annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime. If 40% of Ralls members attend 4-H events on a college campus go on to earn their bachelors, 4-H would help them earn \$40,200,000!</p>	<p>4-H Youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and health for the 21st century workforce. 4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests in citizenship, communication and leadership. 4-H youth are reported to be three times more likely to go into science related careers than similar peers. Ninety Ralls County 4-H members 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. This leads to 4-H members being twice as likely to expect to go onto college.</p> <p>Missouri 4-H volunteers, responding to a survey, report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$21.30 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Ralls County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$134,000 in 2016! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into healthy adulthood, priceless!</p>



Ralls County Master Gardeners work with 4-H members to create terrariums.



Judy Layher (left), daughter of Frank Graham, presents the 2016 Frank Graham 4-H Volunteer Leadership Award to Dana Keller of Ralls County.



## OUR HISTORY

Cooperative Extension was established in 1914 as a national educational network designed to extend technical expertise and research findings to help people improve their homes, families, farms, businesses, and communities. One hundred years later, it is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world.

The Morrill Act of 1862, which established land-grant colleges, and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which instituted Cooperative Extension Service, are the foundations for the University Extension mission. The Morrill Act of 1890 also established Lincoln University as a land-grant institution. Together, University of Missouri Extension helps Missourians use knowledge to solve problems and lead more productive lives.

### Extension Mission

Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.

## Who's Reaching Out In Ralls County

### Ralls County Extension Council Officers

Jan Golian	chair
Laurie Means	vice chair
Janine Stephenson	secretary
John Freiling	treasurer

### Elected Members

Al Kennett	Clay
Mary Freiling	Clay
Joe Broughton	Saline
Leota Shoemyer	Saline
Joy Hoyt	Jasper
Gary Fowler	Jasper
Vickie Rouse	Salt River
Arlen Provancha	Town of Perry
Helen Bunn	Saverton
Charles Paschal	Saverton

### Appointed Members

Adam Gatson	Farm Bureau
Houston Lugena	Young Adult
Matthew Hiner	Young Adult
Clayton Robinson	Youth
Kyla Ingram	Youth
Steve Whitaker	County Court

The University of Missouri Extension Council—Ralls County meets the fourth Thursday of the month in the basement of the courthouse in New London. Meetings are open to the public. Council election is held each January. If you are interested in serving on the council, please contact the extension office at 573-985-3911 for more information.

### Ralls County MU Extension Staff



Jim Meyer,  
Nutrition  
and Health  
Education  
Specialist



Daniel Mallory,  
Livestock  
Specialist



Deidre Martin,  
Youth Program  
Assistant



Pat  
Gibbs,  
Secretary

### Other Staff Serving Ralls County

#### Agriculture

Karisha Devlin	Agri-business	573-660-2179
Wyatt Miller	Agronomy	573-633-2640
Kent Shannon	Engineer	573-445-9792

#### Human Environmental Sciences

Sherry Nelson	Human Develop.	573-769-2177
Wendy Brumbaugh	Family Financial	573-633-2640
Sarah Woodrow	Family Nutrition	573-769-2071

#### Community Development

John Gulick	573-324-5464
-------------	--------------

#### Business Development

Charles Holland	660-327-4158
Chris Shoemaker	660-385-2173

#### 4-H Youth

Patty Fisher	573-324-5464
--------------	--------------

#### Regional Director

Shelley Bush-Rowe	660-263-0972
-------------------	--------------