

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Taney County

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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December 4, 2017

Dear County Commissioners and Friends of MU Extension:

For much of the past year, MU Extension was focused on a long-overdue assessment of statewide needs and a deep look at how we respond to these needs with programs and resources.

We crisscrossed the state to gather input from 42 community conversations with 1,200 people and reviewed analysis and recommendations from a range of external experts. As a result, MU Extension is working on a variety of changes in the interest of providing better university engagement with your communities.

We are steadfast in our resolve to help local communities and the state meet grand challenges associated with economic opportunity, educational excellence and healthy futures. These challenges reflect what Missourians from every corner of the state told us they were most concerned about.

As you read your county's annual MU Extension report, I believe you will be pleased to see the results that have been accomplished through county-based University of Missouri faculty. These faculty members work in response to input received from local extension councils.

At the state level, local MU Extension efforts really add up. Though we have long known extension funds were leveraged, an independent review revealed that MU Extension created more than \$945 million dollars of public value from the \$80 million it received from federal, state, county, grant and contract partners. A public value ratio exceeding 11:1 even surprised us.

As we go about implementing changes based on the recently completed needs assessment and review of our organization, I am confident that our ability to create value at the local level will be even greater.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.

Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local Extension Councils Cooperating

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS



January 2018

Taney County Commission
Courthouse
Forsyth, MO 65653

Dear Commissioners:

The University of Missouri Extension council and staff would like to thank the Taney County commissioners for their support and funding for programs during this past year. The council and staff remain committed to improving people's lives by helping them meet the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century with research-based education and information.

University of Missouri Extension works as a partnership of the University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, the people of Missouri through county extension councils and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of MU Extension is to "serve Missouri by extending the unbiased research-based knowledge and problem-solving resources of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University to focus on high-priority needs of people throughout the state." The University of Missouri and Lincoln University are Missouri's two land-grant universities, charged by federal acts of Congress to deliver extension programs.

County residents decide the direction of extension's educational programming. Current programming efforts statewide focus on agricultural profitability and viability, building family and individual strengths, building human resources, business development, community and economic development, enhancing health and nutrition, environmental quality and stewardship, and youth development.

The contents of this report are a summary of the highlights of our educational efforts during the past year in Taney County. The Taney County MU Extension specialists are also assigned to cover and provide programming in their specific areas of expertise for the southwest region of Missouri. We hope that this report provides a greater understanding about the University of Missouri Extension programming efforts in Taney County.

Submitted by,

Chip Arnette
Extension Council Secretary

Angela Leist
County Council Chair

Willa L. Williams
Program Director

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local University Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Missouri Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, Disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran in employment or programs.

Who We Are

Taney County MU Extension Council

Chip Arnette
 Alan Banta
 Susan Bearden
 Sandra Hoff
 Barbara Hunt
 Luanna LaVielle-Fullerton
 Angela Leist
 Austin Moore
 Jim Lawson
 Kristopher Peters
 Roger Pock
 Marcus Ramsey
 Chris Robertson
 Ryan Sanders
 Hammons Schanda
 Melanie Smith
 Denver West
 Sheila Wyatt

Taney County Commissioners

Mike Scofield, Presiding Commissioner
 Sheila Wyatt, Eastern District Commissioner
 Brandon Williams, Western District Commissioner

Missouri State Legislators

David Slater, Senator
 Don Phillips, House Representative District 138
 Lyle Rowland, House Representative District 155
 Jeff Justus, House Representative District 156

MU Extension Taney County Faculty and Staff

Barbara Beck, Nutrition Program Associate
 Will Knuckles, MSU Agronomy Graduate Assistant
 Lynda LaRocque, Office Support Staff
 Willa L Williams, Ed.D., 4-H Youth Development Specialist and County Program Director
 Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development Counselor

Regional MU Extension Faculty and Staff serving Taney County

Jeff Barber, Housing and Environmental Design
 David L. Burton, Civic Communications Specialist
 Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist
 Pam K. Duitsman, Nutrition and Health Specialist
 Theresa Fossett, Regional FNP Coordinator
 Amy Patillo, Ed.D., Community Development Specialist
 Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist
 Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist
 Robert Schultheis, Natural Resource Engineering Specialist
 Jim Spencer, Jr., Agriculture Business Specialist
 Randy Wiedmeier, Livestock Specialist

Southwest Regional Office MU Extension

Jay Chism, Southwest Regional Director
 Sarah Grubaugh, Southwest Regional Administrative Associate

2017 Taney County University of Missouri Extension Council Annual Income and Expense Report

Income

County Appropriation \$51,950.41
 Student Fees \$7,399.00
 Investment Income \$265.43
 Gifts/Grants/Contracts \$5,100.60
 Resales/Ed.Serv.Fees \$2,202.69
 Program Reimb. \$6,887.24
 Univ. Program Funds \$1,875.00
 Total Income \$75,680.37

Expenses

Secretary Salary \$29,597.08
 Payroll Expenses \$26.00
 Travel \$6,796.89
 Postage \$1,336.46
 Telephone \$2,929.44
 Cell Phone Reimb. \$1,505.00
 Supplies/Services \$6,031.53
 Pro.Org.Memberships \$50.00
 Insurance \$86.00
 Miscellaneous \$752.50
 Office Temp \$650.00
 Council Expenses \$374.82
 4-H Foundation Dues \$360.00
 4-H Program Fees \$4,686.57
 Livestock Premiums -\$12.00
 CTF Dispersements \$3,789.09
 VITA \$2,000.00
 4-H County Approp. \$2,636.04
 Soil Test Expenses \$1,083.50
 Farm Family \$318.00
 Publication for Resale \$357.44
 Repairs/Maintenance \$887.90
 Furniture/Equip. \$915.74
 Fee Generation for MU \$2,550.00

Total Expenses \$69,698.00

Net Income \$5,982.37



4-H Youth Development Education

Willa L. Williams, Ed.D.



The U.S. needs youth prepared to live and work in a world that no one can imagine - for jobs that do not yet exist, using technology that has not been invented, and solving problems that have not yet been identified.

Number of Youth Participants

In Taney County, 100% of 4-H participants were engaged in science related projects and experiences. Taney County 4-H is a growing community of almost 4,000 youth building life skills, engaging in science and contributing to their community.

4-H participants = 165. Taney County 4-H community clubs, in school clubs, and special interest programs offered long-term educational experiences in which youth learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of the 4-H youth specialist and adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from aerospace to veterinary science. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

4-H special interest program participants = 3,357*. Taney County 4-H enrichment programs are short-term educational experiences that included back to school fairs, Buchanan STEAM night and Block Party. We also indirectly reached thousands more through events such as Bass Pro Outdoor Days and 4-H Day at Silver Dollar City.

* Duplicates not removed.

Volunteers and Economic Impacts

Volunteers create, support and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$24.14 per hour (Independent Sector, 2017), the contribution of 30 Taney County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$72,420 in 2017. These individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth helping them transition into adulthood.

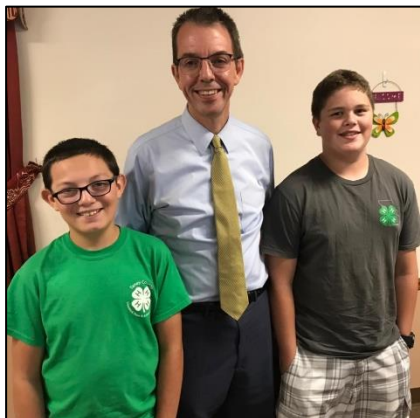
How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

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. In fact, 4-H'ers are more likely to pursue careers related to science, engineering and technology because they spend more time engaging in science programs (Lerner & Lerner, 2011). It is not surprising that 4-H youth are three times more likely to go into science related careers than similar peers (Lerner & Lerner, 2008).

4-H youth are nearly twice as likely to go to college compared to their non 4-H peers (Lerner & Lerner, 2011). Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (NACUBO, 2012). If 50% of the youth participating in 4-H community and in-school clubs in Taney County obtain an undergraduate degree, 4-H would collectively help young people acquire \$96 million more of lifetime earnings.



Taney County 4-H in 2017



Taney County 4-H meets MU Vice Chancellor for Extension & Engagement, Dr. Marshall Stewart.



Taney County 4-H Achievers attended 4-H Day with the Cardinals in St. Louis and walked the field pre-game.



The 4-H Shooting Sports Club started Outdoor Skills this year, including orienteering.



Taney County 4-H member is interviewed by Branson TV while volunteering at Bass Pro Outdoor Days.



4-H has the best volunteers! The 4-H Trailblazers club helped Clover Kids build bird houses.



The Trinity Christian Academy 4-H Club launched water rockets for aerospace projects.



The 4-H Shooting Sports Club competes at several regional and state events.



Many of the 4-H Shooting Sports Club members receive awards at regional and state events. One of our members, Jacob P., was chosen to be a part of the Missouri 4-H State Shotgun team



The Trinity Christian Academy Junior and Senior 4-H Clubs held an early Achievement Day in November for their cake decorating project.

Agronomy

Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist



Taney County Residents Served

Taney County taxpayers served by the program and total hours of collective workshop participation:

- Farmers and homeowners continue to need information for their fertilizer and lime purchasing decisions. These are based on unbiased fertility testing and research provided by University of Missouri Extension. Tim Schnakenberg, agronomy specialist signed each report and made additional remarks on them as needed. This year there were 71 soil tests submitted through the Taney County Extension Center
- 65 farmers attended the Taney County Livestock & Forage Conference
- 24 private pesticide applicators were certified at the Private Pesticide Applicator training in Taneyville
- 25 farmers some from Taney County attended a 3-day grazing school in Ozark
- 400 farmers and ranchers, including many from Taney County attended the Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference in Springfield.



What Did They Learn?

- Soil test reports outline soil chemical characteristics, and also include management recommendations
- Farmers and ranchers learned how to assist the cow and calf during calving and practical advice on what to do before the veterinarian shows up
- Farmers discussed tips on successfully weaning calves
- Farmers learned the good, the bad and the ugly of Johnsongrass on farms
- Farmers learned to think differently about how they manage their pastures

What Action Did They Take?

- Soil test clients used the soil test reports to plan fertility management, and to apply only needed fertilizers. Clients saved money by reducing unneeded fertilizer applications
- Farmers used the information shared during the farm visit to help guide management decisions. Farmers saved money by making informed decisions
- Farmers examined their production practices, and took action to adopt hops production practices that enhance profitability
- Farmers used the skills gained at the workshop to get started in fruit production and to expand and refine already existing production
- Farmers used the skills gained at the workshops to develop new farming enterprises
- Home gardeners adopted science-based gardening practices

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

- The proper use of fertilizers reduces the problems associated with fertilizer movement away from target areas, which impacts water and soil quality. In particular, storm water quality issues are impacted by excess fertilizers.
- Farmers who are profitable and successful contribute to the sustainability of themselves and their families, to the sustainability of the natural resources on their farms, and to the sustainability of the economy in Taney County.
- Fruit production offers the potential to expand production and enhance profitability for farmers in Taney County. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies.
- Berries and small ruminants can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies. Consumers benefit from an enhanced supply of locally grown fruits/vegetables, during the winter months.
- Participants reported improved self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment upon completion of the workshops. These workshops enhance the quality of life for residents of Taney County

Success Stories

- **GRAZING SCHOOLS TEACH FARMERS HOW TO BE MORE EFFICIENT GRAZIERS** - MU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have worked together since 1990 to offer grazing schools around the state. In June, there was a school hosted at a the Ozark high school farm. Taney county farm producers participated. The three-day school allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. Twenty-five farmers participated this year at the school.



- **FARMERS AND RANCHERS ATTENDED THE SPRING FORAGE CONFERENCE** - Over 400 farmers and ranchers, including many from Taney County, attended the 33rd Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference held in Springfield. Concurrent sessions were held throughout the day on a variety of topics of interest to most grass producers and it was accompanied by a large trade show where attendees could visit with vendors. This event is a partnership between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State University.

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2017 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks have aggressively taken on new projects and activities, including beginning the process of hosting the 2018 state Master Gardener conference. A total of 5,221 hours were reported in 2017 by sixty-six master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. They reported making 1,439 contacts with persons in the community in 2017. The first-year Master Gardeners are required to provide 30 hours of service and seasoned master gardeners are only required to provide 20 hours. This year the master gardeners each averaged 79 hours of service. This was a 36 percent increase over 2016. According to the latest figures from the Independent Sector organization, the hourly wage for Missouri volunteer hours currently is \$21.57. If you put a value on the education and service hours provided to the community, the value totals \$112,600 worth of volunteer time! Tim Schnakenberg served as advisor for the master gardener activities in the Stone and Taney County area.



A typical Master Gardeners of the Ozarks monthly meeting at the Dewey Short Visitor's Center.



A scene from the very successful garden tour in the Kimberling City area.

Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 91 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 51 who reside in Stone County, 37 in Taney County, two in Christian County and one who resides in Boone County, Arkansas. The master gardeners were lead this year by Penny Meador, president, Faith Meinzen, vice-president, Marie Ewing, secretary, and Joanne Anderson, treasurer. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter boasts 29 emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program. This year, two more were added: Dorothy Brunskill and Elaine Fischer.

Internal Grant Program Funded Five Special Projects

The internal grant committee in 2017 allocated \$5,332 for five projects: Forsyth Demonstration Garden; Kimberling Senior Center, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Heritage Garden and Taneyhills Library Gardens. The committee was chaired by Danny Manis. Funds for projects originated from local educational program activities and fund-raisers.

Taneyhills Community Library Junior Gardeners Landscaping Project in Branson

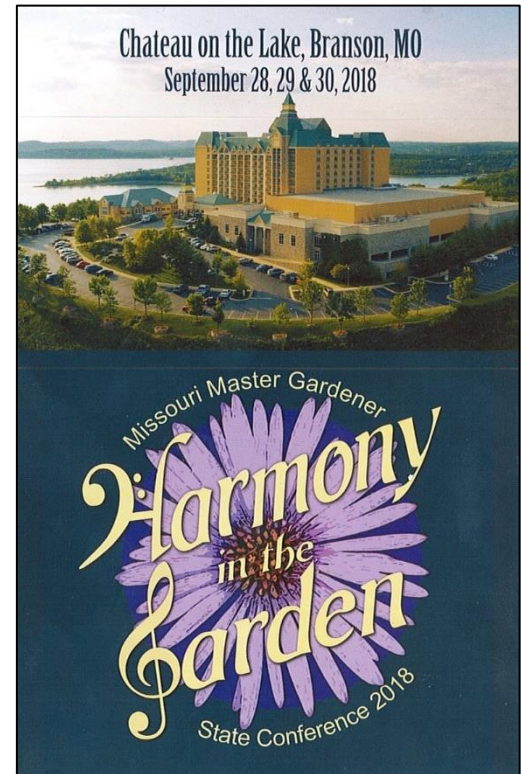
A new project was funded this year through the grant program in Branson. About 15-20 youth gardeners worked on many project days to transform landscaping and parking lot areas into a gardening oasis. Coordinated by Patty Slicer, this project won the Beautification Award for August from the city of Branson and helped to develop a love for garden among the city's youth.

Committees Formed to Host the State Master Gardener Conference

A large undertaking occurred in 2017 as a feasibility committee was formed to determine whether to host the state master gardener conference in Branson. As a result, the membership approved the proposal and a new conference committee met frequently, chaired by Sharon Nance. A lot of groundwork was laid for this conference to be held September 28, 29 and 30, 2018 at the Chateau on the Lake.

Gardening Workshops Bring Out 320 Participants!

The gardening public continues to turn to the Spring and Fall Gardening Workshops for reliable advice on gardening in the Ozarks. There were 197 that attended in Branson in March and 123 came to Kimberling City in September. Topics included tips and trick for vegetable garden production, exercise for preventing gardening injuries, plant disease diagnostics, monarch butterflies, hostas and other perennial companion plants for shade, eating smart from the garden, autumn gardening and native trees and shrubs. Participants commented on the surveys by saying: "I have been attending the spring and fall workshops regularly for the past ten years. Every workshop has provided a wealth of knowledge. The presentations are always very interesting and speakers are fabulous. Thank you!"; "This has been one of the best workshops with great speakers for each topic"; "Top shelf...so much and very interesting. My first time and I hope to be back next year."; "Incredible program, start to finish."



Nine Programs Offered at the Demonstration Garden



The Taneyhills Community Library Junior Gardeners garden receiving the City of Branson's Beautification Award.

The Demonstration Garden in Forsyth launched 2017 with "Springtime in the Garden". This event included an Arbor Day activity, a very successful plant sale and a workshop on "Wild Culinary Arts". The plant sale was well attended and a good money maker for our organization but the best benefit was the education interaction that went on with those in attendance learning from master gardeners and strolling the Demonstration Garden. The Brown Bag Lunch programs were well attended and was coordinated by Marva Ramsey and committee. They were offered once a month April through October and covered a range of speakers and topics including tool sharpening, frugal gardening, choosing fertilizer, growing roses, healthy decisions with food purchases, garden art and a discussion on gardens to visit.

Garden Tour Featured Some of the Area's Best Gardens

Master gardeners offered their ninth garden tour in June at select locations in the Branson West and Kimberling City area. "Hills & Hollers Garden Tour" was chaired by Louise Mansfield and this tour brought together 104 participants with numerous volunteers who worked the tour sites.

Seven Programs Offered at the Kimberling Area Library

The monthly program at the Kimberling Area Library in Kimberling City has been going on for several years and offered seven seminars taught by local master gardeners. There were 153 participants this year, coordinated by Kathryn Kufahl.

“Let’s Get Growing” Garden Series at the Crane Public Library

The master gardeners were involved in a new educational series this year in Crane with the Crane Public Library. There were seven programs offered by master gardener members for the public including the topics of seed starting, perennials for springtime color, growing organic vegetables, growing microgreens, butterfly gardens and bringing in flowers for the fall.



The conference committee working out details for the 2018 state conference in Branson.

Corps of Engineers Project Office Landscaping

The Project Office near the Dewey Short Center and Table Rock dam is one of the largest garden projects in the chapter. Volunteers take care of garden cleanup, planting, mulching, dead-heading, weeding and irrigation. The Corps of Engineers funds this project. Bill Greet chairs this highly visible project.

Master Gardener Radio Show in its Fourth Year

The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks radio show is now in its fourth year with KRZK radio (106.3 FM). The show is twice a week on the first and second Tuesday of each month and runs for an hour. Kathryn Kufahl and Sandra Reames have been hosting along with Scott McCaulley, the local radio host. The show has received very good feedback from the listeners and reaches over 2,000 listeners on any given day. Subjects discussed have included topics such as colors of new garden plant material, invasive plants, garden pests and “to do” lists for what is needed in your garden for each month.

On-Line Master Gardener Course Brought in New Members

Four new master gardeners were trained through the statewide on-line master gardener course.

Master Gardener Scholarship Offered to College Student

Education is the primary function of master gardeners and many proceeds from educational events go toward scholarships for college students majoring in horticulture or a similar field. Elaine Fischer coordinated this effort. For 2017, the recipient for the master gardener \$1,000 scholarship was College of the Ozarks student, Elizabeth Barnes. The scholarship committee met to re-evaluate the scholarship process and make recommendations to the membership for future procedures. As a result, a more expanded scholarship offering is planned for 2018.



Master gardeners awarded College of the Ozarks student Elizabeth Barnes a check for being the scholarship recipient.

Education and Improved Landscape Emphasis in our Communities

Some of the other ongoing projects that made a significant impact in local communities included Bonniebrook Homestead landscaping, Stonebridge Heritage Garden landscaping, Shell Knob Senior Center landscaping, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden and Stone County courthouse and library landscaping. There are many more smaller projects that are too innumerable to cover, but combined they make a startling impact throughout our region.

Master Gardeners Hosted "Springtime in the Garden"

The second annual Master Gardeners of the Ozarks Plant Sale was a popular attraction with over 1500 perennials available for purchase. Proceeds from this sale go towards grant programs for community gardens and Master Gardener Project Gardens.

- Cindy Garner, Community Forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation was on hand to present a program on Tree Planting and Care followed by the distribution of free Red Mulberry and Washington Hawthorn trees.
- Hollister High School Agriculture students and their instructor, Brad Buttram, hosted a sales area with annuals and vegetables grown in their school greenhouse.
- In the afternoon, Rachel West, a Wild Edibles educator, presented an interesting program on Wild Culinary Arts
- Master Gardener, Tom Riley, hosted a table with information on our Pollinators and what we can do to provide more food sources.
- They also had a "Pollinator Potluck Box" of assorted plants to start an instant Butterfly Garden. Lots of free seeds and informational pamphlets were available for all to enjoy. It was a full day of day of learning and gardening inspiration.

Members of the Master Gardeners for the Ozarks participated in the "Hands & Hearts on a mission" at their annual plant sale in Forsyth.



Roger Huey helps in planting the landscape beds at the Stone County Library in Galena. This is one example of the many beautification projects that the master gardeners stay busy doing in their communities.



In honor of Arbor Day the Taney County Commissioners let the master gardeners plant a tree donated by the Missouri Department of Conservation at the judicial center. Pictured left to right Master Gardener Marie Ewing, MDC urban forestry agent Cindy Garner, Eastern district commissioner, Sheila Wyatt, Presiding commissioner Mike Scofield, Master Gardner Marva Ramsey.





Business Development

Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development Counselor

Taney County Residents Served

- 20 Business owners received multiple consulting sessions regarding their small businesses
- 90 Training event attendees

What Did They Learn?

- Entrepreneurs learned how to successfully start their businesses
- Business owners learned how to manage and grow their businesses
- Business owners learned how to more effectively and efficiently promote their businesses using digital marketing
- New target markets were identified
- Understanding of financial statements and cash flow

What Action Did They Take?

- Capitalization of \$2,276,500
- 2 new businesses started
- 16 new jobs created
- Government contracts of \$824,036

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

- New businesses help create additional jobs
- New and existing business growth contributes to local, county, and state taxes
- Promotes economic development through new and retained jobs, increased sales, technology development and commercialization
- Knowledge gained through training and one-on-one consulting sessions allows business owners to operate more efficiently and expand their businesses
- Business owners learn industry best practices and are able to apply them to their businesses to promote growth in sales, additional jobs, and increased productivity
- Business owners understand and are able to manage their cash flow to create stronger businesses for our local and state economy

Family Financial Education *Education Plus Action Solutions for Family Financial Success*

Nellie Lamers, Family Financial Education



Number of Taney County Residents Served

77+MTI Oct 13 Taney County participants including:

- Taney County Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation clients,
- Probation and paroled citizens,
- Drug court participants,
- Local business employees, and
- Citizens and residents not associated with a particular agency.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2017

166 +MTI (# attendees x 1.5 hours) Oct 13 hours of collective learning by Taney County residents.

- Making Money Count Sessions: Making Decisions, Communicating about Money, Creating a Spending Plan, Record Keeping and Taxes
- Health Insurance Education Initiative Sessions
- Supervisory Series: Generational and Personality Differences and Communicating Successfully
- Lunch and Learn: Review of Discrimination Laws; Influencing Up; Innovation: Right Brain Thinking in a Left Brain

What Did They Learn?

Evaluation of the various workshops show participants learned:

- How the Affordable Care Act affects them and their families, how to compare health insurance plans, how to get help enrolling in the health insurance marketplace,
- How to track monthly Income, fixed, flexible and periodic expenses,
- How to create a budget based on income and expenses,
- The website where you can get a free credit report annually- annualcreditreport.com,
- How to deal with difficult people, why professionalism is important, how to create the appropriate climate to empower individuals and teams and how to fulfill the legal responsibilities of the supervisory role.

What Action Did They Take?

100% of the participants had written financial goals by the conclusion of their work.

Participants reduce their financial stress and take positive actions such as:

- Preparing a spending plan/budget and using it control spending,
- Establishing or adding to emergency and other savings funds,
- Obtaining a copy of their credit report, keeping records of credit use,
- Organizing their financial records,
- Paying credit card bills on time and making more than the minimum payment,
- Reducing credit card balances and paying off debt,
- Finding how much credit costs before using it,
- Setting one or more financial goals, and
- Purchasing a health insurance policy

**How Does This Work
Make Taney County
and Missouri Better?**

When you support MU Extension's Family Financial Education programs, participants spend and borrow responsibly, save more and gain control over their financial health. These behaviors benefit other community members by reducing predatory lending and reliance on public assistance programs, reducing theft and lowering banking fees.

Making Money Count program, participants learn to communicate more effectively with family and professionals about finances which leads to reduced financial stress and increased success in reaching financial goals, which benefits other community members by reducing debt discharged in bankruptcy and improving the business climate in the county and in Missouri.

When Creditors are Predators (Predatory Lending) program, participants learn how predatory loans work and what they cost, establish emergency savings that will help to avoid the need for predatory lenders and use quality lenders when borrowing is necessary, which leads to reduced cost of credit for low-income families and freeing up money that would have been spent on interest and fees for predatory lenders so families can address additional financial needs, which benefits other community members by decreasing the number of predatory lenders operating in Missouri and creating a more stable environment for quality lenders.

Family Financial Education Missouri Tax Initiative – VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

Nellie Lamers, Family Financial Education



Taney County Residents Served

- Low to moderate income working families,
- Students,
- Senior citizens,
- Single parent households, and
- Disabled residents.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2017

2312 hours of collective learning by Taney County residents and 10 VITA volunteers provided 1008 hours to the project in Taney County (a value of \$24,333).

What Did They Learn?

- What credits they are eligible for,
- How to determine the amount they should have withheld from their income sources,
- About health insurance requirements, how their taxes will be affected and options for getting health insurance
- About tax planning, options and future deduction possibilities.

All volunteers passed Standards of Conduct, Intake/Interview/Quality Review and Advanced Certification tests.

What Action Did They Take?

- Purchased necessities, thus spending and recirculating money in Taney County,
- Paid bills,
- Reduced or paid off debt,
- Established or increased emergency savings,
- Repaired or replaced their vehicles.

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

When you support MU Extension's MoTax Initiative program, participants save an average of \$200 (currently) in tax preparation fees per year, avoid high-cost refund anticipation loans, and learn basic financial management strategies which leads to establishment or increase of emergency savings, which benefits other community members by reducing demand for public assistance, stabilizing the county tax base and stimulating the economy, beginning in the taxpayer's community, through federal and state tax refund dollars and dollars from tax credits.

VITA volunteers prepared 1,896 federal and state tax returns for taxpayers in Taney County. Families received \$648,284 in Federal Income Tax refunds including \$262,301 in EIC and \$272,187 in state refunds. In addition, the taxpayers saved \$187,400 in tax preparation fees. **The economic impact of the VITA program to the economy of Taney County is estimated at \$9,204,710.**

Food and Nutrition Programs

Barb Beck., Nutrition Program Assistant



Number of Taney County Residents Served

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,681, 129.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 838,295 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,831,270 educational contacts. This year we had 3,064,781 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition help line. 14,855 of these participants reside in Taney County.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2017

During 2017, 2,629 youth and 12,226 adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Taney County:

Schools

Cedar Ridge Elementary, Primary and Intermediate Schools

Branson Head Start (OACAC)

Kissee Mills Head Start (OACAC)

Bradleyville Elementary

Hollister Head Start

Buchanan Elementary & Intermediate Schools

Forsyth Elementary

Taneyville Elementary

Mark Twain Elementary

Branson Jr. High

Hollister Early Childhood Center

Hollister Elementary

Agencies

Boys & Girls Club of the Ozarks – Branson and Forsyth locations

Branson Senior Center (SWMOA)

Christian Action Ministries

Church Army Branson

Taney Co. Food Stamp Office

First Baptist Church

Country Mart 73

Salvation Army – Branson Pantry

Bridge of Faith Community Church

Christian Action Ministries – Forsyth

Forsyth Senior Center (SWMOA)

Hollister YMCA

What Did They Learn?

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.

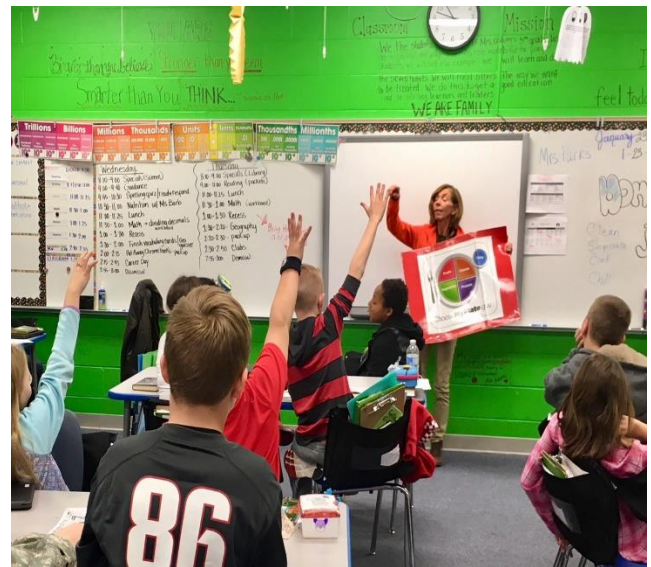
Success Story

Last week at Cedar Ridge Intermediate School, a student in Mrs. Peebles' 5th grade classroom was so excited to share about a change that had taken place due to an issue she and other 5th graders had brought up at a Student Advisory Meeting. The student bathrooms have only had cold water to wash their hands. During Lesson 2 - Be Food Safe, we discussed the importance of hand washing, along w/ "Clean, Separate, Cook, Chill". The student told me she shared this at the Advisory Meeting, stating, 'Ms. Barb, the Nutrition Lady, taught us that warm soapy water is the best for hand-washing, and so, so important after using the restroom - especially during 'flu-season'! The Administration listened to them, and within two weeks the bathrooms now have hot water! Ms. Peebles was beaming as her student proudly shared this story, and then she said, "Barb, the faculty restrooms now have hot water, too!" I think this is a huge success story!

In summary, it has been a successful year in Taney County for FNP. We look forward in 2018 to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.



"Branson Farmers' Market is a great opportunity to share nutrition information with lots of people!" Nutrition program associates, Barbara Beck and Angie Langston attend the weekly farmer market at the Branson Landing.



Barb Beck at Hollister Elementary helping 5th Graders explore the Food Groups.

Horticulture

Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist



Taney County Residents Served

Taney County taxpayers served by the program and total hours of collective workshop participation:

- 40 horticulture soil test reports were prepared (40 hours)
- 2 visits to farms in Taney County were conducted (4 hours)
- 1 Taney County resident attended Hops Production workshops (4 hours)
- 18 Taney County residents attended the Bear Creek Farm Spring Festival workshop (36 hours)
- 3 Taney County residents attended the Growing the Grower workshops on berry production and small ruminants (9 hours)
- 8 Taney County residents participated in home horticulture events on subjects including garlic production (24 hours)

What Did They Learn?

- Soil test reports outline soil chemical characteristics, and also include management recommendations
- Farmers learned science based horticultural practices
- Farmers learned about profitable commercial hops production practices
- Farmers and gardeners learned how to profitably produce fruit crops
- Farmers learned commercial production of berries and small ruminants
- Home gardeners learned useful skills that enhance enjoyment of gardening and improve self-esteem

What Action Did They Take?

- Soil test clients used the soil test reports to plan fertility management, and to apply only needed fertilizers. Clients saved money by reducing unneeded fertilizer applications
- Farmers used the information shared during the farm visit to help guide management decisions. Farmers saved money by making informed decisions
- Farmers examined their production practices, and took action to adopt hops production practices that enhance profitability
- Farmers used the skills gained at the workshop to get started in fruit production and to expand and refine already existing production
- Farmers used the skills gained at the workshops to develop new farming enterprises
- Home gardeners adopted science-based gardening practices

**How Does This Work
Make Taney County
and Missouri Better?**

- The proper use of fertilizers reduces the problems associated with fertilizer movement away from target areas, which impacts water and soil quality. In particular, storm water quality issues are impacted by excess fertilizers.
 - Farmers who are profitable and successful contribute to the sustainability of themselves and their families, to the sustainability of the natural resources on their farms, and to the sustainability of the economy in Taney County.
 - Hops production can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies.
 - Fruit production offers the potential to expand production and enhance profitability for farmers in Taney County. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies.
 - Berries and small ruminants can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies. Consumers benefit from an enhanced supply of locally grown fruits/vegetables, during the winter months.
 - Participants reported improved self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment upon completion of the workshops. These workshops enhance the quality of life for residents of Taney County
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MU Extension Continuing Education

University of Missouri (MU) Conference Office The MU Conference Office provides full-service meeting management for a variety of noncredit educational programs. In FY 2017, the MU Conference Office organized 72 conferences for more than 20,000 people in teacher education in math, science and writing; crop management and agricultural lending, as well as statewide youth leadership programs, generating \$3.2 million in revenue. muconf.missouri.edu

Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) In FY 2017, MU FRTI celebrated its 85th anniversary of providing continuing professional education and training to Missouri's fire service and emergency response personnel. In addition to fire training, courses prepare firefighters for medical emergencies, hazardous materials response and disaster preparedness and mitigation. In FY 2017, MU FRTI trained 11,319 firefighters and emergency responders from 932 departments, organizations and agencies throughout all 114 Missouri counties. mufrti.org

Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) LETI provides training and education for Missouri's 17,000 personnel and police recruits and presentations to community and civic groups, as well as collaborative programs with agencies from 31 states. In FY 2017, LETI reached nearly 2,000 police and emergency responders. With MU's Human Environmental Sciences department, LETI piloted Taking Care of You and Mental Health First Aid for Law Enforcement, helping participants better understand mental illness and how it impacts their work. Other programs include advanced animal cruelty investigations training and armed intruder and personal safety response. Students receive over 700 hours of basic training and certification, with other topics and certifications like Crisis Intervention Team Training available. leti.missouri.edu

Missouri Training Institute The Missouri Training Institute provides continuing education programs in business, as well as customized training programs and consulting services for business and industry and public, nonprofit and educational organizations and institutions. In FY 2017, 10,630 people enrolled in the institute's 371 programs that cover diverse business practices, such as human resource management, team building, decision-making, strategic planning and leadership. mti.missouri.edu

MU Nursing Outreach Nursing Outreach serves mainly rural health-care workers with high-quality, affordable continuing education programs using face-to-face and online delivery methods; 92 percent live outside the St. Louis and Kansas City

metro areas. In FY 2017, nurses from 77 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis attended continuing education programs. Another 867 nurses and 1,986 health care professionals — including social workers, nursing home administrators and psychologists — were served through multidisciplinary programs. nursingoutreach.missouri.edu

Center for Continuing Medical Education and Physician Lifelong Learning (CME/PLL) CME/PLL serves MU Extension and the MU School of Medicine by educating physicians and other health care providers to improve the standard of care in Missouri. In FY 2017, CME/PLL offered 1,678 noncredit programs, courses and activities, serving 27,345 people, as well as 14 accredited medical conferences, including the annual Missouri Telehealth Network Summit on trends in this emerging healthcare arena; an Ellis Fischel Cancer Symposium on holistic approaches to cancer care; and one of the world's largest multidisciplinary conferences on dialysis. CME/PLL also provided online training for 6,400 state mandated child protection reporters in 20 occupational fields. medicine.missouri.edu/cme

Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education (VMECE) Veterinary Medical Extension provides information and consultation to veterinarians and livestock owners on issues such as disease risks, rising input costs and regulations that impact farming operations. In FY 2017, VMECE provided 17 continuing education events for veterinarians needing credit to renew their licenses. Twelve events addressed antibiotic label changes that went into effect on January 1, 2017, and how to write a veterinary feed directive. The rest dealt with preventing and responding to disease outbreaks in Missouri livestock operations. The VMECE team also presented at more than 40 meetings across the state, educating animal owners about the antibiotic label changes. VMECE also taught food animal production medicine to MU College of Veterinary Medicine students and collaborated in research that addressed bovine reproduction. vmth.missouri.edu

Labor Education The Labor Education Program works with members and leaders of workplace-based organizations across Missouri to help them develop skills, act effectively in the workplace and be informed and active participants in their communities. In FY 2017, the program offered 35 courses and conferences to 952 participants, most of whom are leaders of organizations representing the economic interests of more than 20,000 working people in Missouri and surrounding states. labored.missouri.edu

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