

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Taney County

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
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Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Marshall Stewart'.

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 2019

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.

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,

Luanna LaVielle-Fullerton
Extension Council Secretary

Jim Lawson
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
Susan Bearden
Waunetta Howard
Luanna LaVielle-Fullerton
Jim Lawson
Mark McSpadden
Roger Pock
Chris Robertson
Hammons Schanda
Melanie Smith
Denver West
John Whitley
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
Brad Hudson, House Representative District 138
Karla Eslinger, House Representative District 155
Jeff Justice, House Representative District 156

MU Extension Taney County Faculty and Staff

Willa Williams, Ed.D., County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Barbara Beck, Nutrition Program Associate

Lynda LaRocque, Office Support Staff

Regional MU Extension Faculty and Staff Serving Taney County

Jeff Barber, Housing Education Specialist

David Burton, CES in Community Economic Development

Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist

Pamela Duitsman, CES in Community Economic Development

Theresa Fossett, Regional FNP Coordinator

Jacob Kovarik, MSU Business Development

Willis Mushrush, Field Procurement Specialist

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development Specialist

Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist

C. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist

Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development

Jim Spencer, Jr, Agriculture Business Specialist

Allen Waldo, PTAC Specialist

Randall Wiedmeier, CES in Agriculture and Environment

2018 Taney County University of Missouri Extension Annual Income and Expense Report

Income

County Appropriations	\$44,266.17
Student Fees	1,601.00
Investment Income	456.18
Gifts/Grants/Contracts	7,143.48
Resales/Educ Service Fees	<u>1,415.75</u>
Total Income	\$54,882.58

Expenses

Salaries	\$30,414.40
Payroll Expenses	23.25
Travel	4,101.61
Postage	1,036.08
Telephone	2,591.64
Cell Phone Reimbursement	1,015.00
Supplies/Services	6,017.85
Insurance	100.00
Misc. (office memberships & subscriptions)	590.50
Office Temp	400.00
Council Expenses	403.11
4-H Foundation Dues	340.00
4-H Program fees	284.00
VITA	2,000.00
4-H County Appropriation funds	3,000.00
Soil Test Expenses	782.50
Farm Family	318.00
Publications for Resale	207.00
Repairs/Maintenance	835.90
Furniture/Equipment	530.95
Fee Generation for MU Ext	<u>2,310.00</u>
Total Expense	\$57,301.79

Net Income -\$2,419.21

Funds (Class) Balance Report

Center Operations	\$12,995.07
Education & Service	34,780.43
Savings	9,280.65
Grants & Contracts	17,471.30
Council held Funds Other	<u>5,713.74</u>
Agencies	

Total Assets \$80,241.19



County Engagement in 4-H Youth Development

Willa L. Williams, Ed.D., County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

4-H is delivered by University of Missouri Extension and a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people **learn by doing**. Kids complete **hands-on projects** in areas like health, science, agriculture, and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from **adult mentors** and are encouraged to take on proactive **leadership roles**. Kids experience 4-H in every county and parish in the country—through in-school and after-school programs, school and community clubs and 4-H camps.

Number of Taney County residents served

Taney County 4-H is a community of 354 youth building life skills, contributing to their community and becoming college and career ready. Taney County participants include:

- 81 youth in 4-H clubs - Taney 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.
- 273* youth in 4-H school programs – Taney 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 programs are in the fields of agriculture and engineering. * Duplicates not removed.
- 4-H members are supported by 33 youth and adult volunteers. 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 \$24.14 per hour (Independent Sector, 2017), the contribution of Taney County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$79,662 in 2018. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.
- In addition, Taney County reached out to the community through county engagement activities; we directly reached out to 2,205 youth and 301 adults through educational community programs such as Buchanan Elementary STEAM night.
- Indirectly, we reached 2,010 youth and 2,113 adults at community events such as Project Connect.

What Did They Learn?

Findings from a 2018 evaluation study reveals that Missouri 4-H:

Develops Leadership

- 81% of the Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they find it easy to speak up in a group
- 89% reported feeling comfortable being a leader
- 95% said 4-H is a place where they get to help make group decisions
- 95% said 4-H is a place where you have a chance to be a leader
- 97% said 4-H is a place where you learn about ways to help your community

Builds Initiative

- 93% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they keep trying until they reach their goals
- 92% said they are willing to try something they might get wrong
- 97% said they try to learn from their mistakes
- 98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult
- 99% reported that they like to learn new things

Builds Connections for a Bright Future

- 92% said they like to learn about people who are different from them, and get along
- 93% said they think about others feelings before they say something
- 93% say they think about how their choices affect others
- 97% said they treat others the way they want to be treated
- 98% said they show respect for others ideas

What Action Did They Take?

In Taney County 100% of 4-H Members were engaged in science related projects and experiences. 4-H also prepares youth for the work place. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision – competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented to solve problems that have yet to be identified. A good example of this is our UAV/drone technology programs in which we teach youth drone technology skills, which may be integral in their future careers in agriculture, medical sciences, arts, and more.

4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, engineering, learning technologies and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

4-H'ers are twice as likely to go to college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011). Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (U.S. News and World Report, 2011). If 50% of the Taney youth participating in 4-H events on a college campus receive a Bachelor's degree, 4-H would help young people acquire \$6 million more of lifetime earnings.

In 2018, Missouri 4-H connected 4,818 young people to University of Missouri campuses. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going onto higher education (Dalton & St. John, 2016). Taney County 4-H organized a full day career exploration event for over 150 seventh grade students in collaboration with Missouri State University and Ozark Technical College-Table Rock at the OTC campus in Hollister. Some comments from this event included:

- Dr. Marci Dowdy (MSU Career Advisor) – “Thank you soooooo very much for a fabulous event yesterday. I know that you spend countless hours planning and organizing the day. I truly believe the students learned so much and were exposed to careers that they may have never considered. We hope to replicate this program next year and hope you will consider being a part if it again.”
- Jayme Voliva (Forsyth Counselor) – “Thank you all so very much for the experience yesterday. My students absolutely loved the event. A lot of my kids who usually do not find interest in school were engaged and were having fun yesterday. That truly brightened my day and hopefully their futures!”
- Phyllis Gies (Branson Counselor) – “Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity today. Our students very much enjoyed their time. I am certain that they added new insights to career choices today. I appreciate your time and all the time spent by the presenters. I chatted with many of the students and they all had detailed, positive feedback of every session and were very excited to visit each session which is phenomenal. A big thanks also goes to OTC. It is amazing the impression that a nursing lab or even a board room has on a group of 7th grade youth.”

References:

- Arnold, M., Bourdeau, V., & Nott, B. (2013). Measuring science inquiry skills in youth development programs: The Science Process Skills Inventory, *Journal of Youth Development*, 8(1).
- Dalton, R., & St. John, E. (2016). *College for every student: A practitioner's guide to building college and career readiness*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Independent Sector (2017). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$24.14 per hour. Retrieved from <http://independentsector.org/news-post/value-volunteer-time/>
- Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V. (2011). The positive development of youth: Report of the findings from the first seven years of the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development. Retrieved from <http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/>
- U.S. News and World Report (2011). How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/08/05/how-higher-education-affects-lifetime-salary>

Taney County is growing future scientists.

4-Hers are more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering or computer technology.
100% of Taney County 4-H members were enrolled in science related projects this past year.



A new 4-H member in Taneyville is excited to wear his 4-H shirt and looking stylish while working on his 4-H projects.



Over 150 Seventh grade students from Taney County had hands-on workshops at a 4-H career exploration day at OTC Table Rock.



In 2018, one of our shooting sports leaders was certified in outdoor skills and included lessons such as compass work and safety skills.



One of the largest clubs in Taney County was the 4-H Explorers which helped new 4-H members explore popular 4-H projects.



Cake decorating is a popular project in 4-H because the youth get treats, but it is also a great learning project. Clover kids can work on their motor skills and older 4-H members learn the science and math of cake decorating.



4-H trained shooting sports volunteers lead the Taney County 4-H Achievers Club and the 8 hour safety course that every youth member must take to participate in shooting sports projects.



The Taney County 4-H Youth Specialist led the UAV/drone program at the 4-H state robotics event at University of Missouri in 2018. Taney County has been a leader in 4-H educational UAV/drone programs for youth.



4-H programs are led by 4-H volunteers and we have some of the best in Taney County. 4-H is thankful for their efforts.



4-H continued our collaborative school clubs at Trinity Christian Academy in 2018. There was a junior and a senior 4-H club.



Youth often led talks about their projects at club meetings. This member is about to talk about his poultry project.

Business Development

Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development Counselor



Taney County Residents Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Business owners received multiple consulting sessions regarding their small businesses • 113 Training event attendees
What Did They Learn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales increase of \$2,768,108 • Capitalization of \$290,000 • 2 new businesses started • 8 new jobs created • Government contracts of \$163,673
How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Nutrition Program

Barb Beck., Nutrition Program Assistant



Number of Taney County Residents Served

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,499,699.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 735,541 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 2,932,390 educational contacts. This year we had 2,242,249 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition help line. 13,652 of these participants reside in Taney County.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2017

During 2018, 2,629 youth and 10,956 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

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)

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

I love working at the Branson Farmers' Market of the Ozarks. Angie, NPA in Christian County, and I usually have fruit infused water on our table for people to sample. We constantly remind people about the importance of staying hydrated, especially in the heat that we've been experiencing all month. They find the fruit adds a nice light and refreshing flavor, along with the bonus of added nutrients. Many visit our table each week for new information, but also for the water. This week a woman that stops by regularly with her granddaughter, came up to me and said, "I want you to know, you do make a difference! After we tasted your water last week, my granddaughter asked me to buy some blueberries from one of the vendors. When we got home, she insisted we make infused water with the blueberries and lemons that I had on hand. It was delicious! We both decided this will be something we do often!"

It is so rewarding when people take time to share some of the changes they are making for better health! What a great success story for them and me! ☺



"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.



Missouri Tax Initiative – VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

Jim Spencer, Jr., Ag Business Specialist

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

2,408 hours of collective learning by 1185 Taney County residents and 10 VITA volunteers provided 1223 hours to the project in Taney County (a value of \$29,523).

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 1,984 federal and state tax returns for taxpayers in Taney County. Families received \$35,988 in Federal Income Tax refunds including \$264,691 in EIC and \$291,048 in state refunds. In addition, the taxpayers saved \$200,800 in tax preparation fees. **The economic impact of the VITA program to the economy of Taney County is estimated at \$9,270,360.**

Human Development Classes

Renette Wardlow, Human Development Specialist



Number of Taney County residents served	199, individuals, youth, seniors, and day care providers
What Did They Learn?	<p>Building Better Child Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ways to help build positive self-esteem, • how to manage and cope with stress, • ways to help children cope with loss and death, and resources available, • ways to boost your brain and memory – attendees learned ways to keep one brain healthy by remaining physically, socially, intellectually, and spiritually active, • the importance of proper nutrition to boost brain and memory. <p>Building Strong Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective ways to reduce stress and improve overall good health, • how to become better communicators, to avoid family conflict through positive communication, • effective ways to build positive self-esteem. <p>Matter of Balance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight-week course to help seniors reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falls.
What Action Did They Take?	<p>Childcare provider training provides center and home-based childcare providers with useful resources and ideas to help them improve their childcare facilities. These classes also fulfill the state mandated requirements for providers working in a licensed facility</p> <p>Building strong family attendees learned positive communication techniques, how to be a better listener, and that communication is more than just talking, listening and body language are big parts of good communication. They also learned effective ways to build positive self-esteem and feel better about themselves.</p> <p>Matter of balance participants learned the risk factors associated with falls, things they can do in and around their homes to help prevent falls, the importance of proper nutrition and exercise. They also learned simple exercises that when done properly would build strength and reduce the risk of falling.</p>
How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?	<p>Participants in childcare provider training programs increase their knowledge and skills with working with children of different ages and stages of development in multiple competency areas, which leads to increased access to safe, healthy and nurturing environments for the community's children and families.</p> <p>Human development education has the potential to provide residents with the knowledge and tools to improve the quality of life and that of those around them.</p>

2018 Educational Programs – Taney County

Tim Schnakenberg – Agronomy Specialist



DROUGHT SURVIVAL MEETINGS

Record-breaking drought conditions resulted in little or no pasture over the summer and lower quantities of hay were available for producers to feed cattle. As a result, in August and September, livestock producers were offered a program to address issues brought on by the drought. There were eight drought survival meetings offered in the region in 2018. There were over 30 offered across the state. One of those was at College of the Ozarks. Some Taney County producers also attended the programs in Douglas and Greene Counties this year. Taney County residents were included in the following counts: 28 participants at College of the Ozarks – Pt. Lookout; 155 participants at Springfield; 25 participants at Squires. This was a 3-hour program. Collectively in Pt. Lookout, there were 84 hours of collective learning.

Topics offered by extension specialists included how to supplement low quality hay, herd culling tips, alternative feeds, assessing the price of stored forages, precautions with nitrates and prussic acid and fall forage alternatives. Participants were able to make sound decisions regarding how to manage their operations during and following a drought. There were sources of high priced, low quality feeds available on the market and many were able to discern how to make good comparisons. They also learned how to plant emergency forage crops in the fall. Taney County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc.) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable during a time of drought.



Ag Business Specialist, Jim Spencer, discusses the economics of stored forages at the Drought Survival meeting at College of the Ozarks. A photo from the Springfield meeting is below.



LIVESTOCK & FORAGE CONFERENCE HELD AT FORSYTH

In February, the annual Taney County Livestock and Forage Conference was held at the Forsyth high school with about 60 farmers in attendance. Dr. Eric Bailey, MU state extension beef nutrition specialist, discussed how to stretch your hay supply. Bob Schultheis, regional natural resources engineering specialist, discussed the future of unmanned aerial systems (drones) for Ozarks agriculture. In the survey at the end of the meeting, 100 percent of the participants ranked the program as either meeting or exceeding their expectations. The survey also recorded an average of a 63 percent increase in learning regarding the topics discussed. Branson Bank, First Community Bank of the Ozarks and Southern Bank sponsored the program.



State Beef Nutrition Specialist, Eric Bailey, discusses how to stretch livestock hay supplies at the Livestock and Forage Conference in Forsyth. Little did we know that the topic would be very timely for the upcoming 2018 drought.

GRAZING SCHOOLS TEACH FARMERS HOW TO BE MORE EFFICIENT GRAZIER

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 the growing season, there were schools hosted at the Southwest Center in Mt. Vernon, Springfield, Squires and in Crane. Taney county farm producers participated. The three-day schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool.



On-farm tours are a highlight of most grazing schools across the Ozarks.

PESTICIDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY TRAINING

Consumers demand pest free food, however, society continues to want more control of pesticides. People are made more aware of pesticide uses and possible problems as the result of increased news media coverage in a number of areas including chemicals and water quality. One national poll of farmers conducted by the Gallup Organization shows water quality is considered the top farm environmental problem nationally and “safer” pesticide applications are seen as part of solving the problem. In February, 17 pesticide applicators were certified at a Private Applicators Training held at Taneyville by Will Knuckles, agronomy assistant. Others were trained in the local office individually. This process is something they must be retrained on every five years in order to maintain a pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.



Seventeen farmers participated in the private applicator training at Taneyville in February.

FARMERS AND RANCHERS ATTENDED THE SPRING FORAGE CONFERENCE

Over 400 farmers and ranchers, including many from Taney County, attended the 34th 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.



Taney County livestock producers participate in the large crowd of the 34th annual Spring Forage Conference in Springfield.

REGIONAL HAY SCHOOL OFFERED IN SPRINGFIELD

Regional specialists offered a hay production school in Springfield in December. 65 people participated, including Taney County producers. This six-hour course was beneficial to the participants to improve their hay harvesting skills. In a survey, 100 percent of the participants indicated that the program met or exceeded their expectations. Some participants commented on the survey: “Have more classes and I will be there”; “I would recommend the class to anyone who hays or feeds cattle”.



Three nights of hay production discussion occurred during the hay school in Springfield in December.

SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

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 37 soil tests submitted through the Taney County Extension Center.

Clover and Prosperity programs began in 1922 in Missouri to promote conservation and cover crops on farms. Surplus International trucks from WWI were purchased to deliver supplies and materials. These workshops were later called Soils and Crops Conferences in the 1930s and some names were changed to Livestock and Forage Conferences in the 2000s. This photo is believed to be taken by the newly constructed Mumford Hall in Columbia.



ALL-BREED PERFORMANCE TESTED BULL SALE

Eldon Cole, Livestock Specialist



Taney county residents have been supporters of our All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale in Springfield since 2003. Over that time Rick and Brenda Persinger, Cedarcreek have bought 26 bulls that include five head bought in 2018. Lyle Rowland also from Cedarcreek bought a bull from the sale this year. Extension works closely with the consignors in an attempt to secure above average bulls for the sale from a genetic standpoint. At each sale, a 30-minute program is given by Extension livestock specialists for prospective buyers to help them understand the performance data.

At the October sale a video crew filmed before, during the sale and Rick Persinger was interviewed, and explained how he felt the sale had benefitted his beef cow-calf operation over the years. The video will be aired several times on the Springfield station KOZL-TV. The show is called "From the Tailgate" with Jamie Johansen.

2018 HORTICULTURE PROGRAMMING

Fruit Pruning Workshop

Patrick Byers, MU Extension horticulture field specialist, held a fruit-pruning workshop at Bear Creek Farms, near Walnut Shade, MO. John Padgett, owner and operator of Bear Creek Farm, hosted the workshop. Attendees discussed pruning during an educational session, followed by hands-on pruning experience with apple, peach, blackberry, and grape. Eight people attended the workshop. Testimonials included "Really learned confidence from the Pruning seminar and pruned all my trees yesterday" and "Patrick, Thanks for coming and presenting such a great seminar. Elaine and I learned so much. It especially helped to build our confidence."



Farm to School

Pam Duitsman, Nutrition Specialist

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Specialist



Number of Taney County residents served

277 participants that include:

- Primary partners: Hollister Schools, Taney County Health Dept., Farmers Market of the Ozarks, USDA. Collaborating partners and grant contributors: Westward Alliance, Greater Springfield Farmer's Market, Buy2Ag, Oopa! Food Management and Springfield Grocers.
- Additional partners: Forsyth Senior Center, Forsyth Local Harvest Farmers Market, individual producers, MO Dept. of Health & Senior Services, Missouri Department of Agriculture, USDA Rural Development.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2018

13 Session - 93.50 hours, volunteers hours 25

What Did They Learn?

Farm to School Presentations, Teacher Training, Advisory Board meetings, Working committee meetings, Farm Field Trips, in-class teaching (numbers for this are not counted here). In addition to Family Nutrition Education Program in-class teaching, Hollister students have presented lessons to younger students, and to other schools. Tasty Tuesday taste tests are being implemented at Hollister schools, and the after-school program is engaged in this effort. Teachers at Hollister schools were provided MU Extension's Eating from the Garden Curriculum and trained to teach in-class and in-garden activities that comply with DESI core learning standards for Math, English and Science.

What Action Did They Take?

Ensuring that kids have access to healthy and locally produced food helps instill healthy eating habits and agricultural literacy in the next generation, while also supporting the local farming economy, this grant was used for training and technical assistance, planning, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs in collaboration with community partners

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

Farmers, communities, and children all reap benefits when more schools begin to source more foods locally and teach children about food, farming, and nutrition. The interaction leads to improved public health, economic development, and education.

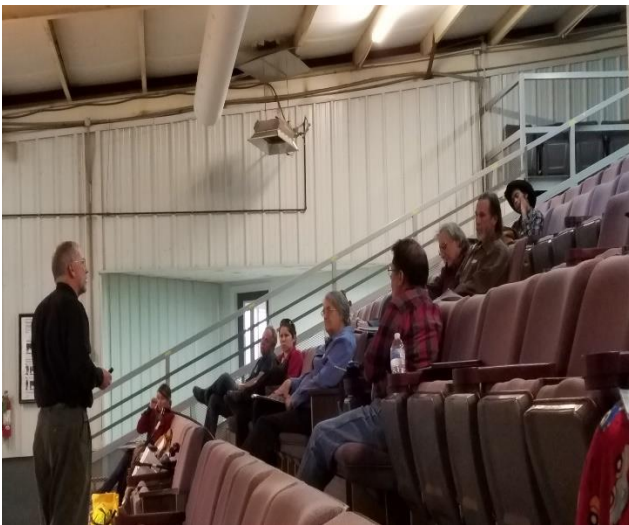
StrikeForce Farmer Development Project

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Specialist
Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist



In the first year, the StrikeForce Farmer Development Program (SFDP) is a USDA-NRCS grant serving 46 counties in Southwest and Southeast Missouri, has funded 34 projects to train, educate, and provide outreach and technical assistance to aspiring, new, and developing farmers. These programs address the needs of farmers through local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives that enhance local food production and self-employment in specialty crop production and farming. The project has served 45 veterans and provided mentorship programs to 28 farmers. The StrikeForce project is a multi-disciplinary project supported by the following team members, David Burton, Patrick Byers, Sarah Denkler, Jamie Gundel, and Amy Patillo.

The StrikeForce Project targets areas that need the economic boost and will benefit from the expansion of small farms and on-farm businesses. The funding has expanded educational opportunities to farmers in StrikeForce counties to make their operations more profitable and efficient, while emphasizing conservation of natural resources. These areas have particularly benefited from the increased educational offerings that financial assistance from NRCS sponsored programs has provided for workshops and conservation practices associated with specialty crops. In addition, the MDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program has supported initial efforts among team members to develop curriculum and workshops that support specialty crop producers. Examples include the Missouri Blueberry School, Growing Blackberry Production in Missouri project, activities at the Year Round Learning Farm, Winter Production Conference, and Missouri Tomato School. Continued project funding will allow the curriculums and approaches developed in these regional projects to be expanded to a broader audience and offer new custom designed workshops for scaling up and funding opportunities, as requested by farmers.



National Enzyme Company collaborates with MU Extension Missouri Training Institute (MTI) Leadership Development

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development

National Enzyme Company has collaborated with MU Extension to deliver a sustainable leadership-training program for supervisors and managers. NEC and MU Extension specialist Dr. Amy Patillo and Ted Probert partner to provide ongoing leadership training and professional development to meet the need needs of NEC as it continues to grow and expand.

National Enzyme Company (NEC) invests in their employees by offering six lunch and learn sessions for supervisors and managers. This approach is cost effective for NEC while encouraging an extended commitment to the ongoing training program. Workshops include: Giving Effective Performance Reviews, Employee Engagement, Generational Cohorts and Personality Differences, Review of Discrimination Law and Legal Requirements, Right Brain Thinking in a Left Brain World: Innovation, and Influencing Up.

NEC Employees report the training has: “Improved how I will interact with customers.”; “Identified the importance of trust, good management practices and the importance of being a good leader to others.”, “The leadership training is relevant to my job and provided new ways of seeing myself and how others view me in the workplace and how I work with others around me.” Participants recognized “training about coaching employees and conflict resolution are leadership programs they would not have had the opportunity to be engaged in as part of their regular jobs and were very valuable to their development as a leader and in learning how to develop leaders within their departmental teams.”

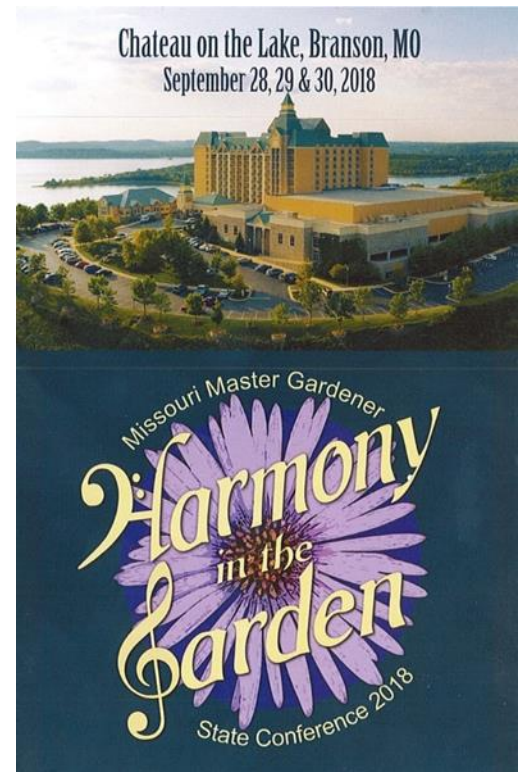
Dr. Patillo, trained at the University of Missouri in Strategic Doing offers new tools to communities

Strategic Doing offers new resources and tools to engage professionals and communities to create innovative solutions to economic and community development challenges. Individuals use innovative ideas to engage old assets in new ways to meet the ongoing challenges in communities and organizations. Strategic Doing is an exciting new approach that helps local communities, regions, or organizations form the collaborations needed to address complex challenges. Instead of just talking about what can be done, this workshop will allow us to actually set doable goals that can be achieved in a short time period. Strategic Doing builds complex collaboration networks by helping groups work together for long-term impacts.

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2018 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

For 2018, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks fulfilled their commitment to take on ambitious projects, including hosting the 2018 state Master Gardener conference. As a result, their volunteer hour count made took record-breaking increase this year. A total of 7,945 hours were reported in 2018 by sixty-six master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. They reported making 1,185 contacts with persons in the community in 2018. 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 120 hours of service. This was a 52 percent increase over 2017. 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 \$171,373 worth of volunteer time! Tim Schnakenberg served as advisor for the master gardener activities in the Stone and Taney County area. Continuing education is an important part of volunteer service. The master gardeners reported 838 hours of continued education this year (average of 12.7 hours per person)



Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 90 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 51 who reside in Stone County, 31 in Taney County, three in Christian County, two in Greene County, one in Howell County and two who reside in Boone County, Arkansas. Penny Meador, president, Faith Meinzen, vice-president, Marie Ewing, secretary, and Joanne Anderson, treasurer, led the master gardeners this year. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter boasts 27 emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program. This year Sherry Enyart was recognized as an emeritus member.



Kyle Kapella of Hollister received the \$1,000 scholarship in 2018.

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. Cindy Heider coordinated this effort. For 2018, the recipient for the master gardener \$1,000 scholarship was College of the Ozarks student, Kyle Kapella.

Internal Grant Program Funded Five Special Projects

The internal grant committee in 2018 allocated \$3,958 for five projects: Kimberling Senior Center, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Bonniebrook, Pregnancy Life Line and Taneyhills Library Gardens. The committee was chaired by Penny Meador. Funds for projects originated from local educational program activities and fund-raisers.



The state Master Gardener conference brought 264 gardeners together for educational tours and workshops.



Tour buses loaded people for garden tours across the Ozarks.



State Master Gardener Conference Offered in Branson

With two years of preparation, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks successfully hosted the state master gardener conference in Branson on September 28-30. The program involved three days of educational offerings for 264 participants attending from around Missouri and beyond. Sharon Nance ably chaired the conference committee. About 70 percent of our chapter membership had a direct role in making this conference successful. Many planning meetings were conducted leading up to the weekend. The theme was "Harmony in the Garden". On Friday, tours to Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas and Top of the Rock / Dogwood Canyon were options for participants. The day ended with entertainment by the Hughes Brothers. On Saturday, tour buses departed into four different tour directions to see and experience gardening in the Ozarks. A silent auction, local marketplace, vendors and a hospitality room were welcome additions to the conference. A banquet occurred on Saturday evening with a keynote speaker, Cody George, of Crystal Bridges. Sunday had twelve educational workshop offerings, an optional Christian worship service, the Missouri Master Gardener Association annual meeting and an address from the MU master gardener leadership team. Comments from participants included: "Exceptionally well planned, implemented and executed conference!! Everything was on schedule and happened at its scheduled time!! An excellent event!"; "I feel this was the best conference I've been to."; "We had a small group from Manhattan, Kansas that attended. It was well worth the drive. Everyone was very impressed with all the work and attention to detail that the Ozark MGs put into the conference. It definitely exceeded expectations."

Spring Gardening Workshop Brought Out 187 Participants!

The gardening public continues to turn to the Spring Gardening Workshop for reliable advice on gardening in the Ozarks. There were 187 that attended in Branson in March. Topics included amazing plants, the right size garden, microgreens, yoga and gardening and composting tips. 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.”

Plant Sale in Forsyth – A Huge Success

A large project this year was to host a plant sale in Forsyth in April. This is the second year for this project. Lead by Marva Ramsey, this sale brought in \$4,375 that was used primarily to fund the state conference. In many ways our membership used this opportunity for education on many fronts. Children attended and educational events accompanied the sale. People learned about beekeeping, trees and local plants and how to grow them. Nearly 40 percent of our membership helped make the day a success. Many carefully cultivated and prepared plants from their own gardens for the sale.

Nineteen Garden Programs Offered on a Regular Basis throughout Stone and Taney Counties

In Forsyth, Kimberling City and Crane, there are garden programs offered by the master gardeners every month for the gardening public. In 2018 there were nineteen programs offered. Many of the presenters were master gardeners. At the Kimberling Area Library, there were 135 participants. Kathryn Kufahl chaired that effort. Numerous people also attended the Brown Bag Lunch Gardening series in Forsyth and the “Let’s Get Growing” series in association with the Stone County Library in Crane. Marva Ramsey chaired the Brown Bag series. Topics covered this year included companion planting, up-cycle for home and garden, garden plants for hot weather, herbs, tried and true plants for the Ozarks, edible flowers, pass-along plants, right plant in the right place, liliium, monarchs and butterflies, caring for the summer garden, fall chores for the garden, square-foot gardening, drip irrigation, insect pests, container gardening and small greenhouses.



Scenes from the very successful plant sale in Forsyth.

2018 Grant Projects Photos



The grounds at Bonniebrook, former home of Rose O'Neal, at Branson.



Kids and parents working on grounds at the Taneyhills library in Branson.



The children's garden at the Kimberling Area Library.



Raised bed vegetable gardens at Pregnancy Life Line in Reeds Spring

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, deadheading, weeding and irrigation. The Corps of Engineers funds this project. Bill Greet chairs this highly visible project.

Education and Improved Landscape Emphasis in our Communities

Some of the other ongoing projects that made a significant impact in local communities included the KKOZ Master Gardener Radio Show, 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.

On-Line Master Gardener Course Brought in New Members

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

MU Extension Continuing Education

Missouri University Conference Office

The MU Conference Office provides high-quality, professional, full-service meeting management for a variety of noncredit educational programs, such as conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia. Whether a meeting is hosted on campus, in out-state Missouri or anywhere in the world, the office's professional staff provides assistance to create the best learning environment for participants. In FY 2018, more than 20,000 Missourians registered to attend conferences, where university knowledge and research across disciplines was shared. <http://muconf.missouri.edu/>

33 Taney county residents attended.

Fire and Rescue Training Institute

MU Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) provides comprehensive continuing professional education and training to Missouri's fire service and emergency response personnel. The institute has a direct impact on the well-being and protection of Missouri's 29,000 firefighters and the 6 million citizens they serve. Courses prepare firefighters for medical emergencies, hazardous materials response and disaster preparedness and mitigation, as well as fires. In FY 2018, MU FRTI provided more than 11,000 hours of instruction to 13,494 fire and emergency responders. <https://www.muftri.org>

220 Taney county residents attended.

Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI)

LETI brings certified, professional training to law enforcement officers and continuing professional education to other criminal justice and public safety professionals. For more than 60 years, the institute has been the state's leader in providing vital training and education services to Missouri's 17,000 in-service personnel and police recruits annually. Working with national, state and local agencies from 31 states, LETI also provides basic and advanced animal cruelty investigations training. LETI presents to civic organizations, churches and businesses throughout the state on a variety of topics, including personal safety and armed intruder response. <http://leti.missouri.edu>

29 Taney county residents attended.

Missouri Training Institute

The Missouri Training Institute provides continuing education, custom-designed training programs and consulting services for business and industry, public and nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. Training programs include subjects such as human resource management, supervision, management, leadership, team building and other business-related topics. The institute's consulting services include curriculum design, human resources, strategic planning, board development and facilitating meetings and retreats. In FY 2018, 3,700 people enrolled in the institute's 180 programs. <http://mti.missouri.edu>

3 Taney county residents attended.

MU Nursing Outreach

Keeping Missouri nurses up to date with the knowledge and skills they need to provide effective care and fully participate in the state's health care efforts is a primary goal for Nursing Outreach. A full 92 percent of Nursing Outreach's Missouri participants reside outside the metropolitan St. Louis and Kansas City areas. Nursing Outreach brings high-quality, affordable continuing education programs to this audience using face-to-face, web-based and online delivery methods. In FY 2018, the program reached more than 4,300 health care professionals. <http://nursingoutreach.missouri.edu/>

26 Taney county residents attended

Continuing Medical Education and Physician Lifelong Learning (CMD/PLL)

CME/PLL serves MU Extension and the MU School of Medicine by educating physicians and other health care professionals and enhancing the standard of health care delivery statewide. Through health education, wellness promotion and health care quality performance initiatives, the program improves the health of Missourians. CME/PLL also facilitates and manages health care quality improvement projects for the University of Missouri Health Care system and the MU School of Medicine Springfield clinical campus. In FY 2018, CME/PLL offered 1,726 noncredit programs, courses and educational activities to more than 25,700 participants. <https://extension2.missouri.edu/programs/continuing-medical-education> 4 Taney county residents attended.

Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education (VMECE)

Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education (VMECE) focuses on issues that impact Missouri veterinarians and livestock owners, such as disease risks, rising input costs and increasing regulations. VMECE provides up-to-date information and consultation to better prepare them to address these challenges. VMECE also provides continuing education for veterinarians renewing their veterinary licenses. Team members also present information about production-related topics and animal disease at meetings across the state. <https://extension2.missouri.edu/programs/continuing-veterinary-education>

Labor Education

The MU Extension Labor Education Program works with members and leaders of workplace-based organizations representing the economic interests of more than 20,000 working people in Missouri and surrounding states. Programs help them develop skills to contribute to their organizations, act effectively in the workplace, and be informed and active participants in their communities. <https://extension2.missouri.edu/programs/labor-education-program>

FY 2018 Summary: Continuing Education Noncredit Activities

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

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

Educational Contacts — FY 2018

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

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

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