



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Taney County

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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

108 Whitten Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL: stewartmars@missouri.edu

December 5, 2019

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marshall Stewart'.

Marshall Stewart

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Local Extension Councils Cooperating
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS



January 2020

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

<p>Taney County MU Extension Council Susan Bearden Lynn Craft Nicole Crocker Tammy Holder, Vice-Chair Waunetta Howard, Treasurer Luanna LaVielle-Fullerton, Secretary Jim Lawson, Chair Susan Martin Mark McSpadden Hammons Schanda Liza Tsahiridis Melanie Smith, Farm Bureau Rep. John Whitley Sheila Wyatt, Commission Rep.</p>	<p>MU Extension Taney County Faculty and Staff Willa Williams, Ed.D., County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth Development Barbara Beck, Nutrition Program Associate Michael Dennigmann, Agronomy Assistant Lynda LaRocque, Office Support Staff Regional MU Extension Faculty and Staff Serving Taney County Pamela Duitsman, CES in Community Economic Development Theresa Fossett, Regional FNP Coordinator Kelly McGowan, Horticulture Specialist Jenni Nevatt, Nutrition and Health Specialist Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development Specialist Elizabeth Picking, Livestock Specialist Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist C. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development Allen Waldo, PTAC Specialist Kyle Whitaker, Agriculture and Environment Specialist</p>	<p>2019 Taney County University of Missouri Extension Annual Income and Expense Report</p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <table> <tr><td>County Appropriations</td><td>\$ 46,623.17</td></tr> <tr><td>Student Fees</td><td>1,010.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Investment Income</td><td>755.26</td></tr> <tr><td>Gifts/Grants/Contracts</td><td>5,934.20</td></tr> <tr><td>Resales/Educ Service Fees</td><td>2,168.10</td></tr> <tr><td>Program Reimbursement</td><td>500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Balance Transfer</td><td><u>1,007.77</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Income</td><td>\$ 57,999.00</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Expenses</u></p> <table> <tr><td>Salaries</td><td>\$ 31,019.68</td></tr> <tr><td>Travel</td><td>3,952.82</td></tr> <tr><td>Postage</td><td>946.52</td></tr> <tr><td>Telephone</td><td>1,561.45</td></tr> <tr><td>Cell Phone Reimbursement</td><td>1,190.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Supplies/Services</td><td>6,264.54</td></tr> <tr><td>Insurance</td><td>100.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Miscellaneous</td><td>555.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Office Temp</td><td>480.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Council Expenses</td><td>292.94</td></tr> <tr><td>4-H Foundation Dues</td><td>280.00</td></tr> <tr><td>4-H Program fees</td><td>611.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Livestock Show Premiums</td><td>153.00</td></tr> <tr><td>VITA</td><td>2,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>4-H County Appropriation funds</td><td>3,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Soil Test Expenses</td><td>1,410.50</td></tr> <tr><td>Farm Family</td><td>343.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Publications for Resale</td><td>446.65</td></tr> <tr><td>Repairs/Maintenance</td><td>704.49</td></tr> <tr><td>Furniture/Equipment</td><td>2,714.49</td></tr> <tr><td>Fee Generation for MU Ext</td><td><u>1,398.00</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Expense</td><td>\$ 59,424.58</td></tr> </table> <p>Net Income - \$1,425.88</p>	County Appropriations	\$ 46,623.17	Student Fees	1,010.50	Investment Income	755.26	Gifts/Grants/Contracts	5,934.20	Resales/Educ Service Fees	2,168.10	Program Reimbursement	500.00	Balance Transfer	<u>1,007.77</u>	Total Income	\$ 57,999.00	Salaries	\$ 31,019.68	Travel	3,952.82	Postage	946.52	Telephone	1,561.45	Cell Phone Reimbursement	1,190.00	Supplies/Services	6,264.54	Insurance	100.00	Miscellaneous	555.50	Office Temp	480.00	Council Expenses	292.94	4-H Foundation Dues	280.00	4-H Program fees	611.00	Livestock Show Premiums	153.00	VITA	2,000.00	4-H County Appropriation funds	3,000.00	Soil Test Expenses	1,410.50	Farm Family	343.00	Publications for Resale	446.65	Repairs/Maintenance	704.49	Furniture/Equipment	2,714.49	Fee Generation for MU Ext	<u>1,398.00</u>	Total Expense	\$ 59,424.58
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<p>Taney County Commissioners Mike Scofield, Presiding Commissioner Sheila Wyatt, Eastern District Commissioner Brandon Williams, Western District Commissioner</p>	<p>C. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Specialist Sandra Smart-Winegar, MSU Business Development Allen Waldo, PTAC Specialist</p>	<p>Funds (Class) Balance Report</p> <table> <tr><td>Center Operations</td><td>\$ 11,433.63</td></tr> <tr><td>Education & Service</td><td>33,467.67</td></tr> <tr><td>Savings</td><td>9,341.62</td></tr> <tr><td>Grants & Contracts</td><td>17,469.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Council held Funds Other Agencies</td><td><u>7,103.63</u></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Assets</td><td>\$78,815.61</td></tr> </table>	Center Operations	\$ 11,433.63	Education & Service	33,467.67	Savings	9,341.62	Grants & Contracts	17,469.06	Council held Funds Other Agencies	<u>7,103.63</u>	Total Assets	\$78,815.61																																																
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<p>Missouri State Legislators David Slater, Senator, Dist. 29 Brad Hudson, House Representative District 138 Karla Eslinger, House Representative District 155 Jeff Justice, House Representative District 156</p>	<p>Kyle Whitaker, Agriculture and Environment Specialist</p>	<p></p>																																																												

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 1,505 youth building life skills, contributing to their community and becoming college and career ready. Taney County participants included:

- 199 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 computer science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.
- 1,306* 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 54 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 \$130,356 in 2019. 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 5,976 youth and adults through educational community programs such as back to school fairs and library programs.
- Indirectly, we reached 3,546 youth and adults at community events such as Taney County Career days.

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 our career development special programs is My Preparedness Initiative (MyPI) which is a nationally recognized disaster preparedness program piloted in Missouri this year. The MyPI club at the Forsyth Boys and Girls club is one of the first statewide in which we certify teens to become Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members ready to assist the community in case of disaster and assist families in preparing emergency supply kits and communication plans, which may be integral in their future careers in medical sciences, emergency response, 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 \$130 million more of lifetime earnings.

- Being on campus is a predictor of youth going on to higher education (Dalton & St. John, 2016). Taney County 4-H organized a full day career exploration event for 124 seventh grade students in collaboration with Missouri State University and Ozark Technical College at the Table Rock campus in Hollister. Dr. Marci Dowdy (Missouri State University Career Advisor) commented "I just wanted you to know what a fabulous event Willa put together for the 7th grade career exploration in Taney County today. Excellent learning for these students. We truly appreciate her efforts."

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-horg/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-H members 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.



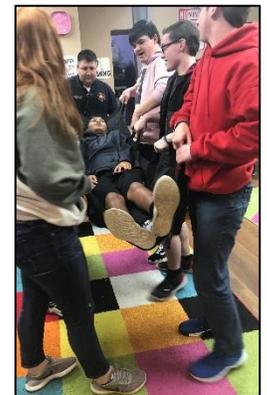
A 4-H Trailblazers member is presenting his honeybee project to the club.



Members of the 4-H Forsyth Junior Fire Service club are learning basic firefighter skills.



A Branson FFA member is receiving her 4-H Poultry Chain chicks in preparation for the youth livestock show.



Forsyth Boys and Girls Club 4-H members practice Search and Rescue techniques.



Taney County 4-H attended many back to school and open house events in 2019.



4-H taught beginning bicycle skills and nutrition with 4-H Blender Bike lessons in school and at community events.



The youth livestock show was a hit even attracting youth from other counties to compete.



4-H partnered with OTC-Table Rock to provide hands-on career education in construction, agriculture, medical science, and first response.



Taney County 4-H has a successful 4-H Shooting Sports program with many youth receiving accolades at county, state, regional, and national events.



4-H provided safety training in 2019 including a youth bicycle skills course with on-bike instruction.

Business Development

Sandra Smart, MSU Business Development Counselor

**Taney County Residents Served**

- 42 Business owners received multiple consulting sessions regarding their small businesses
- 189 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?

- Sales increase of \$1,442,812
- Capitalization of \$465,500
- 2 new businesses started
- 24 new jobs created
- 85 jobs retained
- Government contracts of \$66,350

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 Nutrition Program

Barb Beck., Nutrition Program Assistant



Number of Taney County Residents Served

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,595,006.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 897,375 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,283,220 educational contacts. This year we had 2,578,418 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition help line. **9,180** of these participants reside in Taney County.

Workshop Participation in 2019

During 2019, 2,146 youth and 7,034 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
- Hollister YMCA
- Taney Co. Food Stamp Office
- Christian Action Ministries – Forsyth – My Neighbor’s Pantry
- Salvation Army – Branson Pantry
- Forsyth Senior Center (SWMOA)
- First Baptist Church

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 Stories A wonderful success story is from 2nd Grade students at Forsyth Elementary. I've had the opportunity to work with these kids in Kindergarten and 1st Grade, so they are familiar with the 5 Food Groups, and thankfully, love when I come into their classrooms. They often share stories of different fruits and veggies 'they didn't like when they were little, but are brave and keep trying them, and now they like them'! This year when I entered Mrs. Kolb's room the week after Halloween, the kids couldn't wait to have me guess what they had for their class party – *Nature's Candy and a Veggie Tray!* Mrs. Kolb said the other classes did the same but, also shared that they did have a few other sweet treats, too. 😊

I had been doing lessons at My Neighbors Pantry (CAM) in Forsyth this summer, and loved to hear clients talk about changes they were making in their food choices. The surprise was after the 5th week. Barbie, one of the pantry volunteers, shared how she enjoyed hearing about the fruits and veggies I talked about and the recipes we discussed. I often brought a taste test of something, and she would sometimes try a sample, too. One day I had jicama for people to sample and it was a favorite for many of them. Barbie loved it! She told me she buys it all the time to have for snacks, and had taken it to a church event and many there now buy it, too! I think this success story is a great one! I consider it more than just one success; looking at the ripple effect that it has had on that community!

In summary, it has been a successful year in Taney County for FNP. We look forward in 2020 to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.



Bradleyville summer school students loved making smoothies, hummus and other foods to taste using the blender bike.

Missouri Tax Initiative – VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)*Jody LeMaster, Taney County VITA Coordinator**Luanna LaVielle-Fullerton, Stone County VITA Coordinator***Taney County Residents Served**

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

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 1,302 federal and state tax returns for taxpayers in Stone and Taney County. Families received \$847,926 in Federal Income Tax refunds including \$283,337 in EIC. In addition, the taxpayers saved \$260,400 in tax preparation fees. **The economic impact of the VITA program to the economy of Stone and Taney County is estimated at \$8,479,260.**

Child Care Provider Training

Dr. Jim Wirth, Retired Human Development Specialist

Number of Taney County residents served

37 day care providers

What Did They Learn?

Child Care Provider Training:

- Sparking children’s curiosity
- How to turn good play into Great play
- Happiness, the good life, and living life fully: What psychology and philosophy teach us
- Music for the non-musical
- Disabilities and social skills
- Problem solving with children
- Dealing with anger – the children’s and yours

What Action Did They Take?

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

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

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.

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.



Area child care providers attend these classes to fulfill their annual state mandated requirements for providers working in a licensed child care facility.

Horticulture Programs**Specialty Crop Production Workshops***Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist**Specialty crop production workshops focus on all aspects of a sustainable and profitable farm.***Number of Taney County residents served**

4 County participants that include:

- Specialty crop farmers
- Master Gardeners
- Home gardeners

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019

16

What Did They Learn?

Production practices that lead to sustainable and profitable farms.

What Action Did They Take?

Respondents to surveys indicated that they intended to adopt production practices presented at the workshops.

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

Farmers that are profitable and sustainable help grow local food economies. Non-farmer participants experienced an enhanced quality of life as a result of participation.

Individual Consultations with Specialty Crop Farmers*Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist**Individual consultations with specialty crop farmers. The discussion topics include farm business planning, marketing, farm development, specialty crop production, identification and management of problems, and farm expansion.***Number of County residents served**

4 County participants that include:

- Specialty crop farmers
- Master Gardeners
- Home gardeners

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019

12 hours

What Did They Learn? Residents learned science based horticultural production practices.

What Action Did They Take? Participants used the information shared during the farm visit to help guide management decisions. Residents saved money by making informed decisions.

How Does This Work Make [insert] County and Missouri Better? Home growers who are profitable and successful contribute to the sustainability of themselves and their families, to the sustainability of the natural resources on their land, and to the sustainability of the economy in the County.

Horticulture Soil Test Reporting

Patrick Byers

The soil testing program includes interpretation of soil test results, as well as preparation and delivery of the final soil test report.

Number of [insert] County residents served 52 County participants that include:

- Specialty crop farmers
- Home gardeners
- Green industry professionals

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019 52 hours

What Did They Learn? Soil test reports outline soil chemical characteristics, and also include management recommendations.

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.

2019 Educational Programs – Taney County

Tim Schnakenberg – Agronomy Specialist

Michael Dennigmann – Agronomy Assistant



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 50 farmers in attendance. Elizabeth Picking, field specialist in livestock, discussed fetal programming in beef cattle, based on new research on how stress in the mother can affect performance of calves. Pasture rental rates were discussed by Jim Spencer, field specialist in ag business. Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, discussed ways of taking a forage program on a farm or ranch to the next level. The program was sponsored by Branson Bank, First Community Bank &



Livestock field specialist, Elizabeth Picking of West Plains, discusses the effect of stress in pregnant beef cattle and its effect on calves at the Livestock &

DIVERSIFIED FORAGE TOUR HIGHLIGHTED NEW AND ALTERNATIVE FORAGE OPTIONS

In September at the College of the Ozarks hog farm, farmers from the county gathered to see a new forage called sunn hemp, a new establishment of native warm season grasses, a grazing polyculture at the school and share in a discussion on Johnsongrass as a forage. Speakers were Dr. Harley Naumann, assistant professor of plant science from the University of Missouri, Dr. Tammy Holder, College of the Ozarks agronomy instructor, Mike Dennigmann, extension agronomy assistant and Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy.



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 the growing season, there were schools hosted at Ozark, the Southwest Center in Mt. Vernon, Springfield and at Squires. 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.

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, field specialist in agronomy, signed each farm report and made additional remarks on them as needed. This year there were 104 soil tests submitted through the Taney County Extension Center for both farm and garden fertility recommendations.



Above, Mike Dennigmann and Dr. Harley Naumann address the crowd during the Diversified Forage Tour at College of the Ozarks in September.

2019 Educational Programs – Taney County

FARMERS AND RANCHERS ATTENDED THE SPRING FORAGE CONFERENCE

Nearly 450 farmers and ranchers, including many from Taney County, attended the 35th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference held in Springfield. Keynote speaker this year was Dr. Pat Keyser, of the University of Tennessee who provided an overview of native warm-season grass research done in Tennessee. 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.



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, 11 pesticide applicators were certified at a Private Applicators Training held at Taneyville by Mike Dennigmann, agronomy assistant, and Tim Schnakenberg field specialist in agronomy. 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.



Above are pictures from the Spring Forage Conference in Springfield where nearly 450 producers congregated to learn the latest on forage management. Several Taney County producers attended.

MU BRUSH CONTROL RESEARCH IN TANEY COUNTY

A large University of Missouri weed control research trail was established in Taney County in 2019 on the Mike Combs farm near Walnut Shade. Designed by state extension weed science specialist, Kevin Bradley, this addresses the issue of greenbrier that Taney County livestock producers have been dealing with for years, but with little result. This trail has many treatments along with several replications to insure sound data is obtained. There has been a need for this type of research on greenbrier for many years and it was decided to conduct the research in Taney County.



The University of Missouri research trial on greenbrier on the Mike Combs farm near Walnut Shade.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy

Jenni Nevatt, Nutrition and Health Specialist



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (SSSH) aims to provide older adults with access to a safe, structured and effective exercise program capable of building muscle and increasing bone density, thus decreasing frailty, osteoporosis and the risk of falls.

Number of Taney County residents served

5 Taney County participants that include:

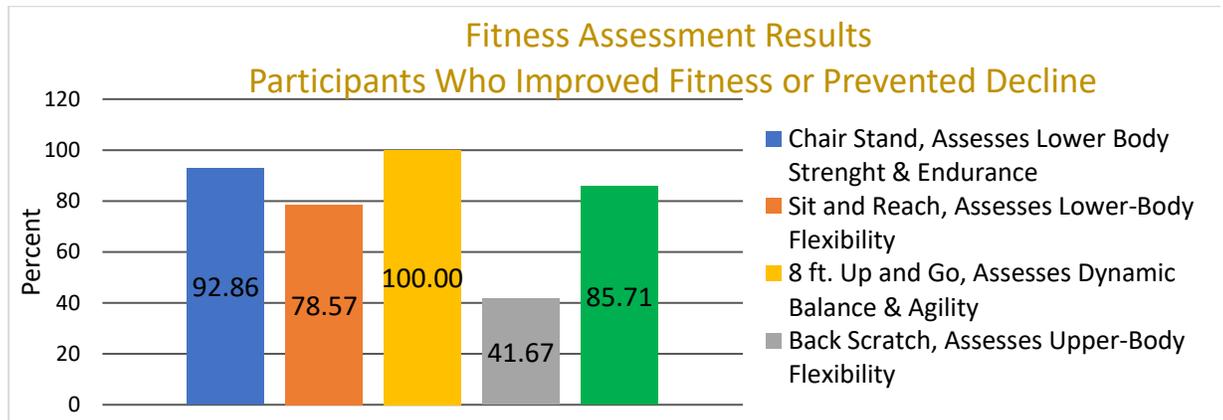
- Participant’s average age was 78 years, and more than 64% were female. 100% of participants completed the program attending at least 10 out of 16 exercise classes, one hour in length.

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019:

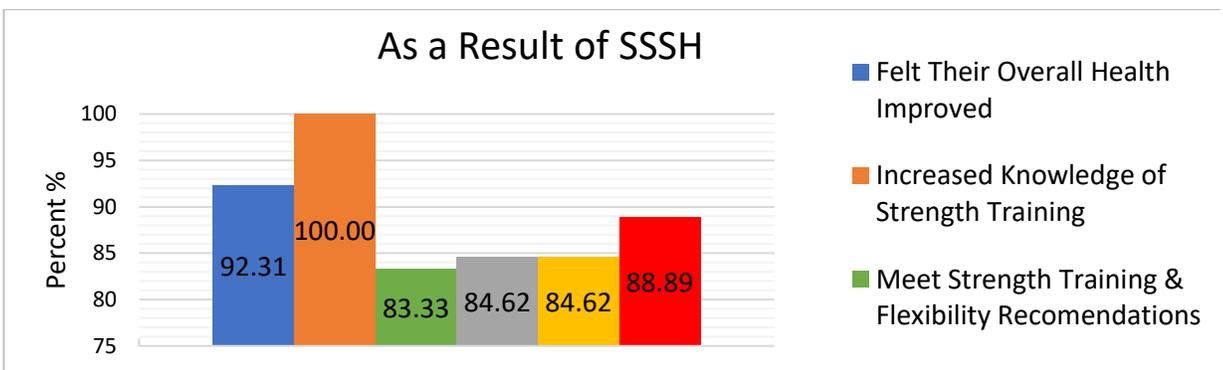
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What Did They Learn?



What Action Did They Take?



How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

SSSH aims to improve the health of the fastest-growing age group in the United States—older adults. The first baby boomers turned 65 in 2011, 60 percent of whom will manage more than one chronic condition by 2030. Unfortunately, less than 20 percent of older adults engage in adequate physical activity, and fewer perform strength training and flexibility exercises. Underserved populations often have even lower rates of physical activity.

By offering access to safe, effective and research-based physical activity, SSSH helps mitigate many of the health issues these older adults face. The program aims to prevent frailty, injury and disease, improving the quality of life for older adults by increasing independence and productive living.



Community Planning Decision and Support

Pam Duitsman, Community Development Specialist

Enhances local capacity to engage citizens in planning and making sound decisions. Facilitation of this process broadens understanding, moderated conflict, and engages citizens in meaningful participation.

Number of Taney County residents served 3 programs
42 County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019 9 hours

What Did They Learn? Participants report an increased sense of voice in community decision making and planning; increased knowledge and understanding of issues; and increased engagement in community decisions.

What Action Did They Take? Engaged in Community efforts to get a Complete Census Count for Taney County

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better? Taney County communities benefit from increased buy-in from community citizens, and more effective and efficient use of public and private resources, supporting increased economic activity.

Strengthening Community Non-profits

Support for small community-based groups and nonprofits to develop their capacity to address important community issues. The primary goal is to assist these organizations to more effectively achieve their goals and meet their purpose and mission. The program offers research-based education on issues affecting organizational development and operations by boards, and includes a range of topics including incorporation, planning, collaboration, financial management, marketing and others.

Number of Taney County residents served 1 program
3 Taney County participants

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019 4 hours

What Did They Learn? Increased knowledge and skills for organizational development and board operation; development or strengthening of networks; improved understanding of financial management practices.

What Action Did They Take? Took knowledge and ideas back to their Boards for action; instituted a time-line of activities to incorporate successfully.

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better? These organizations are able to fulfill their missions and achieve their goals (in terms of capacity, resources, and processes as well as impact on the community). Organizations have increased organizational capacity, programs and processes to effectively address community needs; increased resources (financial and human); and increased leverage of volunteers. Communities have an increased capacity to address local issues. Organizations improve stability and sustainability.

Community Food System Development

Food systems programs and activities provide resources and support for personal and commercial food productions, processing, marketing, distribution, retailing, and disposal that is rooted in a particular place. The place may be a community, metropolitan area, state, or multi-state region. Target audiences for the resources, education and support are diverse audiences including; producers, consumers, economic developers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, local and state government, non-profits, hunger relief groups, and others with an interest in local food systems.

Number of Taney County residents served 8 programs
48 County participants that include:

Total Hours of Collective Workshop Participation in 2019 32 hours

What Did They Learn? All participants responding to surveys indicated the sessions were needed. Participant surveys indicated learning from all sessions: The Noble Hill Ag Accelerator Project; On-line decision tools available to inform producers; Missouri specific market & competitive data to inform marketing decisions; Funding opportunities in MO; New Technology for 21st Century Farms; Farm to School Programs.

What Action Did They Take?

- Used on-line decision tool to make ag related decisions for their businesses
- Procured a high tunnel kit, and funding to build high tunnel
- Contacted the MO Department of Ag for Grant Opportunities
- Developed partnerships for future grant funded initiative
- Used Food-service purchasing guide
- 75% of the participants of the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program training completed applications to begin the program, based on information they received at the workshop.

How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?

Building the local food system trains young and old would-be and current growers and farmers to grow food for the Ozarks, grow their businesses by accessing new wholesale markets to sell their Farm-Grown Produce, and helps farms and farmers be profitable and grow. Overall, growing the food system creates a profitable and resilient agricultural economy for the Taney County.

Missouri Training Institute (MTI) Leadership Development

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development

***Deerland Probiotics and Enzyme Company collaborates with MU Extension***

Deerland Probiotics and Enzyme Company has collaborated with MU Extension to deliver a sustainable leadership-training program for supervisors and managers. Deerland 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 Deerland as it continues to grow and expand.

Deerland Probiotics and Enzyme Company invests in their employees by offering five lunch and learn sessions for supervisors and managers. This approach is cost effective for Deerland while encouraging an extended commitment to the ongoing training program. Workshops include: Nonverbal Communications, Emotional Intelligence-Street Smarts, Workforce Retention and Stability, Employee Performance Reviews, and Bullet Proof Employee Documentation.

Deerland 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 – 2019 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

For 2019, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks fulfilled their commitment to take on high-impact and ambitious projects. A total of 4,448 hours were reported in 2019 by fifty-three master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. They reported making 1,444 contacts with persons in the community in 2019. 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 84 hours of service. According to the latest figures from the Independent Sector organization (2017), the hourly wage for Missouri volunteer hours currently is \$24.14. If you put a value on the education and service hours provided to the community, the value totals \$107,375 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 973 hours of continued education this year (average of 18 hours per person)

Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 104 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 59 who reside in Stone County, 37 in Taney County, three in Christian County, two in Boone County, one in Howell County and two who reside in Boone County, Arkansas. The master gardeners were led this year by Carolyn Crawford, president, Joanne Anderson, vice-president, Marie Ewing, secretary, and Judy Schmitt, treasurer. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter boasts 30 emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program.

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 2019, the recipient for a master gardener \$1,000 scholarship was College of the Ozarks student Devon Mundell.

Internal Grant Program Funded Seven Special Projects

The internal grant committee in 2019 allocated \$4,991.50 for seven projects: Kimberling Senior Center, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Bonniebrook, Pregnancy Life Line, Faith Lutheran Church, Cape Fair Community Center and Taneyhills Library Gardens. The committee was chaired by Penny Meador. Funds for projects originated from local educational program activities and fund-raisers.

Twenty-one 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 2019 there were twenty-one programs offered. Many of the presenters were master gardeners. At the Kimberling Area Library, there were 206 participants (52% increase since 2018). 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. Monica Mueller and



A scene from the Bonniebrook Gallery, Museum, and Homestead at Branson, one of the seven sites that received grant funding in 2019. Here, landscaping was improved at the gazebo and the memorial garden for master gardener Laurie McCann.



KY3 TV meteorologist Ron Hearst addresses gardeners at the Spring Gardening Workshop in Branson.

Cathy Wolven worked on the Crane series with Julie Bryce of the library. Topics covered this year included growing tough plants, table-top seed starting, companion planting, growing and eating sprouts, horticulture therapy, gardening on a budget, shade gardens, Missouri native trees, combinations in the garden, easy peasy plants pots and propagation, growing and using herbs, perennials, growing roses, right plant in the right place, lilies, water wise, preserving garden abundance and bringing the garden in for fall.

Education and Improved Landscape Emphasis in our Communities

Some of the many other ongoing projects that made a significant impact in local communities included the KKOZ Master Gardener Radio Show, Bonniebrook Homestead landscaping, Corps of Engineers Project Office Landscaping, Stonebridge Heritage Garden landscaping, Shell Knob Senior Center landscaping, Kimberling Area Senior Center garden, 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.

Gardening Workshops Bring Out 321 Participants!

The gardening public continues to turn to the Spring and Fall Gardening Workshops for reliable advice on gardening in the Ozarks. There were 166 that attended in Branson in March and 155 came to Kimberling City in September. Topics included the 2019 gardening weather forecast with KY3 meteorologist Ron Hearst, How to Garden on a Rock Pile with Oscar Cross, Xeroscape Gardening with T. Woody Wells, Bird Friendly Backyard with Alan Gregory, Fall Planting and Why Not? by Oscar Cross, Eating from your Garden Year-Round by Shon Bishop, Bats Can be Good Night-Time Neighbors by Bryon Putman, Interiorscapes for Plant Hoarders by Nathan Bell and a stretching exercise with Monica Mueller.



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 third year for this project. Lead by Marva Ramsey, this sale brought in \$5,078 that was used to fund grant projects and scholarships. In many ways our membership used this opportunity for education on many fronts. Children attended and educational events accompanied the sale. This is a major project of the master gardeners since many carefully cultivated and prepared plants from their own gardens for the sale.

On-Line Master Gardener Course Brought in New Members

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

Nineteen Trained in Master Gardener Classes in Branson and Ozark

A Master Gardener training was offered in Branson and Ozark this year. There was 30 hours of instruction provided for participants. There were fifteen who attended in Branson and in the Ozark class four joined the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks. A graduation ceremony was conducted at a Master Gardener meeting at Dewey Short in December.



Master Gardener training graduates honored in December. This year's training brought 22 new members to our local chapter.

University of Missouri Extension in Taney County

122 Felkins Ave

PO Box 598

Forsyth, MO 65653

Phone: 417-546-4431

Email: taneyco@missouri.edu

Web: <http://extension.missouri.edu/taney/>

Office hours: 8 AM to noon, 1 to 5 PM: Monday through Friday