

# UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

# Extension

## 2016 AUDRAIN COUNTY - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MISSOURI STATE FAIR

### 2016 Audrain County State Fair Farm Family

Robert (Bobby) & Nicole Stone and family of Laddonia were among the families honored during the Missouri Farm Family Day, August 15th at the Missouri State Fair.

The Stone family was selected as the Audrain County Missouri Farm Family by the Audrain County Extension Council and local Farm Bureau. The family includes Clara, Haley & Caleb.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state who are active in their communities, involved in agriculture and participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies, including the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair and Commissioners, the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and University of Missouri Extension.



**Farm Family in front row. Back row dignitaries include: Rob Kallenbach, Ast. Dean of Ag Extension, MU College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Todd Hays, Vice President, Missouri Farm Bureau; Ted Sheppard, State Fair Commissioner; Lani Ogle, 2016 Missouri State Fair Queen; Jack Magruder, State Fair Commissioner; Barbara Hayden, State Fair Commissioner; Lloyd Wilson, Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Ag**

#### Donations to Audrain County Extension Endowment

Did you know that Audrain County Extension could accept donations? Donations can be monetary or in the form of physical assets such as land or equipment. Audrain County Extension donations/gifts are an excellent estate planning option. Audrain County Extension is a not-for-profit organization. Money or gifts given to Audrain County Extension are tax deductible donations. Your gifts and donations can be in the form of a general donation or it can be given for a specific extension program. Anyone with an interest or potential interest in donating to Audrain County Extension should contact the Audrain County Extension office for specific details. We have professionals ready to assist you with your donation plans. The wording of a donation plan is critical to ensure your donation stays in Audrain County and is used solely to help the citizens of Audrain County. Our office is always looking for ways to improve the lives of Audrain County citizens. We do this by providing educational programming in the areas of family financial education, agriculture, youth development and nutrition. Anyone wishing to donate or discuss how to donate can call our office at 573-581-3231 and ask for Virgil Woolridge, County Program Director for confidential assistance.

For More Information on University of Missouri Extension Call 581-3231

# Stewart Named Director Of MU Extension



Marshall Stewart of North Carolina State University has been named vice chancellor of extension and engagement at MU.

The University of Missouri's Interim Chancellor, Hank Foley, announced in May that Marshall Stewart, Director of college leadership and strategy at the North

Carolina State University (NCSU) College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has been named Vice Chancellor of Extension and Engagement at MU, effective Aug. 15, 2016.

During the course of his 30-year career in agricultural education and extension services, Dr. Stewart has served in many roles as an ed-

ucator and leader of education and extension efforts. MU Interim Chancellor Foley said that: "He understands the importance of the land-grant mission and our obligation to bring our discoveries to the citizens of Missouri as we work to improve the lives of every Missourian."

## Focus On Kids Helping Families in Transition

In 2016, twelve parents participated in four Focus on Kids workshops provided in Montgomery County. The number of Audrain County parents was three.

Quotes from participants included: "I think it's good for everyone to take." "Appreciate the Program knowledge and very useful to some parents." "Overall it was worth my time." At the end of session evaluation, the majority of participants found the class worthwhile and helpful.

In 1998, the state of

Missouri passed a law that mandated any person in court for a divorce, motion to modify a decree, or custody/paternity with children 18 years of age and under, must participate in a parenting class. Focus on Kids is a class that was developed by the Human Development and Family Studies Department at Mizzou to fulfill this need.

This program was developed not only to fulfill the mandate but also to reduce the number of parents that need to return to court for mo-

ditions to modify their original decree. This saves money and time for the parents, the courts and therefore the community. With increased knowledge parents will also be more cooperative and therefore reduce the stress on their children and themselves. With reduced stress children and parents are more productive in school, work and home.

*(Submitted by Kathy Dothage, Human Development Specialist)*

## 2016 Audrain County Extension in Review

University of Missouri Extension in Audrain County has offered many programs, activities and services to the citizens of Audrain County this past year. The programs offered provided educational programming in the areas of Agriculture, 4-H and Youth, Nutrition, Personal Finance and variety of other educational opportunities. University of Missouri Extension is the University of Missouri's classroom in communities across the state. It was created by federal land-grant and state statutes. University of Missouri Extension connects the citizens of Audrain County to research-based education that improves the county's economy and quality of life. University of Missouri Extension prides itself in being relevant, reliable and responsive to the citizens of Audrain County. We would like to thank all our stakeholders for their support in 2016. We would especially like to thank the Audrain County Commission for its steadfast support of the Audrain County Extension office. Without the financial support that is provided by the Audrain County Commission, the local office would not be able to provide educational programming to the citizens of Audrain County. With this local financial support, the Audrain County Extension Council provides input and recommendations for what is best for the community in the area of educational programming and the expenditure of Extension funds. This vital partnership results in a buy-in from the community, adoption of policies, implementation of plans, and increased economic activity. As a result, the citizens of Audrain County benefit from this wise use of public and private resources.

Extension is frequently referred to as Cooperative Extension. The term Cooperative Extension comes from the fact that Extension is made up of three components – federal, state and local. The educational resources used in Extension teaching comes from all three areas federal, state and local (county) and the funding to support Extension educational efforts also come from all three – federal, state and local. Investing in University of Missouri Extension programs benefits not only the direct participants, but local communities and society as a whole. County, state and federal dollars invested in MU Extension enables local communities' access to public services they would not have otherwise. MU Extension programs, using unbiased research-based information, focus on preventing problems, which is much less expensive to the citizens of Audrain County than trying to fix problems after they are created.

Extension on the national level is the educational branch with the U.S. Department of Agriculture which cooperates with land grant universities across the nation to develop educational programs needed within the states. In Missouri, Extension continues strong ties with all four campuses and Lincoln University. The county offices continue to be the local link between the four University of Missouri campuses and Lincoln University and the people throughout the state. University of Missouri Extension's land grant mission is to "improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri". Extension is part of an educational system that is committed to enhancing human potential in changing social and economic environment, to improve people's lives. County extension councils consist of elected and appointed citizens that plan and oversee local extension activities. The 2016 Council Members are listed on the back page. It is through their dedication and devotion to Audrain County that helps Audrain County maintain a high quality of life for our residents.

The Audrain office staff works very hard to provide and support programs for the residents of Audrain County. With dedicated staff, council members and many volunteers, valuable programs are available to all to Audrain County residents. The Audrain University of Missouri Extension Center is located in the Audrain County Courthouse, Room 304. The office is open Mon.-Fri., from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

*(Submitted by Virgil Woolridge, County Program Director)*



## EXTENSION DINNER

# Audrain County University Extension Council holds annual meeting



## BRENDA FIKE

Managing Editor

At the annual meeting of the Audrain County University Extension Council Tuesday night, newly elected officers were installed, Leader Honor Roll recipients were honored and new and retired members of the extension board were recognized. New officers installed were Karen Potter, chairwoman; Tina Schmeling,

treasurer and Nate Birt, secretary. Not present was Scott Brooks, vice chairman. Recognized for the Lead Honor Roll for their long-term community support were Mike Fuller and Charlene Finck. Nancy Heimann, president and CEO of Enginuity Worldwide, presented a program on the company which is a tenant in the Missouri Plant Science Center in Mexico. Enginuity began in Columbia

and moved to the Plant Science Center in 2014 and is the long-term master tenant at the facility. The Enginuity strategy is based on accessing opportunities for innovation-led market capture, with an emphasis on matching large market opportunities with step-change innovation approaches. Current innovation work is being performed in the areas of renewable energy, biomass to power, sub-

stantiality planning and nanotechnology for surface chemistry. She presented a PowerPoint on biopower from biomass. Biocoal™ Fuel is engineered to fit into existing power plants, enabling quick deployment of base-load renewable biopower. It enables use of multiple feedstocks including wood and annually renewables like grass and corn stover. This insures an abundant, scalable, and competitive

sourced supply. Heimann showed a slide of one of the patented machines used by Enginuity. It is a rotary biomass dryer which uses no external heat. It can be used to dry (dehydrate) or to roast (change energy value). Other machines can only do one process. The equipment has received patents on base technology and Enginuity has filed multiple patent applications for improvements

and market applications. The machine she showed has 12" diameter, and a projected throwout of ag residue of 3.5 tons per hour. The unit requires no special foundation or set up, no permits, no stack, reducing set up costs and shortening time for purchase to use. Heimann encouraged everyone to have an open mind about the new technology.

## 2016 AUDRAIN COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS AWARDS



The Audrain County Extension Council presented its 20th annual large business award to Mid-Missouri Truck and Trailer Parts in Mexico and its 20th annual small business award to K&A Trailer & Equipment in Martinsburg. Each year the Audrain County Extension Council recognizes two Audrain County businesses that have demonstrated a positive impact on Audrain County and has had a close working relationship with University of Missouri Extension programs. Karen Potter, Audrain County Extension chairperson presents the 2016 Large Business Award to Bob Cope and Aaron Cope of Mid-Missouri Truck and Trailer Parts. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Karen Potter presents the 2016 Small Business Award to Kenny Schafer, owner of K&A Trailer and Equipment. SUBMITTED PHOTO



# 2016 Audrain County 4-H and Youth Highlights



University of Missouri Extension 4-H Youth Development

Audrain County 4-H creates environments in which young people are valued, contributing, members in their community. 4-H provides Audrain County youth with hands-on learning opportunities in a safe environment where they can experiment, innovate, and think independently with the help of caring volunteers.

**Audrain County 4-H Community**  
**213 Members**  
**115 Volunteers**

A Community of Youths Learning Leadership, Citizenship and Life Skills

One of every 5 Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a Missouri 4-H program in 2016.

Communities reap long-term benefits by supporting programs like 4-H. Youth engage in the programs are 60% more likely to vote than their non-engaged peers. In addition, 4-H youth are more likely to volunteer and contribute to their

communities than youth participating in other youth programs.

## Topics (What they learned)

Audrain County 4-H serves youth through 7 organized clubs, camps, and more. The youth of Audrain County have demonstrated learning through the following activities:

Demonstrations (local and state)- Livestock Judging (local, state, and national)

4-H Camp  
 - Audrain County 4-H & Youth Fair

4-H Fashion Revue (local and state)- Missouri State Fair State 4-H Teen Conference- State 4-H Congress

## How Did Audrain County Participants Benefit?

Learning by doing is the Audrain County 4-H way. Within Audrain County 4-H Clubs youth, engage in 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 robotics and arts

to veterinary science and woodworking. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

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**Daniel Nunnally, club leader (center) works with members of the Rug Rats 4-H Club on building a robot.**

and contribute to their communities than youth participating in other youth programs.

**4-H members supported by 115 youth and adult**

## volunteers

4-H is a great return on investment. Volunteers create, support, and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$21 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Audrain County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$241,500 in



**Bobette and Warren Wilson were inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame, ceremony was held during the Missouri State Fair.**

cial success for themselves and their family, and be better consumers.

Improve quality of life through more opportunities for leisure and hobbies

Improve health for themselves and children (Porter, 2003)

More likely to vote as adults

More likely to contribute to their community (Lerner, 2009; Zaff et al, 2003)

Youth, who earn their bachelor's degree, increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (Porter, 2003). If 50% of the Audrain members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go onto earning their Bachelors, 4-H would help young people earn \$19,095,000.

## 4-H Camping Program

4-H Camp is one of the many highlights of the 4-H year for local youth. Camp is planned, conducted, and evaluated by 4-H Youth Development Specialists Stephanie Femrite and Patty Fisher, with the involvement and

assistance of about twenty teen-aged Camp Counselors. Over 115 youth and teens take part in one of two annual 4-H Camp programs, held at Camp Cedar Crest north of Mexico, MO.

4-H youth and parents identify 4-H camp as having a strong, positive impact on life skills development in youth. In both 2005 and 2006, 4-H members aged 10-13 across Missouri and their parents were surveyed to assess their perceptions of the Missouri 4-H Camping program's effectiveness in building life skills in youth. The results were overwhelmingly positive.

In a recent study with camp counselors (Femrite & Flatt, 2017), evidence was found that in general, 4-H youth camp counselors in Missouri experience transformative learning and leadership/life skill development as camp counselors. Evidence was found that youth experience a shift in thinking from the way that things have always been done to



**Audrain County members participated in the Overnight at the Zoo Trip at the St. Louis Zoo this past spring.**

## 4-H Connects Kids to College and a Higher Quality of Life

Missouri 4-H Members are twice more likely to have been on a college campus than their non-4-H peers. Being on campus is a predictor of a youth going on to higher education (Hoover, 2006). Audrain County young people ages 5-18 often participate in 4-H events on the MU Campus. These students are more likely to go to college and enjoy increased finan-





Grace Kerr, Natalie Phillips, Kara Meyer, Teagan Teasley, and Ryan Spurling during camp counselor training.

the change that they experienced both internally and externally at camp. Many counselors indicated that their experiences as a camp counselor transformed their thinking about themselves into a leader. This leadership came with a caveat however, that they would have to make personal changes as well. These personal changes were not always comfortable in the shifting dynamic of the camp experience.

According to the data collected, there is strong evidence to suggest that there are personal transformations taking place at camp. Leadership and life skill development was an important facet that camp counselors experienced. Team management skills were developed to push individuals to learn collectively in an effort to teach collaboratively. Specific themes of organization, time management, and responsibility were indicated as skills that were developed as a result of camp. Leadership and life skill development however,

was not always an easy transition to make. There were obvious challenges for counselors in their development process. This arena is where personal transformations occur, as camp counselors are attempting to expand their leadership and life skill development, they are pushed outside of their comfort zones with the intent to grow and develop.

#### Hatching Chicks in the Classroom

4-H Embryology teaches students about science and respect for life. Students hatch chicks in the classroom and witness the exciting miracle of life. Through this program, pre-incubated eggs are delivered to the school where they hatch about four days later. During this time, students have the opportunity to learn the scientific process of embryology including: incubation, preparing a brooder, hatching, identifying parts of an egg, development of chicks in the egg and once they have hatched, handling chicks, and careers in the

poultry industry. While students care for the eggs and chicks, they learn leadership, responsibility, sharing, decision-making, critical thinking, and teamwork.

The 4-H Embryology Program gives children of all ages a hands-on experience in hatching chickens while developing personal confidence and leadership ability through embryology project activities. Children learn by listening, observing, experimenting and applying their knowledge to real-world situations. As students continue on their learning journey, they have increased knowledge and skills in nutrition, food production, food safety, and food systems. Within this program Audrain County students have the opportunity to develop and practice life skills including working on a team, identifying one's own competencies, creative expression, and short term goal setting.

*(Submitted by Stephanie Femrite 4-H and Youth Specialist)*

## African Agriculture Professionals Visit Audrain County



The Cochran Fellows from Africa, along with Dr. Ken Schneeberger, retired professor and leader of the group paused long enough for a group photo before the shop tour at Sydenstricker Implement

This fall University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources hosted a group of USDA Cochran Fellows from Africa. The individuals applied to be part of the group to come to the United States to learn about marketing and information systems in agriculture. The group spent about two weeks in Missouri. Audrain Extension staff member Mary Sobba was asked by campus to plan one day visiting area agribusinesses.

The group included eleven individuals from Africa: two from Tanzania, four from Kenya and five from Nigeria. All were professionals in their field of either agricultural marketing or information systems.

The day began at the Callaway Extension Center with Mary Sobba giving a short presentation on extension agriculture programs and marketing. The tour continued to the Callaway Livestock Auction to see a live market and

how price is determined, and Greg Harrison visiting with the group. The day continued in Audrain County with the first stop at Farm Journal Media. Susan Luke explained the variety of media and marketing used by the company and answered many questions. The next stop was to Sydenstricker Implement and the opportunity to learn about both the livestock business and equipment. Ben and Darla Eggers explained to the group the importance of records, working with breed associations and how the annual auctions are important to Sydenstricker Genetics. The group also had the opportunity to learn about precision ag equipment and toured the Sydenstricker Implement shop.



Eddie Sydenstricker and Joe Offutt welcomed the group at Sydenstricker Implement and shared some of the history of the business and implements on display.

# Making Money Count

The vast majority of Americans are in debt, according to a report from Pew Charitable Trusts published this July. For the most part, that debt comes from what many people would call a good thing — homeownership. Of the 80% of Americans with debt, 44% have mortgage debt. Overall, the median debt load among Americans is \$67,900, overwhelmingly driven by mortgages (the median home loan balance is \$103,000).

Still, Americans have a lot of non-mortgage debt, too, particularly young Americans. Only 33% of millennials (people born between 1981 and 1997), have home loans. In fact, millennials are much more likely to have student loan debt (41% have it), car loans (41%) or credit card debt (39%) than they are to have a mortgage. Among all other generations, mortgages are the leading component of consumer debt.

Credit card debt is still incredibly common among American consumers — with 39% of Americans reporting unpaid credit card balances, it's not far behind mortgages as a leading contributor to consumer debt. While those balances are much lower than those for student loans, the high interest rates and revolving nature of credit card debt can make it a serious threat to consumers' financial health.

This is where Making Money Count can help. Making Money Count is an educational program that focuses on strategies and techniques for using your money and other resources more effectively. Topics discussed include such things as making decisions, communicating about money, developing and using a spending plan, credit, consumer skills, contracts, record keeping, and taxes, banking services, insurance and/or saving and investing. For more information on the Making Money County program email [woolridgev@missouri.edu](mailto:woolridgev@missouri.edu) or call at 573-581-3231.

*(Submitted by Virgil Woolridge, Family Financial Education Specialist)*

# Building Better Child Care for Missouri

The mission of Building Better Child Care for Missouri is to advance child care providers' knowledge and skill in caring for and educating our youngest citizens. Building Better Child Care workshops center on:

- child care provider workforce preparation
- children's school readiness
- socialization of children's health, nutrition, and physical activity

During program year 2016, Building Better Child Care workshops were delivered to 60 participants in Audrain County, who earned 6 training hours while participating in a day long Saturday session. Licensed child care providers are required to obtain 12 hours of instruction per year to meet Missouri

Day Care Licensing requirements. Participants continue to rate both the quality of instruction and subject matter presented as excellent.

Child Care Provider Session held during 2016 included the following:

- Avoid Behavior Problems: Teach Self-Control
- Building Relationships with Children and Youth Who Challenge Us
- What Does Time Mean to Children?

After attending an MU Extension child care provider training workshop, 100 % reported improved knowledge, skills, or understanding.

As a result of what was learned during the MU Ex-

tension child care provider training workshop:

- 100 % reported understanding what activities are developmentally appropriate for the children in their care.

- 90% reported planning to more frequently implement developmentally appropriate activities for the children in their care.

Our continued efforts to improve child care are vital to Missouri's economic development; a well-prepared and educated child care workforce is essential for families' workplace success and children's healthy development.

*(Submitted by Kathy Dothage, Human Development Specialist)*

# University of Missouri Extension Tax Schools

During 2016, University of Missouri Extension agriculture economics department and regional agriculture business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and seven fall tax schools. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including: enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals and attorneys.

The training included new tax legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, affordable care act, IRS rules and regulations, business issues, retirement issues, death of a taxpayer, eth-

ics and agricultural topics. The schools were approved for 8 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS and the Missouri Bar. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 2,607 hours.

The 2016 school attendance was a total of four hundred seven people. The schools were held in Cape Girardeau, Columbia, O'Fallon, St. Joseph and Springfield. The participants were from all over the state. There were 13 participants from Audrain County.

The teaching teams

included a CPA and former IRS employee, an IRS certified retired agriculture professor, an attorney and a regional extension agriculture business specialist.

The trainings received positive evaluations and planning is underway to offer additional trainings in 2017. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge they can use to benefit their clients.





## Beef Improvement Program



One beef producer in Audrain County is enrolled in the Northeast Missouri Beef Improvement Program. The regional livestock specialist assists these producers with their performance record program by taking weaning and yearling weights and frame scores on their calves. These producers then sell bulls in the annual NEMO Performance Tested bull sale held in Palmyra. In 2016, one producer in Audrain County purchased one bull in the sale.

The annual Performance Tested bull sale is a value added program, 40 bulls averaged \$4,379 per head. Participants of the beef improvement program use the data when they sell the bulls to other producers such as in the performance Tested Bull sale. Learn importance of keeping performance records by taking weaning and yearling weights and heights on the farm.

### Beef AI Breeding Program

The use of artificial insemination (AI) breeding in beef cattle has increased over the past eight years as a result of new technology in this area including fixed time AI demonstration done in the region.

As a result, the NEMO BCIA owns three AI breeding boxes which are available for use in the area. These boxes help

improve the conception rate when using AI. In, 2016, area producers used the boxes for a total of 27 days with approximately 2,000 cows and heifers being AI bred in the boxes. The AI conception rate is increased by 5-15 percent due to the lower stress levels on heifers/cows as a result of the design of the breeding boxes, and increases the productivity of a producer's herd affecting his profitability creating a positive impact on the economy of Audrain County.

### Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA)

This certification is for youth and includes a one-hour workshop. Participants must do this three times during their showing career. They must attend twice under the age of 13 and once when they are 14 and older. This program meets the requirements for certification required to exhibit meat producing animals and allows livestock and poultry project members to meet this requirement to complete their project. SMQA increases the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production, as well as increase quality of care and knowledge of livestock produced by youth in Audrain County.

*(Submitted by Daniel Malloy, Livestock Specialist)*

## Audrain County Agriculture Programs

This past year there was a variety of agriculture related extension programs offered in the county, region and state. Agriculture reaches many people including producers, business owners, agricultural retailers and consumers. Extension tries to offer a variety of agriculture related programs for various individuals with an interest in agriculture. Following are a couple of examples.

### Financial Situation in Missouri Agriculture

This past summer, University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Department of Agriculture teamed up for a series of seven meetings across the state to share outlook information, current financial issues facing agriculture and to listen to concerns from producers. Mexico was the site of one of those meetings on July 7. Eighty-three producers from thirteen counties attended. In addition, there were several individuals from USDA, Missouri Department of Agriculture and University Extension.

### Soils & Crops Conference

The 91st annual Audrain Soils & Crops Conference was held January 25, 2016. A variety of sessions were taught including: herbicide resistance, Missouri strip till initiative, the highs and lows of soft red winter wheat, ag site assessment tool, ag financing, cash rent update, community gardens, growing grapes and perennials. Instructors included state and regional extension specialists, USDA personnel, ag lenders, area farmers and Master Gardeners. Sixty-five people from six counties attended the program.



**Kent Shannon, ag engineer explains the ag site assessment online tool to a group of agricultural producers**

### Farm Lease Class

On September 20, 2016, a Farm Lease class was held in Mexico with fifteen people attending. The purpose of the class was to explain the cash rent trends, items in leases, terminating leases and the different types of leases. Participants were given sample leases and related information. Participants were given a short follow up survey to capture their understanding of the topics and to learn how participants plan to use the information.

### Ag Lender Training

Many years ago, extension developed training for agricultural loan officers. The training continues in various locations across the state. On November 22, an Ag lender seminar was held in Mexico for forty-three lenders from ten counties. Topics for the seminar in Mexico included Crop and Livestock Outlooks, Policy Outlook, Ag Site Assessment Tool, Tax Update and Land Rent and Values.

Lenders received the 2017 Missouri Farm Financial Outlook book, which included budgets for all major crop and livestock enter-

prises in the state. Lenders will help their agricultural customers to use the information and tools they were given. Specific actions include sharing cash rent information with clients and using the crop and livestock budgets.

The lenders who attended manage more than 3,500 Ag loans totaling more than \$430 million.

By attending these seminars, lenders are able to help their clients make better decisions based on budgets, and other resources provided. This benefits their portfolio of producers and landowners by a better understanding of enterprise budgets and cash flow affecting families and businesses' financial health.

Two other similar trainings were held in the Northeast part of Missouri in Kirksville and Hannibal. In total, the three trainings (including Mexico) had 95 participants. The lenders in attendance manage 6039 loans totaling \$637,960,000.

*(Submitted by Mary Sobba, agricultural business specialist)*

## 2016 Audrain Extension Council Members

### Officers

Karen Potter, Chairperson  
Scott Brooks, Vice Chairperson  
Nate Birt, Secretary  
Tina Schmeling, Treasurer

### Appointed Members

Tom Groves	County Commission
Laura Pitts	City of Mexico
Michele Aulbur	Farm Bureau
Bobby Stone	MFA

### Elected Members

District 1 – NW Area of Audrain County  
District 2 – SW Area of Audrain County  
District 3 – NE Area of Audrain County  
District 4 – SE Area of Audrain County  
District 5 – City of Mexico

Scott Brooks & Dan Kilbourn  
Ryan Hollenberg & Janet Shackelford  
Bobby Stone & Renae Stumpe  
Janis Deimeke & Tina Schmeling  
Nate Birt & Cameron Oliver &  
Jason Young & Karen Potter

### Extension Staff Headquartered in Audrain County

Virgil Woolridge	Family Financial Education Specialist, County Program Director
Mary Sobba	Agriculture Business Specialist
Stephanie Femrite	4-H Youth Development Specialist
Sarah Estes	Youth Program Associate
Daniel Nunnally	Youth Educational Assistant
Kathy Nichols	Office Manager & Bookkeeper
Suzanne Ogden	Office Support Staff

### Additional Staff with Responsibilities in Audrain County (Offices are in other counties)

**Shelley Bush-Rowe**  
Regional Director  
**Kent Shannon**  
Agricultural Engineer  
**Daniel Mallory**  
Livestock Specialist  
**Max Glover**  
Agronomy Specialist  
**Megan Samson**  
Nutrition Specialist  
**Jennifer Schutter**  
Horticulture Specialist

**Chris Shoemaker**  
Business Development Specialist  
**Kathy Dothage**  
Human Development Specialist  
**Charles Holland**  
Business Development Specialist  
**John Gulick**  
Community Development Specialist  
**Chandra Beaver**  
Nutrition Program Associate

*University of Missouri Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or status as a protected veteran.*

## University of Missouri Extension Mission Statement

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

## MU Students Volunteer at Local Community Gardens

Ten MU students from Columbia came to Mexico to participate in a community service project, which is required as part of their degree requirements. The students spent the weekend working at the Mexico Help Center. The student's community service project consisted of working in the Community Gardens located near the Mexico Help Center. The students spent their two days building compost bins and raised beds. The students



also filled the beds with soil in preparation for future planting. The students completed their time in Mexico by doing a thorough cleaning of the area by picking up rocks and tree limbs

to better prepare the garden for spring plantings. The students were under the supervision of the Audrain County Master Gardeners, which is a program of Audrain County Extension.

## Education And Diagnostic Services for Farm and Garden Success

Over 900 Audrain County residents participated in or were assisted by a University of Missouri Extension agronomy or horticulture program in 2016. Participants include farmers, Clark produce auction growers, Master Gardeners, people who learn gardening tips from Master Gardeners at the Mexico Farmer's Market, people who learn from Master Gardeners at the Mexico Community Garden, soil test customers, plant diagnostic clinic customers, and private pesticide applicator training recipients. In 2016 agronomy and horticulture programs resulted in over 800 hours of learning by Audrain County residents and over 400 hours of volunteer service by Audrain Master Gardeners. Evaluations showed that people learned basic gardening, pest control, how to apply fertilizer to crops and gardens, and safe use of pesticides. People used what they learned to grow food, reduce pollu-



tion in streams and lakes, and stay safe as they work in their gardens and fields. By utilizing research proven best practices in their gardens and on their farms citizens of Audrain County improve their local economy. Regardless of whether research proven best practices are used to produce locally grown produce for the Clark Produce Auction, or corn and soybeans that are marketed globally, there are clear benefits to increasing efficiency, productivity, and safety. Current and future generations benefit when research proven best practices are used and result in improved productivity and reduced negative environmental impacts.

Audrain Master Gardeners play a key role supporting Mexico Community Gardens, a collaborative effort between several groups and individuals to support community gardens and healthy food choices in Mexico. In 2015 this collaborative effort won a Missouri Municipal League Innovation Award. Work continued in 2016 as University of Missouri students participating in the Mizzou Alternative Breaks program, pictured, volunteered in Mexico community gardens alongside Audrain Master Gardeners on March 19 and March 20.

*(Submitted by Max Glover, Agronomy and Horticulture Specialist)*