



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Benton County

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## Who we are

### Benton County Extension Council

Rod Brethower, Chairman  
 Arthur Keuper, Vice-Chairman  
 Brenda Arnett, Secretary  
 Rodney Meyer, Treasurer  
 Brent Beck  
 Joel Helland  
 Jim Kramer  
 Marlo Zeitler  
 Tom Black  
 Dale Estes, Jr.  
 Evonne Lang  
 Paula Spring

### Benton County faculty and staff

**Gene Schmitz**  
 Livestock Specialist and  
 County Program Director  
 660-438-5012

**Tammy Culpepper**  
 Nutrition Program Associate  
 660-438-5012

**Debbie Wilken**  
 Office Support  
 660-438-5012

### Staff serving Benton County, (based in other counties)

**Wayne Prewitt**  
 West Central Missouri  
 Regional Director  
 660-383-1633

**Brent Carpenter**  
 Agriculture Business Specialist  
 660-827-0591

**Michelle Chapman**  
 FNEP West Central Region  
 Project Director  
 660-383-1633

**Travis Harper**  
 Agronomy Specialist  
 660-885-5556

**Blake Gazaway**  
 4-H Youth Development  
 Program Specialist  
 660-827-0591

**Melissa Cotton**  
 Nutrition and Health Education  
 Specialist  
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**Dedra R. Thomas**  
 Family Financial Education  
 Specialist  
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**Sarah M. Traub**  
 Human Development and  
 Family Science Specialist  
 660-882-5661

**Michele M. Kroll**  
 Community Development  
 Specialist  
 573-346-2644

**Kent Shannon**  
 Natural Resource Engineering  
 Specialist  
 573-445-9792

### Benton County Commissioners

**Michelle McLerran Kreisler**  
 Presiding Commissioner

**Jim Hansen**  
 North Side County Commissioner

**Dale Estes, Jr.**  
 South Side County Commissioner

### 2017 Benton County University of Missouri Extension Council operating budget

Income:	
Governmental Appropriations	<u>\$21,580</u>
Expenses:	
Personnel-Salaries	\$13,563
Payroll Expenses	1,065
Travel	1,800
Telephone – Local	614
Telephone – Tolls	268
Advertising	86
Supplies/Services	2,443
Insurance	400
Miscellaneous	50
Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 20,289</u>

### State legislators

**Sandy Crawford**, Senator  
**Wanda Brown**, Representative  
**Warren Love**, Representative

### About us

**University of Missouri Extension Center Benton County**  
 1623 Commercial Street  
 P O Box 969  
 Warsaw MO 65355  
**Office Phone:** 660-438-5012  
**Email:** [bentonco@missouri.edu](mailto:bentonco@missouri.edu)  
**Visit our web site:**  
<http://extension.missouri.edu/Benton>  
**Office Hours:** 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

108 Whitten Hall

Columbia, MO 65211

PHONE: (573) 882-7477

FAX: (573) 882-1955

December 4, 2017

Dear County Commissioners and Friends of MU Extension:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.

Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ADA INSTITUTIONS

# Ag Programming



Gene Schmitz, Livestock Specialist  
 Brent Carpenter, Ag Business Specialist  
 Travis Harper, Agronomy Specialist

## 2017 Benton County Ag Programming Highlights

- Pesticide Applicator Training
- Pasture Weed ID and Control Workshop
- Master Gardener Training
- Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Development Program
- Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity
- Hickory County Cattlemen’s Bus Tour
- Regional Grazing School

Benton County residents received information on MU Extension programming through KAYQ radio in Warsaw, and news releases in the Benton County Enterprise, Cole Camp Courier, and Lincoln New Era. Additional information was received through our participation in monthly BCE-TV programming.

Over 600 direct contacts with Benton County residents were made by the Ag Extension faculty based in the Benton County Extension Center or other MU Extension faculty serving Benton County.

### *Travis Harper, Agronomy Specialist*

- 2 Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings Held – 19 people obtained or renewed a license in 2017
- 1 Master Gardener Training Held – 6 people completed Master Gardener Training
- Approximately 30 individual consultations in Benton County
- 2 Eating from the Garden “Insects in the Garden” Presentations – Approximately 120 elementary students
- 1 BCE TV Program
- 1 Grazing School in Benton County
- 1 program on “Native Plants in Missouri” for Good Samaritan Care Center in Cole Camp – 12 attendees



The “Fly Vacuum” at Tribute Farm created a lot of interest on the 2017 Cattlemen’s Bus tour. The 2017 tour visited operations in Southeast Missouri, Western Kentucky, and Southern Illinois.



2017 Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale at Orschlen’s in Warsaw.

## Ag Programming – Livestock Production

Gene Schmitz, *Livestock Specialist, Warsaw, MO serving Benton, Cooper, Hickory, Moniteau, Morgan, and Pettis Counties*

During 2017, I had over 2050 non-media contacts via meetings, phone calls, e-mail, office visits, or farm visits in the following areas:

- **Beef Production Systems** – beef cattle nutrition, ration formulation, reproductive management, Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Development Program, genetic selection tools.
- **Dairy Production Systems** – Nutrition and grazing management for dairies.
- **Forage Production and Management** – includes grazing schools, hay schools, forage selection for beef and dairy production, soil testing and interpreting soil test results, pasture weed management, forage selection, forage harvest and storage management, tall fescue toxicosis, novel endophyte tall fescue varieties.
- **Home Horticulture** – plant and insect identification and control, soil testing, interpreting soil test results.
- **Show Me Quality Assurance** – youth programming for 4-H and FFA members exhibiting market livestock at county, regional, and state fairs.

**Media efforts.** The purpose of my media effort is to create awareness of pertinent livestock production topics, and to create and maintain general public awareness of MU Extension programming. These efforts include a monthly radio spot airing on KSIS in Sedalia. News releases are provided to the following newspapers: Benton County *Enterprise* in Warsaw, Boonville *Daily News*, California *Democrat*, Osage Valley Publishing in Lincoln, Cole Camp and Windsor, Sedalia *Democrat*, Stover *Morgan County Press*, Tipton *Times*, Versailles *Leader Statesman*, Hermitage *The Index* and the Sedalia *News Journal*. News releases are provided to KWRT radio in Boonville and KAYQ in Warsaw. Monthly, I do a live interview on KAYQ radio in Warsaw. I record a monthly video interview for BCE-TV, an electronic news report produced by the Benton County *Enterprise*, which is uploaded to their website.

I provide news releases to *Missouri Ruralist*, a weekly farm newspaper distributed throughout Missouri. Many of these news releases have been adapted into articles printed in this newspaper. I contribute articles to the *Ag In Focus* regional bi-monthly newsletter distributed throughout the west central Missouri region.

In 2017, I was involved in the production of a YouTube video on hay sampling techniques. The video was produced as part of the new hay school curriculum. The video is titled “University of Missouri Extension Hay School: Hay Testing” and can be viewed at the following website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCjStHPOaNk>

Other programming efforts included presentations at the following events in 2017:

- **Building From the Ground Up** – Buffalo, MO; cow-calf nutrition, stocker nutrition.
- **Versailles Dairy Day** – Versailles, MO; Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue Use in Dairy Production.
- **Tall Fescue Renovation Schools** – Mt. Vernon, MO and Mound Valley, KS; Conversion Economics and Management of Novel and Toxic Fescue During the Renovation Process.
- **Regional Grazing Schools** – California, Eldon, and Lincoln, MO; Nutrition on Pasture, Matching Forages and Livestock, and Forage Selection and Grazing Management.
- **State Fair Community College ag class** – Sedalia, MO; Forage Management, and Balancing Beef Cattle Rations.
- **Annual customer appreciation dinner** – Otterville Coop; Novel vs. Toxic Tall Fescue
- **Hay School curriculum** – developed two modules; Understanding What Your Cattle Require, and Know What Your Hay Contains.

### Research

The novel tall fescue variety trial and the toxic tall fescue conversion research near Clifton City continue. Data collection continues, and will be analyzed and reported upon completion.

## Ag Business Programming - Ag Lender Seminar

*Brent Carpenter, Ag Business Specialist*

December 13, 2017 at Clinton, MO

Instructors: Dr. Scott Brown, Dr. Ray Massey, Brent Carpenter

A total of 19 lenders attended: 3 Benton, 2, Cass, 1 Cooper, 2, Henry, 1, Jackson, 4 Johnson, 1 Lafayette, 4 Morgan, 1 Pettis.

Lenders received the 98-page booklet *Missouri Farm Financial Outlook, 2018* which includes current articles authored by university experts on relevant topics, such as, market projections, cost of production estimates, government programs and policy that impact farm businesses, and current and/or emerging farm management issues.

### Learning

#### **Ag Economic Situation and Outlook**

Ag policy, macro economy and relevant commodity markets.

*Dr. Scott Brown, Assistant Extension Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics*

#### **Rapid Fire Farm Management Topics**

Farmland values, beef herd management markers, specialty crops in Missouri, program payment updates.

*Brent Carpenter, West Central Regional Ag Business Specialist*

#### **Herbicide Injury Risk Management Issues**

##### **Applications from the Field of Behavioral Economics**

*Dr. Ray Massey, Extension Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics*

Situation and Outlook for the General Economy and Major Agricultural Commodities

What the Affordable Care Act Means to Farmers and Farm Businesses

Risk Management and the Crop Safety Net Under the New Farm Bill

### Actions

Lenders will reference current data and analysis through the year to make loan decisions.

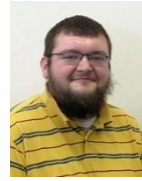
Lenders will direct clients to appropriate resources for market and management expertise to improve farm business profits and creditworthiness.

### Public Value

The ag lender seminar lowers transaction costs and “greases the wheels” of ag credit in communities.

Lenders are better prepared and more prone to provide credit for enterprises supported by sound economic data and analysis. Borrowers are able to work with lenders who better understand their businesses.

## 4-H and Youth Programming



*Blake Gazaway, Youth Development Specialist*

Benton 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 aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Through club meetings, camps, and educational trips, Benton County 4-H offers life-long learning opportunities.

### **Benton County 4-H Projects for the 2016-2017 4-H year:**

Advanced Visual Arts	Dairy and Meat Goats	Poultry
Archery	Dog	Power of the Wind
Arts and Crafts	Filmmaking	Quilting
Beef	Floriculture	Rabbits
Bowling	Food Preservation	Robotics
Breads	Foods	Scrapbooking
Bucket Calf	Forages	Sewing
Cake Decorating	Forestry	Sheep
Cat Care	Gardening	Shooting Sports
Child Development	Grains	Sports Fishing
Computer Programming	Horse Riding	Swine
Computers	Keeping Fit	Theatre Arts
Country Cured Bacon	Knitting	Veterinary Science
Country Cured Hams	Move Across Missouri	Welding
Crochet	Outdoor (Hiking and Camping)	Wildlife Conservation
Dairy	Photography	Woodworking

### **2017 4-H in Benton County**

Benton County 4-H is a community of 53 4-H members and 31 trained volunteers with five clubs building life skills, engaging in science, and contributing to their community. One of every five Missourians between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2017.

4-H youth are more connected to college campuses and faculty than their friends. MU Extension 4-H connects 5,176 young people to University of Missouri campuses. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going onto higher education (Hoover, 2006). 4-H youth are nearly twice as likely to expect to go on to college (Lerner and Lerner, 2011).

Youth who earn their bachelor's degree increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (NACUBO, 2012). If 50% of Benton County members participating in 4-H events on the MU Campus go on to earning their bachelors, 4-H would help young people in Benton County earn \$71 million more of lifetime earnings.

4-H youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and health for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Missouri 4-H members spend more of their leisure time than peers engaged in projects of interest anchored in science (Khan, 1989). It is no wonder, 4-H members are three times more likely to go in to science related careers than similar peers (Lerner and Lerner, 2008).

Missouri 4-H is growing future scientists. Our nation needs young people prepared to live and work in a world that no one can imagine – a world where there will be jobs that do not yet exist, a world that will be using technology that has not been invented, a world solving problems that have not yet been identified. In Benton County, 22 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.

### **Regional, State, and Local 4-H Attendance**

Benton County Fair—254 entries, 46 Youth  
 Benton County Demonstrations—2  
 State Contests—3 Youth

Missouri State Fair Exhibitors—14 Youth with 22 exhibits  
 Youth 4-H Camp—3 Counselors  
 Move Across Missouri – 4 Youth, 4 Adults



## Youth Development Embryology Project

The 4-H embryology program is a classroom supplement designed to provide youth with a hands-on science learning experience by watching pre-incubated eggs hatch over the course of a few days under their care.

During 2017, 198 students from 11 classrooms participated in embryology resulting in 1,188 hours of learning.

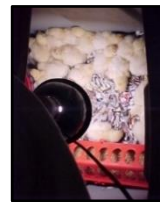
### What impact does this have on the participants?

Students learn about where their food comes from while gaining knowledge of life cycles and embryo and reproductive development. By using experimental learning and hands on activities in the classroom, teachers are able to build classrooms geared towards developing student's scientific and observational learning skills. Participants developed the social skills necessary to care for and nurture another living being by helping turn and care for the chicks both before and after they hatch alongside their teacher.

### What impact does this have on the county and Missouri?

4-H science programming seeks to cultivate an appreciation of the sciences and life early on in Missouri youth. Aligned with state standards, embryology reaches hundreds of students yearly who are able to pass on their knowledge of nutrition and science to their parents thus encouraging a more educated community. A more educated and science literate populace in turn benefits the demands of today's technological and science driven economy.

**Comment from teacher:** *"It is a fun way to teach every subject. It is very exciting for my students to experience the hatching of a new life."*



### Focus on Kids

Focus on Kids (FOK) helped participants from Benton County learn how to better support their children through the divorce and separation process in 2017.

### What impact does this have on the county and Missouri?

When you support the Focus on Kids program, the county and state benefit as parents are better able to meet the social and emotional demands of their children. A healthy home environment nurtures children who are more successful in school and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

### Volunteer Support

Volunteers create, support, and are part of the 4-H community. Missouri 4-H volunteers responding to a survey report they contribute on average 100 hours per year. Valuing their time at \$24.14 per hour, based on average Missouri incomes, the contribution of Benton County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$74,834 in 2017! More importantly, these adults serve as mentors for our youth helping them transition into healthy adulthood, which is priceless.



### Benton County 4-H/FFA Fair Royalty

King – Grant Louiselle

Queen – Bailey Crouch

Princess – Montana Jonson



Tammy Culpepper, Nutrition Program Assistant



## Family Nutrition Education Programs

Nutrition and life skills for Missouri families

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

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.

In addition to providing nutrition education, in mid-2017, FNEP began partnering with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach. The NPAs are spending an average of 4 hours per week in providing information and assistance with SNAP applications.

In Benton County, 2,203 Youth and 1,291 Adults contacts were made for a total of 3,494 contacts.

The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Benton County:

### Schools

### Agencies

Cole Camp Middle School	Newman's Country Mart
Cole Camp Elementary	Warsaw Head Start
Lincoln Elementary	Benton County Food Pantry
North Elementary	First Baptist Church
Ruth Mercer Elementary	
South Elementary	

In addition to the numbers, Tammy Culpepper shared this success story demonstrating local impact:

*This past summer I was programming at Warsaw North Elementary School. I was working with both 4th & 5th grade classes using the cur. Eating from the Garden. Summer school went really good and we were able to harvest and try several different foods from the garden. However, on the last day which was the end of June the kids asked me what we were going to do with the food in July when no one was at the school. I asked them what they thought we should do? After discussion and a vote they decided to donate it to the local food pantry so other people could benefit from the food as well. The local food pantry was thrilled to get the food and in Aug. when the kids came back to school I was able to tell them how many pounds of food they had donated in the month of July.*

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



*Michelle Kroll, Community Development Specialist  
Melissa Cotton, Nutrition and Health Education Specialist*

## Human Environmental Sciences

### Nutrition and Health Programs

- Melissa Cotton and Amy Bartels taught an evidence based, six-session Diabetes Self-Management Program created by Stanford University at the Boonslick Library. We had 10 participants.
- A Food Preservation Program on the “Do’s and Don’ts of Canning” was presented at Our Farm Store in Edwards, MO. There were seven participants.
- Melissa Cotton made two appearances on BCE-TV – The first interview was an introduction and discussion about the Nutrition and Education programs that are available to residents of Benton County. The second interview highlighted food preservation issues.

### Community Development Programs

Building local prosperity provides local government officials with a detailed economic county profile that gives an accurate picture of trends and issues that communities are facing. Michele Kroll, community development specialist met with the commissioners to review the report and answer questions. This report is the beginning step to help local government officials with data driven decision-making. As a result, Benton County commissioners will be hosting a community-wide meeting in January 2018 to foster greater understanding about the local economy, factors that influence economic growth, identification of community assets, challenges and barriers, asset mapping, and local strategies. Community economic development faculty from University of Missouri Extension will be facilitating the exploration of opportunities for developing a strategic economic development plan.

### SET- Stronger Economies Together (Benton)

Stronger Economies Together (SET) enables communities and counties in rural America to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint for their multi-county region that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of that region. The benefits of SET include: a) Step-by-step coaching to guide the design and implementation of a practical and viable regional economic development plan, b) In-depth data tailored to the region, describing its current and emerging clusters, comparative economic advantages, and detailed demographic and socio-economic information.

SET Phase I-VI. Creating, attracting and retaining jobs as a single rural county in isolation from other nearby counties is becoming increasingly ineffective. In today’s global marketplace, economic development progress is more likely to be realized when rural and metro counties work together as a region to assess their resources and then design and implement plans that build on their assets and comparative economic strengths. Launched in 2010 by USDA Rural Development and the nation’s four Regional Rural Development Centers and their land-grant university partners, this exciting initiative is now in place in 94 regions in 32 states.

Benton County participated in this project within the Kaysinger Basin Economic Development Planning Region.

Regional teams involved in the SET program are introduced to a wealth of information and “hands-on” activities that are designed to help strengthen their ability to successfully plan and implement a high quality regional plan. Topics introduced in the SET sessions include: a) Conducting a Regional Civic Forum, b) Exploration of Regional Data, c) Evidence Based Planning, d) Connecting Capitals, and e) Finalizing a High Quality Regional Plan.

## Business Development Program

As entrepreneurs and innovators, Missouri's small businesses are becoming a more diverse group that continues to make the state's economy productive. There are approximately 500,000 small

businesses in Missouri. Nearly 98 percent of all businesses with employees are categorized as small businesses. In assisting the owners and managers of those businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county's economic development through growth in jobs, sales, innovation, technology development and commercialization.

During 2017 for the 17 counties that comprise the West Central Region, business counselors provided business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance to 2,107 people and their companies. In addition, entrepreneurs and business owners in those counties reported the following economic impact and activity as a result of the services provided by the MU Extension Business Development Program:

• New businesses	12
• Created or retained jobs	617
• Sales increases	\$34,480,897
• Government contracts	\$16,098,297
• Investments (loans or owners' equity)	\$9,204,407
• Clients/companies receiving business counseling	290
• Business training attendees and conference participants	1,817

Overall, the University of Missouri's Business Development Programs (BDP) served 14,143 people and their businesses state-wide. The total impact for all businesses assisted by the BDP was:

• New businesses	259
• New jobs	3,106
• Retained jobs	3,675
• Sales increases	\$478,772,408
• Government contracts	\$7,622,000
• Loans and investments in business	\$91,002,145
• Investment in commercialization:	
• Clients/companies receiving business counseling	3,458
• Business training attendees and conference participants	10,685



**Pictured:** MU College of Business student interns worked with MU International Trade Center & MU Extension to complete global market research for 15 Missouri business located across the state in 2017. Woodland, located in Linn Creek, MO (Camden County) was one of the WC Region businesses assisted.

For assistance with starting, managing or growing your business— [www.missouribusiness.net](http://www.missouribusiness.net)

Contact: Kelly Asbury

MO SBTDC – State Fair Community College, Sedalia

Ph. (660) 596-7350

[kasbury1@sfccmo.edu](mailto:kasbury1@sfccmo.edu)

## MU Extension Continuing Education

### University of Missouri (MU) Conference Office

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

### Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI)

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

### Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI)

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

### Missouri Training Institute

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

### MU Nursing Outreach

Nursing Outreach serves mainly rural health-care workers with high-quality, affordable continuing education programs using face-to-face and online delivery methods; 92 percent live outside the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas. In FY 2017, nurses from 77 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis attended continuing education programs. Another 867 nurses and 1,986 health care professionals — including social workers, nursing home administrators and psychologists — were served through multidisciplinary programs. [nursingoutreach.missouri.edu](http://nursingoutreach.missouri.edu)

### Center for Continuing Medical Education and Physician Lifelong Learning (CME/PLL)

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

### Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education (VMECE)

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

### Labor Education

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

## Other MU Extension Programming Highlights from 2017

### Southwest Electric Cooperative Donation

This year, the Benton County Extension Council received a donation from Southwest Electric Cooperative at Bolivar. SWEC partnered with their lender, CoBank, through their Sharing Success program, to make this donation.

The Benton County Extension Council elected to share a portion of this donation with Benton County 4-H clubs and the FFA chapters at each of the county high schools. A total of \$750 was donated to the five Benton County 4-H clubs. FFA chapter advisors were asked to provide a proposal of how they would use the funds to further the educational efforts of the FFA program for all members. Based on these proposals, a total of \$1,350 was distributed to the three Benton County FFA chapters.

According to Extension Council chair Rod Brethower, "The extension council wanted to ensure these donations were used by each club or chapter to further the education opportunities for every member. We were glad to be able to share some of these donated funds in support of the efforts of these groups to further the education of our youth."

The extension council is still in the process of determining how to best invest the remaining SWEC donation in education activities to benefit the county. On behalf of the Benton County Extension Council, we would like to say a big "Thank you!" to SWEC and their partner CoBank for their generous donation to our extension council. If you have the opportunity, please express your gratitude to SWEC for their generous donation to support the education mission of University of Missouri Extension in Benton County.

### MU Continuing Education Enrollments: Benton County

- Fire and Rescue Training Institute (FRTI) – 65
- Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) – 12
- Missouri Training Institute (MTI) – 9
- MU Conference Office – 83
- Veterinary Medical Extension and Continuing Education (VMECE) - 1

### Benton County State Fair Farm Family



LaMonte and Rachelle Yoder were among the 112 families honored during the Missouri Farm Family Day, August 14, 2017 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Yoders were selected as the [Benton County Missouri State Fair Farm Family](#) by the Benton County Extension Council and the local Farm Bureau. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state who are active in their community, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H and FFA.

The annual event was sponsored by Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri State Fair and Commissioners, University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and University of Missouri Extension.

**A total of 170 Benton County residents participated in MU Extension Continuing Education programs during 2017.**