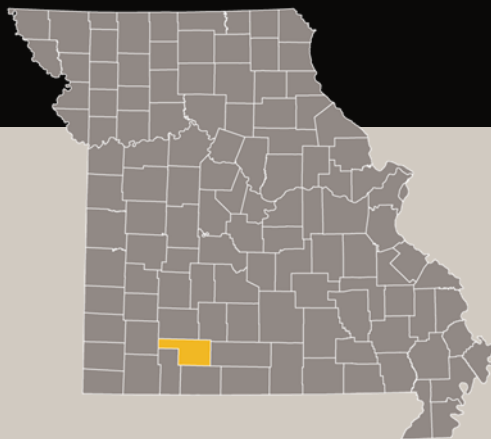




UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION  
**Christian County**

Annual Report 2017





# IMPROVING PEOPLES' LIVES IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY

January 2018

Dear County Commissioners and the Community:

This report outlines the successes of University of Missouri Extension in Christian County and gives a glimpse of our financial situation. The annual report also provides a snapshot of our successful programming during 2017.

This year has been a year of growth for Christian County Extension. With the office being fully staffed, our county residents have been able to participate in a variety of new programs conducted by our specialist in their specific areas. Jim Spencer Jr. took on the role as county program director in January and our office welcomed Bandi Kolbe as our new Office Manager in mid-February.

As with any business or organization, funding is essential to our success. MU Extension programs are funded by county, state and federal appropriations. The Christian County Commission provides the local funding for the Christian County Extension center. The Commission funds office space and utilities, office operating expenses, one-half of the salary of a youth development educator, clerical salaries and travel expenses of specialists who conduct programs in the county. A recent report from TEconomy Partners indicated for every dollar invested in MU Extension, \$11 of public value is returned, for a value of \$945 million.

The University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for two professional staff members, half of the salary of one youth program assistant and one nutrition educator headquartered in Christian County. The University also provides in-service training expenses, including travel and matching funds for technology equipment. In 2017, the University of Missouri provided support to the Christian County Extension program of over \$ 220,000.

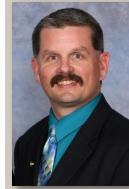
MU Extension's commitment to the county, volunteers and existing staff is strong and our programs remain in high demand. Thank you to the County Commissioners and county residents for their support of Christian County Extension in 2018. We look forward to moving ahead during 2018 and impacting even more families in Christian County.

Sincerely,

*Jim Spencer Jr.*

Jim Spencer Jr.  
County Program Director

## Local Faculty & Staff



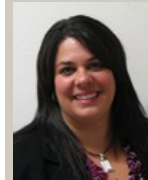
**Jim Spencer, Jr.**  
Ag Business Specialist  
County Program Director



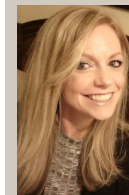
**Jennifer Hancock**  
4-H Youth Dev. Educator



**Becky Mills**  
Nutrition Educator



**Dr. Amy Patillo**  
Community Development  
Specialist



**Bandi Kolbe**  
Office Manager



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# LETTER FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR



## 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

# Nutrition Educator: Becky Mills

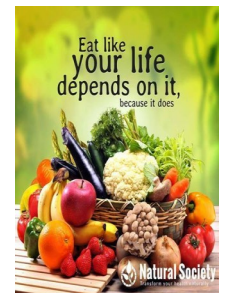


The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,681,129.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 838,295 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,831,270 educational contacts. This year 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. 12,225 of these participants reside in Christian County.

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.

During 2017, 1,903 youth and 10,322 adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Christian County:

Schools	Agencies
Century Elementary	Least of these Nixa
ESPY Elementary	St. Joseph Catholic - Billings
Highlandville Elementary	Nixa Senior Center (SWMOA)
High Pointe Elementary	Ozark Senior Center (SWMOA)
Matthews Elementary	
ESPY Elementary	
Highlandville Elementary	
Chadwick Elementary	
Ozark Head Start	
Spokane High Middle & High Schools	



In addition to the numbers, Nutrition Program Associate, Becky Boyd-Mills shared this success story demonstrating local impact: I was recently shopping in one of our local grocery stores that carries a very wide variety of produce. As I was shopping, a former student of mine came up to me with her mother and asked me if I remembered last year when I challenged the class to try a new & different fruit or vegetable once a week. She was so excited to let me know that she & her family do this every week. Her mother was very appreciative of our program and the fact that her daughter is the one in the family that encourages everyone to eat healthy foods, & to try new foods. The mother told me that the little girl sometimes drives her siblings a little crazy with her insistence of them trying new foods, but mom says, "It's most definitely working for the entire family." I love the fact that this kind of success story has not only touched one young girl, but in turn she has carried what she learned from nutrition classes and is most definitely sharing it with her family.

Nutrition Program Associate, Angie Langston shared this success story demonstrating local impact:

Teaching nutrition to middle school can be a challenge at times but the students at Spokane Middle School have been the exception. After the lesson "Shop 'Till You Drop" from the Choices and Challenges curriculum, a couple of students decided to do more label reading of the snacks they were buying. One student shared with the class that he had always enjoyed Pop Tarts for breakfast and sometimes would have them as an after school snack too. He was shocked when looking at the label to find that the nutritional information was only for one Pop Tart, not two, and that the calories were high but nutrition content was almost nothing. He said that he was always hungry not long after eating them and now knows why. The other student shared that she always thought that her micro-wavable snacks were not bad because they were small. She too was surprised how many calories it contained for such a small portion and that the ingredient listed many things she could not even pronounce. In summary, it has been a successful year in Christian County for FNP. We look forward in 2018 to more programming opportunities and continued progress in helping to improve

## Ag Business Specialist: Jim Spencer, Jr.



## Ag Lender Seminar

51 agricultural lenders and Farm Service Agency from; Barry, Barton, Christian, Dade, Greene, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton and Webster counties attended the 2017 Ag Lender Seminar in Mt. Vernon, Missouri. Additionally, 18 agricultural lenders from; Howell, Texas, Douglas and Wright counties attended the 2017 Ag Lender Seminar in West Plains, Missouri.

Agriculture lenders come in contact with more people involved in agriculture than any other single commercial institution. Many times those working with the financial support of many operations can have a tremendous influence on the management behavior of the producers.

Research-based information is needed for lenders to make sound business decisions for their lending institutions. Lenders must consider many economic forces when making lending decisions and this seminar focuses on key issues affecting those decisions.

Topics taught and discussed were: Livestock and Crop Outlooks, Land Prices and Pasture rent and Farm Profit Trends. These programs were presented by Joe Horner, MU Ag Economist, Jennifer Lutes, Ag Business Specialist and Jim Spencer Jr., Ag. Business Specialist.

Each participant receives a book entitled "Missouri Farm Financial Outlook 2018." The seminar booklet contains current articles on farm topics such as outlook, management and budgets for planning next year's farm operations.

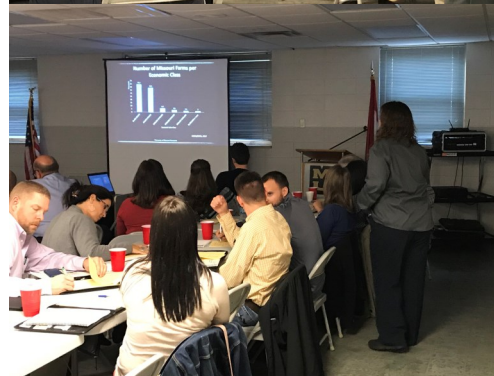
Evaluations indicate that the lenders thought the program was very valuable. The participants were asked to rate the program on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being very valuable. The lenders were asked the following question: "Overall, how do you rate this seminar?" The average rating was 7.5 out of 10.



During both Ag. Lender Seminars, Jim Spencer Jr., Ag. Business Specialist—Christian County discussed trends in land values and rental rates with the loan officers.



Joe Horner, MU Ag. Economist, presented the 2018 crop and livestock outlook.



Jennifer Lutes, Ag. Business Specialist—McDonald County covered farm profitability trends.

## Ag Business Specialist: Jim Spencer, Jr.



## Livestock and Forage Conference



*Presenters for the Livestock & Forage Conference: Top left; Jeremy Wallen—Soil & Water Conservation District, Top right; Skylar Moore—Joplin Regional Stockyards., Bottom Left; Tim Schnakenberg –MU Extension, Bottom Right; Jennifer Lutes—MU Extension*

63 producers participated in the 2017 Christian County Livestock and Forage conference. County Extension Chair, Walt Martens welcomed the participants and presented an update on behalf of the extension council. Reports were given by both 4-H and FFA representatives on the activities they were conducting throughout the county. Tim Kennemer, Jeremy Wallen and Aaron Hoefer, representing Farm Service Agency, Christian County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service respectively, presented program options for producers from each of their agencies.

A livestock Market outlook was given by Jim Spencer Jr., Ag. Business Specialist, Christian County, outlining the cattle market projects for the year. Syler Moore, Joplin Regional Stockyards discussed “Improving your calf marketing skills” with the participants. Wrapping up the program, Jennifer Lutes, Ag. Business Specialist, McDonald County, shared the aspect of integrating goats in the farm enterprise.


Evaluations completed by the attendees of the Christian County Livestock and Forage conference indicated 100% of the participants believed the program either met or exceeded their expectations. Additionally, the evaluations show 72% of the producers gained above average or excellent knowledge on the three farm enterprise segments presented as part of the program.

# 4-H Youth Development Educator: Jennifer Hancock



## CHRISTAIN COUNTY 4-H TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER

“I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world.”

<p>Christian County 4-H numbers</p>	<p><b>Clubs:</b> 6 <b>Male Youth:</b> 23 <b>Farm:</b> 17 <b>City 50,000+:</b> 2 <b>White:</b> 61</p>	<p><b>Members:</b> 67 <b>Female Youth:</b> 44 <b>Town under 10,000:</b> 25 <b>Hispanic/Latino:</b> 6 <b>More than one race:</b> 3</p>	<p><b>Adult Volunteers:</b> 14 <b>Youth Volunteers:</b> 14 <b>City 10,000-50,000:</b> 23 <b>Black/African American:</b> 1</p>
<p>Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign: \$592.80 raised</li> <li>• Southwest Regional Energizer: 100+ in attendance</li> <li>• Regional 4-H Camp: 4 campers, 1 counselor</li> <li>• Friends of the NRA Calendar Sales: \$240.00 raised</li> <li>• Polk County Regional Shooting Sports Competition: 7 youth participants (archery, .22 small bore and air rifle)</li> <li>• Greene County Regional Shooting Sports Competition: 6 youth participants (archery, .22 small bore and air rifle)</li> <li>• State Shooting Sports Competition: 6 youth participants (archery, .22 small bore and air rifle)</li> <li>• Certified Shooting Sports Instructors: 2 archery, 1 county coordinator, 1 small bore rifle, 1 air rifle</li> <li>• Christian County Fair: 86 project entries from 26 youth</li> <li>• Ozark Empire Fair: 64 project entries</li> <li>• Missouri State Fair: 36 project entries</li> <li>• Community Service</li> <li>• Community Spirit</li> <li>• MU Legislative Day: 10 youth and 9 adults</li> <li>• Butterfly Garden planted at 4-H Building</li> <li>• Annual County Auction Fundraiser: raised \$1,581.00</li> <li>• 32 project records turned in; 14 with 80% or higher results</li> </ul> 		
<p>What Did They Learn?</p>	<p>Christian 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, as well as teamwork, communication, goal-setting, critical thinking, cooperation and problem-solving. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from aerospace and arts to veterinary science and sport fishing. Clubs also involve children and teens in service learning, camping and educational trips.</p>		



## CHRISTAIN COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

- BILLINGS COUNTY LINERS
- CHICKEN CHECKERS
- CHRISTIAN COUNTY DEADEYES
- CHRISTIAN COUNTY GO-GETTERS
- NEW HORIZONS
- NIXA EXTREME EXPLORERS



<p>How Did the Learners Benefit?</p>	<p>4-H Youth are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and health for the 21st century workforce. Missouri 4-H members spend almost nine times more of their leisure time than peers engaged in projects anchored in science. As a result, 4-H members are three times more likely to go into science related careers than similar peers (Lerner and Lerner, 2008). Fostering career development is the fact that Missouri 4-H members are connected to college campuses and faculty. MU Extension 4-H connects 8,500 young people to University of Missouri campuses. Being on campus is a predictor of youth going onto higher education (Hoover, 2006). Youth who earn their bachelor's degree increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (NACUBO, 2012).</p>
<p>How Did Christian County Benefit?</p>	<p>Missouri 4-H members also learn to use their gained talents to engage in their communities. Young people in 4-H are engaged in twice as many leadership roles than their non-4-H peers. This provides them with the experience in problem-solving to step up and lead in a complex, changing world. According to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, 4-H members report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and are nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college than those who are not in 4-H. This contributes to the local economy and community leadership.</p>



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: Dr. Amy Patillo

### Community Development- Data for Decision Makers

Data for Decision Makers and *Building Local Prosperity* are community engagement tools designed specifically for rural communities, counties and/or regions to foster greater understanding of what drives the local economy, factors that **influence economic growth, analysis of key economic indicators, identification of community assets, challenges and barriers, development of strategies and a strategic plan, as well as implementation support.**

**Dr. Amy Patillo, community development specialist from University of Missouri Extension, presented Data for Decision makers and facilitated the exploration of opportunities and identified strategic economic development metrics aligned with community needs and goals.**

This program was presented to the Christian County Commissioners, and Christian County Extension Council. Community economic development metrics were prepared by Pat Curry, University of Missouri EXCEED and Dr. Patillo for Stone County OACAC and Kimberling City, City Administrator.

### Health Insurance Education Initiative

**Health Insurance Education Initiative workshops**, developed in 2013 by a special projects team on campus the Affordable Care Act provides education to help people better understand their health care options under the law. Nellie Lamers and Dr. Amy Patillo have co-lead the Individual and Family curriculum team since 2013.

The curriculum includes: information on rights and responsibilities for individuals, families and businesses, how and where to get help signing up for health insurance through the health insurance marketplace, health insurance terminology, why it is important to have health insurance, what they need to know in order to make the best possible decision for themselves and their families considering costs and coverage, and how they use and benefit from health insurance in general.

Southwest Region team members worked with local hospitals, organizations and other agencies to set up sessions. The HIEI state team received a grant to help pay for expenses and supplies for the sessions. Southwest Region team members coordinate efforts with Certified Application Counselors (CACs), Navigators and area hospitals/health care facilities. Extension specialists invite navigators to attend at sessions to give attendees answers to specific questions and direct access to help enrolling in the marketplace. Sessions are held at public locations as well as organizations with clients, such as the Ozarks Areas Community Action Corporation sites, and news releases are sent for all events. All sessions are open to the public. Other partners and sites include Mercy Hospital, Cox Hospital, health care clinics, chamber of commerce meetings, community centers and churches.

The Southwest Region HIEI Team has conducted 89 educational and outreach activities with 806 attendees. All Missouri residents benefit from these sessions. When attendees learn about the ACA and using health insurance, they are better able to make informed decisions about their health care choices and anyone getting health insurance is less likely to file for bankruptcy, which helps Missouri's economy.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: Dr. Amy Patillo

Attendees' evaluations responses show high satisfaction with sessions:

Health Insurance Education Initiative Individual and Family Post-Session Evaluations SW Region 2015 to Present	
Because of this program...	
Answer Options	Percent "strongly agree" or "agree"
1. The decisions I make about health insurance will be affected.	80.95
2. I have the information I need to make an informed decision for myself and/or my family.	90.48
3. I know where to go to get help with enrolling in health insurance, if I need to.	95.24
4. I am confident in my ability to select the best health insurance, if I need to.	71.43
5. I would recommend this program to others.	95.24
6. Overall, the program was worth my time.	100.00

The HIEI programming demonstrates organization, presentation and implementation of high quality, stimulating, education programming through collaboration with Certified Application Counselors and Navigators to deliver educational, research and fact based information to consumers, while providing a personalized network to answer specialized questions and assist with enrollment. Evaluation results indicate highly effective transfer of information and understanding of a highly technical curriculum to audiences in the SW region providing evidence of outcomes and impacts in named programs.

## Facilitation and Strategic Planning

### Missouri WIC Association Board Retreat Facilitation- Community Development

Dr. Amy Patillo and Dr. Kathy Macomber, Community Development specialists with the University of Missouri Extension facilitated the statewide Missouri WIC Association Board Retreat in July 2017. The board retreat workshop took place at the Hilton Promenade hotel at Branson Landing in Branson, MO. Following the workshop, the board met for half a day on Friday to work through action items. The Missouri WIC Association board met to evaluate facility accommodations, room arrangements, hotel staff and conference rooms in anticipation of the 2018 biennial Missouri WIC conference, celebrating 30 years, in October.

### Customer Quote

Rhonda B. - It is good for us (WIC ) to have facilitators to guide the meeting so that everyone gets to participate rather than working to lead the discussion. We have also enjoyed working with a variety of facilitators with MU Extension.

### Short-term learning outcomes:

#### Summers in the District

University of Missouri Extension invited state and federal legislators to engage with Missouri WIC Association (MWA) board in an effort to provide an opportunity to participate in a local extension event and assist our client to connect and build relationships with legislators.

Summers in the District provides opportunities for Extension and stakeholders to work together to demonstrate the impact of Extension in Missouri.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: Dr. Amy Patillo

David Stokely, District Director, Southwest and South Central Missouri, Office of Senator Claire McCaskill and Mitch Truelove, Political Science graduate student intern graciously attended the Missouri WIC Association board luncheon to talk with the WIC association board and Extension.

The board reported their engagement with Stokely resulted in remarkable value for MWA, including:

- Better understanding what legislators value and look for when receiving education and informational materials about an organization or program.
- Identifying opportunities to educate state, federal and local legislators about the WIC program.
- The interaction removed the “fear factor” of board members and built confidence in effectively communicating and advocating with any legislator.
- Understanding how to communicate the economic impact of WIC spending in local grocery stores and communities.
- The impact of WIC services on families. The board reported that National WIC statistics state one in two births in a hospital will be a WIC client.
- The legislator was most interested in knowing about the economic impact of WIC in the state and the number of babies, veterans, and preschoolers that are impacted by WIC services.
- Learning what effective advocacy means for WIC and educating legislators on the financial importance of pregnancy nutrition when referring to full term babies vs. the money that would be spent on neonatal intensive care for undernourished babies.
- Mr. Stokely offered to facilitate the connection for WIC to Senator McCaskill’s other regional offices in Missouri.
- Mr. Stokely suggested inviting state and federal legislators to participate in a legislative panel at the biennial Missouri WIC conference to build relationships with the organizations and educate government officials.
- Clearly communicating the number of military families that participate in WIC is valuable.

Seven Missouri WIC Association Board Members from across the state attended the facilitation and strategic planning retreat.

Participants rated the overall process as good to excellent, and indicated their expectations were fully met and at times exceeded expectations. The WIC board reported they would recommend this program to others and agreed the experience kept them focused and interested and was well helped them plan and organize.

In the program WIC board members:

- Identified unique assets of our organization
- Members reviewed organization's mission statement
- Members developed a shared vision
- Members developed a plan that reflected different needs and perspectives
- Members indicated their voice was added to make the organization better for everyone

As a result of the program board members indicated they 1. Would help build a better board, 2. Have learned to strategize and plan goals a little better.

## Office Manager: Bandi Kolbe

### Community Assistance Data

**Soil Tests:** 235  
**Forage Tests:** 15  
**Equipment Rental:** 19  
**Dial Gauge Inspections:** 26  
**Private Applicator License Training (PPAT):** 18  
**Monthly Community Assistance :** 80-120 Residents

## POPULAR PROGRAMS WORTHY OF NOTE

### Programs in Christian County that contributed to reaching audiences in 2017

- Home Horticulture and Environment
- Master Gardener Core Training
- Master Gardener Hotline
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training
- Eat Like Your Life Depends On It
- Health Insurance Education
- Healthy Lifestyle Initiative
- Stay Strong, Stay Healthy
- SW 4-H Regional Energizer
- Ag Lenders Seminar
- Livestock & Forage Conference
- Intensive Grazing School
- Profit Based Agriculture

### PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The Private Pesticide Applicator Training Program involves the initial training and recertification of Missouri's private pesticide applicators (farmers). The need for training in the application of pesticides is of high importance due to both the legal requirements and a real need for technical knowledge. The MU private pesticide applicator program reaches into essentially each of Missouri's 114 counties to train farmers on the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides on their farmlands, including restricted-use pesticides (RUPs).



### 235 soil tests during 2017

Soil testing saves homeowners and landowners in Christian County money and helps to protect our water from the problems created by over-fertilization.



The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener program, administered through the University of Missouri Extension, is to train volunteers to educate others about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities. The program promotes and raises public awareness of the Extension as a source of unbiased, research-based gardening information.

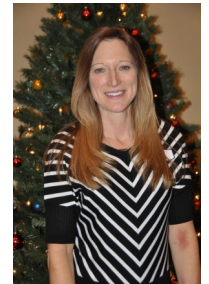
Here are highlights of what Christian County Master Gardeners accomplished in 2017. Of our 41 active members, 24 are emeritus.

- Reported **2,284.25 volunteer hours, 416.85 educational hours and 69 advanced training hours** for a **total of 2,770.10 hours**, reported by **28 members** of which nine were emeritus members. **Contacts** reported were **1,056**.
- In November, welcomed one new member, Annie Powers, who completed online training.



- Extended **emeritus status to five** Master Gardeners who had 10 or more years of active service. The chapter now has 25 emeritus members.
- Reached out to county residents by **exhibiting** at CCMG's spring plant sale and three public seminars, Nixa Parks Health Fair, Nixa Walmart

Garden Center opening, Springfield's Art in the Park, Ozarks Arts & Crafts Show, Nixpo, Christian County Fair, Cosmopolitan Club in Ozark, Branson Garden Club, Nixa Wellness Fair and OCAC. Demographics reported: 234 males, 494 females, 704 Caucasian, 11 African American, 11 Hispanic and 2 other.



- Staffed the **horticultural hotline** at the Extension office with nine volunteers and three substitutes from mid-March through mid-October, by answering questions and providing information to 97 contacts. This was a 36% drop from 2016 after falling only 13.6% total in the six years before that. The steep decline in 2017 was likely due to an uneventful growing season, coupled with the small, predictable decline associated with increasing Internet access. Most contacts were made by phone, with about half as many walk-ins. CCMG provided hotline flyers to the Christian County Library, Lowe's garden department, Walmart's garden departments in Nixa and Ozark, Nixa Seed and Hardware's garden department, Garden Adventures, Wheeler's, Carson's, Steinerts, Green Gallery, Orschlen's and Ace Hardware.



- Held **monthly meetings** (which the public could attend) whose program topics were: making fairy gardens and terrariums, first aid from the garden, irises, succulents, native herbs, fall garden cleanup and tool cleaning and storage and making mason jar candles and holiday swags. Other meetings/programs were held at the Gardens at Woodfield, Rotary Garden and Moxy Flowers in Nixa where we learned how to make flower arrangements.

- Maintained a **website** at <http://extension.missouri.edu/ccmg> and a **Facebook** page.
- Reached out to the **media, prospective members and gardeners** through news releases, flyers, posters and online calendar postings.
- Held **spring and fall plant sales** to financially support the numerous projects undertaken throughout the year, as well as engaging with the local community. In addition to gardening projects, two \$500 scholarships are supported annually by the plant sales.



Sales from the April 29 event were \$2,577.93 and for the fall sale \$300.

At the spring sale, an information table provided MU Extension guide sheets, and members answered gardening questions. It also distributed information about upcoming public seminars organized by our members and advanced training opportunities for Master Gardeners.

All of the plants sold were grown from seed by members or rescued from members' gardens. Perennial plants, including natives and those beneficial to pollinators; annual plants; a variety of vegetables; crafts and planters were all sold. Approximately 50 leftover plants were donated to a local charity for discounted sale to those in need.

- Provided two **\$500 scholarships** to Torie Holder, a student at College of the Ozarks.
- Provided **three speakers** on seed saving, growing tomatoes and basic gardening tips for Christian County Library patrons. Demographics reported for session on seed saving: 14 females and one male.
- Produce from the **demonstration garden** at the Ozark Community Center was again shared with the senior center in Ozark. In addition to hands-on experience in planting, weeding, watering and harvesting produce, the committee offered three free classes for the public on making salves, balms and lotions; making tinctures; and for OACAC, basic gardening.
- Maintained **five gardens** for the enjoyment of the public:

**Nixa Community Center** —Volunteers maintained the landscaping near the entrance to the center, including planting annuals, pruning and weeding.

**Gardens at Woodfield** — Nine volunteers planted annuals, watered, weeded and mulched our berm. We had two work days, with volunteers checking weekly from spring through fall.

**Justice Center** — Eight volunteers maintained the landscaping on the north side of the center.

**OC demonstration garden** —Volunteers used the raised beds constructed in previous years to grow a variety of vegetables; produce was given to the senior center in Ozark.

**Nixa Rotary Garden** —Volunteers maintained this high-profile garden in Nixa.



- Provided **three free public seminars and two free advanced training workshops** for Master Gardeners only as follows:

**Feb. 4 winter seminar** – Robert Balek of Jasper County Extension on “Pruning for a Greener World” and Tim Schnakenberg of Taney and Stone County Extensions on “Keys to Soil Improvement: Better Gardens from the Ground Up.” Demographics reported: 30 attended, including 21 females and 7 males of which 1 was African American, 1 Native American and remainder Caucasian.



**April 15 spring seminar**— Ken Chamberlain of Greene County Master Gardeners on “Heirlooms, Hybrids and GMO” and Paul Armstrong of Smiling Sun Gardens on “Water Conservation for the Gardener.” Demographics reported: 4 male and 9 females of which 12 were Caucasian, 1 Native American, 1 African American and 1 other.



**June 3 advanced training workshop** – Bob Schulteis of Webster County Extension on “Composting and Mulching,” Tom Bakie of Christian County Master Gardeners on “Bokashi: An Anaerobic Approach to Soil Enrichment” and Polk County grass farmer on “The Miracle of Biochar.” Demographics reported: 9 females and 2 males of which 8 were Caucasian and 1 Asian.



**Aug. 19 advanced training workshop** – Ben Tegeler, certified in permaculture, on “Permaculture for Gardeners.” Demographics turned in: 5 males, 9 females, 9 Caucasian, 1 Asian.



**Sept. 30 fall seminar** – Grant Williams of Sticks & Stones landscaping on “Language of the Landscape: A Conversation Between People and Place” and Nora Cox of Greene County Master Gardeners on “Let It Go” (about planting the right plant in the right spot. Demographics reported: 32 attended, including 2 males and 11 females of which 10 were Caucasian and 1 Native American.

- Forty members of CCMG and Greene, Webster, Taney and Stone county chapters and their guests enjoyed a 12-hour field trip to Missouri Wildflower Nursery, the gardens at the state Capitol and Governor’s Mansion, Old Cedar City Demonstration Gardens and greenhouses, an Amish greenhouse (Shirks Country Market) and Longfellow’s Nursery. Demographics reported: 35 females and 5 males, all Caucasian.



## CHRISTIAN COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL

**Walt Martens – Chair**

**Jonathan Cauley – Vice Chair**

**Kathy Martin– Treasurer**

**Konni Hall – Secretary**

**Carl Biondo | Josh Bird**

**Charles Cameron | Brad Harter**

**J.J. Leek | Virginia Roberts**

**Jason Sims | John VanLoan**

**Jeff Ware**

### Unique partnership

Christian County's University of Missouri Extension Council is a full partner with Missouri's Land Grant universities to deliver high-quality education and research-based information that helps people solve real-world problems and take advantage of opportunities. Council members:

- Work with Extension specialists to provide the county with quality educational programs;
- Manage finances of local Extension operations;
- Provide personnel to carry out Extension activities; and
- Elect and organize the local Extension Council.

### Services offered at Christian County Extension Office

#### Small business development assistance

Assistance to those wanting to start, maintain or expand a business through the Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers.

#### Soil testing

Basic soil testing analyzes nutrient content and fertility.

#### Private pesticide applicator training

MU Extension provides private pesticide applicator training for producers as required for Missouri Department of Agriculture certification.

#### Hay testing

Mailing materials and probes, or hay samplers, for forage testing by commercial labs are available as a convenience to our clients.

#### Canner gauge tests

Testing for dial-type pressure canner lids is available.

#### Extension Council Members

University of Missouri Extension Council, comprised of elected and appointed citizens, is a full partner with Missouri's land-grant universities to deliver high-quality education and unbiased, research-based information that help people solve real-world problems and take advantage of opportunities.

Council members:

- Work with extension specialists to provide the county with quality educational programs;
- Manage finances of local extension operations
- Provide personnel to carry out extension activities
- Elect and organize the local extension council.

### Christian County MU Extension 2017 Financial Summary

<b>Income</b>	
County Commission Appropriation	\$ 95,930.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries, wages, benefits	\$ 51,010.69
Travel	\$ 6,244.65
Postage	\$ 347.35
Telephone service	\$ 2,987.01
Advertising	\$ 477.41
Rent/lease space	\$ 14,820.00
Copier	\$ 4,033.80
Professional Services	\$ 475.00
Supplies/services	\$ 2,577.33
Utilities	\$ 3,200.00
Contracted services	\$ 1,150.29
Insurance	\$ 434.13
Repairs/maintenance	\$ 152.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 87,909.66</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,020.34</b>

# CENTURY FARM PROGRAM

University of Missouri Extension, through its Missouri Century Farm Program, annually recognizes Missouri farms that are still productive and have been in the same family for 100 years or more.

Missouri Farm Bureau, MU Extension and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources are joint program sponsors. Applicants certified as owners of a Missouri Century Farm are recognized by the MU Extension center in the county where the farm is located. Applicants are presented with a sign and a certificate at various county events.

Since Missouri began the program in 1976, more than 8,500 century farms have been recognized. To qualify for Century Farm status, a single family must have owned the farm for 100 consecutive years. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, grandchildren, siblings, and nephews or nieces, including through marriage or adoption. The farm must be at least 40 acres of the original land acquisition and make a financial contribution to the overall farm income.



# LEADERS HONOR ROLL

Leaders Honor Roll program is intended to honor outstanding University of Missouri Extension community leaders who have excelled in supporting or co-teaching named programs. Selection Criteria should be based on community leadership efforts that support the University of Missouri Extension Strategic Direction and program priorities: 1) Enhanced Economic viability; 2) Building Strong Individuals, Families & Communities; and 3) Creating and Sustaining Healthy Environments. County Program Directors work with University of Missouri Extension staff to select two (2) outstanding leaders in each community for recognition. This award is for lay leaders not organizations. It recognizes individuals who have a long-term history of working with MU Extension.

*2017 Leaders Honor Recipients: Virginia Roberts & Darla Boice*



## Striving to Reach Diverse Audiences

University of Missouri Extension in Christian County values diversity. Extension is committed to recognizing and appreciating the unique beliefs, values, skills and characteristics of all employees and members of the extension community. Diversity strengthens the institution and its programs to promote the exchange of new ideas and ensure a respectful environment. University of Missouri Extension in Christian County is committed to a policy of affirmative action, equal opportunity, nondiscrimination and diversity. Extension is committed to providing a learning and working environment for employees and other members of the community that values the diverse backgrounds of all people.

## State, Federal and County Funding for Extension

### State, Federal and County Funding for Extension

University of Missouri Extension programs in Christian County are funded by county and federal appropriated, grants and contracts, user fees. Local funding for support of the Christian County Extension Office is expected to provide for office space, office manager and 50 percent of the youth educator salary, communications, office supplies and equipment, building maintenance, and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Christian County.

A special acknowledgement and appreciation is given for the financial assistance from the Christian County Commission for MU Extension Center operations in 2017.

## University of Missouri's Contribution to Christian County

University of Missouri provided salaries and benefits for 2 Specialists, and 50% paraprofessionals headquartered in Christian County.

The University provided in-service training expenses, including travel and lodging for staff, and postage for client communications and funds for computer equipment maintenance.

The University of Missouri provided support valued at \$200,000.00 To the extension program in Christian County.

## Legislative Day

Is an opportunity for alumni, volunteers and other friends of the University of Missouri System to thank legislators for the past support and encourage their continued support by sharing examples of how the UM System and its campuses improved the lives of Missouri citizens.



10 Christian County 4-H youth and nine parents had the opportunity to meet with 139th District Jered Taylor and 140th District Representatives Lynn Morris at the 2017 Legislative Day held in Jefferson City. As guests in the gallery, Representative Taylor introduced Christian County 4-H to everyone present during the House session. The 4-H families also received a tour of the capitol building before heading back to Christian County.

Pictured left: 4-H Educator, Jennifer Hancock with Representative Lynn Morris, Christian County 4-H'ers and parents.

## Other Specialists with Frequent Programs in Christian County

**Jay Chism**  
Regional Director  
In Springfield  
Tel: (417) 865-07070



**Eldon Cole**  
Livestock specialist  
In Lawrence County  
Tel: (417) 466-3102



**Nellie Lamers**  
Financial Education  
In Taney County  
Tel: (417) 546-4431



**David Burton**  
Civic Communication  
In Greene County  
Tel: (417) 881-8909



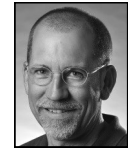
**Bob Schultheis**  
Natural Resources  
In Webster County  
Tel: (417) 859-2044



**Tim Schnakenberg**  
Agronomy specialist  
In Stone County  
Tel: (417) 357-6812



**Patrick Byers**  
Horticulture  
In Greene County  
Tel: (417) 881-8909



**Pam Duitsman**  
Nutrition  
In Greene County  
Tel: (417) 881-8909



**Willa Williams**  
4-H youth specialist  
In Taney County  
Tel: (417) 546-4431



**Teresa Fossett**  
FNEP Director  
In Springfield  
Tel: (417) 862-2059



**Jenni Nevatt**  
FNEP Trainer  
In Springfield  
Tel: (417) 862-2059



## 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. [mu-conf.missouri.edu](http://mu-conf.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) such as human resource management, team building, decision-making, strategic planning and leadership. [mti.missouri.edu](http://mti.missouri.edu)

# MU Extension Continuing Education

## 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)

## Livestock Specialist: Eldon Cole



### Livestock Report - Christian County - 2017

The major livestock educational efforts in the Southwest Region involved beef cattle. The programs included: Show-Me-Select Beef Heifer Development and Marketing; Missouri Steer Feedout; On-Farm Beef Evaluation, Bull Breeding Soundness Exams and Beef ReproGene Workshop.

A companion effort with other extension specialists involved working with forage production and utilization. Examples included Fescue Renovation; Grazing Schools; Ozark Empire and Missouri State Fair Hay Shows; trouble-shooting a wide variety of mysterious poisonous weed problems.

Extension livestock specialists work closely with the Southwest Missouri Beef Cattle Improvement Association and their All-breed performance tested bull sales. Our goal is to help both buyer and seller utilize objective data such as expected progeny differences (EPD) in buying and selling bulls. The association holds two sales, one in March and one in October at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center. Steve Scroggins, Ozark purchased an Angus bull in the March sale. Steve was a first-time buyer. Ted Koontz, Sparta, a regular consignor to the sales entered a bull in the March sale.

Bull breeding soundness clinics are held in March and October to bring attention to the need for bulls to have at least an annual physical exam to make sure they're capable of breeding females. This helps bunch the next year's calf crop which makes for a more uniform offering at the market. Joe Bryson and Brian Wilson, Clever and Groves Dairy, Billings brought bulls to the bull breeding soundness clinic at the Christian County Vet Services at Clever in March.

A total of 441 bulls were examined at the clinics held in Diamond, Miller, Cassville, Clever, Aurora and El Dorado Springs. There were 93.9% bulls that passed the BSE. In past years the passing percent has been as low as 85%. During the clinics livestock specialists give body condition scores, soundness scores and visit with owners about buying bulls, EPDs, genomic testing and more.

The Missouri Steer Feedout gives cow-calf producers a chance to put as few as 5 steers in the feedout to learn how their steers perform in the lot and on-the-rail. The steers are gathered at Joplin Regional Stockyards in June and November. A Missouri Department of Agriculture Market Reporter places a feeder cattle grade and a price on each calf. In November, we invite the public in to learn about the program and let them hear what buyers think about each group of steers. The cattle are then sent to Iowa where they are fed from 5 to 6 months before they're sold. Carcass and feedlot data is shared on each calf at the Feedout Finale in late June along with pictures of many of the steers as they neared slaughter time. There were no Christian county entries in the feedout in 2017.

The Show-Me-Select Beef Heifer Program is used to stimulate wider use of technology in developing heifers from weaning to the late second, third stage of pregnancy. The program has been in existence since 1997 and features a sale of bred heifers in May and November. Christian county had Sam Schaumann, Billings and Ladd Ranches, Sparta consign heifers. Buyers were: Jared Monger, Clever, Michael Scarlett and Alan Mooneyham, Billings.

Additional beef cattle educational information is included in regular news releases, a monthly Beef Newsletter, a weekly radio program on KKOW and occasionally a television news interview. A special Beef ReproGene workshop was held in Springfield in March. The Monett Beef Cattlemen's Conference in January. Each meeting attracted around 100 persons from the region.



# HORTICULTURE Specialist: Patrick Byers

Number of Christian County Residents Served	Total Hours of Collective Participation in 2017	What Did They Learn?	What Action Did They Take?	How Does This Work Make Christian County and Missouri Better?
88 horticulture soil test reports were prepared	88 hours	Soil test reports outline soil chemical characteristics, and also include management recommendations.	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.	The proper use of fertilizers reduces the problems associated with fertilizer movement away from target areas, which impacts water and soil quality. In particular, stormwater quality issues are impacted by excess fertilizers.
5 visits to farms in Christian County were conducted.	10 hours	Farmers learned science based horticultural practices.	Farmers used the information shared during the farm visit to help guide management decisions. Farmers saved money by making informed decisions.	Farmers who are profitable and successful contribute to the sustainability of themselves and their families, to the sustainability of the natural resources on their farms, and to the sustainability of the economy in Christian County.
4 Christian County residents attended Blackberry Production workshops.	12 hours	Farmers learned about profitable commercial blackberry production practices.	Farmers examined their production practices, and took action to adopt blackberry production practices that enhance profitability. Farmers installed RCA trellis, and planted thornless blackberry cultivars.	Blackberry production can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies.
1 Christian County residents attended High Tunnel/Greenhouse Production workshops.	16 hours	Farmers learned how profitably produce specialty crops in high tunnels and greenhouses	Farmers used the skills gained at the workshop to get started in specialty crop production in high tunnels/ greenhouses, and to expand and refine already existing production.	Protected culture (high tunnels, greenhouses) of specialty crops offers huge potential to expand production and enhance profitability for farmers in Christian county. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies.
1 Christian County residents attended the Winter Production Conference	64 hours	Farmers learned how to expand fruit and vegetable production and sales to 12 months.	Farmers used the skills gained at the conference to develop 12-month production of fruits and vegetables, using protected structures. Area farmers markets benefited from an enhanced supply of crops during the winter months.	Winter production can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies. Consumers benefit from an enhanced supply of locally grown fruits/vegetables, during the winter months.



# HORTICULTURE Specialist: Patrick Byers

Number of Christian County Residents Served	Total Hours of Collective Participation in 2017	What Did They Learn?	What Action Did They Take?	How Does This Work Make Christian County and Missouri Better?
1 Christian County residents attended the Missouri Tomato Conference	16 hours	Farmers learned about all aspects of profitable commercial tomato production.	Farmers used the skills gained at the conference to improve tomato production practices, specifically in the areas of tomato culture, pest management, and marketing.	Tomatoes are the leading commercial vegetable crop, and can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies. Consumers benefit from an enhanced supply of locally grown tomatoes.
4 Christian County residents attended the Missouri Blueberry School	64 hours	Farmers learned about all aspects of profitable commercial blueberry production	Farmers used the skills gained at the conference to improve blueberry production practices, specifically in the areas of culture, pest management, and marketing. Farmers established new blueberry plantings.	Blueberries can be a part of a profitable farming operation. Profitable farmers help build the strength of rural economies. Consumers benefit from an enhanced supply of locally grown blueberries.
8 Christian County residents participated in home horticulture events on subject including apple grafting, seed saving, and garlic production	24 hours	Home gardeners learned useful skills that enhance enjoyment of gardening and improve self-esteem.	Home gardeners adopted science-based gardening practices.	Participants reported improved self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment upon completion of the workshops. These workshops enhance the quality of life for residents of Christian County.



# CHRISTIAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ray Weter  
Presiding Commissioner  
Ralph Phillips  
Eastern District Commissioner  
Hosea Bilyeu  
Western District Commissioner

## Office is located at:

105 N 2nd Street  
Ozark, MO 65721

## Office hours:

Monday-Friday  
8 00 – 12:00  
12:00-12:30 Office Closed  
12:30-4:30

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