

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Barton County

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**ALL THINGS  
MISSOURI**  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

## Barton County Extension Center

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**Follow us at:** *Barton County Extension*

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**Extension**

*University of Missouri*

Barton County



Office of Extension  
and Engagement

*University of Missouri*

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December 5, 2019

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart



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January 17, 2020

Dear Barton County Commission and Area Community,

Our community has been blessed with years of University of Missouri Extension in Barton County with specialists in multiple fields who strive to provide lifelong education in order to improve the lives of our current, as well as our future citizens and leaders of this great county.

We are fortunate to have specialists who serve Barton County in the areas of agronomy & environment, youth & families, community & business development, and health & safety. Some specific programs offered include *Chronic Disease Management*, *Walk with Ease*, *Soils & Crops Conference*, *Crop Scouting*, *Pesticide Training*, *SNAP Education*, and a variety of 4-H programs. The University of Missouri Extension designed such a wide variety of program areas to cover the diverse needs of the population in our local counties.

Barton County's partnership with University of Missouri Extension enables our specialists to work with primary and secondary schools throughout our county. School programming includes areas such as health and nutrition, rural safety, and business education. Through these programs, students become aware of research-based information that may be vital in their future endeavors, while at the same time introducing them to some of the great benefits they can receive from the University of Missouri Extension as adults.

This past year was a new experience for some of us on the Barton County Extension council board. The board had a new chairman and mostly new officers learning the ropes and doing a great job. One great accomplishment in 2019 was to obtain benefits for the full-time office secretary position currently Ms. Jackie Speights. With the University of Missouri Extension reorganization of county personnel, we have gained some great resources, which have proven beneficial to Barton County.

With a great council board of diversified members, young and old, from all ranges of occupations and backgrounds, along with the county faculty and staff, we want to thank the commissioners and residents of Barton County for the support and funding they have given to the Barton County Extension to help educate our community.

Again, we want to dedicate this report to our Barton County families, to the future of economic growth, and to shaping strong values and educational opportunities for all the citizens, present and future of this great county.

University of Missouri Extension Council  
Barton County Council Chair,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gerry Garrett'.

Gerry Garrett

Every Missouri county has a University of Missouri Extension Council comprised of elected and appointed citizens in partnership 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.

Extension 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.

## 2019 Council Members

**Gerry Garrett** - Chair  
**Amanda Robertson** - Vice Chair  
**Barb Thrasher** - Treasurer  
**Joyce Moser** - Secretary

**Leisa Blanchard**  
**Paul Crabtree**  
**Francis Forst**  
**Kristen Huke**  
**Denise James**  
**Mike Madison**  
**Cinda Miller**  
**Chris Peterson**  
**Carlee Phipps**  
**Caleb Robertson**  
**Hailey Rook**  
**Sondra Smith**  
**Jim Stettler**  
**Dennis Wilson**

**Jason Frieden & Felicia Costley** - MFA Representative  
**Chad McCulloch** - Farm Bureau Representative  
**Ben Reed** - County Commission Representative  
**Russ Worsley** - City of Lamar Representative

**Theo Crabtree** - Youth Representative  
**Kyler Cox** - Youth Representative

## County Commissioners

**Mike Davis**, Presiding Commissioner  
**Ben Reed**, District I Commissioner  
**Jeff Tucker**, District II Commissioner

**Thank you for your continued support!**



## Missouri Legislators

**Ed Emery**, State Senator  
**Ann Kelley**, State Representative

## Barton County Faculty & Staff Members



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In Nutrition and Health Education  
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### **State, Federal & County Funding for Extension Councils**

University of Missouri Extension Programs in Barton County are funded by Barton County, state and federal appropriations. Local funding for support of the Barton County Extension Center is provided by the Barton County Commission.

They provide funds for office expenses, clerical salaries and travel expenses of extension specialists who conduct educational programs in Barton County. A special acknowledgement and appreciation is given to the Barton County Commission for financial assistance.

## **MU Extension Barton County 2019 Financial Report**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Student Fees	3,613.00
County Appropriations	70,548.01
Investment Income	317.36
Gift/Grants/Contracts	9,260.00
Resales/Educ Services Fees	1,650.63
Miscellaneous Income	1,890.28
Soil Testing Fees	1,393.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>88,672.78</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>88,672.78</b>
 <b>Expenses</b>	
Persnnl Serv - Salaries & Wag	10,104.50
Payroll Expenses	772.99
MU Reimbursed Salaries/Benefits	31,532.86
Travel	4,189.27
Postage	1,359.61
Telephone Serv - Local	2,414.67
Advertising	2,048.86
Rent/Lease Space	-50.00
Publishing/Printing	280.00
Supplies/Services	6,442.23
Training	487.00
Professional Services	100.00
Utilities	5,749.24
Insurance	1,733.50
Miscellaneous	7,907.33
Extension Council Election Exp.	163.20
Extension Annual Meeting	948.63
Soil Test Expenses	1,373.85
Publications for Resale	365.35
Repairs/Maintenance	1,425.75
Furniture/Equipment	3,204.73
Fee Generation Distribution	220.00
Capital Repairs/Improvements	4,397.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>87,171.02</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,501.76</b>
 <b>Savings Account Balance</b>	
<b>Certificate of Deposit Balance</b>	<b>38,353.70</b>
	<b>11,787.42</b>

# Barton County 4-H “Making The Best Better”



Barton County envisions a 4-H Youth Development Program in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together for positive change through project work and community service . 4-H youth are achieving life skills that are incomparable to others.



Barton County 4-H Youth Development engaged 123 youth in traditional 4-H club units and 495 special interest groups, programming at Lamar Head Start, Lamar, Liberal and Golden city Schools . The traditional 4-H club experiences offers basic life skills including leadership, horsemanship, shooting sports and community service to 4-H members under the direction of 178 youth and adult volunteers. 4-H members gain knowledge and skills by attending monthly meetings, completing project work, and learning from over 50 wide-ranging project areas and special club events.

**Barton County 4-H** offers all members the opportunity to learn and experience personal growth through interactive activities, real life experiences, and communication groups. 4-H events include Barton County Achievement Day, and Livestock Judging Day, 4-H Clover Kid camp , SW member leader training workshops, SW 4-H member camps, and SW Regional Achievement Day. "4-H Learning by Doing" process offers youth the ability to learn and use practical life skills as they to grow through personal development.

**Barton County 4-H Excellence** rewarded 56 youth during 60th Annual 4-H Recognition Banquet recognizing 4-H Members submitting Mo.4-H Project Report forms. 4-H County, State, Regional and National levels of Excellence were reached by 143 4-H youth from Barton County. All 4-H clubs met their goals of achievement through project exhibition. The 2019 exhibition of 4-H project work included 20 exhibits to the Missouri State Fair, 80 items entered at Ozark Empire Fair and 147 small exhibits at the Lamar Free Fair.

**Barton County 4-H Leadership and Community Service** - Barton County 4-H Clubs have gained valuable leadership and life skills donating over 750 hours of service through youth / adult community partnerships. These organizations include MO. 4-H Feeding Missouri, Missouri Community Betterment, Tools For Schools , MODOT Adopt-A-Highway, Salvation Army Bell ringing , Good Samaritan Food Pantry, Moss House, Barton County Chamber of Commerce, Veterans Lodge of Hope as well as other individual club projects.



# 4-H School Enrichment



## Community Safety Network "Protecting Kid for Life" Rural Safety program Comes to Barton County Schools

Knowledge is an important tool in preventing injury. The Barton County schools participated a rural initiative coordinated by Barton County University of Missouri Extension. Informing our community's young people about hazards and safe practices will help them exercise good judgement and increase maturity when faced with potentially dangerous everyday situations – now and as adults.

The Rural Safety: Smart Choices for Life program served Liberal Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Golden City 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades concluding with Lamar West Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. These 137 students participated in hands on workshops provided by each school's 4-H/FFA students on rural safety. The 4-H/FFA students planned and presented the workshops with three main goals,

1. To make young people aware if the many ways in which injuries can occur in rural and farm areas
2. To understand the rules of safety , so as to prevent injuries
3. To teach young people the correct way to respond to emergencies in a rural or farm setting.

Farming is one of the oldest and most important ways of life. Yearly more than 100 children are killed and 33,000 seriously injured on farms and ranches in the United States. Nearly 5,000 children will suffer a permanent disability from a far related injury.

Rural farm life can require dealing with situations uncommon to the average household. An estimated 1.28million children and adolescents under age of 20 reside on a family farm, with an estimated 60% perform work on farm as well as are hired to work on other farms. The leading cause of farm injury to youth is falls, in which 52% of injuries are work related in livestock operations. While the greatest number of deaths from mechanical suffocation occurs between ages of 10 and 14.

In farming, the workplace is also the home. A large part of rural life is about learning to recognize hazards and practice safety. However when youth are involved natural curiosity and exploring are fun- but farms are not meant for play. That is why safety education is so important without it innocent fun can quickly become dangerous, resulting in serious injury or even death. Safety studies show that 33 % of all farm related injuries to children under five are tractor related, with 34% of fatal farm injuries of youth under ages of 19 are due to machinery.

University of Extension in Barton County would like to extend a THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make this important safety initiative possible. The local schools as well as a number of Partners in Safety have provided support for this program including Heritage Tractor, INC, Lamar Bank and Trust Company, Lamar Travel Plaza, MFA Agri Services, Prairie Plains Apartments, Redneck Blinds, Sonic Drive in, Specialty Risk Insurance, Synergy, Barton County Electric Cooperative, Barton County Farm Bureau, Barton County Health department, Daniel funeral Home, Davis insurance Agency, Gary L Price LLC and Pete's of Erie INC.





# 4-H Leadership & Community Service



## Missouri Community Betterment 2019 J.C.Smith Youth Group of the Year

### Lamar East Primary Outdoor Classroom



Barton County 4-H Teen leaders investigated where their skills could be best to service projects for the community. The Teen leaders constructed an outdoor classroom for 300+ students attending Lamar East Primary School in grades K-2. The outdoor classroom includes a wood deck area with 6-8 picnic tables for student seating and a presentation table for classroom teaching or a special guest speaker.

#### Funding for Project - Grants/ Donations

- ✦ BOAC Grants (Building Our American Community) MO Department Of Agriculture.
- ✦ City Clovers 4-H Club -\$500.00
- ✦ Learn A Do 4-H Club- \$500.00
- ✦ Lamar FFA -\$500.00
- ✦ Barton County Community Foundation -Teen Leaders - \$500.00
- ✦ FCS Financial -Teen Leaders - \$500.00
- ✦ Community Donors - \$500.00
- ✦ Lamar School -\$500.00 pledge or matching funds in labor to help with the construction of the project

**Results:** Prices varied at planning of project. Total cost of project \$3,033.03. All funds were spent with local business and within community. Lamar School Maintenance provided assistance with installation and labor to meet safety codes. Wood deck , handicap accessible ramp , small steps to enter the classroom, 4-H Youth and Lamar FFA- Lamar Career and Technology Center Building Trades students constructed the picnic tables for outdoor classroom. Barton County 4-H members (190), volunteers (40) - in kind, match with labor, and monetary pledges were accepted. Lamar Community Betterment collaborated with this the project. All donations were marked directly for Lamar East Primary Outdoor Classroom Project.

**Evaluation:** The Outdoor Classroom project was the idea of youth that collaborated with the entire community to put it together. The Youth/ Adult partnerships are very proud of the project and feel it will make a difference in the lives of students for many years.



# Agriculture



## Soils and Crops Conference

The Barton County Soils and Crops Conference provides relevant information to farm producers of upcoming concerns in row crops grown in Barton County. Extension specialists deliver the latest research based information related to the current environment surrounding their operation. Sixty-seven producers attended the 2019 conference.



Topics: Hay/Pasture Fertility, Soybean Weed Management, Dicamba Liability Insurance, Fitness for Farmers– Farmer Yoga, Air Dehumidification for Grain Drying– Theory or Reality?, Understanding Soil Health Terms, Micronutrients in Crops



## Crop Scouting Program

The Crop Scouting Program informs producers of pest threats during the growing season. A weekly, 2-minute recording is sent out containing research based information on: environmental issues, nutrient deficiencies, pest threshold level, pest description, damage description and pest control. Client fields are physically scouted weekly and the report is based on those observations. How-to-scout-videos are made and posted to aid producers in proper scouting techniques. In 2019, 67 producers participated.



### **Participants Respond...**

*"This program serves as a reminder to check crops, especially during busy times of the summer."*

*"Your advice gives us an idea what we should be looking for in our fields."*



## Barton County Wheat Tour

The Barton County Wheat Tour is an annual program that allows producers to have a first-hand look at current University of Missouri wheat variety trial plots.

# Agriculture



## Grain Bin Tour

The Grain Bin Tour allows producers the opportunity to look at different grain drying systems and learn valuable tips and information on drying grain and safely storing it. In 2019, the Jerry Schnelle and Willie Stefan farms were visited by 53 participants. Topics: Grain Bin Drying Comparisons and Tips, Grain Conditioning Tips, Pests in the Bin



## Soybean Scouting Workshop & MU Strip Trials

In 2019, University of Missouri Extension Crop Disease State Specialist, Kaitlyn Bissonnette held a Soybean Scouting Workshop to teach producers how to scout for diseases and decisions on treatment. This program was held in partnership to promote the MU Strip Trials. The MU Strip Trials are on-farm research conducted with the aid of local farmers; in 2019, Barton County supplied 1 on-farm research sites for soybean fungicide treatments.



# Agriculture



## Private Pesticide Applicator Training

The Private Pesticide Applicator Training involves the initial training and recertification of Missouri's private pesticide applicators (ag producers). 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 University of Missouri private pesticide applicator program reaches into essentially each of Missouri's one hundred fourteen counties to train farmers on the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides on their farmlands, including restricted-



## Soil Testing

University of Missouri offers soil tests to be sent through the county offices to the soil testing lab in Columbia. These soil tests allow producers to make appropriate additions to the soil in order to obtain a desired yield. With each test, producers get a detailed report on pH levels, available phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium; organic matter; acidity and cation exchange. These basic tests provide the necessary data to develop nitrogen, phosphorus and potash and ag lime recommendations for intended crops and intended yields. 88 Soil Tests were submitted.



**Soil testing is a vital part of obtaining a desired crop yield.**

# Nutrition and Health

## Summer Lovin' Health Challenge



The Summer Lovin' Health Challenge is a free, annual, healthy living challenge in Barton County. It's a collaboration between the county health department and MU Extension, which aims to motivate participants to make sustainable lifestyle changes so that the healthy choice becomes the easy choice through accountability, support, and education.

The challenge was created in response to low scores in health factors and outcomes. In all categories except for physical environment, Barton County ranked among the bottom half in the state. Adult obesity was higher, and active leisure time was lower in the county compared to the rest of the state. These were measures we felt we could have an impact on.

This year was the fourth annual challenge. We added one more satellite location. This meant all Barton County schools participated in the health challenge. We emphasized goal setting this year. At the end of the challenge, 46% of participants had accomplished their SLHC goal, and 84% said they would continue to set SMART goals to help them achieve their health goals.

Compared to before the challenge:

- 90% of participants were eating more fruits and vegetables
- 84% were drinking more water
- 69% were more aerobically active
- 55% strength trained two or more days per week
- 96% believed they will maintain the healthy lifestyle changes they made during the challenge
- 78% found it easier to stay motivated to make healthy choices

At the end of the challenge, 53 individuals had lost a combined total of 203 pounds.



*“During this challenge I have decreased my soda intake to maybe one can a week compared to about 32 ounces a day prior to the challenge. I have utilized my workplace health incentive health-plan and have a Fitbit that tracks my daily steps and logs calories. I intend to continue to utilize this tool as an advantage to my health and weight even after this challenge.”*

*“The weekly challenges made me stop & take time to think about the choices, good & bad, that I was making. I have started getting smarter about what I choose to eat & getting more exercise. Also how to balance stress & everything else in life & reacting better than I have in the past. You did an excellent job of supporting me through the challenge. Thanks for all you did this year. I can't wait until the next one!”*

### 4 YEAR RESULTS:

In four years of the annual Summer Lovin' Health Challenge, we've expanded from 6-weeks, 30 participants and one check-in site to 12-weeks, 101 participants, and six check-in sites. Two hundred and thirty eight people have started the challenge and 181 have finished. Of those that finished, **571** pounds were lost over the total 42-weeks of the challenge.

# County Engagement

## Rural Online Initiative

Because I attended the Joint Council of Extension Professionals, I had the opportunity to learn about Utah State University Extension's Rural Online Initiative (ROI) for remote worker certification.

A remote worker certification makes an individual more marketable to a potential employer. Remote workers are freelance workers, entrepreneurs, and individuals who work for a company with or without a physical location. The ROI Master Remote Worker Certificate course is an educational program designed to equip workers with the tools and skills needed to transition from on-site work into a virtual career.

I thought this program would be valuable to Barton County because, much like many rural Utah counties, Barton

County residents need more and diverse opportunities for employment. For that reason, I connected with Utah State University to have the first ROI program in Missouri.

I coordinated and facilitated an online town hall meeting with the ROI director in Utah. There were 13 people who attended the town hall meeting, and 5 more that were interested and wanted more information, but



couldn't make it to the meeting.

One individual from Barton County took the course. He expressed his satisfaction, and was looking forward to putting what he learned into practice. We had many more interested in taking the course, but they were concerned their internet service wasn't reliable enough to meet the course requirements.

Currently, the program is being piloted more broadly in the West Central region of Missouri, and many community and economic development specialists have become trainers. Pending the results of these pilot courses, Missouri may purchase the program from Utah to give all rural Missourians the opportunity to find gainful employment.



## Missouri Training Institute Supervisory Series

In 2019, I was trained in the Supervisory Series by the Missouri Training Institute. This means I will be leading workshops for businesses and organizations on various leadership skills including:

- Building Effective Relationships
- Coaching Employees
- Communicating Successfully
- Inspiring a Shared Vision
- Leading Teams
- Enabling Others to Act, and more!

**Contact the Barton County Extension Center if you are interested in having any of these workshops at your business or organization!**

# Family Nutrition Education



The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) brought \$9,595,006.00 federal funds to the state of Missouri. These funds were used to provide nutrition education to 897,375 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,283,220 educational contacts. This year we had 2,578,418 indirect educational contacts. Indirect contacts are reached through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries and the Show Me Nutrition help line. 2,931 of these participants reside in Barton 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 2019, youth and adults were served through the following locations in Barton County:

Schools	Agencies
Golden City Elementary	Good Samaritan Shop
Liberal Elementary & Middle Schools	Barton County Region-X Area Agency on Aging
Lamar Head Start	Barton County Food Stamp Office
Golden City Head Start	Tenth St. Community Farmer's Market
Lamar East Primary	Barton Co. Health Dept. (Wise Woman)

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



## Success Story

In addition to the numbers, Nutrition Program Associate, Theresa Dalby, shared this success story demonstrating local impact:

While programming in my local food pantry, I used the Think Your Drink display. One of the workers of the food pantry came to my table and said, "This is such good information. My husband would drink so much soda pop each day. I showed him how much sugar is in that bottle, and now he no longer drinks soda pop. We no longer have it in our house." A customer was walking past at that point, she stopped and said, "I've cut out soda, too. I had no idea how much sugar was in those drinks." They then told me how they liked the information I was providing and how it was making a difference in the way they choose the foods they eat. It's good to know that people are taking our information to heart and making positive changes in their dietary habits





**Volunteer Hours: 120.25**  
**Educational Hours: 18.5**  
**Contacts: 312**

The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener Extension Program is “helping others learn to grow.” The program provides in depth horticultural training to individuals who then volunteer their time applying what they have learned to help others in their communities to learn about gardening and environmental education.

Volunteer and educational hours consist of performing volunteer work on Master Gardener projects and other activities; and attending, hosting and teaching classes related to the Master Gardener Program.



### 2019 Activities

In 2019, Master Gardeners encouraged the public to attend their monthly meetings to hear gardening topics:

Meagan Duffee-Yates, Danelle Howard, Robert Balek and Beth Brisbin were among the presenters. Monthly garden tips were written and submitted to the Lamar Democrat newspaper for publication. The annual plant sale in May was a big success. The Master Gardeners created and displayed a presentation board on native landscape plants at the Lamar Free Fair. The Master Gardeners represented at the Lamar Library during their shredding and recycling event. They also painted pumpkins with students at Lamar Head Start.



### Volunteer Projects

In 2019, The Master Gardeners of Barton County continued 3 volunteer projects: maintaining gardens at the Lamar Senior Center, Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the Lamar City Park and Yard of the Month. Yard of the Month photos and articles were posted in the local newspaper and Facebook page.



***Master Gardeners touring the George Washington Carver Monument***

# University of Missouri Continuing Education

MU Extension partners with several of the University's schools and colleges to deliver noncredit continuing education courses, programs and training in a variety of professional trades that contribute to the success of public-sector organizations and private industries throughout Missouri and the nation. Many professional development noncredit courses award continuing education units. A number of professions require CEUs as proof of staying up-to-date in their subject matter.

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

MU FRTI is charged with providing comprehensive continuing professional education and training to Missouri's fire service and emergency response personnel. The institute has a direct impact on the well-being and protection of Missouri's 29,000 firefighters and the 6 million people they serve. Courses prepare firefighters for medical emergencies, hazardous materials response and disaster preparedness and mitigation, as well as fires. For more information, visit [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org)

## **MTI**

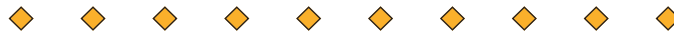
The Missouri Training Institute provides continuing education programs in business, custom designed training programs, and consulting services for business and industry, public and nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. Training programs cover human resource management, supervision, management, leadership, team building, effective decision-making, dealing with generational differences and business writing. The institute's consulting services cover human resources, strategic planning, board development and board retreats. For more information, visit [mti.missouri.edu](http://mti.missouri.edu).

## **MUCO**

The MU Conference Office registers participants from Barton County, as well as other counties, to attend MU Conference events. The MU Conference Office provides high-quality, professional, full-service meeting management for a variety of noncredit educational programs, such as conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia. For more information, visit [muconf.missouri.edu](http://muconf.missouri.edu).

## **MU Nursing Outreach**

Keeping Missouri nurses up-to-date with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively provide care and fully participate in the state's health care efforts is a primary goal for Nursing Outreach. Health care professionals from Barton County participate in the nursing outreach program. Nursing Outreach serves a predominantly rural health care audience with high-quality, affordable continuing education programs using face-to-face, web-based and online delivery methods.



## Business Development

During fiscal year 2019, the MU Extension Business Development Program (BDP) served Barton County clients/companies with business start-up and management counseling, training, and other assistance. Entrepreneurs and business owners in Barton County reported the following economic impact and activity resulting from services provided by MU Extension BDP:

BDP Event	# attending
Jobs Retained	5
Individual Client/Company Business Counseling	3
Trainings	29



## Regional Staff Serving Barton County



**Maria Rodriguez-Alcala**  
Community and Economic Development  
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# Community & Economic Development



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## Business and Communities Extension

*Business and Communities Extension serves the needs of Missouri through educational programs, technical assistance and engagement in business and agribusiness development, community engagement and evaluation, regional economic analysis, and workforce development. Extension's state specialists, field specialists, and county engagement specialists bring cutting-edge information and strategies to all parts of the state to improve the socioeconomic standing of our communities.*

## Community Economic Development (CED)

According to Steve Deller, a pioneer in community economic development (CED), "CED is the process of identifying and analyzing economic issues and the creation and implementation of a set of specific policies aimed at enhancing the economic opportunities of community residents." CED actively seeks community involvement by working in partnership with government, non-government agencies and the private sector to build strong communities. CED encourages using local resources in a way that enhances economic opportunities while improving social conditions in a sustainable way. CED is not just for communities facing crisis, all communities are constantly changing and evolving and as a result needing adjustments, which in turn require educated decisions for proper planning as well as continuous growth and improvements.

## The Connect Strategy

The Connect Strategy in Extension began in January 2019 by first being implemented through County Engagement Specialists (CES) in CED. The Connect Strategy is a community engagement process designed to help Business & Communities Extension learn about a region, identify opportunities, and develop the critical relationships needed to improve Missouri's economy. As part of this process, CES conduct a thorough reading of county data related to its demographics, economics, health, and education in order to obtain a general picture of the county. Local quantitative data is then matched to qualitative data obtained through personal interviews and focus groups conducted by the CES among individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests in the county. The matching of the quantitative and qualitative data is finally used to better understand the needs of the community and be better prepared to make strategic decisions that can help advance the overall socioeconomic status of the community.

As part of the Connect Strategy, CED Maria E. Rodriguez-Alcala conducted 9 individual interviews in 2019 from Barton County residents. In addition, a focus group was conducted in Springfield that included representatives from Barton County and other counties in the southwest region of Missouri.

## Tigers for Troops



Barton County, MO has 808 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 688, meaning we are above average in terms of this population that has several needs. *Tigers for Troops* operates under the umbrella of the Veterans Clinic available through the MU School of Law. Through this program, a legal team travels to different counties in partnership with MU Extension to help veterans struggling with access to healthcare and disabilities benefits. We drew from the telehealth format and piloted a teleconference version of *Tigers for Troops* to expand legal services to veterans in our area in a more efficient manner. Veterans from the southwest corner of Missouri were scheduled individually with the legal team in Columbia through Zoom teleconference. As a result of the one day heavily promoted program offered in July 2019, we are now an official location for *Tigers for Troops* in our region serving veterans throughout the year.

## The Noble Hill Regional Ag-Accelerator

The Noble Hill project is a first of its kind public/private partnership, combining the most comprehensive set of business and farming practices to create an agricultural accelerator to impact economic development in southwest Missouri. The Noble Hill site covers over 60 acres of city owned rural property, and will include irrigated produce and agroforestry farms with season extenders, a food hub, classroom, maintenance facilities, and state of the art hydroponic greenhouses powered by existing on site waste heat and very low cost municipal renewable power. It will house high-tech greenhouses and open field specialty crops combining educational programs (K-12 and colleges). Training for farmers will combine hands-on production experience with best business practices. Partners include Missouri

## Community & Economic Development, cont'd.

State University to offer an agricultural certificate program, University of Missouri Extension to offer technical expertise, and other higher-ed institutions in the region to offer paid internships and other learning opportunities. The city of Springfield, Springfield City Utilities, Springfield R-12 district, Farmers Market of the Ozarks, local hospitals and Ozark Food Harvest are among the key supporters of the food hub, a component that will offer value-added and market access for farmers in the region. The aim is to foster the growing, processing and distribution of local foods in the Ozarks so that jobs, businesses and income are created, and remain in the Ozarks. This aim envisions taking the local foods movement to another level.



Throughout 2019, Pam Duitsman, CES-CED in Christian County, and Maria Rodriguez-Alcala, CES-CED in Jasper County, worked hard on strengthening the partnership between Extension and the Noble Hill. We introduced the project to other southwest MU Extension specialists, MU faculty and administrators at the state level involved in ag-entrepreneurship, value-added agriculture, as well as the governor's *Show-Me State Food, Beverage and Forest Products Manufacturing Initiative*. This introduction and our participation in the Taskforce Subcommittee for the governor's initiative (focusing on Regional Food Systems convened at the Missouri Farm Bureau Headquarters in Jefferson City on September 13) helped position the Noble Hill under the umbrella of this statewide effort. From these meetings we were able to, in turn connect the Noble Hill to the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the State of Missouri Department of Economic Development. Among the various MU Extension specialists now collaborating in this project is Robert Balek, horticultural specialist housed in Carthage.

We included other higher-ed institutions - Missouri State University (MSU) and Lincoln University - already involved with the Noble Hill in several discussions we organized. In addition, we presented the project to other higher-ed institutions that were not yet involved - Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) and Crowder College. All these institutions have agreed to partner with the Noble Hill to help train students that could become future farmers, engineers, business managers and other professions that will be linked to a sophisticated regional food system.

We worked with MU Extension state specialists in Agricultural Business and Policy to help calculate some economic impact figures, such as multiplier effects, for our region. The economic impact summaries we helped generate for southwest Missouri is now being used by the Noble Hill in their fundraising campaign with local donors, foundations, and possible grants being considered for the future.

We began discussions with the Small Business and Development Center (SBDC) at MSU and MSSU to partner with other specialists in MU Extension in order to expand our capacity to better serve new and existing farmers who want to either start a farm business or expand/diversify their current farm business. In addition, Maria Rodriguez-Alcala has been in conversations with the Graduate Institute for Cooperative Leadership (GICL) at MU's main campus to guide us. The idea with GICL is to help us develop the capacity to also train farmers to form LLCs and cooperatives that can aid farmers be better vertically integrated in value-added businesses linked to their production, which in turn could help with farm profitability and improve chances of farm survival/success in the long-term. As part of this, we began conversations with the Springfield Community Gardens to start a pilot program with a couple of their farmers that are already interested in forming a cooperative.

Other connections we facilitated included: (1) other government representatives, including the Agriculture Director for Senator Ron Blunt; (2) The Farm Credit Services (FCS) who is now seeking to expand credit lines in specialty crops and their involvement in ag-education; (3) other local food systems such as Cultivate KC in the Kansas City area; (4) other chambers of commerce outside Springfield, such as the Joplin Chamber of Commerce that is initiating a new program in entrepreneurship in 2020 and would possibly partner with MU Extension on this; (5) Campus Quest, a veterans advocacy group in Joplin, another potential partner that could help us connect to veterans in the area who are farming or want to start farming.

### Agroforestry

The MU Center for Agroforestry has been expanding its silvopasture program across Missouri, which has proven to be successful for livestock producers in two ways: (1) it can reduce risk related to weather volatility (which has increased in recent years) because animals can graze during extreme weather conditions in the forested area; (2) it can increase profitability and add farm diversification through wood, fruits and/or nuts production.

In November the center organized site visits in which Maria Rodriguez-Alcala participated: The site visits included local companies in black walnuts and native pecans as well as a workshop at a beef cattle ranch that is implementing silvopasture in Subia, NW Arkansas. The team is putting together some general guidelines for SW Missouri and NW Arkansas producers who want to implement silvopasture (there is no one-size fits-all in this). Improving profitability for livestock producers in the future through silvopasture can in turn impact the economic development of our area.



## Livestock Specialist



### Patrick Davis

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During 2019 I was involved in 4 programs in Barton County which were:

- Proper Replacement Heifer and Bull Development
- Community Safety Net Rural Safety Days at the Barton County Schools
- Regional Hay Workshop
- Warm Season Grass Cattle Grazing Workshop

Ongoing during this year, I have made numerous contacts educating individuals on desired cattle and forage topics, prepared news articles concerning pertinent information for local cattlemen and participated in multiple radio Informational interviews.

Other activities that I have been involved in Barton County include two **Missouri Show Me Select Replacement Heifer Program** participants. Here is the breakdown of the number of heifers they sold by sale during 2019:

#### **May Sale**

Mast Farms, Barton County, sold 13 heifers that averaged \$1615

#### **November Sale**

Mast Farms sold 4 heifers that averaged \$1525

Weber Cattle sold 19 heifers that averaged \$1536

## Human Development & Family Science



### Kyleigh Sullivan

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In Barton County during 2019 I was able to provide an *Alzheimer's Awareness Program* to community members and staff at the Truman Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Lamar. There were between 20 and 25 individuals in attendance.

In have some other really great programs for older adults such as:

- **Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate**
- **Boost Your Brain & Memory**
- **Chronic Disease Self- Management**

*I'd love to hear from you!*

Like my business page on  at:

**MU Extension Kyleigh HDFS Specialist**



# Barton County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2019



### FY2019 county students

**36 students**

- 29 Undergraduates
- 7 Graduate and professional students
- 35 Full-time students
- 1 Part-time student
- 13 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2019)



### County employees and retirees

**9 people employed by UM**

- 9 Campuses

3 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$208,231

UM state tax revenue: \$6,878

UM federal tax revenue: \$28,660



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 3 Medicine
- 8 Nursing
- 1 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 5 Pharmacy
- 2 Veterinary Medicine
- 37 Agriculture
- 22 Engineering
- 10 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 4 teachers
- 2.6% of all district teachers



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 28 students
- 95 alumni
- 7 employees

**UMKC**

- 3 students
- 28 alumni
- 2 employees

**Missouri S & T**

- 4 students
- 20 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 1 student
- 3 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Barton County



County population: 11,942



### County services provided

**Health care**

- 38 in-state patients seen at UM Health Care, with \$6,013 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$82.27 per patient in uncompensated care

**Extension**

- 11,958 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of district counties, including:
- 3,701 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 8,711 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 45 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Highlights

## 2019 State Fair Farm Family

In 2019, Barton County had the pleasure of recognizing The Ball Family farm as State Fair Farm Family.

### What is a State Fair Farm Family?

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

2019 Family Pictured:  
**Brian & Kim Ball,**  
**Henry, Jaxon, and Ethan**



## To Make the Best **BETTER**

### Barton County 4-H Highlights

#### Missouri Community Betterment

JC Smith Overall Youth Award  
*1st Place*  
 Outstanding Youth Leadership  
*Kyler Cox*

#### National 4-H Congress *Delegates*

Kaitlyn Davis  
 Kendall Krueth  
 Lexi Phipps



Linda Madison  
 4-H Hall of Fame  
 Inductee

Missouri 4-H  
 Foundation



#### Missouri 4-H Key Awards

Kyler Cox  
 Theodore Crabtree  
 Kaitlyn Davis  
 Lexi Phipps

#### Kyler Cox Theo Crabtree

Barton County  
 Extension Youth  
 Members

#### I Dare You Award

Ethan Ball  
 Cora James









Extension

*University of Missouri*

Barton County