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The View from LU Cooperative Extension, February 2014

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension

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Teaching Computer Literacy in St. Louis



The “Let’s Get Technical” program teaches computer literacy to senior citizens. They also learn that using technology is a skill that is useful in all areas of daily life.

When computers became a part of the workplace, many senior citizens were a few years from retirement. As a result, they did not learn enough about how

to use computers. Now, these seniors often feel isolated and unsure when using technology. However, technology has changed the nature of work, personal communication, education, healthcare delivery, daily business/financial transactions and more. This means that everyone is expected to have access to a computer and to know how to use one.

“Let’s Get Technical” is a program to make the computer usable in all aspects of everyday life. There is a focus on surfing the Internet for those aged 65 and older. In addition to giving computer classes for senior citizens, LUCE in St. Louis teaches youth, too. This helps to lessen the digital divide that occurs based not only on age but also on income level.

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In October, 2013 this program served over 40 senior citizens and 10 youth per week. Due to their experiential learning, the seniors are now more competent in the use of computers. ■

Marla Moore, St. Louis Urban Impact Center



Global Entrepreneurship Celebration Helps Youth and Senior Citizens Create Small Businesses

On November 23, 2013, LUCE and Intergenerational Programs held the Global Entrepreneurship Celebration. Adrienne Hunter-Green, LUCE Regional Educator in Southeast Missouri, planned this annual conference. Its goal was to urge youth and senior citizens to create small businesses.

Darvin Green grows produce locally. He shared the many impacts that agriculture has on the daily lives of Southeast Missouri residents. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall (State Extension Specialist – Native Plants) and her staff led a craft workshop. Julius T. Moody, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Lincoln University liaison, presented with students from Minority in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS); they showed many ways that youth can make money with agriculture. David and Ella Backus are local produce farmers; they discussed how to grow and can vegetables.

Attendees were engaged by Women of Wisdom (WOW), a group that sewed a quilt during the event. Tajuan Moreland talked about how agriculture connects to her beauty supply business, Umpkins. Marion Smith is a business owner who taught creative crochet. One highlight of the program was the talk given by Britney Jordan, a junior entrepreneur. She is a fifth grader who started her business after attending a previous GEC; she now makes and sells hand-crafted bracelets. ■

Adrienne Hunter, Southeast Missouri

Creating Value-added Products with Native Plants

On Friday, November 22, 2013 the close of the year was celebrated early with native plants. This event was planned by Families Integrating Nature, Conservation & Agriculture (FINCA) project staff members William and Mary Glasper. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall talked about how pollinators need native plants. A hands-on activity followed. It was led by staff members Sue Bartelette and Emily Young. Attendees used mostly native plants to make cards, wreaths and swags as holiday decor. Eight adults and 14 children from Haywood City and five staff from Sikeston, Caruthersville and Haywood City attended.



Mary Glasper enjoys being outdoors more now that she is working for the program; it has helped her lose weight. She is happy to have learned the names of local plants. Mary is also a lay leader at the Paula J. Carter Center for Minority Health and Aging (PJCCMHA).

On Saturday, November 23, 2013 Navarrete-Tindall, Bartelette and Young led an entrepreneurship class. This was part of Lincoln University Cooperative Extension's (LUCE) Global Entrepreneurship Celebration in Charleston, Missouri. The event was planned by Adrienne Hunter-Green, LUCE Regional Educator in Southeast Missouri. Twenty-nine children made cards with native plants. Staff showed how to press flowers and leaves for later use. After making cards, the children priced them and practiced selling them. This gave the youth ideas on how to make value-added products from native plants that they could later sell. ■ *Sue Bartelette, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Emily Young, Native Plants*



Tabletop Displays Provide Educational Information about Small Ruminants

On Saturday, November 2, 2013 the Newton-McDonald County Agriculture Appreciation Banquet was held at Neosho High School. It honored the agriculture industry; mainly, it paid tribute to county farm families and Century Farms. Educational displays from Lincoln University Cooperative Extension's (LUCE) Southwest Region were showcased by Dr. Jodie Pennington, Small Ruminant Educator. Tri-fold posters and handouts about LUCE were handed out. Displays on the Small Ruminant Program showed browsing demonstrations, where goats cleared woodlands. Ten other government programs also had displays. The SW Missouri Fiber Folks showed how to spin yarn. The main event speakers were Missouri Representative Bill Reiboldt and Missouri Congressperson Billy Long.

Surveys were given to the 230 attendees to find out what they had learned from the displays. These surveys indicate that over 90 percent plan to make changes in their management or operation; these changes relate to the production and marketing of goats and sheep. ■ *Jodie Pennington, Small Ruminants*



Publications:

Ajuzie, E. I. S., "Gas Prices: Should They Continue to Rise?" The Huffington Post. Last modified Dec. 18, 2013. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/emmanuel-is-ajuzie/should-they-continue-to-rise_b_4041514.html.

Ajuzie, E. I. S. "Gasoline Price and Minimum Wage Increases in the Scheme of Job Creation and Economic Growth." The Huffington Post. Last modified December 15, 2013. www.huffingtonpost.com/emmanuel-is-ajuzie/gasoline-price-and-minimu_b_4450071.html.

Integrated Pest Management Program Receives a Grant and Conducts a Workshop

The Ceres Trust awarded Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) an organic research and outreach grant. Ceres is a private Midwest foundation that supports organic agriculture. The grant is titled "Improving the Profitability of Small Farms in Missouri by Reducing Inputs through the Integration of Farmscaping and Small Ruminants for Insect Pest and Weed Control." Dr. Jaime Piñero from LUCE's Integrated Pest Management program and Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert from LUCE's Small Ruminant Program co-wrote the grant proposal. It has been funded for three years at \$178,519.

In late June, the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) was found in Missouri. Quickly, this invasive insect pest infested many fruits; these included blackberry, raspberry, peach, strawberry and grape. Professionals in agriculture and Extension needed to be trained to identify, monitor and best manage this pest.



On Wednesday, November 20, 2013 Dr. Piñero held a workshop about SWD. The trainers were local and regional experts. It was attended by 45 persons; they were from LUCE, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and University of Missouri Extension (UME). Attendees were given handouts and supplies to help farmers. A survey showed that the workshop increased knowledge. A follow-up survey will be given in August 2014. The event was funded by UME's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

■ *Jaime Piñero, Integrated Pest Management*

Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop

In 2011, President Obama signed the Food Safety Modernization Act into law. It states that farms selling over \$25,000 yearly in agricultural products must use certain agricultural and food handling practices. Also, products must be traceable in the event of a recall. Farms will soon be required to document their procedures, have their farms inspected, and certify their compliance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). Today, farms do not have to be GAP-certified; however, some produce buyers (Hy-Vee and WalMart) now require GAP certification of vendors.

To prepare farmers for GAP certification, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension's (LUCE) Innovative Small Farms Outreach Program (ISFOP) hosted a two-day Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop on Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8, 2013 at LUCE's St. Louis Urban Impact Center. The two presenters came from Cornell University. Dr. Elizabeth Bihn is the Director of the Produce Safety Alliance and Program Coordinator for the National GAPs program; Gretchen Wall is the Program Coordinator for the Produce Safety Alliance. Thirty-seven farmers from 25 farms earned certificates of completion; eight were minority farmers, with four women sole proprietors. The workshop was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR) program.

■ *Miranda Duschack and Katie Nixon, ISFOP*

Expanding LUCE Educational Meetings about Goats and Sheep

On Saturday, November 16, 2013 the South Central Missouri Sheep and Goat Conference was held in Ava, Missouri. It was the first educational meeting for small ruminants in the county. This county had just been added to the Southwest Region. The University of Missouri Cooperative Extension center in Douglas County arranged the meeting with Dr. Jodie Pennington; Southwest Region Small Ruminant Educator for Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE). Eighteen producers or future producers attended along with two county specialists and three speakers. The speakers were Pennington; Dr. Charlotte Clifford-Rathert, LUCE State Extension Specialist - Small Ruminants; Mark Kennedy, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Grasslands Specialist; and a panel of producers. The panel talked about the benefits and problems when producing small ruminants. The conference created awareness for Douglas County on the many educational programs available through LUCE.

A survey was given; it showed that 90 percent of the attendees found new ideas at the meeting. Sixty-seven percent stated that they would make a management change as a result of the meeting. On a scale from 1 - 10, knowledge rose from 5.3 before the meeting to 8.2 afterward. ■ *Jodie Pennington, Small Ruminants*

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4-H Youth Futures of Kansas City Community Service Event

The 4-H Youth Futures club is for underserved youth. It teaches leadership and increases participant's chances of attending a college or vocational school.

On Saturday, December 7, 2013 the club volunteered at Hope Faith Ministries in Kansas City, Missouri. This event allowed the youth to show leadership skills by serving the community. At Hope Faith Ministries, the youth worked one-on-one with homeless and less fortunate families in the clothing bank. The youth helped people find warm, free clothing. The clients of Hope Faith Ministries were very happy and appreciative of the youth's help.

The Discipleship Coordinator told the youth about when he was homeless after a divorce. The youth were surprised; they saw that homelessness can happen to anyone. The experience had a lasting impact on the youth. They felt more grateful for what they have, such as a warm place to sleep, clothing, food and transportation. Many of the youth were shocked that so many of the homeless were children. The youth were glad to help. One youth in the club had had a rough morning due to personal issues. After the event, she had tears of joy seeing that her problems were small compared to the homeless families she had helped. ■ *Keverick Wilson, Kansas City Urban Impact Center*