Missouri 4-H
Youth Feeding Communities Project

A Year in Pictures - 2013
Statewide Service Campaign

The goal of the Missouri 4-H Youth Feeding Communities service campaign was to raise 10,000 hours of service toward hunger awareness, hunger relief and food security. Progress was tracked on a thermometer displayed at state events.
State 4-H Events
Camp Food & Fitness

32 youth were introduced to the Missouri 4-H Youth Feeding Communities service campaign, and to the Invest an Acre program.
4-H Youth Civic Leaders Summit

Missouri youth and adults from 13 counties attended the 4-H Youth Civic Leaders Summit, where they planned hunger fighting projects to implement, and participated in a civic engagement workshop, using activities from the 4-H Hunger Toolkit.
The Missouri State 4-H Council hosted a food drive competition among regions, yielding 486 pounds of canned goods for the Central Missouri Food Bank. The West Central region brought the most food and got to pie Dustin Oehl, State 4-H Council youth president, in the face at the end of the conference! A youth leader gave a short presentation, and Invest an Acre flyers were passed out at a meal to over 300 kids and 50 adults.
During State 4-H Congress, fliers and packets of seeds were given to delegates to inform them about Invest an Acre and the Missouri 4-H Youth Feeding Communities service campaign. A short informational presentation was made during an assembly that reached over 350 youth and adults.
Missouri State Fair

With support from Bing’s Grocery Store and MU architectural studies students, Missouri 4-H built a canned food sculpture to raise awareness about Invest An Acre and the issue of hunger. Canned food was donated to a local Feeding America food pantry after the fair.
Demonstration Communities: Barton County 4-H
Barton County 4-H youth organized a day camp where members taught young children about where their food comes from, how to grow vegetables, and helping others. This activity helped the youth become better prepared to address issues related to hunger in the future.
Community Gardens

Barton County 4-H youth built community gardens located at Barton County Memorial Hospital and Lamar Enterprises. The youth grew and supplied the plants and helped take care of the gardens throughout the summer, with produce going to hospital staff and patients, and sheltered workshop employees.
Two 4-H youth groups visited grain elevators to talk to employees and farmers about Invest An Acre, and to display a banner about 4-H’s promotion of the program.
Wheat Tour

4-H youth cooked and served dinner to attendees of a wheat tour hosted by MU Extension in Southwest Missouri, and spoke to farmers about the Invest An Acre program.
Two 4-H youth groups visited grain elevators to talk to farmers about Invest An Acre. Later, they provided bottled water and cooked and served dinner to farmers attending a Grain Bin Tour.
Food Bank Donation

4-H youth visited the Ozark Harvest Food Bank (Feeding America) in Springfield, MO to deliver a donation of $300.00. They also toured the facilities and learned how the food bank operates. This greatly enhanced their understanding of where donations go and how the food is handled to benefit families in the community.
At the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield, 4-H youth designed and set up a display about Invest an Acre, giving away promotional fliers to fairgoers, including 4-H youth from Arkansas who stopped by the fair.
4-H youth helped organize the distribution of 1,000 food bags to houses in the community. Three days later, they collected bags with 2,000 food items to donate to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. The third annual drive was a partnership between 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, and Helping Hands faith-based volunteers.
Cooking Matters Classes

4-H youth assisted with Cooking Matters classes for Lamar Enterprises (sheltered workshop) employees. The class was 2 hours long for 6 weeks for 12 employees with special needs, covering meal preparation, shopping tips, food budgeting, and nutrition education.
Focus Group Meetings

Site visits and focus group meetings were conducted with 4-H demonstrations communities in the fall, leading groups in reflection about their work toward ending hunger, and brainstorming new ideas for future service.
Demonstration Communities:
Dade County 4-H
Brown Bag Buddies

Dade County 4-H youth assembled brown back backpack lunches for students who do not have access to food after leaving school, enhancing food security and supporting success in school.
4-H team members helped host a Farm to School meeting with Dade County producers to plan for the 2013-2014 school year. OPPA talked with the group about how to process food and submit invoices for their products. In the spring, Greenfield Schools will offer a “tasting” day for elementary school students.
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Demonstration Communities:
Boone County 4-H
Farmers Market

4-H youth and volunteers piloted children/family activities at the Columbia Farmers Market over the summer. Activities offered a way to educate children and families about local food and hunger issues, and 4-Hers intend to expand activities in the upcoming market season.
Boone County 4-H youth helped conduct an Empty Bowls Dinner event in Columbia, Missouri. Youth made over 100 pottery bowls, which were given to over 80 dinner attendees as part of an educational segment on hunger and local food.
Other Noteworthy Results
Summit Team Results

6 youth/adult teams participating in the 4-H Youth Civic Leaders Summit completed and reported results from hunger service projects planned while at the retreat. Projects contributed over 1,500 hours of 4-H youth and adult volunteer service to the statewide campaign!
4-H clubs from 62 counties reported hunger-related service projects on their 2013 Youth Service to Communities reports. Projects contributed over 4,600 hours of 4-H youth and adult volunteer service to the statewide campaign!
Goal Accomplished!

With 1,340 youth and 448 adults logging 10,508 hours of service by Dec. 15, our statewide goal was accomplished!