



## Regional 4-H Energizer Weekend

By **Erin Creason**  
4-H Youth Program Associate  
Contributed

4-H members from Caldwell, Clinton and DeKalb counties as well as other youth from across the Northwest Region participated in the Northwest Missouri Energizer in Cameron, MO this past weekend. The purpose of a Regional Energizer is to bring a fun-filled event, similar to larger, state events, close to home for youth to learn, gather new ideas, and meet other 4-H youth from their own region. This was an opportunity for members to explore exciting opportunities in 4-H. The Energizer encourages youth to step outside of their 4-H comfort zone and engage in exciting and sometimes challenging projects and activities. Typically, the Energizer program is only located in Cameron, but due to COVID guidelines, the decision was made to spread out the event across the region so that youth could stay closer to home and in smaller groups. Other

locations were Chillicothe, Higginsville and the surrounding area as well as Maryville.

Local volunteers and experts devoted their time and energy into getting our kids excited about 4-H and their specific project areas. Some of the presentations that were held in Cameron were about livestock judging, muzzleloading, entomology, poultry selection, international cuisine and cooking, showing livestock, archery and cake decorating. All of this was held in person as well as on Zoom. The event was hosted by the University of Missouri Extension 4-H with over 200 4-H families and presenters from across the region at the various locations as well as on Zoom.

If 4-H sounds like something you would like to be involved in, please contact University of Missouri Extension: Clinton/DeKalb County office, 816-933-2138. Erin Creason, our 4-H Youth Program Associate will be happy to direct you in the enrollment process and answer as many questions as possible.



## Missouri farm income saw large increase in 2020 despite pandemic

By **Linda Geist**  
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COLUMBIA – Large government payments helped 2020 Missouri net farm income match or exceed the 2014 record of \$3.4 billion, according to Abigail Meffert, senior research associate with the University of Missouri Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI).

Missouri's outlook falls in line with the U.S. Agricultural Market Outlook, a summary of 10-year baseline projections presented March 26 at the annual Abner W. Womack Missouri Agriculture Outlook Conference. See the full report at [www.fapri.missouri.edu](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu).

At the Womack conference, FAPRI director Pat Westhoff reported that U.S. farm income in 2020 increased to its highest level since 2014 due to large government payments and a rebound of commodity prices in the final months of the year.

Meffert projects that Missouri net income will fall in 2021 and 2022 due to reduced government payments and higher production costs, despite higher crop and livestock receipts. Projected income still exceeds the low levels of 2014-2018.

Strong prices and returns are pushing farmers to plant more acres in soybean, Missouri's dominant crop. After the floods of 2019, Missouri soybean acreage rebounded in 2020 and may increase further in 2021, perhaps exceeding 6 million acres for the first time. FAPRI projects that

soybean acreage in the U.S. will exceed 90 million acres, 7% more than last year.

Projected Missouri corn acreage in 2021 remains similar to 2020 levels of about 3.4 million acres. Total area planted of five major crops is predicted to be the same in 2021 as it was in 2018 if normal spring planting conditions prevail.

Grain and oilseed prices increased in recent months, in part because of smaller-than-expected 2020 national harvests and strong demand from China for U.S. exports. Projected Missouri corn and soybean prices decline for the 2021 crop but remain well above 2014-2019 prices, said Meffert.

Packing plant disruptions and other factors drove producer prices down for cattle in 2020, but cattle prices are projected to go up in 2021 and for the next several years, as national production levels off and demand remains strong.

USDA reports that Missouri had a little over 2 million beef cows and a total of 4.3 million cattle and calves on Jan. 1, 2021. Meffert projects only modest changes in this area.

She said crop cash receipts are likely to increase sharply for the second straight year in calendar year 2021 due to higher prices and the increase in crop production in 2020. This takes into account that farm receipt data are on a calendar year basis and that producers often market fall-harvested crops over two calendar years.

Livestock, poultry and

dairy cash receipts in 2020 were held down by lower cattle prices and other factors. Meffert expects a modest increase in animal sector cash receipts in 2021.

Higher farm incomes will support an increase in land and farm asset values in the next year, and the national farm debt-to-asset ratio will dip to its lowest rate since 2012, said Westhoff.

Westhoff also predicted that consumer food price inflation will drop to 2.1% in 2021, down from 3.4% in 2020, when packing plant problems widened the gap between producer prices for livestock and consumer prices for meat.

The outlook assumes that the general economy recovers, as forecast in January 2021 by IHS Markit, and that current government policies remain in place. It does not include any developments since January 2021, so it does not reflect information from subsequent USDA reports nor does it incorporate the reconciliation bill approved by Congress in March.

USDA will not issue its first estimates of state-level farm income for 2020 until later this year. The figures reported here are FAPRI estimates that are likely to deviate from the official USDA estimates when they become available.

FAPRI offices are in Mumford Hall on the University of Missouri campus.

Source: Pat Westhoff, 573-882-4647; Abigail Meffert, 573-882-1927

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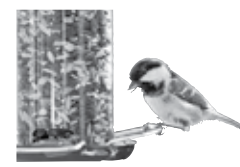
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