



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Montgomery County

2023 Annual Report

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**

310 Salisbury St., Ste. E
Montgomery City, MO 63361
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Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
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December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System



MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXTENSION

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Montgomery City, MO 63361
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WEBSITE: extension.missouri.edu/montgomery

December 2023

Dear Friends of MU Extension:

MU Extension continues to step up to today's challenges with innovative ideas to connect our citizens and communities with knowledge, resources and programming.

Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.

In 2023, face-to-face meetings and local program delivery continued to increase across the county and state. It was announced that MU Extension in Montgomery County will house a new Regional Economic Development Specialist in the near future.

In Montgomery County, our volunteer advisors - members of the county Extension Council - play a vital role in identifying community needs; providing counsel to regional and campus faculty about educational programs and personnel; and assist in finding resources to support the local educational program.

This annual report highlights part of Extension's yearly educational programming. In 2023, the Montgomery County Extension Office provided a total of 11,639 direct and indirect contacts. These contacts were made through in-person meetings, zoom short courses, newsletters, telephone consultations, personal instruction, electronic mail and educational displays. Program areas include Agriculture and Environment, Business and Community, Youth and Families, Nutrition and Continuing Education.

With your support and the support of the Montgomery County Commission, every effort will be made to identify high-priority needs and to deliver programs that enhance the lives and livelihood of the residents of Montgomery County.

The Montgomery County Extension Council would like to express its thanks to the staff, volunteers, other agencies, associations and businesses for their hard work and support. Special thanks to the County Commission for the financial support provided to the Extension Council.

In partnering with the County Commission and the people of Montgomery County, we look forward to working together to meet Extension's grand challenges of economic opportunity, educational access and excellence and health and well-being in 2024.

Sincerely,

Dennis Weinrich, chairperson
Montgomery County Extension Council

Elizabeth Anderson
Extension and Engagement Specialist

Who We Are

Montgomery County Extension Council

Dennis Weinrich, Chairperson
 Mike Henderson
 Vice Chairperson
 Dan Cole, Secretary
 Donna Viehmann, Treasurer
 Stacey Carroz
 Mike Henderson
 Richard Kleinsorge
 Doug Lensing
 Sharon Lensing
 Toni Schwartz

2023 Operating Budget

Income:

County Appropriations \$79,000

Expenses:

Personnel Services \$28,000
 Payroll Expenses \$18,440
 Non-Payroll Salaries \$19,400
 Travel \$4,260
 Postage \$1,800
 Telephone Service \$1,450
 Rent/Lease Equipment \$2,240
 Supplies/Services \$2,435
 Insurance \$725
 Repairs/Maintenance \$50
 Furniture/Equipment \$200

Meeting Date

Third Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
 Extension Council Office

Montgomery County Faculty and Staff

Rusty Lee
 Field Specialist in Agronomy
Heather Warren
 Nutrition Program Associate
Kim Cullom
 4-H Program Associate
Joan Andrews
 Office Support Staff

Staff Serving Montgomery County (based in other counties)

Brianna Anderson
 Field Specialist in Human Development
Elizabeth Anderson
 Extension & Engagement Specialist
Mark Christian
 SBTDC Business Specialist
Anita Ellis
 Field Specialist in Livestock
Charles Ellis
 Field Specialist in Agricultural Engineering

Staff Serving Montgomery County (based in other counties)

Tyler Hall
 County Engagement Specialist in Nutrition & Health Education

Matthew Herring
 Regional Director East Central Region

Marsha Moore
 Missouri SBDC Business Specialist

Jamie Mitchell
 Missouri APEX Accelerator Specialist

Brian Schweiss
 State Extension Specialist Sustainable Forestry

Rhonda Shafer
 County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Mary Sobba
 Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

David Steffes
 SBTDC Central Regional Director

Jana Weitkemper
 PTAC State Director

Paul Zacharius
 Missouri SBDC Business Specialist

Montgomery County Commissioners

Ryan Poston
 Presiding Commissioner

Dave Teeter
 First District Commissioner

Doug Lensing
 Second District Commissioner

State Legislators Senator

Travis Fitzwater
 District 10

Representatives

Jeff Myers
 District 42

Bruce Sassmann
 District 42

About us

Location:
 310 E. Salisbury St., Ste. E
 Montgomery City, MO 63361

Hours:

8 a.m. to 12 Noon
 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Monday through Friday

Contact:

573-564-3733
 573-564-6145 FAX
 montgomeryco@missouri.edu

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Montgomery County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

84 students

- 74 Undergraduates
- 10 Graduate and professional students
- 68 Full-time students
- 16 Part-time students
- 25 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



County employees and retirees

44 people employed by UM

- 20 Campuses
- 23 MU Health Care
- 1 UM System

20 UM retirees and beneficiaries
UM salary and retirement income: \$2.6 million

UM state tax revenue: \$78,572

UM federal tax revenue: \$368,545



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 38 Nursing
- 26 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 10 Veterinary Medicine
- 147 Agriculture
- 44 Engineering
- 10 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 30 teachers
- 24.0% of all district teachers
- 2 principals and administrators
- 25.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 54 students
- 397 alumni
- 20 employees

UMKC

- 3 students
- 12 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 14 students
- 39 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 13 students
- 76 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Montgomery County



County population: 11,384



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 2,348 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$956,717 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$34.82 per patient in uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$43.61 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 317 visits to 203 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

- 5,353 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 453 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 4,900 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Montgomery County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In 2022, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 81,645 jobs.

\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY17 and FY22, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.46 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY23, UM System was issued 33 patents and filed 61 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY23, the UM System awarded 805 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$279.2 million in the state.



In FY23, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 18,381 hrs of case-based instruction to 2,938 learners located in 112 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



41,992 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2022)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 174,692 farmers and related businesses (2022)



311,749 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2022)

Education Highlights

FY23 Financial Aid Awards

In FY23, 67.3% of the UM System's 80,702 students received financial aid totaling \$973.7 million

MU		UMKC	
27,256	\$536.0M	11,859	\$217.3M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,748	\$117.7M	8,489	\$102.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 485 K-12 school districts (832,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2022.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 32,098 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2022-23.
- UM System awarded 36.6% of the 1,935 research doctorates and 26.9% of the 3,593 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2022-23.
- In FY23, UM System's \$37.9 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.3% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2023, over 10,900 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure. MU Extension also supported residents in making individual challenges to the FCC that resulted in \$810,000 in additional funding for the state of Missouri.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2023, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

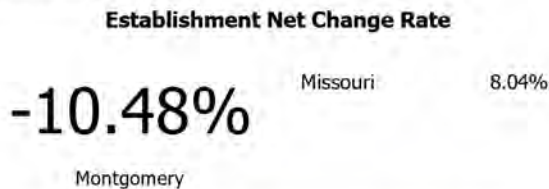
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Business Dynamics*

Business Growth/Change

The rate of business change reflects the net gain or loss in total establishments. The report area saw a net loss of 26 businesses between 2011 and 2021. There were 190 establishment "births" and 216 "deaths" contributing to the change. The rate of change was -10.48% over the ten year period, which is lower than the state average of 8.04%.



Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Business Dynamics Statistics](#). 2011-2021.

Largest Job Sectors

Understanding the local economy is vital to describing a community. In this region, the largest sector by employment size is Manufacturing, which employs 796 people. The average wage for the industry is \$65,966. Construction and Government and government enterprises are the next largest sectors, and they employ 638 and 630 workers, respectively.

Job Sector	Total Employment	Average Wage
Manufacturing	796	\$65,966
Construction	638	\$45,101
Government and government enterprises	630	\$53,861

Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Early Childhood Education*

Access to Early Childhood Education

Head Start is an early childhood education program for at-risk children through age 5. Families utilizing Head Start have better success meeting developmental goals and achieving economic stability. In 2018, there were 2 Head Start programs in the report area, or 26.01 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)

26.01 Missouri 11.76
Montgomery

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA - Administration for Children and Families](#), 2022.

English Language Arts Proficiency

Starting in the 4th grade, public schools emphasize proficiency in reading and reading comprehension. The ability to comprehend becomes the foundation to find and process information in later years and it is important to prevent children from falling behind. Of the 109.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 56.00. The number tested as below basic was 20.00, basic was 56.00, proficient was 16.00, and advanced was 13.00.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#), 2022.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Access to Care*

Mental Health Care Providers

Mental health is a critical public health issue worldwide. Access to mental health services is a challenge across Missouri, which ranks 46 out of 51 states in provider access. In the report area there are approximately 3 credentialed professionals providing mental health care to serve the area's 11,322 residents. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 3,774 to 1, which means there is 1 provider for every 3,774 persons. The ratio of persons to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 855:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

3,774:1 Missouri 855:1
Montgomery

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPPES\)](#), December 2023.

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 2 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 2,442 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 1,221:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,221 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 242:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

1,221:1 Missouri 242:1
Montgomery

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#), December 2023.

Grand Challenges



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Soils Testing*

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Montgomery	55	4	0	0	59
Missouri	11,785	4,192	315	3,708	20,000

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary, 2022.](#)



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



4-H Natural Resources programs employ hands-on activities in climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing and wildlife conservation. The **Shooting Sports program**, which teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting and archery principles, is a prime illustration of how 4-H programs promote holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs offer opportunities to cultivate life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.



A **SPIN club** focuses on a specific topic led by an expert in the field. While community clubs may meet over the full 4-H program year, SPIN clubs meet for set periods, typically from several weeks to a couple months. SPIN clubs can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

A community of 677 youth building life skills, contributing to their community and becoming college and career ready.

Common Measures

Findings from a 2021-22 evaluation study shows that Missouri 4-H:



Rhonda Shafer
Field Specialist
4-H Youth
Development

Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do

- 98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.
- 91% set personal goals.
- 97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.
- 98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.

Missouri 4-H Grows True Leaders

- 97% said they like to learn about people who are different from them.
- 93% said they think about others feelings before they say something.
- 75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.

4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills

- 95% help others reach their goals.
- 86% comfortable speaking in a group.
- 99% said they show respect for other's ideas.
- 85% Can work with someone who made them upset.
- 95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

4-H Builds Social and Emotional Skills

- 94% said they keep trying until they reach their goals.
- 89% Stop to think about their choices when making a decision.
- 97% reported that they like to learn new things.
- 91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.

4-H Participation

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.



Kim Cullom
4-H Program
Associate

Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

- Community Based 4-H Clubs
 - 4-H SPIN and special-interest programs
 - 4-H participants = 77
 - Montgomery County 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs and programs include community partnerships and events, day camps and other educational activities. This year Montgomery County youth were invited to participate in multiple SPIN Clubs including gardening and nutrition based.
- 4-H SPIN and special-interest programs
 - 4-H participants = 77
 - Montgomery County 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs and programs include community partnerships and events, day camps and other educational activities. This year Montgomery County youth were invited to participate in multiple SPIN Clubs including gardening and nutrition based.

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

- 4-H school enrichment programs
 - 4-H participants = 371
 - Montgomery County 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities. The most popular 4-H school program in Montgomery County is Embryology
- 4-H SNAC Clubs
 - 4-H participants = 40
 - 4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) clubs are offered in a variety of settings including before school, during school, afterschool, and in other community settings helping youth build knowledge about nutrition and fitness. Youth participate in a leadership project where they are encouraged to become an ambassador of Healthy Living in their communities by designing and implementing a leadership project that will improve nutrition education and the fitness of others.
 - Across the state, youth have developed creative ways to advocate for healthy living. In 2023, there were 91 SNAC Clubs across Missouri with 2,577 youth participating and reaching 4300+ youth

through the leadership projects.

▫ Survey Results

- 30% of the youth reported eating more vegetables at lunch after completing the SNAC program.
- 61% of the youth improve their physical activity practices or gain knowledge.

Volunteers

- 4-H members are supported by 90 youth and adult volunteers
- Time valued at \$286,000
- Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing an average of 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$31.80 per hour (Independent Sector, 2023), the contribution of Montgomery County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$280,000 in 2023. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

Reference

Independent Sector (2023). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$31.80 per hour. Retrieved from <https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-31-80-per-hour/>

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



The 2023 Holiday Clover Kid Night attendees included: (Front row l. to r.) Easton Hagemeyer, Azlee Dothage, Kaylee Pritchett, Nola Taylor, Nate Taylor, (Back row l to r.) Phoebe Birt, Hadly Warren, Alison Stille, Wade Harrell, Charlie Hans, Rylinn Bickmeyer, Harper Talley.

Annual Holiday Clover Kid Night A Success

Each December Montgomery County Clover Kids are invited to a Holiday Night planned by Kim Cullom, 4-H Program Associate and Heather Warren, Nutrition Program Associate. In 2023, the Clover Kids colored cards for an area nursing home, made

pizzas and decorated gingerbread houses. Twelve Clover Kids were in attendance and they had a great time. This event gives Clover Kids their own project meeting to attend and a chance to start meeting youth from other clubs.

Local Profiles and Stories



4-H Obstacle Course At County Fair

During the 2023 Montgomery County Fair, the Montgomery County 4-H Council sponsored an obstacle course for 4-H members. All participants

were awarded a coupon for the 4-H Social. Many 4-H members participated in both activities.

A group photo was taken to celebrate all of the 4-H members in attendance.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Agriculture and Environment**



MU Extension specialists

play an important role in addressing emergencies and disasters. MU Extension specialists swiftly distribute information so farmers and ranchers can make timely decisions that safeguard their enterprises.



The Missouri Integrated Pest Management

Program, funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for 30-plus years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems.

The MU Soil Testing Program
delivers research-based nutrient
and lime recommendations to more
than **32,500** customers annually.



The Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement

Heifer Program strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri.



Since its inception more than
900 FARMS have enrolled,
with an estimated statewide
impact of **\$200 MILLION.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2023 Montgomery County Forage Loss Assessment

State-wide Overview

The 2023 forage production season featured a prominent drought event that continues to impact the State. Drought conditions first emerged in April (Figure 1) when the state recorded its 4th driest April (-2.17") dating back to 1895. Precipitation totals remained below average in May (-1.87") and June (-2.72") with average monthly temperatures running 1 to 2 °F above normal (Figure 2). Several rounds of heavy rainfall in late July and early August helped to bring temporary drought relief, but dry conditions returned in September and October. Overall, the seven-month period from April to October has been the 14th driest (-6.02") for Missouri and 2023 is currently the 7th warmest year on record through October. The largest precipitation deficits and areas most impacted by drought are approximately located along an axis from southwest to northeast Missouri (Figure 1).

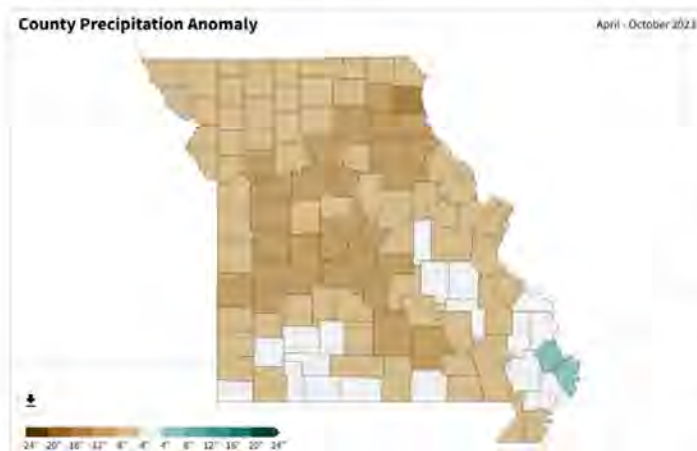


Figure 4. County-averaged precipitation departures from normal during April to October 2023. Precipitation normals based on 1901 – 2000. Data provided by the National Center for Environmental Information (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/>).

This year's drought occurred during the growing season, resulting in widespread negative impacts to the agricultural sector. Depleted soil moisture has led to poor pasture and crop conditions along with mature tree stress. Timely rainfall in July and August provided some relief to crops, but the return of hot and dry conditions in September and October limited fall pasture growth. Agricultural water supply has also been a persistent issue with many pond levels low or dry. Larger streams and rivers have also been dry, with up to 40% of the state's monitoring gauges measuring streamflow that is well below normal since April. Hydrological drought has also contributed to commercial navigation impacts along the Mississippi River, especially south of St. Louis. Altogether, there have been 984 community drought impact reports through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) program this year.



Rusty Lee
Field Specialist
Agronomy

The transition from October to November in Missouri was marked by beneficial rainfall and colder temperatures but conditions were short lived. As of November 20, Missouri is on track for another month featuring both above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, extending the 2023 drought through the end of the fall season. This has resulted in a continuation of drought impacts including agricultural concerns, enhanced fire risk and low water levels on streams, rivers and ponds. As of November 14, approximately 55% of the state remains in drought with 19% of the state being characterized as either severe or extreme drought (Figure 2).

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

County Specific Data - Montgomery

Cool-season grasses are the predominate forage species in Montgomery County. Much of its annual forage production occurs prior to the summer "slump" period of July and August. That makes April, May and June the quarter of the calendar to make or break a year's forage production.

Assuming soil fertility is adequate, soil moisture is the largest determining factor of forage production. This direct plant response makes tracking rainfall, and its contribution to soil moisture, an excellent barometer of forage production. During the April - June period, rainfall for Montgomery County was 7.08 inches below the 1901-2000 average amounts. This represents a 57 % decline in precipitation during this critical period of forage production. My

observations of pastures and hayfields in the county, including conversations with area producers, provided a verification of this expected reduced forage productivity claim.

While there was some short-term relief from a few July and August rains, our cool-season grasses saw April - June temperatures for the county being 3 % above the 100-year average, and more importantly, a lower-than-normal soil moisture level to start the growing season due to our drought actually beginning in the fall of the previous year.

These measurements, observations and conversations shape my opinion to be that Montgomery County experienced a 57 % reduction in forage growth for the 2023 growing/grazing season.

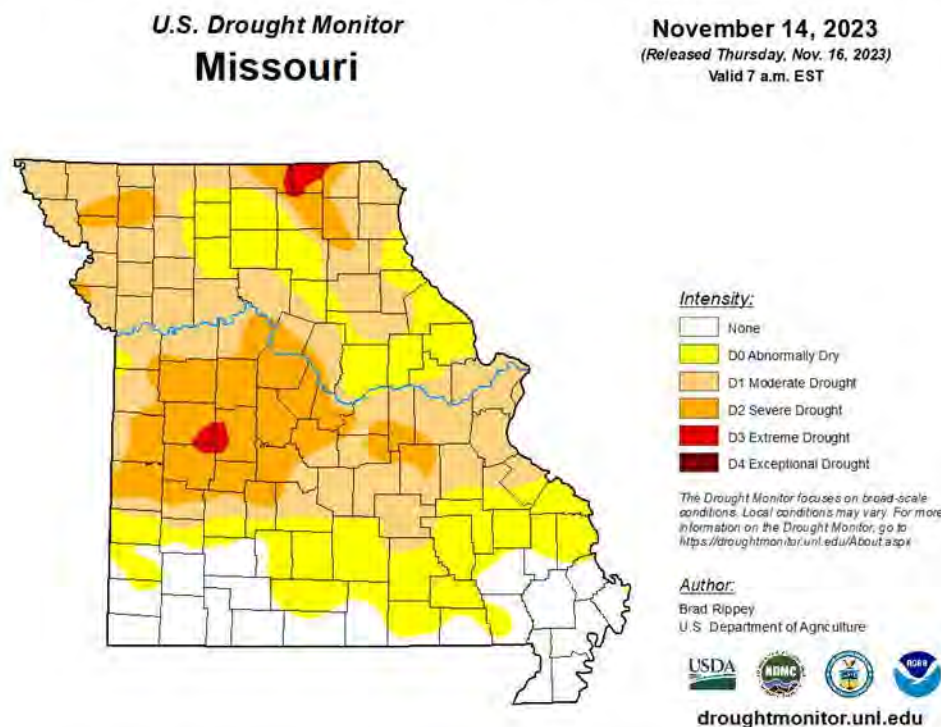


Figure 2. Most recent U.S. Drought Monitor depiction (retrieved 11/20/23).

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Number of Montgomery County Learners

Thirty-six Montgomery County citizens participated in the Private Pesticide Applicator training facilitated by Rusty Lee, field specialist in agronomy. This 2.5 hour program gave a collective learning total of 90 education hours.

What Did They Learn?

Upon completion of the training, participants were able to:

1. Recognize the need to correctly identify pest organism prior to choosing a pest management strategy.
2. Understand the concept of economic thresholds and economic injury levels when making pest management decisions.
3. Possess a basic understanding of biological control and other non-chemical methods of pest management.
4. Better understand the format and information provided on each pesticide label.
5. Recognize the importance of using label information in all phases of application.
6. Understand the importance of having a Material

Safety Data Sheet, and other materials available when applying pesticides.

7. Understand the need for proper selection and use of protective clothing and safety equipment.
8. Understand the importance of the "Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) designation for certain pesticides
9. Consider environmental impacts when selecting a pesticide for use.
10. Consider impact of pesticides on water sources when applying a pesticide.
11. Understand the need and procedure to develop an emergency plan (fire, storm, flood, other) with local emergency officials.

How Does This Work Make Montgomery County and Missouri Better?

Enables farmers to meet the legal requirements mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Bureau for Pesticide Control on the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides on their farmlands, including restricted-use pesticides (RUPs).

This enables farmers to meet society's demands for lessening agriculture's environmental impact.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Farm Tax Workshop



Mary Sobba
Field Specialist
Agriculture
Business

MU Extension hosted and taught Farm Tax Workshops for farm businesses and farm and ranch families. The content included farming: hobby vs. business, employee vs. independent contractor, weather related sales, sale or trade of business property, legislative update, 1099s, expiration of key income tax provisions, tax issues arising from the death of a farmer, and depreciating and expensing farm assets.

The workshops were designed to convey information in a concise manner using information from the IRS and the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation. The purpose of the classes is to get relevant and helpful information to farmers so they can make decisions and be better prepared to work with their professional tax preparer.

The workshops were a combination of in person classrooms and online via Zoom, with a total of seventy-seven participants.

Most participants completed an optional post survey. Seventy-five percent reported they had a better understanding of drought issues. Seventy-five percent said they understand the difference between 1099-MISC and 1099-NEC, Eighty-one percent are aware of depreciation methods, Ninety-four percent understand legislation is scheduled to expire. Ninety-four percent recognize year end planning is important.

Many participants planned to take some action before the end of the year. Some of the planned

actions included: reviewing farm records (88%), meeting with tax preparer and communicate with family members (31%). Plan to communicate with family members about tax issues (69%) and sixty-nine percent plan to review resources before purchasing begins in 2024.

Farm tax education workshops benefit individuals by increasing their understanding and knowledge, leading to more informed decisions and management of taxes. Better knowledge also leads to improved communications with their tax preparers and accountants. The result is researched and timely purchases of farm expenses, optimizing income tax scenarios and improved profitability over time. Money saved in income taxes stays local and is spent in local businesses up and down main street, making a more vibrant and sustainable rural economy.



Farm Tax Workshop participants at the Montgomery County in-person session. Pictured (l.-r. Amanda Haaf, John Gammon, Barbara Brewster, Julie Troesser and Harold and GERALYN GLOE.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and in addition a was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

Two Montgomery County citizens participated in the school. The 2023 school attendance totaled 327 people.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 sales of property, retirement tax issues, like-kind exchange issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,336 hours.

The teaching teams included a CPA and former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The trainings received positive evaluations and planning is underway to offer trainings in 2024. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.



Two Montgomery County citizens participated in the Farm Tax Workshops.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference



Rachel Hopkins

Field Specialist
Agriculture
Business

agency, the Maries County Soil and Water District.

Topics at the 2023 conference included Toxic Weeds

The third annual Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference was held in early March in Vienna. One hundred sixty-one people attended from central Missouri. This is a combined effort of local Extension specialists Gatlin Bunton, field specialist in agronomy; Eric Meusch, field specialist in livestock; and Rachel Hopkins, field specialist in agronomy; and a partner

and Pasture Spraying, Extending Your Grazing Season, Antibiotic Label Changes, Grazing More with Less and Marking Outlook. To conclude the conference, there was a producer panel discussing grazing small ruminants and beef cattle.

The one-day conference is an opportunity for local producers to gain up-to-date knowledge on a variety of subjects while not having to travel huge distances. The outcome goal of the conference is to further educate and connect the local producers to professionals, products and companies that they normally wouldn't have interaction with.

Cattle Grazing Workshop

Producers always wonder what grade and frame their cattle are and why some sell higher than others. The 'Cattle Grading Workshop' was a multi-agency workshop that helps to unravel some of the mystery behind 'WHY' cattle bring what they do.

Sixty-six people attended the workshop which was held at South Central Regional Stockyards in Vienna. Attendees came from Boone, Cole, Dent, Henry, Howard, Maries, Miller, Montgomery, Osage, Phelps, Pike and Washington Counties.

Lonnie Peetz, USDA Market Reporter, and Tony Hancock, MDA Market Reporter, went through explaining and evaluating different feeder calf grades and cull cow grades. Live animals provided by the sale barn are used to explain grade differences and differences in cull cows. Rachel Hopkins, MU Extension Ag Business Specialist, discussed different options with producers on feeder calf scenarios and different ways to add value to cull cows.



Rachel Hopkins, Ag Business Specialist walks producers through different scenarios and normal year market changes.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Ag Business Summary

During 2023, phone calls, emails, walk-ins and farm visits were conducted business by Rachel Hopkins, field specialist in agriculture business, serving citizens in 15 counties in the topics covering general agriculture and agricultural.

Topics ranged from how to add value to thin cows, rental rate questions and inquiries, written lease

documents, hay pricing, how to take a hay sample, cow culling strategies, cost share programs, different types of business entities, and so forth.

These counties included Cape Girardeau, Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Iron, Maries, Miller, Montgomery, Osage, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Washington and Webster.

Training & Certification for NE Youth in Agriculture

The Schuyler FFA Alumni Career Development Experience (CDE) was held on March 20, 2023. There were 17 schools with 195 students and 22 Vocational Agriculture teachers in attendance. Of the 195 youth participating, nine were in Ag Sales which is a Leadership Development Experience (LDE) and 186 were in CDEs. Out of the 186 tested, 110 scored Proficient. Youth in vocational agriculture programs for three or more years are required by DESE to test at a certified site before graduation.

A total of 11 events were offered – Dairy Cattle, Dairy Foods, Horses, Livestock, Forestry, Entomology, Agronomy, Floriculture, Farm Business Management, Ag Mech, and Ag Sales.

This opportunity is valuable for our youth since a growing number do not attend college or trade school. This gives them a chance to show employers their aptitude in the area they tested proficient. This experience helps youth explore potential careers in agriculture.

Counties who participated were: Adair-28; Clark-7; Linn-23; Macon-18; Marion-9; Mercer-4; Montgomery -4; Putnam-19; Schuyler-33; Scotland-13; Shelby-5;

and Sullivan-32.

MU Extension staff participating were Darla Campbell, field specialist in Community Development; Jennifer Schutter, field specialist in horticulture; Penny Kittle, 4-H Youth Specialist; Kelli Harris, field specialist in livestock; Shyla Elliott, nutrition program associate; and Sara Thompson, county office support staff.



Participants at the Schuyler FFA Alumni Career Development Experience event.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories

Growing Great Tomatoes



Justin Keay
Field Specialist
Horticulture

Twenty-five Montgomery County residents attended a “Growing Great Tomatoes” Class at the Montgomery City Public Library. Students learned how to test and improve their soil, how to fertilize, irrigate and trellis tomatoes, how to identify and manage tomato disease and pests and how to choose what tomato varieties to grow.

Twenty-one Montgomery County gardeners and produce growers had their soil tested and received detailed fertility recommendations and guidance to help their gardens and landscapes thrive. Five Montgomery County residents subscribed to

MU Horticulture Newsletters (Garden Spade Newsletter, Missouri Produce Growers Bulletin, and the MU Commercial Horticulture Video Newsletter) or attended the Live Garden Hour weekly town hall. Subscribers receive research-based information to help their gardens thrive, while protecting the environment.

Class students, soil testing clients and newsletter subscribers received research-based information from MU Extension to help their gardens and landscapes thrive, while protecting pollinators by reducing insecticide use and protecting the environment from nutrient pollution caused by fertilizer runoff.



Montgomery County gardeners and producers learning how to grow great tomatoes.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



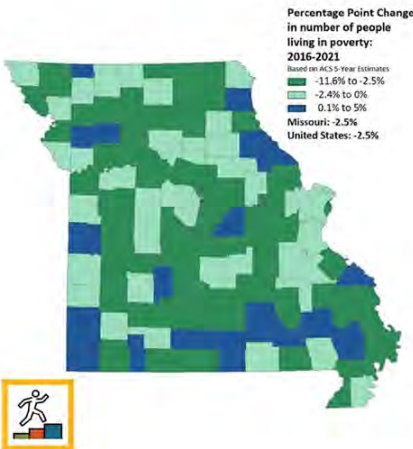
Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2023 Missouri Good Neighbor Week**, Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

In 2023, the goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. That goal was surpassed with 19,752 Missourians being positively affected during MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK.



The **APEX Accelerators** (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) were created in 1984 by the Department of Defense to help businesses navigate the government marketplace. Since 1989, MU Extension has hosted the Missouri APEX Accelerator as a business development partner program. The mission of the program helps businesses learn how to expand their market by selling goods and services to local, state and federal government entities.

From Aug. 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023, the Missouri APEX Accelerators reported over 900 NEW CLIENTS, 4,700 COUNSELING HOURS and OVER 10,000 CONTRACTS AWARDED.



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri's economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Montgomery County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Missouri SBDC Assists Montgomery County Citizens

In 2023, the Missouri SBDC professionals offered these personalized and extensive services for Montgomery County:

- Capitalization \$310,000
- Jobs Created 1
- Jobs Retained 3
- Number of Clients Counseled 5

About the Missouri SBDC

The Missouri SBDC is here to help business owners and entrepreneurs get the information needed to make confident decisions and help Missouri businesses succeed. The business experts of the Missouri SBDC are your neighbors, dedicated to helping businesses grow. Learn more at missourisbdc.org. The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and is a partner of University of Missouri Extension's Business Development Program.

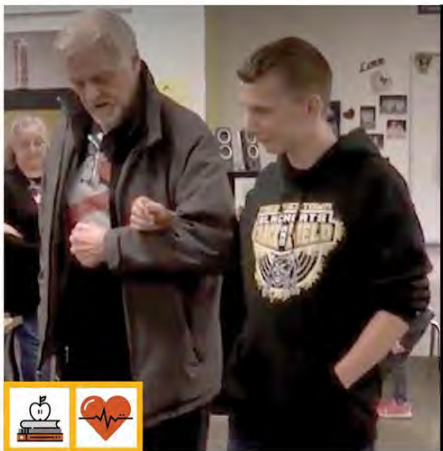


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
Community and Professional Health Education



The **Diabetes Prevention Program** is a CDC-recognized program provided by licensed lifestyle coaches to prevent type 2 diabetes. Through lifestyle coaching participants can achieve sustainable weight loss, increase in physical activity and learn coping skills to manage stress.

More than 1 IN 3 PARTICIPANTS
have reached the
5 - 7% WEIGHT LOSS GOAL.



PROSPER is a research-supported approach that promotes positive youth development and strong families through lifeskills education that increase protective factors and reduces risky behaviors among teens. Through a campus-community partnership, PROSPER Teams are created to support the implementation of two evidence-based programs with middle school students and their families.

“They have the old saying it takes a village to raise a child, the more the community comes together the better off the children are going to be in that community.”
Peggy Saphian PROSPER Model Participant in Fredericktown, MO



Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14, is a seven-session series for parents or caregivers and their young teens to attend together to improve family communication, resolve conflict and improve parental skills.

A research study conducted by the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute found a RETURN OF \$9.60 for every dollar spent implementing the Strengthening Families Program.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible programs **Community and Professional Health Education**

Emily Poncher, Community Health Field Specialist for the East Central Region
B.A. in Health Promotion from The University of Iowa
Covering Dent, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Montgomery, and Phelps counties

My evolving role as a Community Health Specialist was created with improving Missouri's health outcomes in mind. As it is a new role, I have been working through the Missouri Research-Extension Program, described below, to conduct a comprehensive community health needs assessment. This needs assessment allows me to conduct county-focused research and collect data that I will use to better understand the region as a whole. Additionally, I have become acquainted with the programs Community Health Engagement and Outreach (CHEO) has to offer. I have recently become trained as a WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training facilitator, and plan to begin delivering this training to my communities.



The **Missouri Research-Extension** (MO-RE) Protocol program focuses on strengthening the bridge between leading scientific research and community-based practice by creating a dissemination and implementation protocol that will facilitate acceleration of relevant knowledge into the most vulnerable Missouri communities through Community Health Engagement and Outreach.



Resilience is the capacity to adapt when faced with adversity. **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training** is a 2.5-hour statewide training in which participants evaluate their personal resilience, tap into resources and create an action plan to enhance their resilience.

100% of participants indicate that the skills and techniques they learned will help them become MORE RESILIENT.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
First Responder Education



The **Missouri Extension Disaster Education Network** provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, schools and organizations so they can prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Because of the unique relationship it maintains with each community, MU Extension is a key resource for the public, emergency services and public officials.



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute** (FRTI) is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighters and emergency responders.



The Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) has provided basic and advanced training for law enforcement since 1948. LETI's **Basic Peace Officer Academy** exceeds the 600 hours of training required for licensure in Missouri. From 2019 through 2023, the basic academy has licensed almost 300 peace officers, more than any other academy in the state. During that time, all but one graduate became employed by a law enforcement agency. LETI graduates come from around the state and return to their communities to serve and protect.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Health and Human Sciences**



Preschool through junior high youths learn how to maintain healthy lifestyles through information about nutrition, food safety and physical activity. **Show-Me Nutrition** classes support Missouri's Show-Me education standards for health and physical education and the state's School Wellness Policy.

"We have struggled with our daughter's picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things."

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



Mental Health First Aid equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

The youth version of the program is designed to support adolescents ages 12-17 facing mental health or addiction challenges, while the adult version focuses on adults age 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

**In Missouri, approximately
1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS
suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.***

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report



Studies show that people with strong family bonds tend to have lower stress levels.

Building Strong Families helps families amplify their strengths, tackle challenges and make confident, informed decisions to build resilient family units.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

HDFS | 2023

Programming in Crawford, Gasconade, Franklin, Lincoln, Montgomery, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Washington, & Warren Counties; and statewide virtual efforts

IMPACT SUMMARY

\$3.3-\$3.5 million

ESTIMATED
ECONOMIC
IMPACT

105

COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
EVENTS

6,367

HOURS OF
EDUCATION
PROVIDED

A MATTER OF BALANCE

1 series
46 contacts

\$6,566 in estimated medical cost savings from fall prevention efforts.

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

5 series
373 contacts

\$1.3 million in cost savings to Missouri's foster care system from parenting education for at-risk parents to maintain or regain custody.

CHILDCARE PROVIDER TRAININGS

8 events
93 contacts

\$2.0 million in estimated costs savings from increased quality childcare, minimizing risk of negative outcomes like poor academic performance and incarceration.

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT

2 series
105 contacts

\$17,136 estimated cost savings from reduced ER visits and hospital utilization.

EMERGING FAMILY & HOME EDUCATION

12 events
603 contacts

In-demand topics including relationship education, family finance, and career opportunities in Extension.

FOCUS ON KIDS

70 events
497 contacts

\$67k-\$258k in savings due to reduced interaction with the court system and improved co-parenting practices.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

7 events
101 contacts

\$17,170 certification value provided to community members at no out-of-pocket cost.

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Mental Health Education

In 2023, four Montgomery County residents participated in stress management and mental health education provided by MU Extension Human Development Specialist, Brianna Anderson at the Montgomery City Public Library. Additionally, one Montgomery County resident participated in virtual Mental Health First Aid training.

Focus on Kids

According to the CDC, the 2021 **Missouri divorce rate was 2.9 per 1,000 inhabitants**, which **exceeds the national average** of 2.5 per 1,000. In Missouri, divorcing or separating parents of minor-aged children are required to participate in a parent education program. Four Montgomery County residents participated in the Focus on Kids program, learning how to improve their co-parenting relationships and better support their children during the transition.

Child Care Provider Trainings

Childcare programming by Human Development and Family Science Field Specialists provides an opportunity for professionals to complete these hours, either virtually or in-person. In 2023, 610 childcare providers attended across the state of Missouri through 36 sessions amounting to 1,220 clock hours provided for professional development. This program served 32% of Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis. Childcare Professional Development has a statewide economic impact \$15,980,475.00 costs savings from increased quality childcare, which minimizes risk of negative outcome. One childcare providers from Montgomery County earned clock hours through participating in MU Extension trainings.



Other Major Accomplishments

- Co-authored **six research-based posters** on HDFS topics at state and national conferences
- Recognized **with regional and national team awards** from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences:
 - 1st place: Excellence in Diversity Programming (National)
 - 2nd place: Excellence in Human Development Programming (Central Region)
 - 3rd place: Excellence in Human Development Programming (National)
- Appointed to a 3-year term on **the University of Missouri Family Friendly Campus Committee**
- Reviewed seven curricula for National 4-H, proposals for three national conferences, and award nominations for two national conferences
- Delivered a **guest lecture** to upper-level undergraduates at Central Michigan University, **promoting Extension careers**
- Revised program material and developed supplemental content including:
 - **Communication strategies** for different developmental stages and **parenting from afar** in the Building Strong Families series
 - **Supporting grieving children** in an approved Child Care Provider training
- Selected for the **2023-2024 National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Leadership Experience** for new professionals

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Family Nutrition Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$10,874,798 in federal funds to Missouri. During FY2023, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over 78,000 Missourians through direct classroom education. Each person participated in an average of 8 hours of education totaling over 15,000 hours. In addition, an additional 760,135 persons participated in indirect education. Direct and indirect education resulted in over 1.8 million total contacts with Missourians.



Heather Warren
Nutrition Program
Associate

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

A total of 580 Direct Education participants were from Montgomery County.

The Nutrition Program Associates (NPAs) are also continuing to provide information about the SNAP benefits program and offer assistance with SNAP benefits applications.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,626,730 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 526 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,926 family members. Additionally, 1,980 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

A total of 37 of these youth and adult participants reside in Montgomery County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

We look forward to more programming opportunities in Montgomery County and continued progress in helping to improve the lives of Missouri families.

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Montgomery County Success Story

In addition to the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Montgomery County Nutrition Program Associate Heather Warren shared this success story demonstrating local impact:



I have been working with Immaculate Conception School, doing Kids in the Kitchen (KIK) classes. We always take time at the beginning of our lessons to review handwashing and food safety. The kids know that we always start by sanitizing all surfaces and washing our hands. When I was at the local grocery store shopping, I ran into a mother of one of the students in my KIK program. She shared that they saved the shamrock shake recipe and made it on Saturday evening. She stated that she was surprised when her son stopped her when she started to get the food out and said, "MOM, we HAVE to clean our counter tops and wash our hands first!" She was thankful that he picked up this great habit with our program!

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Childcare Provider Training

MU Extension Field Specialists offer relevant research-based content to child care providers through both in-person and virtual settings. In 2023, trainings were both conducted virtually and in-person, and made available to a state-wide audience. The staff who work in licensed child care centers must obtain twelve (12) clock hours of professional development each year for the site to maintain licensure.

In addition to state-wide efforts, three virtual sessions were marketed and offered to a group of

Montgomery County childcare providers for a total of 36 contact hours.

Topics covered for Montgomery providers included basic nutrition, eating fresh produce, and physical activity for children. 100% of those who filled out the feedback form expressed willingness to recommend MU Extension's childcare training programs to others.



Tyler Hall
Field Specialist
Nutrition & Health

ServSafe Manager Certification

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that each year approximately one in six Americans (or 48 million people) gets sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.

The ServSafe® program is a national certification program designed to teach safe handling practices to foodservice employees and others who handle and serve food to the public. ServSafe training enables participants to identify the principles of food safety and methods of preventing contamination and foodborne illness and also to be able to implement proper employee sanitation training. This training can help participants to gain or maintain employment in a foodservice



operation and should help to improve the safety of food that is served in Missouri food establishments taking the training. Ensuring the safety of food served in Missouri Food Service outlets can reduce the large economic burden of foodborne illness and can also help to ensure that tourists and visitors to Missouri do not get food-borne illness when visiting the state, which can also be harmful to the state's reputation.

In Montgomery County, nine individuals participated in ServSafe training in 2023 to help improve their employment opportunities and also to improve the health of people eating in Missouri through a reduced likelihood of foodborne illness. All individuals passed their exams and obtained certificates that allowed those individuals to continue operating.

County Highlights



Pictured above are front row (l.r.): Andrea VanBooven, Victoria VanBooven, Gus VanBooven, Melissa VanBooven and Jim VanBooven; back row (l.-r.): Mark Wolfe, Missouri State Fair Director; Christine Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture; Kelsey Miller, Missouri State Fair Queen; Ted E. Sheppard, Missouri State Fair Commissioner; Chad Higgins, Interim Vice Chancellor for MU Extension and Engagement and Interim Chief Engagement Officer, UM System; Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau; Harold "Byron" Roach, Missouri State Fair Commissioner; Rob Kallenbach, MU Associate Dean of Extension and Senior Program Director of Agriculture and Environment; and Nikki Cunningham, Missouri State Fair Commissioner.

2023 Missouri State Fair Farm Family—Montgomery County

Jim and Melissa VanBooven and family of Hermann were among the families honored during the 66th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 14 at the Missouri State Fair.

The VanBooven family was selected as the Montgomery County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Montgomery County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Jim, Melissa, Andrea, Victoria and Gus VanBooven.

Each year, the 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.

The VanBooven family raise cattle in southern

Montgomery County. The VanBooven children are members of the Big Spring Busy Beavers 4-H Club.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension.

The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state, said Missouri State Fair Director Mark Wolfe. "These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families."

County Highlights



REACH Community Church pastors, members, friends and volunteers and MU Extension in Montgomery County council members, faculty and staff gather for a group photo after the Day of Service.

Day of Service

MU Extension in Montgomery County held their Day of Service October 3 distributing food at the weekly food pantry at the REACH Community Church, Montgomery City. Council members, faculty and staff and REACH pastors, members and volunteers served over 400 families that day.

The Day of Service was held in conjunction with Missouri Good Neighbor Week September 23 to October 4. Missouri Good Neighbor Week is a time to

build a positive relationship with your neighbors. University of Missouri Extension is at the forefront of a national movement that recognizes the importance of neighboring in community development. As community leaders and advocates, we encourage friends to learn the names of all their neighbors, build relationships with their neighbors through common interests and shared experiences, and sustain compassionate and caring practices of neighborly love.

Equal opportunity/ADA Institution

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability, or protected veteran status. The University's nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities. Further, this policy applies to sexual violence and sexual harassment (forms of sex discrimination) occurring both within and outside of the University context if the conduct negatively affects the individual's educational or work experience or the overall campus environment. Retaliation directed to any person who pursues a discrimination complaint or grievance, participates in a discrimination investigation, or otherwise opposes unlawful discrimination is prohibited.

County Highlights



MU Extension in Montgomery County Represented at Local Trunk or Treat

Over 600 Montgomery County youth attended the Youth In Need Trunk or Treat event on October 24 at the Montgomery City Youth In Need location. Visitors were able to visit trunk displays, food lines and informational booths. Sixty-five volunteers assisted with the event.

Heather Warren (left), nutrition program associate, and Kim Cullom (right), 4-H program associate, represented MU Extension in Montgomery County with a table of information, handouts and snacks. Warren discussed the 'Build A Healthy Plate' poster. She offered SNAP Outreach assistance. Cullom explained the benefits the 4-H program.

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The Montgomery County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Montgomery County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.