



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION  
**Barry County**

**2023** Annual Report

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**

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Cassville, MO 65625  
417-847-3161



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
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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

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff



**Debbie Cutburth**  
**Jeanne Strange**  
*County Office Support*

**Reagan Bluel**  
*Field Specialist in Dairy*

**Bailey McAlister**  
*Nutrition Program Associate*

**Kyle Whittaker**  
*Extension Engagement  
Specialist*

**Sarah Havens**  
*Regional Director*

## Council members

**Becky Wogoman**  
*Chairman*

**Hannah Bolton**  
*Vice-Chairman*

**Kathryn England-Aytes**  
*Secretary*

**Carolyn Kilts**  
*Treasurer*

**Bobby Branham**

**David Bolton**

**Mary Gray**

**Robert Gray**

**Lois Fairchild**

**Twila Harrison**

**Lainey Harvick**

**Marcia Moreland**

**Cindy Puryear**

**David Samuel**

## County commissioners

**Steve Blankenship**  
*Presiding Commissioner*

**Gary Schad**  
*Associate Commissioner Northern  
District*

**Gene Robbins**  
*Associate Commissioner Southern  
District*

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	35,221.88
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>35,221.88</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	28,131.16
Travel	3,668.38
Office Supplies/Service	881.27
Postage	168.26
Insurance	1,592.04
Advertising	326.57
Publishing/Printing	454.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>35,221.88</b>

## Barry County partners

Air Serve  
Harvick Farms  
Shell Knob Methodist Church  
Security Bank  
Arvest Bank  
Barry County CO-OP  
4 State Stockyards  
1<sup>st</sup> State Bank of Purdy  
Midwest Dairy  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Barry County Soil & Water  
Goswick Ag  
First Christian Church of Cassville  
Shelter Insurance  
Lincoln University  
Crowder College

## Return on investment

UM System	170,599
Donations	3,391
Program Revenue	4,618

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



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Barry County* Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

# Barry County MU Extension Council named County Council of the Year



CASSVILLE, Mo. – Hunger and lack of reliable access to fresh food are big challenges for families in Barry County in southwestern Missouri.

The community ranked these issues at the top of a needs assessment by the University of Missouri Extension Council in Barry County. Those results spurred the council to develop the Barry County Community Garden Project in Cassville, a community-wide plan to improve food access and support the local food pantry.

This year, the Barry County Extension Council has helped 12 families establish 34 garden plots. The council has coordinated with organizations and businesses, including MU Extension and Master Gardeners, to deliver nutrition and gardening classes and environmentally sustainable practices to the whole community. For its work, Barry County was named the winner of the inaugural MU Extension County Council of the Year award.

“The MU Extension Council in Barry County’s work embodied the central role councils have in identifying local opportunities and challenges around agriculture, economic opportunity, education and health; engaging local communities and representative voices; connecting MU Extension with local partners; and supporting initiatives that create measurable, lasting impact,” said Chad Higgins, MU interim vice chancellor for extension and engagement.

After the county-wide needs assessment and the decision to develop a community garden project in the county seat of Cassville, the Barry County council looked to the [Shell Knob Victory Garden](#) as a model. “We also had to identify the barriers and how, as a community, we could overcome those,” said council member Lainey Harvick.

“Our council did a really good job of keeping things moving forward and making sure there wasn’t anything in the way. If there were any barriers, people worked together to move them back,” Harvick said. “We really wanted to build partnerships and relationships and have the community completely involved in this project.” With support from council members and local partners — including Barry Electric, Barry County Ready Mix LLC, the City of Cassville, Aire Serv, Flat Creek Excavation, 7 Valleys Vineyard LLC and Harvick Farms — the council secured land, a water source and help to supply mulch, soil, fertilizer and garden tools. Additional sponsors, including the local community college, helped offset costs for participants who signed up for the 34 garden plots — double what the council had initially aimed for. More volunteers, sponsors and supporters were recruited through other community partnerships, including FFA, Missouri 4-H and moms’ groups.

## Impact and Innovation



The council approved the project in March, just in time for the spring planting season. "With volunteers, including council members, we were able to get the gardens going quickly," Harvick said. "Participants had a whole season to get involved in education classes and for us to build relationships and have community outreach in process."

The council engaged Lincoln University, local entrepreneurs, the Missouri Prairie Foundation and other partners to offer 13 classes on a variety of topics, including safe canning, beekeeping, sourdough bread baking and invasive plant species control.

Lorin Fahrmeier, MU Extension partnership and council development director, who helped coordinate the County Council of the Year contest, said, "It's amazing to see what can happen when community members pull together for a common cause."

## Community Engagement



University of Missouri Extension

*"The Barry County Community Garden has made impressive progress in 2023, exceeding its set goals. In terms of education, we've successfully conducted 7 educational programs on timely topics, surpassing their target of 5. The community development aspect has thrived with 12 active garden role members, 11 gardeners, six local sponsors, four partnerships, and over 100 Facebook community members, demonstrating strong community engagement. On the economic front, 11 active gardeners benefited from cost-effective and sustainable garden plots. Environmentally, we've met their goal of providing 5 educational sessions on biodiversity and sustainable practices. Lastly, in nutrition and health, we've delivered 7 educational sessions, exceeding their target of 5, focusing on the nutritional benefits of fresh food, food safety, preparation, and preservation. We also built a tool shed and will be putting two beehives this year at the garden. It was successful year for the Barry County Community Garden and looking forward to 2024!" - Lainey Harvick*



## MU Extension Barry County Council

This year we had a wonderful opportunity to serve our community in several different areas beyond our recognition as the county of the year. Following are some of the highlights.

We were very proud to pick the Senters Family as our farm family to represent our county at the Missouri State Fair.

Farm Family Day is the combined effort of the Missouri Farm Bureau and four other agricultural organizations that, for 63 years, has nominated one family to represent each county statewide in the Fair. Families are showcased for their active role in their community support of or inclusion in a 4-H and/or FFA, preserving elements of farming's history, and other criteria.

The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state.





## Barry County MU Extension Annual Picnic



### Our new century farm family, the Andersons

Johnny and Diane Anderson exemplify the past and present of Ozarks and American agricultural families, as their south Barry County farm has been in their family for over 130 years.

Over the past century and a half, the Andersons' primary livelihood has been their land's evolving production. Where both Arabian horses and Angus beef cattle have been raised, Johnny and Diane look optimistically to the future of their land as well, as their children will carry their tradition a generation further.



## The Shell Knob Community Garden (Victory Garden)



This was the second year for the Community Garden in Shell Knob. We are so proud of the progress made and participation of the local residents. This year proved to be a great growing season with lots of hard work that turned out bumper crops. Thanks to these folks and the input they put in for the startup of our community garden in Cassville.



# Barry County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

**67 students**

- 46 Undergraduates
- 21 Graduate and professional students
- 54 Full-time students
- 13 Part-time students
- 11 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County employees and retirees

**11 people employed by UM**

- 9 Campuses
- 2 MU Health Care

14 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$312,741

UM state tax revenue: \$4,513

UM federal tax revenue: \$23,377



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 9 Medicine
- 20 Nursing
- 13 Health Professions
- 7 Dentistry
- 11 Pharmacy
- 4 Optometry
- 14 Veterinary Medicine
- 49 Agriculture
- 43 Engineering
- 18 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 9 teachers
- 2.0% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 4.0% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 39 students
- 221 alumni
- 9 employees

**UMKC**

- 17 students
- 64 alumni
- 0 employees

**Missouri S&T**

- 10 students
- 49 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 1 student
- 25 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Barry County



County population: 34,648



### County services provided

**Health care (FY23)**

- 116 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$73,055 of uncompensated care
- 3 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 90 visits to 44 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2022)**

- 5,389 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 5,296 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 93 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development

# Barry 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](http://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

BARRY 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

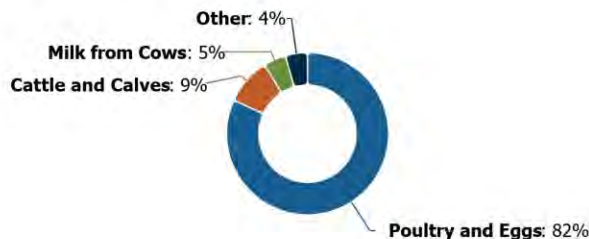
### Knowing Local Challenges



#### CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Agricultural Economics*

### Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$403,071,000



### Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$110,484,000 in 2017, an average of \$79,371 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Barry	1,392	\$79,371
Missouri	95,320	\$29,485

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.

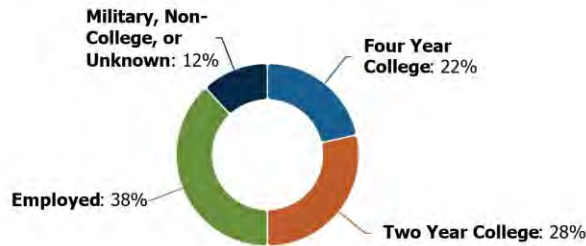
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.



## CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *College and Career Readiness*

### Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 488 graduates surveyed in the report area, 105 went to a four-year college, 139 to a two-year college, 186 directly entered the job market. The remaining 58 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



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



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

### Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2013 and 2015, adults over age 65 in the report area had 1,171 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 5,116 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have increased since the 2001-03 time period when the rate was 4,806.

#### Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

### 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 23 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 7,388 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 321:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 321 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)



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



## 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
Barry	143	45	1	0	189
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.



### **Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs**

employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



### **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.



## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



# Barry County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact



Barry County started a successful 4-H shooting sports program in 2023, beginning with archery. These 4 members represented Barry County at the State Archery Shoot, and brought home the top junior team in traditional recurve archery.



This Horse Hoof model created by Raeleigh Brown of the Exeter Trailblazers was selected as one of 50 Best in Show exhibits at the Missouri State Fair this past summer. 4-H projects help youth master new skills.

## Barry County 4-H By the Numbers

5 Active Community Clubs

2 In School Clubs

Total Community Club Enrollment increased by 22%

Total 4-H Participation, including group enrollments, increased by 250%



# Barry County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Photos



## MISSOURI 4-H STATEWIDE IMPACT

MISSOURI 4-H STATEWIDE EVALUATION | Extension | University of Missouri |  N = 432  
4-H members ages 8-18, participated in our Missouri annual evaluation. The evaluation used the National 4-H Common Measures.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>92.1%</b> Keep trying to reach their goals.                          | <b>99.8%</b> Show respect for other's ideas.                               |
| <b>97.5%</b> Willing to work hard on something difficult.               | <b>95.8%</b> Think about other people's feelings, before saying something. |
| <b>94.2%</b> Help others reach their goals.                             | <b>65.3%</b> Comfortable speaking up in a group.                           |
| <b>93.5%</b> Stop to think about their choices, when making a decision. | <b>88.9%</b> Can work with someone, who made them upset.                   |
| <b>99.1%</b> Learn from their mistakes.                                 | <b>76.7%</b> Comfortable being a leader.                                   |
| <b>87.5%</b> Set personal goals.  | <b>97.2%</b> Looks for ways to involve all members of a group.             |
| <b>98.6%</b> Likes to learn new things.                                 | <b>95.8%</b> Like to learn about people who are different from them.       |
| <b>99.3%</b> Treat others the way they want to be treated.              | <b>92.3%</b> Willing to try something they might get wrong.                |



GROWING TRUE LEADERS OF TODAY AND TOMMOROW



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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
 Extension



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



**Management-intensive grazing** involves dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through improved livestock, grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

**The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri.**



**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 Master Gardener program** enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and then apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



**In 2022, almost 4,000 Missouri Master Gardeners completed over 133,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

### June Dairy Month Celebration



Reagan Bluel partnered with Missouri Department of Agriculture, Midwest Dairy and Brandt Dairy for First lady Parson to present the State of Missouri's June Dairy month proclamation.



### Women in Dairy

Few careers available are as isolating as dairy farming. The twice a day milking often limits travel and creates a scenario few can understand. MU Extension Women in Dairy is a program designed to bring ladies together, off the farm, to build community. In 2023, programming was focused around Value added agriculture. Ladies toured a variety of options to add value to their operation and therefore increase cash flow. Annually, the group celebrates June Dairy Month through community outreach – Hosting “Meet your Farm-HER” in Springfield where consumers interface with cows and farmers to better understand where their milk comes from.



The program was featured in a Southwest magazine “Connections” - [https://issuu.com/connectiononline/docs/cn\\_06jun23\\_finalproof/8](https://issuu.com/connectiononline/docs/cn_06jun23_finalproof/8)



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Hoards Dairyman

Monthly, Reagan Bluel encapsulates the content of her “Dairy Science Digest” podcast in a short 5-700 word article then published by the World renowned dairy magazine “Hoards Dairyman”. With a circulation of nearly 50,000 each month, this partnership has been the most fruitful to date. Science based content is extended into the global marketplace, when articles are translated on my behalf. This has resulted in a much larger listening audience for the Dairy Science Digest podcast.



**Dairy Science Digest** podcast brings the science straight to the ears of dairy producers without requiring them to leave the barn. Averaging 460 downloads / month the program has expanded well beyond the states' boarder into the dairy dense com-munities worldwide. Each month, host Reagan Bluel, invites a scientist to interview about their research project recently published in the Journal of Dairy Science, the most credible, peer-reviewed, journal for dairy management practices.

# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Elderberry Field days

Landowners from Southwest Missouri learned about the details of planting, managing and marketing a commercial elderberry planting for supplemental farm income. Following this field day there have been 3 new commercial plantings in Barry Co.



Women in Dairy also toured Elder farms to explore / better understand Elderberry opportunities to enhance gross farm receipts. We began the day at MU's Southwest Research Extension Engagement Center to learn from elderberry expert, Andrew Thomas about the ins and outs of successfully establishing a planting. Then Elder Farm's owner, David Buehler, hosted the WID on farm to familiarize and encourage members to consider planting 2-5 acres. Please consider supporting this local entrepreneur. Elder Farms: <https://elderfarms.com/>



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### The Missouri Dairy Expo

The Missouri Dairy Expo is the largest producer education event offered in the state. MU Extension provides support through speakers and the planning of this robust, multi-day event.



Dairy farm families value research based information, as observed by the crowd listening in to the keynote speaker there to inform them on how to successfully transition their close cows into lactation.



The Expo is a celebration of excellence. Brian Riegel of Riegel dairy receives “Top Energy Corrected Milk” producer for the large herd category. This prestigious award is a combination of a lot of hard work doing all the right things.

#### Cow Camp

Reagan Bluel created a tasty presentation titled, “Human TMR: Comparing and contrasting dietary requirements of cattle vs humans” to help nearly 50 dairy youth from across the state understand how to successfully feed a total mixed ration to their dairy herd.



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



There were 61 participants who attended the 94<sup>th</sup> **Barry County Soils and Crops Conference** in February. Topics covered included multi-species grazing, drought induced pasture reset and how current land prices impact succession plans and fairness among heirs. In the survey at the end of the meeting, 100 percent of the participants ranked the program as either meeting or exceeding their expectations. Barry County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable.



A free **Pesticide Waste Pick Up** was offered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with MU Extension. This was the only regional opportunity to dispose of waste pesticides offered in Southwest Missouri in 2023. It was held in May in Crane. This was an outstanding effort toward environmental protection since the products gathered were legally incinerated without harm to the environment and will never be found in groundwater or create a human health risk in the future.



**Farm Visits with Farm Producers** is a hallmark of MU Extension. These personalized visits are invaluable to producers and help MU to be involved first-hand with the issues facing today's ag industry. Here, a Barry County cattle producer gets a visit from livestock field specialist, Patrick Davis, to evaluate what may be causing a lameness issue. Pest issues, nutrient management, animal health and nutrition, crop management and economics are just a few of the topics that are discussed. Other specialist who regularly did farm visits in the county included Reagan Bluel, Tim Schnakenberg, Jennifer Lutes, Patrick Byers and Robert Balak.



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



There were 341 participants who attended the **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings** offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Trainings occurred in Cassville, Springfield, Galena, Clever, Mt. Vernon, Fair View, Taneyville and Point Lookout. Pesticide applicators also benefited from a 1.5-hour prerecorded Zoom session that was used for training statewide. Several other classes were offered virtually across the state. This training has direct impact on environmental safety, human safety and the safety of the American food supply. Farmers are retrained every five years in order to maintain a private pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

*“Very informative program that is great for gaining knowledge about pesticides.” “I think the program was well thought out and interactive.” “I like the examples and stories you share to relate info to the real world.”*



**Regional Drought Assessments** were conducted by Tim Schnakenberg, Micha Doubledee and Hunter Lovewell for Farm Service Agencies in 13 counties. These extensive reviews of the 2023 drought helped the state FSA office and county committees to determine financial assistance for landowners who had signed up for drought insurance programs.



Thirty-five local farm producers participated in the **Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop** in Mt. Vernon in March. Other events were offered in Virginia and Georgia this year. This program is sponsored by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal program that involves many extension specialists. In addition, Tim Schnakenberg assisted in a nationwide Zoom training for farm government employees and extension employees. There were 105 participants across the Eastern US, including many from Missouri.

# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



**Missouri Grazing Schools** provide the most in-depth training on how to be successful with Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) practices. These three-day schools are unique to Missouri and have set a standard for teaching and demonstrating the newest grazing concepts. Schools were offered in 2023 in Christian, Greene, Newton, Dade and Lawrence counties. The schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were 131 livestock producers who attended the sessions from many counties. Numerous presentations were offered along with on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems.



This year's **Ozark Empire Fair Hay Show** had outstanding participation with 39 entries submitted from eight counties. Several ag specialists traveled to 23 farms to collect samples of the entries. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. Counties represented this year included Greene, Vernon, Lawrence, Christian, Webster, Stone, Pettis and Barry counties. The highest-testing entry and champion dry hay came from Charles Kruger of Verona. It was a third cutting alfalfa hay entry that was harvested on June 27. It produced a 277 Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). The champion haylage was entered by Groves-McDonald of Billings, Missouri. It's cutting date was June 21 and the RFQ was 223. The show has occurred since 1985. Tim Schnakenberg and Reagan Bluel served as Superintendents for this show.



**Farm Fest** at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield is the largest gathering of the farm community in Southwest Missouri. MU Extension ag specialists staff a booth at this event throughout the entire weekend in October. This year there was an emphasis on native warm season grasses. Thousands of visitors streamed by the booth and hundreds stopped in to visit with regional specialists.

# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



There were 370 farmers and ranchers from across Southwest Missouri who attended the 39<sup>th</sup> annual **Spring Forage Conference** this year in Springfield. This is the largest conference and trade show offered to the livestock community in the region. There were sixteen concurrent sessions were held throughout the day on a variety of topics of interest to most grass producers. This event is a partnership between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State University.



**Career Exploration Field Day** is a large gathering of high school agriculture students from sixty-one communities in Southwest Missouri. The picture shows about a half-mile of school buses in the parking lot. Most MU Extension regional ag specialists were involved in this effort at the Southwest Research, Extension and Education Center at Mt. Vernon in September. Each provided a booth and an agricultural topic to discuss for about 20-minute segments. They also took time to discuss career options for these youth to consider in agriculture. Over 1,600 students along with volunteers, extension and MU faculty and businesses made the Career Exploration Field Day successful!



**Building Resilience in the Beef Industry** events were offered in Mt. Vernon and Clever in August to assist livestock producers who were directly affected by the drought. There were 56 participants from nine counties who attended. There were six field and state specialists who provided presentations on topics such as assessing the price of stored forages, market outlook, culling tips, early weaning, forage renovation and irrigation options.

# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories



### Sheep & Goat Production Management Workshop

Fifty-four (54) producers, including some Barry County residents, attended the course April 6<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Vernon, MO. Participants learned about different ways to manage their sheep and goat farms.

Participants learned about nutrition and body condition scoring, selecting replacements and culls, managing grazing and pasture rotation, and creating year-round forages.

“Very good information, I’m glad I came and learned!”



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories



### Sheep & Goat Field Day

Barry county producers were included in the forty-nine (49) producers attending November 17<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Vernon, MO. They learned about production and financial management for sheep and goat farms. Participants also learned how to perform FAMACHA and 5-point checks.

Topics included: Forage & Pasture Management, Integrated Parasite Management Control, Economic Impact of Low Performing Animals, FAMAHCA system & 5-point Check lecture & hands on certification.

“Very relevant, everything directly applied to our goat operation!”



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories



### **Making Informed Lending Decisions: What Agricultural Lenders Need to Know for 2024**

Forty-seven (47) agricultural lenders including one from our county attended the November 15<sup>th</sup> seminar at Springfield, MO.

MU Extension specialists presented 2024 outlooks for crops, livestock, and enterprise budgets and farm input costs.

The new Feedstuff Finder Resource was launched.

Presenters from the Farm Service Agency and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority provided agency updates.



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

### Barry County Master Gardeners



#### Workshops:

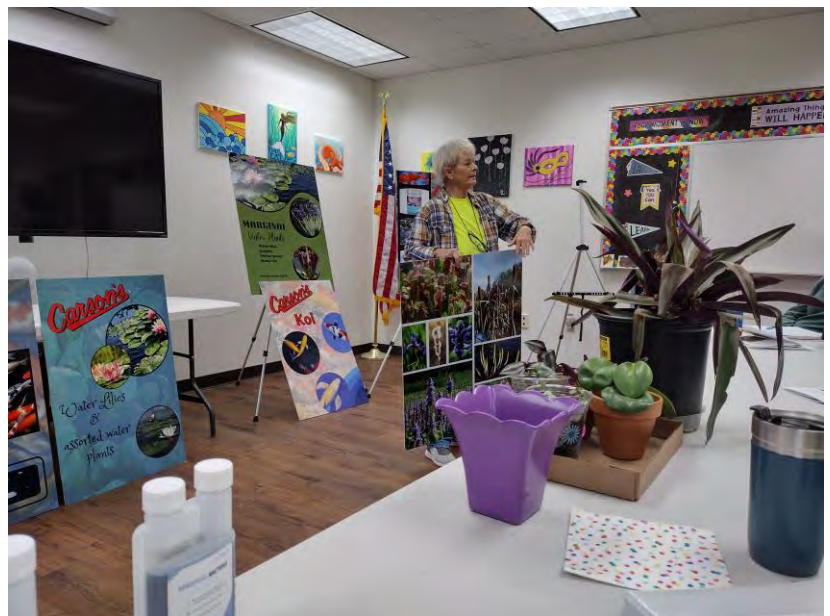
Two successful workshops presented for the public introducing three new topics: Water Gardens, Seed Saving and Establishing a Lawn.

#### Presentations:

Skip Mourglia gave a presentation on "Using Pesticides Safely" Program at Cassville Crowder College July first.

Master Gardener Sara Palmquest's husband, gave a presentation on "Growing Grapes" and "Wine Making"

Ann Houston gave two presentations: "Perennials, More Bang For Your Buck", at the Aurora Library and "The Decorative Garden" at the First Baptist Church in Republic.



# Barry County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

## Barry County Master Gardeners

### Current Projects:

Working with the Cassville Parks Dept., we maintain the Pollinator Garden on the Greenway Trail

Community Garden in Aurora

Cassville Library Garden

Eagle Rock Fire Station Garden

Annual Plant Sale in Cassville

Barry County Master Gardeners write an article for the Cassville Democrat newspaper every six weeks with seven members contributing.



### Library Walkway



### Other Activities

Master Gardeners always participate with the Park for Kids Fish Free Day at Roaring River .





# 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 **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

**FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.**



The **Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center** (TAAC) administers TAAF, a program funded of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. TAAF's mission is to boost American manufacturers' ability to compete in a global market, strengthen operations and improve profitability, thereby increasing U.S. jobs. Mid-America TAAC assists manufacturing firms in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

**Mid-America TAAC reported that client sales revenues were more than \$2 BILLION IN 2022.**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Barry County

## Business and Community

### 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 was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

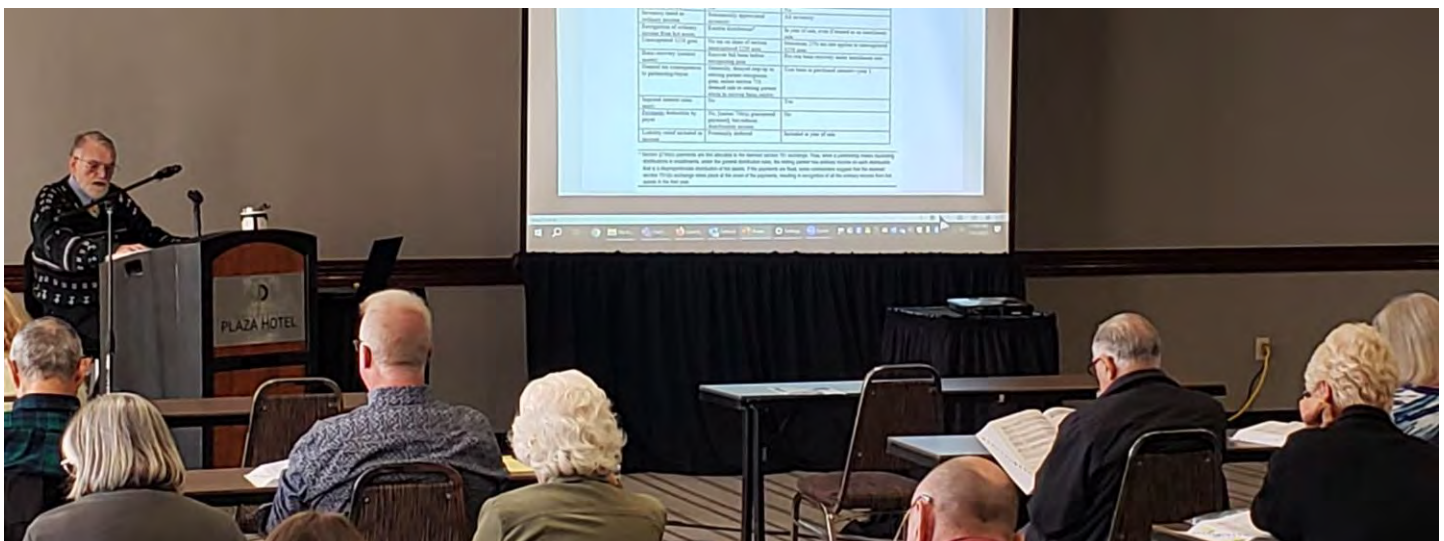
The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 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.

The 2023 school attendance totaled three hundred twenty-seven people. The participants were from throughout Missouri, including four from Barry county.



# Barry County

## Business and Community

### Local Profiles and Stories



In October, Lisa Robinson was one of three speakers for the inaugural Hispanic Connection hosted by Arvest Bank. The Hispanic Connection gears programming to reach Hispanic owned businesses in the area to make them aware of resources available to grow their entities.

Extension staff joined the Jasper County Extension Council during a day of service activity to install shepherd hooks and bird feeders at a local nursing home in Carthage, MO.



In December, Lisa Robinson grabbed the microphone at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, "Good Morning Joplin" program. Robinson promoted the Digital Ambassadors program that is piloting in Newton County in 2024. The program allows participants to learn more about digital applications and broadband resources. The program provides educational opportunities to friends, neighbors, and colleagues. The program trains community members to assist others in accessing affordable connections and devices. Lastly, participants gain a new connections in their community.



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.**



**Rural Immersion Program** is an opportunity for medical students interested in rural practice to gain experience in the rewards and challenges of working and living in a rural community, examining rural health disparities and quality of life concerns within a specific region. Group activities and meetings with community leaders in business, government, education, health care and natural resources give students a preview of life in a rural area.

**All of the 2023 participants agreed that the Rural Immersion Program significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.**



Resilience is the capacity to adapt when faced with adversity. **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training** is a 2.5 hour training for participants to 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  
**Health and Human Sciences**

**“This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family’s access to quality food.”**



MU Extension offers research-based **home food preservation** courses and publications to help people cut food waste and save money.



**Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** teaches older adults easy yet powerful exercises to boost strength, balance and daily life capabilities. Participants also gain insights into nutrition for healthy aging and active living.

**After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.**



**Cooking Matters** teaches shopping strategies, using nutrition information to make healthier choices and to learn how to cook delicious, affordable meals at home.

**“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!”**

**Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Barry County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

In my adult Eating Smart Being Active class at OACAC I have a group of around 4-5 ladies that always attend. They are all grandmas, mothers, or grandmas raising their grandchildren. One of the main topics with my lessons is the fact that all their kids are super picky eaters and with their limited food sources it makes it very hard on them as parents to keep meals interesting and to mix up meals. Because of this I always try my best to do recipes that are tailored to their budget, and what the food pantry provides them. Three out four of my lesson recipes have been hits with their kids! My favorite quotes are, “my granddaughter was so excited to try the garden sloppy joes which really surprised me” and “my youngest son who doesn’t even like pizza LOVED the yogurt parfait”. These ladies are so fun to teach and to converse with and I look forward to every lesson because my information that is delivered is used and has success!

Bailey McAlister, NPA



### SNAP-Ed

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 6 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. A total 727 participants were from Barry County.

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.

### Local Impact

#### **Cooking Matter Grocery Store Tours**

Barry County hosted five Cooking Matters at the Store Cooking Classes in 2023. Participants were recruited into the classes through a employer wellness program, court ordered drug and rehab, and diabetes prevention program. During the grocery store tour the program the participants are empowered by learning four key food shopping skills:

- Reading Food Labels
- Comparing Unit Prices
- Finding Whole Grain Foods
- Identifying three ways to purchase produce (fresh, frozen, or canned)



# Barry County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact



### **Monett Stay Strong Stay Healthy**

The Monett Public Library partnered with MU Extension to offer Stay Strong Stay Strong course. Stay Strong, Stay Healthy (SSSH) is an eight-week exercise program that incorporates the latest research to help you develop the fitness, flexibility and balance that enables older adults to live independently longer. In the hourlong courses held twice a week, trained instructors will lead participants through a warmup, easy-to-learn strength exercises and a cool-down.

In the course we had 3 completers (people who took 12 or more classes).  
3 completers X \$1,024 = 3,072 in estimated annual healthcare cost savings.



### Local Impact

# Stay Strong, Stay Healthy



### Monett Public Library Demonstration Food Preservation Classes

In 2023, the Monett library offered two demonstration food preservation classes. The food preservation included a sweet spreads class and a salsa class. In both classes participants learned the science behind the safe food preservation methods, alongside resources to allow participants to pursue food preservation in the future.



# Barry County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact

In 2023, Amber Allen's engagement extended across educational programming, conference presentations, outreach efforts, and media involvement. Amber had educational contact with 3,396 participants through 108 educational sessions through 80 programs in areas of aging well, parenting and families, professional development, and mental health. Amber's impact was also shared at the national and state levels this year through six posters, seven statewide conference sessions, three national webinars, and two breakout sessions at national conferences. Amber was recognized this year with the following three awards: National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science Ambassador Award for Poster Excellence, 3rd Place Human Development/Family Relationships Award, and 2nd Place honor at the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science Central Region.

Amber was also involved in various other opportunities in 2023 for community impact. She actively engaged in multiple workgroups and local coalitions focused on childcare professional development and early childhood education initiatives. She also was accepted into the University of Missouri Extension Fellows program to further her work on the Sowing and Growing Hope Program. Amber also held leadership roles, actively participated in other professional organizations, workgroups, and local coalitions, and collaborated with various media outlets. Educating, creating, and connecting in 2023 has provided a great path to create impact, foster community engagement, increase community collaboration, and shift community and social norms in 2024.

### Program Highlights & Snapshot of Results



### Aging Well

Programs done this year to promote aging well included A Matter of Balance, Keep Your Keys, Wits Workout, and Alzheimer's programming. These various programs contacted 471 Missourians. The impact of these included:

# Barry County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Mental Health and Well-Being

Programs done this year to promote mental health and well-being included Taking Care of You, self-care programming, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Adult Mental Health First Aid, and other mental health events. These various programs impacted 1,825 Missourians. The economic impact of providing the Youth Mental Health First Aid and Adult Mental Health First Aid programs amounted to an economic impact of \$23,460.

"This was very informative. Some of the strategies have been used/shared before, but much was a fresh take on coping with stress in our lives. I am very appreciated of the opportunity to participate in this training."- Taking Care of You Participant, Barry County, 8/7/23

**"Although I wasn't in all classes, the resources we discussed opened my eyes to attitudes and behaviors I had been ignoring."**-Taking Care of You Participant, Barry County, 8/7/23



#### Parenting and Families

Programs done this year to promote parenting and families included Focus on Kids and Building Strong Families. These various programs impacted 394 Missourians. The impact of these included:

"I learned a lot during this class and am using these skills on a daily basis. Thank you all for your time and helping us learn positive coping skills to make our homes happy and safe for our children." Building Strong Families, April Participant, Virtual