



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
Livingston County
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

511 Elm Street
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 646-0811
LivingstonCo@missouri.edu



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
EMAIL: cchiggins@missouri.edu

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



Livingston County

511 Elm Street
Chillicothe, MO 64601

PHONE (660) 646-0811

E-MAIL LivingstonCo@missouri.edu

WEB SITE <http://extension.missouri.edu>

FACEBOOK MU Extension in Livingston County

December 31, 2023

Dear Livingston County Constituents,

The University of Missouri Extension faculty, staff, and council would like to thank the Livingston County Commission, Livingston County 4-H Foundation, Wombles Endowment, contributors to the MCES Livingston County Endowment, City of Chillicothe, Litton Foundation, 4-H leaders and members, and all the businesses and individuals for their continued support and funding for programming in 2023. The faculty, staff, and council remain committed to improving people's lives by providing relevant, reliable, and responsive educational programs for the citizens of Livingston County.

The University of Missouri Extension is a part of the network of the nation's more than 100 land-grant colleges and universities and is your local connection to the University of Missouri campuses. Using science-based knowledge, University of Missouri Extension engages people to understand change, solve problems and make informed decisions. By tapping into statewide university research, MU Extension specialists provide Missourians with a wide range of programs in agriculture, community development, human environmental sciences, business development, youth development, and continuing education. Current programming efforts include building family and individual strengths; building human resources; business, community, and economic development; enhancing health and nutrition; and positive youth development.

This annual report contains information about our existence in the county and our ability to provide relevant, reliable, and responsive information to the public. This year, many of our programs have been offered virtually and in-person. The work represented in this annual report is only a partial listing of the total educational programming that goes on in the county. We take pride in knowing that this is just a sample of the outstanding work generated within the county by extension personnel. From their efforts, citizens of the county learn to more effectively manage time, money, and resources while achieving their goals. Workshop participants gain knowledge in health and nutrition, communication, family dynamics and youth enrichment activities that will enhance their lifelong wellbeing as an individual and a productive citizen in society.

We thank you again for your support and patronage of University of Missouri Extension in Livingston County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jackie Woodworth'.

Jackie Woodworth
Council Chair

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Seated: Teresa Smith, Office Manager-Bookkeeper; Jessica Trussell, Human Development and Family Science Specialist; Chelsea Corkins, Extension Engagement Specialist; Sharon Van Dusen, Youth Program Associate

Standing: Shawn Deering, Livestock Specialist; Manoj Chhetri, Horticulture Specialist; Amy Albertson, Nutrition Program Associate; Katie Neuner, Ag Business Specialist

Not pictured: Scott Finley, 4-H Youth Development Specialist; Jim Crawford, Natural Resource Engineer; Micah Potgieter, Nutrition and Health Specialist; Valerie Tate, Agronomy Specialist; Tracy Minnis, Farm-to-Institution Local Foods Coordinator; Connie Griffith, Nutrition Program Manager

Livingston County Courthouse



Council members

Jackie Woodworth, Chairman
Brenda Kerr, Vice-chairman
Suzi Beck, Secretary
Shannon Jones, Treasurer
Adam Crouch
Tessa Grozinger
Joe Hardie
Brook Kreatz
Brooks Macoubrie
Jocelyn Meservey
Ashley Putnam
DeAnn Gardner
Holly Stephens
Stacy Surber
Juliane Sykes
Alvin Thompson, Commissioner
Dennis Hicks, Commissioner



County commissioners



Ed Douglas
Presiding



David Maple
West District



Alvin Thompson
East District
Jan-July



Dennis Hicks
East District
Aug-Dec

Financials and more

County of Livingston Agricultural Extension Annual Revenue and Expense Report All Classes Combined January through December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
▶ 0100 · Student Fees	2,670.50
0210 · County Appropriations	34,999.92
0220 · City Appropriations	5,000.00
▶ 0300 · Investment Income	14,320.50
▶ 0400 · Gift/Grants/Contracts	40,190.00
▶ 0900 · Resales/Educ Services Fees	1,249.75
1400 · Leasee Payments	2,400.00
Total Income	100,830.67
Gross Profit	100,830.67
Expense	
▶ 2700 · Persnnl Serv - Salaries & Wag	23,124.00
▶ 2800 · Payroll Expenses	2,171.36
2900 · Non Payroll Salaries (YPA)	11,866.81
2910 · Non Payroll Benefits (YPA)	7,646.77
▶ 3100 · Travel	1,561.21
▶ 3600 · Postage	342.95
3700 · Telephone Serv - Local	389.15
3900 · Advertising	435.00
4300 · Rent/Lease Space	75.00
▶ 4700 · Publishing/Printing	36.00
4800 · Reproduction/Copy Services	-0.40
5100 · Supplies/Services	17,756.53
5600 · Professional Services	125.00
5900 · Utilities	4,063.27
▶ 6400 · Other Contract Services	829.35
▶ 6800 · Insurance	2,878.00
▶ 7100 · Soil Test Expenses	469.00
7200 · Publications for Resale	150.00
7400 · 4-H Online Fees	2,715.00
7999 · Fee Generation Distribution	25.00
Total Expense	76,659.00
Net Income	24,171.67

Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ County services provided included 3,033 total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents in Livingston County included:
 - 76 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources.
 - 2,957 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development.
- ✓ In 2023 there were 19 field soil samples and 9 garden soil samples from Livingston County analyzed by the MU Soil Testing Lab.
- ✓ Manoj Chhetri, Horticulture Specialists, hosted a variety of programs in and around Livingston County in 2023. These included:
 - Sow & Grow with 8 Livingston participants
 - Flower bed-fall maintenance with 15 Livingston participants
 - Pruning Fruit Trees with 6 Livingston participants

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 salary, staff mileage and council expenses.

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Livingston 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 Human Development.



County highlights

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Livingston County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

77 students

- 61 Undergraduates
- 16 Graduate and professional students
- 65 Full-time students
- 12 Part-time students
- 17 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



County employees and retirees

11 people employed by UM

- 7 Campuses
- 4 MU Health Care

3 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income:

\$393,091

UM state tax revenue: \$9,584

UM federal tax revenue: \$42,019



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 10 Medicine
- 34 Nursing
- 34 Health Professions
- 6 Dentistry
- 8 Pharmacy
- 3 Optometry
- 10 Veterinary Medicine
- 159 Agriculture
- 42 Engineering
- 22 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 24 teachers
- 13.9% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 30.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 59 students
- 432 alumni
- 6 employees

UMKC

- 8 students
- 79 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 10 students
- 20 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 0 students
- 9 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

Timmons Farm

MU Extension in: Livingston County



County population: 15,001



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 268 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$137,048 of uncompensated care
- 13 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 124 visits to 77 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

- 3,033 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 76 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 2,957 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development



County highlights

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Livingston 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 11,645 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 (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 4-H Positive Youth Development

Participants in 4-H Activities

In 2023, Livingston County 4-H served 456 youths through

- 10 organized clubs with 276 youth total
- 2 SNAC clubs with 48 youth total
- School enrichment including Junk Drawer Robotics with 66 youth
- After-School including polymer clay classes with 90 youth
- Community service activities with more than 90 youth.
- Fundraisers – All Clubs participate in fundraising, which included Chili Suppers & Hunters Breakfast

These 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as leadership, decision making, public speaking and working with others. 4-H youth learned by doing under the guidance of screened, adult volunteers who teach projects ranging from computer science and arts to animal science and healthy living.



County Fair Project Judging – Above are Yoo Jung Lee; Jackie Woodworth, judge; and Todd Jones, retired ag instructor serving as floriculture and horticulture judges.



Carder & Owen delivering Thanksgiving Cards and Crafts to Morningside Center.

Community Service is an important part of the Missouri 4-H. Through '4-H Cares - We CARE Holidays', 4-H members, families, and volunteers directly impacted the lives of more than 250 Residential Care Facility residents and staff, shut-ins, and residents in senior housing.

In 2023, 4-H members participated in:

- Livingston County Fair - Achievement Night, 140 youth showed a total 442 projects. 180 youth showed livestock at the fair, 10 members sold handmade/home grown items at Entrepreneurship Market.
- Missouri State Fair - 37 Members sent a total of 62 projects for display & 6 youth presented Demonstrations in the 4-H Building. Over 50 youth showed livestock at Fair.

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H program. In 2023 Livingston County had 42 approved volunteers. Volunteers create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$31.80 per hour (Independent Sector, 2023), the contribution of Livingston County volunteers was more than \$133,560 in 2023.



Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

In 2023, 4-H members also participated in:

- Livestock Judging - 8 members competed at State Livestock Judging Contest.
 - 4 Livingston Youth were selected to compete at National Contest
- Energizers
 - February Energizer, 49 members attended, 3 youth led sessions.
 - December Energizer, 48 members attended
- Livingston County Contest Day - 18 youth participated with 38 entries
- Camp Crowder - 32 Livingston members attended camp; 5 Livingston members served as Camp Counselors
- State Shooting Sports – 5 youth attended State Shoots. 1 youth placed 1st in two Skeet classes
- State 4-H Council – 2 members are Missouri 4-H Ambassadors
- Clover Kid Day Camp
 - 12 Clover Kids attended
 - 14 Leadership teens planned camp and led sessions
- State Contest
 - 1 member competed at State Speaking Contest
 - 2 members competed at State Fashion Revue



Findings from the recent 2021-22 Common Measures study reveals that Missouri 4-H:

Inspires Kids to Do

- 98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.
- 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

- 93% said they think about the feelings of others before they say something.
- 75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.

Builds Leadership and Communication Skills

- 86% comfortable speaking in a group.
- 85% Can work with someone who made them upset.
- 95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

Builds Social and Emotional Skills

- 89% Stop to think about their choices when making a decision.
- 91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.



Health & Human Sciences

Building Strong Families

In 2023, MU Extension Human Development and Family Science Specialists conducted 5 Building Strong Families classes to provide parenting education for parents seeking to maintain or regain custody of their children. Each session spanned February to August and consisted of 5 sessions (10 parenting education hours per class), with an additional October class of 6 sessions (12 parenting education hours). The team served 91 parents, totaling 740 hours of learning and impacting over 181 Missouri children. Participants were reached in 31% of MO counties.

Standardized evaluations found the following:

- 91% would recommend the program to someone else.
- 100% I have worked to improve my communication skills to be more constructive and positive.
- 59% I am making intentional choices to build and or repair relationships.,

Jessica Trussell contributed to this effort by teaching 4 sessions. Residents in the nine-county coverage were served in the following counties: Grundy – 4, Harrison – 4, and Livingston – 2.

“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



Micah Potgieter, Nutrition and Health Specialist, and Jessica Trussell, Human Development Specialist, pose (left) with A Matter of Balance participants in **Livingston County**.

This program helps adults 60 years old and up realize that falls — and the fear of falling — are controllable

Focus on Kids

Focus on Kids is a divorce and co-parent education program provided by the Department of Human Development & Family Science and the University of Missouri Extension in collaboration with the circuit court system. The goals of the program include understanding the importance of involvement by both parents in the co-parenting situation, understanding developmental needs and reactions of children to divorce, and learning about helpful co-parenting behaviors in addition to receiving additional information on community resources.

In 2023, Livingston had 4 in-person Focus on Kids participants and 8 online participants.

FOK Attendees overwhelmingly reported they were more knowledgeable about the effect of divorce on children and that the class provided them with tools to reduce their children’s stress and enhance their co-parenting together.





Health & Human Sciences

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

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 of 178 participants were from in Livingston 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.

Success Story from Amy Albertson, Nutrition Program Associate: Recently classes were started at the Chillicothe Elementary Early Learning Center in Livingston County to teach students about nutrition and being healthy. During the second visit to this location, Amy was “serenaded” with the ABC song – a guide to help youth time the 20 seconds for proper hand washing – in EVERY class as students washed their hands preparing to taste grain foods. They may have missed the “sing quietly in their heads” part of the message, but it is so exciting that they remembered what was really important – to scrub during the whole song!



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

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.

48 of these youth participants reside in Livingston 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.

Schools		Agencies	
Field Elementary	Dewey Elementary	Grand River Multi-Purpose Center	Chillicothe Farmer’s Market
Livingston County Elementary	We Will Rock You Daycare	Life Point Impact Center Food Pantry	Community Resource Center
Chillicothe Elementary	Chillicothe Head Start	Livingston County Health Center	Chillicothe Housing Authority



Agriculture & Environment

Pesticide Applicator Training & Ag Update

Valerie Tate, Agronomy Specialist, and Shawn Deering, Livestock Specialist, hosted the Livingston private pesticide applicator training and ag update.

This license issued by the Missouri Dept of Agriculture is required for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. Restricted-use pesticides are classified as such because without additional training they pose a risk to people, animals, or the environment. Agricultural. This safety training is needed every five years.

During the training, participants learn about safe handling of

pesticides, proper mixing, calibration techniques, environmental ramifications of improper mixing or careless application, chemical breakdown of pesticides in the environment, what records are needed, pesticide formulations, personal protective wear and how to clean it, pesticide storage, common Missouri pests, and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

Information on replacement heifer selection and the importance of disposition as a criteria to include was also highlighted at this year's Ag Update.

Pesticide applicator training helps reduce the harmful effects of improper pesticide use.



The Northwest Regional Grazing School, pictured above, is held each year at the MU Hundley-Whaley Extension and Education Center. Livingston County is invited to attend.

During 2023, 42 agricultural producers in Livingston County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.

Soil Testing for Fields and Gardens

In 2023 there were 19 field soil samples and 9 garden soil samples from Livingston County analyzed by the MU Soil Testing Lab.



Above is a tomato plant with herbicide damage. Soil testing could offer insight to this issue.

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers and gardeners. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Soil samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab are analyzed for soil pH and soil nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron and copper.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Lab are:

- To help farmers make effective use of fertilizer to increase their financial returns

- Benefit society with improved environment and water quality through efficient use of fertilizer on farms, lawns and gardens;
- To ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.

Soil testing is a cost-effective way to determine if adequate fertilizer or amendments are being applied to obtain the desired yield both in the field and garden without applying excess fertilizer which is not only costly, but can be damaging to the environment.



Agriculture & Environment

Mid-West Goat Producer's Course

Seventy-two (72) producers attended the four-day course May 31st – June 3rd in Sedalia, MO. Speakers covered forage & nutrition, economics & marketing, and herd management. Livingston County had 2 participants in 2023. On the final day producers participated in value-added demonstrations that included a carcass meat cutting, goat milk soap making, and goat milk cheese making.



“It’s very interactive; so, you’re getting valuable information along with real examples.”



Left: Drought stricken corn provides the possibility of high nitrate level that can be detrimental to livestock.

Right: Katie Neuner, Ag Business Specialist, presenting at an MU Extension “Managing Your Livestock When Forages Are Limited” program

Drought Monitoring & Forage Impact Programs

In 2023, Livestock producers were faced with the challenge of not having enough forage to get through the winter and thus liquidated some of the herd. After already culling significantly with the 2022 drought, producers were often faced with liquidating some of their genetics that they had been building. Many producers were both baling and green chopping drought-stricken corn to replace forage losses of 2023, especially in central Missouri. MU Extension provided producers nitrate quick tests to help determine the viability of the corn as a forage. In many cases, specialists diverted potentially harmful situations for producers intending to feed livestock without proper handling of the forage, as highlights at local Forage During Drought Programs. Additionally, water supplies were severely limited in this drought and some producers were forced to haul water.

On-site septic systems

The most common question 2023 for Ag Engineering Specialist, Jim Crawford, was septic lagoons going dry from the drought and what should they do. Each is slightly different, but the general recommendation is to add water to maintain its function and to keep the bottom seal from cracking and causing leaks in the future. The average cost to replace a septic system is approx. \$20,000. By taking some simple preventative steps, a current system can be maintained, safely processing wastewater from the home and saving the owner the replacement costs.

The average cost to replace a septic system is approximately \$20,000. MU Extension offered citizens across NW Missouri with resources to avoid this cost.



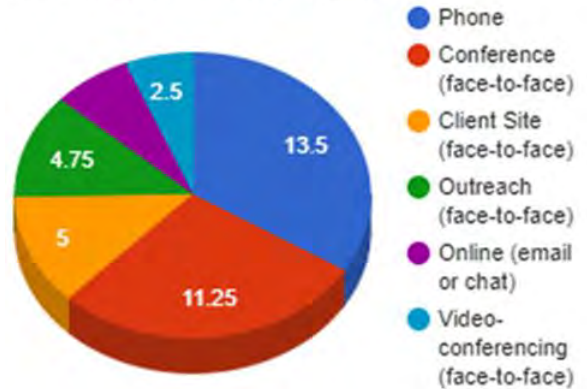
Business & Community

Socially Disadvantaged & Veteran Farmers & Ranchers Grant Wraps up Year Two

The Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers grant submitted the fourth quarter report for year two in September. This is a three-year grant that assists socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranches in owning and operating successful farms. Katie Neuner is the team lead on business counseling on the grant. They have worked with 36 clients in 20 Missouri Counties.

The counseling efforts through this program have resulted in \$40,359 to producers in services and grants.

Counseling / Contact Type (hours)



Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension agricultural 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 (shown at right).

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 2023 school attendance totaled 327, with 11 participants from Livingston County.

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities

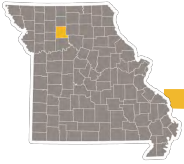
MU Extension's annual Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference was held in Benton County, September 19-21, with 114 participants attending, including individuals from northwest Missouri communities. The conference featured over 25 sessions meant to foster, promote, and support entrepreneurship in rural Missouri communities.

Next year's CEC will be held September 17-19, 2024, in Fulton, Missouri.



"This has been the best most impactful conference ever! Hosting the seminars in actual businesses was perfect."





County highlights

County Fair MU Extension Booth & Ice Cream Social



In 2023, Shawn Deering (Livestock Specialist), Amy Albertson (Nutrition Program Associate), and Chelsea Corkins (Extension Engagement Specialist) hosted a booth at the county fair. This was an opportunity for community members to meet the faculty and staff, as well as learn about resources at the office.



Members of the Livingston County Extension Council and 4-H Foundation also assisted with this year's Ice Cream Social held during the fair.

Annual Meeting and Recognition



The 2023 Annual Meeting took place on February 23rd at The First Baptist Church in Chillicothe. Council members, faculty and staff members, guests, and their families were in attendance.

After the catered dinner, Extension Council recognized those who have served on the Council, introduced new Council members, announced Leaders Honor Roll recipients, issued Century Farm signs, introduced the State Fair Family, and thanked our community for their support of Extension.



John Meneely and Larry Warren received Leader's Honor Roll certificates and recognition during the 2023 Annual Meeting in February. Livingston County appreciates their tremendous contribution to our organization and their leadership in our community. Shown at right, is Mr. Meneely.



Livingston County State Fair Farm Family

The Hayen family was selected as the Livingston County Farm Family. The family includes Bill, Shelley, Ben, Brad, Abbey, and Bill's mother, Joyce Hayen.

The Hayen family operates a 1600-acre row crop farm operation consisting of soybeans, corn, and wheat. Bill also works as an Agronomic Sales Advisor for BASF. Shelley is a Kindergarten teacher in Chillicothe. Ben is a law student at University of Missouri-Kansas City, Brad is on the farm full time, and Abbey is a sophomore at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

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 and Engagement.