

# University of Missouri Extension in Dent County



MU Extension's mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the research of the University of Missouri.

**1.** The Business and Communities Program helps Missourians start, run and expand businesses, and develop thriving non-profit organizations. This helps communities **create jobs, promote economic development, generate tax revenue, and support community engagement.**

In 2017, we helped Dent County generate the following impacts:

- create 3 new jobs
- receive a \$58,000 government contract
- secure new investments totaling \$340,000
- improve organizational skills for program development, volunteer management, and leadership



**2.** The Family Nutrition Education Program teaches youth and adults how to live healthier lives resulting in a **healthy labor force, reduced health care costs, public health care benefits and insurance premiums** for individuals and taxpayers.

In 2017, we helped 1,683 youth and 7,204 adults in Dent County make healthier food choices, learn how to safely prepare food and increase physical activity.

- 53 percent of adult program participants exercise for at least 30 minutes a day
- 68 percent of youth program participants make healthier snack choices



**3.** In 2018, **190** Dent County youth participated in supplemental educational opportunities predominately focused on **STEM subjects**. One in five youth between the ages of five and 18 participated in the Youth Development Program, where members learn life skills while participating in community service and educational trips.

**4.** When people learn how to manage family finances they can pay off debt and save money, so they are better able to **support community businesses, lower the need for public assistance programs, reduce bankruptcy debt, and be more productive employees.**

- In 2017, community members learned the importance of having financial goals in all the stages of their lives from starting a young family to retirement. Community members also became aware of how to identify fraudulent activities and familiarize themselves with the steps to take if they were to become a victim.

**5.** Cattle and forage producers need strategies to optimize production while preserving soil health and water quality. By doing this, producers **contribute to the Dent County economy** while ensuring future generations have **safe and plentiful natural resources.**

- In 2017, nearly 300 cattle producers in Dent County were taught management skills and practices to ensure that their operations are running efficiently and profitably to boost our local economy and preserve our natural resources.

This is just a sample of the ways MU Extension benefits Dent County. Read more in our annual report. [www.extension.Missouri.edu/dent](http://www.extension.Missouri.edu/dent)



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