

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# **Camden County**

2023 Annual Report



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# OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT

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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

Chal Hijs

Interim Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement

Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

## Who we are

### **Faculty and staff**

Wayne Prewitt
West Central Regional Director

Allison Gunter
Extension and Engagement Specialist

Aleisha Campbell Office Manager

Jodie Leifer Youth Program Associate

Sherry Combs
Nutrition and Youth Program
Associate

Dr. Ashley Allen Brown Regional Economic Development Specialist

Andy McCorkill Livestock Specialist

Terry Halleran Agronomist

Wesley Tucker
Agriculture Business Specialist

Ramon Arancibia
Commercial Horticulture Specialist

Landon Bax Youth Development Specialist

Della Miller Human Development and Family Science Specialist

Joni Harper Natural Resources Specialist

Mitchell Moon
Labor and Work Force Development
Specialist

### **Council members**

Chris Foster, Chairman Mark Webb, Vice-Chair Laura Neely, Secretary Brittany Meades, Treasurer, Farm Bureau Rep James Gohagan, County Commissioner Jeffrey Hooker, Camdenton City Representative Janell Bednara Jennifer Bethurem **Dennis Bruns Susan Ebling Chris Hirsch Blake Hodits** Stacie Ling **Nancy Masterson Butch Miller Laura Neely** Jamee Rugen **Lisa Thompson** 

### **County commissioners**

Ike Skelton, Presiding
James Gohagan, 1<sup>st</sup> District
Don Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
Jordan Stanton, Administrative Assistant

# **Budget and more**

### **Appropriations budget**

Income	
County Appropriations	91,836
Total Income	91,836
_	
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	62,999
Travel	4,000
Telephone	500
Office Supplies/Service	2,300
Utilities	6,760
Insurance	2002
Building rent	10,800
Council Expenses	2,200
Postage	275
Total Expenses	91,836

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



### **Local Support**

Did you know you can donate directly to Camden 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.



### UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

#### 245 students

- 215 Undergraduates
- 30 Graduate and professional students
- · 174 Full-time students
- · 71 Part-time students
- 54 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County employees and retirees

### 60 people employed by UM

- 34 Campuses
- · 24 MU Health Care
- · 2 UM System

56 UM retirees and beneficiaries UM salary and retirement income: \$5.4 million

UM state tax revenue: \$165,142 UM federal tax revenue: \$794,763



### County alumni

#### Selected school alumni

- 19 Medicine
- 58 Nursing
- 87 Health Professions
- 23 Dentistry
- 13 Pharmacy
- 4 Optometry
- 13 Veterinary Medicine
- 132 Agriculture
- · 193 Engineering
- . 60 Law

#### Alumni teaching K-12

- 56 teachers
- · 12.5% of all district teachers
- · 5 principals and administrators
- 19.2% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

#### MU

- 162 students
- · 958 alumni
- 27 employees

#### UMKC

- 50 students
- · 191 alumni
- 1 employee

#### Missouri S&T

- · 25 students
- 130 alumni
- 5 employees

#### UMSL

- 8 students
- 156 alumni
- 1 employee

#### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Camden County



County population: 43,053



### County services provided

### Health care (FY23)

- 4,583 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$3.6 million of uncompensated care
- 22 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 1,485 visits to 804 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

#### Extension (2022)

- 846 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 90 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 726 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 30 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



### **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.



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 awarded

students receiving

financial aid awarded



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

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

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

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

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









# **Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions**

CAMDEN 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: Labor Market

### Average Earnings per Job

Average earnings per job can reflect the type of economy, skill of employees, and availability of jobs and workers in an area. Average earnings is calculated by dividing total full-time and part-time employment by total earnings. Earnings is the sum of three components of personal income--wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. Full-time and parttime jobs are counted at equal weight. Both employment for wages and salaries and proprietors employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers is not included. Average earnings per job is a measure of the wages paid at jobs in the county not the earnings of people who live in the county. The dollar figures shown are not adjusted for inflation.

2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$44,389

Missouri

\$62,528 🙉

### Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey, of the 36,358 persons of working age in the report area, 52.21% are included in the labor force. This rate falls short of the Missouri labor force participation rate of 62.82%.

**Labor Force Participation Rate** 

52.21%

Missouri

62.82%

Camden

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-21.

Camden

Data Source: US Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts, 2007-2022.





### CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: Educational Attainment

**Bachelors** Degree: 15%

**Associates** 

Degree: 8%

### Adult Educational Attainment

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

No High School Diploma

8.63%

Camden

Missouri 9.02%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-21.

Some College: 24%

Graduate or

Professional

Degree: 7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-21.



### CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: Mental Health

### **Deaths of Despair**

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 168 deaths of despair, or 53.33 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is higher than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 0.13% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

53.33

Missouri

52.01 @

Camden



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC - National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2014-20.

### Poor Mental Health Days

In the report area, 24.1% of adults have at least some college education and 23.7% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 36.6% stopped their formal educational

No High School

High School Only: 37%

Diploma: 9%

attainment after completing high school, and 8.6% of adults did not complete high school.

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 4.9 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is lower than the state average of 4.9. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.4 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

Missouri

4.9 😥

Camden



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Accessed via County Health Rankings, 2020.





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
Camden	163	37	1	0	201
Missouri	11,785	4,192	315	3,708	20,000

Data Source: University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary, 2022.





### Camden County Facebook Summary 2023

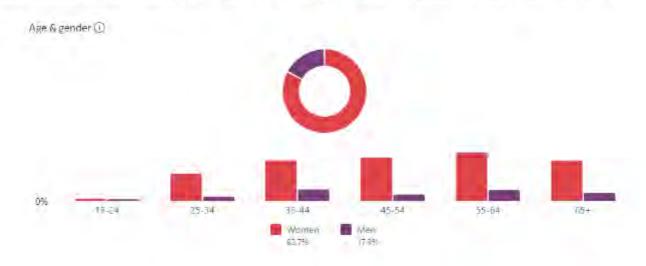
Compiled by Ashley Allen-Brown, Ed.D., Regional Economic Development Specialist

### Summary

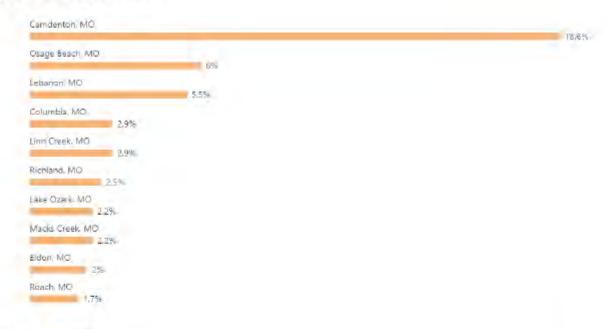
The University of Missouri Extension - Camden County Facebook page has seen exponential reach, engagement, and follower growth in 2023. Data reveals that reach, interactions, and followers increased substantially from 2022 to 2023. Of significance is that the increase happened organically without the use of paid advertising, also known as "boosting". The following provides snapshots of unmodified data extracted directly from the University of Missouri Extension - Camden County Facebook Meta Business Suite.



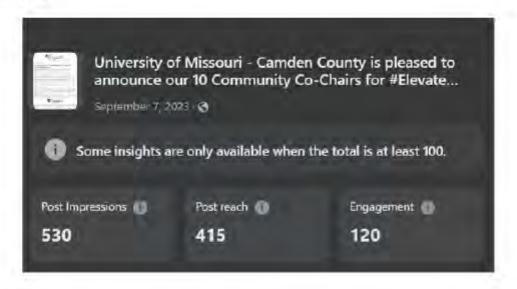
Age and Gender of Followers: There was an increase of Women between the ages of 55-64

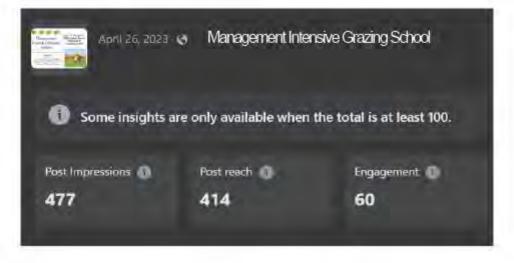


### **Top Audience Locations**



### Top posts of 2023







# MU EXTENSION Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU

## through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 - 18



4-H In-school clubs meet during the school day. Members participate in projects that supplement their existing lessons. Clubs may meet for short periods or span the full 4-H program year. Members can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



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 problemsolving, 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.

**Economic** 

Opportunity



### Legend











### Missouri 4-H

### **Local Impact**

### **Jodie Leifer, Youth Program Associate**

Number of Camden County 4-Hers and volunteers

58 Community club 4-H members

12 Volunteers

27 Participating in 4-H Special interest / short term Programs

3 Participating in Individual study

2 community clubs - Lazy Lopers, Easy Riders

Camden County 4-H host Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in Climax Springs. We partner with the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Foundation, and Climax Springs School, and Macks Creek Schools

257 youth participants from both schools.18 Volunteers from the community7 youth volunteers from each of the high schools

Safety Sessions offered: germs, electricity, 911 first on the scene, Fire department, Railroad, substance abuse

### Student Nutrition Advocacy

Snac clubs are a partnership between FNEP and in school or after school programs . 4-H SNAC clubs provide opportunities for underserved youth to learn skills related to nutrition, gardening, physical activity and leadership. 4-H SNAC club members develop a leadership project to promote health initiatives in their school by serving as nutrition ambassadors.

Camden County served **70** youth in two different SNAC Clubs. The youth participated in hands on learning on how to make a healthy snacks.

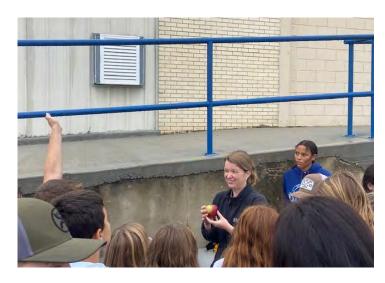
## Missouri 4-H

### **Local Profiles and Stories**

### **Jodie Leifer, Youth Program Associate**



Clover Kids learning about bees and honey



Sherry Combs teaching kids at Progressive Agriculture Safety Day about germs and the importance of washing our hands and food.

Camden County 4-H club learning about Parliamentary Procedure





# MU EXTENSION Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU

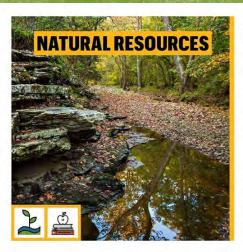
# through credible statewide programs

## **Agriculture and Environment**



### **MU Extension specialists**

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



The Missouri Master Naturalist program is a community-based initiative for adults, supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation and MU Extension. It aims to create a group of knowledgeable volunteers who can offer education, outreach and service for the responsible management of natural resources in Missouri communities.

Additionally, the **Missouri Woodland Steward program** offers a short course that equips private landowners with knowledge of woodland management, helping them identify wildlife habitats, develop plans and connect with local natural resource experts.



#### 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.

### Legend







**Economic** 

Opportunity





# Agriculture and Environment

### \_ocal Impact

### **Terry Halleran, Agronomy Field Specialist**



Terry Halleran, Agronomy Field Specialist

Articles were released in my counties, as needed, to address the current issues at hand. Many were released through the local extension offices, internet and public communication systems.

Articles published and/or sent out throughout the year:

- Just What Kind of Hay Did You Buy This Year?
- Is Bee Keeping For you?
- Forage Livestock Town Hall Videos DROUGHT ISSUES
- Be Careful What You Feed Your Cattle.
- Timely Pasture Renovation Tips
- Water as a Resource
- Seeding for Annual Pasture Within a Perennial Pasture
- Troublesome Pasture Plants of the Week Articles (26 in all)

Another year has come and gone. In the area of agronomy, for MU Extension, the topic has been all about the drought. Pastures running short if not out, hay production ½ to 2/3rds at best, stocking rates, culling cows, cutting dry land corn for silage as it did not make, nitrates/nitrate poising, buying overpriced hay, where can I get hay, shipping cost, alternative feed sources, planting something that will grow in a drought because we need something, etc. The list goes on and on. The Drought was and still is a major concern as we go int the next year.

To address these and other issues the following offering were made in the counties I serve. Dallas, Hickory, Camden, Polk and Laclede. Even if all were not taught specifically in your county, they were made available in surrounding counties and available to all. Courses were even taught by zoom for those who wished to attend that way.

2/23 PPAT, Camden County

4/6 4/10, 4/24, 5/23 Container Grown Gardening Class, Camden County

6/13-15 Camdenton Grazing School (Speaker) Camden County

Most all soil test handled in my counties come across my desk for evaluation and recommendation. My goal is to have helped those in need of soil health concerns.

# Agriculture and Environment

### **Local Profiles and Stories**

### **Master Naturalist**



### 2023 Core Class

This year the Lake of the Ozarks Chapter welcomed 16 new members. These members completed the initial core training and will be working towards their initial certification. The new members are: Chet Mackiewicz, Howard Newman, Stacey Chovanec, Laura Lyon-Mackiewicz, Dianna Phillips-Wagner, Edward Swanson, Jim Smith, Anne Marie Myers, Linda Swanson, Hugh Wagner, Jane Metzger, John Williamson, Linda Smith, Missy Williamson, Avie Martin and Karon Watts. Welcome Class of 2023!!



Membership	2021	2022	2023
Roster	82	82	82
Dues Paid	NA	53	63
Active Members*	34	26	33
Reporting in system	44	35	53

\*Active members are those with at least 4 hours of AT and 20 hours of volunteer time for the year.

# Agriculture and Environment

### **Local Profiles and Stories**

### **Master Naturalist**

# **Advanced Training**

In 2023, our members logged over 405 hours of training. Online training is allowed, as long as the presentation offers the chance to ask the speaker questions. All on-line training must be approved by our certification chair, Nancy Hanna Somers, through an email notification. In addition to online training, El Lipin did a fantastic job finding speakers throughout the year. During our monthly meetings the following topics were covered:

March - Wilderness Act, Bill Moulder

April – Eagle Watch Program, Ed Whitmore
May – Museum Taxidermy – Dawne and Eric Stacks

July - Ozark Caverns, Guerric Good

August – Brown Nuthatch, Kristen Heath-Acre September – Occasional Invaders, Ed Swanson

October – Missouri Bats, Tony Elliott

November – True Pollinators, Alex Morphew

**December Social** 

	2021	2022	2023
Volunteer time (hrs)	2206	1744	2588
Initial Certifications	6	2	5
<b>Re-Certifications</b>	29	23	25
Milestones	3	2	2

Congratulations to the members listed below.

- Initial Certification: Jim and Linda Smith, John and Missy Williamson, Karon Watts
- Re-Certifications: Trisha Barrett, Margie Bauer, Joann Billington, Kathie Bishop, Georganne Bowman, Gail Compton, Rick Compton, Judy Crawford, Earl Farney, Jo Anne Gitchell, Nancy Hanna Somers, Dawn Kraklio, Steve Kraklio, Jane Laurie, El Lipin, Jodi Moulder, Dennis Reed, Jim Smith, Carolyn Solomon, Terri Thompson, Caroline Toole, John Williamson, Missy Williamson, Ted Windels.
- Milestones: Gail Compton, Allen Eaton

2023 Financial Summary

Beginning: \$9,887.66 Ending: \$5,604.14

**Website update/change**. In 2023, the Chapter decided to move our webpage over to the standard MMN site. Our new web address is consistent with many of the other chapters.

You can find us at <a href="https://lakeoftheozarks.missourimasternaturalist.org/Home">https://lakeoftheozarks.missourimasternaturalist.org/Home</a>

# Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact Master Naturalist

Volunteer Activities:

Eagle Day - The Lake of the Ozark Chapter is a major contributor to the event in both financial and volunteer effort. This helps many members get a jumpstart on meeting the 40-hour volunteer requirement and offers a great opportunity to interact with the community while we admire our national symbol. Several members stay toasty warm at the indoor venues supporting the live bird shows. But a few of our members brave the weather to give visitors a chance to see eagles perched below the dam and make a huge nest out of limbs. Eagle Day is a favorite winter activity for many members and the community.





In Spring 2023, Joni Harper sent out a request for the Lake of the Ozarks Master Naturalists to construct 180 bird feeder kits that local 4-H students could assemble as part of a day camp project. Ted Windels sprang into action and called on our new core class to help with cutting, drilling, and packaging the kits. Five of our new members jumped in, and within a couple of weeks, we had all the kits made. Several of our members also helped out at the camp to show the kids how to put the feeders together. They used the time to talk about the importance of feeding birds, and how to identify the most common visitors. Many of the kids were unfamiliar with using hand tools, or knot tying. It was a great learning event!

# Agriculture and Environment

## Local Impact Master Naturalist

#### **Finding Furbearers**

By John Williamson

Want to know the population trend of the furry creatures crawling around your neck of the woods? Check out the Missouri Department Missouri Conservation's Furbearer Program Annual Report for specific numbers of rare, exotic, nuisance, and other fuzzy animals near you. I had the pleasure of being a part of this process by assisting Terri Thompson with the Conservation Department in conducting the Furbearer Sign Station Survey for Morgan County.





As volunteers for the Missouri Master Naturalist Program, Missy Williamson and I woke up early on a brisk September day to create 50 stations on 5 separate segments of gravel road. The stations attract furbearers so the tracks of all the woodland visitors can be recorded the next day. Terri Thompson gave us a quick lesson on constructing three-foot circular stations of sifted soil with a rather pungent disc placed in the center of each sign survey. I must note that scent is a sense closely linked to the memory center of your noggin, and naturally, the aroma of the fatty acid discs we used that day assures we will not soon forget our adventure with Terri. Not for the faint of heart, this project is hard work. I additionally had to pretend that my

knees, back, and shoulder felt the same as they did in my twenties in front of the ladies after the first day of work.



furbearers in the informative report.

We joined Terri the following day to record the results of our sign stations. I was elated to see the project produce results. I can say for a fact that Morgan County is the home of plenty of opossum. We observed Red and Gray Fox, plus abundant deer and racoon tracks. Our most exciting find was bobcat tracks! The work didn't stop with us, our results were sent up to MDC Furbearer Biologist Nathaniel Bowersock along with 24 other county Sign Station Surveys and then compiled with the Archer's Index which is assembled by bowhunter observations. Nathaniel Bowersock uses all of this information to create a Furbearer Program Annual Report. The long-term data sets allow for year-to-year comparison and long-term trends of each species. You can also view range maps and recent sightings of rare

# Agriculture and Environment

## Local Impact Master Naturalist

Kayak Round-up: Lake of the Ozarks Chapter partnered again with LOWA, for the Kayak Round-up at Ha Ha Tonka to offer opportunities for the community to try out different types of kayaks. The event is held the second Saturday of the month from May through September, from 8 am until noon. MMN Volunteers help get participants safely into and out of the kayaks, discuss safety and offer a variety of kayaks to try out. This event is free to the public. This year, the Lake of the Ozarks Business Journal featured the Kayak Meet-ups and a our partnership with Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance (LOWA) in their August 2023 edition. (attached to the bottom of the report)

Laurie Fairground Kiosk - The park office at the fairgrounds has a kiosk attached to the side of the building, where our chapter can display information about Missouri's natural resources, local natural lore, events and natural resource management. Each month a new and different poster is displayed. Members sign up to cover a month. The process takes a few hours to come up with an idea, design the poster, as well as travel to Laurie to place the poster in the kiosk.

#### 2024 Officers:

Gail Compton President
Sally Bauder V. President
Linda Smith Treasurer
Missy Secretary
Williamson

## Board Members:

**Judy Crawford** Hospitality Jim Smith Projects & Service Georganne Projects & Bowman Service El Lipin Advanced **Training** Tricia Barrett Communication **Fundraising** Georganne Past President

### Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

Bowman

Kathy Bishop Eagle Day
Gail Compton Scholarship

#### **Agency Support**

Cara Coates MDC
Joni Harper MU Extension

**Facebook page** – Chapter members maintain two Facebook pages. The first is a public information page, that shares natural resource information to an audience of over 800 people. This page is maintained by Tricia Barrett. The second is a private page for chapter members only. This page has about 45 members, and posts information about upcoming events and relevant topics. If you would like to join the member's only page, please contact Greg or Sylvia Calvo.

**Scholarship Awards** – this year our chapter offered three scholarships to students within the service area. Gavin Brantley, Lane Irwin and Lorelei Wigginton each received a check for \$1,000 to aid in continuing education. All of the students are enrolled in college and will be pursuing a degree in Biology, or Natural Resource related fields.

**Socials**—In June, the Chapter hosted a *Summer Social* at the Post Office Shelter at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Members were encouraged to invite guests and spouses to share in this relaxed early evening potluck. BBQ was purchased by the Chapter and a wide variety of salads, snacks, and sides prepared by the members graced the tables.

For our final Chapter gathering of the year, we agreed to have a *Holiday Social* as has been our tradition. As in years past, members selected a charity to support, as well. This year the Friends of the Dickerson Zoo was identified as the receiving organization. The Hospitality Committee organized a buffet dinner at Lake Valley Golf Course and members brought in items for a silent auction. The event was a great success as we were able to present over \$400 to the Friends of the Zoo.

# Agriculture and Environment

**Local Impact** 

**Rusty Lee, Agronomy Specialist** 

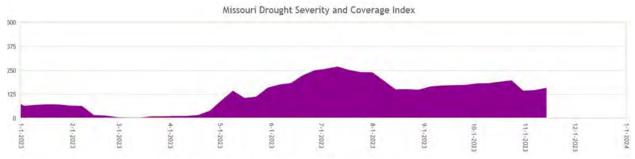
### **Camden County Forage Loss Assessment 2023**

### **State-wide Overview**

The 2023 forage production season featured a prominent drought event that continues to impact the State. Drought conditions first emerged in April (Figure 1) when the state recorded its 4<sup>th</sup> driest April (-2.17") dating back to 1895. Precipitation totals remained below average in May (-1.87") and June (-2.72") with average monthly temperatures running 1 to 2 °F above normal (Figure 2). Several rounds of heavy rainfall in late July and early August helped to bring temporary drought relief, but dry conditions returned in September and October. Overall, the seven-month period from April to October has been the 14<sup>th</sup> driest (-6.02") for Missouri and 2023 is currently the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record through October (Figure 3). The largest precipitation deficits and areas most impacted by drought are approximately located along an axis from southwest to northeast Missouri (Figures 4 and 5).

This year's drought occurred during the growing season, resulting in widespread negative impacts to the agricultural sector. Depleted soil moisture has led to poor pasture and crop conditions along with mature tree stress. Timely rainfall in July and August provided some relief to crops, but the return of hot and dry conditions in September and October limited fall pasture growth. Agricultural water supply has also been a persistent issue with many pond levels low or dry. Larger streams and rivers have also been dry, with up to 40% of the state's monitoring gauges measuring streamflow that is well below normal since April. Hydrological drought has also contributed to commercial navigation impacts along the Mississippi River, especially south of St. Louis. Altogether, there have been 984 community drought impact reports through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) program this year (Figure 6).

The transition from October to November in Missouri was marked by beneficial rainfall and colder temperatures but conditions were short lived. As of November 20, Missouri is on track for another month featuring both above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, extending the 2023 drought through the end of the fall season. This has resulted in a continuation of drought impacts including agricultural concerns, enhanced fire risk and low water levels on streams, rivers and ponds. As of November 14, approximately 55% of the state remains in drought with 19% of the state being characterized as either severe or extreme drought (Figure 7).

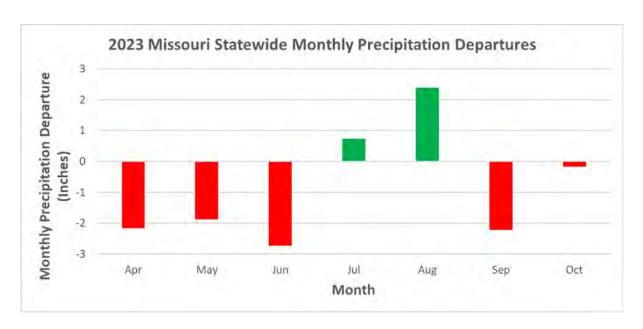


**Figure 1.** Missouri Drought Severity and Coverage Index (DSCI) from January 1, 2023 to November 14, 2023. DSCI values quantify the combined spatial extent and severity of drought conditions. Data provided by the National Drought Mitigation Center (<a href="https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx">https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx</a>).

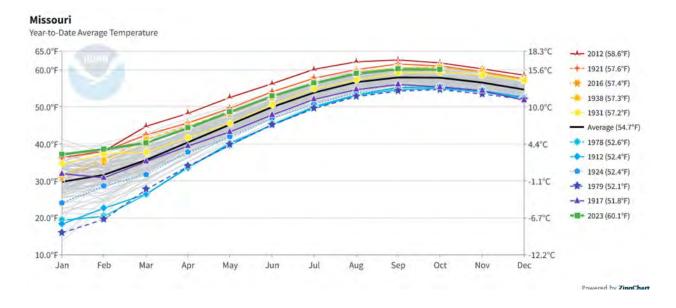
# Agriculture and Environment

### **Local Impact**

**Rusty Lee, Agronomy Specialist** 



**Figure 2.** Statewide monthly precipitation departures from normal during April to October 2023. Precipitation normals based on 1901 – 2000. Data provided by the National Center for Environmental Information (<a href="https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/">https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/</a>).

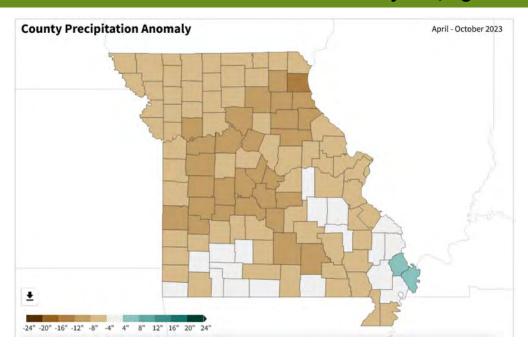


**Figure 3.** Missouri 2023 average temperatures (green) compared to other years. Data provided by the National Center for Environmental Information (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/).

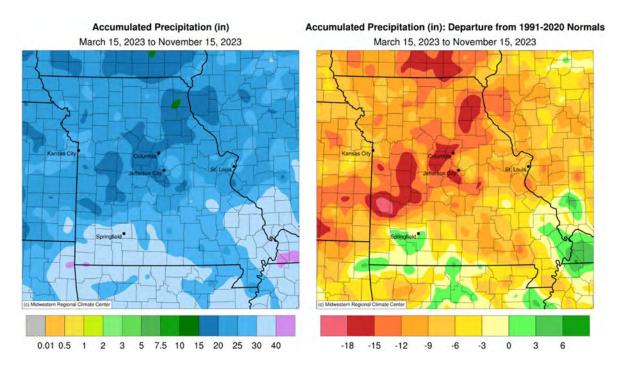
# Agriculture and Environment

## **Local Impact**

### Rusty Lee, Agronomy Specialist



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

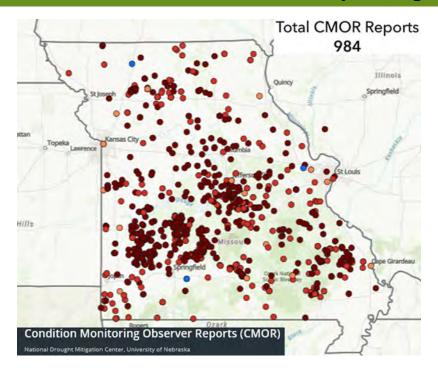


**Figure 5.** Precipitation accumulation (left) and departures from normal (right) from March 15 to November 15, 2023. Data provided by the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (<a href="https://mrcc.purdue.edu">https://mrcc.purdue.edu</a>).

# Agriculture and Environment

## **Local Impact**

### **Rusty Lee, Agronomy Specialist**



**Figure 6.** Missouri drought impact reports submitted by the community to the National Drought Mitigation Center's Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR; <a href="https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx">https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx</a>) system from January 1 to November 19, 2023.

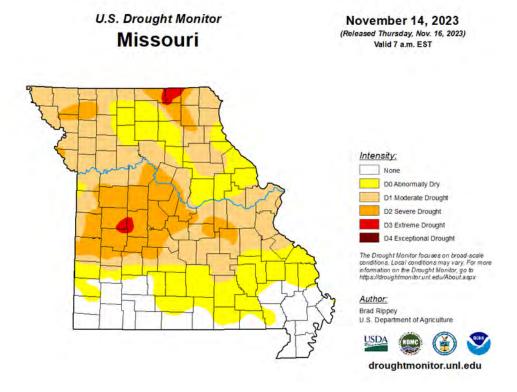


Figure 7. Most recent U.S. Drought Monitor depiction (retrieved 11/20/23).

# Agriculture and Environment

**Local Impact** 

**Rusty Lee, Agronomy Specialist** 

#### **County Specific Data - Camden**

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

Assuming soil fertility is adequate, soil moisture is the largest determining factor of forage production. This direct plant response makes tracking rainfall, and its contribution to soil moisture, an excellent barometer of forage production. During the April - June period, rainfall for Camden County was 9.43 inches below the 1901-2000 average amounts. This represents a 71 % decline in precipitation during this critical period of forage production. My observations of pastures and hayfields in the county, including conversations with area producers, provided a verification of this expected reduced forage productivity claim.

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

These measurements, observations and conversations shape my opinion to be that Camden County experienced a 71 % reduction in forage growth for the 2023 growing/grazing season.

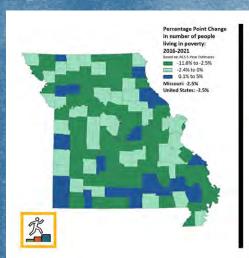
This report was a request from your county's Farm Service Agency, so they could make a determination if forage producers in the county would be eligible for financial assistance due to the drought of 2023.



# MU EXTENSION Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU

through credible statewide programs

## **Business and Community**



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

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES.

Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.



### **DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING**

**MU Exceed** offers customized data training. Participants learn how to use public data through hands-on exercises and demonstrations.

# In 2022, Exceed provided data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS.

95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.



**Strategic Doing** is a one-day workshop that guides community stakeholders through an inclusive, problem-solving approach to developing high-impact projects to address local development issues.

The city of Risco, Mo., lacked retail options for food. Risco's Strategic Doing workshop and follow-up activities resulted in a **GROCERY STORE OPENING** in the community.

### Legend

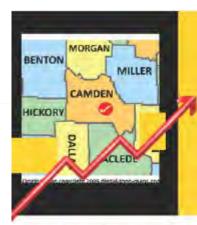




Economic Opportunity







# REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Ashley Allen-Brown, Ed.D.
Regional Economic Development Specialist
Serving Camden, Dallas, Hickory, Laclede, Miller, and Morgan Counties









1521 Estimated Direct Contacts





Created or Co-Created 5 New Programs
Assisted in Delivering 8
Existing Programs

# **Annual Impact Overview**

As the Regional Economic Development Specialist (RED), my responsibilities are to plan, implement, and evaluate regional economic development educational programs that support and complement existing economic development efforts in Missouri communities. Primarily, the RED position develops and facilitates education through training, forums, and conferences

that bring together regional leaders and appropriate local and state stakeholders to address challenges, strengthen capacity, and foster economic prosperity. Additionally, my position conducts needs assessments through planned appreciative inquiry and surveys to create educational materials, data, and media pieces that spread awareness of the impact made by MU Extension and our esteemed County Councils in partnership with Commissions and other stakeholders in our region.





MU Extension Specialists teach new and foundational concepts, link people to resources, support partner organizations, participate in research, train volunteers, evaluate programs, foster innovation, and serve communities. MU Extension Specialists work as a team to expand educational attainment, foster

Salus Populi: For the welfare of the people

economic development, and improve

health outcomes.



### An Empowering Educational Experience for Women

In February, several female leaders throughout
Camden, Laclede, Miller, and Morgan Counties were
brought together to create #Elevate: An Empowering
Educational Experience for Women in 2024. The
creation of #Elevate brought a total of seven new
partners to the West Central Region of MU Extension in
2023. Additionally, several area alumni and MU
Extension Council members are serving as volunteers,
committee members, and community co-chairs.





Focus Group Participants: 26

Survey Distribution: 26

Completed Surveys: 15 or 58%

Qt: Overall, I believe the #Elevate focus group event was enjoyable and worth my time.

Results from post-event survey revealed 100% satisfaction with the #Elevate Focus Group and the purpose of the event.







### Resilient Economies And Community Health: **REACH for for Camden County**

In June, the Camden County Commission was provided with and reviewed data extracted from LightCast.io which provides a comprehensive overview of the economic state of the county and region. At that time, they were also presented with a proposal for the Resilient Economies And Community Health (REACH) Youth Mentoring Program, which combines existing MU Extension and 4-H curriculum with site tours and internships at area businesses, and moderated discussion panels featuring local business leaders. REACH was designed to serve the development of our area youth, but was also created to address the various workforce and population challenges facing our region. The Camden County Commission approved and adopted the REACH initiative in Camden County in July 2023. REACH is currently being piloted in partnership with the Camden County High School Senior Experience, and local employers including Lake Regional Health System.

"In the interest of economic development and the health and wellness of our community, citizens and visitors, it is our belief that this initiative is being created with our best interests at heart." Excerpted from a support letter from the Camden County Commission



## Lake Media Extension program helps students explore job interests

es invatoring program through the University of Misseam, MU Extension of E. mon give Landen Lininty standals a chance to explare their accupational interests

Sent and Eponomics and Community Realth (BEXCII) for Commen County Monitorium (Programs of Last as an approximacy ship for shadon's agos of to all attravention the disagonal opportunities Causien County for to other

All Karnelot's gold is in collaboration set beomorphic partners. Could and religion the housing, economic and worldbase development factors in Candon time any than are directly trappensing the health of the largeted marience

# Exceed

### Demographic, Economic, and Workforce **Data Training Offered to Lake Area**

On May 11, 2023, the MU Extension Councils of Camden and Miller counties hosted a one-day MU EXCEED Workforce, Economic, and Demographic Data Workshop. The event was attended by Extension Council members, and leaders in non-profit, local, and state industries.



"While Demographic, Economic, and Workforce Data Training lasted all day, it became clear within the first hour that this training was highly beneficial! MU Extension provides valuable, free tools that will help employers and local government officials tackle workforce issues and offer competent solutions." Mitch, Moon, Economic Development Director, City of Osage Beach

### Inaugural Laclede County Agriculture Tour

On Friday, October 6, 2023, the Laclede County Council of MU Extension, local 4-H youth, sponsoring partners, and state and federal decisionmakers joined the Laclede County Commission for the Inaugural Laclede County Commission Agriculture (Ag) Tour. The Ag Tour featured several Laclede County agricultural locations, including Wall Street Cattle (WSC), Still Waters Farm, Community Greenhouse Farms, Hemlock Hills Elk Ranch, and The Ice Cream Factory. The tour ended at Cackle Hatchery on the first day of their Chicken Festival.

Promoting Laclede County ties to agriculture discussed



LACLEDE COUNTY COMMISSION

AGRICULTURE TOUR

The Laclede County Commission will expand the tour during the week of September 30. More information will be available starting March 2024.

Presiding Commissioner Randy Angst commented, "It's been a great day. We've had a lot of good conversations with all the participants. It's been really exciting to hear some of the stories enjoyed today. Some real stories like the Century Farm, some innovations in the dairy in the Morgan area. We've seen a pumpkin patch today, so it's been a really good day,"





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

# **Community and Professional Health Education**



MU **Continuing Education for Health Professions** (CEHP) provides evidenced-based, relevant and responsive learning activities designed to narrow professional practice gaps with respect to knowledge, competence, and performance of the healthcare team. A commitment to lifelong learning, in partnership with those we serve, contributes to excellence in practice and improved health outcomes.

# **CEHP provided 169 LEARNING ACTIVITIES** which reached over **53,000 PROFESSIONALS** across all Missouri counties.



**Botvin LifeSkills** (LST) is a proven substance use and violence prevention program offered as a middle school curriculum to promote mental health and positive youth development. The program is backed by more than 35 years of rigorous scientific research and is proven to be the most effective evidence-based program used in schools today. This evidence-based program has been tested and proven to reduce a wide range of problem behaviors such as:

- physical aggression by 30%
- · fighting by 40%
- tobacco use by 87%
- · alcohol use by 60%
- cannabis use by 75%

Benefits include:

- · improving protective skills
- delaying the initial onset of substance use



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.

### Legend















# MU EXTENSION Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU

# through credible statewide programs

## First Responder Education



Established in 2002, the **Fire Officer Certificate** 

**Program** is designed for those who wish to further their professional development without the time and expense of traditional college classes. This program has been developed and evaluated to ensure it provides structured curriculum delivery and academic rigor. The program requires completion of 288 hours of instruction within three years.



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



#### The Missouri Extension Disaster Education

network provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, schools and organizations so they can prepare for and respond to natural and manmade disasters. Because of the unique relationship it maintains with each community, MU Extension is a key resource for the public, emergency services and public officials.

Legend















# MU EXTENSION Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU through credible statewide programs

### **Health and Human Sciences**



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

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

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

\*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report



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

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

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

**HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY** leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating \$1,000 of pantry discretionary spending for LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE.

### Legend





**Economic** 

Opportunity







## Health and Human Sciences

### **Local Impact**

### **Sherry Combs, Nutrition Program Associate**

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2023

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 1597 participants were from Camden 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.

#### **EFNEP Public Value Statement 2023**

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.

22 of these youth and adult participants reside in Camden County.

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

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

During 2023, youth and adults were served through direct teaching at schools, community groups and agencies. The following is an example of some of the locations where participants were served in Camden

County:

Schools	Agencies		
Macks Creek Elementary	Share the Harvest Food Pantry		
Dogwood Elementary	Camdenton Head start		
Hawthorne Elementary	Camdenton Library		
Stoutland Elementary	Eldon Head Start		
Stoutland Library	United Methodist Church		
Kradle to Krayon	School of the Osage		

## Health and Human Sciences

## **Local Impact**

### **Sherry Combs, Nutrition Program Associate**

Sherry Combs shared this success story from her programming:

I was teaching Show Me Nutrition at the Children's Learning Center, which is a special needs preschool. I had passed out the first lessons newsletter at the previous class. A teacher at the preschool told me they were going to be doing the Soapy Surprise activity from the back of the first lessons newsletter with the children. One of this preschools focuses, is teaching the children daily living skills. Proper hand washing is one of the activities they work on. The teacher was excited to try a new activity with the children. She was hoping that having a toy inside the soap would encourage the children with sensory and texture issues to be more willing to learn how to properly wash their hands.







## Health and Human Sciences

### **Local Impact**



# Della Miller Field Specialist in Human Development

Serving Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Polk, Benton, Hickory, Wright and Webster Counties

# What Individuals Found Most Helpful After Taking Mental Health First Aid:

"The ALGEE action plan is what I found most helpful. It gives you something to work through when you see someone struggling."

"Talking through different scenarios helped me get a feel of how a conversation may go in real life"

## **Mental Well-Being**

### **Mental Health First Aid**

Since December 2020, 921 participants across Missouri and four additional states have become certified as mental health first aiders by completing Mental Health First Aid for adults and youth.

I completed the certification to teach Mental Health First Aid for adults in August of 2023. Since completing the certification I have facilitated/co-facilitated three (3) virtual Mental Health First Aid for adult programs which resulted in the following outreach and teaching results:

- Instructed **Mental Health First Aid** three (3) times to sixty-four (64) participants from twenty (20) counties in Missouri.
- Scheduled **Taking Care of You** (TCOY) once with a limited number of participants. This class was at the request of the county.

## **Collaborative Teamwork**

**Childcare Provider Workgroup** Childcare programming by Human Development and Family Science Field Specialists inperson and virtually was completed statewide. The childcare programming provides statewide clock hours for professional development for childcare providers who are required to obtain 12 hours each year. In 2023, 610 childcare providers attended across the state of Missouri through 36 sessions amounting to 1,220 clock hours provided for professional development. This program served 32% of Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis.

- I contributed to this effort by teaching or moderating three (3) virtual classes to fifty-seven (57) participants in six (6) counties
- As an acknowledgment of our teamwork, we were awarded
  - o Early Childhood Childcare Training Award (2023). 3rd place National Extension Association for Family & Consumer Sciences.
- **Building Strong Families (BSF)** In January 2022, the University of Missouri Extension was approved as a contractor with the Missouri Division of Social Services. This enabled Human Development and Family Science Specialists to offer parenting education to parents who seek to maintain or regain custody of their children. Through Zoom and inperson classes, the team served 91 parents, and a total of 740 hours were earned, impacting over 181 Missouri children.
- I contributed to this effort by teaching or moderating three (3) sessions virtually with participants from twenty-three (23) throughout Missouri.
- As acknowledgment of our teamwork success, we were awarded:
  - o *National Winner Human Development-Family Relationships Award* (2023). 3rd place National Extension Association for Family & Consumer Sciences.
  - o *Human Development-Family Relationships* (2023). 2nd Place. Central Region. National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science.