



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Crawford County

# 2023 Annual Report

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crawfordco@missouri.edu

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT  
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Columbia, MO 65211  
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December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff



*Our commitment*

Gatlin Bunton Field Specialist in Agronomy  
Presha Earney Administrative Assistant  
Tara Hamilton Bookkeeper  
Julianna Thrasher Youth Development  
Rachel O'Halloran Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health Education  
Charles Ellis Field Specialist in Agricultural Engineering  
Tammy Zuzack Nutrition Program Associate  
Sarah Higgins Field Specialist in Natural Resources  
Brianna Anderson Field Specialist in Human Development  
Rachel Hopkins Field Specialist in Agricultural Business  
Sarah Hultine Massengale, Ph.D.  
Kate Kammler Field Specialist in Horticulture  
Eric Meusch Field Specialist in Livestock  
Mark Christian Small Business Development Center Specialist  
Kevin Crider Hog Educator  
Brandi Richardson Extension and Engagement Specialist  
Matt Herring East Central Regional Director

## Council members

Linda Bast, Chairman  
Mike Zuzack, Vice-chairman  
Peggy Alexander Secretary  
Ashley Schmelz, Treasurer  
Jared Boast, County Board of Commission  
Tom Gibbs  
Megan Hammonds  
Tyler Monda  
Kelli Rapp  
Carol Springer  
Tom Donnell  
Jessica Pinnell  
Jessica Driskell  
Kim Gibbs Farm Bureau  
Debbie Martin City of Cuba



## County commissioners

Steve Black, Presiding Commissioner  
Rob Cummings, Commissioner District 1  
Jared Boast, Commissioner District 2

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations 65,000

**Total Income 65,000**

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 46,414

Travel 4080.00

Office Supplies/Service 9087.00

Insurance 135.00

**Total Expenses 59716.00**

## Crawford County partners

- Cattlemens
- Farm Bureau
- Public School Systems
- Senior Centers
- Wurdack Research Center
- MRCP
- City of Cuba
- Crawford County Fair Board
- Cuba Church of Christ
- Bourbon Roller Mill
- Amazing Grace Church



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

## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Crawford 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.



# Our Services...

At Crawford Co. Extension  
We provide....

- Soil Testing for both Pasture & Garden
- Hay Testing
- Private Pesticide Training courses
- Health & Nutrition Classes
- Pest & insect Identification
- Livestock Support
- Family Education
- Business Development
- Pressure Canner Testing



**National 4-H Week**

- **Make a difference Monday**- Do something for someone else today.
- **Totally covered in green Tuesday**- Wear everything GREEN!
- **Walk it out Wednesday**- Wear your favorite 4-H shirt!
- **Talk about 4-H Thursday**- Tell someone your 4-H story. (You can share on social media too!)
- **Be a friend Friday**- Tell a friend about 4-H!

Don't forget to @Crawford County 4-H on Facebook and @crawfordcountymo4h on Instagram

Publication Resources  
Available:

- NCBA Red Book for Livestock Record Keeping
- Farmer's Tax Guide Booklet
- Private Pesticide Manuals
- Farm Tax Record Books



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.

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

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

A total of 132 Direct Education participants were from Crawford County.

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

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

Thank you,

The East Central Family Nutrition Education Program

Nancy Keim, Associate Director  
Deborah Raaf, Program Manager  
Becky Fuchs, Office Support  
Tamra Zuzack, Nutrition Program Associate



## Livestock

Serving Dent, Phelps, Crawford, Pulaski, Shannon Reynolds, Carter, and Texas Counties

Eric Meusch  
Livestock Specialist  
573-729-3196  
meusche@missouri.edu



### 2023 AT A GLANCE

- Drought was one of the main topics working with beef producers. This included programming on herd management and nutrition.
- Show Me Select Heifer development activities expanded as I took over coordination of Central Missouri, working with producers and assisting with the Spring Sale in Vienna.
- Poultry programs including backyard chickens and home butchering of chickens were in demand in many counties.
- Show Me Quality Assurance events held in Dent, Phelps and Crawford Counties trained youth on proper care of livestock. Other youth-oriented activities included Ozark Cattlemen's Beef Day in Salem and the Wurdack Education Day event.
- The Value-Added Meats (VAM) team collaborated with Feedlot School team to develop the Direct Marketing Beef School. VAM also worked through the 2501 Program to conduct a hands-on chicken processing workshop for urban farmers in the St. Louis area



A Livestock producer shares her experience in developing and managing her grazing system at a Grazing School in Texas County

### KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ 94 Show Me Select Heifers were sold at Central Region Sale in Vienna in May totaling \$199,450 in sales. Statewide a total of 1647 Show Me Select heifers were sold for \$4,180,575 in 2023.
- ✓ Over 200 youth in 3 counties received Show Me Quality Assurance training, learning industry standards for food animal care and husbandry. This training is required for youth exhibiting livestock at county fairs and Livestock Expos.
- ✓ Participants in Missouri Grazing schools learned the basics in management intensive grazing, including soil and forage management, grazing system layout, livestock management and infrastructure development..
- ✓ Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers participated in livestock related programs such as backyard poultry, sheep and goat production, and small-scale chicken processing. This was part of the grant funded 2501 program. This program also supported farm visits, learning circles and team to one coaching.



Producers learned how to add value to their cattle by finishing animals and marketing beef direct to consumers. They also toured a confinement beef feeding operation and learned from local processors.

## 2023 Livestock Highlights



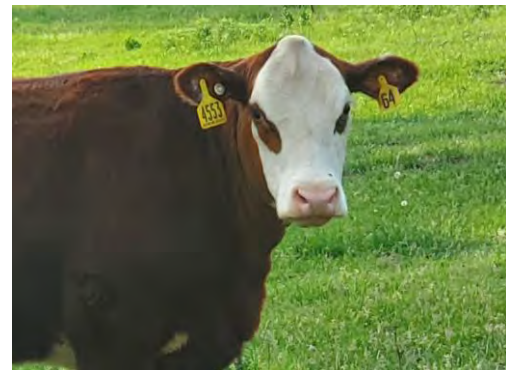
Discussing herd management during a drought at the Wurdack Extension Farm Field Day.



Show Me Quality Assurance training for youth that will be exhibiting livestock in Phelps county.



Presenting on Direct Marketing Meat at the Ag Connect Conference in Poplar Bluff as part of the Value-Added Meats Team



A Show Me Select Heifer sold at the Central Regional Heifer sale.



Small-scale chicken processing is a popular hands-on training. This event was hosted by the 2501 Program.

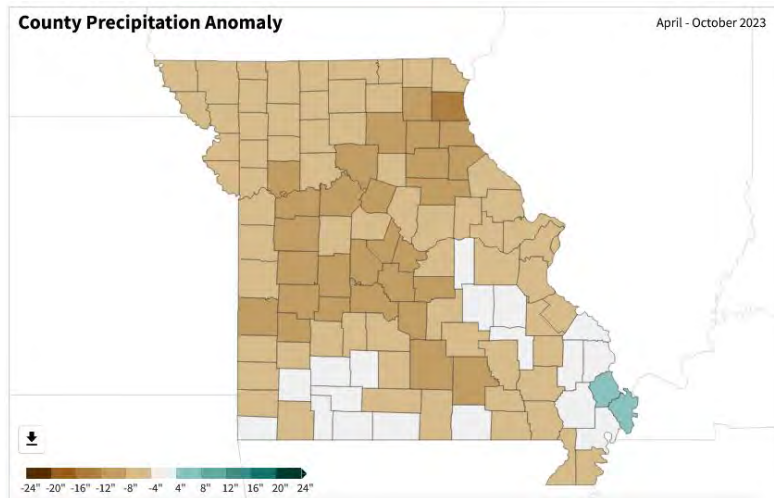


# Crawford County

## Agriculture and Environment

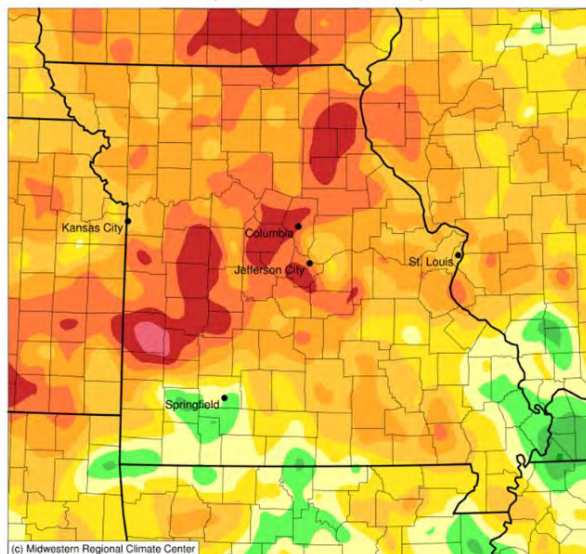
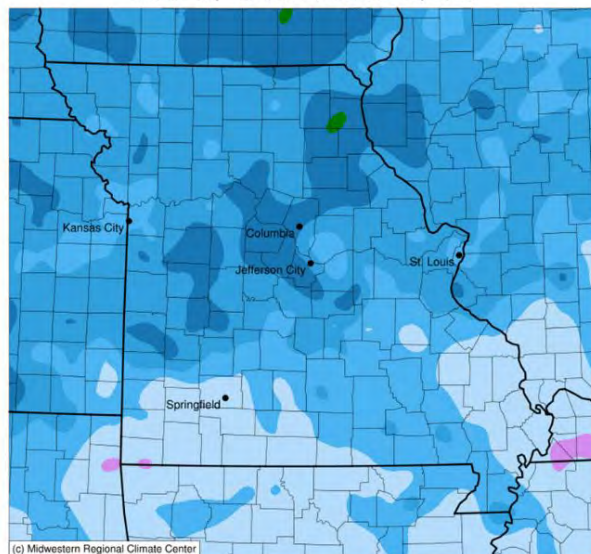
### Local Impact

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.



Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
March 15, 2023 to November 15, 2023

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
March 15, 2023 to November 15, 2023



0.01 0.5 1 2 3 5 7.5 10 15 20 25 30 40

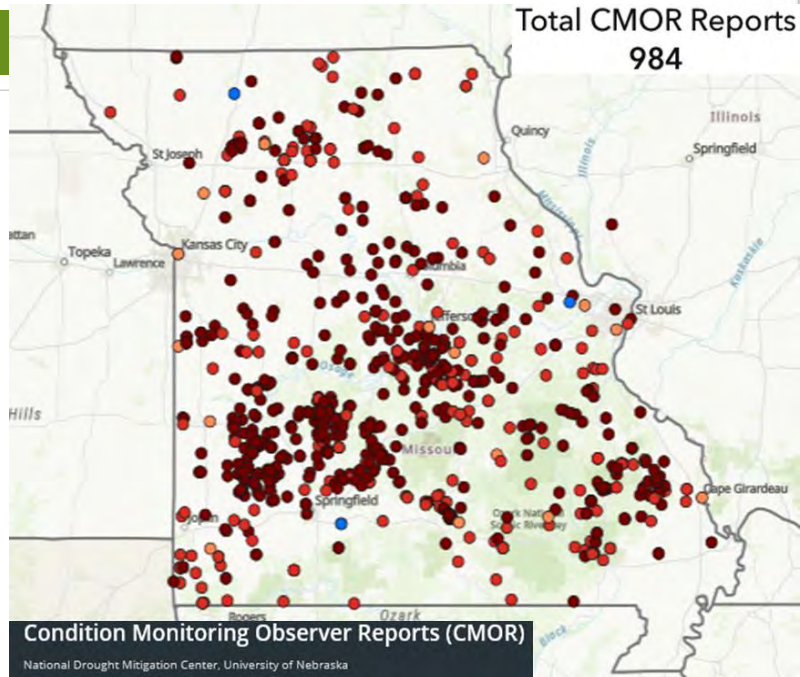
-18 -15 -12 -9 -6 -3 0 3 6

# Crawford County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

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.



### 2023 Missouri Statewide Monthly Precipitation Departures



# Natural Resources

## 2023 Update

Sarah J. Higgins  
Field Specialist in Natural  
Resources  
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Covering Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, and Wayne Counties

### About me & 2023 in review

Hello all! I started my position as a Natural Resources Specialist on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I am based out of Phelps County in Rolla, and I serve 28 other counties in southeast Missouri. I got the opportunity to work in this part of the Ozarks while pursuing my undergraduate degree Environmental Science from Mizzou and loved getting to explore the beautiful landscapes in this region. I moved back to Missouri after receiving my master's in Environmental, Soil, & Water Science from West Virginia University, and I feel so grateful to be back. I'm excited to work with the people in this region to conserve our beautiful natural resources.

Since starting in July, I've gotten the opportunity to meet many others in the area involved in natural resources, including private landowners, Missouri Department of Conservation employees, and Natural Resources Conservation Service employees, people involved in the timber industry, and other Extension professionals. I'm looking forward to developing these partnerships more in 2024 and collaborating on programs to deliver in southeast Missouri. Please contact me to talk more about what kinds of natural resource programming you'd like to see in your county. Looking forward to working more with you all in 2024!



Field site demonstrating the need for timber management at the MO Tree Farm Conference.



Invasive bush honeysuckle from an invasive species workshop in Versailles, MO. Other invasive species discussed included autumn olive, multiflora rose, wintercreeper, sericea lespedeza, princess tree, and eastern redcedar (a native field invader).

### Looking at 2024

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2024. I also hope to visit more counties and attend some Extension

- Restarting Women Owning Woodlands program. We hope to have social hikes and monthly virtual meetings.
- White Oak, Whiskey, and Wine webinar series at 12 pm on Mondays in January.
- Hybrid (virtual & in-person) Succession Planning workshop on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Invasive Species workshop in March.
- Forest health webinar series in early April, followed by a forest health field day on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me for any details related to the programs above. I will send more information and updates on program



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



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

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



## **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.**



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

**The 2023 conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

## **Community Development**

Ray Walden  
Community Development Specialist  
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waldene@missouri.edu



Serving Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington Counties

### **At a Glance**

I started my position as a Community Development Specialist on June 12, 2023. I am based out of Salem in Dent County and also serve the counties of Crawford, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington in the East Central Region. I previously served Extension as Coordinator for the Salem Telecommunications Community Resource Center (TCRC) from 2000 through 2011 and also served as Salem's City Administrator and Economic Development Director.

Since June, I have had the opportunity to meet people from the counties I serve along with other Community Development and Extension staff. I have also been on-boarding with various Community Development programs and their use to meet different types of community needs.

### **Looking at 2024**

Plans for 2024 include:

- Work with counties to identify community development priorities and potential partners in support of community development programs and services
- Provide regular updates on community development programs and formal presentations to county councils and other stakeholders as requested

Other projects I am assisting with include:

- Collaboration to offer a Public Manager Certification
- Rural Infrastructure Challenge Grant with Missouri S&T
- Multi-State Housing Survey

Please contact me with any questions about community development programs or services. I am glad to be serving the East Central Region and look forward to working with your county!

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY FOR

### THRIVING COMMUNITIES

#### What is Civic Capacity?

The collective strength of people in a place to respond to challenges and pursue thriving communities.

#### What we do

Experienced community development specialists provide research-based programming and resources to individuals, organizations and local governments based on their unique issues and assets.

#### How we do it

Through statewide programming, we empower residents, organizations and governments to build:

##### BELONGING

Building social capital and inclusivity

##### COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Engaging residents in civic life and decision-making

Guiding collaborations with diverse community leaders

Creating conditions for equitable, thriving, resourceful places

##### CONTRIBUTION

##### VITALITY



#### Why it's important:

When people feel belonging within the community, they are more likely to contribute to cultivating strong, equitable, prosperous places.

Community-led change is more likely to meet the needs of all residents and make enduring progress toward local vitality.

### Testimonial

"I have learned that my voice is very important, and I am a force to be listened to. I had many ideas but didn't have the courage to pursue all avenues and to make things better for my community, but I now feel that my voice is very important and should be heard."

- Community Development program participant

### Programs and Services

- Asset Mapping
- Community Arts Programming
- Community Assessment
- Community Engagement
- Community Planning Support/Coaching
- Community Resource Development
- Facilitation
- Neighborhood and Leadership Classes
- Strategic Doing
- Youth Civic Engagement Programs

### About us

The University of Missouri Extension and the University of Missouri-St. Louis have a history of successful partnerships building capacity for thriving communities.

Contact us to discuss how we can work with you to build civic capacity for YOUR thriving community.

[extension.missouri.edu/topics/community-development](http://extension.missouri.edu/topics/community-development)

# Crawford County

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

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

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

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

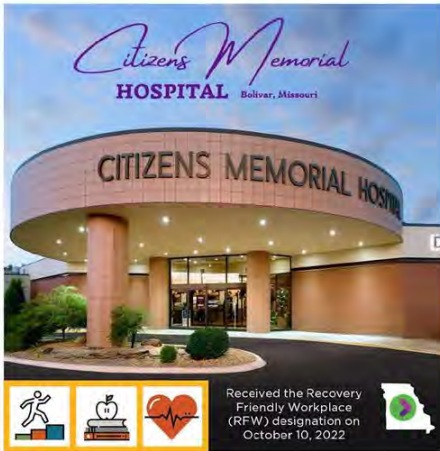
The 2023 school attendance totaled three hundred twenty-seven people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.







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



**Recovery Friendly Workplaces** (RFWs) foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program.

**As of 2023, 25 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,248 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.**



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

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



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

**"They have the old saying it takes a village to raise a child, the more the community comes together the better off the children are going to be in that community."**

**Peggy Saphian PROSPER Model Participant in Fredericktown, MO**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

**“Understanding that divorce doesn’t ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable.”**



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**



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

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

**Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



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



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



**Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs** employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18

**A community of 262 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.**

**1 in every 7 Crawford County youth age 5-17 participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2023.**

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment, youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience. Crawford County served youth through 12 4-H community clubs offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others.

- There were 262 members in the community clubs in Crawford County during the 2022-2023 4-H Year.
- Over 98% 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively youth participated in 34,574 hours of community club work in Crawford County.
- Over 3,994 hours of community service projects were completed by 4-H members and volunteers during the 2022-2023 4-H Year.

**4-H members have demonstrated learning through the following activities:**

- 636 4-H building, and 266 livestock exhibits at the 2023 Crawford County Fair
- Crawford County youth exhibited over 30 exhibits in the 4-H Building and livestock shows of the Missouri State Fair.
- Crawford County was represented at State 4-H Congress by 5 delegates and at Teen Conference by 1 delegate. Delegates attended workshops covering diverse areas from science to leadership development that were complemented by experiences at the MU Student Center, social activities, and inspirational speakers. State Congress plays a vital role in helping these teens develop essential life skills, exploring potential career paths, nurturing leadership abilities, and fostering new friendships with peers from across the state.
- 28 youth from Crawford County Participated in skill development contests on the State level including State Meats Contest, State Livestock Judging, State Fashion Revue, State Poultry Day, State Shoot events and State Public Speaking. Participation in these events helps youth to develop confidence and practice their decision making and public speaking skills through competitions tied to project areas they are passionate about.

### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being



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

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18

- 47 4-H members represented Crawford County at Camp Clover Point 4-H Camp for the 2022-2023 camp season. 2 members attended Zoo Apprenticeship Camp and 1 member attended 4-H Aerospace Camp held at the University of Missouri Science and Technology.
- 2 members represented Crawford County as a State 4-H Ambassadors. These students participated in leadership development, planned state events and represented 4-H at events around the state.

4-H Clubs offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under this guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK. Club and project leaders also involve youth and teens in community service, leadership opportunities, and educational trips. 4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests in citizenship, communication, and leadership.

Crawford County members enrolled in a combined total of 837 projects in 2023. The top project areas were agricultural with the top projects being beef and swine.

### Impacts of 4-H Programming

- 4-H members are twice as likely to go college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).
- 4-H also prepares youth for the workplace. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision- competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).
- Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase their annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime. (U.S. News and World report, 2011) If 50% of the Crawford County youth participating in 4-H events on a college campus receive a bachelor's degree, 4-H would help young people acquire \$7,000,000 more in lifetime earnings.

### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being



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

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18

### 4-H Volunteers

- Crawford County 4-H members were supported by 80 enrolled, screened and oriented adult volunteers and 21 youth volunteers supporting the development of youth in 2023.
- Volunteers contributed 10,100 hours to the Clark County 4-H program valued at \$321,180.

Volunteers participate in development opportunities like project leader training and club leader summits, in addition to ongoing support from MU Extension youth faculty and staff gaining knowledge in how to offer a valuable learning experience for the youth they are working with while maintaining a safe, supportive environment. Volunteers create, support, and are a vital part of the 4-H community. Dedicated volunteers help to organize club meetings, fundraisers and events. They also provide learning opportunities for youth in their projects, teaching life skills and instilling qualities of character like respect and responsibility in members. Adult volunteers serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into caring, healthy adults who contribute back to their communities, which is priceless.



### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



**STEM at  
Crawford County  
Fair**



**State Congress**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



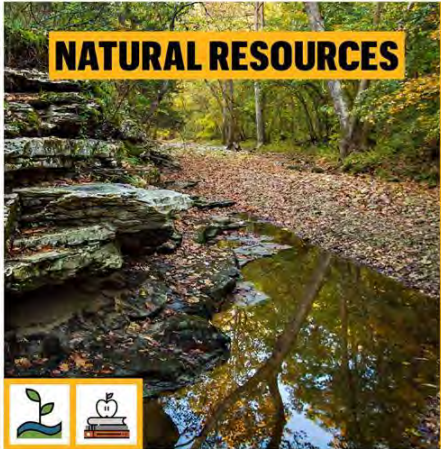
Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being



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



**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 Master Gardener program**

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



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



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

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

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being