



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

McDonald County

2024 Annual Report



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 **Extension**
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-------|
| Letter from the Vice Chancellor for Extension | 4 |
| McDonald County Extension Council | 6 |
| Faculty & Staff | 7 |
| Financial Report | 8 |
| UM Systemwide Impact Data | 9-10 |
| Grand Challenges | 11-13 |
| County Highlights | 14-15 |
| 4-H Program | 16-23 |
| Agriculture & Environment | 24-31 |
| Business & Community | 32-36 |
| Community & Professional Health Education | 37 |
| First Responder Education | 38 |
| Health & Human Sciences | 39-42 |



December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Council Members

Maxwell Stephens - Chairman

Elected Member – Eastern

Garrett Wilson – Vice Chairman

Elected Member – Western

Kellsey Alger- Secretary

Elected Member – Eastern

Jeff Cooper - Treasurer

Elected Member – Western

Dennis Coberley

Elected Member – Eastern

Kitty Collingsworth

Elected Member – Western

Carrie Byron

Elected Member – Eastern

Kenneth Harp

Elected Member – Western

Jason Hoth

Appointed Member – Farm Bureau

Rick Lett

Appointed Member – Commission

Hailey Malcom

Elected Member – Eastern

Carl Steiger

Elected Member – Western

County Commissioners

Bryan Hall

Presiding Commissioner

Rick Lett

Western Commissioner

Jamey Cope

Eastern Commissioner

Who we are

Faculty & Staff

Hannah Sikes

Administrative Assistant

Kirby Miller

4-H Youth Program Associate

Jennifer Lutes

Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Lori (Lewis) Smith

Nutrition Program Associate

Regional Administration

Sarah Havens

Regional Director – Green County

Theresa Fossett

EFNEP Associate Director – Greene County

Allen Brandes

Extension & Engagement Specialist – Lawrence County

Health & Safety

Eden Stewart

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health Education – Newton County

Amber Allen

Field Specialist in Human Development – Greene County

Youth & Family

Karla Deaver

Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development – Lawrence County

Business & Community

Amy Patillo

Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development – Greene County

Amber Allen

Field Specialist in Human Development – Greene County

Lisa Robinson

Field Specialist in Regional Economic Development – Jasper County

Katie Fields

Director – Missouri SBDC at MSSU

Abi Rogers

Business Development – Missouri SBDC at MSSU

Allen Waldo

Missouri APEX Accelerator Specialist – MSU

Agriculture & Environment

Reagan Bluel

Field Specialist in Dairy – Barry County

Micah Doubledee

Field Specialist in Agronomy – Barton County

Megan Crane

Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach Educator – Douglas County

Ian McGregor

Livestock Specialist- Lawrence

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations

Total Income 67,814

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 58,427

Travel 3,924

Telephone 1,300

Reproductions/Copies 1,300

Office Supplies/Service 1,964

Insurance 399

Total Expenses 67,814



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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to McDonald County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or for long term efforts. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

UM System County Impacts

2025 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

McDonald County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

19 students

- 16 Undergraduates
- 3 Graduate and professional students
- 15 Full-time students
- 4 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

5 people employed by UM

- 5 Campuses



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 7 Nursing
- 3 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 2 Pharmacy
- 3 Veterinary Medicine
- 8 Agriculture
- 17 Engineering
- 4 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 3 teachers
- 1.0% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 12 students
- 43 alumni
- 4 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 14 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 5 students
- 17 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 0 students
- 4 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: McDonald County



County population: 23,492



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 34 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$69,887 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 32 visits to 27 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 14,428 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 6,255 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 175 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 95 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

UM System County Impacts

2025 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

McDonald County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

\$3.1 billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

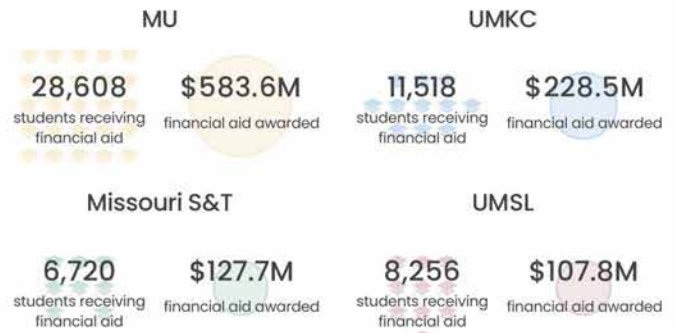


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

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 2024, 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



Grand Challenges

Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions

MCDONALD COUNTY



Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

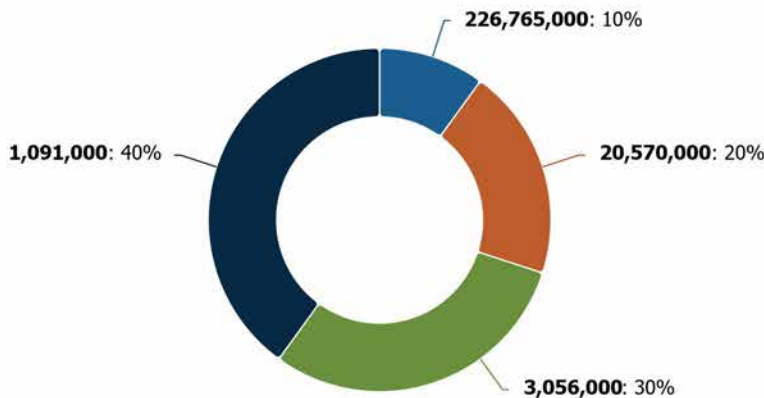
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Rank (Sales): \$10



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$119,933,000 in 2017, an average of \$135,517 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

| Report Area | Total Farms | Average Farm Income |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| McDonald | 885 | \$135,517 |
| Missouri | 87,887 | \$56,606 |

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

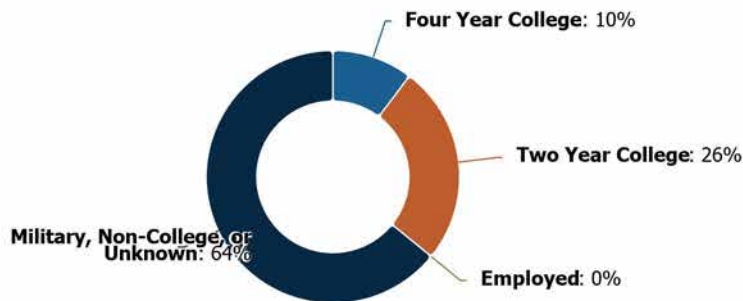
Grand Challenges



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

Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 223 graduates surveyed in the report area, 23 went to a four-year college, 57 to a two-year college, 0 directly entered the job market. The remaining 143 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2013 and 2015, adults over age 65 in the report area had 360 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 3,301 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have improved since the 2001-03 time period when the rate was 3,543.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

3,301

Missouri

5,396 😞

McDonald



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

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population, and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 2 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 3,662 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 1,831:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,831 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 250:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Rate per 100,000 Seniors

54.60

Missouri

399.40

McDonald

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). 2021.

Grand Challenges



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: Soils Testing

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

| Report Area | Agriculture | Home and Garden | Community Areas | Research | Total |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|--------|
| McDonald | 122 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 135 |
| Missouri | 13,742 | 4,773 | 421 | 6,406 | 25,342 |

Forested, Woodland & Non-forested Acres

Sustainable management of forests and woodlands and harvesting of mature trees support the state's \$10.3 billion forest products industries. Forests have a closed canopy (>80% cover) permitting little light to penetrate to the ground below. They consist of several overlapping layers of trees, with a mid-story and understory comprising a variety of shade-tolerant shrubs and a sparse layer of soft-stemmed plants. Woodlands have a more open canopy (30-80% cover), and their sparse, woody mid-story allows more sunlight to reach the ground. This light permits the growth of a dense ground cover containing a variety of wildflowers, grasses and sedges. Fire plays a large role in maintaining woodland habitats.

Recreational Land Acres

The recreational land use data documents Missouri land under federal, state or local government control with open or restricted access to the public. Land with no access is not included.

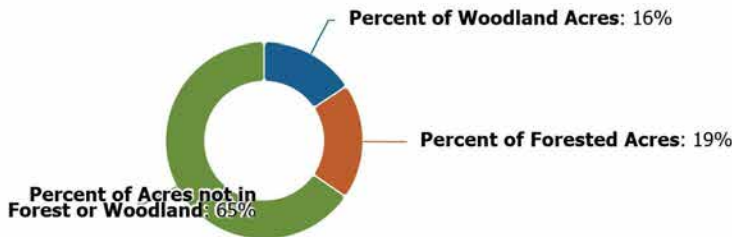
Acres in Protected Area

629

Missouri 1,791,829

McDonald

Data Source: [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Protected Areas Database](#). 2023.



Jobs Derived

Missouri has a diverse agriculture industry, strong in crops and livestock, as well as food and forestry processing industries. These industries remain a significant part of Missouri's economy, supporting more than 1 in every 10 jobs, on average. In 2021, agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Missouri were estimated to contribute: 456,618 jobs, \$93.7 billion in output and \$31.8 billion in household income. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact](#).

Percent of Jobs Derived from Agriculture

73.9%

Missouri 23.55%

McDonald

Value Added

Value-added agriculture refers to production, manufacturing, marketing or other services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal and pet food manufacturing, and crop production and related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact](#).

Percent of Total Value Added from Agriculture

74.5%

Missouri 21.98%

McDonald

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, [Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority](#). 2021.

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, [Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority](#). 2021.

County Highlights

2024 McDonald County State Fair Farm Family

The Lindquist family was selected as the McDonald County Missouri State Fair Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in McDonald County and the local Farm Bureau.

Kip and Jessie Lindquist and family, were among the families honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day on August 14, 2023, at the Missouri State Fair.



Missouri House Representative Dirk Deaton presented the Lindquist family a State Resolution in recognition of their contributions to the state of Missouri at the 4-H Trivia Night Fundraiser.

County Highlights

Community Outreach Events

New Location

The McDonald County Extension office upgraded their space in 2024! The office is now located at 500 Olin St., which is the prior location of the McDonald County Health Department. The office now has dedicated kitchen space and classroom space in addition to the four private offices and the front office.

Huge thank you to the McDonald County Commissioners for supporting the remodel and updated facilities for Extension!



Pineville Fall Festival

The McDonald County Extension Council hosted the third annual hay contest to help educate producers about the need to understand the nutrient value of their hay and determine if their livestock need additional feed supplements. All producers received their first entry free thanks to generous donations from First Community Bank, McDonald County Farm Bureau, and The Cornerstone Bank.

Samples were submitted in two forage categories: Cool Season Hay and Warm Season Hay.

Winners from each class were recognized with certificates and ribbons during the Pineville Fall Festival.





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

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



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.



4-H's Leadership and Civic Engagement programs foster understanding, confidence and decision-making skills to empower youths to become informed and active young citizens. 4-H civic engagement initiatives prepare young people to become future leaders by engaging them in programs where they have voice and influence.



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



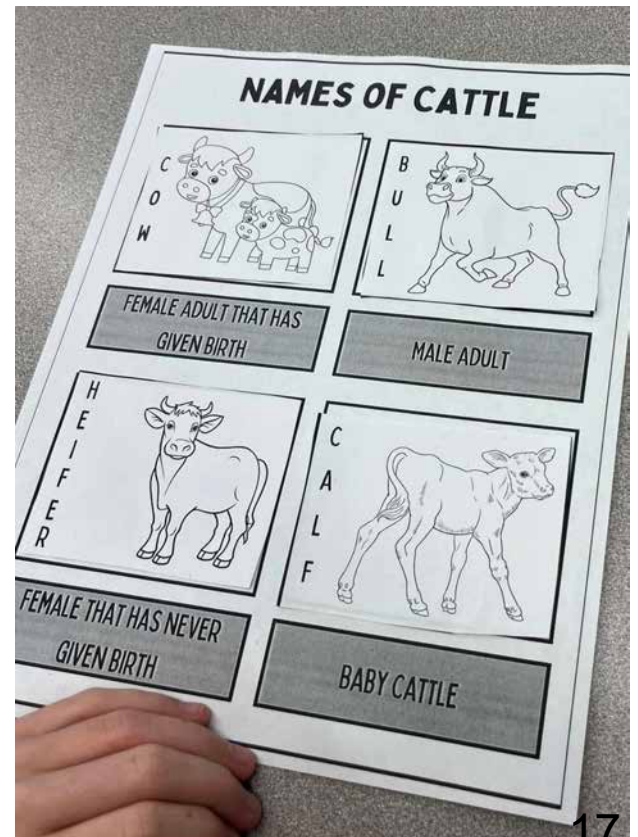
16
Health & Well-Being

McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Anderson Elementary hosts a program each year referred to as **Business Buddy**. Members of the community are asked to work with a classroom at the elementary school by hosting activities, such as games, reading a book, etc. Thankfully, I, the McDonald County YPA, was one of the privileged individuals to be asked. Each month my 3rd grade classroom participated in a 4-H activity, which included games, team building activities, lessons in ag education and more.



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

The McDonald County 4-H Council hosted their 4th annual **Showmanship Clinic** in 2024. 4-H'ers in McDonald County learned about beef cattle, swine, sheep and goats. Adults and youth alike learned along side each other at this event. In addition to the hands-on activities, 4-H volunteer Jennifer Keaton presented quality assurance to youth.



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories



The purpose of this organization is to promote teen leadership in the county 4-H program. 4-H members 12 years old and older are eligible to partake in this opportunity. It is a space where young leaders can grow and develop, while being a part of a team. In February of 2024, the McDonald County 4-H Teen Council celebrated their 2nd full year as a team



4-H Teen Council

enjoys getting together to have some fun. Team building events are extremely important when you have a group of teens working together for the first time.



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

The RATT or the **Regionally Action-Packed Trip for Teens** is an event organized by the Southwest Regional 4-H Council with the help of regional staff for 4-H youth ages 12 and older. In 2024, the teens voted to adventure to St. Louis! Members started their day at Fitz's for lunch and discovered how their soda is created. A dive back in history was on the agenda for the day, so members explored the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, which included listening to a speaker that was the daughter of two past survivors. Union Station was a fun stop of the day where members played putt putt, played games, and rode a Ferris Wheel. Lastly, members explored the ST. Louis Arch!



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



McDonald County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact





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



The Missouri Agriculture, Food and Forestry Innovation Center (MAFFIC) provides

dedicated technical assistance to help value-added agricultural producers launch or expand their businesses. Through personalized support in marketing, product development, business planning and financial analysis, MAFFIC business counselors equip producers with the knowledge and tools needed for success. Each year, these free services reach more than 150 producers, driving innovation and growth in Missouri agriculture.



Missouri Grazing Schools teach management-intensive grazing by

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

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



The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



24
Health & Well-Being

McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Farm Visits and County Office Interactions

University of Missouri Field Specialists in Agronomy, Dairy, Livestock and Ag Business offer local farmers and producers individualized education via in-person interaction, phone calls, email, and farm visits to answer agricultural related questions. This education helps farmers and producers make important management decisions for their farms and businesses and helps improve the overall management of Missouri's important natural resources and agriculture production.

Pesticide Applicator Training

Private Pesticide Applicator Training program focuses on providing knowledge of the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides and associated legal requirements. University of Missouri Extension provides pesticide applicator training and recertification of Missouri's agricultural producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. During 2024, Micah Doubledee provided pesticide applicator training classes and 11 people from McDonald County participated.

Soil Testing and Plant Testing

University of Missouri County Extension offices offer soil and plant testing for Missourians. The results from soil tests give producers insight into the pH level, available phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium; organic matter; acidity and cation exchange of their soil. Soil reports also offer educational advice and recommendations from the soil lab and local extension specialists to help producers make important agricultural decisions regarding soil fertilization for intended crops and potential yield goals. In 2024, 70 soil tests were submitted through the McDonald County office.



Field with multiple poison hemlock plants taken during a farm visit. Poison hemlock is poisonous to cattle.



Soil Sample

McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



McDonald County Hay Contest

3rd Annual hay contest in McDonald County had 28 entries into five hay classes. McDonald County Extension Council hosts the hay contest to educate producers about the nutrient value of their hay.

Samples were submitted to five hay categories: Legumes, Cool Season Grass, Warm Season Grass, Grass Legume Mixed, and Summer/Winter Annual Grass. Winners from each class were recognized with certificates and ribbons during the Pineville Fall Festival.

| Name | Class # | Type of Hay | Variety | Cutting Date | RFQ | Nitrate |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Galen Manning | Hay 1 Legumes | Alfalfa | WL Series | 3-Aug | 161 | Neg |
| Diana Bates | Hay 2 Cool Season Perennial Grass | Cool Season | Mixed | 13-Jun | 99 | Neg |
| Galen Manning | Hay 3 Warm Season Perennial Grass | Bermuda | Wrangler | 2-Aug | 124 | Trace |
| Devon Goddard | Hay 4 Grass/Legume Mix | Mixed | Mixed | 1-Aug | 99 | Neg |
| Gene Smith | Hay 5 Summer/Winter Annual Grass | Winter Annual | Wheat/ Rye | 1-Jun | 106 | Pos |

McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Missouri Grazing School – Neosho

Seventeen (17) producers participated in the Grazing School held June 4th – 6th in Neosho, MO. Grazing School teaches management-intensive grazing (MiG), which subdivides large fields into smaller paddocks then rotates livestock across paddocks.

The program covered the following topics: Art and Science of Grazing, Economic Aspects of Grazing, Evaluating Resources, Pasture Allocation & Evaluation, Grazers Arithmetic, Stockpile and Strip Grazing, Matching Livestock to Pasture Resources, Livestock Nutrition, Forage Basics, Evaluation of Soil Resources and Fertility, Multi0species Grazing, Water Systems, and System Layout and Design.

**100% of
respondents plan
to adopt a new
management
practice or change
an existing one
because of what
they learned in the
program!**



McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Tri-County Livestock & Forage Conference

130 producers attended the 3rd annual Tri-County Livestock and Forage Conference held at 2S Angus Cattle Company. Producers learned strategic way to reinvest the high cattle prices back into the farm.

Two-way partnership between MU Extension and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (McDonald, Newton, and Jasper) brings this winter conference together for area producers each year.



Extension
University of Missouri

TRI-COUNTY LIVESTOCK AND FORAGE CONFERENCE

Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:00 pm

2S Angus Cattle Company
4586 Jute Rd, Seneca MO

Doors Open -5:30 pm

Smoked Meat Dinner- 5:45 pm

Speakers - 6:00 pm

Door Prizes!!

Including native seed, hats, gift cards, \$100 of mineral

THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:
RSVP by Friday, February 2, to secure your meal 417-223-4775 or online:

Evening's Presentations:

Economic Update/Outlook

Wesley Tucker, MU Ag Business Specialist

Re-Investing in the Farm

Wesley Tucker, MU Ag Business Specialist



McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Freezer Beef School

Attendees took part in a two-day workshop focused on producing and marketing beef directly to consumers. The program was crafted by a cross-disciplinary team of livestock and ag business specialists. During the event, participants engaged in classroom sessions,

toured local feeding operations and gained insights from producers with successful freezer beef businesses. Additionally, participants had the chance to meet with local meat locker operators to explore potential collaborations in producing and packaging high-quality beef for consumers.

**“Very informative!
Overall great
class!”**

**“Gave useful
insight into
marketing and
changes we could
make to our
operation to
increase
marketability.”**



McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Poultry Processing at the Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center Field Day

The MU Extension Value-Added Meats Team organized and conducted a poultry processing demonstration during SWREEC Field Day. The team guided 379 high school students and teachers through each step of poultry processing, including slaughter, scalding, plucking, evisceration, chilling, and cutting.

The MU Extension Value-Added Meats Team educates producers and consumers on buying and selling local meat.



McDonald County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



What Ag Lenders Need to Know in 2025

18 agricultural lenders attended the Southwest Region's "What Ag Lenders Need to Know in 2025" at the University of Missouri's Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center in Mt. Vernon. The event focused on the economic outlook for livestock, crops, agricultural inputs,

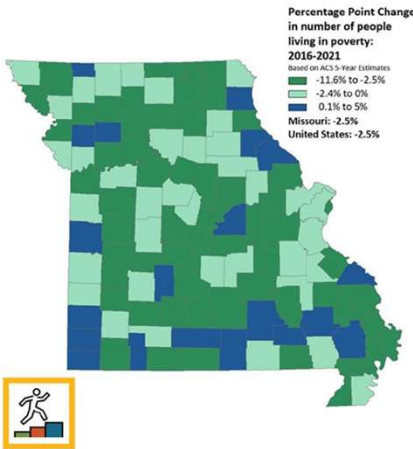
and the broader macroeconomy, with additional discussions on carbon credits, land values, and cash rental rates. Speakers represented MU Extension, the University of Missouri Rural and Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center (RAFF), and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA).

All participating lenders agreed the information shared would help them better assist their agricultural clients.





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.



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

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



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.



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



32
Health
& Well-Being

McDonald County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri Southern State University provides support to McDonald County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients to discuss a wide range of topics.

Through leveraging regional partnerships, we are able to offer the following:

- Innovate SOMO
- Early-Stage Boot Camp
- Government contracting assistance
- Identification of grant opportunities effecting businesses due to imports

KEY OUTCOMES

- **24** Business owners received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses
- **2** Jobs created
- **99** Jobs retained
- **7** Government contract awarded to small businesses in McDonald County
- **228** Training event attendees

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

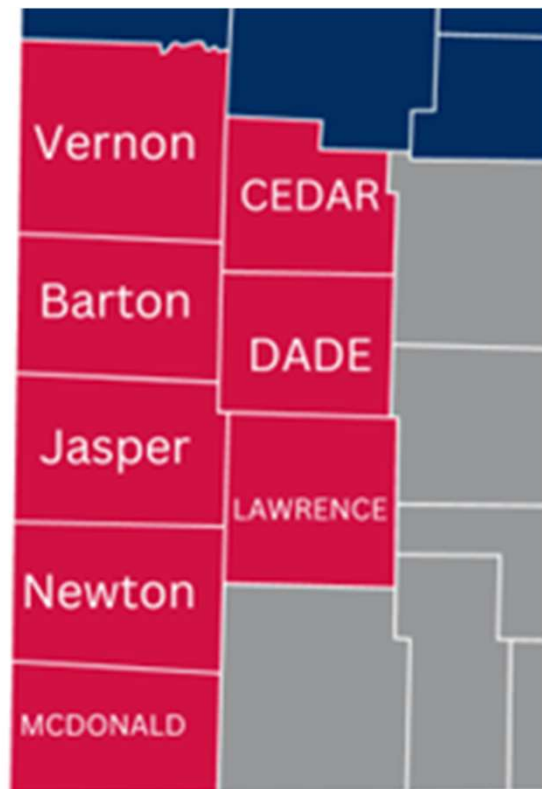
\$223,500

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC

\$145,252

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

**MISSOURI
SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY**



Profiles and Stories

Business and Community Development

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LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Headquartered in GREENE COUNTY

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key “Muscle Groups.”



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Seth Kaplan (at left), author of “Fragile Neighborhoods.” Program has participants from 38 different states now.

Show-Me Neighborhood Art Week — This new statewide art program celebrating public art and an increased sense of belonging as a result of this event. Had hundreds of participants, including 73 art installations statewide.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week— statewide we document 31,129 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4 with reports from every county in region.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day — Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger’s birthday. KY3 was a key partner in promoting this regionally.

“Join or Die” movie — Did total of 12 showings of this documentary with nearly 500 participants before it went to Netflix.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhoods USA — Presented two workshops on neighboring at the national conference and two students in Neighboring 101 won national awards.

Be a thought leader — Wrote 72 newspaper and magazine columns in 2024.

Springfield Neighborhoods—Helped with annual training and support.

Neighborhood Leadership Academy—The Southwest Missouri cohort had 7 participants this year. We also celebrated completion of 6 projects from 2023.



VITALITY

Coaching / Pledge / Newsletter — Advised 52 individuals on a neighborhood events nationwide.. Media efforts related to neighboring resulted in d over 1 million impressions on social media and perhaps as many in traditional print and television. Had 124 people take the Engaged Neighbor Pledge this year.

National Movement—Was asked to speak in three different states (Michigan, New York & Colorado) on developing a good neighbor week.

Springfield Culture Fest — Council supported this new effort in Springfield. 34

McDonald County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Neighboring 101

Neighboring 101 is not just for new homeowners or people new to community life. This ongoing monthly program (started in 2020) is for anyone wanting to improve their neighborhood and community or their personal life and health. *One-time \$25 enrollment fee.*

Get Started With These Steps

1. Visit extension.missouri.edu and register for Neighboring 101.
2. Receive an exclusive newsletter with links to videos of all past classes.
3. Attend monthly sessions live to ask questions. Class is the third Thursday of each month at 12 pm (CST).
4. Access exclusive materials and resources for the Engaged Neighbor network.
5. Take what you learn and improve your neighborhood, your community and yourself.

What Others Have Said

“Every month I learn something that I can apply in my neighborhood.” - Laura

“This program has inspired the work we are now doing in my community.” - Jen

“Every month I say that is the best speaker we have had but then the next one is better. Every month I am inspired.” - Chet

Contact David Burton at burtond@missouri.edu

Program Enrollment for 2024 totaled 832 including these counties (and number enrolled).

Barton 2 | Barry 2 | Cedar 4 | Christian 18 | Dade 4 |
Douglas 2 | Greene 189 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 9
McDonald 3 | Newton 2 | Ozark 1 | Polk 2 | Stone 8
Taney 9 | Texas 6 | Webster 8 | Wright 2

Guests have included practitioners, authors and leaders in the neighboring movement:



Majora Carter



Dave Runyon



Seth Kaplan



Melody Warnick



Mike Mather

Profiles and Stories

SHOW ME

Neighborhood Art Week

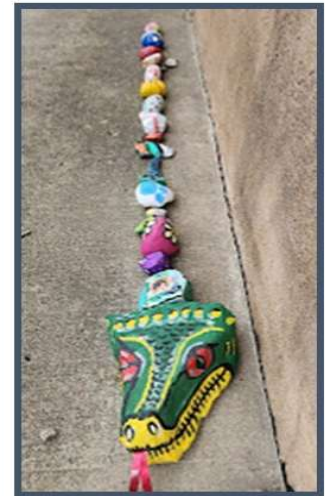


Show Me Neighborhood Art Week is a University of Missouri Extension art-focused outreach program that strives to promote creative expression and public art made by residents, regardless of their skill level, as a contribution to the community's sense of place and residents' sense of belonging. The program goals are to:

- Promote the engagement of neighbors;
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion within communities; and
- Use art as a tool to increase the sense of belonging.

We promoted and solicited participation in our pilot Show Me Neighborhood Art Week statewide. After creating an online map of sites registered, statewide viewing was June 1-15 2024. Participants were sent yard signs to display next to their installations.

- The program had participation from every extension region.
- 73 total registered sites and 1,182 registered voters.
- 293 participants signed up for the Engaged Neighbor newsletter.
- Over \$3000 in prizes for regional winning artists was distributed.
- 72% of participants in Show Me Neighborhood Art Week reported an increased sense of belonging and love for the communities by participating.



Regional participation (artist and/or participant) was as follows:

Barton 12 | Barry 6 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Douglas 4 | Greene 389 | Jasper 8 | Lawrence 29
McDonald 12 | Newton 21 | Stone 28 | Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 38 | Wright 22





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.



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.



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. The 2024 program was hosted by Union, Mo. and the 2025 host city will be Hayti, Mo.

All of the 2024 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.



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



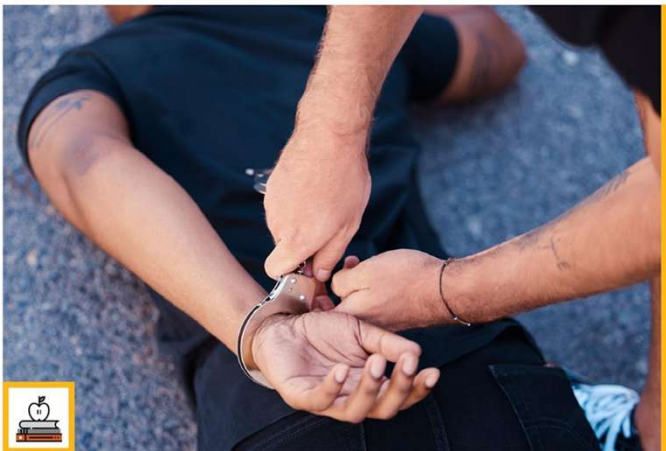
37
Health & Well-Being



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



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute** (FRTI) is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighters and emergency responders.



The **Law Enforcement Training Institute** (LETI) offers advanced training on a wide variety of topics, including defensive tactics, firearms, use of force and de-escalation. LETI offers customized programs for all required continuing education areas of concentration.



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 man-made 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.



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



38
Health & Well-Being



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



Home Food Preservation

Preserve the season's bounty - deliciously and safely.

Learn safe techniques for pressure canning, boiling water bath canning, steam canning, dehydration and freezing.

Understand the importance of using safe preservation and storage methods to avoid cross-contamination and foodborne illnesses.

"This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family's access to quality food."



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults basic exercises to boost strength, balance and overall daily functionality. Participants also gain insights into nutrition and wellness for healthy aging and active living.

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



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.**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



39
Health & Well-Being

McDonald County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

622 direct and 15,870 indirect contacts were made in McDonald 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 their 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.



McDonald County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories



Lori Lewis Smith, NPA, was recently a vendor at a health fair in Southwest City. She prepared Peanut Butter Cereal Bars for a tasting. One young man stopped by, tasted the cereal bars and liked them so much he took a picture of the recipe with his phone. One evening right after this health fair, Lori was at a grocery store in the same town

the health fair had been, shopping for her own groceries. The same young man recognized her and came over to show his shopping cart had all the ingredients needed to make the cereal bars. He said he was going to make them not only for a quick breakfast, but also for a healthy snack. He also wanted to take a few to his mom to try as well.

McDonald County Schools/Agencies Served

Noel Primary School

Crosslines of McDonald County

Longview Head Start

Rocky Comfort Elementary School

Southwest City Elementary School

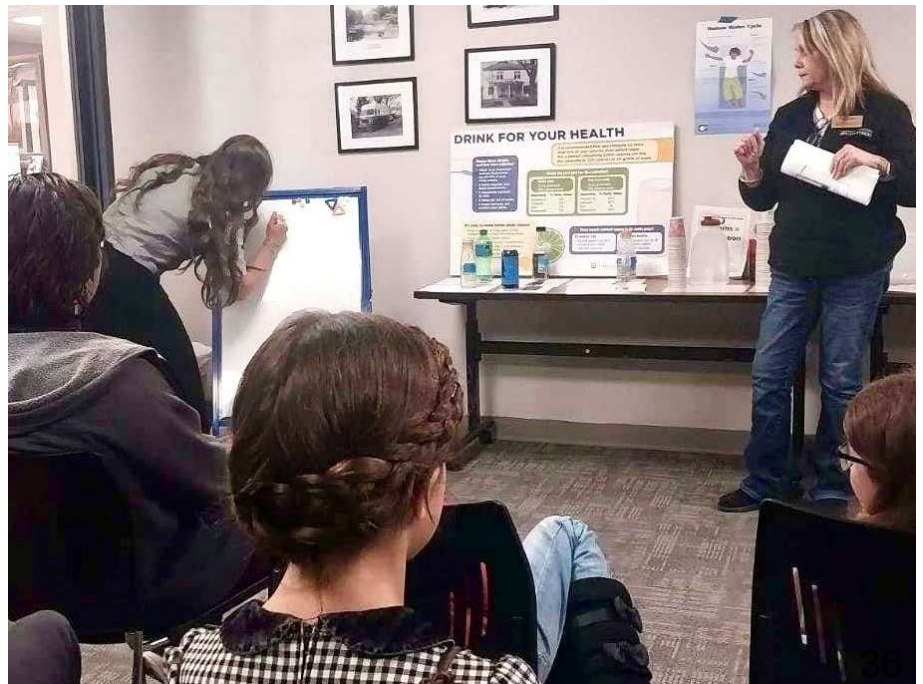
Noel Head Start

Anderson Housing Authority

Noel Housing Authority/Senior Center

We Care for Wee Folks Preschool

Southwest City Senior Center



McDonald County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy in McDonald County

In the early months of 2024, community members reached out to the University of Missouri extension looking to increase physical activity within the community. The community members frustrated that although their community offered older adults with meals, none offered physical activity. The motivated community members recruited 24 participants to participate in **2 Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** a strength training programs for older adults. They recruited from within their own friends and family circles but also reach out to the local libraries, churches, and senior feeding locations. The participants in participating in Stay Strong, Stay Healthy were led through eight different exercises for 16 sessions with opportunities to increase weight to continuously challenge their muscles.

Results

Of the **24 participants** starting Stay Strong, Stay Healthy seven were completers meaning they had participated in at least 11 sessions of the classes. All 13 participants or 100% of the completers had increased their chair stand, a measurement of leg strength done by seeing how many times a participant can get up and down from a chair. Furthermore, the seven completers also all had increased their balance ability, helping one participant move from an increased risk of falls to no longer an increased risk of falls. Another positive change for all completers was all had improvement to their shoulder flexibility to at least one side. Conducting the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy class saved an estimated **\$13,312 in health care costs.**

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy



