

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION Andrew County 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



411 Court St., First Floor Courthouse Savannah, Missouri 816-324-3147 Andrewco@missouri.edu





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,

Chal Higs

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff



James Humphrey Field Specialist in Livestock

Rachel Livesay Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

Valerie Pickering Nutrition Program Associate

Kelly Todd 4-H Youth Program Associate

Kathy Hoffman Office Manager

Also Serving Andrew County: Rachel Brown

Field Specialist in Community Health Katie Buchs Pemberton

Field Specialist in Human Development

Jim Crawford Field Specialist in Agricultural Engineering

Annette Deering Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Randa Doty Extension Engagement Specialist

Denice Ferguson Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Wayne Flanary Field Specialist in Agronomy

Gwen Funk Field Specialist in Horticulture

Connie Griffith Nutrition Program Manager

Jackie Spainhower Field Specialist in Community Development

Stacey Steffens Northwest Regional Director

Council members

Robert Jandorf, Chairman Ashley Petty, Vice-Chairman Theresa Wright, Secretary Jerry Baker, Treasurer Gary Baumann Mandy Chambers Don Jones Annemarie McAsey Gailynn Roberts Cindy Stone Dennis Williams Raegan Williams



County commissioners

Brad Jarvis, Presiding Commissioner **Fritz Hegeman**, East District Commissioner **Gary Baumann**, West District Commissioner







Appropriations budget

Income County Appropriations Total Income	57,157 57,157
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	41,533
Travel	3,940
Postage	545
Telephone	979
Supplies & Service	1,186
Fairground Maintenance	6,575
Other Contract Services	429
Insurance	1,618
Extension Council Election Expense	117
Repairs & Maintenance	1,282
Total Expenses	58,204

Contact Us:

University of Missouri Extension in Andrew County

411 Court St., PO Box 32 Savannah, MO 816-324-3147 AndrewCo@missouri.edu Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.



MU Extension councils guide local educational programming in every county. County council members are partners in the entire educational process and advocate in their community by raising awareness of opportunities and assist in identifying partnerships. They leverage the resources that the University of Missouri has to offer and help to link MU Extension programs and resources to the community.

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Andrew 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.



FOCUS ON KIDS

According to the Missouri State Statute 452.600, when parents of children eighteen years and younger split up, they are required to attend a parenting class. Focus on Kids satisfies that requirement. This class is a supportive educational program designed to help individuals navigate the challenges of co-parenting after a "I learned how to respect the other parent and how to coparent better. The class was very helpful and had a lot of good information. -Focus on Kids Participant

separation or divorce. It provides valuable information on how to minimize the emotional impact of divorce on children, encourage healthy communication between parents, and promote effective conflict resolution. The goal is to ensure that both parents are equipped with the tools they need to create a stable, supportive environment for their children, even as they adjust to the changes in their family dynamics. It is estimated that divorce education classes like FOK have a societal return on investment over \$3 for every \$1 invested (Alcaniz et al., 2022; see also Herman et al., 2015; Taskforce on Divorce and Divorce Reform, 1973).

- 32 Andrew County citizens participated in this training in online
- Katie Pemberton, Field Specialist in Human Development teaches this course

PONY EXPRESS THERAPY DOGS

Pony Express Therapy Dogs are going on their seventh year in existence. The group has 25 members and 26 dogs, and they visit many locations within multiple counties. These locations range from nursing homes, libraries, special events and even local universities. Therapy dogs provide numerous emotional and psychological benefits to individuals of all ages. Their presence can significantly reduce stress, anxiety, and depression by promoting a sense of calm and comfort. Interacting with therapy dogs has been shown to lower blood pressure, release feel-good hormones like oxytocin, and create a soothing environment for people facing challenging situations. These dogs can also help improve social interaction, particularly for individuals with autism or social anxiety, by acting as a bridge for communication.



Members of the organization along with their service dogs.

FARM AND RANCH STRESS GRANT

Missouri's mental health crisis is more challenging for the agricultural community, fueled by growing economic and mental health challenges that are severely affecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of rural families. To address Missouri's mental health



crisis, the University of Missouri Extension provides free mental health workshops, suicide prevention programs, and mental health awareness resources. The program collaborates with the University of Missouri College of Arts & Sciences Psychological Services Clinic to offer free telehealth counseling services.



Therapy dogs, Mr. Rossi and Miss Priss, provide services to residents of northwest Missouri.



Health & Human Sciences

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Classes



Stay Strong Stay Healthy Level 1 at the Andrew County Senior Center

Food Preservation



Andrew County citizens learning how to safely preserve food

Health & Nutrition Outreach



Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Sign-Ups provides \$50 in benefits annually to low-income seniors to spend at local farmers' markets.



MU Partnered with Benedictine Living Community and offered a Walk with Ease program at the Mosaic Cancer Center ½ mile walking trail.



MU Extension represented at the Andrew County Health Fair to inform community about Nutrition & Health programming.



Cooking Matters class at the Savannah Library

Rachel Livesay, MU Extension Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health, offered Stay Strong, Stay Healthy classes at the Andrew County Senior Center and Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center in 2024. This is a free program offered through SNAP and is an evidence-based strength training program designed for older adults. Over the 8-week program, participants learn exercises to improve strength, balance, and flexibility

- Offered one program at the Andrew County Senior Center
- · Total of 19 participants, 18 first time participants

Quotes from Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Participants "This program keeps me motivated. Going to try level 2 when it is offered."

"[The] Social benefits are very helpful."

Pressure Canning and Water Bath Canning classes were offered at the Andrew County Youth Building. Sue Robison, MU Extension Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health, co-led the class with Rachel Livesay. Participants learned to process green beans and peach salsa. A Freezing & Dehydrating class was also offered through a partnership with the Andrew County Food Pantry. Participants learned different methods to freeze and dehydrate various fruits and vegetables.

- A total of 29 people participated in the course
- 21 out of 23 participants were confident or very confident about their knowledge of safe home food preservation practices following the workshop



SNAP-Education

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.

A total of 2,935 participants were from Andrew 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

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 589 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 2,068 family members. Additionally, 2,864 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

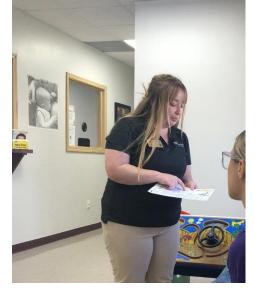
Twenty-nine of these youth participants reside in Andrew County.

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Participating schools and agencies include:

- ✓ Amazonia Elementary
- ✓ Avenue City Elementary
- ✓ North Andrew Elementary
- ✓ Andrew County Food Pantry
- ✓ Andrew County Health Department
- ✓ Andrew County Senior Center
- ✓ Savannah Baptist Church Mobile Food Pantry
- Savannah Head Start



MU Extension Nutrition Program Associate, Valerie Pickering, teaching about healthy eating at the Andrew County Health Department

Success Story

The Andrew County Food Pantry in Savannah is so thankful that the Family Nutrition Education Program is coming to their facility every week bringing in recipes and Show Me Nutrition Educational Display information. They commented that it is good to have someone there as it has been a while since someone was able to program there. The recipes being handed out are helping them distribute inventory that clients were not taking because they didn't know how to prepare certain foods. The clients are always excited to share how their recipes turned out when they come for their next visit. It is wonderful that our programming can make such an impact on the lives of Missouri residents!!



Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Andrew County 4-H Program

For the 4-H year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, youth members participating in:

- ✓ Youth member of organized 4-H community clubs: 73
- ✓ Total number of adult volunteers: 13
- ✓ Total number of youth volunteers: 6
- ✓ Camp Crowder youth participants: 4

Andrew County Fair

4-H Achievement Day: 40 youth, 130 exhibits, 40 exhibits selected for the State Fair and 1 exhibit selected for Best of Show in the cake division at the Missouri State Fair.





Andrew County 4-H members enjoyed a pool party and ice cream for their Recognition Party in July to celebrate all their hard work and achievements throughout the year.



The Andrew County 4-H Horse project members competed in the 4-H State Horse Judging competition at William Woods University in March, under the leadership of Annie McAsey.

4-H Volunteer Leader Training

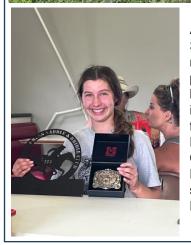
A 4-H volunteer leader training was held in February, at the Youth Building in Savannah. The training, provided leaders with information on topics including enrollment, insurance, volunteer roles, confidentiality, risk management, program delivery modes, inclusivity, positive youth development, and youth leadership. Six adults participated in the training: four adults from Andrew County; one adult from Holt County; one adult from Nodaway County.



Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Pony Express Saddle & Bridle Club Horse Show





Above: Pony Express Saddle &Bridle Club members who participated in their horse show which included participation from eight counties. Left: Charolette Coolman, Kodiack Kadettes, First time showing won Champion Novice in 4-H.

Trunk-or-Treat





Andrew County 4-H members and MU Extension Staff handed out over 50 bags of popcorn to youth and families at the Trunk-or-Treat Event in Savannah.





Left: Andrew County 4-H's Kodiak Kadettes parade entry for the Savannah R3 Homecoming Parade. Right: Payson McAsey with her chicken at the parade.

Embryology



MU Extension Staff offered Embryology in Spring 2024. The program provides incubators, egg turners, curriculum, and a viable egg supplier, to kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms. There is a small fee for the program. Embryology curriculum brings action and experience to the classroom. Students observe the development of the chick in the egg, hatching and post-hatch care. Each activity is grade-level appropriate and has been correlated to National



Science Education Standards.





Business & Community

Overview of MU Extension's Community Development Programming

Under the guidance of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, MU Extension's Community Development faculty help to build Civic Muscle, which is defined as the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. Community Development specialists coach communities to build four key "muscle groups": **Belonging, Contribution, Leadership, and Vitality** by providing educational programs and technical assistance. Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist in Community Development has offered the following opportunities to Andrew County.

Belonging Place-based communities building social capital and inclusivity through neighboring, civil dialogue, placemaking, etc.

Extension Express Newsletter Distributed in 2024



Faculty and staff in the Northwest Region came together in late 2024 to create and distribute the monthly Extension Express newsletter, intended to highlight programming, events, and activities happening in the region's 20 counties. Knowing about

Extension programs and class offerings helps create a stronger sense of belonging and connection between faculty, staff, council

members, elected officials, and program participants within the Region. The Extension Express newsletter is currently distributed to over 350 people each month.



MU Extension faculty involved in this program are: Jackie Spainhower, Field Specialist in Community Development; Randa Doty, Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist; Jen Osborn, Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist; Chelsea Corkins, Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist; Gwen Funk, Field Specialist in Horticulture; and Kathy Mecham, Field Specialist in Horticulture.

Contribution Residents (particularly those at the margins) participating in civic life and engaged in decision making (volunteering, attending public meetings, voting)

NOVA Program and Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile Certification

During the summer, Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist in Community Development, assisted with the facilitation of the first statewide NOVA (Nurturing Original Ventures & Ambitions) Program, which was a virtual entrepreneurial mindset summer camp for neurodivergent high school students. In early August 2024, four students graduated from the course that was designed to help students understand the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, identify and leverage natural talents, create a strategy to develop entrepreneurial skills, and prepare to lead in environments that value creativity.

Following the course, Spainhower completed the training to become a Certified Practitioner of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile (EMP), the program used to develop the NOVA Program. The EMP is a short assessment that measures seven characteristics that distinguish entrepreneurs and seven skills critical to entrepreneurial success. The assessment can be administered to individuals or groups looking to work more cohesively together in creative and innovative settings. As a coach, she can administer the assessment, as well as coach individuals and teams to better individual and group outcomes.



What participants said about NOVA:

"This class has really opened my eyes to how much I can contribute, and it's changed the way I think about my own abilities."

"I feel like I can turn my passions into something real, something I can build a future with."



Business & Community

Leadership

Vítalítu

Diverse community leaders (including those who typically have less power and influence) collaborating for action and bridge-building

Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is a 10-week community development leadership program that provides participants with the skills, confidence, and strategies to plan and implement projects in their own communities. Participants come from across the entire state and meet virtually using Zoom. The program provides

participants with 30 hours of educational instruction, group and individual coaching that will assist them with completing their project. Participants that complete the program are eligible to apply for mini-grants to support their projects. This year, one person in the region participated in NLA.



What participants said about NLA:

"I enjoyed the breakout sessions. Although we are from all different backgrounds, communities, we all want the same things in our communities."

Residents, organizations, governments, co-creating conditions for equitable, thriving, resourceful places

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities – Conference and Webinars

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference took place in Fulton on September 17-19, and we welcomed 122 people for the event. In 2024, the conference focused on youth entrepreneurship, networking and relationship building, removing barriers, and technology and innovation. Attendees had 30 educational breakout sessions to choose from, along with keynote sessions featuring local and national speakers as well as representatives from the University. Next year's conference will take place a little closer to home in Excelsior Springs. As a supplement to the Conference, this year we created a twice monthly webinar to share information about sessions at the upcoming conference and other relevant information about rural economic development and innovation. These webinars will continue in 2025, and the focus will be on stories of collaboration in rural communities across Missouri.

In 2024, eight people from the Northwest Region attended the CEC Conference in Fulton, and 16 people from the region participated in the monthly CEC webinars.





What attendees said about the 2024 CEC Conference:

"So empowering to be surrounded by growth minded, problem solving, collaborative individuals for three days. I can't wait to see what we can do with the knowledge we gained over the last three days. Due to the dedication of a few community leaders and advocates our little town was recognized this week in a room of leaders, scholars and advocates from all over Missouri for being an example of positive small town growth and commitment."

Katie Bowles, Director, Savannah Chamber of Commerce



Top: State CEC Planning Team at the Fulton Conference

Bottom: CEC webinar Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist, hosted with the Plattsburg R-3 administration, teachers, and students that work on the Tigers on Main project, a student owned store in downtown Plattsburg





Impact of using Production Records in a Commercial Cow/Calf Operation

MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock, Jim Humphrey, continued to gathering data on over 270 breeding age females and their calves, in 2024. This data is compiled by University of Missouri State Beef Geneticist for analyzation. Additionally, the group is getting several questions from producers regarding the data and trends seen over the past four years of data collection.

MU Feedlot Schools

One hundred forty-nine people attended at the four MU Feedlot Schools held in the state in 2024. We are very encouraged by the number of younger beef producers that have attended these schools. In 2025, we are planning to hold another three MU Feedlot Schools in Missouri and start holding MU Beef Stocker/Backgrounding Schools.



Beef Cow Size Project-Andrew County



Skidloader with telehandler at MU Beef Feedlot School



Jim Humphrey, MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock, teaching Show Me Quality Assurance to 4-H food animal project members in Cameron.

Northwest Missouri Grazing School

In late June 2024, we had twenty-five forage and livestock producers attend the three-day Northwest Missouri Management Intensive Grazing School. The evaluation results from this year's school were excellent and we had multiple producers who attended based on recommendations from previous attendees.

Native warm season grass plots

Taught over 600 area vo-ag students about the positive impacts Native Warm Season Grass can have on our soils, livestock, water and wildlife. Additionally, we burned all the nwsg plots at MU Hundley-Whaley. Sampled four different species of native warm season grasses (nwsg) regarding "Livestock taking a First Bite vs. Second Bite on Forages", three times at the MU Hundley-Whaley Extension and Education Center.



Eastern Gamagrass Plots at HW May 30, 2024.



Weatherization and renewable Energy

Jim Crawford, MU Extension Field Specialist in Agri Systems Technology works directly with northwest Missourians inquiries regarding:

• Energy conservation /weatherization – Steps and processes people can use to reduce their energy costs at home.

• Renewable energy – home and commercial scale wind and solar energy production systems. People want to know about these systems, can they reduce their electric bills, estimated paybacks and how does a large, commercial scale solar or wind farm being constructed near me affect my property values, my family and my lifestyle.

Unbiased, research-based information is provided to them on both of these, sometimes very complex, topics.



Attendees learn easy, low-cost ways to reduce their energy consumption and thus their energy bills during a workshop on weatherization.



Plane vs. drone fungicide application research and pollinator plot at Graves Chapple

EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

GRAVES CHAPPLE FIELD DAY



More than 170 commercial producers toured plots and listened to MU speakers at the Graves Chapple Field Day.

MU Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture, Gwen Funk, managed and collaborated on three Extension Master Gardener courses in northwest Missouri. This "train the trainer" program supports horticulture in many ways and can often be focused to meet the need of the local community. It supports the benefits of horticulture mentioned above and benefits the community with volunteer activity. Gwen coordinated two 30-hour training sessions in the region.

As a result of these activities, northwest Missouri has approximately 30 new Extension Master Gardener trainees that will help problem-solve and teach horticulture-related topics. These volunteers help facilitate other horticulture programs such as the youth Garden-n-Grow program.



Youth Garden-n-Grow participants working in the garden during the Buchanan County course coordinated by the Northwest Missouri Master Gardeners



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

This training educated crop producers for safe handling and application of restricted use pesticides. Participants learned about pest identification, economic thresholds and injury levels, emergency planning procedure and the environmental ramification of improper pesticide application with 113 participants. Participants initiated or renewed their license certification. Participants were 19 in Andrew County, 13 in Holt County, 9 in Atchison County, 24 in Buchanan, 6 in Nodaway County, 6 in DeKalb, 6 in Clinton County, 14 in Caldwell County, 7 in Daviess County, 7 in Platte and Clay Counties,



Ag staff then followed Private Applicator Training with "hot topics" in fields of ag in Horticulture, Ag Engineering, Agronomy, Livestock and Ag Business. Further regional Private pesticide applicator training was held monthly in Buchanan County reaching an additional 72 producers.

GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, seven cooperators from northwest Missouri to enroll in the Grasslands Partnership with University of Tennessee. Through this partnership we are bringing over \$140,000 to support these seven operations in enhancing their grazing operations over the next four years.

GRAVES-CHAPPLE EXTENSION & EDUCATION CENTER YOUTH AG DAY

- Two hundred thirty-three students from 7 area schools attended the annual Youth field day held on September 5. This hands-on learning event features 10 learning stations where attendees learn about important topics in agriculture and rural living. Jim Crawford, MU Extension Director of Graves-Chapple Extension & Education Center and Field Specialist in Agri Systems Technology coordinated the event.
 - An evaluation is conducted after the event to gauge students change in knowledge on the topics covered from before they attended. In 2024, the evaluations showed a combined net increase in knowledge of 44.2% for all of the learning stations.



Debbie Bennett presented to area agriculture education classes about being more mindful about how much added sugar they consume.



Gwen Funk, MU Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture, introduced students to hydroponic growing.







Students learned about the impact of temperature on livestock production from Amie Schleicher, MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock. Concepts such as thermoneutral zone and heat stress were discussed.

Wayne Flanary, MU Extension Field Specialist in Agronomy taught weed identification of common weeds to Vo-Ag/FFA students.

Jim Humphrey, MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock, taught FFA/Vo-Ag students the multiple benefits of incorporating native warm season grasses onto our livestock operations in northwest Missouri.



County highlights



The Andrew County Extension Council participated in the MU Extension Day of Service on September 26 to provide birthday kits to the Andrew County Food Pantry.



honored as the Leaders Honor Roll recipients at the Annual

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Allen and Theresa Wright and family were chosen to represent Andrew County at the Missouri State Fair during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day on August 12 in Sedalia.



The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce applied to host the 2025 CEC Conference, a MU Extension Statewide Event. The CEC state team visited the community in June, where they had the opportunity to visit with a wide variety of residents and business owners in Andrew County.

Dinner on February 22. Missouri Century Farm Kyle Bowland & Jende Smith Family Farm Established 1920 A program of University of Missouri Extension College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Missouri Farm Bureau

2024 Missouri Century Farm recipient in Andrew County.



Sheriff Grant Gillett was the speaker for the Annual Dinner and updated the council and guest on the priorities of the Andrew County Sheriffs Department, including drug use in Andrew County.

