



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Barton County

2024 Annual Report

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Lamar, Mo 64759
417-682-3579

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension

University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



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

Faculty and staff



Reagan Bluel

Field Specialist in Dairy

Allen Brandes

Extension Engagement Specialist

Kyleigh Brown

Field Specialist in Human Development

Elaine Davis

Youth Program Associate

Patrick Davis

Field Specialist in Livestock

Micah Doubledee

Field Specialist in Agronomy

Jamie Eggerman

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Katie Fields

Business Development

Theresa Fossett

FNEP Associate Director, SW and SE Regions

Sarah Havens

Regional Director- SW Region

Robert McNary

Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Amy Patillo

Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development

Melinda Rice

County Office Support Staff

Lisa Robinson

Field Specialist in Regional Economic Development

Abi Rogers

Business Development

Allen Waldo

Missouri APEX Accelerator Specialist

Council members

Greg Moyer, Chairman
Evan Clements, Vice-chairman
Deana Cook, Secretary
Eva Buchanan, Treasurer
Jan VanGilder
Mary Clark
Jack Stahl
Victoria Carter
Brenda Frieden
Lee Howard
Darrell Kentner
Kendall Krueth
Alan Ray
Teresa Shelton
Angela Weber

Appointed:

Paul Crabtree (*Farm Bureau*)
Ben Reed (*Commissioner D1*)

Youth Representatives:

Mikayla Madison
Joy Krueth
Mariah Clark



County executives

David Johnson, Presiding Commissioner
Ben Reed, District One Commissioner
Jeff Tucker, District Two Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	81,208.49
Total Income	81,208.49

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	52,804.84
Travel	5,811.82
Postage	564.00
Telephone	850.00
Advertising	406.40
Office Supplies/Service	2,922.38
Misc./Petty Cash	151.99
Utilities	6,582.98
Insurance	3,810.00
Capital Repairs	7,304.08
Total Expenses	81,208.49

Barton County partners

Barton County Chamber of Commerce
Lamar Democrat
Lamar School District
Liberal School District
Golden City School District
K-State Research and Extension
Missouri Soybeans
Lamar Bank & Trust
MFA of Lamar Iantha and Irwin
Arvest Bank
FCS Financial
Heartland Tractor
Heritage Tractor
Community National Bank
Redneck Blinds

Return on investment

New Roof By VersiWeld TPO \$65,023.20



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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to (*name of county*) County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

UM System County Impacts

2025 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Barton County



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

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

32 students

- 29 Undergraduates
- 3 Graduate and professional students
- 27 Full-time students
- 5 Part-time students
- 10 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)

County employees and retirees

3 people employed by UM

- 3 Campuses



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 2 Medicine
- 8 Nursing
- 5 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 6 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 3 Veterinary Medicine
- 36 Agriculture
- 21 Engineering
- 13 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 2 teachers
- 1.3% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 22 students
- 103 alumni
- 1 employee

UMKC

- 1 student
- 30 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 8 students
- 17 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 1 student
- 5 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Barton County



County population: 11,685



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 30 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$48,634 of uncompensated care
- 5 in-state patients 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 9 visits to 8 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 1,256 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 142 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 1,049 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 51 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Barton 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)

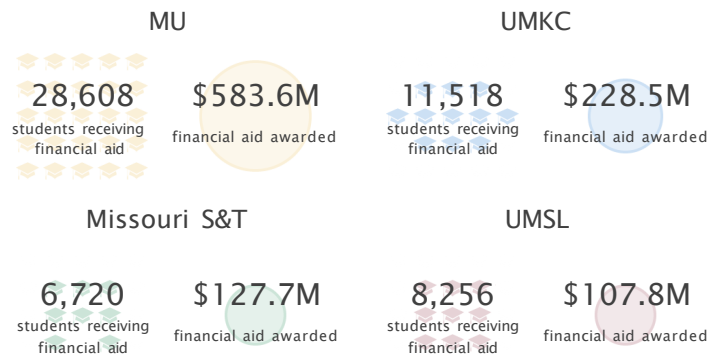


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

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



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



BARTON 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 \$57,757,000 in 2017, an average of \$73,858 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Barton	782	\$73,858
Missouri	87,887	\$56,606

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

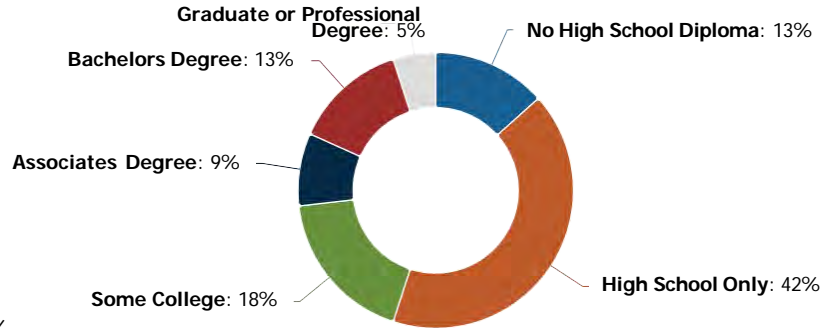


CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

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

In the report area, 18.2% of adults have at least some college education and 21.8% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 41.6% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 13.4% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

13.37%

Missouri

8.69%

Barton

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

Data Source: [US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 35 deaths of despair, or 38.63 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents a decrease of -18.26% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.7 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.7 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

Mortality Rate,
2014-2020
38.63

Missouri

52.01 😞

Barton



5.7

Missouri

5.3 😞

Barton



Data Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via County Health Rankings, 2021.](#)

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



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
Barton	74	19	0	0	93
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary](#), 2022.



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

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



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.



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.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Barton County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories

Barton County 4-H Celebrating 90 years.

October 1, 1934, Winfred Hudson of Irwin Country School organized the first 4-H Club enrolling 16 students. The 4-H Sunshine Club projects were Health and First Aid. Elgin Dermott Barton County School Superintendent went on to official charter 21 4-H clubs in the rural schools during 1934. Barton County 4-H organized its first Barton County 4-H Council in 1967 a leadership team of club leaders, volunteers and youth included Mrs. Gene Snip, Cinda Snip, Marsha Richter Gail Miller, Claude Howard and Janice Dingman worked together to build a 4-H program that would include leadership, projects work, 4-H events that youth would enjoy and grow for years. The 2024-25 4-H Council includes Cinda (Snip) Miller, Sondra Smith, Sheri Keltner, Melinda Morgan, JJ(Arnold) Shaw, Tanya Crabtree, Linda Krueth, Kelly Nolting, Darlene Sullins, Melissa(Smith) Hart, Beth Reed. The tradition carries on where “Learning By Doing” continues to “Making The Best Better.”



90 Years Later “BARTON COUNTY 4- H Reaches All Ages”

Barton County 4-H Youth Development Programs have experienced 4-H expansion and growth in Barton County. County data reports that Barton County 4-H Youth Development has reached 1,217 youth in traditional 4-H club units and special interest groups organized throughout Barton County.

4-H Project Excellence was awarded during the 65th annual 4-H Recognition Banquet where 4-H Members submitted 117 4-H Project Report forms 35 youth were recognized for 4-H County, State, Regional and National levels of Excellence. All 4-H clubs met their goals of achievement through project exhibition. The 2024 exhibition of 4-H project work included 26 exhibits to the Missouri State Fair, 89 items entered at Ozark Empire Fair and 228 small exhibits in the Lamar Free Fair.



Barton County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories

4-H Personal Development offers all members the opportunity to learn and experience personal growth through interactive activities, real life experiences, and communication groups. 4-H events include Barton County Achievement Day, Barton County Super Kid Camp and SW 4-H Camp. "4-H Learning by Doing" process offers youth the ability to learn and use practical life skills as they to grow through personal development.



4-H nontraditional programs included STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) spin clubs in Liberal, MO. and Lamar, Mo. A Rural Safety Day partnership with FFA Students for Lamar and Liberal students. The 4-H Healthy Living project features 4-H Spin Blender Bike The Character Critter program in Lamar Head Start student ages 3-5 years old highlight learning with positive rewards though family story and activities. The 4-H Futures Program at the Lamar Career and Tech Center is designed to open doors to high school students as the plan on the future through educational opportunities of skilled training or college.



Local Profiles and Stories

County School Enrichment

The 4-H SNAC Program using the Kids in the Kitchen curriculum shared with Liberal 4th and 6th grade students. Golden City Schools expanded the SNAC program to include grades 3rd, 4th and 5th. 4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) initiative is a program developed with the University of Missouri Extension's Family Nutrition Education Program and Missouri 4-H. The club, which has no cost to members, focuses on teaching nutrition along with leadership and citizenship skills that are central to 4-H. SNAC clubs across Missouri are being established to reach new youth and families through partnerships with nutrition education programs, schools, and other nutrition education programs for underserved youth. All students were given opportunity to prepare healthy snack options in classroom



Barton County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Agriculture on the Move is a program from Missouri Farmers Care Enriching lives one classroom at a time. The program teaches elementary school children about where their food comes from, how farmers support their community, and much more. The program also focuses on STEM events and one-day workshops exploring career options in the field. Barton County 4-H is excited about the Stem programs. The ten-week special program has provided fun and educational learning experiences for students interested in agriculture. Focus of the sessions kid participants to connect the dots between their hamburger, carton of milk or eggs, box of crayons and more, while learning to appreciate today's farm families and how technology allows us to do more with fewer resources. Youth applied their knowledge through hands-on STEM activities around crops, livestock, soil and water science, nutrition, and careers. We believe that by working together, we can achieve more.



Barton County

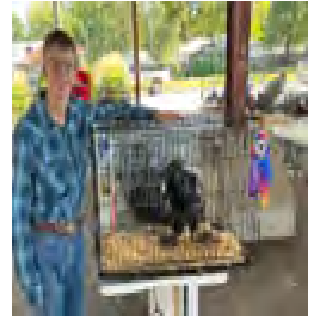
Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



AS THE "ROOSTER CROWED" BARTON COUNTY 4-H 1ST ANNUAL POULTRY, RABBIT, AND CAVY SHOW

- Registrations included 85 birds, 28 rabbits and 10 guinea pigs.
 - 11 different breeds of rabbits
 - 25 different breeds of Poultry.
 - 3 breeds of cavy
- Each specie was divided by class and category.
- Exhibitors traveled from Missouri and Kansas to participate and learn from the event.
- Special event egg judging and grading class,
- Showmanship in each category of Poultry, Rabbits and Cavy.
- It was an exciting day filled with learning, sharing about their projects.
- The community enjoyed a new event and knowledge provided by youth contestants.





COMMUNITY SERVICE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT LEADERSHIP



Community service is a priority with Barton County 4-H Families. The 4-H Youth are active with the Missouri Community Betterment who provide evaluation on community service projects. MCB presented the Barton County 4-H Teen Leaders with 2024 MCB Youth Group of the Year Award recognizing Best Youth led award : Barton County Memorial Park Landscaping Project and Most unique Community Activity: Truman Health Care Farm Days. Mikayla Madison also received MCB Youth Leadership ward.



Barton County 4-H, Lamar Community Betterment, and Walmart partnered to collect school supplies for Lamar, Liberal, and Golden city schools in Barton County. Each school supplied a short bus on the parking lot where volunteers loaded school supply donations. Monetary donations were also accepted. This yearly project benefits students who cannot afford basic school supplies. The donations are sent directly to the school, so teachers have immediate supplies to help students and families. This service project is a great partnership for the community.



"Leadership is unlocking one's potential to become better." Barton County 4-H Youth Brenna Morey, Joy Krueth, Kileigh Ball were selected to attend 2024 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Mo. 4-H selected a group of 20 youth statewide representing 4-H Leadership, Project work and Civic engagement. Mo 4-H Youth joined seven hundred youth delegates representing 45 states and Puerto Rico. 4-H Youth had the opportunity provide community service in area schools, leadership speaking to organizations, and tour various business. The event was highlighted with evening of culture at the Atlanta History Center.

Leadership and Community Service - Barton County 4-H members have gained valuable leadership and life skills donating over 1000 hours of service through youth /adult community partnerships



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



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.



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 2024, over 3,600 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed 98,200 VOLUNTEER HOURS – giving back over \$3 million to their communities.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming Lamar Management Intensive Grazing School

- 5 people were educated on grazing and cattle management.
- The goal is for cattle producers to use this knowledge to more efficiently manage their cattle and forage operation.

Cattle Winter Feeding and Pasture Management Workshop

- 15 people were educated on winter management of cattle and pastures for success in the next grazing season.
- The goal was that cattle producers would utilize knowledge on their operation to be successful through the winter and the coming grazing season.

Show-Me-Select™ Replacement Heifer Program

- This program educates cattle producers on proper nutrition, reproductive, and health management to create a reliable source of bred replacement heifers for their operation or to sell to other cattle operations.
- In the spring one producer developed and marketed 21 bred heifers for an average price of \$2,909. In the fall 3 producers developed and marketed 36 heifers for an average price of \$3,133.



Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming Feeder Cattle Grading, Marketing and Feeding Workshop

- This workshop was part of the Missouri Steer Feedout Program and was provided in cooperation with Barton County MO Cattlemen's Association, Show Me Youth Ag Academy, and Missouri State University.
- This workshop educated Steer Feedout participants and approximately 60 people on grading, pricing and marketing feeder cattle using the 43 steers from 6 farms in the Steer Feedout. Furthermore, participants were educated on feeding these cattle in the feedlot.

Missouri Steer Feedout

- This program is designed to provide hands on education to cattle producer in feeding cattle in the feedlot. Furthermore, it allows these producers to received carcass and feedlot performance data on the steers that can be used in marketing their cattle and making management decisions, so their cattle perform better and are more profitable post weaning. Also, this program is being used in education of youth at the high school level.
- This county had one farm enroll 5 steers that will be marketed in the summer of 2025.



Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming

Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Days

- This program is a cooperative effort between veterinary clinics, pharmaceutical companies and MU Extension. Bull testing periods are in the spring and fall where the bull goes through a breeding soundness exam and is provided vaccinations at a reduced cost. Bull owners receive handouts and education from MU Extension on prior breeding season bull management.
- In the spring 2 bull owners tested 10 bull and all bulls were satisfactory to breed. In the fall 1 bull owner tested 9 bulls and they were satisfactory to breed. This process educated the cattle producer letting them know that they are using bulls that should provide optimum pregnancy rates during the breeding season.

Youth Programming

Show Me Youth Ag Academy High School Class

- 12 people educated on bull development and management.
- This was part of the Bull Breeding Soundness day in the spring, so students got hands on education in this process as well and bull management prior to the breeding season.

Community Safety Net Rural Safety Day

- 193 youth across two schools were educated on rural safety with the help of high school agriculture classes and books provided from Community Safety Net through local donations.



Barton 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.

Soil Testing and Plant Testing

University of Missouri County Extension offices offer soil testing and plant testing via the soil testing lab and plant disease diagnostic lab in Columbia, MO for Missouri landowners, farmers, gardeners, commercial and agricultural producers. The results from soil tests give producer 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, 49 soil test were submitted through the Barton County office. A few plant disease samples were also submitted to the disease diagnostic lab from the Barton County office.

Soil Sample



Insect traps



Pest Monitoring Network and Insect Trapping

Agronomy field specialist around the state set up pest monitoring stations in various counties to monitor the arrival of certain pests throughout the growing season. The insects that were trapped through the season were Japanese beetle, brown marmorated stink bug, black cutworm, corn earworm, fall armyworm, and true armyworm. This insect trapping program gives the Missouri Pest Monitoring Network information to send out alerts to growers when specific insects reach certain thresholds during the growing season. Agronomist Micah Doubledee set up an insect trapping location in Lamar, MO to assist with the Pest Monitoring Network. In 2024, the corn leafhopper became an insect of concern in Missouri spreading a new corn disease in the area. Sticky traps were also placed to monitor for this insect's ability to overwinter in the county.



Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Pesticide Applicator Training

University of Missouri Extension provides initial pesticide applicator training and recertification of Missouri's agricultural producers that desired a private pesticide applicator license. This training is for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides. Private Pesticide Applicator Training program is a vital educational program that focuses on providing knowledge of the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides as well as the legal requirements associated with application. During 2024, Agronomist Micah Doubledee along with other specialists and office personnel provided in-person and online pesticide applicator training classes and 45 people from Barton County participated.



Barton County Private Pesticide Applicator Training class in Lamar, MO on Feb. 19, 2024.

State Line Crop Conference

Agronomist Micah Doubledee hosted the State Line Crop Conference in Lamar, MO for local Missouri and Kansas farmers as well as people of the community. This conference featured speakers who spoke on a variety of topics focusing on weed management, disease management, MU variety testing tool, nutrient management, soybean genetics and breeding information (SoyGen), and Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop and Livestock (CRCL) Project. Participants received a free lunch from Pichler's Chicken Annie's. A total of 55 people attend the State Line Crop Conference with 6 speakers (4 from MU and 2 from KSU), and 8 sponsors.



Kevin Bradley speaking at State Line Crop Conference in Lamar, MO on Feb. 15, 2024.

Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Crop Scouting Program

Agronomist Micah Doubledee continued the weekly crop scouting program which informs producers of pest and disease threats during the growing season by scouting fields in Barton, Jasper and Dade Counties. Participants pay \$35 dollars a year to join the program to have their fields scouted. A 2- to 3-page report is sent out via email to the participants discussing scouting observations and research-based information on topics such as environmental issues, nutrient deficiencies, plant diseases, pest identification and management, pictures, resource and video links, upcoming Ag events and more. This report is also sent to the Lamar Democrat paper the following week for other local farmers and residents to read. In 2024, 15 producers actively participated in the program. Participants were from Barton, Dade, Jasper and Newton counties.



Fusarium Head Blight on wheat from crop scouting program.



Tractors at the Lamar Free Fair Tractor Show on August 24, 2024.

Community Engagement

Lamar Free Fair Tractor Show

University of Missouri Field Specialists interact the public to help support local community events. This is a picture of the Tractor Show at the Lamar Free Fair in Barton County. Community engagement helps remind locals of the services that the University of Missouri Extension can provide. Agronomist Micah Doubledee spent time interacting with local tractor owners and visitors and provided free water to participants.

Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener Extension Program is “helping others learn to grow.” The program provides in depth horticultural training to individuals who then volunteer their time applying what they have learned to help others in their communities to learn about gardening and environmental education.

Barton County Master Gardeners

In 2024, the Master Gardeners of Barton County based Lamar, MO continued 3 volunteer projects which included maintaining two community gardens: the Demonstration garden at the Lamar City Park, the garden at the senior center and awarding the “Yard of the Month” which is selected quarterly. Master Gardeners with their friends undertake the hard work of pulling weeds, hauling mulch, moving rocks, digging in the dirt and planting. The spring annual plant sale which sells cuttings, divisions, seedlings and plants generated \$535 in 2024. The proceeds from this sale go towards the upkeep of the community gardens and help with any field trips that might take place. In the fall, Master Gardeners nominate winners for the Halloween/ fall decorating contest. Along with monthly meetings, members participate in yard tours of member’s gardens and attend group field trips to increase their education.

In 2024, the Barton County Master Gardener group had 9 active members (6 who are Master Gardener Emeritus). A total of 144.5 volunteer hours and 24 education hours were reported in 2024. Agronomist Micah Doubledee serves as the Barton County Master Gardener coordinator.



Volunteer and educational hours consist of performing volunteer work on Master Gardener projects and other activities; and attending, hosting and teaching classes related to the Master Gardener Program.



Barton County Master Gardeners



Barton County Master Gardeners plant sale

Barton County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

The first-year Master Gardeners are expected to provide 30 hours of service and seasoned master gardeners are only expected to provide 20 hours. Continuing education an important part of volunteer service. They are expected to submit a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education each year.



Master Gardeners installing landscape edging around the demonstration Garden at the Lamar City Park.



Demonstration Garden at the Lamar City Park.



Brett Birdsong's "Yard of the Month."



Garden Tour at Tim Phillip's hours.



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 through credible statewide programs
Health and Human Sciences



Chronic Disease Self-Management programs offer evidence-based information for individuals and their caregivers to boost self-confidence in managing symptoms, enhancing quality of life and even reducing health care expenses.

These programs have undergone rigorous evaluation and are proven to be effective tools for individuals dealing with chronic conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, depression and diabetes.



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.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Barton County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Healthy Aging in Southwest Missouri

Jamie Eggerman, Nutrition and Health Education Specialist

Relevance

Falls are the leading cause of injury and death among adults aged 65 and older, as reported by the CDC. In Southwest Missouri, approximately 167,828 individuals (18.31% of the population) are aged 65 or older. This highlights the critical need for fall prevention programs and initiatives that support independent living within our communities. Motivated by this, I sought opportunities to engage with local residents and provide them with the tools necessary to reduce the risk of falls and promote healthy aging.

Response

Through a variety of outreach efforts, I was able to impact over 250 individuals, ages 65 and older, through 50 sessions. A key event was the Freeman Health Fair, where I reached more than half of these individuals, focusing on fall prevention. During the event, I conducted balance assessments and discussed the importance of strength training in reducing fall risk. As a result, 20 participants committed to incorporating balance exercises into their weekly routines.

The Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program is an in-person strength training class that spans eight weeks and includes 16 sessions. The program is designed to engage participants in exercises that are proven to enhance muscle strength and help individuals maintain their independence for longer.

Together with my colleagues, Hannah Whittaker and Eden Stewart, we facilitated several Stay Strong, Stay Healthy classes. Participants were highly motivated and committed to their personal progress throughout the course. By the final weeks, many participants were brainstorming ways to continue the practices they had learned and expressed interest in additional classes. We have received multiple requests to schedule more sessions in the future.

Results

All participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program completed pre- and post-surveys, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. However, the most rewarding aspect was hearing firsthand accounts of their personal growth. Participants shared stories about improvements in everyday activities, such as tying their shoes with greater ease, and expressed statements like, "I feel stronger." These personal experiences not only highlighted the success of the program but also fostered a sense of community among participants. Some individuals even discussed the possibility of carpooling to a future class in a neighboring area.

Educating over 200 individuals on the value of strength training for maintaining independence has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. It has reinforced the importance of the work we do within the Health and Human Sciences department at MU Extension and its impact on the lives of older adults in our region.

Sources:

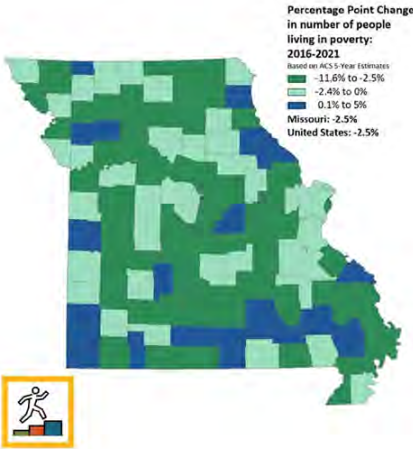
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MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



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.

"TAAF funds enhanced our ability to rival our competitors. Now we are proficiently showcasing our American products and feeling stronger in the marketplace."

**Nancy Montgomery,
Tacony Manufacturing
St. James, MO**



The **Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center** (TAAC) administers TAAF, a program funded of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. TAAF's mission is to boost American manufacturers' ability to compete in a global market, strengthen operations and improve profitability, thereby increasing U.S. jobs. Mid-America TAAC assists manufacturing firms in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Mid-America TAAC reported that client sales revenues were more than \$2 BILLION IN 2022.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



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Barton County

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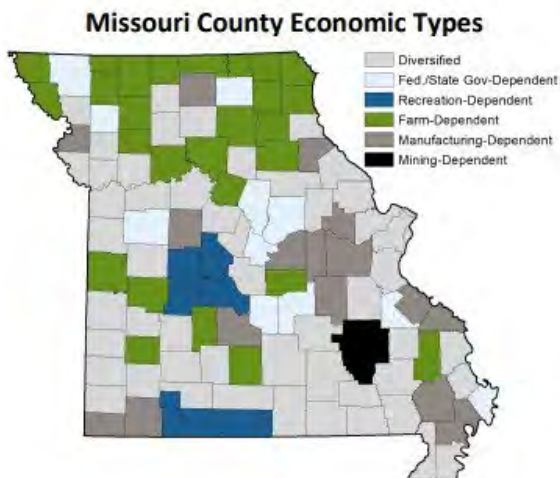
Local Impact

Barton County participants completed a survey, “Show-Me Planning for Thriving Communities,” received survey results, received training in community development, and participated in a second survey.

A group from the Extension Council participated in a Strategic Doing session where they considered the question: “Imagine Barton County Extension as the ‘go to’ entity for the county; programs that keep youth, adults, and seniors engaged year-round. What would that look like?” The group decided on top opportunities where they would focus.

Data from Exceed and other sources is shared with local decision makers via individual meetings or programming that is developed to serve the needs of the county.

Are you interested in Exceed data?
Join the mailing list to receive
Missouri Economy Indicators:



<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/exceed/missouri-economy-indicators>

Collaborations with entities serving the county: educational institutions (Crowder College and Missouri Southern State University), economic partnership (MOKAN Partnership), workforce entities (Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri), and the Barton County Chamber of Commerce will collaborate for an Economic Summit in 2025.

Together these collaborations efforts strengthen a shared vision for enhancing the economic ecosystem of the county. We are building a brighter future for all who call Barton County home.

Save the date for the Economic Summit: Friday, March 14, 2025. The event will be held at the First Baptist Church.

A Workforce Summit is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2025 in Joplin.

Data is available for any entity in Barton County. Data from CARES (Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems) hosts a Thriving Communities Starter Report which produces data on:

Vitality (Ex. Access to childcare centers)
Belonging (Ex. Housing vacancy rates)
Contribution (Ex. 501c3 organizations)
Thriving Measures (Ex. well-being)
(many other measures are also available)

<https://allthingsmissouri.org/thriving-communities-starter-report/>

Contact Lisa Robinson for a custom report or additional county data.

Office: (417) 358-2158

Email: robinsonlj@missouri.edu

Barton County

Economic Opportunity

Business and Community

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri Southern State University provides support to Barton 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 including:

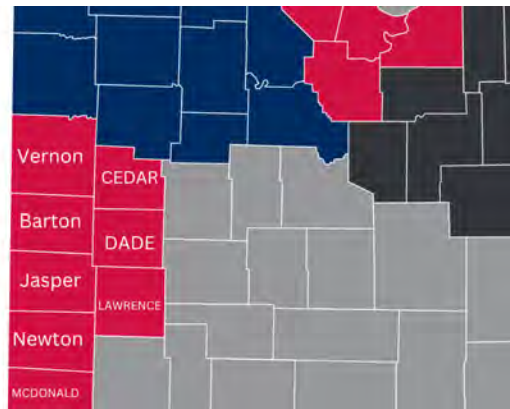
- Starting a business
- Cash flow management
- Business loan refinancing and expansion
- Business relocation
- Financial planning
- Marketing and social media strategy
- Purchasing a business
- Childcare grant application assistance
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization
- Experiential projects linking MSSU students and business owners

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

- ✓ **15** Business owners received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses
- ✓ **19** Jobs retained
- ✓ **1** Government contracts awarded to small businesses in Barton County
- ✓ **114** Training event attendees



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri Southern State University serves 8 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@mssu.edu

417-625-3128

www.mssutrainning.com

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$19,074

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



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Community and Professional Health Education

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

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.

17 direct and 467 indirect contacts were made in Barton 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.

Agency in Barton County impacted by SNAP-Education

Programming: Lamar Headstart



Legend



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