



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Bollinger County 2024



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573-238-2420



 **Extension**  
*University of Missouri*  
an equal opportunity/ADA institution

December 2024

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

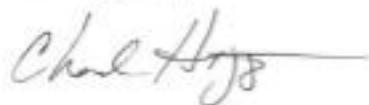
As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

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



Stephanie Schindler  
Extension and  
Engagement Specialist



Vickie Seiler  
Nutrition Program  
Associate



Willie Saputo  
Youth Program Associate



Kristy Mayfield  
Administrative Assistant

## Other Faculty Serving Bollinger County

Brad Coleman- 4-H  
Clayton Skelton- 4-H  
Sarah Barks- Community Health  
Donna Aufdenberg – Horticulture  
Anthony Ohmes – Agronomy  
David Reinbott- Agriculture Business  
Bethany Bachman – Nutrition and Health  
Sarah Denkler – Regional Director  
Sarah Higgins – Natural Resources  
Audrey Johnson- Human Development &  
Family Sciences

## Council members

**Dr. Nicholas Thiele, Chairperson**  
**Judson Mayfield, Vice Chairperson**  
**Sheila Porter, Treasurer**  
**Darlene Bollinger, Secretary**  
**Jody McCormick**  
**Nikki Wolfe, Farm Bureau Representative**  
**Phil Gregory**  
**Diane Dowdy**  
**Shelly Garner**  
**Caitlin Morgan**  
**Taylor Eftink-Wilkinson**  
**Piper Lincoln, Youth Representative**  
**Leo Arnzen, Presiding Commissioner**

**The Bollinger County Extension, faculty and staff would like to express our deep appreciation to the Bollinger County Commissioners for their continued support of MU Extension programming.**

## County commissioners

Leo Arnzen, Presiding  
Commissioner

Chad Hulvey, First  
District Commissioner

Tim Shelby, Second  
District Commissioner



# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

<b>Income</b>	
County Appropriations	\$28,500.00
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personnel Salary/Wage	\$24,875.88
Travel	\$2,412.00
Communications	\$2,388.00
Supplies/Services	\$924.11
Equipment/Maintenance	\$759.00
Insurance	\$330.78
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$31,689.77</b>

## Return on investment

University System	\$51,760.00
Donations	\$3,503.32
Program Revenue	\$661.85
The Return on Investment in Bollinger is \$2.07 for every \$1.00.	

## Key Outcomes

- FNEP programming made 939 direct and 1,608 indirect contacts in Bollinger County. Youth and adults learn healthy eating habits.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid-Bollinger County (25 educational leaders) 38.5% of participants reported the course has better prepared them for the work they do professionally.
- University of Missouri Extension offered an estate planning class in Bollinger County, 18 adults received valuable information on the importance of completing an estate plan.
- University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists coordinated four tax schools this year, Bollinger County had 3 participants.
- Soil management, including soil test interpretation, reached 163 individuals in Bollinger County.

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

### Bollinger County Leaders Honor Roll

The Leaders Honor Roll recognizes outstanding leaders and volunteers who have supported and helped to advance MU Extension in their communities. Congratulations to Dr. Colleen Retz, recognized during 2024.



# Bollinger County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

**12 students**

- 9 Undergraduates
- 3 Graduate and professional students
- 8 Full-time students
- 4 Part-time students



### County employees and retirees

**4 people employed by UM**

- 4 Campuses



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 4 Nursing
- 11 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 1 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 2 Veterinary Medicine
- 18 Agriculture
- 14 Engineering
- 4 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 7 teachers
- 4.9% of all district teachers



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 5 students
- 48 alumni
- 4 employees

**UMKC**

- 0 students
- 4 alumni
- 0 employees

**Missouri S&T**

- 6 students
- 14 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 1 student
- 17 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Bollinger County



County population: 10,658



### County services provided

**Health care (FY23)**

- 5 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$4,203 of uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 23 visits to 9 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 5,405 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 51 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 5,299 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 10 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Bollinger County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Profiles and Stories

Each of our five traditional 4-H Clubs integrate community service into their programs. These clubs – The Cheerful Workers, Country Club 4-H, Crooked Creek 4-H, the Leopold 4-H Club and the Patton 4-H Club - offer long term experiences for members to learn life skills such as leadership, citizenship, responsibility and teamwork.

Six hundred and twenty-three youth were involved in more than 83 different project areas this year, guided by 55 adult and youth volunteers and staff. Eighty-one 4-H members were active in several different fairs, attended regional summer camps, events held on campus and locally sponsored offerings such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bollinger County Speech Contest and A Day with a Veterinarian. Members and families participated in Community 4-H Clubs, Special Interest Clubs (SPIN) and SNAC clubs.

Summer enrichment grants were obtained to assist with the Bollinger County Library's summer reading program and to provide a Food Preservation Spin Club. These funds also provided some extra supplies to support the existing 4-H Program and help grow 4-H in Bollinger County.

### Bollinger County Youth Futures

Youth Futures programs have been implemented in the Meadow Heights and Zalma School Districts. Youth learn the steps necessary to enroll in college or a career center, choosing and getting into college, exploring possible majors and careers, skills for life, career skills for success and financial literacy including information on the FAFSA, scholarships, grants, and loans. Youth will write a resume, fill out a sample job application and cover letter, conduct a mock interview, complete tax forms, and create a scholarship letter.

Youth who complete the program are eligible for 4-H Foundation Scholarships. In Bollinger County, over 100 youth have participated this year. New school-based programming includes personal finance and careers classes at Meadow Heights and STEM programming that will start in 2025 at the Woodland School District.

**Reciting the pledges at the Cheerful Workers meeting.**



**Patton 4-H Club's August meeting was a crafty affair.**



**First year 4-H member, Weston, from the Patton 4-H Club, showed champion and reserve champion goats at the SEMO Fair. He won the showmanship award in his age group &, received the goat herdsman award.**



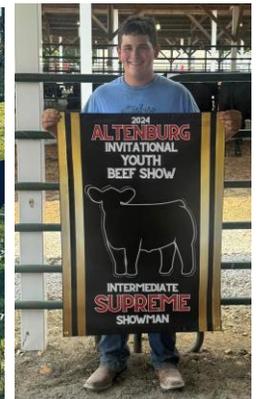
**Fun in the Mud at the SEMO Fair with the Cape Girardeau Police Dept.**



**Ava, Grand Champion Goat Showmanship Ages 14 & up**



**Crooked Creek 4-H Lighted Park Display**



**Jacob Bollinger wins at East Perry Co. Fair**

# Bollinger County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Profiles and Stories

### 4-H Day with a Veterinarian...



...and a snake, a heifer, a horse, a dog, a cat, a chicken, and a guinea pig!



Maria Calvert at the Missouri State Fair



The **Power** of Youth



18 USC 707



**George "Anthony" Ohmes**  
*Field Specialist in Agronomy*

# Bollinger County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Forage Systems

Diversifying forage systems for greater resilience of the forage supply by implementing the use of warm and cool season forages, perennial and annual grasses, legumes, and forbs to meet the needs of Missouri's diverse livestock segment.

Grazing School teaches Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) methods that improve forage persistence and quality, increasing the number of days of grazing forages in pastures, reducing dependency on hay, while conserving Missouri's natural resources. Twenty-two attended from Southeast and East Central Regions resulting in 95% planned adoption.

Extending the Grazing Season event addressed need of alternative forage crops, sunn hemp for summer and milo for winter grazing. One-on-one direct consultation on forage species, soils tests, nutrients, weeds and insects was provided to 148 individuals across the region.



Extending the Grazing Season quote, "Been wanting to plant milo for some time but was not 100% of how it all worked. Feel more comfortable about planting milo now [for winter forage]."



Picture: One of 32 2024 PPAT events offered.

#### Field Crops and Soils

Increasing Missouri field crop production through education on integrated pest, nutrient, crop, and soil management accomplished through events, soil testing, and one-on-one consultations. Four regional meetings reached 214 individuals. Invited to educate 83 producers on corn ear disease. Individual one-on-one consultation on field crop management reached 141 producers across the region. Soil management including soil tests reached 163 individuals in Bollinger County.

#### Pesticide Applicator Training

Integrating pest management methods, protecting the environment, and reducing exposure risk while meeting federal and state requirements for restricted use pesticides. Thirty-two private applicator trainings offered across the Southeast Region and one aerial commercial applicator training educated 287 private and commercial applicators.

Missouri Agriculture contributes \$93.7 billion annually to Missouri's economy.\*

\*Missouri Department of Agriculture 2024 Status Report



Picture: 2024 Rice Meeting. One of 3 commodity meetings offered in Southeast Missouri.

# Bollinger County



## Agriculture and Environment

### Donna Aufdenberg, Field Specialist in Horticulture

In 2024, there were 2,072 direct contacts through gardening programs where participants (locally and across the state) engaged in learning through in-person and online programs. Participants learned about vegetable gardening, plant propagation, growing and using culinary herbs, growing specialty crops hydroponically, container gardening, victory gardens, gardening pests and many more topics.



Master Gardeners (47 members from Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Scott and Perry Counties) completed 2,552 hours valued at \$75,000 given to local communities through beautification, education, and service to others.

In July 2024, youth participated in a three-day camp coordinated by Aufdenberg and Master Gardeners which focused on the senses: smell, taste, see, feel, and hear. Planting, eating, and crafting allowed youth to explore gardening.



MU + SEMO = Hydroponics! Ten students learned to assemble six different units, manage pH and EC, and learned to grow lettuce, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Classes were taught by Aufdenberg.

In addition to providing programming locally for 18 counties in 2024, Aufdenberg participated in state-wide programming through the weekly Garden Hour Webinars, Spring Gardening Webinar, Pest Management Webinar, State-wide Hydroponic Grant, Master Gardener Training, and many more.

## Top Gardening Requests

Vegetable Gardening • Growing Berries • Planting Fruit Trees • Composting • Soil Testing • Raised Bed Garden • Hydroponics • Planting Shrubs

A monthly Garden Spade Newsletter reaches over 2,300 subscribers every month with a 20% increase in readership during 2024. Subscribe to the garden spade at <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/cape-girardeau> or click the QR code at the right.



### Alexis Stumpe

Field Specialist in Livestock

**Show-Me-Select Heifer Replacement Program** sold 1,353 heifers in 2024 including operations in Bollinger County. Sales held in Southeast Missouri totaled \$279,100 for fall calving heifers and \$191,800 for spring calving heifers. Producers implement total quality management to on farm heifer development and improve their herd management, reproduction, and genetics with retained ownership or market heifers for added income. Buyers improve their herds and experience lower incidence of dystocia and calf or heifer losses.

# Bollinger County

**Jason C. Morris, PhD**  
Regional Agriculture Business Field Specialist

## Agriculture Business and Policy

### Local Impact

#### Annie's Project

A new program was delivered in the Southeast Region which involved women in agriculture. More than nine On My Own programs were scheduled throughout the 18 county Southeast Region.

#### Grazing School

In conjunction with other Extension disciplines and outside stake holders, Agriculture Business and policy was involved in numerous Grazing School programs offered in varying counties.

#### Ag Lenders Seminar

The Ag Lenders Seminar is a multi county programming effort to educate those who work in the field of agriculture finance and those who desire knowledge. This program consists of marketing outlooks, weather forecasts as well as past and current trends related to farming.

#### Farm Lease Classes

Many questions related to farm leases from producers and landlords are addressed yearly by MU Extension agricultural business specialists. As a relatively new program, several throughout Southeast Missouri participated in this program on-line and in-person. The two primary topics covered were items in a lease and terminating a farm lease. Estimates have 33 percent of farm leases in Missouri are still oral and oral lease termination is complicated and somewhat unique to the state. This program continues to draw participants, and elderly landowners appreciate the in-person option greatly.

#### Farm Tax Workshops

MU Extension hosted and taught Farm Tax Workshops for farm businesses and farm and ranch families. The content included Corporate Transparency Act, TCJA, estate & gift tax sunset, conservation tax issues, managing high/low-income years, Section 179 and depreciation, sales & exchanges and retirement and social security planning.

The online participants planned to take some action before the end of the year. The planned actions included: reviewing farm records (70%), meeting with tax preparer before the end of the year (67%), communicate with family members (50%) and fifty percent plan to review resources before purchasing begins in 2025.

#### Beef Producers

One of the greatest impacts for 2024 was addressing issues and needs which faced Southeast Missouri beef producers. Extension and Ag Business hosted several meetings throughout the year to educate producers regarding weather conditions, marketing options, financial directives and more. MU Extension was involved in or participated in no less than eight cattle related meetings.

#### 2024 Program Highlight

Beef Producers at risk: For the second year in a row, I invited Dr. Tim Evans, Assoc. Prof. & State Ext. Specialist, Veterinary Medicine from MU, to help find solutions facing local beef producers. In addition, Dr. Evans presented at two cattlemen's association meetings. This year, we transversed five counties and met with numerous producers. We have secured future endeavors to host farm and field days. Originating from a one county visit, this small project has grown into a program encompassing many counties.

Some of the questions and comments were:

*"How can I get Dr. Evans to my farm?"*

*"Will and can he come back next year?"*

*"Why have we not done this before?"*

# Bollinger County

## Business and Community

### Local Impact

The Estate Planning Class uses the fictional family pictured at right to demonstrate the consequences of not having an estate plan.



Jennifer R. Williams taught an estate planning class in Bollinger County to **18 adults**, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.

**“I am not very well prepared for my estate plan – but soon I will be!”**

**“It helped me understand what needs to be done regarding my parents’ estate plan as well as my own.”**

## Estate Planning: What’s the Worst that Can Happen???



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

### Extension Tax Schools

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

The 2024 tax school attendance totaled three hundred fifty people. The participants were from throughout Missouri. Bollinger County had 3 participants this year.



Economic  
Opportunity

# Bollinger County

## Community and Professional Health Education

### Local Profiles and Stories



*Sarah Barks, Field Specialist in Community Health in the Southeast and East Central regions*

Since starting with MU Extension in April I have been very busy! I completed the MO-RE course which assisted in creating a Strategic Plan for my regions. Part of this course included conducting a Community Voices survey in which all Missourians were given a chance to have their voices heard.

Eighty-six respondents across my regions fully participated. The findings are insightful and helped identify and prioritize my focus areas. In East Central and Southeast Regions of Missouri, the three priority areas were identified as heart disease, poor mental health and lung cancer. Much of my time is spent doing work in these counties with the focus of these priority areas.

I attended coalition meetings in each county, participated in Sequential Intercept Mapping and helped develop a Community Health Improvement plan.

I achieved certification in WeCanProsper Resiliency Training and have since offered this course five times. I have presented my regional needs assessment findings to MU Extension councils and community partners including coalitions. I recently presented about the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. In August, I was trained in Strengthening Families Program 10-14 and assisted facilitating the training to a local coalition.

# Bollinger County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### 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.

FNEP programming made 939 direct and 1,608 indirect contacts in Bollinger County. Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices. They are 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.

NPA: Vickie Seiler teaching Show Me Nutrition Pre-K Let's Read About Healthy Eating at Zalma Elementary

#### Success Story

Recently I returned to Head Start to continue my series of teaching Show Me Nutrition. As I was asking the students if they remembered the story that I had read the last time, of course they said it was about germs. I was like yes, that was correct, and we went over the information that we had covered. Then after I had finished my lesson, an aide to the class came to me and said that the students really listened to me when we talked about singing the ABC's when they washed their hands. She had noticed that their students were singing their ABC's every time they washed their hands after I had done my lesson. She felt like they had taken my message to heart and were wanting to have clean hands.



# Bollinger County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Mental Health First Aid

The Youth Mental Health First Aid program is an interactive session that teaches individuals how to identify the warning signs of mental health problems. MHFA gives adults who work with youth and adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

Bollinger County (25 participants) - 38.5% of participants reported the course has better prepared them for the work they do professionally.

Mississippi, Scott, New Madrid, Dunklin, Pemiscot, Stoddard, Cape, Perry, Bollinger counties

Audrey Johnson  
Human Development  
Specialist



Photo of educators trained by Audrey and John in Youth Mental Health First Aid



"Reliable, Responsive, and Relevant Information for the Missouri Gardener" October 2024

#### Joro Spiders Are Nothing to Worry About - Yet

**What's Inside...**  
Joro Spiders Are Nothing to Worry About Yet 1,2  
What is it? 2,4  
Getting a Wagon on Composting 3  
Do You Know the Difference? 4  
Kids Ask Dr. Bug 5,6  
Word of the Month: Annual Biographies 7  
Cassids 8  
Upcoming Events 9  
Gardening Tips 10, 11

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**Extension**  
University of Missouri  
Missouri Extension

**Joro Spiders Are Nothing to Worry About - Yet**  
Linda Geist  
Missouri Extension Communication Associate  
geistl@missouri.edu, 573-406-4933

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Flying monkeys, creepy crawlies and monsters under the bed need to make way for the Joro spider.

But Missouri arachnophobes can rest easy for a bit, says University of Missouri Extension urban entomologist Emily Althoff, introduced to the United States a decade ago, the Joro spider is a slow traveler.

To date, the closest sighting of this colorful orb weaver was in central Tennessee. You can follow its travels through [www.jorospider.org](http://www.jorospider.org), a website developed by the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center.

"Although these spiders are not currently in Missouri, work conducted by David Coyle and his team has shown that the Joro spider is likely to expand northward, eventually making its way to the Midwest," says Althoff. "The Midwest is highly suitable habitat for it due to our temperature and precipitation."

While their appearance can be intimidating, Joro spiders do not typically bite humans and are relatively docile. Their small fangs and weak venom cause damage similar to that of a bee sting.

Ferocious Joro spider with the much smaller male. Photo by Micha L. Rieser, via Wikimedia Commons.

continued on page 2 >



Bethany Bachmann  
Field Specialist in  
Nutrition and Health

27,935 indirect programming and engagement contacts were made through The Garden Spade Newsletter. Monthly in-season produce highlights included nutritional information, best practices for selecting, storing, and preparing, and an easy to prepare recipe.



**Association**  
Pears are in season in Missouri from July to late November. Most grocery stores will carry pear varieties from July to March depending on availability. Pears contain a significant amount of fiber, vitamin C, and potassium. Vitamin C is an antioxidant that may play a key role in helping reduce the risk of heart disease and certain cancers. Vitamin C also aids in the body's healing process. Potassium helps maintain good blood pressure levels in the body and aids in maintaining proper nerve, muscle, and heart function.

**Selection**  
When selecting pears, choose those that have a slight give when gently squeezed and a fragrant aroma. Avoid those with blemishes and bruises for best quality. If selecting pears for baking, choose pears that are more firm to the touch.

**Storing**  
Storing pears at room temperature will quicken the ripening process. For long-term storage, pears can be held in the refrigerator for up to three months.

**Prepping**  
Wash pears under cold, running water and gently scrub off any dirt before peeling or cutting pears. Pears can be eaten raw or used in a variety of baked goods.

**Recipe of the Month**  
Maple and Cinnamon Baked Pears

**Ingredients:**  
2 medium pears  
1 lemon, juiced  
1/2 cup pure maple syrup  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 Tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into cubes  
1/2 cup chopped pecans

**Directions:**  
1. Preheat oven to 375° F.  
2. Wash and cut the pears in half. Remove the cores.  
3. Place the pears cut side up in a greased baking dish.  
4. In a small bowl, combine lemon juice, maple syrup and cinnamon. Brushed evenly over pears. Top with butter.  
5. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and sprinkle with pecans. Return the pan to the oven for an additional 10 minutes or until tender.

Bethany Bachmann, MU Extension  
Missouri Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist  
573.547.4504, bachmann@missouri.edu

**Extension**  
University of Missouri  
Missouri Extension



The Missouri Department of Social Services provided Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding to the University of Missouri to expand school and community garden efforts including the Bollinger County Community Garden. The investment into community gardens creates sustainable opportunities to improve health and reduce the risk for chronic health conditions. The Bollinger County Community Garden received supplies totaling \$1,130.21 from the CSBG funding in 2024. Items received by the garden include a garden hose reels and nozzles, as well as raised garden beds. Bethany Bachmann served as the specialist communicating the need for supplies to state program leaders and assisted in procuring items for the garden as part of her work with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed).

# Bollinger County Highlights



Bollinger County Health Center Resource Fair, June 7, 2024



Bollinger County Library Summer Reading Program visits Community Gardens-June 19, 2024



Jerry Richards, Feral Hog program held in Bollinger County



Bollinger County Back to School Fair-July 19, 2024



4-H Kids in the Kitchen prepping and canning salsa.



Estate Planning-Jennifer Williams September 19, 2024



Bollinger County Chamber of Commerce Ladies Tea – June 29, 2024



MU Extension of Bollinger County holds council meeting at Meadow Heights School

# Bollinger County Highlights



## Missouri Century Farm

One Bollinger County farm was recognized as a Missouri Century Farm in 2024.

## The J. Faye Garland Family Farm

The Garland Family was presented their certificate at their farm and honored at the Bollinger County Farm Bureau Annual Dinner. In 1976, Missouri's Centennial Farm project awarded certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. The MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and MU Extension planned a 10-year update in 1986 called the Century Farm program. Since then, the program has been an annual event, recognizing more than 100 farms each year.



Judson Mayfield, Farm Bureau, Board Member-Bollinger County and Vice-Chair University of Missouri Extension Council-Bollinger County, Bryant Garland, Jeff Garland, J. Faye Garland, Isaac Garland, Candi Garland, and Nick Thiele, Farm Bureau, Board Member-Bollinger County and Chair University of Missouri Extension Council-Bollinger County



## 2024 County State Fair Farm Family The Yamnitz Family

The Yamnitz Family was among those honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 12 at the Missouri State Fair. The Yamnitz family was selected as the Bollinger County Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the local Farm Bureau. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA. The Yamnitz family operates a 660-acres farm.



### Back Row, Left to Right Dignitaries:

Blake Rollins, Chief Administrative Officer, Missouri Farm Bureau, Ed Adams, Missouri State Fair Commissioner, Sarah Traub, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for MU Extension & Director of Education & Impact, Rob Kallenbach, MU Associate Dean of Extension & Senior Program Director of Agriculture & Environment, Jason Moore, Missouri State Fair Director, Jamie Johansen, Missouri State Fair Commissioner, Todd Hayes, Vice President, Missouri Farm Bureau, Randy Little, Missouri State Fair Commissioner

Front Row, Left to Right Yamnitz Family from Bollinger County: Ryan Yamnitz, Rylann Yamnitz, Casey Yamnitz, Matthew Yamnitz

# 2024 Summary



## Serving Bollinger, Iron, Madison, Reynolds, St. Francois, and Washington Counties

### 2024 Update:

The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership (MFHEP) had a very productive year!

To start the year, I had the opportunity to be interviewed by television stations in Springfield and Cape Girardeau. The interviews wound up appearing on stations in those cities, as well as on sister stations in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Paducah, Kentucky. Those interviews gave us the opportunity to reach a huge and diverse audience with our message, and we had great feedback from individuals who saw the interviews and reached out to us with very positive feedback.

While final numbers are not yet available for 2024, it looks like we will have eliminated about 5000 feral hogs in the state in the past 12 months. This compares to 2023 when we removed a little less than 8000 swine. The fact that this number is down is a very positive sign. It indicates that there are fewer hogs on the landscape causing damage to our public and private lands...evidence of the success of our program. When there are fewer hogs to be eliminated, our efforts will yield results that reflect this decrease.

In December, aerial operations began with our USDA helicopter. We have been fortunate to have the full-time use of a more powerful helicopter this year, which allows for increased performance and safety when engaged in the process of getting as close to the hogs as possible during elimination efforts. The educators such as myself have the opportunity to participate as part of the "ground crew" during aerial ops, and it is a very rewarding experience. Snow on the ground greatly aids visibility when locating hogs, so winter conditions can substantially increase our success.

Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties were approved to receive new equipment, free of charge, to help remediate damage caused by feral hogs. The equipment includes such items as harrows and no-till drills and is given to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Landowners with damage caused by the swine can use this equipment free of charge. The availability of this equipment represents incredible cost savings for individuals who otherwise would have to come up with it on their own. The fact that drills, harrows and other equipment is readily visible sitting outside of SWCD offices goes a long way towards showing the public that we are working diligently to help restore private lands to the condition they were in before the arrival of this invasive species.

This past year I traveled extensively to bring our message to County Commissions, Farm Bureaus, SWCDs, MU Extension Offices, schools, community meetings, agricultural conferences, career days, feed stores, equipment dealers, powersports dealers, etc. I basically try to go anywhere that there are people who are affected, in one way or another, by feral hogs. One particularly gratifying thing I have experienced in the past few years is that students who have heard my presentation in one year are willing and eager to share our message and strategies with their classmates when we return to their schools. They are absorbing and sharing why we do things the way we do.



MFHEP Outreach Educator Jerry Richards delivers equipment to Bollinger County



Jerry Richards was a featured guest on KY3 News Springfield and Fox 23 News Cape Girardeau



Elementary students have fun with Jerry and the mounted feral hog

### Looking at 2025 My goals for the new year include:

- Continuing to work closely with all of the groups I listed above to maintain and build the relationships that we have been working on since the establishment of the MFHEP.
- Using every means possible to "track down" and make contact with landowners who own property that we are trying to secure access to for trapping and aerial operations. This is probably the most challenging task that we currently face, as oftentimes we need to get permission to go into areas where we know that hogs are located, but we have extremely limited data to aid us in making contact with the landowners.
- Getting our metal and plastic MFHEP signs in as many new locations as we can.
- Having booths at agricultural conferences that we have not previously attended, as well as continuing to have a presence at the multiple yearly conferences that we already participate in.

I am always actively seeking new audiences to share our message with and appreciate any ideas you may have that might bring me in contact with individuals who we can help.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have. Thanks!

# Bollinger County

## Bollinger County Recycling Center

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Recycling Annual Review 2024

The building, which houses the Bollinger County Recycling Center, is owned by the county and is leased to Bollinger Co. Recycling, Inc. The county commissioners have been very supportive through the years. We are happy to have celebrated our 14th anniversary for recycling in our county! We continue to expand our scope/focus due to the changing needs of our community and the state of the recycling market in general.

We have doubled our storage capacity, so that we can wait out periods when the recycling market is depressed. As a result of the market being depressed for most of 2024, we only sent two trailers out for sale.

Our recycling trailer was parked in Marble Hill in May 2023. It was slow to catch on at first, but now has to be emptied weekly. The city continues to be responsible for bringing it to the center to be emptied, restocked with empty bins and returned to Marble Hill. We have determined that more cardboard is coming in through the trailer than is being brought directly to the center now. The board is considering if other communities will enter into an agreement to park a recycling trailer in their community.

Our partnership with MERSGoodwill continues to provide for the salary of our worker/center manager, Allen. In August, during our MERS annual review, we learned of operational changes, that now require hour per hour supervision of our worker. The board had to agree to this in order to keep the contract which pays our worker. Since September 2, 2024, volunteers have provided coverage during Allen's 20 hour work week. Our board is working with University of Missouri Extension specialists looking into grants to focus on paying employee wages. We are organizing fundraisers to build up an account to serve as a grant matching fund.

Our Little Free Library continues to be well used by the community. Our cat/center mascot, Rogue, is seldom seen, but often heard. She has a very loud voice.

We hope for a stronger market in 2025, so that we can move out all of the bales and gaylords of recycled goods that we have stored.

