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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Bollinger County 2025

Annual Report



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**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.**

MU Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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Dear County Commissioners, Elected Leaders, and Friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the remarkable progress we have made together.

MU Extension continues to deliver on its mission of linking the University of Missouri with every community across our state, ensuring that Missourians have access to the knowledge, resources, and partnerships they need to thrive.

Through the dedication of our faculty, staff, councils, partners, and advocates, MU Extension continues to make a measurable difference across Missouri. Last year, we had more than 1.5 million educational contacts and generated more than \$1 billion in economic impact. Building on that momentum, your support also helped secure a \$5 million recurring increase in state funding. This important milestone is already being invested in people, programs, and facilities to strengthen agriculture, improve health and well-being, support local economic development, and prepare youth for leadership through 4-H.

We have also adapted to new realities. Even as the sunsetting of federal SNAP-Ed funding forced hard choices, our commitment to delivering nutrition and health programs to families in need has not wavered. We are expanding investments in rural health, civic leadership and community development to address the priorities Missourians tell us matter most. We are also aligning our work with university, state, and federal priorities to maximize impact, whether in rural healthcare, agricultural innovation or workforce development.

Our strengths remain clear: people, programs, and partnerships. From nearly 6,000 4-H volunteers to county council members, master gardeners, and master naturalists, Extension thrives because of the dedication of those who serve. Our trusted, research-based content was accessed nearly 2 million times and downloaded more than 76,000 times last year, and innovative programs, from soil testing to urban revitalization initiatives, continue to meet Missouri's evolving needs.

Thank you for your continued partnership. MU Extension belongs to all Missourians, and together we will keep building resilient communities, fostering innovation, and preparing our state for the future.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chadwick C Higgins'.

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff



Stephanie Schindler
Extension & Engagement Specialist



Vickie Seiler
Nutrition Program Associate



Amanda Sullivan, Nutrition
Program Associate



Willie Saputo
Youth Program Associate



Davida Pedigo
Youth Program Associate



Kristy Mayfield
Administrative Assistant

OUR COMMUNITY

Every year Missourians turn to the University of Missouri (MU) Extension for practical knowledge, problem-solving, and guidance in navigating change. As a key resource for informed decision-making, we play a vital role in delivering this knowledge, fostering progress, and empowering individuals and communities to thrive.

OUR MISSION

As a land-grant institution, our mission is to **Bring Mizzou to YOU**. We bring the University of Missouri's cutting-edge research and expertise to the residents of the county, helping individuals, businesses, and municipalities make informed decisions that improve quality of life. Through our educational programs, we aim to strengthen communities, boost local economies, and promote sustainable growth by offering accessible, relevant, and responsive solutions backed by the resources of the University of Missouri System.

OUR MAIN PROGRAM AREAS

- › Agriculture
- › Business & Workforce Development
- › Community Development
- › Health and Human Science Initiatives
- › Nutrition & Health Education
- › 4-H Youth Development

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff Resources



Sarah Denkler, Regional Director



Brad Coleman- 4-H



Clayton Skelton- 4-H



Sarah Barks- Community Health



Donna Aufdenberg – Horticulture



Anthony Ohmes – Agronomy



Bethany Bachmann – Nutrition and Health



Sarah Higgins – Natural Resources



Audrey Johnson- Human Development & Family Sciences



Randal Stephens- Agriculture Business

Council Members



Back row: Sheila Porter, Barb Bailey, Darlene Bollinger, Nikki Wolfe, Diane Dowdy, Becky Trehy
Front row: Judson Mayfield, Nicholas Thiele, Phil Gregory

Nicholas Thiele, Chairman
Phil Gregory, Vice-chairman
Diane Dowdy, Secretary
Sheila Porter, Treasurer
Barb Bailey, Member
Darlene Bollinger, Member
Nikki Wolfe, FB appointed member
Becky Trehy, Member
Judson Mayfield, Member
Shelly Garner, Member
Jody McCormick, Member

County Commission

Leo Arnzen, Presiding Commissioner
Chad Hulvey, District 2 Commissioner
Travis Benfield, District 1 Commissioner
Megan Hill, County Clerk



Above, Left to right: Megan Hill, County Clerk, Travis Benfield, Commissioner, Leo Arnzen, Presiding Commissioner, Chad Hulvey, Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	\$28,500
Expenditures	
Personnel Salary/Wage	23,356
Travel	3,108
Communications	860
Supplies/Services	605
Equipment/Maintenance	215
Insurance	356
Total Expenses	\$28,500

Key Outcomes

- More than 150 Bollinger County residents were reached through SMQA programming, on-farm visits, FFA Field Day, the Black Vulture Meeting, and direct producer consultations.
- Agronomy-Soil test numbers for Bollinger County in 2025: 34 individuals submitted 109 soil tests for recommendations from University of Missouri.
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training in Bollinger County: 6 attendees for training in 2025. Attendees indicated that knowledge on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) before the training was 3.0 and increased to 4.67 after training. Overall, the program received the highest rating of 5.
- University of Missouri Extension coordinated and offered tax education through one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and an online school. The 2025 school attendance totaled three hundred eighty-nine people, which was an 11% increase from 2024. The participants were from throughout Missouri and two from out of state. Bollinger County had two individuals attend.
- Ten monthly articles were submitted to the multi-state **The Garden Spade Newsletter**. 24,655 indirect programming and engagement contacts were made. Monthly articles included in-season produce highlights, best practices for storing and preserving produce, and food safety.



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Bollinger 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

MU Extension in Bollinger County, Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Bollinger County, showcasing the meaningful ways local engagement supports residents. It includes data on the number of students, employees, retirees and alumni affiliated with the University of Missouri System, along with the healthcare and extension services provided over the past year.

In addition, the report highlights the broader contributions of the UM System across Missouri in key areas such as education, research, healthcare, economic development and public service. It features metrics like job creation, financial aid distribution, research investment, healthcare access and broadband expansion.

This report is a valuable resource for understanding the measurable benefits the UM System brings to Missouri communities. It supports informed decision-making, advocacy efforts and strategic planning by illustrating the tangible impact of university-driven initiatives at both the local and statewide levels.

[**Access your county's Impact Report.**](#)



GRAND CHALLENGES

Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges — Economic Opportunity, Educational Access, Health and Well-being, and Agricultural Stewardship — represent the most pressing issues facing Missouri communities. They are important because:

By focusing on these challenges, MU Extension in Bollinger County can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in Bollinger County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

[**Access your county's Grand Challenges Report.**](#)



Retirement Party



Willie Saputo & Vickie Seiler celebrating at their retirement party, sponsored by Bollinger County Extension.

Willie Saputo, 4-H Youth Program Assistant and Vickie Seiler, Nutrition Program Assistant, both retired in May from University of Missouri Extension in Bollinger County. Willie served as the YPA for 25 years. Vickie served as an NPA for 14 years.

The Bollinger County Extension Council honored both Willie Saputo and Vickie Seiler with a retirement party in May. Council members, community members, family, friends, and co-workers attended the event to wish both Willie and Vickie well for the next chapter of life!

"It has been a lot of fun; it's a good program." Willie Saputo shared. "I have seen a lot of changes in 4-H, met a lot of kids, kids that I also had the pleasure of serving their parents in 4-H as well."

After teaching third graders at Leopold school for 30 years, Vickie Seiler found MU Extension in Bollinger County to be a good fit. "I traded one class for many classes," Vickie shared. She enjoyed teaching nutrition classes to school students and all ages including daycares and senior centers. When asked about retirement Vickie stated, "I want to spend time with my family, do things with my grandkids, and go to their activities."

Good luck to both Willie and Vickie! Your service is appreciated. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Bollinger County



Willie Saputo, retiring YPA, and Grandson



Vickie Seiler, retiring NPA

Bollinger County Century Farms



Donna M. Seabaugh (and the late David R. Seabaugh), owner of Seabaugh Family Farm has been awarded the Missouri Century Farm designation in 2025. The farm has been in the Seabaugh family since 1850.

Pictured left: Donna M. Seabaugh and family at the Seabaugh Farm

Bryan and Cathy Stroder, owners of Stroder Family Farm, have been awarded the Missouri Century Farm designation in 2025. The farm has been in the Stroder family since 1897.

Pictured right: Bryan and Cathy Stroder and family at the Stroder Farm.



Jeannie David, owner of the David Farm, was awarded the Missouri Century Farm designation in 2025. Pictured above: Jeannie David, owner.

Leaders Honor Roll 2025



The Leaders Honor Roll recognizes outstanding leaders and volunteers who have supported and helped to advance MU Extension in their communities. Congratulations to Tim Zych, Pastor of Creekside Faith Fellowship Church, recognized during 2025.

Bollinger County

Missouri State Fair Farm Family 2025



Back row: Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau, Kevin Roberts, Chairman, Missouri State Fair Commissioner, Jerald Andrews, Missouri State Fair Commissioner, Chad Higgins, Vice Chancellor for MU Extension and Engagement, and Chief Engagement Officer, UM System
Jared Hill, Missouri State Fair Commissioner, Christine Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Randy Little, Missouri State Fair Commissioner

Front Row: Margaret Broshuis, Alaura Broshuis, J.T. Broshuis, and Deacon Broshuis

J.T. and Margaret Broshuis and family of Leopold, Missouri were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Broshuis family was selected as the Bollinger County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Bollinger County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes daughter, Alaura, and son, Deacon.

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 Broshuis family operates an 80-acre beef cattle operation. J.T. and Margaret also do custom hay baling in Bollinger County, as well as tractor and machinery repair.

"The MU Extension building was a favorite activity where Alaura and Deacon enjoyed using a robotic arm. Cooling off in the Kid Zone painting rocks and building with Legos was also fun!" Margaret Broshuis shared.

J.T. and Margaret expressed their gratitude for being chosen as the Farm Family for Bollinger County this year and were very appreciative of the donations they received to make this a special trip for their family!

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension. "The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state," said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. "These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families."



Health and Human Sciences

Sarah Barks, Community Health Field Specialist

Bollinger County

Mental Health Programming in Our Region

Across the report area, mental health remains a top concern, with all counties exceeding state and national averages for poor mental health days. The Community Voices data reflects widespread concern, with most respondents identifying mental health and substance use as their primary concerns. Rural and underserved communities continue to face provider shortages and stigma, making timely support difficult. These challenges guided my work throughout the year.

To address these needs, I engaged in Community Health Improvement initiatives, local coalitions, and statewide partnerships. I regularly presented at coalition meetings and provided tailored materials to improve behavioral health literacy and reduce stigma. In 2025, I became trained to deliver Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) and offered the program six times with five partner organizations, reaching approximately 65 participants. I provided WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training (WRT) eleven times to about 130 individuals, offering virtual sessions open to anyone across the state and in person professional development sessions for businesses and organizations. This helped in expanding access through a SEED grant, secured collaboratively with other specialists, that allowed both COMET and WRT to be offered at no cost.

Additionally, I supported workplace mental health through Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative (RFW) training and education. RFW Initiative empowers workplaces to support people affected by substance use disorders and those in recovery. I was able to complete one RFW designation. Across all efforts, I partnered with more than 20 organizations to strengthen connections among agencies, providers, and community members and to expand support in underserved areas.

Overall, my work reached more than 1,000 people through trainings, presentations, and coalition engagement. Participants in COMET and WRT reported increased coping skills, greater confidence in supporting others, and improved awareness of mental health resources. RFW participants enhanced their workplace readiness to support employee well-being. Collectively, these efforts helped reduce stigma, expand behavioral health education, and strengthen resilience across rural Missouri.

Bethany Bachmann, Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Local Impact

Ten monthly articles were submitted to the multi-state

The Garden Spade

Newsletter. 24,655 indirect programming and engagement contacts were made. Monthly articles included in-season produce highlights, best practices for storing and preserving produce, and food safety.

 **Parsnips**

Description
Parsnips are root vegetables that are harvested in the spring, with leaves. In the fall, parsnips have a nutty and sweet, nutty flavor. They are a good source of manganese, potassium, vitamin C, vitamin K, and fiber. Potassium plays an important role in helping our bodies with fluid regulation, muscle contractions, and maintaining blood pressure. Vitamin C is an antioxidant that may play a key role in helping to reduce the risk of heart disease and certain cancers and it aids in the body's healing process. Fiber aids digestive health and regulating blood sugar and cholesterol.

Selecting
Small to medium sized parsnips have the best flavor, avoid those that are not firm. Select those that have an even off-white color.

Storage
Remove the leafy green top before storing. Parsnips should be stored in the refrigerator in a perforated bag. This will allow airflow to keep them fresh.

Preparing
Parsnips can be used in a variety of dishes including purees, soups, and stews. They can also be baked, roasted, or eaten raw.

Recipe of the Month
Roasted Parsnips

Ingredients

1 pound of parsnips	1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 Tablespoon olive oil	1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper	

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Wash and peel parsnips. The skin can be left on or removed. Cut parsnips into rounds about 1 inch thick.
- Spread parsnips out on a parchment paper lined baking sheet. Drizzle with oil and toss with seasonings.
- Transfer the baking sheet to the oven and roast for 20-25 minutes or until the parsnips are tender. Flip parsnips halfway through the cooking process.

Bethany Bachmann
Missouri Extension Nutrition and Health Specialist
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 **Thanksgiving**

It is time to start thinking about purchasing the much-anticipated turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. I often get phone calls a day or two prior to Thanksgiving from panicked cooks wanting to know how to thaw their turkey more quickly or how long to bake it. As a result, I have compiled some of the most important questions and answers pertaining to safely preparing your turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

What do I need to do before I buy a turkey? First, you will need to clean out enough space in your refrigerator to defrost the turkey. That's not enough, so defrosting on the counter (we will talk more about that in a minute). Second, decide what size turkey you want to buy. Estimate one pound of uncoked turkey per adult.

When should I buy my turkey? Keep in mind that it takes about 24 hours per 4-5 pounds to thaw. It may take 2-4 days to thaw in the refrigerator. If you are buying a fresh turkey, buy it 3-2 days before you plan to cook it and keep it refrigerated.

How should I store my turkey? If you are not going to COOK IT, this method only promotes bacteria growth and the risk of foodborne illness occurs. That's why it's called the **refrigerator method**. You can also thaw it in cold water. To do this, leave the turkey in its original packaging in a sealed sink and submerge it in cold water. Change cold water every 30 minutes. Cook the bird immediately after thawing. Be sure to sanitize everything again after finishing thawing to remove any bacteria left behind. Do not refrigerate it.

So, it's thawed. What do I do now? Once you have thawed the turkey, remove the neck and giblets. Score all parts of the bird that you plan to cook in the refrigerator until it is ready to go in the oven.

I have it in the oven, how do I know if it is ready to serve? The most important thing is the internal temperature determines if the turkey is fully cooked and this requires a food thermometer. Insert the thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh, not touching the bone. A minimum of 165°F is needed. Check for the same temperature in the wing and thickest part of the breast.

Is it safe to cook my stuffing inside the turkey? The safest method for cooking stuffing is in a casserole dish. If you do want to stuff your turkey, be sure to take proper precautions. Prepare your stuffing right before placing it in the turkey and pack it loosely. If it is packed too tightly inside the turkey, the stuffing will not reach 165°F, which is the proper cooking temperature. Failure to reach this temperature will increase the potential for contracting a foodborne illness.

Bethany Bachmann
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Health and Human Science

Profiles and stories

Vickie Seiler, Nutrition Program Associate

SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought over \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri in 2025 to support engagement with 70,722 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens.

Through direct education, newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline, Vicki reached 1738 direct contacts in Bollinger County. 139814 indirect contacts were reached in the Southeast Region.

MU Extension nutrition educators work with individuals and groups in a variety of settings throughout the state to meet a wide range of needs. Whether reaching out to youth and adults through direct education or working with communities to promote healthy policies, systems and environments (PSE), our goal is to help participants make behavior changes to achieve lifelong health and fitness.

Often people tell us how the program has impacted their lives, even years after they have participated. Each day there are new stories that bring home the same important message: The MU Extension Family Nutrition Education Program makes a difference, a difference that means better health and fitness for a lifetime.

1738 participants (both youth and adult) received direct education in 2025.



Vickie Seiler attending the first annual Health Fair at the Bollinger County Health Center.



Bollinger County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Alexis Link, Field Specialist in Livestock



Above: Bollinger County residents attending the Black Vulture program sponsored by MU Extension-Bollinger County.

More than 150 Bollinger County residents were reached through SMQA programming, on-farm visits, FFA Field Day, the Black Vulture Meeting, and direct producer consultations.

Educational topics included, but were not limited to, nutrition, reproduction, disease management, heifer quality, herd health, small ruminant production, and youth livestock education. Producers can apply this information to strengthen management practices and enhance the productivity and sustainability of their operations.

In 2025, the Show-Me-Select Heifer Replacement Program marketed 1,689 heifers statewide. Sales conducted in Southeast Missouri generated \$318,350 from fall-calving heifers and \$164,350 from spring-calving heifers. Through the program, producers apply total quality management practices to on-farm heifer development, strengthening herd management, reproductive performance, and genetic quality through retained ownership or by marketing heifers for added income. Buyers benefit from improved herd quality and reduced rates of dystocia and calf or heifer losses.



Above: Alexis Link speaking at the Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale in May 2025.

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories

Randal Stephens- Field Specialist Agriculture Business



Market Outlooks & Farm Lease Class: As a result of the increased market uncertainty, I presented multiple market outlooks, as well as a farm lease class. They included: 2025 Crop Conference, Perry County Farm Bureau Crop Conference, Big River Ag Grower meeting, TRC Beef Market Outlook and in Cape county a farm lease class in July.

Canola Budget: New to the MU Extension line-up of crop budgets is a winter canola budget. I worked with industry representatives and other MU faculty to develop a winter canola budget that will be available to producers to view and download. Interest in canola production has grown in Southeast Missouri as a result of new markets that are available as well as profitable contacting options for canola.



Southeast Missouri Outlook: I began a newsletter in April that is sent out monthly to 1318 farmers, ag business professionals and ag lenders in the region. The newsletter has been a huge success. Feedback from recipients, as well as data from DotDigital, our email platform, indicates a total open rate of 81%.



Bollinger County

Agriculture and Environment

Horticulture Highlights – Donna Aufdenberg, Horticulture Specialist

Donna Aufdenberg offers horticulture programming in the Southeast Region in Missouri. Services offered include plant diagnostics, plant identification, insect identification, soil test assistance, greenhouse consultations and troubleshooting, and gardening programs.

In 2025, there were 1749 direct contacts through gardening programs where participants (locally and across the state) engaged in learning through in-person and online programs.

Popular Programs in 2025

- Beginning Hydroponics
- Hobby Greenhouses
- Growing and Using Herbs
- Gardening in Containers
- Growing Strawberries
- Seed starting
- Winter Sowing



Hands-on learning with container gardening

Master Gardeners (78 members from Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Scott and Perry Counties) completed 2,596 hours valued at \$90,000 given to local communities through beautification, education, and service to others. Twenty-two gardeners complete Master Gardener Core training in 2025.



Demonstration Garden

Donna oversees the All-American Selections demonstration garden at the MU Extension office in Jackson, MO where over 400 plants can be observed growing. Over 250 gardeners from the surrounding counties visited the demonstration garden in 2025 to learn what annuals and perennial flowers do best in Missouri gardens. Each plant is labelled with a QR code leading to websites about the plants. Area Master Gardeners help maintain the garden.

Horticulture

/'hôrdə,kəlCHər/

Noun 1. the art or practice of garden cultivation and management

900+

Participants in
35+ Programs
in the
Southeast
Region

800+

One-on-One
Education
➤ Calls and
Emails
➤ Walk-ins

Top Gardening Requests

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

Garden Spade Newsletter reaches over 2,556 subscribers every month with a 9.6% increase in readership during 2025. Each issue shares practical, research-based information that is "Reliable, Responsive, and Relevant" to Missouri Gardeners. Subscribe to the garden spade at

<https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/cape-girardeau> or click the QR code at the right.





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

Agriculture and Environment

Anthony Ohmes, Field Specialist in Agronomy

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. Two schools were offered in 2025. Thirty-one attended from Southeast, East Central, and Southwest Regions. Twenty-four were livestock producers with 83% of them planning to adopt MiG and 17% reporting they already practice MiG.

Pesticide Applicator Training

Pesticide applicator training rule changes went into effect in 2025, expanding training for private applicators. Private pesticide applicator training (PPAT) includes required General Pest Control (CORE) along with those seeking optional grain bin fumigation, soil fumigation, or aerial application training. Additionally, applicators that work under the supervision of commercial applicators are required to receive non-commercial restricted use pesticide (NRUP) training. Education on integrating pest management methods, protecting the environment, labeling, and reducing exposure risk while meeting federal and state requirements for restricted use pesticides was provided. Twenty-one PPAT and five NRUP events offered across the SE Region educated 130 private and 31 NRUP applicators. Private Pesticide Applicator Training in Bollinger County: 6 attendees for training in 2025. Attendees indicated that knowledge on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) before the training was 3.0 and increased to 4.67 after training. Overall, the program received the highest rating of 5.

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

***Missouri Department of Agriculture 2024 Status Report**

Field Crops and Soils

Increasing MO field crop production through education on integrated pest, nutrient, crop, and soil management accomplished through events, soil testing, and one-on-one consultations. Regional meetings and one-on-one direct consultation on field crop management reached 393 direct contacts across the region. Agronomy-Soil test numbers for Bollinger County in 2025: 34 individuals submitted 93 soil tests for recommendations from University of Missouri.



Picture: 2025 Spring Grazing School, Perry County

One-on-one direct consultation on forage species, soils tests, nutrients, weeds and insects was provided to individuals across the region.



Picture: 2025 Rice, Cotton, Crop Meetings.

Profiles and stories



Food Drive Community Service Project

4-H Serving our Communities

Each year, Missouri 4-H collects details on the time dedicated to giving back to our communities. **Bollinger County volunteers completed 1700 hours of service for an estimated \$60,000 worth of volunteer time.** Our volunteers help support our 4 community clubs, and SPIN Clubs. The Patton 4-H Club used a Drive to Feed Kids grant to purchase over 200 meals. They then donated them to needy families in the area. The Crooked Creek 4-H Club ran a concession stand to give a fellow 4-H family the support they needed after a tragedy.



Trivia Night at Senior Center

Youth Impact at a Glance

The Bollinger County 4-H Youth Development program had over 150 youth participants in 2025. Youth participated in Community 4-H Clubs, School Enrichment programs, and SPIN Clubs. Bollinger County has 5 community clubs with 15 volunteers serving over 100 youth. The community clubs offered in Bollinger County are the Country Club 4-H, Crooked Creek 4-H Club, Leopold 4-H Club, Cheerful Workers 4-H and the Patton 4-H Club. Our 4-H community clubs offer long term experiences in which members learn life skills such as leadership, citizenship, responsibility, and teamwork under the guidance of trained 4-H volunteers. Our community clubs contribute to the local communities by providing community service projects throughout the Bollinger County area.



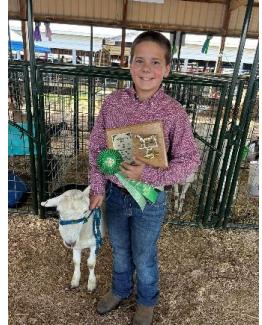
Leopold 4-H Club Activity

Woodland Afterschool

In 2025 Bollinger County 4-H began a partnership with Woodland school. In this partnership 4-H was able to provide STEM education for kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students. They were also able to provide education on Esports and the careers associated in the video game industry. This partnership provided valuable education for the students outside of regular school hours.

Bollinger County

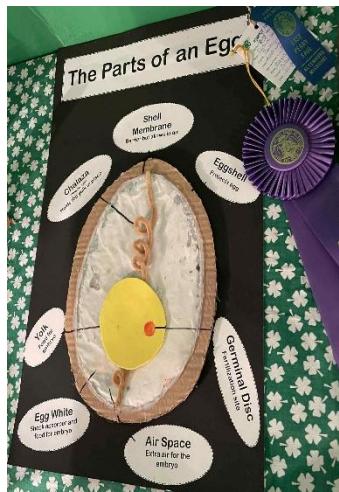
Missouri 4-H



October 4-H Arts & crafts

4-H Pledge

Show-Time at the Fair



Patton 4-H Club Fundraiser

4-H Project at the East Perry Fair



Fun with 4-H Crafting and Canning



4-H members go on a field trip to "The Muny" in St. Louis for their theater arts project.

4-H Day at the Cardinals Game

Bollinger County

Recycling

Recycling Annual Review 2025

The center continues to be owned by the county and leased to Bollinger County Recycling Inc. The county commissioners have been very supportive through the years. We continue to expand our scope/focus due to the changing needs of our community and the state of the recycling market in general.

The recycling market was depressed for most of 2025. We were able to store a trailer load of recyclables, at the center, until there was a slight rise in prices. We shipped only one trailer load for sale during 2025.

Our recycling trailer was parked in Marble Hill in May 2023. The City of Marble Hill was responsible for transporting the full trailer to the center to be emptied and restocking it with empty bins and returning it to Marble Hill. In May of 2024, the city reneged on our agreement, citing insufficient labor/staff to do the work. We were contacted by Southern Solid Waste, a Bollinger County company, who offered to be responsible for transporting the trailer. This arrangement has worked very well.

Our partnership with MERSGoodwill has continued to provide for the salary of our worker/center manager. This is funded through a federal grant that provides employment to low-income seniors. In August 2024 we learned of operational changes that now required hour per hour supervision of our worker. From Sept 2024 through June 30, 2025, recycling volunteers provided this required hour per hour coverage to ensure that we had a manager and the center stayed open for business. The federal grant which funds MERS was not released to cover the new fiscal year on July 1, 2025. Donations from Bollinger County businesses, individuals, multiple small grants and fundraising efforts allowed our board to pay our manager as a contract worker (1099). Thus, keeping the center open for business from July 1-Nov 14. Federal funding for MERSGoodwill restarted Nov 17 through Dec 31, 2025. The board began looking for an alternate funding source for our worker/manager's wages.

Our 2025 Fundraiser was the most successful one we have ever had. Once again, we sold raffle tickets for the ½ hog (with processing). The total of ticket sales was \$2818.00. Modern Woodmen matched up to \$2500.00. Giving us a grand total of 5318.00.

Our Little Free Library continues to be well used by the community. Our cat/center mascot, Rogue, continues to be seldom seen, but often heard.

The recycling effort is working in our county because of our volunteers and our committed individuals and businesses. We hope for a better market and better grant funding for employment in 2026.