



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Butler County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
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December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff* - **Housed in Butler County**



Pam Gray*
Office Manager



Sarah Cope*
Feral Hog Educator



Dr. Jason Morris
Ag Business
Specialist



Sarah Higgins
Natural Resources
Specialist



Brad Coleman
4-H Youth
Specialist



Kim Allison*
Youth Program
Associate

John Fuller*
Human Development
Specialist



Kelley Brent
Nutrition & Health
Specialist



Scotty Smothers
Agronomy
Specialist



Jennifer Williams
Engagement
Specialist



Emily Doosing
4-H Youth
Specialist



Barbara Wisdom*
Nutrition Program
Associate



Council members

Doug Rose, Jr., Chairman
Miranda Fickert, Vice-Chairman
Kathryn Clark, Secretary
BriAnne Riggins, Treasurer
Tawana Ashcraft
Natalie Butler
Lanny Corcimiglia
Melody Dolle-Ducote
David Leonard
Toni Stoner
Vince Lampe
Lisa Parson



County commissioners

Vince Lampe
Presiding Commissioner
Don Anderson
Eastern District Commissioner
Dennis Legrand
Western District Commissioner

Who we are

Using university research and science-based knowledge, University of Missouri Extension works with people to understand change, solve problems and make informed decisions. MU Extension addresses a wide range of needs that fall into three grand challenges for the state of Missouri; Economic Opportunity, Educational Access and Excellence, Health and Well-being. We offer in person and online programming, publications and information in these major interest areas: Agriculture and Environment, Business and Community, Health and Safety, Youth and Family.

MU Extension is a partnership of the University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, the people of Missouri through county extension councils, and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MU is a land-grant university, meaning it is a part of a federally mandated mission to carry the benefits of university research beyond campus. Federal legislation in the 1800s provided for the donation of public land to individual states. Missourians chose to apply their land grants to the existing Columbia campus. This created two universities in one — a land-grant institution leading in research for all citizens of the state, across the nation and around the world, and an intellectual center to advance liberal arts scholarship. Today, through statewide offices, publications and web-based services, extension faculty in every county of Missouri continue to carry the benefits of MU research throughout the entire state.

Every Missouri county, by Missouri State Statutes, has a University of Missouri Extension Council comprised of elected and appointed citizens. State law confers the right for councils to work with MU Extension faculty to act as educational brokers, putting the interests and concerns of local people together with the resources of our land -grant University so people can obtain their goals. The MU Extension Council strives to support our three impact areas of Economy, Education, and Health, and represent the diverse sectors of Stone County by its membership.

Through a network of county offices, the University of Missouri solves problems and engages with communities across all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis.

MU faculty, staff and elected council members, who live in your community, work with you to identify local interests and issues and then offer relevant programming and resources to meet the unique needs of you and your community. Our job is to partner with communities to find solutions with credible, science-based information that will help you:

- Grow safe and healthy food
- Build and grow profitable businesses
- Improve your health and relationships
- Increase agricultural production
- Update professional training in business, health and safety
- Engage youth as valued, contributing citizens

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	68,105
Total Income	68,105

Expenses

Salaries/Wages/Benefits	62,869
Travel	4,114
Insurance	1,122
Total Expenses	68,105

Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ **Home Food Preservation Class**
- ✓ **Mental Health First Aid**
- ✓ **Youth Mental Health First Aid**
- ✓ **Train Your Brain**
- ✓ **Keep Your Keys**
- ✓ **Youth Futures (4-H)**
- ✓ **Family Adventures Kinship Support Conference**
- ✓ **MU Mobile Health Unit provided free health screenings**
- ✓ **Partnership efforts:**
 - Ag Connect
 - Butler County Fair/4-H Youth Animal Showings
 - Master Gardener Fall Mum Class
 - Three Rivers College housed Heroes to Hives apiary
 - Operation Healthy Delta



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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Butler 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.

Budget and more

2023 Update

Appropriations budget

Sarah J. Higgins
Field Specialist in Natural
Resources
314-971-4826
sarah.higgins@missouri.edu



Covering Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, and Wayne Counties

About me & 2023 in review

Hello all! I started my position as a Natural Resources Specialist on July 5th, 2023. I am based out of Phelps County in Rolla, and I serve 28 other counties in southeast Missouri. I got the opportunity to work in this part of the Ozarks while pursuing my undergraduate degree Environmental Science from Mizzou and loved getting to explore the beautiful landscapes in this region. I moved back to Missouri after receiving my master's in Environmental, Soil, & Water Science from West Virginia University, and I feel so grateful to be back. I'm excited to work with the people in this region to conserve our beautiful natural resources.

Since starting in July, I've gotten the opportunity to meet many others in the area involved in natural resources, including private landowners, Missouri Department of Conservation employees, and Natural Resources Conservation Service employees, people involved in the timber industry, and other Extension professionals. I'm looking forward to developing these partnerships more in 2024 and collaborating on programs to deliver in southeast Missouri. Please contact me to talk more about what kinds of natural resource programming you'd like to see in your county. Looking forward to working more with you all in 2024!



Field site demonstrating the need for timber management at the MO Tree Farm Conference.



Invasive bush honeysuckle from an invasive species workshop in Versailles, MO. Other invasive species discussed included autumn olive, multiflora rose, wintercreeper, sericea lespedeza, princess tree, and eastern redcedar (a native field invader).

Looking at 2024

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2024. I also hope to visit more counties and attend some Extension council meetings, so please reach out if you'd like me to come!

- Restarting Women Owning Woodlands program. We hope to have social hikes and monthly virtual meetings.
- White Oak, Whiskey, and Wine webinar series at 12 pm on Mondays in January.
- Hybrid (virtual & in-person) Succession Planning workshop on February 29th.
- Invasive Species workshop in March.
- Forest health webinar series in early April, followed by a forest health field day on April 13th.

Please contact me for any details related to the programs above. I will send more information and updates on programs throughout the year. I'm eager to work with you all next year!

Budget and more

Horticulture Programming in the Southeast Region

Donna Aufdenberg, Field Specialist in Horticulture

In 2023, there were 1580 direct contacts (participants) through gardening programs where participants were actively engaged in the learning process. Programs were in-person and online. Participants learned about planning the vegetable gardening, planting flower and shrubs, growing and using culinary herbs, native plants, growing specialty crops hydroponically, container gardening, high tunnel and greenhouse basics, seed saving, gardening pests and many more topics.

There was a continued interest in home vegetable gardening in 2023 due to concerns about food security and food costs. Many new gardeners learned about growing their own food, increasing consumption of healthy food, exercising caution in the garden during extreme heat and drought and the diligence required to plant and maintain a garden.



TO REGISTER OR ASK A QUESTION:
<https://jam.missouri.edu/townhall/>
Once you register, you will get a weekly reminder email from MU Extension Horticulture

FREE!!!
Zoom Or YouTube Livestream
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MUJPM>
Weekly On Wednesdays noon to 1 pm

The Garden Hour with MU Extension
MU Extension Horticulture Specialists from across the state will answer you garden questions! Topics include vegetables, flowers, lawns, fruit, ornamental, houseplants, trees, and landscapes.

Online programming remains an important educational tool. This includes MU Extension Garden Hour at noon on Wednesdays during the gardening season, horticulture education meetings, home gardening webinar, farmers market webinar series and commercial vegetable program. Participants who engaged in horticulture programming learned about insects, weeds, diseases, soil health and fertility, general plant care, and variety selection.

Horticulture

/ˈhɔːrdəkəlCHər/

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

1580+
Participants
in 60+
Programs

1,000+
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 • Planting Shrubs

A monthly Garden Spade Newsletter reaches over 2,300 subscribers every month with a 20% increase in readership during 2023. Subscribe to the garden spade at <https://extension.missouri.edu/courties/cape-girardeau> or click the QR code at the right.





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



Butler County Extension Office
614 Lindsay Ave, Ste 3
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901



John Fuller
Human Development
and Family Science

Impact Report

December 2023

Year in Review

Butler

- 5—Alzheimer’s Association classes 22 people at \$50 per person = \$1100 (partnership)
- 1—Boost Your Brain & Memory 14 people attended at \$40 person (self-paid)
- 1—Youth Mental Health First Aid 7 people attended at a \$170 per person = \$1190 (grant)
- 5— Keep Your Keys for 47 people at \$50 per person = \$2350 (grant)
- 2—WITS Workout 7 people at \$50 per person = \$350 (partnership)
- 1—Communicating Suicide for Safer Homes for
- 1—Caregivers Conference for 46 people at \$50 per person = \$2300
- No cost funding provided for programming total = \$4,990

Carter

- 1—Matter of Balance 9 people at \$50 per person = \$450 (grant)

Iron

Madison



Oregon

- 13— WITS Workout for 319 people x \$65 per person* = \$20,735 (partnership)
- *This class would be \$5 per person per class.
- 1—Youth Mental Health First Aid for 13 people at \$170 per person = \$2,210
- No cost funding provided for programming total = \$22,945

Reynolds

Ripley

- 1—Chronic Disease Self-management 9 people x \$50 person = \$450 (grant)
- 1—Keep Your Keys 10 people x \$50 = \$500 (grant)
- 2—Alzheimer’s Association classes for 26 people x \$50 person = \$1300 (partnership)
- 1—Communicating Suicide for Safer Homes for

Shannon

Wayne

- 1—Keep Your Keys for 4 people x \$50 = \$200 (grant)
- No cost funding provided for programming total = \$200

Total counties no cost funding provided for programming = \$30,835



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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



Butler County Extension Office
614 Lindsay Ave, Ste 3
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

Goal update

Attend all 9 county council meetings (8 YTD)

Still need to attend

Attended

Shannon	Butler	Carter
	Iron	Madison
	Oregon	Reynolds
	Ripley	
	Wayne	

Oregon - (WITS Workout on going)

2 - YMHA - (3 completed year to date)

1 - Adult MHFA (0)

4 - Boost Your Brain and Memory (1)

Video for 4-H camp (completed)

2 - Matter of Balance classes (1)

4 - Keep Your Keys (8 completed YTD)

2 - Weathering the Storm (1 completed YTD)

1 - Building Strong Families (0)

1 - PASTA series (0)

1 - Taking Care of You (completed)

Programming on a monthly basis at (6) nutrition centers (5 YTD)

Form a soccer club (completed)

Start a 4-H Nerf & Lego Club

Join the Poplar Bluff Booster Club (complete)

St. Jude's committee

Alzheimer's Walk committee (complete)

Alzheimer's Support Group (In Progress)

County Contacts YTD

- Oregon County—332 participants
- Butler County—276 participants
- Wayne County—125 participants
- Ripley County—89 participants
- Iron County—37 participants
- Carter County—25 participants
- Madison County—2 participants
- Shannon County—1 participants
- Reynolds County—0 participants



Issued in furtherance of the Cooperative Extension Work Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Director, Cooperative Extension, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 • MU Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status • 672-882-2216 • extension@missouri.edu

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



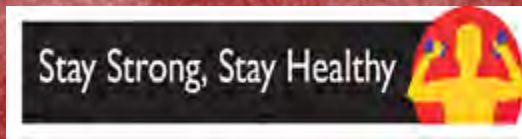
Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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



- Diabetes Self-Management Series– June – July, 6 sessions, 2 participants
- Walking Group Series, Community Resource Council Partnership – April – May, 16 sessions, 12 participants
- Food Preservation-Pressure Canning – July, 1 session, 4 participants
- Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Series – August – October, 16 sessions, 13 participants
- Walk-tober Community Resource Council Partnership Walking Group, October Events
- Iron Horse Festival, Butler County Fair Food, Canning Judge
- Virtual Tai Chi Series, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Series and Food Preservation were also offered
- **USDA Garden Grant MU Supplies to 8 sites in Butler County Total: \$14,817.87**
- **Eat Smart in the Parks MU Grant Partnership with Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation Total: \$5,000**
- Serving on Missouri Parks Association Board, Missouri Highland Healthcare Board, Community Resource Council Board and member of the Butler County Wellness Council, Wappapello Lake Area Association



Kelley L. Brent,
 Nutrition and Health
 Field Specialist,
 Southeast Region



Legend



Agricultural Growth
 & Stewardship



Economic
 Opportunity



Educational
 Access &
 Excellence



Health
 & Well-Being



County highlights

Ag Connect 2023





County highlights

Meet Your Extension was a great success in 2023!

4th of July Parade – Poplar Bluff





County highlights

Meet Your Extension was a great success in 2023!

Christmas Parade 2023

