



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Butler County

2024 Annual Report

614 Lindsay Ave Ste. 3
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension

University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



December 2024

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

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

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff



From left to right:
Barbara Wisdom - Nutrition Program Associate
Kim Allison - Youth Program Associate
Pam Gray - Office Manager
John Fuller - Human Development Specialist
Jacqueline Pettit - Nutrition Program Associate
Traven Crocker - Horticulture Specialist
Sarah Cope - Feral Hog Educator



Jennifer Williams –
Extension
Engagement
Specialist

Sarah Higgins –
Natural
Resources
Specialist



Kelley Brent –
Nutrition & Health
Specialist

Jason Morris –
Ag Business
Specialist



Emily Doosing -
4-H Youth
Specialist

Scotty Smothers –
Agronomy
Specialist



Council members

- Doug Rose, Jr., Chairman
- David Leonard, Vice-Chairman
- BriAnne Riggins, Secretary
- Tammy Harper, Treasurer
- Natalie Butler
- Leann Clark
- Judy Lunsford
- Melissa Stephens
- Toni Stoner
- Maurice Theriot
- Tim Ward
- Vince Lampe
- Lisa Parson
- Logan Brittingham



County commissioners

Vince Lampe
Presiding Commissioner

Don Anderson
Eastern District Commissioner

Dennis Legrand
Western District Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	68,105
Total Income	68,105

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	60,799
Travel	6,660
Insurance	1,254
Total Expenses	68,713

Return on investment

• USDA Garden Grant	\$8,061
• USDA Local Producer Grant	\$17,540
• 4-H Summer Enrichment Grant	\$3,333
Total Grants Received:	\$28,934

MU Extension is a unique 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.

Key Outcomes

Boost Your Brain and Memory - People that took the class have shared in their surveys that before the class 29% have done at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's Disease? After the course, 82% now report they are now doing at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's.

Two educational classes were held for the Juvenile Justice Center in Butler County. The life skills class topics included an introduction to gardening, seed starting, and propagation. There were 18 youths present.

Soil Analysis: In 2024 MU processed 115 soil samples for Butler county.

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

885 Members in Butler County 4-H. 4-H'ers are 4 times more likely to give back to their community.

Walking Group 16-session Series, Community Resource Council Partnership in Butler County

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. 650 direct and 50,945 indirect contacts were made in Butler County.

Estimate of around 5,000 feral hogs taken off the landscape in 2024, as numbers were around 4,500 before the end of the year when aerial operations began.

An estate planning class was offered in Butler County to 18 adults, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.



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.

Butler County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

101 students

- 71 Undergraduates
- 30 Graduate and professional students
- 81 Full-time students
- 20 Part-time students
- 28 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

18 people employed by UM

- 16 Campuses
- 2 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)

14 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income: \$825,076
 UM state tax revenue: \$16,483
 UM federal tax revenue: \$89,470



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 37 Medicine
- 30 Nursing
- 69 Health Professions
- 11 Dentistry
- 20 Pharmacy
- 4 Optometry
- 4 Veterinary Medicine
- 45 Agriculture
- 70 Engineering
- 29 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 20 teachers
- 3.7% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 68 students
- 379 alumni
- 15 employees

UMKC

- 12 students
- 63 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 14 students
- 64 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 7 students
- 57 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Butler County



County population: 42,166



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 95 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$138,421 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- 5 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 97 visits to 37 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 7,476 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 89 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 5,037 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 2,011 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Butler County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.



For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,887 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)



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

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion

MU		UMKC	
28,608	\$583.6M	11,518	\$228.5M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,720	\$127.7M	8,256	\$107.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



Butler County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories



Classes at the Twin Towers *Boost Your Brain and Memory* and *Taking Care of You*. With the partnership I was able to deliver 11 weeks of programming. It opened the door for other programming with other disciplines.



Boost Your Brain and Memory class activity. People that took the class have shared in their surveys that before the class 29% have done at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's Disease? After the course, **82% now report they are now doing at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's.**

Computer classes for older adults have been a great response to a need in the community. From learning how a Chromebook works to understanding their phones better, in our lectures and workshops, **fifty-nine participants** completed surveys. **74.6% reported they have learned a new skill** in our courses. Of those surveyed before the class, 18 people either agreed or strongly agreed to be comfortable with a computer. After the class, 32 people agreed or strongly agreed to feeling comfortable with a computer



Butler County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2024 Programs:

- Two educational classes were held for the Juvenile Justice Center in Butler County. The life skills class topics included an introduction to gardening, seed starting, and propagation. There were 18 youths present.



Raised Gardens at Juvenile Justice Center

Traven Crocker
Field Specialist in Horticulture
573-686-8046

Travencrocker@missouri.edu

Butler, Carter, Ripely, Shannon, Oregon,
Stoddard, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Dunklin.

Hello, everyone. I am Traven Crocker, the new Field Specialist in Horticulture. I am based in Butler County and serve nine counties in the southeast region. I started this position in October 2024. My focus has been to meet with council members from all nine counties to assess their programming needs. I have also collaborated with the Poplar Bluff Area Extension Master Gardeners to implement more educational programs for the upcoming year.

Programming for 2025:

- Extension Master Gardener in-person course is scheduled for January 16th – April 17th at the Butler County Extension office, Thursdays from 6-9 pm.
- Home Gardening Webinar Series February 6- March 27, Thursdays at 12:00 pm-1:30. Zoom, Registration costs \$80.
- Pruning Workshop February 7, 2025, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Rover, MO, Registration cost \$10
- Private applicators license training TBA.
- Workshops for commercial and consumer horticulture throughout the year.

Upcoming Outreach events:

- Biscuits Gravy and Dirt. Held at Greenway Equipment in Poplar Bluff. January 9th, 9-11 am.
- Garden Hour
- Garden Spade Newsletters

Butler County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact and Stories

Integrated Pest Management

One of the most important impact for 2024 was **addressing issues that Ag producers face through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs**. A pest is defined as anything that diminishes the value of ag resources or interferes with the production and utilization of crop and livestock used for food and fiber. IPM helps producers identify and deal with constant and cyclical pests through the growing season.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training:

University of Missouri Extension is tasked with certifying private applicators through trainings, either at event venues or in person office visits. In 2024 there were **4 programs** where growers from Butler County received initial certification or renewed their existing certification. All 4 programs were offered through event meetings. In total, there were **18 participants** that received or renewed their private applicator licenses.

Personal Contacts: IPM focuses on identifying and addressing pest throughout the growing season. This calls for email correspondence, farm visits, office visits or phone calls. I had correspondence with several Butler County producers throughout the growing season. There were **14 farm visits** performed where services such as nitrate testing, weed identification, and hay analysis was performed.

Scotty Smothers
Field Specialist in Agronomy
Butler, Stoddard, and Wayne

Other Highlights

Soil Analysis: In 2024 MU processed **86 soil samples** for Butler county. Analysis is reviewed by myself before being sent to customer.

Heroes to Hives (H2H): 8 total participants throughout the year

Media: Interviewed with KTMO at the FDREEC annual field day. (10,000 audience)

Contributed to Delta Newsletter (420 membership)

2024 Program Highlight

One program that had the largest impact over this past year was in-person PPAT training. While the video serves the basic purpose to certify and recertify Private Applicators, beginning in 2025, that option will not be allowed. The process to obtain a Private Applicators license in 2025 will be much more difficult. There were improvements made by Butler County personal and myself to ensure that transition will be smooth and anyone who needs a license will have the opportunity to obtain one.

The Poplar Buff Area Extension Master Gardeners chapter includes Butler, Carter, Stoddard, Ripley, and Wayne counties.

The chapter president is Laura Thompson, the secretary is Rebecca Tindall, and the treasurer is Kathy Pucci.

There are **fourteen active Extension Master Gardener Members**. Three members have Emeritus status, seven are certified, and three are trainees.

The chapter reported **566.95 volunteer hours** and **119.75 education hours** for the year.

The value of the chapter's volunteer time is over \$8,987.15, while the educational hours are valued at \$4,010.42.

The values are based on the Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time of \$33.49 Per Hour. (WASHINGTON, April 23, 2024).



Service and Teaching Activities:

- **Ag Day in Carter County:** Members hosted a hands-on learning experience for students, who rotated through various learning stations.
- **Sierra Girls Program:** Members organized a summer program for girls at the Sierra Osage Treatment Center.
- **Demonstration Garden:** Members provided exceptional landscaping and maintenance for the Popeye's Garden at the Westwood Blvd. and Kanell Blvd. intersection.
- **Exhibits and More:** Members displayed flowers, plants, and canned goods at the Butler County event and played key roles in planning.
- **Mums Sale:** Members successfully hosted a fundraiser selling over 50 plants.
- **Veterans Hospital:** Members assisted with planning and implementing improvements to the grounds.
- **Women's Day Event:** Members hosted a full-day event to help women veterans learn about gardening and supported fundraising through sales.
- **Facebook:** Members maintained an informative presence for members and the public.

The Poplar Bluff Area Extension Master Gardeners meet regularly at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the VA Educational Building located 1500 N. Westwood Blvd.

Butler County

Agriculture Business and Policy

Local Impact and Stories

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.

Soil and Water Boards

Through state law, Extension serves on each county Soil and Water Board. Through this service Ag Business is heavily involved in farm and field days as well as conferences.

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.

Other Highlights

Regional 4-H Ranch Sorting and Team Penning clinics and summer long participation.

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 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



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



"Positive youth development is at the heart of everything we do in 4-H, especially here in Butler County. It's about empowering young people to build skills, confidence, and character while creating opportunities for them to thrive in their communities. In Butler County, 4-H provides a space where youth can explore their passions, develop leadership abilities, and connect with mentors who care about their growth. Whether it's through learning survival skills at the lake, showcasing projects at the fair, or giving back through service, 4-H equips our youth with the tools to succeed and make a positive impact, now and in the future."

Emily Doosing
4-H Youth Development Specialist
Butler County, MO
573-226-3268
edoosing@missouri.edu

**885 members
in Butler
County 4-H**

School Enrichment Clubs
After School Clubs
Traditional 4-H Clubs
Special Interest Clubs



“

Helping with 4-H Day at the Lake was an incredible experience. Watching the younger kids learn survival skills and craft their own projects reminded me of how much 4-H has taught me about leadership and serving others. The best part was guiding them through putting out a small fire safely. They were so proud of themselves! Being a teen leader means giving back and helping kids discover their potential, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity.

Macie, Butler County 4-H Teen Leader



4-H'ers are...

4X more likely to give back to their communities

2X more likely to make healthier choices

2X more likely to participate in STEM activities



56

56 volunteers served Butler County 4-H youth in 2024. Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of Butler 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$67,515 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

\$67,515

CONGRATULATIONS!

Volunteer Engagement Award

Kim Allison
4-H Youth Program Association
Butler County

Extension University of Missouri

98%

of Butler County 4-H youth are willing to work hard on difficult tasks.



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-being

Grand Challenge to Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

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

2024 Impact Numbers:

- 3,320 direct contacts for area education
- \$33,437 in captured grant funds and donations distributed over 4 counties for local products and education

Butler County and Surrounding Area Education:

- Virtual Diabetes Self-Management 6-session Series: statewide participants
- Walking Group 16-session Series, Community Resource Council Partnership: Butler County
- Middle School Garden Club Meeting, MU Presentation, USDA Garden Grant Partnership: Butler County
- Food Preservation-Pressure Canning Education and Classes – Butler, Carter, Wayne, and Ripley Counties
- Iron Horse Festival, County Fair Baked Goods and Canning Judge: Butler County
- Reginal USDA-NRCS Education Presentation for Missouri area staff
- Eating for Brain Health Presentation and NPA collaboration with the Housing Authority, Poplar Bluff
- USDA Garden Grant MU Supplies to 8 partners in Butler County Total: \$8,061 (\$12,528 throughout area)
- USDA Local Producer Grant and Food Distribution Events: Butler County, 2 events, \$17,540 of product from Local Producers and distributed into the community, purchased and distributed 1200 lbs. of chicken and 1940 lbs. of ground beef, with an additional 485 half pints of honey, 700 locally produced pumpkins with included educational information, 2,763 indirect household members impacted, Participation: 19 MU Faculty/Staff, 28 Extension Council and Community Volunteers, 22 Community Partners, 12 Free Service Stations at Event, 5 local ranchers, 1 meat processor, 2 pumpkin producers, 1 honey producer.

Ongoing Efforts in Butler County and Surrounding Area:

USDA Garden Grant Distribution, Health Fairs, County Fairs, Local Producer Product Distribution. Actively participating in council meetings, planning meetings, boards, coalitions, committees and community events.

Currently serving: Missouri Parks Association Board of Directors and Officer: Vice-President, Community Resource Council Board of Directors, Board of Directors for the University of MO Extension Employee Association, member of the Butler County Wellness Council, member of the Wappapello Lake Area Association



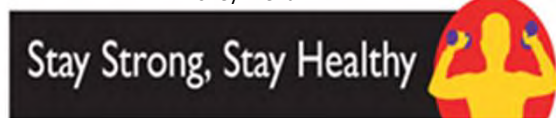
Butler County USDA Local Producers Protein and Honey Event



MU Extension & Poplar Bluff Middle School Garden Partnership



Iron Horse Festival USDA Local Producers Pumpkin Education Event, Butler County



Health and Human Sciences

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.

650 direct and 50,945 indirect contacts were made in Butler County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



Success Story

A great success that I had this year was working with Haven House and Recycling Grace Women's Center. Watching these girls grow and seeing them so interested in doing better with their lives was very inspiring. There was one girl in particular that was at Recycling Grace, and we had talked a lot, but then she was gone. I went to Haven House that month and there she was! She was so excited to see me, and I was so glad to see her okay. It was a great feeling as though I made a difference in her life to a point that she was excited to see me again. Those girls at those houses have been through a lot and they are hard to read at times. This was a great reminder of why we do the work that we do and it's more than nutrition we are helping with.

NPA : Jacqueline Pettitt Getting the traveling Nutrition Program Associate award for her outstanding service.

Health and Human Sciences

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.

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Success Story

Fruits and Vegetables Love- I was teaching at Eat Smart, Live Strong: Nutrition Education for Older Adults, Session 3- Colorful and Classic Favorites Family Counseling Center in Poplar Bluff. We talked about improving health outcomes by Eating 3 ½ cups of fruits and vegetables every day. They loved fruits and vegetables. We talked about the different fruits and vegetables and how they love tomatoes, asparagus, strawberries, and cucumbers. A few people had more than 3 and a ½ cups of the fruits and vegetables. It is important to get 30 minutes of physical activity most days. They said they would try to do some physical activities. A lady would like to go for a walk every day, but she cannot. I just talked about how walking even short distances is great. One lady said, "I don't get a lot of physical activity. I just got diagnosed with diabetes." We talked about how she knew that she needed to get more exercise. She promised to go for a walk a couple of times every week. She said, "I will go for a walk a couple of times a week." I told her that it would benefit her health greatly. I had help making the It's a Snap Fruit Salad. We worked together to make the fruit salad. Then we tried it. They all liked the fruit salad. One person said, "It is very good! I love fruit salad. It is so yummy!"



NPA: Barbara Wisdom at Qulin Nutrition Center

2024 Summary



Serving Butler, Stoddard, Wayne, Carter, Ripley, Oregon, and Howell Counties

2024 Update:

It has been a busy year for the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership!

New equipment was offered to two of my counties (Wayne, and Butler) affected by feral hogs and Wayne has received a payout for the purchase of a lime buggy already. Equipment that was placed before 2024 in Carter, Ripley, Reynolds, Oregon, Howell, and Wayne counties is still available for use. The equipment is in place for use free of charge to those with feral hog damage, the others are going to be placed this coming spring. The equipment can also be rented for those wishing to utilize the equipment for other projects and is managed by the local SWCD offices.

Firm numbers are not yet available for 2024, however, there is a ballpark estimate of around 5,000 feral hogs taken off the landscape in 2024, as numbers were around 4,500 before the end of the year when aerial operations began.

Comparatively, elimination specialists removed 7,780 feral hogs in 2023.

Aerial operations began again in December and the MFHEP staff are busy locating feral hogs and sending the coordinates to the helicopter for daytime aerial removal. Aerial operations are planned through March with the USDA helicopter, as we have done for the last few years.

In 2024 I attended numerous events & meetings in my counties, updating extension councils, SWCDs, Farm Bureau, and others about the Partnership's activities and progress throughout the year. Highlights include several Ag conferences, Ecology Days, other natural resource events, and landowner meetings that I hosted.

I also contributed to many written publications for the Partnership throughout the year and have been working with USDA by creating lesson plans that can be used to meet state requirements for learning while educating high school students about the importance of removing feral hogs from the landscape.



MFHEP Outreach Educators Jerry Richards, Sarah Cope, and Kevin Crider attend Vienna Beef Forage Conference.



MFHEP Outreach Educator Sarah Cope was a featured speaker at the Ripley County Annual Farm Bureau Dinner.



MFHEP display at O'Neal Elementary's Ecology Day in Butler County.

Looking at 2025

My goals for the new year include:

- Continuing to work closely with Farm Bureau and Missouri Cattlemen's Association and building those relationships.
- Focusing on leads for absentee landowners in hot spots of feral hog activity.
- Continue to make more connections with landowners using targeted outreach strategies.
- Creating more written materials for publication to inform Missourians about feral hogs and the MFHEP.

I am worked diligently in the month of January with my fellow educators to ensure that the 2024 MFHEP Report is ready to be distributed. Both of which I will be distributing to Partners over the next coming months and attending extension council meetings to update the councils on operations statewide and local to their respective counties.

Please contact me for any details related to the program.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Business and Community

Estate Planning: What's the Worst That Can Happen???

Jennifer R. Williams, JD
University of Missouri Extension

 **Extension**
University of Missouri

**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU!**



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

One couple who took this class in 2022 also attended our 2024 class to make sure they fully understood the information!

One resident who took this class in Butler County attended it in again in a neighboring county, bringing her mother with her too.

This class uses the fictional family pictured above to demonstrate the consequences of not having an estate plan.



**Economic
Opportunity**

2024 USDA Local Producers Grant – Protein Distribution

Friday, May 31, 2024



\$17,540 of beef, chicken, and honey were purchased from local producers and then distributed to local citizens thanks to a partnership between USDA, the Community Resource Council, and MU Extension.

County Highlights

Missouri County State Fair Farm Family – The Michael and Michelle Gross family.



Missouri 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 Leann Clark and Judy and Ken Lunsford.



John Fuller presenting Leann Clark her Leader's Honor Roll Certificate



Kim Allison presenting Judy & Ken Lunsford their Leader's Honor Roll Certificate

Good Neighbor Week at Wheatley School



The Butler County Extension Office hosted the 1st Friday Coffee on August 1st.



County Highlights

4th of July Parade



Lighted Christmas Parade

