



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Callaway County 2025

Annual Report

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**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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 sunset 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,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff



Home Office Callaway County

Chrisee Brandl

Field Specialist in Livestock

Kathy Deeken, MA

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Dawn Fox

County Office Support Staff

Shannon Walton

Youth Program Associate II

Serving Callaway County

Elizabeth Anderson

Extension Engagement Specialist

Dhruba Dhakal, PhD

Field Specialist in Horticulture

Sean Eberle

4-H Youth Development Educator

Rusty Lee

Field Specialist in Agronomy

Brian Schweiss

Sustainable Forestry Specialist

Dawn Sebion

Nutrition Program Associate

Mary Sobba

Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Heather Warren

Nutrition Program Associate

Council Members

Jennifer DeLashmutt, Chairman

Danielle Hecktor, Vice-chairman

Kayla Metcalf Smith, Secretary

Gary Jungermann, Treasurer

Chad Booher

Barb Brouster

Carson Humphreys

Rev Paul Klepees

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Stephanie Murphy

Phillip Willer

Miranda Zumbuhl-Howard

Bryli DeLashmutt

Case Rimert

Kaitlynn Murphy

Jordan Walton



County executives

Gary Jungermann

Presiding Commissioner

Curtis Warfield

Eastern District Commissioner

Christopher Scott

Western District Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	62,000
Total Income	62,000
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	65,476
Travel	1,913
Equipment Lease	1,956
Office Supplies/Service	1,513
Copy Services	1,300
Insurance	1,893
Equipment	98
Marketing	757
Miscellaneous	232
Total Expenses	75,138

Return on investment

University System	215,000
Resales/Educ Service	2,615

Callaway County partners

Legends Rec Plex
Westminster University Department of Health and Exercise Science
St. Andrew Church, Holts Summit
Holts Summit Library
Callaway County YMCA
Auxvasse N. Callaway Senior Citizen Center
Fulton Public Library
Callaway County Sheriff's Office
Fulton Public School
Kingdom Christian Academy
New Bloomfield Schools
North Callaway Schools
Callaway Youth Expo

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Callaway 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.

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Callaway Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Callaway 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 Callaway 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 Callaway is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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





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

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



4-H brings hands-on learning directly into schools through in-school and afterschool programs that extend classroom lessons. **Teachers, 4-H professionals,** and **volunteers** guide students through 4-H projects in areas such as science, agriculture, health, and leadership, helping youth connect learning to the real world.

Programs like **Show Me Embryology** give students a front-row seat to science in action as they watch chicks hatch and explore the life cycle of a chicken. These experiences help students grow curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking skills, preparing them to be **Beyond Ready** for whatever comes next.



Missouri 4-H is igniting curiosity and cultivating innovation through 4-H Powered STEM. From robotics and coding to environmental science and engineering, youth engage in hands-on learning that makes science come alive.

4-H STEM programs build problem-solving skills, spark discovery, and prepare the next generation of innovators and leaders. Every young person—no matter where they live or learn—has access to high-quality science experiences that open doors to future opportunities and help them become **Beyond Ready** for the challenges of tomorrow.



4-H's College and Career Pathways programs emphasize the pivotal role of education in achieving career goals, creating paths to success through exposure to project areas, mentorship, and skill-building experiences. Programs like **On My Own** and **Youth Futures** give youth practical tools in financial literacy, goal-setting, and workplace readiness, helping them gain confidence in planning for life after high school.

By connecting education, career exploration, and hands-on learning, 4-H prepares young people to be **Beyond Ready**—equipped with the knowledge, skills, and adaptability to succeed in school, careers, and life.



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Local Impact

283 youth enrolled Callaway County 4-H had a total of about 283 youth enrolled in 6 4-H community clubs, not including members of the in-school FMS club and the civic engagement SPIN club in partnership with the Callaway Chamber and Junior Leadership class.



6 Community Clubs

Callaway County 4-H program includes six active community clubs—Hatton, Kingdom Crusaders, Mighty Mokoners, New Bloomfield Cruisers, Rising Sun, and Williamsburg Pioneers—that meet monthly throughout the year. Led by adult volunteers, these clubs are located across the county and offer hands-on projects in areas such as agriculture, STEM, public speaking, arts, and community service. Through meetings, service projects, and countywide events, members build leadership, teamwork, confidence, and other important life skills, forming the foundation of Callaway County 4-H.

1 In-school club Callaway County 4-H started a new in-school 4-H club to bring 4-H opportunities directly into the classroom at Fulton Middle School. This club was officially chartered in 2025 adding another way for students to participate in 4-H beyond traditional community clubs. The in-school club lets students engage in hands-on learning and project work during the school day, helping them explore 4-H themes like leadership, science, service, and life skills in a familiar setting. It expands access to 4-H for youth who might not otherwise be able to attend meetings after school. This strengthens connections between the public schools and the 4-H program in our county.

1 Spin Club The Callaway County 4-H civic engagement SPIN club is a special interest program created through a partnership between Callaway County 4-H, the Callaway Chamber of Commerce, and the Junior Leadership Callaway class. Unlike traditional year-round 4-H clubs, this SPIN club focuses specifically on civic engagement and community leadership through a series of guided sessions. Participants gain hands-on experience by connecting with community leaders, exploring local issues, and participating in service and leadership activities. This partnership helps youth build leadership skills while encouraging active citizenship and meaningful involvement in Callaway County.

Program Highlight – 4-H Powered STEM Space Camp



The 4-H Powered STEM Space Camp held here in Callaway County was an exciting and meaningful experience that left a lasting impact on the youth who attended. This hands-on camp welcomed 25 local young people and immersed them in the world of science, technology, engineering, and math through the lens of space exploration. Participants explored topics such as rocketry, robotics, astronomy, and problem-solving, all while building confidence, teamwork, and curiosity about STEM careers.

The success of the STEM Space Camp was made possible through a partnership with our State 4-H STEM Specialist and Missouri University of Science and Technology (S&T). This collaboration ensured that the camp delivered high-quality, research-based STEM programming while connecting local youth to real-world applications of science and engineering. By working together, these partners helped bring cutting-edge STEM education directly to our community.

A key component of this partnership was the training and preparation of six individuals, including the Callaway 4-H YPA, who were equipped with curriculum and supplies to deliver the Space Camp in their community. This allowed the curriculum to be implemented with consistency, depth, and enthusiasm, ensuring that participants received a meaningful and impactful STEM experience.

For many of the 25 participants from Callaway, this was their first opportunity to engage deeply with STEM concepts in an encouraging, fun environment. The experience sparked new interests, expanded horizons, and showed them that opportunities in STEM are accessible right here in Callaway County.

Building on the momentum of the Space Camp, Callaway County is excited to establish a 4-H STEM Robotics Spin Club in 2026 and take the curriculum into the schools. This new club and curriculum will provide ongoing opportunities for youth to develop technical skills, creativity, and leadership through STEM, robotics and engineering challenges. Together, the Space Camp and the upcoming STEM outreach demonstrate a strong commitment to preparing Callaway County youth for the future while fostering innovation, collaboration, and community pride.

Callaway County

Missouri 4-H

Shannon Walton – Youth Program Associate II

Showcase



4-H Day with the Cardinals



4-H Day at the Capitol



Teen Conference



State Congress



Public Speaking



State Level Contests

Fashion Revue



Horse Judging



Callaway County

Missouri 4-H

Shannon Walton – Youth Program Associate II

SMQA Education



Camp Clover Point



New In School Charter



Fall Pumpkin patch outing

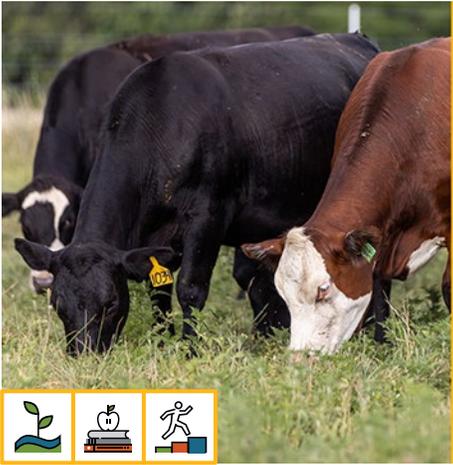


Mayor's Proclamation for National 4-H Week



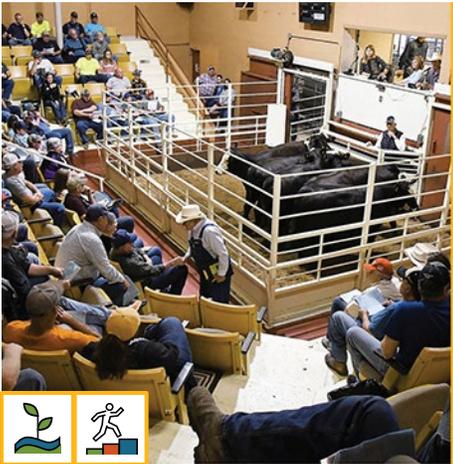
MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
through credible statewide programs

Agriculture and Environment



Missouri Grazing Schools teach management-intensive grazing by dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend the grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through Improved livestock grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri



The Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri. The program brings in the power of animal genomics through an enhanced DNA-option, Show-Me-PLUS.



Since its inception more than 900 FARMS have enrolled, with an estimated statewide impact of \$200 MILLION.



The Missouri AgrAbility Project provides practical education, on-the-farm assistance and agency referrals to farmers and ranchers with disabilities and their families to promote agricultural and rural independence. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), administers the AgrAbility project.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Livestock – Callaway County

Agriculture and Environment

Chrisee Brandl – Field Specialist in Livestock

Local Impact - Livestock

Callaway County Program Activities totaled approximately **368** contacts. Programs included Show-Me-Quality Assurance, Callaway County Thank a Farmer –Lunch and Learn, Extension council meetings, Callaway Youth Expo, Soil and Water Conservation District, Show-Me-Select Heifer Development Program, and others.

Virtual programs totaled approximately **381** contacts.

Callaway County Indirect Contacts totaled approximately **811**. These contacts were made through community outreach events.

Callaway County Direct Contacts totaled approximately **52**. The methods of contact included phone calls, texts, emails, office visits, and farm visits with topics directly related to livestock.

Callaway County Program Highlight *Thank a Farmer Event - Lunch and Learn*

Thank a Farmer event was created in collaboration with Callaway County Missouri Farm Bureau to further serve our local producers. This event hosted MU Extension Specialist (Horticulture, Master Gardner, Nutrition, 4-H, Livestock, and Agronomy), local state agencies, and other organization to serve and educate producers. This event was set up as a lunch and learn to allow producers to engage and communicate with organizations in the community. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to visit booths, learn about cost-share programs, and discover new farming opportunities, especially valuable for those just starting out. The event achieved a strong Net Promoter Score of +66.7, showing that attendees were highly likely to recommend it to others. Feedback highlighted the importance of expanding future programming to include more information for small farms, small ruminant production, as well as opportunities for youth in agriculture. Participants emphasized the event's value in fostering collaboration and learning. Outreach through email and social media proved effective in drawing participants, and the overall sentiment was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees encouraging Extension to keep building on this strong first year.

This event demonstrated Extension's vital role in connecting farmers with resources, strengthening community ties, and identifying future areas of growth to better serve Missouri's agricultural community.



Livestock – Callaway County

Agriculture and Environment

Chrisee Brandl – Field Specialist in Livestock

Show-Me-Select (SMS) Heifer Replacement Program

The Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program uses the latest research on health, nutrition, genetics and reproductive science to ensure Missouri counties continue to be national leaders in providing quality beef.

The 2025 SMS sale for the Central Region was held in Vienna, MO at South Central Regional Stockyards in May. Chrisee Brandl is the Regional Coordinator for the Central Region. Chrisee completed 19 farm visits to gather pre-breeding, breeding, and pregnancy data along with tagging heifers before the sale. There were 9 consignors that sold 58 heifers to 15 buyers. The sale average was \$3,917. Chrisee completed 7 farm visits to gather pre-breeding data for the upcoming 2026 spring sale.

Social media engagement totaled 27,109 views - 1,534 people engaged with 288 reactions, 85 shares, and 982 followers.



Virtual Fence Foundations

The Center for Regenerative Agriculture, MU Extension, and the Missouri Fertilizer Control Board put together a 5-part webinar series about all things virtual fencing. There were approximately 1,026 participants statewide on webinars with YouTube videos published. Chrisee assisted with the organization, implementation, and advertisement of this webinar series.



Missouri Grazing School

Grazing school is a cooperative venture between NRCS and MU Extension. The agenda covers all aspects of managed intensive grazing for both plants and livestock. Chrisee presented on topics including *matching forages to livestock* and *animal requirements and yield distribution* at two grazing schools offered in Warren and Gasconade counties. There were approximately 46 participants. It is the intention of grazing school to provide research-based education to participants who are considering intensive grazing and the importance of a comprehensive approach to managed intensive grazing. Long term outcome is improved daily gain of the livestock and further improving overall on farm income.

Livestock Newsletters

Chrisee authored and distributed approximately 2,693 newsletters with topics focused on livestock and upcoming events for producers. A total of seven editions were sent out via email and AgConnect. Topics included Grazing Management, Secure Beef Supply Plan and Biosecurity, Beef Quality Assurance, Theileria Orientalis, Summer Annual Forages, Extending the Grazing Season, Drones and Livestock, Fall Calving Nutrition, Pearls of Production, and Livestock Specialist Introduction.

Livestock – Callaway County

Agriculture and Environment

Chrisee Brandl – Field Specialist in Livestock

Livestock Programs - Callaway County

Beef Quality Assurance Trainer

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers of how good husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions.

Pork Quality Assurance Trainer

Pork Quality Assurance Plus® (PQA Plus®) is an education and certification program designed to help pig farmers and their employees continually improve production practices. It addresses food safety, animal well-being, environmental stewardship, worker safety, public health and community.

Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program

The SMS replacement heifer program uses the latest research on health, nutrition, genetics, and reproductive science to ensure Missouri counties continue to be national leaders in providing high quality beef. The program focuses on Missouri's farmers and is dependent upon active participation from livestock specialist and local veterinarians, each of which are critical components of the agriculture sector of this state.

Pearls of Production

Pearls of Production is a hands-on educational program for livestock production. The program consists of a classroom setting and focused on key animal production topics presented by female industry leaders addressing women safety issues working with livestock, livestock health concerns, current topics in the livestock industry, policy and regulatory issues, taking care of yourself, and how to be a positive influence in livestock production.

Management Intensive Grazing School Instructor

Missouri Grazing Schools is a major program effort by the University of Missouri Extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to educate livestock farmers and ranchers across Missouri on how to increase profitability with no negative environmental impact on the land. The focus is to enhance soil, water, and forage resources in Missouri operations by teaching the concepts of Management-intensive Grazing (MiG).

Secure Beef Supply – Biosecurity

The Secure Beef Supply (SBS) plan provides guidance to help beef producers maintain business continuity during a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. The program supports producers, veterinarians, and animal health officials in preparing for a coordinated response that protects herd health and the beef industry.

Innovated Livestock Technology - Drones

The agricultural drone program provides hands-on training in using unmanned aircraft to improve scouting, mapping, and decision-making on farms. Participants learn how drones can enhance efficiency by capturing real-time data on crop health, livestock monitoring, and field conditions.

Local Impact

MU Soil Lab Fertility Test Samples

Callaway County submitted 192 of the 14,821 samples submitted state-wide to the MU Soil Lab Testing Services.



What Did They Learn?

Methods: Based on MU Soil Testing Laboratory critical values, soil test results were evaluated to determine nutrient sufficiency.

Samples were classified as requiring lime when soil pH was below 5.5, phosphorus additions when soil test P was below 45, and potassium additions when soil test K was below 200.

Percentages reported represent the proportion of samples falling below these critical thresholds.

Test results and recommendations of fertilizer applications were mailed to the customers that had submitted their samples. Follow-up consultations were provided by Field Specialist in Agronomy, Rusty Lee, as customers needed additional assistance interpreting the results and recommendations.

Increases in grain yield and forage tonnage are expected when elements of fertility are deemed required.

31% required lime for pH corrections.

61% required Phosphorus additions.

22% required Potassium additions.

How Does This Work Make Callaway County and Missouri Better?

Enables farmers to manage their soil fertility by first knowing current levels and which added elements would generate a return on investment.

Promotes farm sustainability by keeping land productivity at a high level.

Reduces unnecessary expenses of applying costly fertilizer at a level above what can be utilized.

Reduces environmental impact from the off-target movement associated with over-application.

Agriculture and Environment

Rust Lee – Field Specialist in Agronomy

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Number of Callaway County Learners

Four Callaway County citizens participated in the **Private Pesticide Applicator Training** facilitated by Rusty Lee, Field Specialist in Agronomy. This 2.5-hour program gave a collective learning total of 10 education hours.

What Did They Learn?

Upon completion of the training, participants were able to:

1. Recognize the need to correctly identify pest organism prior to choosing a pest management strategy.
2. Understand the concept of economic thresholds and economic injury levels when making pest management decisions.
3. Possess a basic understanding of biological control and other non-chemical methods of pest management.
4. Better understand the format and information provided on each pesticide label.
5. Recognize the importance of using label information in all phases of application.
6. Understand the importance of having a Material Safety Data Sheet, and other materials available when applying pesticides.
7. Understand the need for proper selection and use of protective clothing and safety equipment.
8. Understand the importance of the “Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) designation for certain pesticides
9. Consider environmental impacts when selecting a pesticide for use.
10. Consider impact of pesticides on water sources when applying a pesticide.
11. Understand the need and procedure to develop an emergency plan (fire, storm, flood, other) with local emergency officials.

How Does This Work Make Callaway County and Missouri Better?



Enables farmers to meet the legal requirements mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Agriculture’s Bureau for Pesticide Control on the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides on their farmlands, including restricted-use pesticides (RUPs).

This enables farmers to meet society’s demands for lessening agriculture’s environmental impact.

Agricultural and Environment

Mary Sobba – Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Local Impact

Agriculture Lender Seminar

Callaway County had 6 attendees.

Sixty-five lenders from 20 Missouri counties and Illinois attended an ag lender seminar in Mexico. Lenders learned about crop and livestock outlook, agriculture & tax policy, rental rates & land values, input costs and enterprise budgets and regulatory updates. The average tenure of agricultural lender was 12 years with a range of 1 to 38 years. On average, lenders had 207 agricultural loans in their portfolio with an average loan size of \$33,526. Given this information, it is estimated the Mexico Agricultural Lenders Seminar reached 13,455 loans valued at 4,487.6 million dollars. Attendees drove an average of 49 miles to attend the program with a range of 5 to 95 miles.

By attending University of Missouri's Agricultural Lenders' seminars, lenders gain knowledge to help their clients make better decisions based on objective education and resources. More information and better decisions benefit their portfolio of producers, landowners, and agribusinesses through enhanced understanding of enterprise budgets, market expectations, and other decision-influencing factors affecting families' and businesses' financial health.

Participants described the seminar as informative, well-organized, and enjoyable. Several complimented the quality of the presentations and expressed appreciation for the event overall. In addition to the ag lender seminar in Mexico, there were seminars in Chillicothe, Jefferson City, Springfield and Warsaw. The total statewide attendance was 198 ag lenders.



Agricultural and Environment

Mary Sobba – Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Extension Tax Schools

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 schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, installment sales, tax benefits of home ownership, retirement tax issues, and individual tax issues. The schools were approved for up to 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 4,024 hours.

The teaching teams included CPAs, a former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, a certified financial planner, Missouri Department of Revenue, MU faculty and extension ag business specialists.

The evaluations had many positive comments and helpful suggestions. One comment from an online participant was “The video was outstanding – best I’ve seen on any CPE I’ve done live.”. Planning is underway to offer trainings in 2026. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, 2025 National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2025 school attendance totaled three hundred eighty-nine people, which was an 11% increase from 2024. Six from Callaway County, two from out-of-state, and remaining through Missouri.



Agriculture and Environment

Amie Breshears – Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Profiles and stories

Farm Management on My Own: What the Hay?

Farm Management on my Own: What the Hay? Was a new program that debuted in the fall with an online lunch-and-learn series of four sessions offered statewide. This was a collaborative effort of Agronomy and Ag Business Specialists Travis Harper, Valerie Tate, and Amie Breshears.



This series was designed to provide participants with practical, valuable insight into cost-effective hay production, from selecting appropriate forage species to evaluating actual production costs. Participants learned about forage species selection and quality, fertilizer strategies for productive fields, weed control and optimal forage production, and how to calculate the true cost of hay to support smarter livestock feeding decisions.

Program impacts:

- 21 individuals registered for the series.
- 100% of respondents indicated they would recommend the program to others.
- Participants represented 16 Missouri counties:

Barton
Boone
Callaway
Cedar
Dade
Dallas
Franklin
Harrison
Howell
Laclede
Lawrence
Morgan
Newton
Ozark
Perry
St. Francois



Local Impact

Thank a Farmer Event – Callaway County

Callaway County Extension and MO Farm Bureau partnered to provide lunch and learn opportunity for local farmers and producers on March 7, 2025. A group of MU Extension Specialists participated and displayed their local programs offered in the county. As a horticulture specialist, Dhruba displayed poster about horticulture programs and provided information to the participants attended. About 20 participants attended the program.



University of Missouri Master Gardener Training

In-person master gardener training was organized in mid-Missouri in 2025 which included participants from various counties in central Missouri including Callaway County. Eight participants attended the 12-week long training. The training educated the participants through 12 lectures and 8 field sessions.

University of Missouri Master Pollinator Steward

In-person master pollinator steward was organized in mid-Missouri in 2025 which included participants from various counties in central Missouri including Callaway County. Five participants attended the 6-week long training. The training educated the participants through six lectures and three field sessions.



Local Newsletter Articles

Dhruba prepared and published 25 garden columns in 2025 on Callaway County local newspaper- Fulton Sun. He prepared newspaper articles about various topics on gardening, soil testing, soil health improvement and various tips for vegetable, flower and fruit tree during each month.

Agriculture and Environment

Dhruba Dhakal, Field Specialist in Horticulture



Spring Garden Seminar - 2025

A full day-long garden seminar was organized in Jefferson City, MO in 2025. Eighty-five participants attended the seminar including from Callaway County. Participants learned various topics such as landscape design, plant disease diagnosis, lessons learned about tomatoes, after 20 years of the TomatoFest, Flower farm in Tipton and garden IPM session.

Soil, Plant and Water Sample Test

Extension office receives soil, plant and water samples from local people and sends them to University of Missouri soil and plant testing lab. Field specialist in horticulture receives the test report and provides recommendations and interpretation to the clients. In 2025, Callaway County Extension Center received 27 soil samples for horticulture crop fields. Horticulture specialist sent the reports to the client and discussed with them the nutrient status and other soil properties. The specialist also discussed what needs to be done to improve their soil health and soil fertility status.

Other workshops and seminars on horticulture - 2025

Dhruba organized workshops and seminars on various horticulture topics. Some of them were garlic production workshop, talk on planting cover crops in the garden, workshop on cool season vegetable production. Workshop on tomato production in home garden, talk on making and using compost in the garden. Residents from Callaway County attended these workshops and seminars.

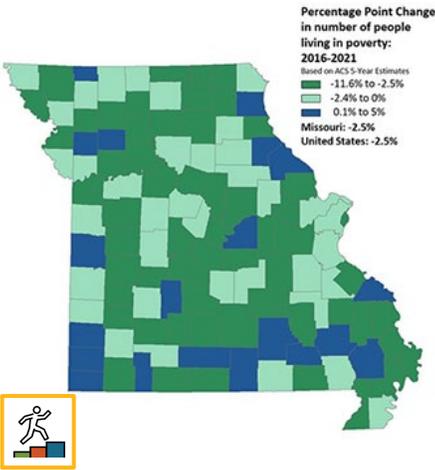
On-site Garden and Horticulture Farm Visit

Horticulture specialist also visited home gardens, fruit and vegetable production farms to identify or diagnose the issues and provide research-based management options to the client. Timely diagnosis of issues in the garden/farm helps farmers to save their crops, increase farmer's knowledge and awareness to adopt good agricultural practices (GAP). This helps to increase net farm income by increasing crop productivity and reducing production cost. The increased local economy in Callaway County contributes to the better Missouri state's economy.



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

Business and Community



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri's economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.



Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2023 Missouri Good Neighbor Week** Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

In 2023, the goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. That goal was surpassed with 19,752 Missourians being positively affected during MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK.

The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)** provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small business across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 Million.

Legend



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& Stewardship



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Health
& Well-Being

Business and Community

Local Impact

Master Naturalists Set New Volunteer Records

Another record set! In 2025, Master Naturalist volunteers in the Boone's Lick chapter completed 7,475 hours of volunteer service, their highest number of annual service hours ever. This translates to \$260,055 in volunteer labor to Boone County and mid-Missouri (Independent Sector, Missouri, 2025).

Volunteer projects were completed in the areas of:

- Conservation and stewardship – habitat restoration and maintenance, invasive control, native plant landscaping, litter pick up, controlled burns, etc.
- Public education and outreach
- Citizen science projects

A rigorous core training of at least 40 hours is conducted by the chapter once a year. In 2025, they graduated 19 new members including 2 from Callaway County. This class has proven to be an eager and motivated group – shortly after graduation 4 joined chapter committees, and 1 even became an officer!

To remain certified volunteers must complete advanced training (continuing education) hours each year. In 2025, Boone's Lick volunteers completed 1,706 advanced training hours, also a record high amount.

The Missouri Master Naturalist is a shared program by MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Boone's Lick chapter is Missouri's oldest Master Naturalist chapter, formed as one of two pilots in 2004. Headquartered in Boone County, the chapter serves all mid-Missouri counties and collaborates with 35 partner organizations.

There are currently 5 Master Naturalists in Callaway County.



Master Naturalist volunteer Jan Martin talking with a young child about turtles during the annual Water Festival at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Natural Resources and Community Development Programs

Submitted by Letitia Johnson, Field Specialist in Community Development

Callaway County

Business and Community

Profiles and Stories



Chris Newbold, Missouri Department of Conservation, Conservation Supervisor, talks with Master Naturalist trainees about water management at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.



Master Naturalist trainees touring one of Columbia's designated "Wild Yards."

MN volunteer Kay Callison and MN trainee Devin Poulin admire some of the friendly turtles at the Boone County Nature School.



Business and Community

Darla Campbell – Field Specialist in Community Development

Farmers' Markets are a Primary Source of Price Data

The Missouri Department of Agriculture partnered with University of Missouri Extension to collect farmers' market price data on crops present at Missouri farmers' markets June-October of 2025. Five MU Extension Specialists collected data while providing production, marketing, and financial resources to producers around the state. The data is available seasonally on MDA's website and helps new and experienced producers determine market prices for their products. There was a total of 45 different markets visited in 2025 with 1908 prices collected.



I made 16 market visits to 12 different markets in Northeast and Central Missouri. These markets were in Kirksville, Unionville, Brookfield, Milan, La Plata, Louisiana, Hannibal, Palmyra, Mexico, Lancaster, and Columbia.



Vendor Contacts by County

- 18 — Adair
- 8 — Audrain
- 18 — Boone
- 9 — Callaway**
- 3 — Chariton
- 5 — Cooper
- 2 — Howard
- 2 — Lewis
- 4 — Lincoln
- 11 — Linn
- 10 — Macon
- 14 — Marion
- 1 — Monroe
- 9 — Pike
- 15 — Putnam
- 16 — Ralls
- 7 — Randolph
- 21 — Schuyler
- 8 — Sullivan
- 3 — Out of State



Business and Community

Sarah Kennedy, Field Specialists in Community Development

Early Childhood Impact

MO-Excel

The MO-Excel grant was from the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development. The Mizzou Center for Family Policy & Research partnered with the MU Extension – Business & Community Team to strengthen and expand the childcare workforce by building new credentials and expanding existing pipelines. Here are some outcomes from the Business & Community projects.

WEBINARS:

A series of 4 webinars began to bridge the gap between the education community and the economic development community. These webinars were a mix of presentations and panel discussions with key speakers from across Missouri. There were 9 Callaway County participants out of a total of 204 participants in the webinars from 36 counties.

The webinars included:

- Early Child Care Supports Thriving Businesses:
- The State of Early Child Care in Missouri
- Policies That Support Families in the Workplace
- Financing Early Child Care

Business and Community

Sarah Kennedy, Field Specialists in Community Development

VIRTUAL SBDC BUSINESS TRAININGS:

A variety of virtual, live classes were presented by the Missouri Small Business Development Center. There were 3 Callaway County attendees out of a total of 31 attendees earning a total of 70 MOPD Clock Hours. These classes included:

Building Blocks of Success: Managing Your Early Childcare Business: This course lays the foundation for running a thriving early childcare business. From setting up strong daily operations to leading your team and navigating licensing and compliance, you'll explore the key building blocks that support sustainable growth and high-quality care. Whether you're just starting or looking to strengthen your center's structure, this class will help you put the right pieces in place for long-term success.

Smart Money: Understanding the Numbers Behind Your Childcare Business: A comprehensive course designed to empower childcare providers with essential financial management skills. Participants will learn to interpret and utilize key financial statements—such as income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements—to make informed decisions that enhance the sustainability and profitability of their childcare operations. The course covers budgeting techniques, cost analysis, revenue optimization strategies, and compliance with financial regulations specific to the childcare industry. By the end of the program, attendees will have the confidence and knowledge to effectively manage their finances, plan for future growth, and navigate the unique economic challenges of running a childcare business.

Professionalism Matters: Professionalism in early childhood education is fundamental to fostering a nurturing and effective learning environment for young children. It encompasses a commitment to continuous improvement, ethical conduct, and a deep understanding of child development. By upholding high professional standards, educators can positively influence children's growth and learning experiences.



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

Continuing Education



The **Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI)** offers advanced training on a wide variety of topics, including defensive tactics, firearms, use of force and de-escalation. LETI offers customized programs for all required continuing education areas of concentration.



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI)** is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighter and emergency responders.



The Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) has provided basic and advanced training for law enforcement since 1948. LETI's **Basic Peace Officer Academy** exceeds the 600 hours of training required for licensure in Missouri. From 2019 through 2025, the basic academy has licensed almost 400 peace officers, more than any other academy in the state. During that time, all but one graduate became employed by a law enforcement agency. LETI graduates come from around the state and return to their communities to serve and protect.



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Continuing Education

The following excerpt is taken from the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Annual Report of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

“MU FRTI’s continuing education directive is to provide training and education that meets the needs of Missouri’s fire and emergency response personnel so that they can better protect lives and property within their communities. In fulfilling this mission, MU FRTI has a direct impact on the wellbeing and protection of Missouri’s estimated 21,000 firefighters and the six million citizens they serve.

Funding of the Institute comes from several sources. In FY25, the Institute has self-generated 100% of its operational budget by means of federal, state, and local grants, contracts, and fees.

The Institute conducted 596 classes with a total enrollment of 10,105 students (5,000 shy of filling the Mizzou Arena) for the fiscal year 2025. The training received by these students translates to 105,712 student instructional hours, or 339 FTE’s (Full Time Equivalents). Using MU FRTI’s field extension program, the Institute reached students in all 114 Missouri counties. In addition, the Institute had student enrollments from 20 other states. 783 different agencies participated in MU FRTI’s programs.

MU FRTI delivered 73% of all training at the local level in 84 of the 114 counties in Missouri and in 11 other states. Every hour of instruction received, and every emergency first responder trained translates directly into safer firefighters and safer communities.

To ensure the quality and assurance of the Institute’s programs, it undergoes third-party review from several sources. Through these reviews, the Institute can provide professional continuing education credit for students. In addition, MU FRTI conducts end-of-course evaluations to monitor quality control. In FY25 the Institute received a 3.4 overall customer approval rating out of a possible 4.0. This rating could be considered as a B+ average if translated into a letter grade. In another measurement of quality assurance, the Institute saw the student pass rate in courses that require an exam of 90% success rate with an average passing score of 93%.

A continued focus for FY25 was online learning. Online learning helps us provide valuable training that would otherwise been unavailable. Online learning is a way to reach students who would otherwise have difficulty with travel and schedules to attend training. These classes trade a significant portion of travel and classroom time for the convenience of structured, interactive online learning and remote instructor support. In FY25 the Institute offered 36 online classes to 659 students. The total student instructional hours for the online learning students were 9,872.

MU FRTI is committed to the training and education of fire and emergency responders, and we are pleased to provide this [Fiscal Year 2025 annual report](#).”

Callaway County had 195 students enrolled in courses offered through MU FRTI in 2025.



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

Health and Human Sciences



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy supports older adults in maintaining strength, balance, and mobility to fully engage in the activities that matter most to them. The program combines safe, effective exercises with practical information on nutrition and wellness, helping participants build confidence, connection, and **well-being** for lifelong health.

After eight weeks, participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program showed significant improvement in their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

“I have cleaned my house of clutter for safety, put non-slip stickers on my tub floor, I’m getting much more regular exercise and I’m feeling stronger.”



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

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



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

Programming and Activities



Overview: estimated medical cost savings of \$70,293 for program completers in Callaway County.

Over 550 contacts with Callaway County residents outside of offered programs.

Health and Human Science

Kathy Deeken, MA – Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

Profiles and stories

A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

These classes helped 27 participants maintain or increase their strength or balance (from those who completed surveys:)

91% - Maintained or increased strength

79% - Maintained or increased balance

89% - Reduced fear of falling/increased confidence

100% Felt more knowledgeable about fall prevention strategies

“I was able to get on the floor to brush the dog, as we discussed, and get back up. It was so easy.”

\$25,326 - Programs projected savings in annual healthcare cost based on 27 completers.

Flexible Fitness: A Chair Yoga Approach

Chair yoga is a versatile and accessible form of fitness that can be practiced by anyone, regardless of age or mobility. It offers a range of poses that can be performed while seated or using a chair for support, making it ideal for those who may find traditional yoga poses challenging.

This class helped 9 completers maintain or increase their flexibility, strength, and balance in 24 classes where participants practice simple yoga poses, mostly in a chair.

92% - Maintained or increased strength

85% - Maintained or increased balance

100% - Maintained or increased flexibility

75% - Feel their range of motion has improved

75% - Feel they can better perform daily activities

\$9,999 – Program is projected savings in annual healthcare cost based on 9 completers

When asked what the most helpful part of the program was, one participant wrote “Improved range of motion and decreased joint pain”



Health and Human Sciences

Kathy Deeken, MA – Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy supports older adults in maintaining strength, balance, and mobility to fully engage in the activities that matter most to them. The program combines safe, effective exercises with practical information on nutrition and wellness, helping participants build confidence, connection, and **well-being** for lifelong health.

After eight weeks, participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program showed significant improvement in their **STRENGTH, BALANCE** and **SLEEP QUALITY**.

These classes helped a total of 14 seniors in Callaway County improve their strength, flexibility, balance, and auxiliary activity to decrease risk of falling and improve overall health. This program is expected to contribute to an estimated \$14, 336.00 in annual healthcare cost savings.



“This class was better for me than PT [physical therapy.] In PT I never progressed.”

Tai Chi For Arthritis and Fall Prevention program is designed to improve multiple aspects of health through slow, gentle movements that can be practiced almost anywhere. The degree of exertion can be easily adjusted, making this program suitable for adults of all levels and abilities.

Published medical studies have shown benefits, such as pain relief, improved balance and reduced falls. You will learn warmup exercises, six basic and six advanced moves and a cooldown during 16 one-hour classes. Harmony of inner and outer self comes from integrating mind and body, which can be achieved through the ongoing practice of tai chi.

Maintained or increased strength: 100%
Maintained or increased balance: 94%
At least a small reduction in arthritis pain: 89%

\$17,776 – Program is projected savings in annual healthcare cost based on 16 completers

“The class was an eye opener. My balance has definitely improved.”

Health and Human Sciences

Kathy Deeken, MA – Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health



Living a Healthy Life With Diabetes

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

These programs have undergone rigorous evaluation and are proven to be effective tools for individuals dealing with diabetes.

Upon completion of the program, 100% of participants started or continued to exercise, 67% made changes to how they choose the food they eat, and 67% participated in or plan to participate in another health-related or exercise program in their community. Participants were asked how sure they were about managing their condition so they can do the things they want and need at the end of the program. They indicated a confidence level of at least 80%.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome Awareness Presentation, Fulton Public Library, November 4, 2025, with Nutrition and Health Specialist Rachel O'Halloran.

This was an informative program on Alpha-Gal Syndrome, a food allergy triggered by tick bites. The session covered common symptoms, screening and diagnosis, and practical tips for prevention. Participants also learned how to make safe food selections, explore alternative ingredients, and enjoy a recipe sample designed for those living with Alpha-Gal Syndrome.

There were 16 attendees. Of those who completed the survey:

Satisfied or very satisfied with the presentation- 100%

The presentation met expectations- 100%

Would recommend the presentation to others- 100%

“Great intro for those who don’t know about this condition.”

Self Defense For Seniors, Callaway County Sheriff’s Office, October 16, 2025

This class resulted from a request from Fulton Library staff and was developed through the Callaway County Sheriff’s Office. The presentation focused on situational awareness and community safety and was very popular with the 16 people attending.

100 Miles, 100 days Callaway County Community Walk, August 5, 2025

MU Extension and Legends Rec Plex in Fulton hosted an early walk! As part of the 100 Miles, 100 Days challenge, this free event was a fun way to move and stay motivated. We had 4 participants.

Health and Human Services

Local Impact

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2025

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 70,722 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 970,939 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, and food pantries.

2,345 direct and indirect contacts were made in Callaway 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.

