



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Cedar County 2025



Annual Report

Cedar County MU Extension
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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



Mikayla Neil
Extension & Engagement Specialist



Patrick Davis
Livestock Field Specialist



Christine Sherrod
Youth Program Associate

Council Members

Linda Betlock
Trish Boyles
Kelly Hendricks
Rod Hendricks
Bon Morris
Justin Allenbrand
Ryan Porterfield
Browning Proctor
Pam Ross
Joy Rutledge
Kenneth Thornton
Finley Proctor

County commissioners

Kenneth Thornton
Presiding Commissioner

Ron Alumbaugh
Northern Commissioner

Ted Anderson
Southern Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	70,567.08
Grasslands Project	1590.04
Total Income	72,157.12
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	63,616.12
Travel	4,236.00
Telephone	1,450.00
Office Supplies/Service	1,400.00
Insurance	1,085.00
Postage	100.00
Advertising	100.00
Chamber Fees	170.00
Total Expenses	72,157.12

Cedar County partners

- Cedar County Commissioners
- Cedar County Health Department
- Hope Center
- Cedar County Library
- Cedar County Homeschoolers
- Cedar County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Stockton R-1- School
- El Dorado Springs School
- Dr. Locke, Cedar Creek Veterinary Services
- Cedar County Farm Bureau
- Mid-Missouri Bank
- MFA

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 *(name of county)* County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the *(name of county)* County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Cedar County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Cedar Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Cedar 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 Cedar County can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in (your county name) 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

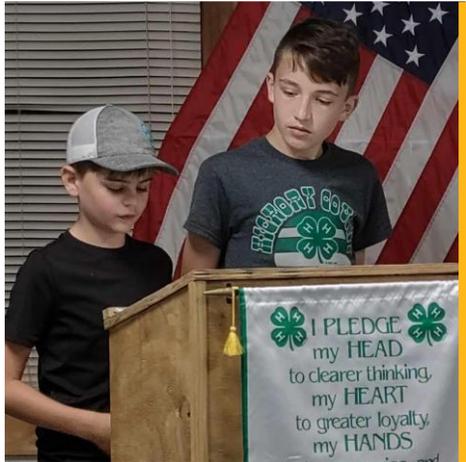
Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

Rooted in University of Missouri Extension, 4-H connects classrooms, communities, and families to create learning that sticks—building confident, capable leaders who are Beyond Ready for life. In 4-H, youth discover their strengths, practice resilience, and learn to lead with heart—preparing them not just for what's next, but for anything that comes their way.



Community clubs are at the heart of 4-H. Led by trained volunteers, members come together regularly to learn, lead, and serve. Youth elect officers, enroll in projects, and plan hands-on activities that build leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. Some clubs focus on a single project—like photography or livestock—while others explore a variety of topics throughout the year.

SPIN (Special Interest) **clubs** provide a short-term way to dive deep into a specific topic with expert guidance. These clubs meet for several weeks to a few months, giving youth flexibility while developing skills to be Beyond Ready for life.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

4-H Youth Development Program

4-H programs are built on the belief that youth learn best by doing. With the support and guidance of adult volunteers serving as mentors, youth engage in hands-on learning experiences through projects in areas including engineering and technology, environmental science and natural resources, plant and animal science, leadership and personal development, expressive arts, and healthy living, in addition to taking on leadership positions which help to mold them into the caring, competent, and confident citizens who know the value of contributing to their communities.

4-H programming reaches youth through a variety of delivery modes in Cedar County, including Community Clubs, SPIN Clubs or short-term 4-H programming, and in-school or afterschool membership or school enrichment programming. These varied delivery modes allow participants to participate in the format that best meets their needs and interests, while focusing on multiple skills including public speaking, leadership, exploring sparks (or interests), developing life skills, responsibility, group decision making, and exploring college and career pathways.

4-H Community Club Members

- 134 youth reached through Cedar County during the 2024-2025 4-H Year.
- Collectively, youth participated in 4 hours of documented community club work and 8 hours of community service in Cedar County.

4-H SPIN Clubs

- 96 youth participated in 4-H through the SPIN Clubs which are short-term 4-H clubs focused on a specific topic.



Local Impact

4-H Programming Participation

- 28 youth served in a leadership role within their club or council.
- Youth showcased what they learned in their projects this year with 132 exhibits by 31 youth shown at the Cedar County Youth Fair. 42 youth also exhibited 178 projects at the Land O' Lakes Fair.
- Cedar County was represented by 23 youth exhibiting in the 4-H Building and Livestock Shows at the Missouri State Fair in 2025.
- Cedar County youth also sited in on their future through their shooting sports projects which strives to teach them focus and safety while honing their skills and developing sportsmanship. 32 youth competed in the Missouri 4-H State Shoot events this year and 3 youth from Cedar County represented the state of Missouri at the National 4-H Shoot in Grand Island, Nebraska in 2025.
- 20 recognition forms were completed by members. Completing these forms allow members to reflect on the things they have done and learned throughout the 4-H year and how they can apply what they have learned in the upcoming year.
- 8 youth learned more about civic engagement and the Missouri Legislature by participating in 4-H Day at the Capitol.
- Youth from Cedar County collected food items and funds which donated 57 pounds of food through the 4-H Feeding Missouri Initiative. The food collected was given to support food insecurity needs locally.
- 2 members participated in the Missouri 4-H Sportfishing Slam using their skills to capture a variety of fish species found in Missouri waters.
- Youth also took their 4-H experience beyond the county lines participating in the following events:
 - State 4-H Teen Conference – 1
 - State Poultry and Rabbit Day – 4
 - STEM Day at Cottey College – 4
 - State Public Speaking – 1
 - Zoo Apprenticeship Camp- Busch Garden - 1



Local Impact

Cedar County members enrolled in a combined total of 581 projects during the 2024-2025 4-H Year. The top project areas included: Shooting Sports, beef, arts and crafts, foods, swine, clover kids, poultry, photography, sheep and welding.

4-H Programming Impact

- 4-H members are twice as likely to go college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).
- 4-H also prepares youth for the workplace. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision- competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).

4-H Volunteers

- 4-H Volunteers are the true muscle of the 4-H program, extending the reach of 4-H professionals and making a difference in the lives of youth by connecting them with a caring adult to support them in their development.
- Cedar County 4-H members were supported by 44, screened and oriented adult volunteers supporting the development of youth in the 2024-2025 4-h Year.
- Volunteers contributed 440 hours to the Cedar County 4-H program valued at \$15,307.
- 10 volunteers participated in volunteer development efforts including the Club Leader and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner offered by 4-H Professionals to learn and be equipped for the leadership roles in which they serve.
- Adult volunteers serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into caring, healthy adults who contribute back to their communities, which is priceless.

Resources:

Arnold, M., Bourdeau, V., & Nott, B. (2013). Measuring science inquiry skills in youth development programs: The Science Process Skills Inventory, *Journal of Youth Development*, 8(1).

Arnold, M. E. (2018). From Context to Outcomes: A Thriving Model for 4-H Youth Development Programs. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 6(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.54718/NBNL5438>

Independent Sector. (2023). *Value of Volunteer Time Report | Independent Sector Resources*. Independent Sector. <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V. (2011). The positive development of youth: Report of the findings from the first seven years of the *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*. Retrieved from <http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/>.

U.S. News and World Report (2011). How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/08/05/how-higher-education-affects-lifetime-salary>

Cedar County

Missouri 4-H

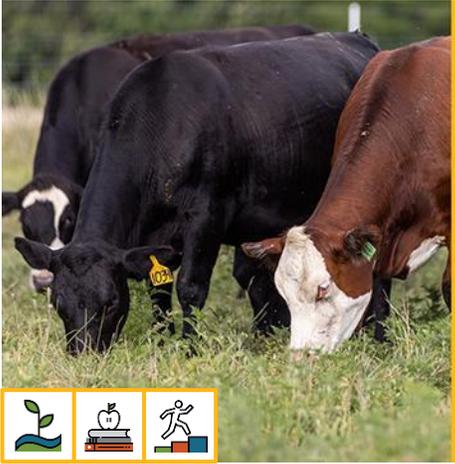




MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

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 Master Gardener** program enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



In 2023, almost 4,000 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 149,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Cedar County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming

Cedar County Forage and Livestock Conference

This conference was a collaborative effort between MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist, Cedar County MO Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Cedar County Farm Bureau. Speaker and topics included:

- Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist-Management Consideration for Retaining Calves Post Weaning
- Caleb O'Neal MU Extension Plant Science Field Specialist-Investing in Your Farms Bank Account-The Soil

Cedar County MO Soil and Water Conservation District gave a presentation and honored their cooperator of the year. Cedar County Farm Bureau also gave a presentation. Specific knowledge gained by the 53 participants included:

- Rotational grazing
- Building soil resilience/pasture conservation
- Soil basics and health
- Calf health
- Increasing plant diversity
- Raising mower height

Based on knowledge gained, participants plan to make changes to their farming operations that include:

- Manage soil health better
- Allow cows to wean calves
- Strip grazing and rotational grazing
- Mow higher and leave as much residual as possible



Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming

Multispecies Grazing Workshop

This workshop was a collaboration between MU Extension and a local farmer to educate the public on multispecies grazing with sheep, goats and cattle. Topics discussed included:

- Protecting your cattle operation from drought
- Multispecies grazing

17 people were educated during the event.

Some of the specific things that they learned included:

- Multispecies grazing nutrition and management
- Increasing land productivity through multispecies
- grazing
- Multispecies grazing stocking rates
- Information on fescue

Based on knowledge gained participants plan to:

- Implement multispecies grazing between cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and chickens
- Plant more grass
- Work with extension more on business plans



Community Safety Net Rural Safety Days-Stockton and El Dorado Springs

This is a cooperative effort between MU Extension Community Safety Net, Stockton Schools, and El Dorado Springs Schools. The goal of this is to educate youth and provide them with educational materials on rural safety that will educate themselves as well as their family. Community Safety Net works with MU Extension and local businesses to get donations for rural safety books that are developed by Community Safety Net. Then MU Extension works with schools' agriculture teachers and students to provide safety education through safety station stations. Also, during the safety education students receive rural safety books and other safety resources from Community Safety Net. A total of 144 youth were educated in rural safety across Stockton and El Dorado Springs Schools.



2026 FARM FAMILY DAY RECIPIENTS

Daniel and Yelena Sheremeta were among the Missouri families honored at the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day on August 11 during the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. The Sheremeta family was chosen as the Cedar County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the Cedar County Farm Bureau.



Honorees Are....

- ✓ Families who are respected for their leadership and engagement by their neighbors and community.
- ✓ Farm families who are actively engaged in agriculture.
- ✓ Active supporters engaged with University of Missouri Extension, MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources or Missouri Farm Bureau.
- ✓ Farm families who are actively involved and/or support youth organizations such as 4-H, FFA, and other youth organizations and opportunities which expose youth to agriculture.
- ✓ Farm Families who are active in their community and in leadership roles with organizations such as Farm Bureau, church, school, or other farm organizations.



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Health and Human Sciences



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

An engaging way to demonstrate the benefits of nutrition, health, and physical activity. Meets Missouri's Show-Me Health and Physical Education standards and the state's School Wellness Policy.

"We have struggled with our daughter's picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things."

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



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.



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

HELPING HANDS FOUR PANTRY leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating \$1,000 of pantry discretionary spending for **LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE**



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

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.

1,329 direct and indirect contacts were made in Cedar 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.



Local Impact

EFNEP Public Value Statement 2025

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 424 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,550 family members. Additionally, 2,942 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

Zero of these youth and adult participants reside in Cedar County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making 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.

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