



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Clinton County

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

100 S. Y Hwy
Plattsburg, MO 64477
816-933-2138



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

Budget and more

2024 Extension Council Budget

Income

County Appropriations	112,070.81
Student Fees	800.00
Investment Income	27,425.82
Service Fees	140.00
Misc. Income	924.12
Reimbursement	3,083.36
Rebate	148.01
Total Income	\$132,006.17

Expenses

Salary	18,536.16
Payroll Expenses	2,816.78
Travel	5,537.77
Programming	16,313.95
Postage	284.61
Phone	554.52
Advertising	2,723.89
Equipment Rental	882.00
Copy Service	2,073.31
Supplies/Service/Trash	16,900.37
Utilities	2,724.08
Insurance	5,388.58
Dues/Membership/Sub.	1,019.84
Working Capital	3,115.58
Repairs/ Maintenance	660.00
Mowing/Cleaning	4,440.00
School Enrichment Fee	244.00
Furniture/Equipment	3,019.24
Service Fee	14.06
Purchase of Building	44,757.43
Total Expense	\$132,006.17

Thank You

for voting for a bright future for Clinton County



MU Extension Funding Partnerships

Federal and state higher education funding support professional staff and county funds pay for the local office and programming. Donations can be directed to specific Extension and 4-H programs.

Citizens For Clinton County Extension

Jon Clark, Treasurer

The voters of Clinton County approved a new tax levy April 6, 2021, to ensure future funding for Clinton County MU Extension. The Citizens for Clinton County Extension promoted the value of MU Extension programming and services throughout the county reaching out to Clinton County Extension, 4-H and MU alumni; civic organizations; neighbors and friends with informative materials and conversations.

The tax rate of \$0.0375 per \$100 property valuation was determined by the Council to provide adequate funding to meet the goals of not only the current but the future Clinton County Extension. The revenue generated annually will sustain the research-based resources, programming and services from the University of Missouri for the benefit of improving the lives of Clinton County citizens.

The passage of the tax reinforced the respect and value the Clinton County citizens hold for MU Extension in Clinton County from its history, current activities and future expectations.

How has the increased funding impacted Clinton County MU Extension?

- Clinton County employs a full time 4-H Youth Program Associate and continues providing office support for the Clinton County 4-H Youth Specialist position.
- Clinton County Extension is an active participant with the Clinton County Initiative creating opportunities for economic growth, leadership and quality of life for Clinton County.
- The council continues to make improvements at the Clinton County Youth Building and grounds.
- The Clinton County MU Extension office was able to secure a permanent residence on Y Hwy and is making annual improvements.



Who we are

Faculty and Staff Serving Clinton County

Stacey Steffens – Northwest Region Regional Director

Randa Doty - Extension Engagement Specialist

Laura Evans - Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Taylor Shultz - 4-H Youth Program Associate

Julie Meek - Nutrition Program Associate

Tarunjot (TJ) Sethi - Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

Connie Griffith – Nutrition Program Manager

Denice Ferguson - Field Specialist in Ag Business

Wayne Flanary - Field Specialist in Agronomy

Jim Humphrey - Field Specialist in Livestock

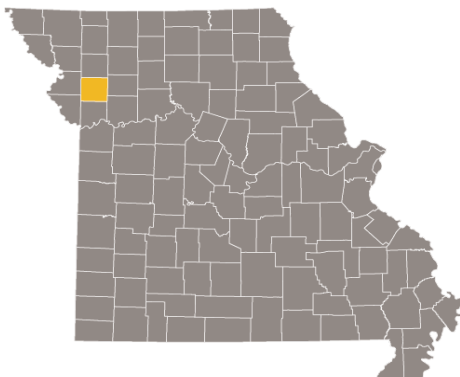
Jim Crawford - Field Specialist in Agri Systems Technology

Todd Higgins - Field Specialist in Horticulture

Katie Pemberton - Field Specialist in Human Development

Rebecca Lobina - Business Development

Mathew Owens – Clinton County Office Manager



Clinton County Extension Council

Sara Giarratana, Chairman

Corey Wilkinson, Vice-Chairman

Jim Patrico, Secretary

Connie Tharp, Treasurer

Zane Myers, Farm Bureau

Mackenzie Hill, 4-H Council Youth Rep.

Rick Tharp, Master Gardener

Kim Vinson

Darrell Wolf

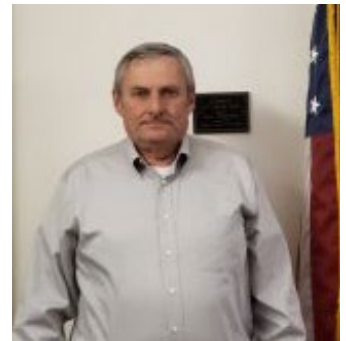
Karen Farnell

Corey Wilkinson

Trevor Angle

Clinton County Commissioners

Patrick Clark
Presiding



Richard Riddell
2nd District



Jay Bettis
1st District





4-H and Positive Youth Development

As Clinton County 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Laura Evans facilitates the 4-H and youth program in the county working directly with Taylor Shultz, Youth Program Associate (YPA), to deliver a comprehensive positive youth development program to 4-H members and youth in our community.

2024 Clinton County 4-H Overview

- ✓ Clinton County youth enrollment increased to 663 from 207 previous year (31%)
- ✓ Established partnership and 4-H Club with and Cameron Public Library.
- ✓ Adulting 101- 27 youth, gained basic life skills that support living independently.
- ✓ 4-H SNAC program at East Buchanan Middle School, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade with over 90 students.
- ✓ Facilitated the Missouri 4-H/Bangladesh Work Together program, state-wide.
- ✓ 20 Clinton County youth participated in 4-H Camp at Crowder State park.
- ✓ All school districts in Clinton County participated in On My Own Stimulation, reaching over 262 students. A big shout out to our numerous volunteers that supported this program.
- ✓ Over than 45 youth participated in Contest Day. Big increase of participation than last year.
- ✓ Best Summer Ever Grant, partnership with Noyes Home (\$10K) and Cameron Public Library (\$6K) to implement 4-H programming during summer months.



4-H Programming efforts in Clinton County reached 663 youth in 2024



Participants learning about nutrition and food budgeting during Adulting 101



TJ Sethi and Laura Evans presented a poster at about Adulting 101 at Extension & Engagement Week in Columbia.



Campers at 4-H Camp at Crowder State Park put the 4-H pledge into practice by assembling close to 300 nutrition kits to be given to the homeless or less fortunate.



262 Clinton County youth participated in the On My Own Simulation and learned about Financial Literacy.



Clinton County team placed third out of 29 teams, showcasing their incredible skill and dedication at the 2024 North American International Livestock Exposition National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest



4-H and Positive Youth Development

4-H Clubs

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience. Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

- 4-H participants = 663
 - **Duplicates not removed.*
- 4-H Community Clubs: offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing this under the guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK.
- 4-H offers Community clubs, SPIN (special interest) clubs, In school and Afterschool Clubs, and school enrichment. Families and communities can choose what fits their needs.

Clinton County 4-H Community Clubs: Gower Dynamites, Keystone Willing Workers Lathrop Shamrocks, and Plattsburg Hustlers 4-H Club.

Clinton County 4-H Afterschool Clubs: Cameron Public Library, Discover 4-H Club, in partnership with the Cameron Public Library, was created to extend the reach of 4-H programs into non-traditional settings. This collaboration provides engaging, hands-on learning opportunities for youth, focusing on personal growth, leadership, and practical life skills. By meeting at the library, the program makes 4-H more accessible to a broader audience, fostering a love of learning and community involvement in a welcoming environment outside the typical classroom or club setting.

4-H SNAC Clubs

The Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) clubs are available in various settings, including before school, during school, after school, and within community programs. These clubs empower youth to enhance their knowledge of nutrition and fitness. Participants take on leadership roles, becoming ambassadors of Healthy Living by designing and executing projects that promote nutrition education and improve fitness in their communities. In 2024, Missouri saw the establishment of 121 SNAC Clubs, engaging 2,543 youth and reaching over 7,330 others through their leadership initiatives.

Leadership Projects

4-H SNAC Club complete leadership project each year. This year youth created:
Organizing canned food drives for local food pantries

- Creating student cookbook
- Making salsa for faculty and staff
- Presenting to younger youth
- Designing posters to promote food groups and healthy eating
- Raising awareness about healthy living



Bulldog SNAC Club
tasting, East Buchanan
Middle School



4-H and Positive Youth Development

Missouri 4-H Summer Enrichment 2024

Missouri 4-H engaged in expanded and enhanced programming throughout the summer of 2024. 4-H team members across Missouri provided diverse educational opportunities to 5,349 young people. Program offerings included career and college awareness and exploration through simulations, program series, and day camps. In partnership with community libraries and community centers, youth unfamiliar and familiar with 4 H had the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM programs, including coding, aerospace, robotics, embryology, and gardening.

Cameron Public Library identified “Based off the response to the programs offered through this partnership, we will be offering more fiber arts and robotics opportunities to the community. The materials purchased through this grant will sustain years of programming.

Responses to the family survey showed that 60% of youth developed better work habits, 70% of youth had an increased interest in learning, 84% felt that 4-H showed respect for their family’s culture, and 70% felt that the 4-H program helped prepare their child for the future. Of the families that participated in the program, 41% had a parent who participated in 4-H as a child, and 48% were not 4-H participants.

Funding for the ARPA Summer Enrichment grant was made possible through a contract with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to distribute a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 1% Set-aside for Summer Enrichment to youth serving programs across the state.





4-H and Positive Youth Development

Volunteers

4-H members are supported by 56 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at \$18,754

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing an average of 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of Clinton 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$18,754 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

Reference

Independent Sector (2024). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$33.49 per hour. Retrieved from

<https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-33-49-per-hour/>



Gower Dynamites 4-H Club collected supplies for 50 Thanksgiving meal kits to donate to a Gower Domiciliary and the Backpack Buddies program at East Buchanan Elementary.

What participants are saying...

"I made a lot of new friends this year and met a lot of very nice people at camp. I was even able to stay in contact with a friend I made who lives in a different town" Charlee Angle, age 9

Clinton County Friends of 4-H Recipients



Congratulations to Cathi Owens and Terry Hixson, 2024 Friend of 4-H Award recipients! Your loyalty to the Clinton County 4-H program and mission is greatly appreciated.

MU Extension pledges \$10,000 to Eliminate Barriers 4-H

The MU Extension has pledged \$10,000 to help eliminate barriers for youth participation in 4-H programs, demonstrating its commitment to fostering inclusive opportunities for all. This funding aims to address challenges such as financial constraints, and access to resources, ensuring that more young people can benefit from the leadership, education, and community engagement that 4-H offers. By removing these obstacles, MU Extension is empowering youth across diverse backgrounds to thrive and contribute to their communities through 4-H initiatives.

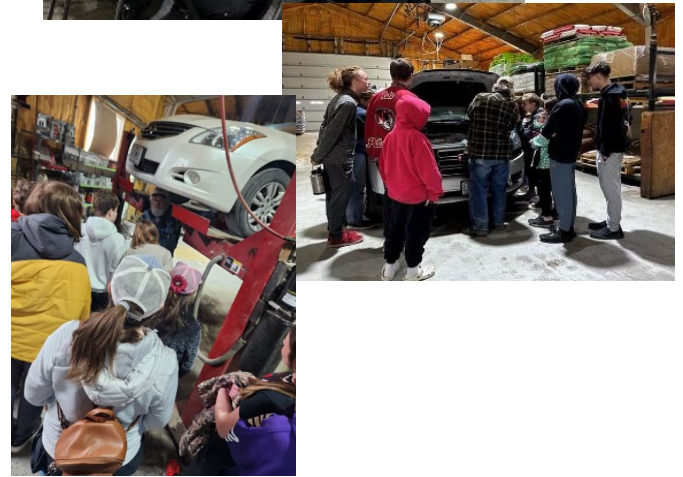
- \$950 in enrollment and event scholarships
- \$850 in youth led project specific financial support
- \$8,000 in volunteer led project financial support



4-H and Positive Youth Development

Adulthood 101

Adulthood 101 aimed at equipping local teens with essential life skills necessary for adulthood. The one-day workshop featured sessions led by various local experts and partners, including Karen Fannell, a 4-H volunteer who provided instruction on laundry care; Goppert Financial Bank, which offered insights into financial management and budgeting; D-Tone Feed and Tires, which conducted practical training on car maintenance; Tarunjot Sethi MU Extension Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health, who discussed basic nutrition and health concepts; and Katie Pemberton MU Extension Field Specialist in Human Development, who addressed self-care and relationship dynamics. Participant feedback was notably positive, with many expressing an intention to utilize the skills acquired in their future endeavors. The success of the workshop underscores the effectiveness of community collaboration and practical education in fostering adolescent development. Laura Evans, MU Extension Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development noted that the program's adaptable format could serve as a model for similar initiatives in other counties, aiming to support the development of confident and capable young adults.



On My Own

On My Own is a hands-on, real-life simulation that gives young people ages 13-18 the opportunity to experience adulthood in a fun and exciting way. During the simulation, participants assume they are 26 years old, are the primary or sole support of the household, and are encouraged to make healthy and wise lifestyle choices similar to those adults face on a daily basis. After exploring careers, students receive a monthly salary for their chosen career type, a family scenario, and an asset. Then, they proceed through "real life," deducting taxes, determining a savings goal, and spending their monthly salaries on the necessities as well as luxury items that reflect the career and lifestyle they have chosen. The On My Own program is an interactive financial simulation designed for youth ages 13-18 and developed by the Consumer Economics team of the department of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Tennessee. The program is delivered in Missouri by MU Extension through a partnership with University of Tennessee Extension.

262 participants from Cameron High School, Plattsburg High School, East Buchanan High School, and Lathrop High School participated in the stimulation throughout the 2024 year. Students/family members commented the following "Kids are expensive", "I didn't know mom and dad had so many expenses" and "We heard allll about it at dinner tonight from our senior. She had lots of questions for us and our household expenses."

We appreciate our local collaboration and supporters, in no particular order, US Bank, SB40, Gabbert Bank, BTC Bank, and Cameron Public Library



4-H and Positive Youth Development

As Clinton County 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Laura Evans facilitates the 4-H and youth program in the county working directly with Tayer Shultz, Youth Program Associate (YPA), to deliver a comprehensive positive youth development program to 4-H members and youth in our community.

What participants are saying...

"I have learned many different things including, how to speak in front of others, make a motion and lead the pledge. I have learned how to be a good listener and that in meetings you have to be patient. I have learned to use my time wisely."
Tenley A, age 9



Western Heritage Shooting Sports team participated in Marshall, MO



Clinton County Youth at 4-H Camp at Camp Crowder State Park



Cameron Keystone Willing Workers 4-H Club



Clinton County Clover Princess, Rowyn K



Measuring fish at the Sportfishing end of year awards



Autumn A. assisting during Peewee show at the Clinton County Fair

What participants are saying...

"4-H has helped me expand my circle of people."
Malainey B, age 10



Health & Human Sciences

Focus on Kids

According to the Missouri State Statute 452.600, when parents of children eighteen years and younger split up, they are required to attend a parenting class. Focus on Kids satisfies that requirement. This class is a supportive educational program designed to help individuals navigate the challenges of co-parenting after a

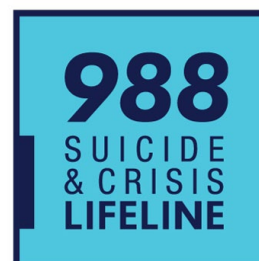
separation or divorce. It provides valuable information on how to minimize the emotional impact of divorce on children, encourage healthy communication between parents, and promote effective conflict resolution. The goal is to ensure that both parents are equipped with the tools they need to create a stable, supportive environment for their children, even as they adjust to the changes in their family dynamics. It is estimated that divorce education classes like FOK have a societal return on investment over \$3 for every \$1 invested (Alcaniz et al., 2022; see also Herman et al., 2015; Taskforce on Divorce and Divorce Reform, 1973).

- 11 Clinton County citizens participated in this training online
- Katie Pemberton, Field Specialist in Human Development teaches this course

“I learned how to respect the other parent and how to coparent better. The class was very helpful and had a lot of good information.”
-Focus on Kids Participant

Farm Ranch Stress Grant

Missouri’s mental health crisis is more challenging for the agricultural community, fueled by growing economic and mental health challenges that are severely affecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of rural families. To address Missouri’s mental health crisis, the University of Missouri Extension provides free mental health workshops, suicide prevention programs, and mental health awareness resources. The program collaborates with the University of Missouri College of Arts & Sciences Psychological Services Clinic to offer free telehealth counseling services.



Dining with Diabetes

TJ Sethi, MU Extension Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health, taught Dining With Diabetes at the Gower Chistian Church in March. This 10-hour course had 6 participants attend the classes. The class included learning about navigating diabetes and preparing a full diabetic friendly meal. The participants learned Meal Planning, Cooking Skills, Carb counting, label reading, and other diabetes management strategies. The Clinton County Extension Council sponsored this class, so participants were able to attend free of charge.

IMPACT: Participants reporting greater confidence in managing or preventing diabetes complications.

•“I now know how to count carbs.”

•“I’ve learned to check my feet and glucose levels regularly.”



“I understand counting carbohydrates for every meal can be time consuming, but now I have the confidence to do it. This is great information, and I will be using it on a regular basis.” - Dining with Diabetes participant

Dining with Diabetes participants preparing a diabetic friendly meal



Health & 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.

A total of 6263 participants were from Clinton 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.

Participating schools and agencies include:

- ✓ Lathrop Elementary
- ✓ Lathrop Food Pantry
- ✓ Clinton County Health Department
- ✓ Carrie's Child Care 2.0
- ✓ Cameron United Methodist Church
- ✓ Plattsburg Food Pantry
- ✓ Cameron Food Pantry
- ✓ Clinton County Senior Center

Success Story

A parent whose children had been in past nutrition classes at Lathrop Elementary in Clinton County approached me while purchasing groceries. The parent started by saying her children always enjoy the nutrition classes at school, and she loves that they are always learning ways to have a healthy body. The children are always telling her that they must eat from all five food groups to get the proper nutrients their bodies need along with exercising every day to keep their bodies healthy. She said that the children also love to bring the Show Me Nutrition newsletters home so they can make a list to go shopping for the ingredients they need to make the recipe. As a family they have found many healthy snacks and additions to meals they really enjoy eating. The parent is glad the nutrition classes are helping to reinforce what she as a mother is trying to teach her children about keeping a healthy, strong, happy body!

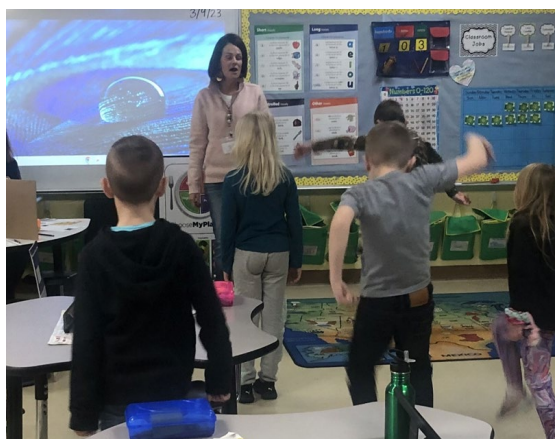
EFNEP

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 559 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 2,068 family members. Additionally, 2,864 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

Seventy-five of these youth participants reside in Clinton 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.

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



Julie Meek teaching at Lathrop Elementary



Agriculture & Environment

AG Updates and Private Pesticide Applicator Training

This training educated crop producers for safe handling and application of restricted use pesticides. Participants learned about pest identification, economic thresholds and injury levels, emergency planning procedure and the environmental ramification of improper pesticide application. More than 113 participants initiated or renewed a license, including 6 in Clinton County. Ag staff then followed Private Applicator Training with “hot topics” in fields of ag in Horticulture, Ag Engineering, Agronomy, Livestock and Ag Business. Further regional Private pesticide applicator training was held monthly in Buchanan County reaching an additional 72 producers.



Wayne Flanary, MU Extension Agronomy Specialist, conducting the Clinton County Private Pesticide Applicators training February 2024

Tar Spot in Corn

Estimated losses to this corn disease between 2018 and 2022 are approximately 242.6 US million bushels, which is approximately \$900 million. Yield losses are due to reduced grain fill, kernel abortion and reduced test weight. MU requested field specialists in agronomy monitor Tar Spot spread and severity. It is now in my assigned counties and growers should be prepared for a plan of action next year. There were 91 producer phone calls and conversations regarding this new corn disease.



Clinton County Small Farm Days

Clinton County Extension hosted the annual Small Farm Days program. In 2024, the focus was on small animal handling facilities, pastures, livestock watering and planning for a profitable return. MU Extension Field Specialists, Jim Humphrey and Wayne Flannery were two of the presenters at this event among other community members.



Participants learning about sheep production.



Trevor Angle discusses Honey Production



Master Gardeners giving a tour of the new grow barn facility



Agriculture & Environment

Impact of using Production Records in a Commercial Cow/Calf Operation

MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock, Jim Humphrey, continued to gathering data on over 270 breeding age females and their calves, in 2024. This data is compiled by University of Missouri State Beef Geneticist for analyzation. Additionally, the group is getting several questions from producers regarding the data and trends seen over the past four years of data collection.

MU Feedlot Schools

One hundred forty-nine people attended at the four MU Feedlot Schools held in the state in 2024. We are very encouraged by the number of younger beef producers that have attended these schools. In 2025, we are planning to hold another three MU Feedlot Schools in Missouri and start holding MU Beef Stocker/Backgrounding Schools.



Beef Cow Size Project-Andrew County



Skidloader with telehandler at MU Beef Feedlot School

Northwest Missouri Grazing School

In late June 2024, we had twenty-five forage and livestock producers attend the three-day Northwest Missouri Management Intensive Grazing School. The evaluation results from this year's school were excellent and we had multiple producers who attended based on recommendations from previous attendees.

Native warm season grass plots

Native warm season grass plots at Hundley-Whaley Extension and Engagement Center. MU Extension Field Specialist sampled and obtained Paddock Trac readings on three of the plots to determine yields and submitted forage samples for quality analysis.



Jim Humphrey, MU Extension Field Specialist in Livestock, teaching Show Me Quality Assurance to 4-H food animal project members in Cameron.



Eastern Gamagrass Plots at HW May 30, 2024.





Agriculture & Environment

Clinton County Master Gardeners

2024 was a very productive year for our chapter.

Active membership increased substantially this year, growing from 20 to 28 members.

Downtown Plattsburg flower barrels.

Clinton County Courthouse grounds landscaping.

Flower garden at CC 4-H grounds.

Pollinator garden at CC 4-H grounds.

Landscaping around the CC 4-H building.

Planting around the Welcome to Trimble sign.

Hosted the regional spring MG core training conducted by Todd Higgins.

Presented eight public education programs, five of which were presented by our members.

Installed electrical, plumbing and HVAC at our multi-purpose barn.

Participated in the Plattsburg Chamber of Commerce table fair event.

Gave tours of our multi-purpose barn during the Clinton County Small Farm Day event.

Participated in the tree decorating contest in downtown Plattsburg.

700 volunteer hours



The new Master Gardeners grow shed was installed at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. The shed has floor drains, water, heaters, and grow lights for horticulture production.



The Master Gardeners class of 2024.



The Clinton County Master Gardeners fulfill their community service commitment by planting and maintaining annuals in the downtown Plattsburg containers, the landscaping at the courthouse, and entrance to Perkins Park. The group is also responsible for the landscaping, raised beds, and butterfly boxes at the Clinton County Youth Building.



Clinton County plant sale was held in May. The plants quickly sold out. This is the primary fund raiser for the Master Gardeners.





Business & Community

Overview of MU Extension’s Community Development Programming

Under the guidance of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, MU Extension’s Community Development faculty help to build Civic Muscle, which is defined as the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. Community Development specialists coach communities to build four key “muscle groups”: **Belonging, Contribution, Leadership, and Vitality** by providing educational programs and technical assistance. Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist in Community Development has offered the following opportunities in the Northwest Region.

Belonging

Place-based communities building social capital and inclusivity through neighboring, civil dialogue, placemaking, etc.

Extension Express Newsletter Distributed in 2024



Faculty and staff in the Northwest Region came together in late 2024 to create and distribute the monthly Extension Express newsletter, intended to highlight programming, events, and activities happening in the region’s 20 counties. Knowing about Extension programs and class offerings helps create a stronger sense of belonging and connection between faculty, staff, council



members, elected officials, and program participants within the Region. The Extension Express newsletter is currently distributed to over 350 people each month.

Faculty involved in this program are: Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist in Community Development; Randa Doty, MU Extension Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist; Jen Osborn, MU Extension Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist; and Chelsea Corkins; MU Extension Northwest Region Extension Engagement Specialist.

Contribution

Residents (particularly those at the margins) participating in civic life and engaged in decision making (volunteering, attending public meetings, voting)

NOVA Program and Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile Certification

During the summer, Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist in Community Development, assisted with the facilitation of the first statewide NOVA (Nurturing Original Ventures & Ambitions) Program, which was a virtual entrepreneurial mindset summer camp for neurodivergent high school students. In early August, 2024, four students graduated from the course that was designed to help students understand the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, identify and leverage natural talents, create a strategy to develop entrepreneurial skills, and prepare to lead in environments that value creativity.

Following the course, Spainhower completed the training to become a Certified Practitioner of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile (EMP), the program used to develop the NOVA Program. The EMP is a short assessment that measures seven characteristics that distinguish entrepreneurs and seven skills critical to entrepreneurial success. The assessment can be administered to individuals or groups looking to work more cohesively together in creative and innovative settings. As a coach, she can administer the assessment, as well as coach individuals and teams to better individual and group outcomes.

What participants said about NOVA:

“This class has really opened my eyes to how much I can contribute, and it’s changed the way I think about my own abilities.”

“I feel like I can turn my passions into something real, something I can build a future with.”



Business & Community

Leadership

Diverse community leaders (including those who typically have less power and influence) collaborating for action and bridge-building

Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is a 10-week community development leadership program that provides participants with the skills, confidence, and strategies to plan and implement projects in their own communities. Participants come from across the entire state and meet virtually using Zoom. The program provides participants with 30 hours of educational instruction, group and individual coaching that will assist them with completing their project. Participants that complete the program are eligible to apply for mini-grants to support their projects. This year, one person in the region participated in NLA.



What participants said about NLA:

"I enjoyed the breakout sessions. Although we are from all different backgrounds, communities, we all want the same things in our communities."

Vitality

Residents, organizations, governments, co-creating conditions for equitable, thriving, resourceful places

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities – Conference and Webinars

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference took place in Fulton on September 17-19, and we welcomed 122 people for the event. In 2024, the conference focused on youth entrepreneurship, networking and relationship building, removing barriers, and technology and innovation. Attendees had 30 educational breakout sessions to choose from, along with keynote sessions featuring local and national speakers as well as representatives from the University. Next year's conference will take place a little closer to home in Excelsior Springs. As a supplement to the Conference, this year we created a twice monthly webinar to share information about sessions at the upcoming conference and other relevant information about rural economic development and innovation. These webinars will continue in 2025, and the focus will be on stories of collaboration in rural communities across Missouri. In 2024, eight people from the Northwest Region attended the CEC Conference in Fulton, and 16 people from the region participated in the monthly CEC webinars.



CEC MONTHLY Exchange



What attendees said about the 2024 CEC Conference:

"So empowering to be surrounded by growth minded, problem solving, collaborative individuals for three days. I can't wait to see what we can do with the knowledge we gained over the last three days. Due to the dedication of a few community leaders and advocates our little town was recognized this week in a room of leaders, scholars and advocates from all over Missouri for being an example of positive small town growth and commitment."

Katie Bowles, Director, Savannah Chamber of Commerce



Top: State CEC Planning Team at the Fulton Conference

Bottom: CEC webinar Jackie Spainhower, MU Extension Field Specialist, hosted with the Plattsburg R-3 administration, teachers, and students that work on the Tigers on Main project, a student owned store in downtown Plattsburg



County Highlights



Farm Family Day is a partnership with Missouri Farm Bureau, MU Extension, the Missouri State Fair and other key industries. For 63 years Farm Family Day at the Missouri State Fair has been recognizing Missouri's Farm Families, and the role they play in our state's economy and vitality! Nominated families from each county are selected to represent their county for this honor, based on their farming operation, their activity in their community, their participation in or with MU Extension and 4-H, and on upholding the qualities that honor farming's roots. Members of MU Extension County Councils from all 114 counties, along with their counterparts in all the Farm Bureau Offices in each county, nominate and vote on that year's honor family.

Congratulations to the Jason Shrewsbury Clinton County 2024 Farm Family honored at the Missouri State Fair. Their farming operation with multi-generational roots is near the town of Turney with diversified row crop agriculture and strong livestock production. The Shrewsbury's are active members of the Clinton County Extension Council.



Clinton County currently has 104 farms that have received the honor being recognized as a **Missouri Century Farm**. Since the program began in 1976, more than 8,000 farms have been recognized by MU Extension and Missouri Farm Bureau as a Century Farm having been owned by family members continuously for 100 years. In 2024, Clinton County had three family's properties apply to be a Century Farm. They were the Pipes Family, the Wolfe Family and the Schlorff Family.



With its findings in mind, CCI in 2024 held more community forums to share its findings with Clinton County citizens and to learn what kind of activities they would support, possibly with a tax levy. It is possible Extension could play a role in CCI's plans.