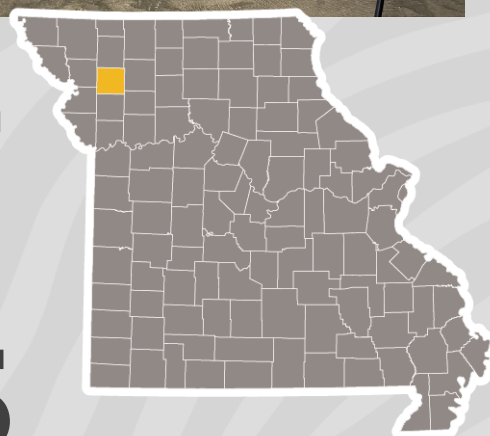




UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Dekalb County 2025



Annual Report

**SERVE MISSOURI.  
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**

**M** Extension  
University of Missouri  
an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

108 Whitten Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

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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,

*Chadwick C Higgins*

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



# WHO WE ARE

## Faculty and Staff



### **Kyle Reno**

Youth Program Associate

### **Joni Williams**

Office Manager

### **Jen Osborn**

Extension & Engagement Specialist

### **Denice Ferguson**

Agriculture Development Specialist

### **Jackie Spainhower**

Community Development

### **Jim Humphrey**

Livestock Specialist

### **Wayne Flanary**

Agronomy Specialist

### **Jim Crawford**

Agricultural Engineer

### **Gwen Funk**

Horticulture Specialist

### **Rebecca Simpson**

4H Youth Development Specialist

### **Katie Pemberton**

Human Development Specialist

## Council Members

Enola Scrivens, Chairman

Karen Chaney, Vice-chairman

Alan Kapp, Secretary

John Murphy, Treasurer

Penny Crawford

Barb Denney

Brandi Ellis

Teri Meek

Chet Owen

Stephanie Poster

Lauren Rogers

Barb Steiner



## County Commission

Kyle Carroll, Presiding Commissioner

Kyle White, West District Commissioner

Chet Owen, East District Commissioner

# BUDGET AND MORE

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	25,000
Grants	12,534.26
Other income	3,112.73
Total Income	40,646.99

### Expenses

Postage	11.25
Telephone	374.91
Copier	55.00
Salaries	26,910.22
Rent	4,900.00
Utilities	685.88
Supplies	1,128.56
Travel	2,013.60
Advertising/Ext. Exp.	7,668.78
Insurance	111.00
Misc	175.00

**Total Expenses** 44,034.20

## MU Extension's Unique Funding

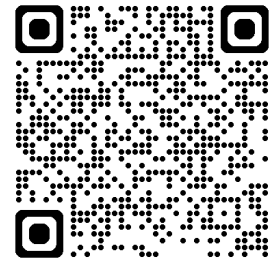
Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

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



## Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Dekalb 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.



## How to donate...

Invest in MU Extension in Dekalb County by visiting the giving page. [Click here to donate to Dekalb County Endowment](#) or use the QR code above. In the designation box, please select University of Missouri Extension Council of Dekalb County Endowment.



# UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

## MU Extension in Dekalb County Community Impact Report

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

[Access Dekalb County's Grand Challenges Report.](#)





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## Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



### What is 4-H?

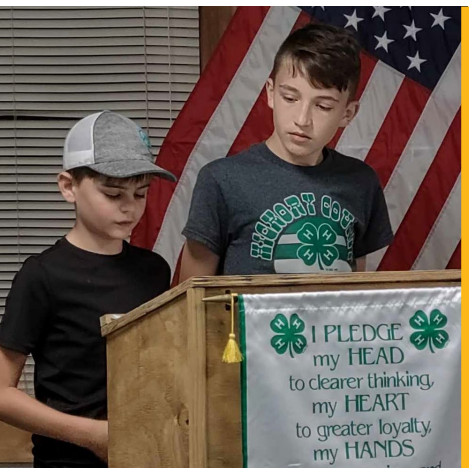
4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

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.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture programs give youth hands-on experiences in areas such as animal science, veterinary science, plant science, and agronomy. Members explore the biology, care, and management of animals and crops while developing problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

Youth can also put their knowledge into practice through statewide competitions, including **Livestock Judging**, **Meat Judging**, **Hippology**, the **Missouri 4-H Equine Tour** and more. These experiences help participants apply what they've learned, gain confidence, and prepare for future careers in agriculture and related fields.



**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.

### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being



### 4-H Camp at Crowder State Park

The best gift we can offer to our youth is the chance to grow into capable, resilient, and independent individuals—equipped with skills that last a lifetime.

That's exactly what kids found this summer at 4-H camp at Crowder State Park. Held over three sessions—June 2–5, June 6–7, and June 9–12—camp gave over 235 youth the opportunity to unplug from devices and connect with nature, peers, and themselves. More than just a fun summer experience, 4-H camp is a unique environment where kids learn resilience, independence, problem-solving, and leadership. These are the very traits that help young people navigate stress, challenges, and setbacks—not just now, but for the rest of their lives.

The benefits of 4-H camp don't end when the bags are unpacked, and the bug spray is put away. What kids take home—self-confidence, resilience, lasting friendships, and a sense of achievement—are tools they'll carry with them for years to come.





# DeKalb County

## Missouri 4-H

### DeKalb Achievement Day and Fair Season



Thirty-nine youth participated in the DeKalb County Achievement Day to kick-off the DeKalb County Fair. A total of 130 projects were submitted for judging and ten demonstrations were performed.

Fifty-eight projects were deemed worthy for exhibition at the Missouri State Fair, and 10 Best in Show rosettes were awarded.

The livestock shows were well attended at the DeKalb County Fair with 4-H youth participating from both within and outside the county.





### Profiles and stories



#### Cooper Ray – Missouri State Fair

Cooper Ray earned Reserve Champion in the Hereford barrow division at the Missouri State Fair, representing his 4-H livestock program. His barrow, bred by A&J Livestock and sired by Versace, stood out in a highly competitive class.

This achievement reflects Cooper's dedication to animal care, responsibility, and leadership—core skills developed through Missouri's 4-H youth development program.



#### Northwest Missouri 4-H Energizer

120 youth across the 14 NWMO counties joined at the Northwest 4-H Energizer on February 1st. Youth had a number of learning sessions to choose from that consisted of Cake Decorating, Beginner Cooking, Intermediate Cooking, Advanced Cooking, Leatherwork, Woodworking, Conservation K-9 working dog demonstration, Punch Needle Art, Photography, Arts and Crafts, Geology, Poultry, Dogs and Cats, Crochet and Knitting, Arts and Crafts, Mechanical Flowers and Water Color, Electricity, Public Speaking, Yoga, Sportfishing, Healthy Living- "Mastering Love with Discipline and Respect", and Mammal Study. Special day-long programming was offered to 4-H Clover Kids, 4-H Youth aged 5-7 years which included first aid training provided by the Cameron Ambulance District.



# On My Own

# Dekalb County

One hundred eight middle and high school students in Buchanan, Daviess, Dekalb, Harrison and Gentry Counties participated in *On My Own* in 2025.

The *On My Own* program is an interactive financial simulation designed for youth ages 13-18. The program is delivered in Missouri by MU Extension through a partnership with University of Tennessee Extension. Over the 2024-2025 4-H program year, University of Missouri Extension 4-H implemented 27 simulations and lesson series serving 815 youth in the Northwest(18), West Central(2), Northeast(1), Southwest(6) Regions of Missouri. During the simulation, students become the major income provider for their household which may include a spouse and/or children. Using a hypothetical occupation and income, students work through a month of expenses including housing, utilities, transportation, insurance, food, childcare, clothing, entertainment, and other expenses resulting from unexpected events.

- Buchanan County Home School-15 youth
- Gallatin Middle School-15 youth
- Union Star Jr. High-11 youth
- Stanberry Middle School-28 youth
- South Harrison High School-39 youth
- Community Volunteers-70 adults

On My Own is sponsored by BTC Bank



## Missouri 4-H





### Recognition Night and Dekalb County 4-H Day at the Capitol



### Recognition Night

The DeKalb County 4-H Council held its annual 4-H Recognition Night event at the DeKalb County Youth Building. Recognition night was hosted to highlight the accomplishments of club members over the course of the 2024-2025 4-H Year. There were approximately 80 in attendance. Each club member was awarded a year pin and the cash premiums they earned by exhibiting their projects at the DeKalb County Fair, the NW Missouri State Fair at Bethany, and the Missouri State Fair at Sedalia. Project pins were awarded to those that completed and submitted Missouri Recognition Forms (MRF) for judging and those that completed project report forms. Special awards were presented to outstanding youth in several categories.

### 4-H Day at the Capitol

Fourteen youth and adults participated in 4-H Day at the Capitol. The group met with District 2 State Representative, Mazzie Christensen, and with District 12 Senator, Rusty Black's staff, to discuss legislative issues important to their community.

Dekalb County 4-H was given a tour of the capitol and were able to watch the House members working in session from the gallery. The event was a great success and 4-H plans to travel to Jefferson City again in 2026.





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



**The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM)**, funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

**The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.**



## Legend



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& Stewardship



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Health  
& Well-Being



## Agriculture and Environment

### Three-State Beef Conference

The 40th annual Three-State Beef Conference continued to be a major educational event for local beef producers, drawing 37 participants in Maryville and reaching another 72 producers in Iowa and Nebraska. Attendees learned about the genetics of calving, yearling bull management, and the latest research on pinkeye all topics that directly influence herd health and profitability. Producers also worked through practical bull-buying exercises using EPDs, helping them confidently apply genetic tools to real-world decisions.

The conference strengthened the local beef industry by improving producers' ability to manage herd health challenges, make informed breeding selections, and respond to emerging livestock issues. Its multi-state format also enhanced networking and knowledge-sharing, creating stronger regional connections that benefit farms across the region.



### Utilizing Drones in Missouri Agriculture Workshop

Eighteen people attended to learn more about drones in Missouri agriculture. The workshop, led by Field Specialist in Ag Engineering, Jim Crawford, featured a classroom session covering the rules, regulations and license requirements to operate a drone as well as calibration steps, tips on spraying herbicides, and fungicides and also seeding cover crops with a drone. The afternoon provided hands on training in the operation of drones. After the workshop, attendees are better equipped to make the decision on purchasing and/or utilizing drones in their operations.



## Horticulture Local Impacts

### Collaboration and Community Partnerships

Strong partnerships amplified program impacts throughout 2025. Collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation, county commissions, community organizations, and industry partners supported events such as homesteading workshops, Women in Agriculture meetings, and native plant programs.

Regionally, The Great Plains Growers Conference, held in Northwest Missouri, reached approximately 300 participants from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, connecting producers with educational sessions and industry vendors. Education was provided by MU Extension, Lincoln University, K-State, University of Iowa Extension and University of Nebraska Extension

Local events in Harrison, Mercer, Holt, Andrew, and Nodaway counties strengthened Extension's visibility and reinforced trusted relationships with community members.



### Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Ag Updates

Extension delivered comprehensive training to educate crop producers on the safe handling and application of restricted-use pesticides, strengthening regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship across the region. Participants gained critical knowledge in pest identification, economic thresholds and injury levels, emergency planning procedures, and the environmental ramifications of improper pesticide application.

Following Private Applicator Training, Extension agriculture staff expanded learning through “hot topic” sessions addressing emerging issues and innovations in horticulture, agricultural engineering, agronomy, livestock production, and agricultural business. Additional specialized training was also provided for aerial application and non-soil fumigation, ensuring applicators were certified to safely apply pesticides in grain bins and utilize drones when needed.

Together, these efforts enhanced producer knowledge, supported safe and efficient pesticide use, and reinforced Extension's role in promoting sustainable and responsible agricultural practices.





## Livestock Local Impacts

### DeKalb County Backyard Hen Laying Workshop

DeKalb County MU Extension hosted the DeKalb County Backyard Hen Laying Workshop on March 1, 2025, at the DeKalb County Youth Building in Maysville, providing education and technical support for area backyard poultry producers and for those interested in the topic. The workshop focused on strengthening small-scale poultry operations for both egg and meat production through research-based Extension education.

Participants received training on key topics including breed selection, coop design, poultry nutrition, biosecurity, equipment needs, chick care, adult flock management, and egg processing. Educational sessions were led by Dr. Tatijana Fisher (Lincoln University Extension), Heather Conrow (University of Missouri Extension), and Jim Humphrey (University of Missouri Extension), highlighting strong inter-institutional collaboration.

This program supported MU Extension's mission by increasing producer knowledge, improving animal health and production practices, and strengthening local food systems while building capacity for sustainable backyard poultry operations in DeKalb County and surrounding communities. The event was sponsored by Tractor Supply Company.







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## Business and Community



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2025, the conference offered breakout sessions in Excelsior Springs' shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.



**Recovery Friendly Workplaces** (RFWs) foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program.

**As of 2025, 50 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 3,179 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.**



"I highly recommend this incredible program to any community looking for focus and direction."

**Strategic Doing participant**

**Strategic Doing** is a one-day workshop that guides community stakeholders through an inclusive, problem-solving approach to developing high-impact projects to address local development issues.

**The city of Risco, Mo., lacked retail options for food. Risco's Strategic Doing workshop and follow-up activities resulted in a GROCERY STORE OPENING in the community.**

## Legend



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# Dekalb County

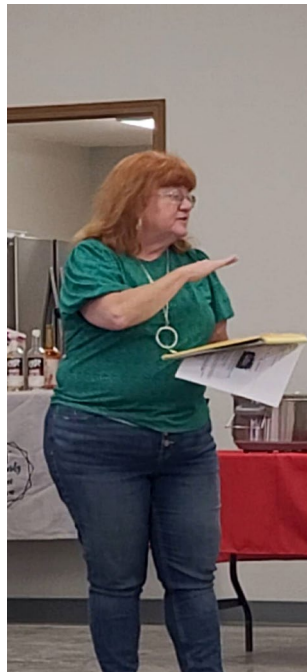
## Business and Community

### M.A.I.N. Collaboration



Collaboration with Maysville Area Improvement Network has continued to grow in 2025. The group hosted an event in April, Dream Big in Dekalb County. The event brought together local banking professionals, lenders, Small Business Development Center, MOKAN Regional Planning Commission, MU Extension, local attorneys, and local realtors together to provide education and resources to the community's entrepreneurs. The attendees were invited to tour open and available spaces in Dekalb County so that they may visualize opportunities for growth.

Collaboration will continue in 2026!





## Business and Community in the Region

In 2025, community development work across Northwest Missouri continued to focus on strengthening people, places, and systems in ways that foster belonging, expand contribution, cultivate leadership, and support long-term community vitality. Serving ten very rural counties, my role emphasized facilitation, capacity building, leadership development, and cross-sector collaboration—often acting as a connector between residents, organizations, and institutions. The activities summarized below reflect a year of intentional place-based work designed to ensure that rural communities are not only resilient, but welcoming, engaged, and positioned to thrive. Many northwest Missouri residents participated and benefitted from programming and activities offered throughout the region. Jackie Spainhower, Community Development Specialist made these offerings a reality for the betterment of the region.

### Belonging

- Engaged Neighbor and Good Neighbor Week
- Extension Express – NW Region Newsletter

### Contribution

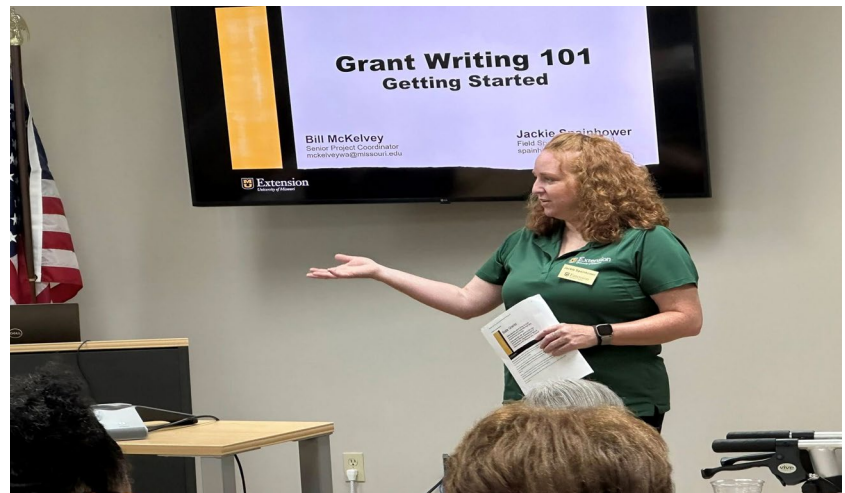
- Grant Writing 101
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance
- Strengthening Local Food Systems (72)

### Leadership

- Neighborhood Leadership Academy (4)
- Build Your Board (4)
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (16)
- Maximize Northwest Missouri
- First Impact (18)

### Vitality

- MO EATs (72)
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (16)
- CEC Monthly Exchange Webinars (34)
- Grant Writing 101
- Digital Marketing Workshops (32)
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance
- Show Me Neighborhood Art (3)
- Workforce Summits (29)
- Public Board Training
- Strategic Doing & Facilitations (45)



"I like being amongst like minded people that are focused on community."

-2025 NLA participant



## Sequential Intercept Mapping and State-Wide Collaboration

In 2025, Jen Osborn, MU Extension Engagement Specialist and Rachel Brown, Community Health Specialist, attended the last Sequential Intercept Mapping in Missouri (SIM) held by Missouri Behavioral Health Coalition and Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare in Dekalb County. There, we were able to connect with re-entry coordinators from the Department Corrections (DOC) in Chillicothe and probation and parole officers.

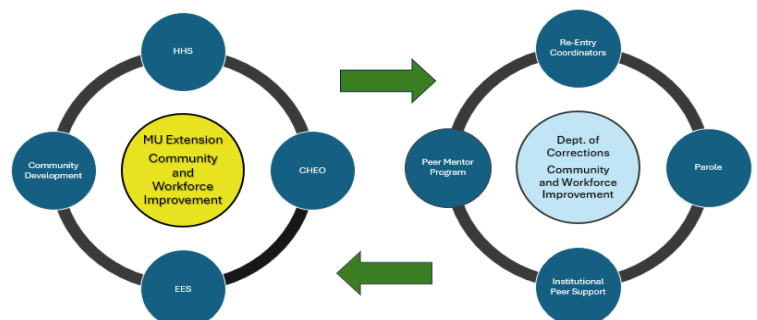
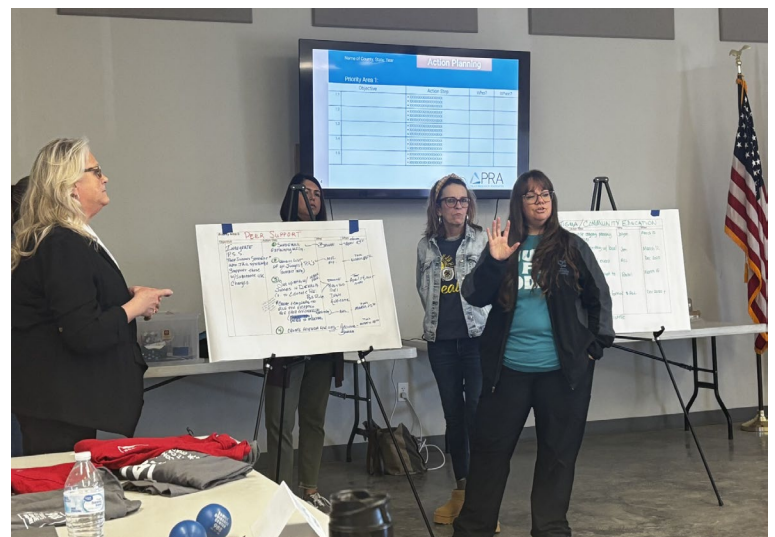
The work of DOC over the years of Sequential Intercept Mapping was noted and impressive. At this SIM in Dekalb County, we discussed at length the needs for education within institutional walls and with employers to make a re-entry more successful. We also discussed the need for stigma reduction in communities in behavioral health and justice involvement.

Missouri was the first state to sign on to the federal initiative Re-Entry 2030. This supports the promise of DOC to improve employment outcomes for those leaving DOC. With this promise, Extension is poised to make significant impacts. I have established a workgroup to discuss re-entry work that can be done potentially state-wide. The workgroup includes Community Development, Workforce Development, Health and Nutrition, Human Development and Extension Engagement



*"We've become the first state to initiate this—to say we care, and we're really going to make a difference."*

*Governor Mike Parson re: Missouri Re-Entry 2030*







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through credible statewide programs  
**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**



**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."**



**Mental Health First Aid** equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use challenges.

Your Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people (ages 12-17) facing mental health or addition challenges while the adult version focuses on adults aged 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

**In Missouri, approximately 1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.\***

\*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

## Legend



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**Health  
& Well-Being**

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impacts

#### Mental Health First Aid

In 2025, Katie Pemberton and Jessica Trussell, trained 123 individuals through Mental Health First Aid training, including both Youth and Adult modules offered virtually across all nine counties. Mental Health First Aid equips participants with the knowledge to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental health challenges and provides an overview of common treatments.

The program has been proven to:

- Improve understanding of mental health conditions
- Reduce stigma surrounding mental illness
- Increase the amount of support provided to those in need

By delivering this training, Trussell contributed to fostering healthier communities and empowering individuals to provide critical mental health support when it is needed most.

#### Building Strong Families

In 2025, the Human Development and Family Science team partnered with the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division to deliver five 6-session online parenting classes. These classes equipped parents with essential skills in communication, stress management, discipline, and positive parenting behaviors, supporting families working toward reunification.

The program reached 149 parents across 32 Missouri counties, providing 650 hours of parenting education that positively impacted 169 children. Parents reported applying skills learned to:

- Communicate more effectively
- Manage stress
- Foster their child(ren)'s self-esteem
- Engage in positive parenting practices

Parenting education for at-risk parents aiming to maintain or regain custody is estimated to save Missouri's foster care system \$6,924 per child annually (Missouri Department of Social Services, 2024). In 2025, this program contributed to an estimated total savings of \$1,170,156 for the state.

This initiative not only strengthened parenting skills and improved family dynamics but also significantly reduced financial strain on Missouri's foster care system, demonstrating the vital impact of parenting education.





## Health and Human Sciences

### Health in Dekalb County

#### SNAP-Education and EFNEP

Participants in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP 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.

##### SNAP-Ed

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.

**3,321 direct and indirect contacts were made in DeKalb County.**

##### EFNEP

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.

**75 of these youth and adult participants reside in DeKalb County**

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

#### Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs

University of Missouri Extension delivered multiple evidence-based nutrition and wellness programs to support community health in DeKalb County. Taught by TJ Sethi, residents were able to improve their health with the skills learned.

***Stay Strong, Stay Healthy – Level 2*** was offered January through March at the Maysville United Methodist Church, serving 12 participants who met twice weekly to improve strength, balance, and mobility.

***Dining with Diabetes*** series was offered at the DeKalb County Youth Building, enrolling six participants.

***Snacks to Supplements: Your Guide to Better Choices*** was delivered at the Cameron YMCA, reaching nine participants with practical strategies to support healthier eating habits.





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

## Continuing Education



The **Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Program (FSLEP)** prepares fire and emergency service leaders for the opportunities and challenges they will face. For 25 years, the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute has partnered with the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts on this program.



LETI's **National Animal Cruelty Investigations School** provides training on investigating abuse and neglect of animals. Multi-level courses prepare future animal care workers to handle most types of incidents. Several jurisdictions throughout the country require the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School's training for employment as animal cruelty investigators.



MU **Continuing Education for Health Professions (CEHP)** provides evidenced-based, relevant and responsive learning activities designed to narrow professional practice gaps with respect to knowledge, competence, and performance of the healthcare team. A commitment to lifelong learning, in partnership with those we serve, contributes to excellence in practice and improved health outcomes.

**CEHP provided 169 LEARNING ACTIVITIES  
which reached over 53,000 PROFESSIONAL  
across all Missouri counties.**

## Legend



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Health  
& Well-Being



## Council Development

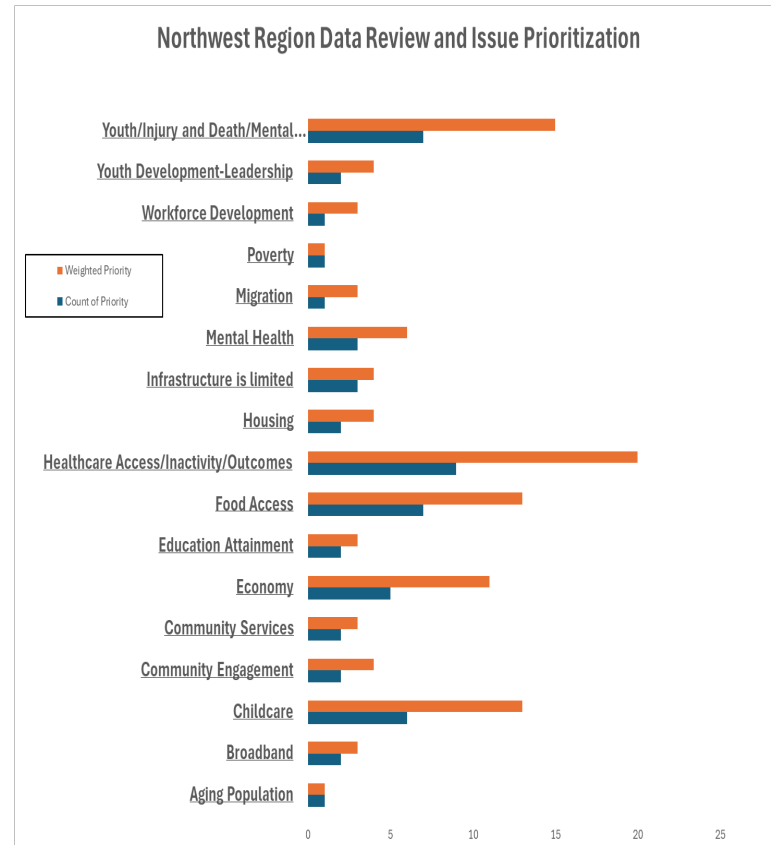
### COUNCIL STRATEGY FOCUSED COLLABORATION

MU Extension Councils guide local programs, manage resources, and support community needs. For their work to be effective, decisions must draw on both data and local knowledge. MU Extension's statewide mission focuses on Missouri's grand challenges in Agriculture, Health, Economy, and Education – issues that are especially varied and complex in Northwest Missouri. Councils in Northwest Missouri reviewed a significant amount of local data from All-Things Missouri, a data platform through CARES at the University of Missouri.

This initiative helps councils use data more strategically to strengthen decision-making and increase local impact. By blending statewide data with community insight, councils can identify top needs, set clear priorities, and deliver programs that directly address local concerns. In Dekalb County, the councils identified and prioritized mental health, health, and the economy. In 2025, this has led to additional work with M.A.I.N. in Dekalb County

The Northwest EES team was able to glean information throughout the region that was shared with stakeholders, the university, and legislators as well.

Priorities in the Northwest Region saw similar priorities as seen on the bar graph to the right.



Maps

Reports

Resources

Support

## All Things Missouri

Your gateway for interactive mapping, reporting, and insights into issues facing Missourians.

## Local Highlights

### Dekalb County State Fair Farm Family

The Schuman Family of Amity were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair. Colby, Sarah and their daughter, Addy were able to attend the event and are pictured below.

The Schuman family was selected as the Dekalb County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Dekalb County and the local Farm Bureau.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA. The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension.

“The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state,” said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”





## Local Highlights

### Leaders Honor Roll and Friend of 4-H Award

#### Leaders Honor Roll

The Leaders Honor Roll program is intended to honor outstanding community leaders and volunteers who have excelled in supporting, educating, and advancing MU Extension and/or 4-H in their communities and counties. Selection Criteria: Selection should be based on community leadership efforts that support the University of Missouri Extension's strategic direction and program priorities to: 1) Grow Missouri's agriculture 2) Enhance economic viability 2) Build strong individuals, families and communities 3) Create and sustain healthy environments.

Kathy Kagay was honored as the Leaders Honor Roll recipient in Dekalb County at the Open House and Annual Meeting in 2025. She is pictured on the right with MU Extension Engagement Specialist, Jen Osborn.



#### Friend of 4-H Award

Kyle Reno honored Barb Owen with the Friend of 4-H award for 2025 and is pictured left. Barb has established a quilting retreat on the Owen land in Dekalb County. At the quilting retreat, she has hosted 4-H youth for the past few years, allowing the attendees to learn a time treasured skill that will stay with them for years to come.

Barb was honored at the Dekalb County Extension meeting.

