



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

GENTRY COUNTY

2025
Annual Report



University of Missouri
Gentry Co Extension
1109 South Birch
Albany, MO 64402

660-726-5610

**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

Donna Humphrey
Youth Program Associate

Teri Gardner
Office Manager

Jen Osborn
Extension & Engagement Specialist

Denice Ferguson
Agriculture Development Specialist

Jackie Spainhower
Community Development

Shawn Deering
Hundley-Whaley Interim Director & Livestock Specialist

Jim Crawford
Agricultural Engineer

Gwen Funk
Horticulture Specialist

Rebecca Simpson
4H Youth Development Specialist

Kaylie Walker
Nutrition & Health Specialist

Jennifer Miller
Agronomy Specialist



Council Members



Beth Findley, Chairman
Mary Holcomb, Vice-chairman
Betty Grace, Secretary
Mackenzie Manring, Treasurer
Chris Allenbrand
Randy Cline
Mairnee Herzog
Roxanne Hoover
Alena Peterson
Megan Sager
Windy Wink

County Executives

Roger Rice, District 2 Commissioner
Randy Cline, District 1 Commissioner
Mike Sager, District Commissioner
Shelia Clark, County Clerk

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	43,034.00
Total Income	43,034.00

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	40,961.00
Travel	2,880.00
Telephone	500.00
Office Supplies/Service	100.00
Insurance	200.00
Postage	40.00
Advertising	150.00
Professional Services	88.00

Total Expenses 44,919.00

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Gentry 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 Gentry County by paying directly at Hundley-Whaley or by submitting payment to MU.

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Gentry County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Gentry 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.

[Click to view Gentry 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 Gentry 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 Gentry County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

[Click to select Gentry County Grand Challenges Report](#)





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through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

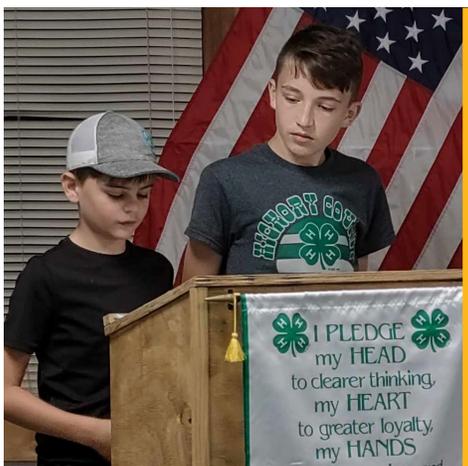
4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

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.



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. Youth from Gentry County were able to benefit from this experience.

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.



Gentry County

Missouri 4-H

Community Clubs, Fair, and Achievement

Gentry County 4-H held a rewarding achievement night, celebrating the hard work, dedication, and talents of its members. Twenty youth proudly exhibited their projects, 48 in all, demonstrating months of care, responsibility, and skill development. Achievement night was well attended by the supportive community, families and volunteers.

The excitement continued as Gentry County sent 21 projects to the MO State Fair at Sedalia and the Northwest Missouri State Fair at Bethany., highlighting a strong year of growth, perseverance, and accomplishment for local 4-H youth.

The year concluded with a recognition night for youth and volunteers with a picnic at the park in Stanberry, pictured right.



There was growth in all three 4-H Clubs in Gentry County. Membership was up from 43 youth in 2023-24 to 55 youth in 2024-25.

Gentry/Worth County Jr. Livestock Show

The Livestock Board was reorganized, and a show was executed resulting in 132 head of livestock being shown. Rabbits and Poultry were added to the show for the first time. The 2025 show yielded

- 47 swine
- 35 sheep
- 19 goats
- 19 cattle
- 6 rabbits
- 6 poultry

...along with countless lessons learned and memories being made.

GENTRY/WORTH COUNTY
Livestock Show

Tuesday, July 8th

ALBANY LIVESTOCK BARN
1105 US HWY 136

REGISTRATION : 7:30AM
SHOW STARTS AT 8:30AM
-EVERY 30MIN FOLLOWING
THE ENDING OF THE
PREVIOUS SHOW
\$5 ENTRY FEE / PER HEAD

Order of Events
SWINE / POULTRY
GOATS / RABBITS
SHEEP
CATTLE

Contact Donna Humphrey for more information (660) 726-5610

On My Own

Gentry County

Missouri 4-H

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

Donna Humphrey, Youth Program Associate personally trained:

- Stanberry- 25 youth
- Albany R-III- 30 youth

On My Own is sponsored by BTC Bank



Albany R-III School District
HOME OF THE WARRIORS



Donna Humphrey's 4-H Highlights

Gentry County

Missouri 4-H

Gentry County 4-H saw strong participation and diverse educational programming in 2025 under the leadership of Donna Humphrey. 2025 was Donna's first full year in the role and her strong education background shines in her work done with 4-H in the county.



Nutrition education reached 45 youth in King City through the *Kids in the Kitchen* SNAC curriculum, while hands-on science learning engaged 94 youth through in-person Embryology curriculum delivery in Stanberry (62 youth) and Albany (32 youth). STEM education continued to be a major focus, with STEM Nights in Albany drawing 160 youth in March and an impressive 200 youth in October. These events were enhanced through a partnership with Jeff Chalfant, who brought additional STEM resources from Missouri S&T in Rolla.

Youth wellness and literacy were also emphasized. After completing training in 4-H Yoga, Donna delivered a 4-H Yoga Story program to 34 first-grade students in Stanberry, combining movement, mindfulness, and reading.



Cultural awareness and nutrition education were strengthened through the *Food, Culture, and Reading* curriculum in King City, where 44 fourth- and fifth-grade students explored global cultures, food groups, and healthy eating through age-appropriate literature.



In addition, three SPIN Clubs were offered in Albany and attended by 13 youth, focusing on sewing, arts and crafts, and STEM. These clubs were strategically held on Mondays to align with Albany's no-school schedule, increasing accessibility for participating youth.

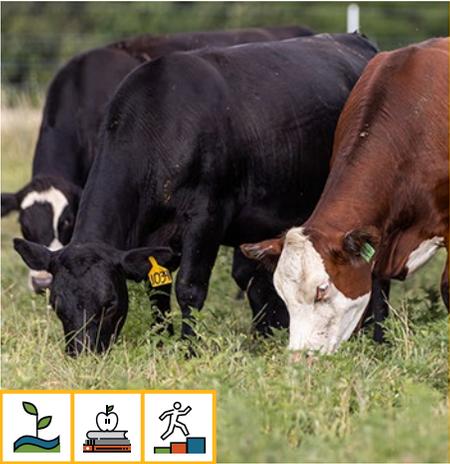
Donna's passion for educating youth has translated to great community support for the 4-H program.





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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 is 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



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity

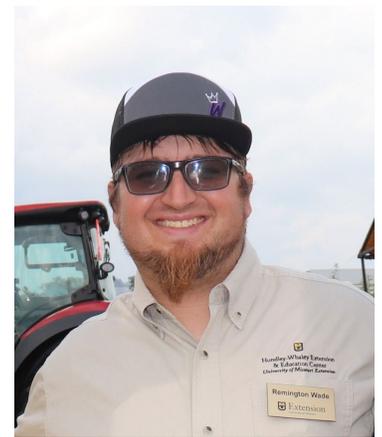


Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Hundley-Whaley Leadership



Shawn Deering was named Interim Director of the MU Hundley-Whaley Extension and Education Center on October 1, 2025, providing leadership and continuity during a period of transition. Shortly after, Remington Wade was appointed Farm Manager on October 15, 2025, strengthening day-to-day operational oversight at the Center.

Under this leadership, a short-term operations plan was developed to address priority needs and support long-term sustainability. Key focus areas included soil fertility management, facility repairs, and equipment repair and maintenance. In addition, staff completed the 2025 Annual Report and began planning efforts related to agricultural drone use to support research, education, and farm operations.



MU Extension in Gentry County appreciates the work of Jennifer Miller, Agronomy Specialist, pictured left, at Hundley-Whaley. Simultaneously, Gentry County anticipates great future of work at the farm.

From Robert Kallenbach on LinkedIn:

Grateful to Remington Wade for stepping up to operate the Hundley-Whaley Extension and Education Center this fall. His willingness to jump in during harvest and his forward-thinking approach to facility management have made a real difference.

Also, a big thanks to Shawn Deering, our long-time [University of Missouri Extension](#) Field Specialist in Livestock based in Gentry County, for serving as interim Center Director. We appreciate his steady leadership and deep connection to the community.

It's teamwork like this that keeps our research, education, and outreach efforts strong across northwest Missouri.

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 Gentry county strengthened Extension's visibility and reinforced trusted relationships with community members.



Hundley-Whaley Display Garden

All-America Selections (AAS) is a non-profit organization that evaluates and shares unbiased information on new plant varieties across the United States. In 2025, a display garden was developed at the Hundley-Whaley Extension and Education Center (HW-EEC) to showcase select AAS varieties chosen specifically for this region. While the garden faced several environmental challenges throughout the growing season, visitors were still able to view, and in some cases taste, the items from the garden.

The display garden was designed to help gardeners and growers make informed investment decisions when selecting plant varieties and production methods, whether for food production or landscape use. Multiple gardening approaches were intentionally highlighted to demonstrate how successful gardens can be adapted to a variety of needs and settings. These included a whimsical, youth-centered "pizza garden," container and straw bale gardening options for individuals with limited space or mobility, as well as traditional in-ground gardening techniques featuring mulching and irrigation practices.

The HW-EEC display garden is officially listed on the national AAS website and is one of only nine AAS display gardens in Missouri. This site will continue to serve as a springboard for future educational programming, demonstrations, and hands-on learning opportunities for youth, adults, and community members.



Agriculture and Environment

Gentry County State Fair Farm Family

Andrew and Amanda Hulet and family of McFall, were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Hulett family was selected as the Gentry County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Gentry County and the local Farm Bureau. Andrew and Amanda and their 2 children , Adley and Hensley were able to attend and are pictured below at the fair.

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.”



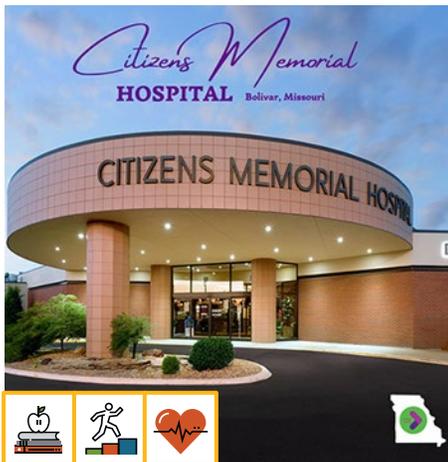


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Business and Community



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



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community Work

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





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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



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



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



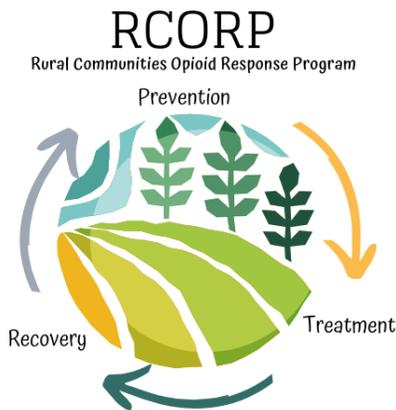
Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences

Coalition Work and Engagement- Moving Mountains



The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) has been in place in Northwest Missouri for nearly a decade. Mu Extension specialists, Jen Osborn and Rachel Brown have played a part in this work.

The most recent round of RCORP covered 4 years and \$2,000,000.00. We were able to initiate behavioral health services into one school in year one to 23 in NWMO in year four. The group has been able to support prevention and stigma reduction work in northwest Missouri.

In 2025, attention shifted to sustainability, to ensure that the progress continues beyond of the end of the grant set for August of 2026.



Sustainability planning has included reviewing where grant funding has flowed and determining feasibility of the behavioral health providers in the area to bill for services and provide capacity for services. 50% of the grant funding has been directed to treatment, primarily to Northwest Missouri youth in the school system through telehealth therapy services, in person therapy and peer support. Establishing follow up and warm handoff has been critical. Telehealth services have been provided by Embark Counseling as well as from UMKC within the UM System. The other 50% has been allocated to prevention and education in the region.



Prevention has been provided by Northwest Health Services (NWHHS) themselves, but funding has also been funneled to various local prevention coalitions of which I have been able to partner with throughout 2024 and 2025. We project and proposed that communities look at the use of Opioid Settlement Funds to keep funding local and to support prevention and education work. I was able to provide education at the Northwest Missouri Regional Commissioner's Meeting in Sheridan in the fall. The abatement strategies of the opioid funding aligns with the work that has been done through RCORP funding by local coalitions.

To continue aligned priorities of coalition work, in 2026 NWMO coalitions have agreed to form a northwest regional coalition for continued impact. Representation will include coalitions and champions from Gentry, Harrison, Daviess, Worth, Nodaway, Andrew and Atchison to name a few.

Health and Human Sciences

HHS Local Impacts

Question. Persuade. Refer.

In 2025, Jessica Trussell, MU Extension Human Development Specialist, served 64 individuals through QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper training, offered both virtually and in person across the region. QPR equips participants with the skills to recognize warning signs of suicide, ask direct questions, persuade individuals to seek help, and refer them to appropriate resources.

The program has been shown to:

- Increase knowledge of suicide warning signs and risk factors
- Improve confidence in intervening during a suicide crisis
- Build community capacity for early identification and referral

Gentry County benefitted from this program, leading to stronger suicide prevention efforts and empowering community members to respond effectively and confidently when individuals may be at risk.



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

Regional Impacts

Mental Health First Aid

In 2025, Katie Pemberton helped to train individuals through Mental Health First Aid training, including both Youth and Adult modules offered virtually in the Northwest Region. 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.



Health and Human Sciences

SNAP-Education and EFNEP

Participants in SNAP-Ed and 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.

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.

3,369 direct and indirect contacts were made in Gentry County.

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.

45 of these youth and adult participants reside in Gentry 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.





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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



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Council Development

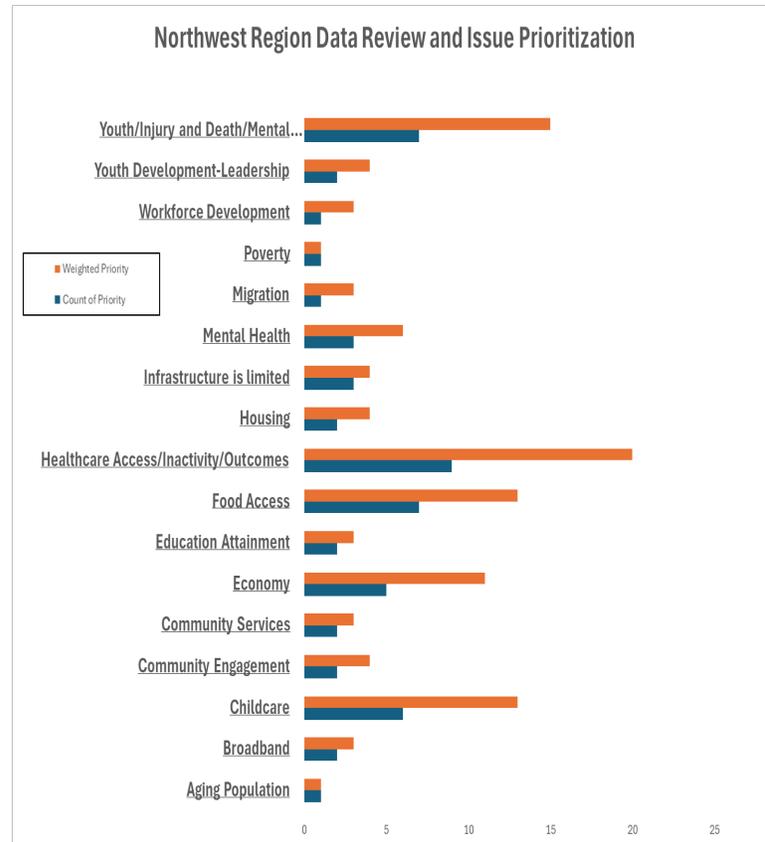
COUNCIL STRATEGY FOCUSED COLLABORATION

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 Gentry County, the councils, identified and prioritized economy, mental health, and youth as areas of focus. In 2025, this has led to

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.

Gentry County

Highlights

Farm And Family Day At Hundley-Whaley



Gentry County Century Farm

The Century Farm Program, co-sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Farm Bureau recognizes Missouri farms that have been owned by the same family for 100 consecutive years or more.

Gentry County Annual Meeting celebrated the longstanding dedication to agriculture and stewardship of family land.

Leaders Honor Roll

The Leaders Honor Roll 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 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.



Gentry County

Highlight Photos

Farm And Family Day At Hundley-Whaley

