



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Greene County

2024 Annual Report

2400 S. Scenic Avenue
(Inside the Springfield Botanical Center)
Springfield, MO 65807
417-881-8909

<https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/greene>

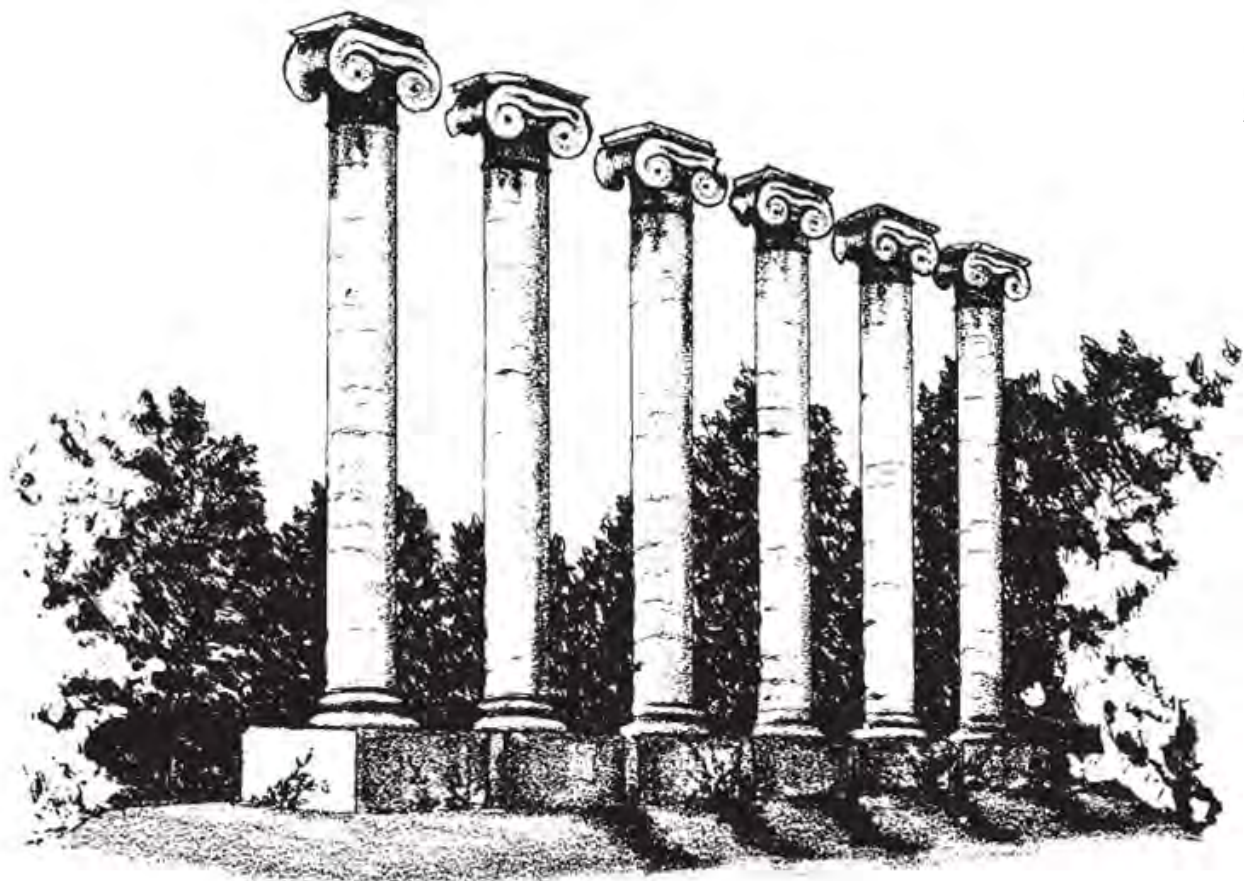
**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Extension

University of Missouri

Vision Statement

MU Extension is a valued and trusted educational solution to improve the quality of life in Missouri, the nation and the world

Mission Statement

Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

Vice Chancellor's Office
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Columbia, MO 65211
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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

GREENE COUNTY EXTENSION CENTER

**Greene County
Extension Council**

January 28, 2025

Dear Greene County Commissioners and Residents:

Greene County MU Extension expanded its reach and impact in the county during 2024. We are proud of those efforts but the real benefit is felt by the residents of Greene County. In 2024 we focused on new partnerships and ways to deliver impactful education and resources taking advantage of the Council's established mini-grant program.

Here are some of the most noteworthy impacts for the year:

- MU Extension specialists and associates in Greene County brought education programs to 62,972 residents this year. That places Greene County in the number six position statewide.
- The Extension Council hosted a coat drive supporting the International Institute of Southwest Missouri, which provides support to refugees from other countries who settle in Greene County. The Council collected over 200 coats not counting socks, gloves and other clothing items that were delivered to the International Institute and then distributed to refugees.
- The Council also manned an educational booth at the Springfield CultureFest, introducing our programs and resources to Greene County's international community.

Our specialists were recognized as being some of the best in the nation in their areas of programming.

- The Community Development Society named our Neighborhood Leadership Academy Program of the Year for 2024.
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks recognized our Team Award program as the "Rising Star for the Year" at its Neighborhood Organizations and Volunteer Awards program for 2024.
- 1st place at both the regional and national level for National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Science Excellence through Research Award.
- Specialist recognized for their mentoring with the University of Missouri Health and Human Sciences Mentoring Award and the Truman Award.

On behalf of the Greene County Extension Council, we thank the County Commissioners for their support in 2024.

Christina Hammers
Council Chair

Christina Hammers
Chair

Judy Stainback
Vice-chair

Morgan Ash
Secretary

Lisa Bakerink
Treasurer

John Russell
County Commission

Tammy Lowrey
Farm Bureau

Shelia Taylor
MFA

Joseph Hoffinan
City of Springfield

Vacant
City of Republic

Vacant
4-H Youth member

Members at large

Allison Anbari

Eric Bruning

Mary Chalender

Sandi Haustein

Aaron Jones

Elaine Montgomery

Rick Stenberg

Merri Sutherland

Eric Sutton

Who we are

Faculty and staff

Sarah Havens,
Regional Director, SW Missouri



Amber Allen,
Human Development



Ashleigh Davidson
4-H Youth



Bailey Andrews,
4-H YPA



David Burton,
Community Development



Robin Clay,
Administrative Assistant



Kelly McGowan,
Horticulture Specialist



Amy Patillo,
Workforce Development



Kyle Whittaker,
Extension Engagement
Specialist



Council members

Christina Hammers, Chair
Judy Stainback, Vice-chair
Morgan Ash, Secretary
Lisa Bakerink, Treasurer
John Russell, County Commission
Tammy Lowrey, Farm Bureau
Shelia Taylor, MFA
Joseph Hoffman, City of Springfield

Members at Large

Allison Anbari
Eric Bruning
Mary Chalender
Sandi Haustein
Aaron Jones
Elaine Montgomery
Rick Stenberg
Merri Sutherland
Eric Sutton

County commissioners

Bob Dixon, Presiding Commissioner
Rusty MacLachlan, Commissioner, 1st District
John C. Russell, Commissioner 2nd District

Family Nutrition Education Program



Terri Fossett, Associate Director



Jacqueline Basham, Program Manager



Bethany Kolb, NPA



Sherri Hull, NPA



Kenlyn Shettlesworth, NPA



Randi Williams, Office Support

Greene County Partners

Special thanks to Greene County Partners!

Alzheimer's Association
City of Republic
City of Springfield
Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Greene County 4-H Foundation
Greene County Commonwealth
Greene County Juvenile Center
KOLR TV
KY3 TV
Leadership Springfield
Lincoln University Cooperative Extension
Missouri State University

Master Gardeners of Greene County
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
Springfield Community Gardens
Springfield Daily Citizen
Springfield-Greene County Library
Springfield Neighborhood Alliance Council
The Hopeful Neighborhood Project

Understanding Our Financial Report

By law, the Greene County MU Extension Council must annually publish its Income and Expense Financial Report for all of the restricted and unrestricted accounts.

That report (at right) includes monies from all Greene County MU Extension grants and accounts for programs and monies for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists.

MU Extension programs in Greene County are funded by county, state and federal dollars. The County Commission provides local extension funding for office expenses and local programs. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board provides office space in the Botanical Center. University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for professional and para-professional staff members headquartered in Greene County as well as training expenses, staff communications and computer equipment costs and maintenance.

Greene County Extension Center Annual Income & Expense Financial Report January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
0100 - Student Fees	15,993.00
0210 - County Appropriations	65,000.00
0400 - Gift/Grants/Contracts	18,318.91
0900 - Resales/Educ Services Fees	31,406.04
1300 - Miscellaneous Income	28.08
1600 - Balance Transfers	0.00
Total Income	130,746.03
Gross Profit	130,746.03
Expense	
2700 - Persnnl Serv - Salaries & Wag	15,062.25
2800 - Payroll Expenses	1,422.26
2900 - Non Payroll Salaries	-8,211.39
3100 - Travel	11,711.78
3600 - Postage	984.03
3700 - Telephone Serv - Local	450.12
3900 - Advertising	7,148.97
4700 - Publishing/Printing	4,987.53
5100 - Supplies/Services	53,387.54
5110 - Annual Meeting	283.50
5115 - Professional Development	919.77
5200 - Professional Development - 1	1,225.54
5600 - Professional Services	4,634.04
6400 - Other Contract Services	9,145.02
6800 - Insurance	2,443.00
7000 - Miscellaneous	500.00
7100 - Soil Test Expenses	4,848.50
7300 - Repairs/Maintenance	2,134.96
7700 - Furniture/Equipment	3,570.79
7999 - Fee Generation Distribution	493.13
Total Expense	117,121.34
Net Ordinary Income	13,624.69
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
Voided Checks	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00
Net Income	13,624.69

**Greene County Extension Center
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024**

	Dec 31, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets:	
Checking/Savings	
0060 - Checking	191,582.35
Total Checking/Savings	191,582.35
Total Current Assets	191,582.35
TOTAL ASSETS	191,582.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
0063 - VISA Commerce Bank	4,678.63
Total Credit Cards	4,678.63
Total Current Liabilities	4,678.63
Total Liabilities	4,678.63
Equity	
0002 - Retained Earnings	173,279.03
Net Income	13,624.69
Total Equity	186,903.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	191,582.35

Our Campus Endowment Fund

An endowment is a permanent fund individuals or companies can donate too on behalf of our county extension program. All donations remain in the endowment as part of the principal fund. Only the interest earned but that fund can be spent by the council on approved council programs or local needs. The distribution account is sometimes referred to as the gift account and also includes monies given by individuals to the Greene County Extension Council via our account on the Mizzou campus.

Greene County Extension Council Endowment Report

Funds maintained by University of Missouri.
Report ending Fiscal Year June 30, 2024

Endowment Principal Account

Beginning Value 07/01/2023: \$20,799.48
Ending Balance 06/30/2024: \$24,401.97

Endowment Distribution Account

Beginning value 07/1/2023: \$21,815.69
Ending Balance 06/30/2024: \$23,483.12

Council Budgets and Funds

The Greene County Extension Council annually receives an allocation from the Greene County Commission for local programs and office operations. Those monies are managed carefully in the primary (1000) fund. The 1000 account budget is monitored by the council monthly. In addition to annual funding from the Commission, the Council manages monies related to the sale of services, donations, and restricted gifts like grants, and the accounts of our 4-H, Master Naturalists and Master Gardener funds. Those amounts are reflected here in this year-end report.

Greene County Extension Center Funds (Classes) Balances As of December 31, 2024

	Dec 31, 24
1000-County Appropriations	
1500-Juvenile YPA Funding	-3,077.30
Total 1000-County Appropriations	<u>-3,077.30</u>
2000-Center Operations	
2200-Unrestricted Gifts	30,629.59
2000-Center Operations - Other	16,588.03
Total 2000-Center Operations	<u>47,217.62</u>
3000-Education and Services	
3100-Soil Testing	13,534.05
3200-Resale and Services	6,845.54
3300-Short Courses	18,856.54
Total 3000-Education and Services	<u>39,236.13</u>
5000 Restricted Grants & Contri	
5100-Professional Development	
5101-County Program Director	350.16
5102-Horticulture Specialist	83.63
5104-4-H Specialist	400.00
5105-Human Development	442.83
5108-Community-Workforce Spec	75.51
Total 5100-Professional Development	<u>1,352.13</u>
5340-Blueberry School	6,937.79
5850 4H Greene County	6,593.51
5860-Local Program Sponsorship	257.99
5870-Water Wise Donations	44.69
5885 - Neighboring Project	28,480.80
Total 5000 Restricted Grants & Contri	<u>43,666.91</u>
9100-Master Gardeners GCE	37,662.26
9200-Master Naturalist GCE	22,198.10
TOTAL	<u><u>186,903.72</u></u>

Greene County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

1,009 students

- 767 Undergraduates
- 242 Graduate and professional students
- 714 Full-time students
- 295 Part-time students
- 152 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

190 people employed by UM

- 173 Campuses
- 15 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 2 UM System

97 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$9.7 million

UM state tax revenue: \$304,590

UM federal tax revenue: \$1.6 million



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 333 Medicine
- 256 Nursing
- 340 Health Professions
- 155 Dentistry
- 171 Pharmacy
- 26 Optometry
- 68 Veterinary Medicine
- 382 Agriculture
- 1,027 Engineering
- 544 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 126 teachers
- 4.3% of all district teachers
- 21 principals and administrators
- 12.2% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 499 students
- 3,834 alumni
- 126 employees

UMKC

- 176 students
- 1,029 alumni
- 27 employees

Missouri S&T

- 231 students
- 955 alumni
- 18 employees

UMSL

- 103 students
- 296 alumni
- 2 employees



County population: 301,121



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 1,314 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$1.5 million of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- 41 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 1,092 visits to 485 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 65,580 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 2,222 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 10,921 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 45,471 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



Construction projects

- \$641,237 remitted to 3 county vendors, for 17 projects



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Greene and Greene - Annex Counties

Greene County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)



210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion

MU		UMKC	
28,608	\$583.6M	11,518	\$228.5M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,720	\$127.7M	8,256	\$107.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



GREENE COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Business Dynamics*

Business Growth/Change

The rate of business change reflects the net gain or loss in total establishments. The report area saw a net gain of 777 businesses between 2011 and 2021. There were 8,784 establishment "births" and 8,007 "deaths" contributing to the change. The rate of change was 10.71% over the ten year period, which is higher than the state average of 9.32%.

Establishment Net Change Rate

10.71%

Greene

Missouri

9.32%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [US Census Business Dynamics Statistics](#). 2011-2022.

Largest Job Sectors

Understanding the local economy is vital to describing a community. In this region, the largest sector by employment size is Health care and social assistance, which employs 36,482 people. The average wage for the industry is \$72,442. Retail trade and Government and government enterprises are the next largest sectors, and they employ 24,911 and 22,003 workers, respectively.

Job Sector	Total Employment	Average Wage
Health care and social assistance	36,482	\$72,442
Retail trade	24,911	\$37,881
Government and government enterprises	22,003	\$69,037

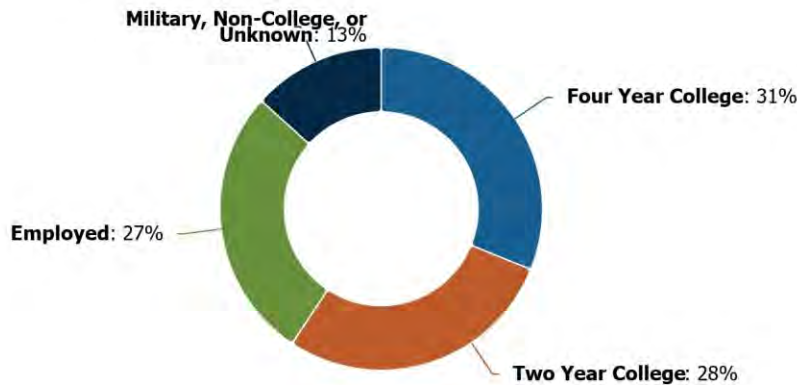
Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *College and Career Readiness*

Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 2,785 graduates surveyed in the report area, 867 went to a four-year college, 785 to a two-year college, 762 directly entered the job market. The remaining 371 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of “deaths of despair” across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 1,316 deaths of despair, or 64.9 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is higher than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 17.87% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

64.9

Greene



Missouri

52.01 😞

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 6.0 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.6 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

6.0

Greene



Missouri

5.3 😞

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#). 2021.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#). 2014-20.



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Soils Testing*

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Greene	121	312	9	0	442
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary](#). 2022.



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

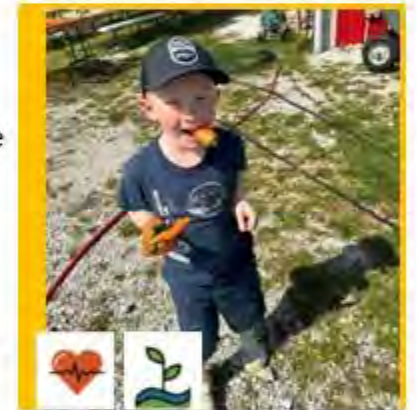
Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



4-H's Leadership and Civic Engagement Programs foster understanding, confidence, and decision-making skills to empower youth to become informed and active young citizens. 4-H civic engagement initiatives prepare young people to become future leaders by engaging them in programs where they have voice and influence. Greene County was proud to have TWO representatives for state congress this year!



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



4-H in-school clubs meet during the school day. Members participate in projects that supplement their existing lessons. Clubs may meet for short periods or span the full 4-H program year. Members can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service, and links to career readiness.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Greene County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Greene County Teen Council received a grant from Feeding Missouri and worked with several area agencies to raise meals and money for local food banks. In addition to a traditional food collection, members worked at **Full Circle Gardens** (harvesting vegetables and preparing garden beds for new crops) and **Ozarks Food Harvest** (sorting produce and preparing it for distribution).



Members from various community clubs showed up and showed out with their submissions of projects that they've completed throughout the year. **The fair display** allowed members of the community to see the hard work that 4-H members put into their **projects and livestock!**



Greene County

Missouri 4-H

Stories through Photographs



Greene County fair project entries.



Fun discovering aquatic organisms at Camp Smokey.



Grow to Ride members experienced horseback riding during Farm Camp!



Shooting Stars community club celebrates National 4-H Week with a window painting at a local business!

Greene County 4-H Youth Development



Ashleigh Davidson
4-H Youth Development Specialist
417-881-8909
ashleigh.davidson@missouri.edu



2024 Annual Report - Greene County

ENGAGEMENT WORK

What a first year with 4-H and with Extension! This year, I've learned what it means to be flexible. Admittedly there were some growing pains at first, but I'm feeling confident in my abilities to continue my work with program planning, community outreach, and identifying needs in the community. This year, my favorite part of engagement work was getting to know members and their families through club meetings and various events. I've also made a few connections in the community and look forward to making even more this year.



Greene County Grow to Ride members participate in Farm Camp at the stables.

KEY OUTCOMES

As a new Youth Development Specialist, I have received trainings, gained experience with how 4-H operates, and formed partnerships with community organizations.

Greene County 4-H Teen Council participated in various service projects and in-person food drive as part of the Feeding Missouri grant. They also hosted a Halloween party and Recognition Night.

Members of Grow to Ride participated in Farm Camp. This camp explored many different agricultural businesses and organizations in the area.

Bailey Andrews continued working multiple times per week with the Greene County Youth Academy.

Many members from Greene County attended Camp Smokey at Roaring River State Park.

Greene County Leaders Council hosted two scrapbooking fundraisers for community crafters. The proceeds help to fund fair operations and premiums.

Began implementing monthly events such as STEM night, craft night, enrollment night, and informational night.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2025

Lead two projects per semester and meet with project members to work on the project once per month.

Coordinate and implement at least one day camp.

Help to establish at least two in-school or community clubs.

Establish a working relationship with Boys and Girls of Springfield.

Attend one club meeting with every club in the county (hopefully more though!).

Increase the number of project form submissions through county-wide programming.



Bailey Andrews
4-H Youth Program Associate
417-881-8909
baileyandrews@missouri.edu



Greene County

Missouri 4-H

Greene County Juvenile Justice Center

Throughout the school year and summer, I partnered with the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center to deliver impactful programming to participants in their Youth Academy Program. I conducted 4-H programs, lessons, and activities three days a week, focusing on experiential learning and personal development. One of the key programs implemented was the 4-H Kids in the Kitchen program, where participants learned to prepare healthy recipes, practice proper kitchen safety and cooking techniques, and develop a deeper understanding of nutrition and hygiene. Another significant program was the 4-H Youth Futures initiative, which provided participants with opportunities to explore post-high school pathways, including college, trade schools, the military, and entering the workforce. The program also covered real-world skills such as financial literacy, budgeting, and life skills. It concluded with guest speakers and field trips designed to align with participants' career interests. Additional lessons spanned STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), agriculture, culinary arts, and creative projects, ensuring a diverse and engaging curriculum. These activities emphasized hands-on learning and included enriching field trips. A highlight of the summer was a weeklong "4-H Week", where participants explored a variety of 4-H opportunities through activities such as STEM challenges, flower arranging with Master Gardeners, cooking lessons, and educational tours, including a visit to Askinosie Chocolate Factory. This ongoing collaboration with the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center has provided meaningful, educational experiences, equipping participants with life skills, career readiness, and personal growth opportunities.

Key Outcomes

- Coordinated and led events, meetings, community service projects with the Greene County 4-H Teen Council
- Worked with Greene County Teen Council to host Food Drives, food donations, and service opportunities in support of 4-H Feeding Missouri
- Expanded 4-H programming to a new school in Greene county
- Restarted the Greene county Embryology Program
- Coached the Greene County 4-H Livestock Judging Team

Actions Planned for 2025

- Implement new 4-H Programming at Greenwood Laboratory School
- Host community service projects and educate about food insecurity with partnership of 4-H Feeding Missouri and The Missouri Farmers Care Foundation
- Take Greene County Livestock Judging Team to the Missouri 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest
- Continue to work and grow with the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center and Youth Academy Program





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Agriculture and Environment



MU Extension Specialists quickly respond to **emergencies and disasters** across the state. If a disease outbreak occurs in livestock, specialists are there. If a natural disaster such as flooding occurs, specialists are there. Missouri farmers can count on MU Extension to guide them through emerging issues with knowledge and expertise.



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



The **Urban Agriculture** program empowers urban farmers, agribusinesses and individuals interested in agriculture with the resources and information to start or grow their business. By collaborating with producers and external partners, the program provides business planning support, farm management strategies, production tools and decision-making resources to foster sustainable growth and success.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



Tim Schnakenberg,
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 70 participants who attended the 99th **Greene County Ag Production Conference** in March. Topics covered included using annuals in grazing systems, beef dewormer surveillance in Missouri, preparing for the breeding season, heifer development and maintaining the cow and calf at calving time. In the survey at the end of the meeting, 100 percent of the participants ranked the program as either meeting or exceeding their expectations. Greene County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable.



Greene County farmers and ranchers attended two **Native Warm Season Grass Tours** offered by Tim Schnakenberg in June and July in Lawrence and Barry counties. There were 82 people who participated and gained knowledge and skills on how to establish and maintain native grass stands.

Corn Stunt was identified in Christian County this year and soon was found in all southwest Missouri counties by August. This significant disease was found in a field and later confirmed by the MU diagnostic laboratory. This was the first time in 40-50 years that stunt made an appearance in Missouri. Trapping for the vector, corn leafhopper, has continued by extension agronomists to monitor its movement.



Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 115 participants who attended the **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings** offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Trainings occurred in Cassville, Springfield, Galena, Ozark, Mt. Vernon (2X) and Branson. Pesticide applicators also benefited from a 1.5-hour prerecorded Zoom session that was used for training statewide. Several other classes were offered virtually across the state. This training has direct impact on environmental safety, human safety and the safety of the American food supply. Farmers are retrained every five years in order to maintain a private pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

"Very knowledgeable class instruction." "Very good job! Rubber met the road." "Tim always does a great job!" "Very happy with the whole class and experience." "I like these classes and I always learn new methods and knowledge about chemicals and applying chemicals."



Regional Drought Assessments were conducted by Tim Schnakenberg and Micah Doubledee in 14 counties. These extensive reviews of the 2024 drought helped the state FSA office and county committees to determine financial assistance for landowners who had signed up for NAP drought insurance programs.

There were around 400 farm producers who participated in the **40th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference** in Springfield in February. There were fourteen key presentations and a trade show. This is one of Missouri's largest gatherings of farmers and ranchers and is hosted by a committee made up of extension field specialists and professionals from Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Missouri Department of Conservation.



Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Missouri Grazing Schools provide the most in-depth training on how to be successful with Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) practices. These three-day schools are unique to Missouri and have set a standard for teaching and demonstrating the newest grazing concepts. Schools were offered in 2024 in Lawrence, Stone, Webster, Newton, Barton and Polk counties. The schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were around 100 livestock producers who attended the sessions from many counties. Numerous presentations were offered along with on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems.

*"We hope to apply this information to leave a better place for future generations." "Start to finish, teachers and students were impressive and full of practical information and support." "You **can** teach an old dog new tricks!"*



This year's **Ozark Empire Fair Hay Show** had outstanding participation with 36 entries submitted from seven counties. Several ag specialists traveled to 20 farms to collect samples of the entries. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. Counties represented this year included Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Stone, Shannon, Dade and Barry counties. The highest-testing entry and champion dry hay came from Glenn and Toni Obermann of Monett. It was a first cutting alfalfa hay entry that was harvested on April 18. It produced a 258 Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). The champion haylage was entered by Groves-View Dairy of Billings, Missouri. It's cutting date was April 22 and the RFQ was 249. The show has occurred since 1985. Tim Schnakenberg and Reagan Bluel served as Superintendents for this show.

Farm Fest at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield is the largest gathering of the farm community in Southwest Missouri. MU Extension ag specialists staff a booth at this event throughout the entire weekend in October. Thousands of visitors streamed by the booth and hundreds stopped in to visit with regional specialists.

Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Grassland Partnership Project is a nine-state Climate Smart effort for grassland and soil health management with the University of Tennessee. There are fifty farms in Missouri participating over a five-year period with oversight from MU Extension Specialists. Tim Schnakenberg is coordinating projects on five farms in Lawrence, Barry, Dallas and Greene Counties. These farms are receiving guidance and financial support to implement projects involving planting native grasses, planting legumes or developing Management-intensive Grazing systems. These five farms will serve as demonstration farms for future farm tour events once projects are fully implemented.

Insect Trap Monitoring is an ongoing effort by extension agronomists to monitor insect pest movement in Missouri. Counts are recorded weekly on the MU IPM website and alerts are provided for farmers who sign up for the service. The service provides a heads-up for insect invasions in both crops and forages. Insects are monitored in two locations in Southwest Missouri including fall armyworm, true armyworm, stinkbug, Japanese beetle, corn leafhopper and black cutworm.





Kyle Whittaker
Extension Engagement Specialist
Greene County

Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Greene County



Extension Engagement Specialist Kyle Whittaker, MU Extension Workforce Development Specialist Amy Patillo, MU Extension Horticulture Specialist Kelly McGowen and Youth Program Associate Baily Andrews conducted Career Development Event workshops at the Springfield Lawn and Garden Show on February 23rd. The workshops were held in conjunction with the lawn and garden show hosted at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. The team provided the workshop for FFA students preparing for district and state competitions. The team conducted 3 workshop in the areas of Floriculture, Nursery/Landscaping and Entomology.

The Floriculture Career Development Event includes identifying 60 plants from a list of 143 plants. A plant diagnosis and disorders practicum, Greenhouse and floral item identification practicum, and a written exam. This workshop had 135 participants.

The Nursery/Landscaping Career Development Event includes identifying 50 plant specimens from a list of 91 shade trees, flowering trees, evergreen trees, perennials, evergreen shrubs, vines and ground covers, turf and flowering shrubs. The event also includes a plant disorder and diagnosis practicum, a landscape design practicum and a written exam. This workshop had 61 participants

The Entomology Career Development Event includes identifying 40 insect specimens from a list of 114. The event also includes an insect/plant diagnosis practicum, Pesticide formulation problem and a written exam. This workshop had 85 participants.



Kyle Whittaker
Extension Engagement Specialist
Greene County

Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Greene County



Kyle Whittaker Extension Engagement Specialist serving Greene County conducted two Barn Quilt classes in 2024. The classes were held at the Springfield Botanical Garden. 42 people participated in the classes. Pictured is a couple of the attendees working on their barn quilts.



Kyle Whittaker – Extension Engagement Specialist served as the Country Ham Show Superintendent at the 2024 Ozark Empire Fair. The show held in mid-July was a record with 140 hams exhibited by area youth.



Four area youth were chosen to sell their hams at the 2024 Gold Buckle Gala. The youth receive 75% of the funds. The sale was record setting, the 4 hams sold for \$83,000. Funds from the sale also support the Ozark Empire Fair Foundation.

Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2024 Greene County Commissioners Ag Tour



The Greene County Commissioners Ag Tour is designed to highlight unique agricultural businesses and efforts in Greene County. This tour helps to educate on the impact local agriculture has and gives farmers opportunity to interact with Commissioners.



Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2024 GREENE COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR Jeff, Catherine and Charles Goodnight

This prestigious award honors the contributions of an individual farm family from each county in the state.



Greene County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories

GREENE COUNTY CENTURY FARMS

This year, two more farms were added to Missouri's Century Farm Roll. To be eligible, one family must have owned the farm 100 or more consecutive years!



Above: The McCroskey Brothers and family pictured with Lincoln Hough, Senator, John Russell, Greene County Commissioner and Curtis Trent, Senator.

Below: The Feemster Family pictured with Lincoln Hough, Senator, John Russell, Greene County Commissioner and Curtis Trent, Senator.



Impact Update

Kelly McGowan
Field Specialist in Horticulture
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mcgowank@missouri.edu



2024 – Horticulture Annual Report

ENGAGEMENT WORK

2024 Research Outcomes

“Increasing Farm Sustainability and Local Food Security Through Grafted Tomatoes” – This project is a partnership with Bishop Gardens, LLC in Cassville, Missouri. A need for locally-sourced grafted tomato plants was identified and an on-farm demonstration and production facility was built and shared via field days. Grafted plants are favored for the increase in yields and plant vigor. Cost-effective on farm production and sales is still being considered and work will continue in 2025.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Educational presentations direct contacts - 2617
- Led core training classes for new Master Gardeners (53 students; 14 classroom sessions)
- Coordinated and oversaw day-to-day operations of 537 volunteers.
- Represented University of Missouri Extension during the Public Issues Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. (Second year to do this)
- 21 one-on-one consultations with small farmers and those interested in starting an operation.
- 1600 people visited the Master Gardeners of Greene County booth at the Lawn and Garden Show



Kelly McGowan, Field Specialist in Horticulture, University of Missouri Extension, Springfield, MO. mcgowank@missouri.edu
Shon Bishop, Bishop Gardens, LLC, Cassville, Missouri

Grafted tomato plants can provide many benefits in commercial tomato production including increased yields, decreased inputs, and a variety of resistance availability for common environmental and soil-borne issues. While grafted plants are desirable, cost, along with sourcing and shipping plants can be a challenge and the feasibility of local plant production is needed. University of Missouri Extension, in partnership with Bishop Gardens, LLC, built and demonstrated an on-farm grafting operation. Field days showcased the operation and the resulting plants were given to local farms for trials during the 2024 growing season.

- Four farms participated in the trials.
- A 30-50% increase in yields was reported.
- Reports were reported to be more vigorous with decreased insect and disease issues.
- Plants were more long-lived in the field.
- Fruit was more uniform and showed less and blushing more marketable.
- All small use grafted tomato plants in the future.
- Although small-scale, local grafted-plant production is possible, more graft vs input are needed.

Future considerations: the increased cost of grafted plants continues to be a deterrent for producers. However, since they use grafted plants and witness the increase in yields and plant vigor, many justify the extra cost. Grafted plant cost can also be reduced with local production.



Media

29 KOLR 10 TV Interviews, 62 other media contacts including radio, magazine, newsletter, and other local TV interviews.

Volunteers

Coordinator of Master Gardeners of Greene County (309 members), Christian County Master Gardeners (63 Members), Springfield Plateau Master Naturalists (140 Members) and Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners in Joplin/Carthage (25 Members)

Actions Planned for 2025

- Updating Master Gardener core curriculum

I am on a team which will revise all Master Gardener core curriculum with the goal of completing it by the end of 2025. I will be helping to revise two chapters along with creating supplemental learning material.

- Host 2025 Missouri Blueberry School in Springfield, new Master Gardener opportunities, professional development, new programming in rural counties.

ENGAGEMENT WORK

- Nathanael Greene Demonstration Garden
- Water Wise Demonstration Garden
- Public Newsletter
- Gardening Hotline
- Social Media
- Lawn and Garden Show



KEY OUTCOMES

- ✓ 10,266 volunteer hours and 1,371 CE hours
- ✓ Twenty-nine Master Gardeners reported more than 100 hours worked during the year, with seven of those reporting more than 300 hours.
- ✓ Two Master Gardeners reported more than 500 hours for the year.
- ✓ Fifteen Master Gardeners earned 102 Advanced CE hours.
- ✓ 750 Gardening Hotline Questions Answered
- ✓ 309 active members
- ✓ 53 new members completed core training

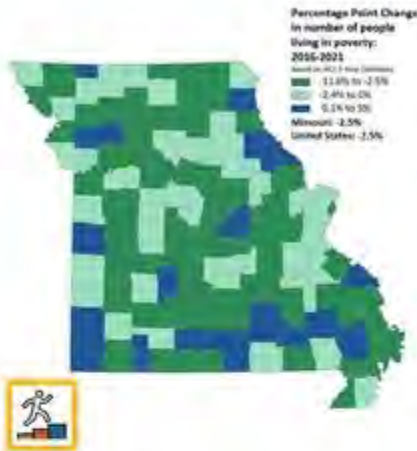
UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 21-23, 2025 – Lawn and Garden Show
- March 1, 2025 – Gardening Hotline Opens for the Season
- April 26, 2025 – Annual Plant Sale
- May 2025 – Core training for new members begin



Greene County

Business and Community



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

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



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 2024, 41 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,651 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.



DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING

MU Exceed offers customized data training. Participants learn how to use public data through hands-on exercises and demonstrations.

In 2022, Exceed provided data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS. 95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.

Business and Community Development

David L. Burton
Community Development
Specialist
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LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Headquartered in GREENE COUNTY

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key “Muscle Groups.”



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Seth Kaplan (at left), author of “Fragile Neighborhoods.” Program has participants from 38 different states now.

Show-Me Neighborhood Art Week — This new statewide art program celebrating public art and an increased sense of belonging as a result of this event. Had hundreds of participants, including 73 art installations statewide.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week— statewide we document 31,129 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4 with reports from every county in region.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day — Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger’s birthday. KY3 was a key partner in promoting this regionally.

“Join or Die” movie — Did total of 12 showings of this documentary with nearly 500 participants before it went to Netflix.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhoods USA — Presented two workshops on neighboring at the national conference and two students in Neighboring 101 won national awards.

Bei a thought leader — Wrote 72 newspaper and magazine columns in 2024.

Springfield Neighborhoods—Helped with annual training and support.

Neighborhood Leadership Academy—The Southwest Missouri cohort had 7 participants this year. We also celebrated completion of 6 projects from 2023.



VITALITY

Coaching / Pledge / Newsletter — Advised 52 individuals on a neighborhood events nationwide.. Media efforts related to neighboring resulted in d over 1 million impressions on social media and perhaps as many in traditional print and television. Had 124 people take the Engaged Neighbor Pledge this year.

National Movement—Was asked to speak in three different states (Michigan, New York & Colorado) on developing a good neighbor week.

Springfield Culture Fest — Council supported this new effort in Springfield.

Neighboring 101

Neighboring 101 is not just for new homeowners or people new to community life. This ongoing monthly program (started in 2020) is for anyone wanting to improve their neighborhood and community or their personal life and health. *One-time \$25 enrollment fee.*

Get Started With These Steps

1. Visit extension.missouri.edu and register for Neighboring 101.
2. Receive an exclusive newsletter with links to videos of all past classes.
3. Attend monthly sessions live to ask questions. Class is the third Thursday of each month at 12 pm (CST).
4. Access exclusive materials and resources for the Engaged Neighbor network.
5. Take what you learn and improve your neighborhood, your community and yourself.

What Others Have Said

“Every month I learn something that I can apply in my neighborhood.” - Laura

“This program has inspired the work we are now doing in my community.” - Jen

“Every month I say that is the best speaker we have had but then the next one is better. Every month I am inspired.” - Chet

Contact David Burton at burtond@missouri.edu

Program Enrollment for 2024 totaled 832 including these counties (and number enrolled).

Barton 2 | Barry 2 | Cedar 4 | Christian 18 | Dade 4 |
Douglas 2 | Greene 189 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 9
McDonald 3 | Newton 2 | Ozark 1 | Polk 2 | Stone 8
Taney 9 | Texas 6 | Webster 8 | Wright 2

Guests have included practitioners, authors and leaders in the neighboring movement:



Majora Carter



Dave Runyon



Seth Kaplan



Melody Warnick



Mike Mather

SHOW ME

Neighborhood Art Week



Show Me Neighborhood Art Week is a University of Missouri Extension art-focused outreach program that strives to promote creative expression and public art made by residents, regardless of their skill level, as a contribution to the community's sense of place and residents' sense of belonging. The program goals are to:

- Promote the engagement of neighbors;
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion within communities; and
- Use art as a tool to increase the sense of belonging.

We promoted and solicited participation in our pilot Show Me Neighborhood Art Week statewide. After creating an online map of sites registered, statewide viewing was June 1-15 2024. Participants were sent yard signs to display next to their installations.

- The program had participation from every extension region.
- 73 total registered sites and 1,182 registered voters.
- 293 participants signed up for the Engaged Neighbor newsletter.
- Over \$3000 in prizes for regional winning artists was distributed.
- 72% of participants in Show Me Neighborhood Art Week reported an increased sense of belonging and love for the communities by participating.

Regional participation (artist and/or participant) was as follows:

Barton 12 | Barry 6 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Douglas 4 | Greene 389 | Jasper 8 | Lawrence 29
McDonald 12 | Newton 21 | Stone 28 | Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 38 | Wright 22



Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024

Snapshot of Results



Named "Neighboring Program of the Year" in 2023 by Neighborhoods USA



82 +

Service Events

These groups — including 67 MU Extension county councils — worked together to serve their neighbors.



7891 +

Visitors to website

to learn more about what it means to be an engaged neighbor in Missouri.

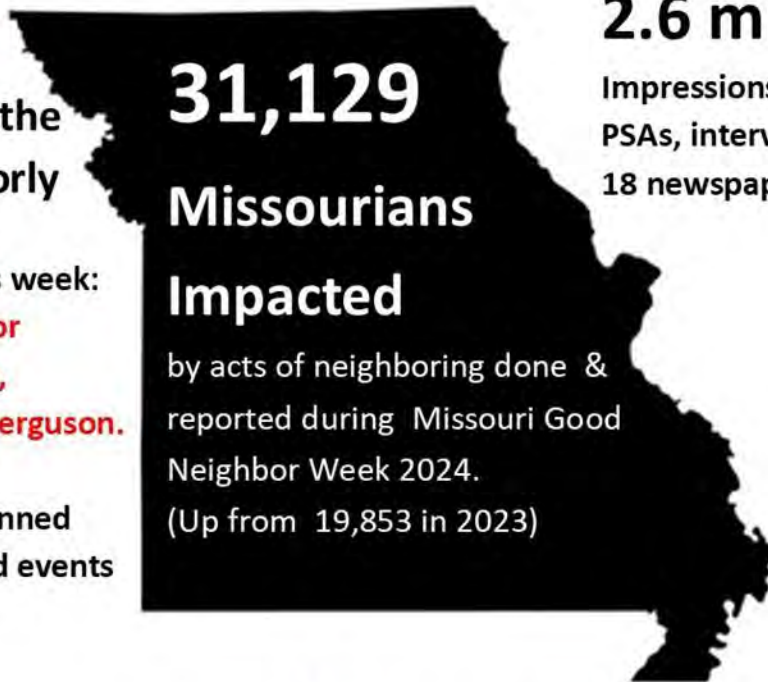


5 Cities

were named the most neighborly Based on points accumulated this week:

Houston, Excelsior Springs, Sikeston, Springfield and Ferguson.

13 Cities also planned neighbor-focused events or campaigns.



31,129

Missourians Impacted

by acts of neighboring done & reported during Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024. (Up from 19,853 in 2023)

2.6 million

Impressions from TV PSAs, interviews, radio, podcasts & 18 newspaper columns statewide.



13

proclamations done by towns and cities in support of Missouri Good Neighbor Week.

122

People were nominated as one of Missouri's **Most Engaged Neighbor.**

Missourians really appreciate neighbors that go the extra mile.



2896

People involved in an **act of neighboring.**

Everything from mowing yards to delivering cookies to first responders. Many times more than one person was involved.

<http://missourigoodneighborweek.com>

Southwest Missouri Led the Way During Neighbor Week

Counties in Southwest Missouri were well represented during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. Statewide, projects organized by county extension councils reached over 14,000 individuals. The following county councils reported doing a community service activity during the week.

Barton 85 | Barry 2 | Cedar 75 | Dade 300 | Dallas 50 |
Douglas 325 | Greene 525 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 65 |
Stone 45 | Texas 60 | Webster 45 | Wright 100

In Greene County, the council collected 200 high quality coats for distribution to new residents of Springfield from international locations (Pic 1). Springfield had 18 registered block parties during the week. (Pic 2) Council members also staffed at table at the Springfield Cultural Festival (Pic 3).

We also recognized 22 individuals statewide as the Most Engaged Neighbor and these counties had an honoree. These honorees were from Greene County:

- Chance Parish, Springfield (Pic 4)
- Stefanie Johnson, Springfield
- Nancy Susan Williams, Springfield
- Rudy Widmar and Rebecca Welsh, Springfield
- Jamie Tatum, Springfield
- Hayden Hradek, Republic

Besides the winners, we had 130 nominations for “Most Engaged Neighbor” including nominations from these counties:

Christian 2 | Dallas 1 | Newton 1 | Polk 3 | Stone 2 |
Taney 4 | Greene 12 | Webster 3 |

Additionally, the City of Springfield was named one of the five “Most Neighborly Cities” in Missouri based on numbers during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. David Burton presented the award to the Springfield City Council. (Pic 5) Republic was a runner-up in its city size category.

Totals Acts of Neighboring During the Week Reported From These Counties in SW Region.

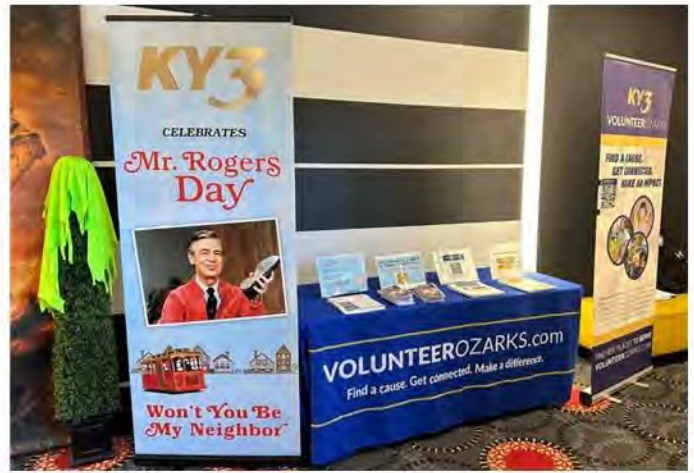
Barton 12 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Greene 4140 | Jasper 16 |
Lawrence 29 | Newton 8 | Polk 22 | Stone 18 | Taney 24 |
Texas 3015 | Webster 16 | Wright 12



Be My Neighbor Day 2024

KY3 partnered in helping us celebrate the birthday of Mister Fred Rogers on March 20. We also used the week to encourage membership in Springfield Neighborhood Associations. Over 750 people reported doing an act of kindness for their neighbor to celebrate the day. Local individual participation included:

Barton 8 | Barry 6 | Christian 102 | Dade 11 |
Greene 323 | Lawrence 49 | Newton 5 | Stone 38 |
Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 68 |



“Join or Die” Movie Screenings

Did 12 showings of this documentary with a total attendance of 523 participants in 2024. Attendees have reported joining clubs as a result, and at least one attendee is working on forming a Rotary Club in Republic. Local individual attendance included:

Barry 8 | Christian 82 | Dade 7 | Greene 302 | Jasper 6 |
Lawrence 39 | Newton 4 | Polk 14 | Stone 18 | Taney 7
| Texas 4 | Webster 14



Neighborhoods USA

David Burton presented two workshops on neighboring at the national Neighborhoods USA conference in Lubbock, Texas. But he also had two students in his Neighboring 101 win national awards. One of those, the team from Houston, Missouri, was recognized as the best multi-neighborhood effort in the United States for 2024. Houston celebrates National Good Neighbor Day with community events and an effort to distribute 3000 roses to neighbors.



Springfield Neighborhoods

David Burton led the annual training event for neighborhood leaders (held in March) this year with a guest speaker from St. Louis and nearly 40 in attendance. He also annually assists with the Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) event in December. MU Extension is now a sponsor of that event. In 2024, David was also recognized by Community Partnership of the Ozarks at the NOVA event as a “rising star” for Springfield neighborhoods.



Neighborhood Leadership Academy



Grant Beach Neighborhood Kit

Jamie Tatum used her class time to grow connections in the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association (Springfield). Then she wrote a grant to create a party and meeting kit for the Hovey House, the neighborhood meeting location, which made it easier to host block events. Her efforts have brought life to this midtown neighborhood.



Youth Sports Equipment Library

Hayden Hradek worked with staff at the Republic City Parks Department to purchase a storage container and sock it with youth sports equipment (thanks to Amazon). The library helps any youth be able to join a team, even if they cannot afford the equipment needed to play. This was a \$10,000 project.



Veterans Memorial in AG

Melissa Mau and Jennifer Wilkinson gathered community support and volunteers for their NLA project. Together they turned a community planter into a memorial for veterans in Ash Grove. Now instead of being an overgrown eyesore in the middle of town it is a place of honor.

Program Introduction and Impact

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is an annual 10-session program offered online and in person. Residents in Greene, Lawrence, Christian and Webster counties can enroll in the "Southwest Cohort." Students from Springfield & Republic are the target audience for this program.

NLA focuses on developing projects for community betterment, developing new leaders and building a bench of active community leaders. As part of the class, students develop a written plan for a neighborhood project and some receive grant funds to complete their project.

The 2024 class had the following participants from Southwest Missouri:
Greene County—6 | McDonald County—1 | Webster County— 1



Be a Thought Leader

National Efforts Contribute to Vitality

1. KY3 worked with me to produce 12 different PSAs in 2024 that ran on air nearly 1,000 times.
2. Had the opportunity to speak to various audiences about neighboring in Colorado during 2024.
3. Spent a day in Arvada, Colorado, with Dave Runyon, author of "The Art of Neighboring."
4. Was invited to speak at the Michigan Municipal League Conference on Mackinac Island about the power of neighboring and spoke to two standing-room only groups.





Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development

Greene County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Labor and workforce development's mission is to help businesses and organizations address the emerging working challenges to drive Missouri's workforce forward so that individuals and communities can thrive.



Landscape of National Extension Clearinghouse for Industry and Workforce



Home Programs Directories Events Resources Project/Current Research

HOME > TOPICS > BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY > LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Labor and workforce development

Career development Labor development Management and leadership

Programs



Heroes to Hives

Missouri is the first state chapter of the national Heroes to Hives program. Heroes to Hives is a unique program offered through the Missouri Food & Farming System that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through free professional training and community development centered around beekeeping.



Labor Education Program

The Labor Education Program, a continuing education unit of NEIW Extension, is located at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The program has been engaged in the development and delivery of high-quality leadership training programs for trade union leaders in Missouri and other Midwestern states since 1964.



Missouri Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Send experiential learning to grow your farm. Missouri beginning farmers program is a free pilot of training workshops, educational courses, mentorship and customized business/technical assistance. The goal is to provide information and to assist those who are interested in farming.

NEIW PILLARS

For more information visit
<https://extension.missouri.edu/topics/labor-and-workforce-development>

Responding to the Changing Needs of the Workforce in the Food and Agriculture Sector

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture invested \$10 Million to develop the National Extension Clearinghouse for Industry and the Workforce (NEIW) (AFRI-EWD Priority Area-A7704).

Dr. Patillo served as the National Program Lead and Content Lead in collaboration with the Extension Foundation to secure and launch the NEIW project (September 2023- September 2024).

Agricultural production and processing rely on an efficient and well-trained workforce. The readiness of this workforce may benefit from, and in many cases require, both informal training experiences, and formal worker certifications.



Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development

Greene County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Building Entrepreneurship in Missouri's Creative Economy

An interdisciplinary group of faculty and researchers from the University of Missouri Extension Business and Communities Program is embarking on a pilot research project to explore how to support the growth of entrepreneurship in Missouri's Creative Economy. Our team has identified several goals for our project, including:

To better understand what the "Creative Economy" – a relatively new concept in Missouri - looks like in our state

To learn about best practices and effective strategies from successful entrepreneurs in Missouri's creative industries

To better articulate the comprehensive impact (economic, social, and cultural) of creative businesses

Our multidisciplinary team consists of faculty with various specialized skills – field specialists in Community Development, Labor and Workforce Development, Economic Analysis, Small Business Development, and Community Arts.

Interdisciplinary team: Lisa Overholser, Community Arts Specialist in Community Development, Lisa Robinson, Regional Economic Development Specialist, Jackie Spainhower, Community Development Specialist, Luke Dietterle, Exceed Regional Economic and Entrepreneurial Development, and Dr. Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development Specialist

The impact of Hamilton's creative businesses

Economic Impact

Sewing, Needlework, and Piece Goods Retailers - 459130

Missouri Star Quilt – 2023

CALDWELL COUNTY

Impact	Employment	Wages	Value-Added	Total Output
Direct	59	\$ 1,469,533	\$ 5,436,933	\$ 7,922,736
Indirect	9	\$ 294,563	\$ 396,699	\$ 1,079,802
Induced	3	\$ 93,462	\$ 243,428	\$ 405,527
Total	71	\$ 1,857,557	\$ 6,077,060	\$ 9,408,065

REST of MISSOURI

Impact	Employment	Wages	Value-Added	Total Output
Direct	56	\$ 1,486,009	\$ 2,829,482	\$ 3,656,006
Indirect	5	\$ 306,460	\$ 484,648	\$ 934,090
Induced	8	\$ 438,750	\$ 822,832	\$ 1,359,241
Total	69	\$ 2,231,219	\$ 4,136,962	\$ 5,949,338

TOTAL

Impact	Employment	Wages	Value-Added	Total Output
Direct	115	\$ 2,955,541	\$ 8,266,415	\$ 11,578,742
Indirect	14	\$ 601,023	\$ 881,347	\$ 2,013,892
Induced	10	\$ 532,212	\$ 1,066,260	\$ 1,764,769
Total	139	\$ 4,088,776	\$ 10,214,022	\$ 15,357,403

Data Sources: [Lightcast](#), [IMPLAN](#)

Missouri Star Quilt in particular is significant in economic contributions.

Caldwell County 2023

Sewing, Needlework, and Piece Goods Retailers		Rank among all Industries
2023 GDP (\$)	\$7,922,736	10
Growth	\$ 7,310,763	5
2014-23	% 1195%	8
2023 Jobs (#)	136	3
Growth	# 77	1
2020-25	% 131%	2

Data Source: [Lightcast](#)



Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development

Greene County

Business and Community

Profiles and Stories

Art in Storefronts in Springfield, MO: Local businesses host ed MU students in a unique collaboration

May 3, 2024 – June 29, 2024

Three MU students, Summer Hall, Masters in Fine Arts (MFA), William Wallace (MFA), and Caroline Topham (undergraduate), showcased their artworks in three storefront spaces along South and Campbell Avenues in Springfield. The exhibition coincided with Springfield Regional Arts Councils' First Friday Art Walks in May and June and was on view May 3 through June 29, located at 220 S Campbell, Wheeler's Lofts Building at 401 South Avenue, and 5# Apparel at 412 South Avenue.



William Wallace Exhibit

This exhibit is made possible by a University of Missouri program called Art on the Move (AOM) through the School of Visual Studies (SVS) in the College of Arts & Science. It provides real-life experiences for students and alumni, providing hands-on professional career-building opportunities by returning them to their Missouri hometowns or other Missouri communities to share their art and art careers. Art On the Move also plays an instrumental role in recruiting the next generation of School of Visual Studies students.

This Art On the Move event is supported by a strategic partnership between MU's School of Visual Studies and the University of Missouri Extension with generous support from the Greene County Extension Council, Commission, and Morris and Becky Dock.

The School of Visual Studies brings the university's academic resources to communities across the state through collaborative engagements such as the Art on the Move Community Outreach Program, which includes MU students, faculty, and alumni, creating mutually beneficial learning outcomes with Missouri communities.

The economic and social impact of arts and culture in the Springfield community generated more than \$889.2 million in economic activity in 2022, \$28.5 million in spending by arts and culture organizations, and an additional \$60.7 million in event-related expenditures by their audiences. That economic activity supported 1,610 jobs, provided \$50.9 million in personal income to residents, and generated \$13.5 million in tax revenue to local, state, and federal governments (Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Springfield, 2023, p. 4).

The economic and social impact of arts and culture in the Springfield community generated more than \$889.2 million in economic activity in 2022.



Dr. Amy Patillo
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Greene County

Business and Community

Local Impact

MINK Educational Institute

Dr. Rob Russel, Dr. Amy Patillo, and Dr. Doug Swanson provided 15 hours of education and technical assistance to more than 300 Steelworkers at the Jerry Johnson Sumer Educational Institute, also known as MINK (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas) at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, MO.

MU Extension has a long history of supporting MINK, the program has engaged in the development and delivery of high-quality leadership training programs for Steelworkers in Missouri and other Midwestern states. The programs helps participants develop new skills to contribute to their organizations, to act effectively in the workplace, and be informed active participants in their communities. During an era of severe economic crisis and rapid changes in the labor market, the challenges of effective leadership are expanding dramatically. The research, curriculum development and teaching efforts of the MU Extension program faculty aim to meet the immediate and emerging educational demands of leaders of complex organizations.



Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beaugard Youth Summer Camp

Youth from across the United States learn about the world of work, with hands on experience in leadership at the Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beaugard Youth Summer Camp

The University of Missouri Extension hosted 15 campers, ages 13 to 17, at the University of Arkansas 4-H Youth Center in Little Rock, AR. To enjoy nature, develop new skills, and meet new friends.

Youths enjoyed leadership development sessions, ExCEL Leadership Challenge Course, and visited Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to learn about the History and Culture of the people and places within the story of Little Rock Central High School and the struggle for integration.

Youths shared new experiences participating educational opportunities while enjoying the outdoors, canoeing, kayaking, and learning to paddleboard.



MINK YEAR 1

MU Extension Labor and Workforce Development faculty **provided 15 hours of education and technical assistance to more than 300 Steelworkers** at the Jerry Johnson Sumer Educational Institute.



Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development

Greene County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Mentoring at Mizzou

Dr. Amy Patillo was recognized with a Truman Award and nominated by a mentee

Mentoring at Mizzou is a professional development opportunity for Mizzou faculty and staff who mentor graduate students, post docs, and/or faculty. The program uses Entering Mentoring curricula developed

by the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research. This professional development uses an evidence-based, interactive approach designed to help mentors develop skills for engaging in productive, culturally responsive, research mentoring relationships – relationships that optimize the success of both mentor and mentees.

Mentoring at Mizzou is a partnership between the Office of the Provost and Graduate School led by Candace Kuby, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, and Jeni Hart, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies.

Dr. Patillo and Matt Pezold are the CIMER Mentoring trained to facilitate the program for MU Extension.

Units and individuals that engage in Mentoring at Mizzou have potential for these benefits: access to research-based mentoring resources, space to dialogue about mentoring goals, development of common mentoring language and practices, opportunity to plan actions to improve mentoring, evidence-based mentor training suitable for faculty mentors on training grants, and time to develop skills for better mentoring practices to better support success for and retain students, postdocs, and faculty members.

TRUMAN AWARD



Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development



Matt Pezold
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development



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

Youth 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

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Tackling Missouri's workforce challenges by collaborating with state, regional and community partners.



APPLIED RESEARCH

Using university-based research, MU Extension faculty help Missourians better understand and address current and future workforce issues.



PLANNING AND SUPPORT

Our program helps workforce, economic development and community partners consider how to implement a data-driven and strategic approach to enhance workforce development.



PROGRAMMING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Our faculty have the skills to help with your workforce challenges

- In partnership with UMSL and UMKC, we deliver courses in leadership and business.
- Collaborate with the construction industry and public health officials to develop practical strategies to combat the problem of opioids in the workplace.
- Assist local stakeholders better use and access labor market information through workshops and webinars.

PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATIONS




- The **Recovery Friendly Workplace** initiative empowers workplaces to support people affected by substance abuse disorders and those in recovery.
- **Workforce Summits** bring together businesses, organizations and community leaders to build a network of information, resources and connections to cultivate a reliable workforce.
- **Heroes to Hives** trains military veterans, National Guard members, active duty personnel, reserves and their dependents in the art and science of beekeeping to improve health and well-being while providing business and community development opportunities.
- The **Beginning Farmer** program consists of workshops, classes, internships and customized one-on-one technical assistance for those interested in the farming profession.
- Employers, school officials and community leaders invest in mental health awareness and suicide prevention as an integrated workplace wellness program providing access to the resources and information workers need.
- A partnership with the Missouri Works Initiative provides instruction on workforce topics for a construction **pre-apprenticeship**.

Ready to partner with MU Extension?

Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development
patilloa@missouri.edu



extension.missouri.edu

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

2024

2501Team REPORT



An equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran employer

Kelly McGowan & Dr. Amy Patillo
Greene County Specialists

USDA's 2501 Program supports the development of socially disadvantaged and veterans (SDV) who want to start or grow their own farm or ranch.

MU Extension's 2501 multidisciplinary team collaborated by utilizing a culturally appropriate experiential learning model of formal education. Activities include Farm Walk Abouts, Value-Added Product Classes, Value-Producer Accredited Program, and Team-to-One Coaching.



2024 Annual Impacts

423 BEGINNING FARMERS	4	53	88	22
263 VETERAN FARMERS	Farmers Started an USDA Grant Application	Team-to-One Farmers Who Were Coached	Team-to-One Individual Farmer Coaching Sessions	Farmer Workshops & Classes
346 SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS				

MU Extension, through a grant from the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach 2501 grant, helps beginning farmers and others evaluate and plan their farm enterprise. Participants attend practical seminars and field days to learn from MU Extension specialists, farmers and agribusiness operators. The grant comes at a critical time, Director Funkenbusch says. More than 300,000 veterans are expected to return to their rural Missouri roots in the next decade. "Many of them will seek work in agriculture," she says.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Outreach & Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers and Veteran Farmers & Ranchers (2501Program)
Grant ID # AO212501X443G004





Economic Opportunity

Serving: Greene County

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University (MSU) provided support to Greene County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. One Greene County entrepreneur shared the following during one of our Early-Stage Business Boot Camp Sessions "Such good information – answered questions I didn't even know I had."

Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients in Greene County to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Business expansion and relocation
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization

Through leveraging regional partnerships, several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. In 2024 this initiative brought 2 Early-Stage Business Boot Camps to Greene County. The Early-Stage Business Boot Camp helped 59 entrepreneurs in Greene County look at all aspects of their business including, feasibility, business planning and understanding business financials.

KEY OUTCOMES IN GREENE COUNTY

447 Business owners in the County received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.

\$16.5 million Approved capital funding

\$124.2 million Increase in sales

17 New businesses started

1,664 Attendees from Greene County joined our business and professional development training programs.



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@missouristate.edu

417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$158,348,440

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the SBDC

\$96,731,627

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

\$20,468,645

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC

Impact data is client verified and obtained by approximately 30% of clients annually for the statewide network.

The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
Health and Human Sciences



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

“Understanding that divorce doesn’t ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable.”



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

The youth version of the program is designed to support adolescents ages 12-17 facing mental health or addiction challenges, while the adult version focuses on adults age 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



Cooking Matters teaches shopping strategies, using nutrition information to make healthier choices and to learn how to cook delicious, affordable meals at home.

“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!”

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



Amber Allen
Human Development & Family
Science Field Specialist

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Human Development and Family Science programming has focused on 6 distinct areas: aging well, families/parenting, childcare provider professional development, sense of belonging, mental health & well-being, emerging program: Sowing and Growing Hope. In 2024, 80 programs (123 sessions) were taught and reached 3,337 educational contacts in 73 counties and City of Saint Louis through direct Extension education teaching.

Mental Health and Well-being

Programs focused on mental health and well-being are needed in Missouri. Data shows that in a month in Southwest Missouri, the average number of poor mental health days is 5.8, and 5.3 days per month for Missouri statewide, both higher than the national average of 4.9 days per month of poor mental health days.

Programs I taught this year to promote mental health and well-being include Adult Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, QPR, and various mental health awareness presentations. Through these 14 educational programs and events related to mental health and well-being, 1,923 Missourians have been impacted. Through MU Extension, we empower community members to prioritize their mental health and well-being and extend that care to their family, friends, and community.



Above: Poster Presentation on Sowing and Growing Hope
Below: Distributing Mental Health Awareness Bags





Amber Allen
Human Development & Family
Science Field Specialist

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Aging Well in Missouri

The aging demographic in Missouri is large with a population statewide being 1,062,483 over the age of 65 with a population of 167,828 (18.31%) in the Southwest Region of Missouri (US Census Bureau). Given the significant number of those over 65, it is crucial to address their specific needs and challenges. Therefore, the University of Missouri Extension plays a vital role in this effort by providing education programs focused on healthy aging.

These programs help to improve the quality of life for Missouri's aging population through the promotion of social engagement and overall well-being.

To enhance the quality of life for Missouri's aging population through education programs collaborations and various learning modalities were necessary. A total of 28 aging well programs (62 sessions) were conducted with 537 educational contacts.

The programs focused on promoting aging well, fall prevention, brain health, and aging in place. The programs used were Boost Your Brain and Memory, Chronic Disease Self-Management, Keep Your Keys, A Matter of Balance, and Alzheimer's programming.



Virtual Wits Workout Course

Childcare Provider Professional Development

In Missouri, 36,000 children ages birth to five spend time in licensed childcare facilities while their parents are working and attending school (Missouri's Children, 2018). Research shows that to have a real impact, programs must be of high quality to help children develop the critical academic and social skills needed for success in school and life. Among the most fundamental early childhood education quality features are highly qualified teachers who are well-trained before and during their service. Therefore, education provided by the University of Missouri extension focused on training childcare providers on subject matter to enhance their knowledge and development within the early childhood space.

The Extension childcare programming provides statewide clock hours for professional development for childcare providers who must obtain 12 hours yearly. In 2024, I provided 12 childcare professional development training to 129 childcare providers. Along with named programming, I presented two breakout sessions at the Conference of Young Years to 140 individuals. The conference breakout sessions focused on burnout and leadership development. Through programming and conference presentations in 2024, I have provided 374 clock hours.

These programs not only enhance the skills of childcare providers but also foster a sense of community and shared goals through collaboration efforts with the Missouri Coalition on Activity and Nutrition childcare workgroup, the Early Childhood and Early Education Collaborative, and other various coalitions focused on early childhood and education initiatives. The economic impact of providing childcare professional development clock hours for 2024 is \$6,390.00.



Amber Allen
Human Development & Family
Science Field Specialist

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Virtual Mental Health First Aid



Mental Health Awareness and MSU Farm Safety Day



"It's just good to know that what I'm doing since surgery and diagnosis has been helping and working. I'm definitely encouraged to continue and improve." – Boost Your Brain and Memory Participant 2024

"I learned more about the brains activities, and how it effects me in daily life. Loved the trainer!"-Boost Your Brain and Memory Participant 2024

"The Alzheimer's Association greatly values the partnership with MU Extension. I know that when Amber Allen is presenting one of our programs, that it's going to be great and impactful to the community. Amber recently presented for Adult Protective Services and the feedback I received was that it was "phenomenal". That says a lot! When we are asked to present in any community, I think of MU Extension first because I know it will be a high-quality presentation." - Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Greater Missouri Chapter



Sowing and Growing Hope at the Community Action Statewide Conference

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

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, Missouri SNAP-Ed reached 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

Greene County Impact

Youth Direct Teaching

1,459

Adult Direct Teaching

192

Indirect Teaching

9,598

SNAP Applications

140



iCook at Midtown Library

“During a lesson of “Get The Best for Less” in *Families Eating Smart and Moving More*, a Life House Crisis Maternity Home resident commented that she would now begin checking the “Unit Price” to help her determine the cost/ounce. She never knew what those other numbers represented and had not been shown how to use “Unit Price” information. She was grateful to learn how to compare similar items to find the best deal to help her stretch her food dollars.” –Sherri Hull

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories

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.



Bethany Kolb, Kenlyn Shettlesworth, and Sherri Hull
Greene County Nutrition Program Associates



Families Eating Smart and Moving More at MERS
Goodwill Excel Center

At the MERS Goodwill Excel Center, adult students and staff joined my *Families Eating Smart and Moving More* class to discuss meal planning, resource management, food groups, and cooking skills. One student tried our Black Bean and Corn Salsa recipe we made in class, and, to her surprise, she loved it. Immediately after class, she bought all the ingredients for that recipe to make it at home! She later shared the recipe with her husband, causing a 'butterfly effect' of shared nutrition. -Bethany Kolb

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories



Volunteers at Flourish Food Pantry participating in the 2024 Missouri Crunch Off

“An elderly woman came into our food pantry for the first time. She was deaf. Our volunteers were having difficulty in communication with the woman. Kenlyn noticed this and came to the rescue. She was able to use sign language with the woman which facilitated our collecting the information we needed from the woman and her shopping for the food she needed. Kenlyn serves all our guests with patience and respect, but she went well above and beyond on this occasion. We are grateful for her service and the support MU Extension provides.”

-Wayne Thompson, Executive Director
Flourish Food Pantry

Schools & Agencies Served

Public Schools:

- Bingham Elementary
- Bissett Elementary
- Delaware Elementary
- Horace Mann Elementary
- Jeffries Elementary
- McGregor Elementary
- Pershing Elementary
- Sherwood Elementary
- Weaver Elementary
- Williams Elementary
- Strafford Early Childhood
- Strafford Elementary
- Willard South Elementary

Farmers Markets:

- Ash Grove
- Greater Springfield
- Walnut Grove

Food Pantries:

- Crosslines Food Pantry
- MSU Bear Pantry
- Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Schweitzer Flourish Pantry
- Weller Community Church

Other Sites:

- Douglas Head Start
- Drew Lewis Foundation
- Empower: Abilities
- Fair Grove Library
- Franciscan Villa
- Greene County OACAC
- Habitat for Humanity
- MERS Goodwill Excel Center

- MERS Goodwill Industries - Kids Excel
- Messiah Lighthouse Preschool
- MSU Bear POWER
- Northview Senior Center
- OFH Full Circle Garden
- Rare Breed Youth Services Inc.
- The American Indian Center
- The GLO Center
- Victory Mission Family Ministries



Jenni Nevatt, Nutrition &
Health Field Specialist,
JNevatt@Missouri.edu

Greene County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Local Health and Human Sciences faculty and staff collaborate with each other and community agencies to provide high quality, research-based educational programs to unique populations to improve health outcomes. Here is a look at their work in 2024:

Seasonal and Simple

Cooking Workshops in partnership with **Veterans United & Paddio** in **Springfield**

RELEVANCE:

- Rising prevalence of chronic diseases including diabetes and heart disease
- Greene County and Missouri have a higher rate of heart disease than the nation
- Increase in obesity rates
- Greene County has an increased rate of heart disease mortality than both the state and the nation
- Nutrition education addresses these challenges by empowering individuals with knowledge and tools needed to make healthier dietary choices and improving health outcomes



RESPONSE:

- Collaborate with community partners to fund, plan, and implement a series of hands-on cooking workshops to provide nutrition education for employees
- Nutrition and Health Specialist, Jenni Nevatt, developed hands-on cooking workshops where employees learn about the benefits of eating healthy. Participants make three recipes to share for lunch.

OUTCOMES:

Of the participants surveyed...

- 100% "agree" or "strongly agree" they know the recommended food groups
- 100% "agree" or "strongly agree" they know how to determine if packaged foods have added sugars
- 100% "agree" or "strongly agree" they can now identify 3 or more names for sugar on a food package
- 100% "agree" or "strongly agree" they now know why it is important to limit sugars
- 100% of the participants surveyed said they would recommend the workshop to others



