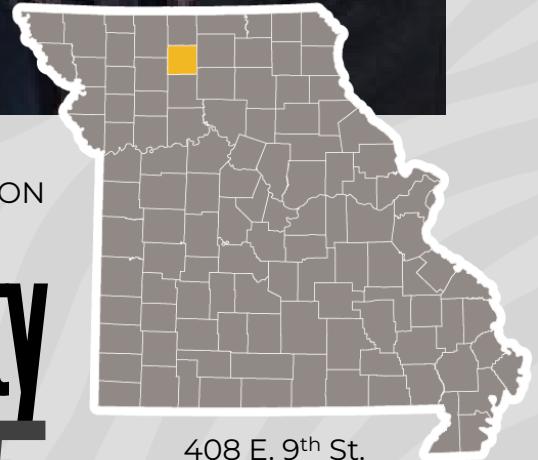




UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Grundy County 2025

Annual Report



408 E. 9th St.
Trenton, MO
64683

660-748-3315

**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.**

MU Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL cchiggins@missouri.edu

Dear County Commissioners, Elected Leaders, and Friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the remarkable progress we have made together. MU Extension continues to deliver on its mission of linking the University of Missouri with every community across our state, ensuring that Missourians have access to the knowledge, resources, and partnerships they need to thrive.

Through the dedication of our faculty, staff, councils, partners, and advocates, MU Extension continues to make a measurable difference across Missouri. Last year, we had more than 1.5 million educational contacts and generated more than \$1 billion in economic impact. Building on that momentum, your support also helped secure a \$5 million recurring increase in state funding. This important milestone is already being invested in people, programs, and facilities to strengthen agriculture, improve health and well-being, support local economic development, and prepare youth for leadership through 4-H.

We have also adapted to new realities. Even as the sunsetting of federal SNAP-Ed funding forced hard choices, our commitment to delivering nutrition and health programs to families in need has not wavered. We are expanding investments in rural health, civic leadership and community development to address the priorities Missourians tell us matter most. We are also aligning our work with university, state, and federal priorities to maximize impact, whether in rural healthcare, agricultural innovation or workforce development.

Our strengths remain clear: people, programs, and partnerships. From nearly 6,000 4-H volunteers to county council members, master gardeners, and master naturalists, Extension thrives because of the dedication of those who serve. Our trusted, research-based content was accessed nearly 2 million times and downloaded more than 76,000 times last year, and innovative programs, from soil testing to urban revitalization initiatives, continue to meet Missouri's evolving needs.

Thank you for your continued partnership. MU Extension belongs to all Missourians, and together we will keep building resilient communities, fostering innovation, and preparing our state for the future.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chadwick C Higgins'.

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Jamie Beverlin

Youth Program Associate

Joni Williams

Office Manager

Jen Osborn

Extension & Engagement Specialist

Denice Ferguson

Agriculture Development Specialist

Jim Humphrey

Livestock Specialist

Valerie Tate

Agronomy Specialist

Jim Crawford

Agricultural Engineer

Gwen Funk

Horticulture Specialist

Rebecca Simpson

4H Youth Development Specialist

Micah Potgeiter

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Amy Albertson

Nutrition Program Associate

Council Members

Shelby Glidwell, Chairman

Dean Rice, Vice-chairman

Cathy Rice, Secretary

Morgan Duff, Treasurer

Brad Chumbley

Cayla Foster

Jackie Hoffman

Kevin Ireland

Jenna Meservey

Vickie Pash



County Commission

Phillip Ray, Presiding Commissioner

Kevin Ireland, Commissioner

Bryan Johnson, Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	10,000.00
Other Income	9,903.17
Total Income	19,903.17

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	15,685.98
Travel	2,485.00
Misc	172.00
Office Supplies/Service	879.18
Utilities	1,194.36
Insurance	100.00
Election Exp	216.84
Total Expenses	20,733.36

MU Extension's Unique Funding

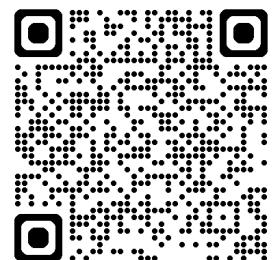
Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth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

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



Local support

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



How to donate...

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

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Grundy County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Grundy County, showcasing the meaningful ways local engagement supports residents. It includes data on the number of students, employees, retirees and alumni affiliated with the University of Missouri System, along with the healthcare and extension services provided over the past year.

In addition, the report highlights the broader contributions of the UM System across Missouri in key areas such as education, research, healthcare, economic development and public service. It features metrics like job creation, financial aid distribution, research investment, healthcare access and broadband expansion.

This report is a valuable resource for understanding the measurable benefits the UM System brings to Missouri communities. It supports informed decision-making, advocacy efforts and strategic planning by illustrating the tangible impact of university-driven initiatives at both the local and statewide levels.

[**Access Grundy County's Impact Report.**](#)



GRAND CHALLENGES

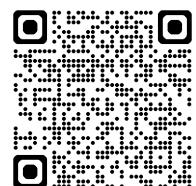
Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges — Economic Opportunity, Educational Access, Health and Well-being, and Agricultural Stewardship — represent the most pressing issues facing Missouri communities. They are important because:

By focusing on these challenges, MU Extension in Grundy County can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in Grundy County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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





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

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

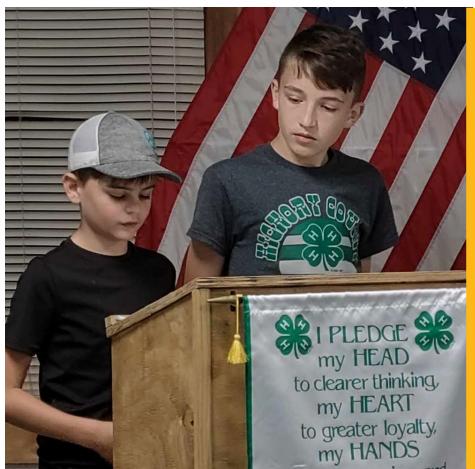
4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

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



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

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



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

4-H Camp at Crowder State Park

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

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



Grundy County 4-H Youth Development and Service

Grundy County 4-H youth developed leadership, life skills, and a strong ethic of service through hands-on learning and community engagement. 4-H provided youth with opportunities to grow in citizenship, leadership, and healthy living while building meaningful connections in the community.

Grundy County 4-H gave back through service and service-learning projects that supported local schools, community events, social assistance efforts, and environmental stewardship. Youth painted and prepared for the fair, volunteered at the Church Women United Thrift Store, the Grundy Electric Dinner and at the community garden. Busy Bee members made Easter baskets and distributed to families through family services. These projects allowed youth to see the direct impact of their efforts while strengthening their sense of responsibility and belonging within the county.

Through education and service, Grundy County 4-H continues to prepare young people to be confident, capable leaders who contribute positively to their communities today and into the future.



Local stories

Community Garden Grant

Grundy County 4-H was awarded a \$1,000 grant from Crader Distributing Co. and Corteva Agriscience through the Missouri 4-H Foundation to support the local community garden. Grant funds were used to purchase essential garden materials, increasing the garden's capacity to serve the community.

Youth members, adult volunteers, and community partners worked together to clean the garden site, unload supplies, and complete planting activities. This collaborative effort not only improved a shared community resource but also provided youth with hands-on experiences in teamwork, leadership, and environmental stewardship.

Through projects like the community garden, Grundy County 4-H connects service with learning—empowering young people to make meaningful contributions while strengthening community partnerships and promoting local food access



Northwest Missouri 4-H Energizer

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

Grundy County 4-H Fair Season

Grundy County 4-H wrapped up a rewarding county fair and achievement night, celebrating the hard work, dedication, and talents of its members. Seven youth proudly exhibited their livestock projects, demonstrating months of care, responsibility, and skill development. In addition, more than 40 creative and skill-building projects were showcased in the Rock Barn, offering community members an opportunity to see the wide range of learning taking place through 4-H. The excitement continued as 11 outstanding projects advanced to be judged at the Missouri State Fair, highlighting a strong year of growth, perseverance, and accomplishment for local 4-H youth.





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

Agriculture and Environment



Missouri Grazing Schools teach management-intensive grazing by dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend the grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through Improved livestock grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri



The **Missouri Master Gardener** enables people of all ages to receive horticultural training and apprenticeship learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Three-State Beef Conference

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

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



Utilizing Drones in Missouri Agriculture Workshop

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



Horticulture Local Impacts

Collaboration and Community Partnerships

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

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

Local events in the region strengthened Extension's visibility and reinforced trusted relationships with community members.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Ag Updates

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

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

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



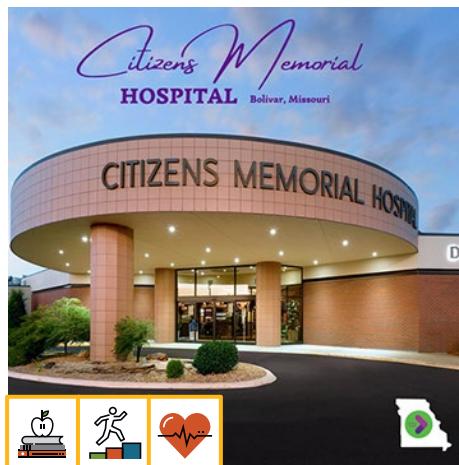


MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
through credible statewide programs

Business and Community



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



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

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



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

Strategic Doing participant

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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community in the Region

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

Belonging

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

Contribution

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

Leadership

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

Vitality

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



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

—2025 NLA participant





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

Health and Human Sciences



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

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

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

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

"I have cleaned my house of clutter for safety, put non-slip stickers on my tub floor, I'm getting much more regular exercise and I'm feeling stronger."



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

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

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

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Program: Empowering Aging Adults through Strength Training

The **Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Levels 1, 2, and 3**

programs empower aging adults through an 8-week, 16-session, evidence-based strength-training series that improves strength, flexibility, balance, and overall confidence. Using simple yet effective exercises, participants gain skills that support daily functioning, independence, and long-term health

In **2025**, Nutrition and Health Specialist **Micah Potgieter** led:

•Two Level 1 programs in **Grundy County**, with 22 adults participating. One Level 2 and one Level 3 program in **Mercer County**, with 22 adults participating.

After completing the programs, **100% of the participants** showed measurable improvements in at least one fitness area. Participants increased lower-body strength, endurance, walking speed, flexibility, agility, and balance. These improvements support everyday activities such as dressing, climbing stairs, and walking safely, helping older adults maintain independence

The estimated annual healthcare cost savings for program completers is **\$24,576**, reflecting reduced fall risk and improved overall health.

The Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program continues to make a meaningful impact in Grundy and Mercer Counties by helping adults stay active, confident, and independent, while also generating healthcare cost savings for individuals and the community.



Participant Testimonials:

"Prior to this class, I couldn't wash under my left arm with my right arm & I can now do this easily!" - Grundy County Participant

"I was nervous about moving into Level 2, but I am so glad I did. The class helped build my strength and balance, and I can now do more tasks around the house without getting tired or feeling sore." - Mercer County Level 2 Participant

"Definitely improved my strength. This weekend I shoveled snow out of my driveway and was not sore or stiff after." - Mercer County Level 3 Participant

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impacts

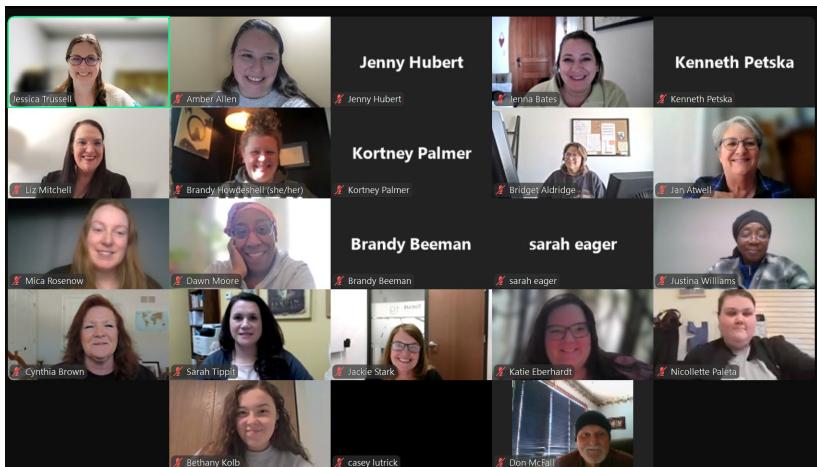
Mental Health First Aid

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

The program has been proven to:

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

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



Building Strong Families

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

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

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

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

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

Health and Human Sciences

Health in Grundy County

SNAP-Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 70,722 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 970,939 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, and food pantries.

2,570 direct and indirect contacts were made in Grundy County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

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





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

Continuing Education



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



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



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Council Development

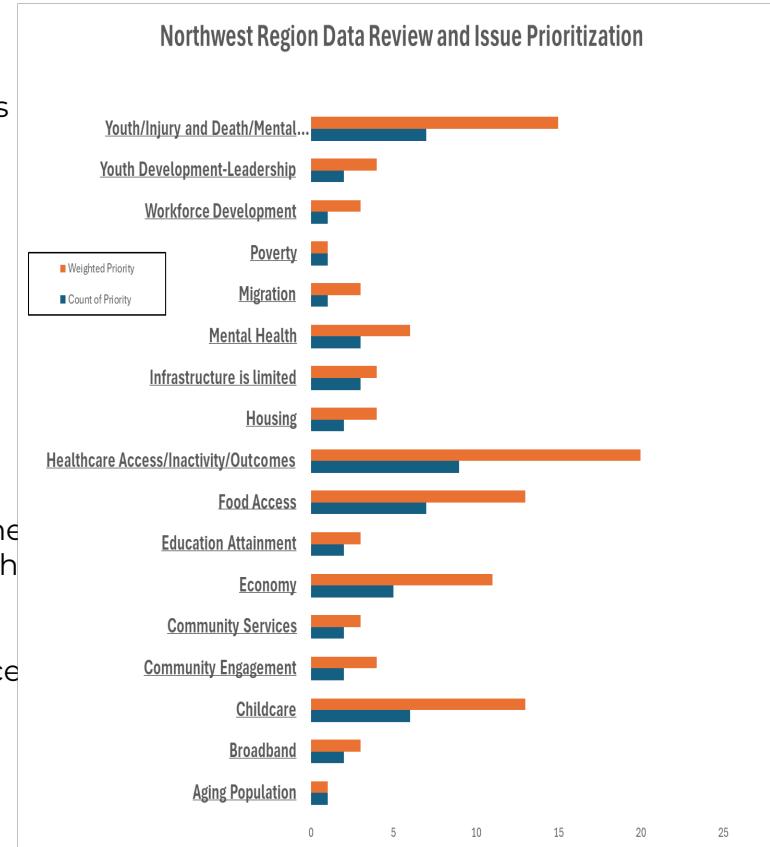
COUNCIL STRATEGY FOCUSED COLLABORATION

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

This initiative helps councils use data more strategically to strengthen decision-making and increase local impact. By blending statewide data with community insight, councils can identify top needs, set clear priorities, and deliver programs that directly address local concerns. In Grundy County, the council, identified and prioritized food security, health outcomes/health access, and youth mental health/ youth juvenile justice as areas of focus. In 2025, this has led to programming partnership held at the office surrounding mental health and prevention.

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

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



All Things Missouri

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

New Grundy County Extension Office

Local Highlights

New Grundy County Extension Office

2025 brought significant energy to Grundy County. Jamie Beverlin was added as a Youth Program Associate in the county and new representation was added to the MU Extension Council. The council secured a donated office located at 408 E. 9th Street and work happened immediately. Support in the county was immense as donations of supplies, handiwork and financial means filtered in.

The work to bring the office up to date was significant and much of the work was completed by YPA, Jamie Beverlin, 4-H volunteers and 4-H youth themselves. By March, the space opened in conjunction with an open house and the Grundy County Extension Council annual meeting. MU Extension Council and 4-H are incredibly grateful.



Local Highlights

Community Awards

Leaders Honor Roll, Appreciation and Leadership and Service

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



Cathy and Dean Rice were honored with the Leaders Honor Roll award in Grundy County. The leadership and service award was given to Bob McIntyre. Bob had served on the Grundy County MU Extension Council for many years. Award recipients are pictured above and were honored at the Extension's open house and annual meeting.

Appreciation honors were also extended to Green Hills Regional Planning Commission, who graciously allowed the Extension Council to meet in their office space for council meetings and for additional operating needs when Extension did not have an office in the community.



Recognition Night at Mainstreet Creamery

Grundy County 4-H hosted a lively recognition night with more than 40 participants coming together to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2025 season. Families and friends gathered to applaud youth for their hard work across livestock, leadership, volunteering, and a wide range of projects. New members were welcomed into the program, and everyone enjoyed a fun celebration with pizza and ice cream at Mainstreet Creamery. Project pins were awarded, and several youth, volunteers, and leaders were honored for their outstanding dedication throughout the year.