

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Harrison County 2025

Annual Report



1505 South Main Street  
Courthouse Basement  
Bethany, MO 64424  
660-425-3772

**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](mailto: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



### **Bart Skroh**

Youth Program Associate

### **Willoughby Alley**

Office Manager

### **Jen Osborn**

Extension & Engagement Specialist

### **Denice Ferguson**

Agriculture Development Specialist

### **Jackie Spainhower**

Community Development

### **Shawn Deering**

Livestock Specialist

### **Jennifer Miller**

Agronomy Specialist

### **Jim Crawford**

Agricultural Engineer

### **Gwen Funk**

Horticulture Specialist

### **Rebecca Simpson**

4H Youth Development Specialist

### **Kaylie Walker**

Nutrition & Health Specialist

## Council Members

Teela Sadowsky, Chairman

Tom Fowler, Vice-chairman

Marcella Murray, Secretary

Jerry Collins, Treasurer

Shila Callaway

Robin Frank

Sam Sperry

Matthew Anderson

Vicki Vandiver

Jim Holcomb



## County executives

Jack Hodge, Presiding Commissioner

Jim Holcomb, Southern District Commissioner

Mike Smith, Northern District Commissioner

# BUDGET AND MORE

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	15,000
Total Income	15,000

### Expenses

Postage	57
Telephone	676
Copier	675
Salaries	11,800
Benefits	1,600
Supplies	200
Travel	2,292
Advertising/Ext. Exp.	200
Insurance	320
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,820</b>

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



## Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Harrison 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 Harrison County by paying directly or by submitting payment to MU.

# UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

## MU Extension in Harrison County Community Impact Report

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

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





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through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



### What is 4-H?

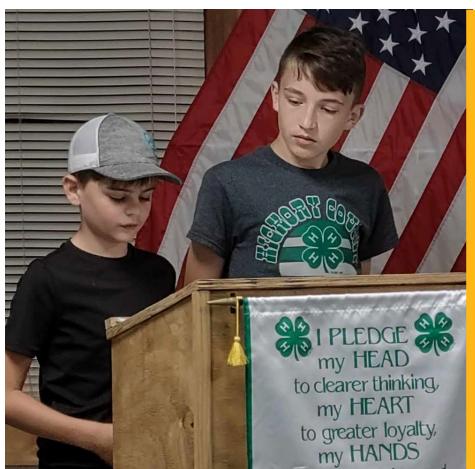
4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

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



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

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



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

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

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

### 4-H Camp at Crowder State Park

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

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

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.



### Profiles and stories

#### After School Programming



Missouri 4-H afterschool programs emphasize keeping kids safe, inspiring learning, and supporting working families. They are part of the Missouri Afterschool Network, which works to strengthen and expand high-quality programs statewide. National 4-H data shows that youth in 4-H are: More engaged in school, More likely to pursue higher education, and More intentional and purposeful in their learning.

#### Northwest Missouri 4-H Energizer

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



## On My Own

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

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

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

*On My Own* is sponsored by BTC Bank

## Missouri 4-H





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## Agriculture and Environment



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

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



The **Missouri Master Gardener** enables people of all ages to receive horticultural training and 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



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Health & Well-Being

## Agriculture and Environment

### Three-State Beef Conference

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

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



### Utilizing Drones in Missouri Agriculture Workshop

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



## Horticulture Local Impacts

### Collaboration and Community Partnerships

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

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

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



### Highway 13 Butterfly Trail



The Highway 13 Butterfly Trail is a 26-mile-wide corridor along Highway 13, stretching from Arkansas to Iowa. The trail features partner "destination stops" that promote pollinator conservation, environmental education, and research including The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch Prairie in Harrison County.

Planning for the trail in Northwest Missouri is a collaborative effort led by Bob Hughes and John Deis. MU Extension is an active partner in this work, collaborating with professionals from the Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lincoln University, Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri Western State University, The Nature Conservancy, and other organizations.

Education is an important focus of the Butterfly Trail. Jen Osborn, Extension Engagement Specialist, is coordinating educational efforts in the region. As part of this work, Harrison County MU Extension plans to Missouri Extension Master Gardener Training at the Harrison County Extension Office in Bethany in 2026, which will be open to participants from Harrison County and neighboring counties. The training will be led by MU Extension Horticulture Specialists Gwen Funk and Todd Higgins.

## Agriculture and Environment

### Harrison County State Fair Farm Family

Matt and Christie Anderson and family of Grant City were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Anderson family was selected as the Harrison County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Harrison County and the local Farm Bureau. Matthew and Christie Anderson and their 2 adult children , Emily and Andrew, run a 100+ brood ewe flock on their property in Harrison County. Their flock consists of nationally competitive Natural Colored, Rambouillet, Lincoln, and Shropshire sheep. They place an emphasis on the quality of wool, selling fleeces to hand spinners internationally as well as processing it into yarn and other products.

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

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



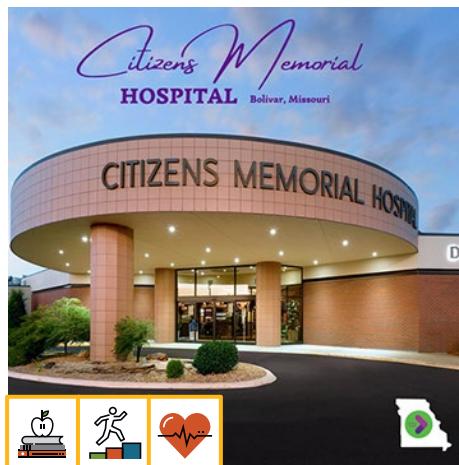


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## Business and Community



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



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

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



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

**Strategic Doing participant**

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

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

### Legend



**Agricultural Growth & Stewardship**



**Economic Opportunity**



**Educational Access & Excellence**



**Health & Well-Being**

# Harrison County

## Business and Community

### Good Neighbor Week

Harrison County's Extension Council partnered with Harrison County Community Food Pantry. The collaboration was very successful, generating community togetherness and community service to residents that were open to assistance.

The Good Neighbor Week project was a steppingstone for future work with the Food Pantry as the goals of the group align with the grand challenges identified for Extension work: agricultural growth and stewardship, economic opportunity, educational access and excellence and health and wellbeing. Future work aims to foster food security, partnership, and community growth in Harrison County.



## Business and Community

### Missouri EATS and CEC Conference



### Missouri EATS Capacity Building Grant

Missouri EATS welcomed Dade, Barry, Lawrence and Harrison counties to the program's 2025-2026 cohort. The Missouri EATS initiative, a program of University of Missouri Extension, is part of the Missouri Rural Food Access Partnership, a statewide collaboration dedicated to creating resilient and thriving food systems across Missouri. These new counties join Nodaway and Mississippi counties from the 2024-2025 cohort.

Communities involved in Missouri EATS (Engage, Act, Transform) collaborate with MU Extension on a comprehensive food system planning process, starting by assembling a team of leaders from within the community who identify key opportunities, such as supporting new food and farm businesses, expanding retail markets for local food, enhancing nutrition and cooking education or reducing food waste, said Bill McKelvey, senior project coordinator in community development.

Harrison County was selected for capacity building, so the county started in 2025 building a group of individuals passionate about food security. Harrison County MU Extension and the Health Department hope to be funded for the full MO EATS grant in the next funding cycle.

### The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference

The CEC Conference, hosted annually by University of Missouri Extension, delivers immediate and long-term economic benefits to Missourians and host communities alike. By drawing entrepreneurs, business leaders, and civic stakeholders from across Missouri and beyond, the conference generates direct local economic activity as attendees invest in lodging, dining, shopping, and unique attractions not available in their home communities. In 2025, the conference brought 164 attendees from 48 Missouri counties and four states to Excelsior Springs, significantly increasing visitor spending while showcasing local businesses, venues, and cultural assets. Beyond short-term tourism impacts, CEC strengthens Missouri's economic development pipeline by equipping participants with practical tools, peer networks, and actionable strategies they take back to their communities—multiplying the conference's impact through improved entrepreneurship support, workforce development, and civic capacity across the state.

In 2026, the conference will be held in Nodaway County.



Connecting  
Entrepreneurial Communities  
University of Missouri Extension



## Business and Community

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

### Belonging

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

### Contribution

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

### Leadership

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

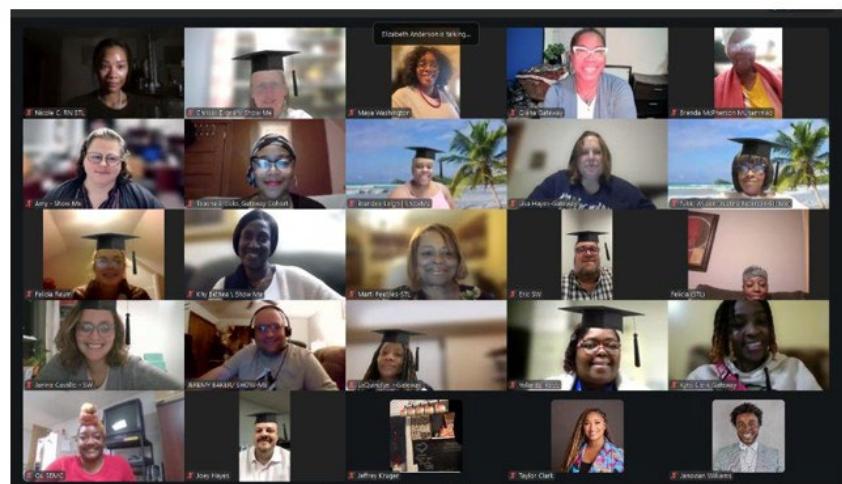
### Vitality

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



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

—2025 NLA participant





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## Health and Human Sciences



### Show-Me Nutrition

#### **Programming for preschool through junior high**

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

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

**Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant**



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

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



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

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

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

\*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

## Legend



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Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## Health and Human Sciences

### Behavioral Health and Cooking Matters

#### Harrison County Behavioral Health Resource Fair

Kaylie Walker, Nutrition and Health Specialist worked with the Harrison County Health Department and Harrison County Community Hospital to plan a Behavioral Health Resource Fair during the hospitals annual Health Fair/Lab Draw. Community organizations from Harrison County were invited to the event to provide information on local mental health resources.

Approximately 320 people at this event on May 3rd.

MU Extension has partnered with the Harrison County Health Department to improve outcomes related to behavioral health as a part of the Harrison County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).



#### Cooking Matters

Over the course of four sessions, MU Extension partnered with Unified Services in Bethany to bring hands-on nutrition and cooking education to a group of 12 enthusiastic adult participants with disabilities. Each class participants explored healthy eating habits and developed practical kitchen skills.

Throughout the series, participants prepared a variety of fun and nutritious recipes, including colorful fruit tarts, homemade carbonated drinks, strawberry banana smoothies, cucumber sandwiches, and turkey tacos. These recipes were not only delicious but also designed to teach the basics of healthy eating and food preparation skills.

One of the highlights of the class was watching participants grow more confident in their cooking skills. Many learned how to safely use a knife to cut fruits and vegetables, an important skill for developing independence. The group consistently demonstrated patience, attentiveness, and willingness to follow directions.



## Health and Human Sciences

### HHS Local Impacts

#### Question. Persuade. Refer.

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

The program has been shown to:

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

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



#### Building Strong Families

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

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

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

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

Jessica Trussell played a key role in this effort, teaching four sessions and moderating five. Participants from her nine-county coverage area included residents from Caldwell (1), Daviess (2), Grundy (2), Harrison (3), Lafayette (1), and Livingston (13) counties.

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

### Local Impacts

#### Mental Health First Aid

In 2025, 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.



## Health and Human Sciences

### SNAP-Education and EFNEP

#### SNAP-Ed Public Value 2025

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.

**13,291 direct and indirect contacts were made in Harrison 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.

#### EFNEP Public Value 2025

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 424 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,550 family members. Additionally, 2,942 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

**25 of these youth and adult participants reside in Harrison County.**

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

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



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## 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 Harrison County, the councils, identified and prioritized food security, mental health, and youth leadership as areas of focus. In 2025, this has led to application to the MO-EATS program in partnership with the Harrison County Health Department.

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.

