



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Holt County 2025

Annual Report

101 E Missouri Street
P O Box 407
Oregon, MO 64473
660-446-3724
holtco@missouri.edu



**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**

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



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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

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

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

With appreciation,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff



Annette Deering

Field Specialist in 4-H Development

Randa Doty

Extension and Engagement Specialist

Jim Crawford

Field Specialist in AG Engineering and Director of
Graves-Chapple Extension & Education Center

Debbie Bennett

Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

Denice Ferguson

Field Specialist in Ag Business

Wayne Flanary

Field Specialist in Agronomy

Gwen Funk

Horticulture

Leigh Lade

Office Manager

Katie Pemberton

Field Specialist in Human Development

Gina Ripley

Nutrition Program Associate

Amie Schleicher

Field Specialist in Livestock

Jackie Spainhower

Field Specialist in Community Development

Kelly Todd

4-H youth Program Associate

Stacey Steffens

Northwest Regional Director

Holt Council Members



Chance Gallagher, Chairman

Gretchen Haer, Vice-chairman

Nancy Wales, Secretary

Cindy Cox, Treasurer

Rebecca Derr

Linda Gocken

Dallas Kurtz

Scott Meadows

Chad Keiffer, Appointed Commissioner

Lori Ripley

Joe Potts

Kelsie Sager

Holt County Commissioners



Tom Bullock, Presiding Commissioner

Steve Hogel, First District Commissioner

Chad Keiffer, Second District Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	42,000
Fund Reallocation	3,921
Total Income	\$45,921

Expenses	
Salaries	23,628
Payroll Expenses	2,208
YPA Salary/Benefit	12,620
Travel	2,886
Postage	211
Telephone	611
Advertising	25
Copier	285
Office Supplies	839
Insurance	2,609
Total Expenses	\$45,921

Contact us:

University of Missouri Extension in Holt County

101 E Missouri Street
Oregon, MO 64473
660-446-3724

Community service



The Holt County Extension Council and staff proudly hosted the Junior Youth Exhibits and Pet Show in conjunction with the Holt County Autumn Festival, creating a lively and welcoming space for young people to learn, connect, and shine. The Pet Show—held in partnership with the September 2025 festival—gave youth participants a fun and meaningful opportunity to showcase their pets while building valuable life skills. Through sharing their animals with the audience, participants practiced responsibility, citizenship, and public speaking in an encouraging, community-centered environment that reflects the spirit of Extension youth programming.

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Holt 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.

[Invest in MU Extension in Holt County](#)



UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Holt Community Impact Report

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

[Access your 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.



Missouri 4-H Natural Resources programs engage youth in hands-on learning across climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing, and wildlife conservation. Programs like the **4-H Sportfishing Contest** and **Sportfishing SLAM** give young people practical experience while building teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a love of the outdoors.

The **4-H Shooting Sports** program teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting, and archery principles, demonstrating how 4-H encourages holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs help youth cultivate life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics while exploring the natural world around them.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Youth Education and Learning in Community Spaces

Holt County 4 H expanded access to youth development by delivering hands on learning experiences in schools, libraries, and after school settings. In 2025, Holt County enrolled 27 youth in organized 4 H community clubs, an increase of 11 youth, and served 181 total youth through clubs, day camps, special interest programs, and community partnerships.

Key educational impacts included:

- After school 4 H Explorers at the Mound City Library, where youth explored Earth science, environmental stewardship, and STEM topics such as:
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - Water conservation
 - Trees and pollinators
 - Monthly STEM activities
- Youth worked collectively on an Earth Day Action Plan, applying learned concepts to local environmental goals.
- Embryology programming in five Holt County classrooms, providing hands on agricultural science experiences focused on life cycles and responsibility.

Creative learning opportunities also expanded through “Art in Motion” Day Camps in partnership with the Mound City Library.

- 37 youth participated in a June session, collaborating on a community puzzle artwork now displayed publicly in the library.
- Five youth participated in an August art session focused on Impressionist techniques; all participants reported sharing their artwork with family members, extending program impact beyond the learning space.





Youth Service and Civic Engagement

Service-learning allowed Holt County youth to contribute directly to the well-being of their community while building leadership and responsibility.

Community service impacts included:

- The Holt County 4-H Day of Service, where youth and volunteers:
 - Improved landscaping at the county square
 - Enhanced areas near the health department
 - Planted flowers at the Extension office
- These projects visibly improved shared public spaces and reinforced the importance of civic contribution.

Holt County 4-H was also highly visible during the Holt County Autumn Festival, supporting:

- 38 youth exhibitors
- 214 junior exhibits

This public event increased awareness of local 4-H opportunities while celebrating youth achievement. In addition, Holt County youth began a four-month service project with the Oregon Care Center, focusing on intergenerational engagement and sustained service to the community.

Healthy Living, Safety, and Community Connections

Holt County 4 H supported healthy lifestyles, safety education, and community outreach through a variety of programs and partnerships.

Key impacts included:

- Youth participation in nutrition education through SNAC programming
- Access to SS740 shooting sports safety instruction, ensuring safe and eligible participation in shooting sports projects
- Outreach during back-to-school events, connecting families with enrollment resources and program information

Through partnerships with libraries, schools, health departments, festivals, and long-term care facilities, Holt County 4 H ensured youth learning translated into meaningful community impact.





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 Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri. The program brings in the power of animal genomics through an enhanced DNA-option, Show-Me-PLUS.



Since its inception more than 900 FARMS have enrolled, with an estimated statewide impact of \$200 MILLION.



The **Missouri Master Gardener** program enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



In 2023, almost 4,000 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 149,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Pesticide Safety and Applicator Training

MU 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.

As a result of this program, 127 producers initiated or renewed a private applicator license, directly supporting continued agricultural productivity and compliance with state and federal regulations. Participation by county included 19 producers from Andrew County, 15 from Holt County, 20 from Atchison County, 21 from Nodaway County, one from Clinton County, 17 from Caldwell County, 13 from Daviess County, and 21 from Platte and Clay Counties.

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.



Horticulture Program Impact

In 2025, the University of Missouri Extension Horticulture Program strengthened Holt County communities by improving access to horticultural education, supporting local food production, and encouraging environmentally responsible management practices. Through a combination of educational programming and individualized technical assistance, residents gained the knowledge needed to make informed decisions that protect household investments, strengthen local food systems, and enhance long-term community resilience.

Horticulture efforts in Holt County emphasized support for women in agriculture, innovative growing systems such as hydroponics, and practical guidance for homeowners related to tree health, soil management, and garden planning. These resources helped residents avoid unnecessary costs, preserve established landscapes, and adopt practices that benefit pollinators and soil health. Collectively, the Horticulture Program increased local capacity, reinforced Extension’s role as a trusted resource, and contributed to healthier, more sustainable communities across Holt County.



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 Atchison, Holt, and Nodaway Counties.



Women in Agriculture Programs

Women producers across Atchison, Holt, and Nodaway Counties continued to benefit from a mix of in-person and virtual learning opportunities. The Atchison, Holt, and Nodaway Women in Agriculture event was held in August, which featured demonstrations, a keynote presentation, vendors, and networking opportunities.

Participants also attended the year-round "Pixels of Production" webinars, which covered topics such as small-ruminant health, the use of artificial intelligence in marketing, and nutritional strategies for pregnant beef cows.

These programs strengthen participants' confidence, technical knowledge, and leadership presence within the agricultural community. With consistent positive feedback and strong multi-agency collaboration, Women in Agriculture programming continues to enhance the visibility and capacity of women working in agriculture throughout the region.

Agriculture and Environment



Youth Safety Education and Injury Prevention

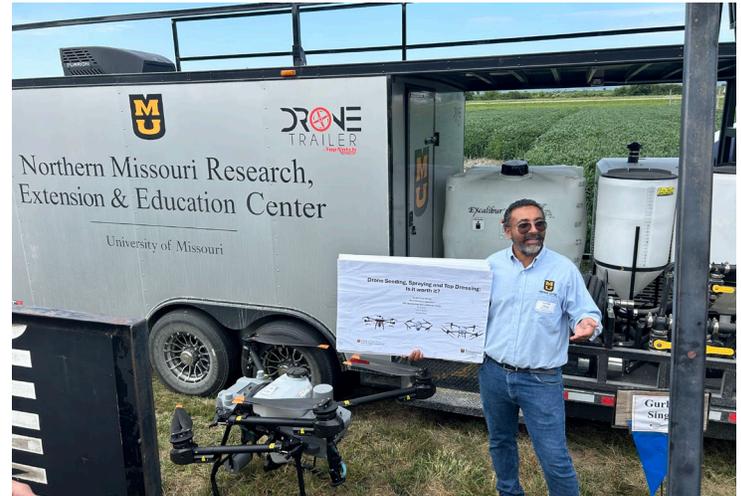
In 2025, a strong emphasis was placed on preventing injuries and fatalities through early, evidence-based safety education.

Across Nodaway County (Maryville), Buchanan County (St. Joseph), Livingston County (Chillicothe), and Atchison County, more than 990 youth participated in structured safety education programs, including:

- Safety Acres Day Camps in Maryville reached approximately 500 third—fifth-grade students from 19 schools
- Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day in Chillicothe, serving approximately 140 fourth-grade students
- Safety Acres St. Joseph, engaging approximately 350 students

Youth received instruction in tractor and PTO safety, ATV safety, grain bin hazards, and emergency awareness. Pre- and post-program evaluations documented increases in safety knowledge, which directly contribute to reduced accident risk, fewer family disruptions due to injury, and long-term community health benefits.

Preventing farm-related injuries strengthens communities by keeping families healthy, reducing medical and emergency response costs, and maintaining a productive future workforce.



Advancing Precision Agriculture and Innovation

Eighteen producers and agricultural professionals participated in the Utilizing Drones in Missouri Agriculture Workshop at Graves-Chapple. Attendees represented multiple counties and engaged in both classroom instruction and hands-on training focused on safe, legal, and effective drone use. Community impacts from this programming include:

Improved understanding of drone regulations and licensing, reducing risk and liability for producers

Increased capacity for precision application of pesticides and cover crops, supporting environmental stewardship

Enhanced decision-making related to technology adoption, saving time and input costs for farm operations

By supporting informed adoption of emerging technologies, this program helped producers remain competitive while protecting both natural resources and public trust in agriculture.



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 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

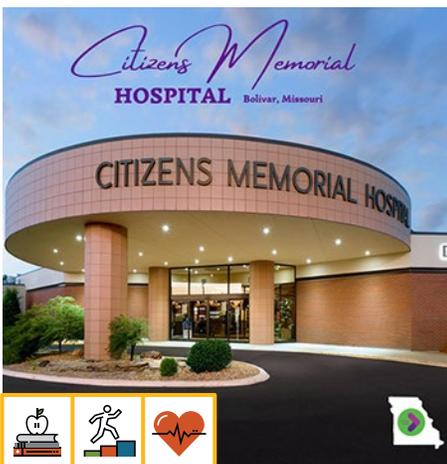
The conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 for Benton County.



The **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** provides in-depth leadership training that emphasizes community-building principles, project planning, organizational leadership and personal leadership skills.

"The overall knowledge that I have gained through this course has been amazing. From how to engage stakeholders in the community, to planning events and hosting meetings, these are all tools that I will fully utilized going forward."

2022 NLA graduate



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Communities

Community Development



Expanding Civic Contribution and Leadership Capacity

In 2025, MU Extension strengthened civic participation across Northwest Missouri by helping residents build the skills and confidence needed to engage in local decision-making. This work created clearer pathways for volunteers, emerging leaders, and underrepresented community members to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The Build Your Board program expanded leadership capacity in rural nonprofits, with 29 participants statewide—including three from Northwest Missouri—completing a 10-session governance training. Participants reported immediate organizational improvements, including clearer board roles, more effective meetings, and greater alignment among board members, thereby directly enhancing the performance of community-serving organizations.

Launched in October, the Nonprofit Technical Assistance (NPTA) program provided real-time support to local nonprofit leaders. By connecting organizations to MU Extension’s governance, leadership, and planning resources, NPTA strengthened the stability and effectiveness of nonprofits that serve as essential anchors in community vitality across the region.

MU Extension Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The VITA program in the northwest region provided free tax preparation for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes, ensuring access to refunds and credits that might otherwise go unclaimed. From February to mid-April, volunteers contributed 139 hours, filing 82 returns for 102 individuals, resulting in estimated savings of \$20,500 in client preparation costs. Services also included assistance with identity protection through IRS PINs.

Seven Holt County residents participated in the VITA program.

Key Impacts:

- Free tax preparation for 82 returns
- \$20,500 in tax preparation cost savings for individuals
- Identity protection for compromised taxpayers
- The VITA program continues to strengthen financial stability for residents of Northwest Missouri through volunteer-driven support.

MU Extension’s Community Development Programming

In 2025, MU Extension’s community development work in Northwest Missouri focused on strengthening people, places, and systems to foster belonging, build leadership, and support long-term community vitality. Serving ten highly rural counties, this work emphasized facilitation, capacity building, and collaboration. As a result, connecting residents, organizations, and institutions through intentional, place-based efforts.

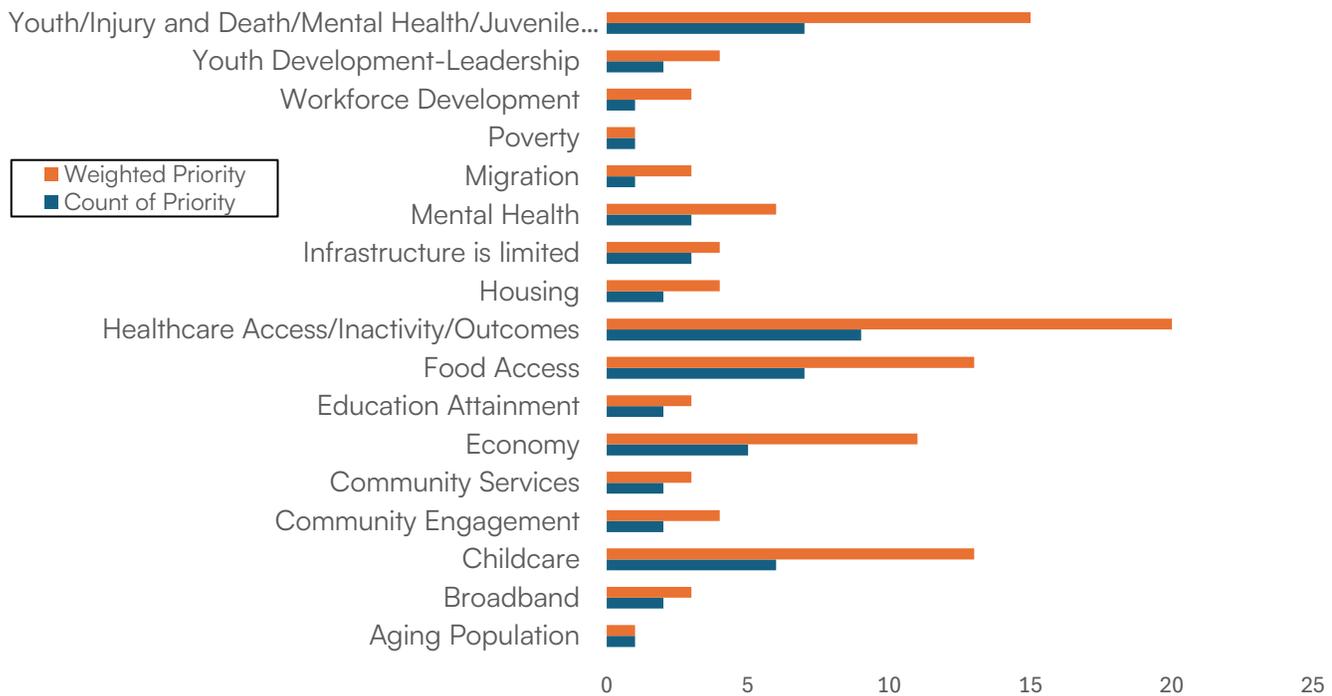
Holt County Highlights

Holt County residents engaged in programming that supported community connection, leadership development, and local vitality:

- **Belonging** - Two residents participated in Launch into Neighborhood Leadership, strengthening relationships and community engagement.
- **Leadership** - One participant completed Build Your Board, enhancing nonprofit governance and organizational effectiveness.
- **Vitality** - Four participants completed Digital Marketing Workshops, improving communication capacity and sustainability for local businesses and organizations.

Council Strategy Focused Collaboration

Northwest Region Data Review and Issue Prioritization



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.

This initiative enabled councils to utilize data more strategically, thereby strengthening decision-making and enhancing local impact. By blending statewide data with community insight, councils identified top needs, set clear priorities, and plan to deliver programs that directly address local concerns. The Northwest EES team gathered information across the region, which was shared with stakeholders and legislators.





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

Health and Human Sciences



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy supports older adults in maintaining strength, balance, and mobility to fully engage in the activities that matter most to them. The program combines safe, effective exercises with practical information on nutrition and wellness, helping participants build confidence, connection, and **well-being** for lifelong health.

After eight weeks, participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program showed significant improvement in their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



Cooking Matters

Make quick, tasty, and affordable meals everyone will enjoy.

Learn valuable tips for stretching your food dollars and how to prepare a recipe and sample easy, low-cost, nutritious and delicious dishes.

“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



The **Diabetes Prevention Program** is recognized as “Full Plus,” the highest status given by the CDC and is provided by licensed lifestyle coaches to prevent type 2 diabetes. Through lifestyle changes participants can achieve sustainable weight loss, increase in physical activity and learn coping skills to manage stress.

More than 1 IN 3 PARTICIPANTS have reached the 5-7% WEIGHT LOSS GOAL.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences



Strengthening Health Through Safer Environments and Community Partnerships

In addition to direct education, MU Extension supported long-term community health in Holt County by helping create environments that encourage physical activity and everyday movement. In Mound City, walk-audit-informed improvements resulted in clearer traffic signage at a previously unsafe intersection in Mound City along Highway 59. These changes improved visibility and safety for pedestrians and drivers alike, making walking a more realistic and safer option for residents of all ages.

These environmental improvements benefit the entire community by reducing hazards and supporting daily physical activity as part of normal routines. Safer streets encourage walking for transportation, recreation, and social connection, all of which contribute to improved physical and mental health.

MU Extension also maintained a strong community presence through partnerships with the Holt County Health Department, the Oregon Public Library, and local organizations. Outreach activities ensured residents remained connected to health information and local resources during a year marked by statewide changes to nutrition funding.

Community Impact: By combining education with community-level change, Extension helped strengthen the conditions that support healthy living in Holt County by creating safer places to walk, improving access to health information, and reinforcing partnerships that will continue to support community well-being into the future.



Improving Community Health Through Nutrition Education and Food Awareness

In 2025, Missouri's Family Nutrition Education In 2025, Missouri's SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs brought more than \$13 million in federal funds to support nutrition education for residents with limited resources. Holt County benefited from 1,039 SNAP-Ed educational contacts and 8 EFNEP youth and adult participants, while MU Extension Health & Human Sciences expanded nutrition lessons in schools and early childhood classrooms in Mound City, Maitland, and Craig. These efforts helped children, families, and caregivers learn about balanced meals, food groups, smarter food choices, and the importance of physical activity.

The impact extended beyond the classroom, as families reported that children initiated conversations at home about healthy plates and food choices. Community-based outreach through libraries, health fairs, and other public spaces ensured residents could access reliable, research-based nutrition information regardless of time, transportation, or financial constraints. These programs helped families stretch food dollars, try new foods, and form healthier habits that support overall well-being.

Together, these initiatives strengthened Holt County's nutrition knowledge, supported healthier daily decisions, and contributed to reduced long-term healthcare costs. By fostering a county-wide culture of health, MU Extension programs continue to benefit families, schools, and neighborhoods while supporting a stronger, more resilient community.

Local Highlights



Margaret Slayton of the Mound City News and Billie Banks were recognized as 2024 Extension Leaders Honor Roll recipients in Holt County, an honor that highlights their meaningful leadership and service in support of MU Extension's mission. Their dedication reflects the values of the Leaders Honor Roll program, which celebrates individuals who strengthen local communities, support educational outreach, and help advance efforts that benefit families, agriculture, and community well-being across Holt County.



The David and Billie Banks family has been recognized as a 2025 Missouri Century Farm, in recognition of more than 100 years of continuous family ownership. Their Holt County farm meets the longstanding requirements for this designation, which include remaining in the same family for at least a century, containing at least 40 acres of the original land, and contributing to the family's farm income.

The Cameron and McKinsie Radley family was selected to represent Holt County as this year's Missouri State Fair Farm Family, an honor that highlights their commitment to agriculture and their active role within the community. As a family involved in the daily work and long-term stewardship that farming requires, they exemplify the essential contributions farm families make to the strength and diversity of Missouri agriculture. Their selection reflects the values of dedication, resilience, and service that continue to shape the state's farming heritage across all types of operations.

