

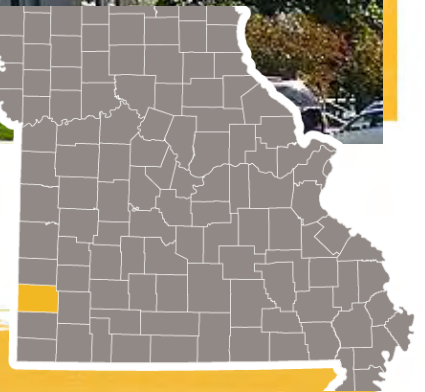


UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Jasper County

2024

Annual Report



**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**

302 S. Main
Carthage, Mo. 64836
417-358-2158



Extension

University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

Vice Chancellor's Office
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Columbia, MO 65211
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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Headquartered in Jasper County

Janie Garner, Youth Program Associate

Lisa Robinson, Field Specialist in Regional Economic Development

Amy McNary, Nutrition Program Associate

Ava Smith, Nutrition Program Associate

Virginia Bryan, Office Support

Catherine Chenault, Office Support

Other Faculty Serving Jasper County

Sarah Havens, Regional Director

Allen Brandes, Extension Engagement Specialist

Amber Allen, Field Specialist in Human Development

Reagan Bluel, Field Specialist in Dairy

Micah Doubledee, Field Specialist in Agronomy

Jamie Eggerman, Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Theresa Fossett, Associate Director, Family Nutrition Education Program

Ian McGregor, Field Specialist in Livestock

Bob McNary, Field Specialist in Youth Development

Caleb O'Neal, Field Specialist in Plant Science

Amy Patillo, Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development

In addition to our regional MU Extension faculty, local individuals and businesses can receive assistance through the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) located on the Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) campus.

Katie Fields, Director

Abi Rogers, Business Consultant

Allen Waldo, Missouri APEX Accelerator Specialist

Council members

Jasper County Extension Council

Frances O'Kelley, Chair

Barbara Hunter, Vice-chair

Gail Lawrence, Secretary

Wayne Wilson, co-Treasurer

Tom Flanigan, co-Treasurer

Josh Bard

Ashley Blake

Michelle Cloud

Kris Drake

Tom Harter

Sonora Jones

Doug Joyce

Lea Ann Keeling

Dale Lawrence

Tami Maneval

John Marshall

Tericia Mixon

Robert Moore

Eric Osen

Dorothy Shull

Amanda Smith

Bruce Waggoner



Not pictured, Josh Bard, Ashley Blake, Michelle Cloud, Tom Flanigan, Kris Drake, Sonora Jones, Doug Joyce, Lea Ann Keeling, Tericia Mixon

County commissioners

John Bartosh, Presiding Commissioner

Tom Flanigan, Eastern District Commissioner

Darius Adams, Western District Commissioner



Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	79,142.00
Total Income	79,142.00

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	63,615.74*
Travel	4,883.82
Advertising	169.58
Office Supplies/Service	3,331.21
Insurance	2,028.00
Professional services	849.00
Repairs/Maintenance	3,071.82
Furniture/Equipment	1,392.84
Testing Services	4,488.00
Total Expenses	83,830.01*

*includes \$10,000 offset by Carthage Area United Way for 4-H Youth Program salary and benefits

Jasper County partners

Avilla R-13 Schools
Carthage Chamber of Commerce
Carthage Area United Way
Carthage Head Start
Carthage Public Library
Carthage R-9 Schools
Coalition of Charities Southwest Missouri
Crowder College
Crosslines of Carthage
Empire Market
Freeman Health Systems
Harry S Truman Coordinating Council
Innovate SOMO
Jasper County Juvenile Justice Center
Jasper County Youth Fair Board
Jasper R-5 Schools
Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce
Joplin Public Library
Lafayette House
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
MOKAN Regional Partnership
Sarcoxi R-II Schools
Webb City Area Chamber of Commerce
Webb City Farmers Market
Webb City Public Library
Webb City R-7 Schools

Return on investment

University System	171,520.00
Donations	14,131.46*
Program Revenue	7,891.00*

*includes 4-H, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist contributions

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

Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Jasper 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.

Jasper County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

272 students

- 209 Undergraduates
- 63 Graduate and professional students
- 213 Full-time students
- 59 Part-time students
- 74 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

28 people employed by UM

- 22 Campuses
- 6 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)

24 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income: \$1.3 million
 UM state tax revenue: \$29,459
 UM federal tax revenue: \$138,511



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 46 Medicine
- 85 Nursing
- 59 Health Professions
- 37 Dentistry
- 36 Pharmacy
- 8 Optometry
- 18 Veterinary Medicine
- 101 Agriculture
- 236 Engineering
- 76 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 30 teachers
- 2.0% of all district teachers
- 4 principals and administrators
- 4.5% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 155 students
- 706 alumni
- 16 employees

UMKC

- 45 students
- 280 alumni
- 2 employees

Missouri S&T

- 58 students
- 217 alumni
- 4 employees

UMSL

- 14 students
- 47 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Jasper County



County population: 122,788



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 244 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$234,085 of uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- 13 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 122 visits to 66 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 6,207 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 3,185 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 1,197 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 1,768 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Jasper County



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

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

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

\$3.1
billion

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

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



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

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



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

Education and Training Provided



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



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

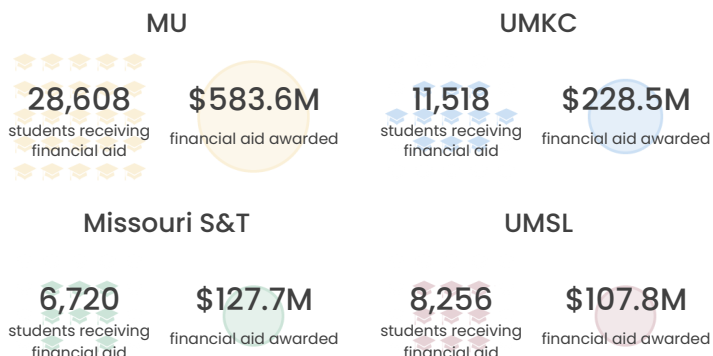


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

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



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

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

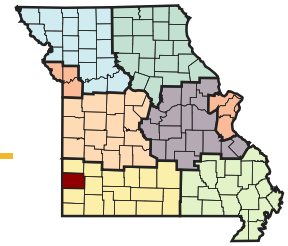
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

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

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



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



JASPER COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

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

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

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

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



Economic opportunity

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



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

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

Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Economic Mobility*

Average Earnings per Job

Average earnings per job can reflect the type of economy, skill of employees, and availability of jobs and workers in an area. Average earnings is calculated by dividing total full-time and part-time employment by total earnings. Earnings is the sum of three components of personal income--wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Both employment for wages and salaries and proprietors employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers is not included. Average earnings per job is a measure of the wages paid at jobs in the county not the earnings of people who live in the county. The dollar figures shown are not adjusted for inflation.

2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$52,115

Jasper



Missouri

\$62,528 🙄

Cost-Burdened Households (30%)

Cost-burdened households, where housing costs exceed 30% of total annual household income, is one measure of the relationship between cost of living and income. Households with high housing costs have fewer dollars remaining for other expenditures and are more likely to live paycheck-to-paycheck. The 25.10% of households in the report area are considered cost-burdened. This is below the state average of 25.15%.

Cost-Burdened Households, Percent

25.1%

Jasper

Missouri

25.15%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2019/a11/american-community-survey.html). 2018-22.

Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts](https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/regional-economic-accounts). 2007-2022.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Early Childhood Education*

Access to Early Childhood Education

Head Start is an early childhood education program for at-risk children through age 5. Families utilizing Head Start have better success meeting developmental goals and achieving economic stability. In 2018, there were 16 Head Start programs in the report area, or 20.34 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

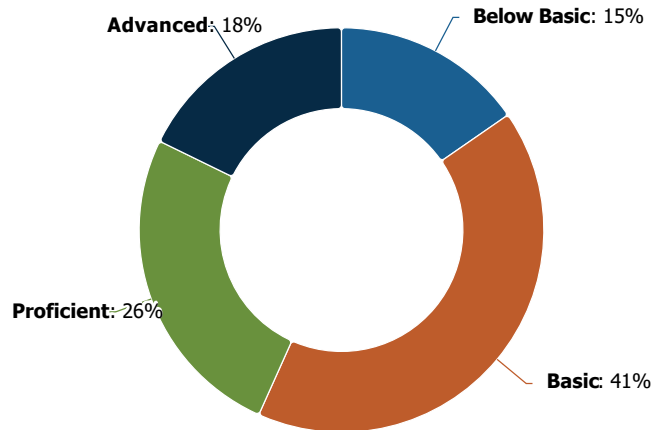
Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA - Administration for Children and Families](#). 2024.

English Language Arts Proficiency

Starting in the 4th grade, public schools emphasize proficiency in reading and reading comprehension. The ability to comprehend becomes the foundation to find and process information in later years and it is important to prevent children from falling behind. Of the 1,720.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 691.00. The number tested as below basic was 257.00, basic was 691.00, proficient was 427.00, and advanced was 297.00.



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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 427 deaths of despair, or 50.77 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 10.59% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020



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

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 6.2 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.5 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018



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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Weight*

Obesity (Adult)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults aged 20 and older self-report having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Respondents were considered obese if their Body Mass Index (BMI) was 30 or greater. Body mass index (weight [kg]/height [m]²) was derived from self-report of height and weight. Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues.

Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.

Percentage of Adults Obese, 2016

36.5%

Missouri

33% 🙄

Jasper



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), 2021.

Physical Inactivity

Within the report area, 23,959 or 25.8% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no active leisure time, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.

Adults Age 20+ with No Leisure Time Physical Activity, Percent

25.8%

Missouri

21.4%

Jasper

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), 2021.



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Food Security & Access*

The ability to access healthy and affordable food can be a challenge in Missouri's rural and urban communities alike — with negative impacts on people's health and food security status. Food insecurity is the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. It is associated with many adverse social and health outcomes. Missouri's overall food insecurity rate is 11.8% — and 12.8% for children under age 18. More than half of Missouri's 114 counties and the City of St. Louis report food insecure populations of 12.6% or higher. Multiple interventions that address the root causes of food insecurity can impact this critical public health issue. Learn more at the [Food Security Story Map](#).

Population Living in a Food Desert

29.98%

Missouri

17.69%

Jasper

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#), 2019.

County Highlights

Missouri Farm Family

Ryan and Mandi Seela family of Jasper were among the families honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, August 12 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Seela family was selected as the Jasper County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Jasper County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Briley and Baylea.

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. 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.



Back row left to right: dignitaries Jerald Andrews, Missouri State Commissioner; Claire Walker, Missouri State Fair Queen; Chris Daubert, MU Vice Chancellor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau; Christine Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture; Chad Higgins, Vice Chancellor for MU Extension and Engagement and Chief Engagement Officer, UM System; Kevin Roberts, Chairman, Missouri State Fair Commissioner; front row center Mandy, Briley, Baylea, and Ryan Seela

County Highlights

Extension Leaders Honor Roll

Each year, extension leaders from across Missouri are recognized for their outstanding support of extension programs. Their names are then added to the Extension Leaders Honor Roll.

The recipient for 2024 is Wayne Wilson.

Wayne was raised in Vernon County. He graduated from Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. He currently serves as Senior Vice President Market Leader – Joplin for Cadence Bank. He has 26 years of banking experience.

He has served on the Jasper County Extension Council since 2021, serving as treasurer for the past two years.

Wayne is married to Shelley (22 years) and they have two daughters: Emmalee and Laney. Emmalee is a sophomore at Missouri State University pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy and a member of the Sugar Bear dance team. Laney is a junior at Carthage High School and a member of the Carthage High School Royal Tigerettes Dance Team.

Wayne's contribution to the Jasper County Extension Council is appreciated.



Jasper County MU Extension Council members and staff participated in Missouri Crunch Off to celebrate Farm to School month at the October meeting.



Jasper County 4-H is one of the supported agencies of the Carthage Area United Way.





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

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects, and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project. In the 2024 program year Jasper County had nine community clubs consisting of 216 members and 98 volunteers.



4-H Natural Resources programs employ hands-on activities in climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing and wildlife conservation. The **Shooting Sports program**, which teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting and archery principles, is a prime illustration of how 4-H programs promote holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs offer opportunities to cultivate life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.



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



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H

Jasper County Youth Fair

There were 306 youth aged 5-21 who participated in this year's Jasper County Youth Fair. The fair, held July 6-14, brought in 1,217 animal and non-animal exhibits. Seventy-five youth qualified for the fair's market sale with meat animals, including steers, hogs, lambs, meat goats, broilers, turkeys, and rabbits. Community members and businesses supported 4-H and FFA youth by purchasing animals in the market sale and contributing "add-ons" to the animals in the sale.



Bailey Robinson showing her Reserve Champion Market Steer

Ozark Empire Fair (OEF) and Missouri State Fair

There were 95 Jasper County 4-H members qualified to go to the Ozark Empire Fair. Of those, 32 grand/reserve ribbons were awarded and six overall grand/reserve ribbons.

Sixty-seven youth sent a total of 113 exhibits to the Missouri State Fair this year to be displayed in the 4-H building. Two 4-H members won Best of Show in Healthy Living and Plant and Animal Science. Several members also showed livestock at the fair this year.



Marlee Massey with her Champion Shropshire Market Lamb



Herding Heroes Livestock Show

We had a great turnout for our 9th annual Herding Heroes Livestock Show. Herding Heroes is a livestock show at the Jasper County Youth Fair for individuals with special needs. They are paired up with a buddy who is either a 4-H or FFA member to show their choice of a pig, goat, sheep, or rabbit. There were 27 participants and 37 volunteers this year. There are multiple sponsors for the awards and t-shirts.

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H



Jasper County 4-H clubs rang the bell for the Salvation Army. They rang the bell for a total of 11.5 hours and raised \$609.85.

Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC)

The Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) clubs are available in various settings, including before school, during school, after school, and within community programs. These clubs empower youth to enhance their knowledge of nutrition and fitness. Participants take on leadership roles, becoming ambassadors of Healthy Living by designing and executing projects that promote nutrition education and improve fitness in their communities. In 2024, Missouri saw the establishment of 121 SNAC Clubs, engaging 2,543 youth and reaching over 7,330 others through their leadership initiatives. The SNAC clubs, Avilla SNAC Program at Avilla Elementary and Jasper SNAC at Jasper High School, had fun learning about nutrition and learning new exercises. They were able to prepare recipes like deviled eggs, breakfast bars, banana wraps, taco bowls, and more. There were a total of 23 graduates!



SNAC students from Jasper and Avilla



State 4-H Foundation Scholarship

These scholarships are for high school seniors and current college students who are or have been 4-H members. There are more than sixty scholarships available, each ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. One scholarship application allows the applicant to be considered for any available scholarship. This year Brett Rockers was the recipient of the Jasper County 4-H Scholarship.



Carthage Maple Leaf Parade

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H



Darin Fisher

Friend of 4-H Award

The Friend of 4-H Award recognizes a citizen or organization from the community for their contribution to the 4-H program. This year Darin Fisher was our Friend of 4-H!



Suzanne Russell (center)

Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame Inductee

Missouri 4-H recognizes outstanding individuals for their service and dedication to 4-H by honoring them with membership in the Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame. Each inductee is recognized and presented with a plaque at the Missouri State Fair. This year's Jasper County Hall of Fame was awarded to Suzanne Russell.

Service to Communities Recognition Award

One of the ways families can experience 4-H together is through community service learning which helps 4-H'ers learn more about communities and exercise good citizenship. Teaching young people to show generosity by volunteering is an important life skill. This club has shown others how much they care through their service to the community. Pleasant Valley Pioneers 4-H club received the purple award.



Pleasant Valley Pioneers 4-H members

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H

State Shooting Sports

Shooting Sports contests attract 4-H'ers from around the state. Jasper County members competed in archery, .22 rifle, air rifle, muzzle loading, sporting clays, skeet, and trap. Senior division: Kelton Moll participated in sporting clays and trap singles; Avery Pennock participated in muzzle loading and .22 rifle standard 3P; and Jake Thorn participated in skeet singles, sporting clays, and trap singles. Intermediate division: Jack Anibal participated in .22 rifle standard 3P, sporting clays, and trap singles; Grant Egger placed 3rd in skeet singles, 8th in sporting clays, and participated in .22 rifle standard 3P, and trap singles; and Malachi Siebert participated in archery 600 compound, archery compound 3D, .22 rifle standard 3P, and skeet singles. Jack, Grant, and Malachi placed 5th as a team in .22 rifle. Junior division: Ellie Chadd placed 9th in archery 300 compound fingers; Ruby Chadd placed 5th in air rifle aperture sights; Abigail Cochran participated in archery 300 recurve traditional and Nathanael Cochran placed 6th in archery compound fingers.



Avery, muzzle loading



Ruby, Abigail, and Nathanael, archery



Janie (instructor), Jake, Grant, Malachi, and Tianna (instructor), skeet



Tianna (instructor), Jake, Kelton, Janie (instructor), Jack, and Grant, sporting clays and trap



Tianna Fisher



Jack, Grant, Avery, and Malachi, .22 rifle

Frank Graham Volunteer Leadership Award

Volunteers are the backbone of the Missouri 4-H program, and their service is recognized by the Missouri 4-H Foundation with several state awards. The Frank Graham Leadership Award includes a quality educational experience, as well as public recognition for a job not only well done, but also extremely appreciated. Tianna Fisher was the 2024 winner.

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H

State Meats Judging

At the State 4-H Meats Judging event held on February 17 at MU's campus, 54 youth judged and identified meat cuts, developing essential skills for careers in the meat industry and informed consumer choices. Youths in the meat judging program develop key life skills to aid in their future career success, and success as lifelong consumers. Eighty-four percent of participants feel they are educated



State Meats Judging teams and coaches.

consumers of agricultural products and 86% are seeking to learn more; 83% are comfortable sharing their knowledge of agriculture with others; 77% feel they are an advocate for the agriculture industry and 63% are seeking a career in agriculture. A majority (55%) said their involvement in this project area and contest has encouraged them to continue their education in a related field. After competing, more than half of the youths said they had more knowledge in the areas of carcass judging, cuts judging, meats judging terminology and giving reasons than prior to the contest. This year the senior team included Faith Calvin, Jewelia Lenze, Kelton Moll, Austin Pope, and Jake Thorn. The team placed 5th overall and Austin was 3rd place individual. The junior team included Jack Anibal, Aislee Lenze, Gloriahnna Lenze, and Malachi Siebert. The team placed 3rd and Gloriahnna was 7th place individual.

State Fashion Revue

4-H members enrolled in sewing, crocheting, or knitting projects may compete in the county fashion revue. County winners represent the county at the State Fashion Revue in Columbia. Selection is based on the overall appearance of the garment and accessories worn by the member. Kyris Moll participated in junior clothes you make casual.

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Rooted in legacy but re-imagined for today, CWF is THE event for teens to learn leadership and communication skills through history, democracy, and our amendments. Faith Calvin attended the week-long event this year.

State 4-H Sportfishing Slam

The University of Missouri Extension State 4-H Sportfishing SLAM ran from the beginning of March to the end of June. The SLAM offers nine different categories made up of varying species, habitats, and baits. 4-H members are challenged to stretch their knowledge and skills surrounding fishing in the State of Missouri. This year's participant was Jonathan Boothe.

Jasper County

Missouri 4-H

State Livestock Judging

Evaluation of livestock is an exciting and thought-provoking experience. The goal of livestock judging is to compare your perception of an animal against the ideal and then to contrast your opinion with that of another individual or group of individuals. The basic levels of livestock judging consist of two primary components: 1) the placing of animals; and 2) orally justifying your decision (reasons). These activities expose you to more than just livestock judging, in addition to that you learn teamwork, effective communication skills, analytical thinking and aides you in gaining confidence to defend your decisions. This year's junior team included Baylee Boothe, Harlie Farmer, Brody Flora, Mya Flora, Malachi Siebert, and Cooper Stratton. The team placed 7th.



Malachi, Brody, Mya, Harlie, Baylee, and Cooper

State Poultry Day

Poultry Day occurred on June 8 at MU's campus. Competitions included a poultry judging contest, quiz bowl, egg demonstration contest, photo contest, and dozen egg contest.

The State 4-H Poultry Day provides youths the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge in cutting-edge industry practices as well as basic poultry knowledge to help them succeed in their projects. 4-H members gained skills in grading eggs and poultry carcasses, identifying poultry cuts and selection of quality live poultry, all while networking with youths from around the state who shared similar interests. Cooper Stratton placed 2nd and Ellie Stratton placed 7th.



Top five State Poultry Days junior team from left:
Aiden, Cooper, Payton, Micha, Riley

Regional Action-Packed Trip for Teens (RATT)

Members 11 and up had a very busy day in St Louis! They had lunch at Fitz's then toured Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, Gateway Arch, and Union Station.



4-H members at the Gateway Arch



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

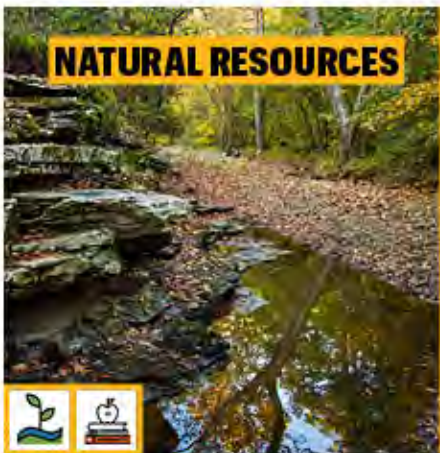


The Missouri Master Gardener program

enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and then 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.



NATURAL RESOURCES



The Missouri Master Naturalist program is a community-based initiative for adults, supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation and MU Extension. It aims to create a group of knowledgeable volunteers who can offer education, outreach and service for the responsible management of natural resources in Missouri communities.

Additionally, the **Missouri Woodland Steward program** offers a short course that equips private landowners with knowledge of woodland management, helping them identify wildlife habitats, develop plans and connect with local natural resource experts.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Horticulture

The Master Gardener Program continues to raise public awareness of the University of Missouri Extension as a source of unbiased, research-based gardening information through its mission, “helping others learn to grow” while providing horticultural and volunteerism training and opportunities to individuals throughout Missouri.



Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners (OGMG)

Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners reported over **2,250** volunteer hours and **196** educational hours in 2024

Crosslines Ministries in Joplin

Charles Pyle, along with several Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners, consistently volunteer at Crosslines to help grow much needed produce and provide an avenue of education through their growing techniques and continued search for better ways of producing crops in these somewhat challenging times. It is a good-sized task, with many thousands of pounds of produce grown this year. A group of student community volunteers came in the summer to build a much-needed picnic table, which gives added workspace for various tasks and a designated place in the shade for breaks.

In addition, master gardener members help with or oversee other community gardens in our area, including Baxter Springs, Carl Junction and Carthage.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Ozark Gateway Master Gardener Plant Sale

The annual fundraiser was held in May at Crosslines garden greenhouse in Joplin. New things were tried this year and their effectiveness evaluated, while planning how to add other new features in the future, such as short topical / instructional classes on specific topics. The plant sale committee worked a large number of hours in preparation for the sale, and despite the threat of severe weather, there was a large turnout.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Children's Garden at Webb City Farmers Market

This farmers market is a continuing outreach by Ozark Gateway Master Gardener Nancy Beckwith along with other master gardeners. The children get plenty of hands-on learning throughout the growing season, planting and watering. One highlight this year was releasing ladybugs in the garden with the children.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Shoal Creek Demonstration Garden

Lee Rodriguez oversees the project that continues at the Shoal Creek Pollinator Demonstration Garden. The Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners installed a pavilion and garden area nearby in 2008. The project is intended to be a demonstration garden where guests of the nature center can take a stroll and view Missouri native plants which attract pollinators. Master gardeners revised the garden by adding new plants and replacing old ones that have died due to drought conditions or animal pressure. Although still a work in progress, the garden is visited by bees, many varieties of butterflies, hummingbirds, other birds, box turtles, lizards and black snakes.

Shoal Creek staff help with programs and advice as we continue our project there. We were fortunate to be able to use the facility for a recognition dinner in the spring. We also benefitted from volunteer help from a group of students, who provided much needed help to clear and define one particular area of the garden.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Education and Outreach

Members used a variety of means to gain training hours this year. Some members were able to attend workshops held locally or at other locations in the state. Others took advantage of recommended online Zoom classes and seminars. Ozark Gateway Master Gardener (OGMG) chapter meetings were designed to provide educational opportunities, which allow members to meet their on-going educational requirements.

Topics included:

- Irrigation in the home garden
- History of Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners
- Fall gardening basics
- Growing techniques to aid in preparation for the plant sale
- Clovers, sorrels and lawn care
- Composting, recycling and environmental concerns
- Native plants
- Growing cucurbits and dealing with pests
- Pollinators in the garden



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Irrigation in the home garden



New Master Gardeners as well as current members were recognized for their overall contribution to the program

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Empire Farmers Market

Eric Osen volunteered over 1,000 hours to provide educational opportunities at the market throughout the year. Several Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners worked alongside Eric developing the garden or at special events.



Seed Swap

Thousands of seeds were given away at the annual celebration of National Seed Swap day at Empire Market.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



MU nutrition program associates helping clients harvest peas at Empire Market open garden



Thursday open garden at Empire Market



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

South Middle School Interact Club

Working with MU Extension Master Gardeners and Empire Market, children clean and plant seed beds for a butterfly pollinator garden and drill holes for solitary bee hotels.



Missouri Southern State University

Future teachers create a mural for the community garden courtyard at Empire Market.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Youth Volunteer Corps of Joplin partners with Master Gardeners at Empire Market



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



**Joplin Alternative School
Elementary Outdoor Club
build birdhouses**



**Kansas City University medical students
work in partnership with Ozark Gateway
Master Gardeners at Empire Market**



**Joplin High School advanced
placement (AP) students
transplant cuttings**

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

MU Extension Specialists and Master Gardeners offer educational information at Freeman Hospital Wellness Day



Plant give-a-way at Downtown Joplin Alliance 3rd Thursday and Joplin Public Library



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Chert Glades Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalist

Missouri Master Naturalist™ is a community based natural resource education and volunteer program. Its purpose is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Missouri.

Chert Glades Master Naturalists participated in a variety of activities throughout 2024. Those include citizen science projects, community outreach events, hikes, bird watching, habitat restoration, native planting, and seed collecting.

Core Training Participants	27
Reported Volunteer Service Hours	4,904
Reported Advanced Training Hours	582.25
Active members	20
Certified Volunteers (new and re-certified)	19



Native wildflower seeds and educational materials were distributed at Joplin Empire Market's Hobbit Day

The chapter handed out 5,123 native seed packets over 17 meetings and outreach events and made 4,914 more new seed packets for distribution



Prescribed burns were conducted by the Missouri Prairie Foundation, Cardinal Valley and Prairie State Park

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Master Naturalist introduces families to nature journaling at the Prairie Day Event at George Washington Carver National Monument



Stream Team

The new class of 2024 learn about stream sampling. The Chert Glades chapter held three cleanups as well as regular stream team monitoring.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
George Washington Carver NM
Diamond, MO

Prairie Day 2024

September 14, 2024
10 AM - 3 PM

Performances: Music Tent

10:00 a.m. Pickers Post	11:00 a.m. Abbey Waterworth & Josh Gilbert	12:00 p.m. The Vogts Sisters	1:00 p.m. Abbey Waterworth & Josh Gilbert	2:00 p.m. The Vogts Sisters
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Performances: 1881 Moses Carver House

10:00 a.m. Ann and Bill Riggs	11:00 p.m. Holmes Brigade Shirkers	1:00 p.m. Pickers Post	2:00 p.m. Nathan McAllister
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Exhibitors:

Master Naturalists	Treadle Sewing	Dutch Oven Cooking	Master Gardeners	Crochet Demonstrations	Woodworking	Weaving and Spinning	Flax Spinning
Toys and Games	Therapy Horses	Basket Weaving	Butter Churning	Candle Dipping	Quilting Bee	Apple Cider Press	Archaeology

The Vogts Sisters

Abbey Waterworth & Josh Gilbert

Nathan McAllister

Free of Charge!!

George Washington Carver National Monument
5646 Carver Rd.
Diamond MO 64840
(417) 325-4151
www.nps.gov/gwca

Concessions by Diamond Lions Club

Meet our amazing volunteers!



For two consecutive days, the Chert Glades Chapter targeted trash along Joplin Creek in Landreth Park, ultimately collecting a half-ton of discards!

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Soil Testing and Plant Testing

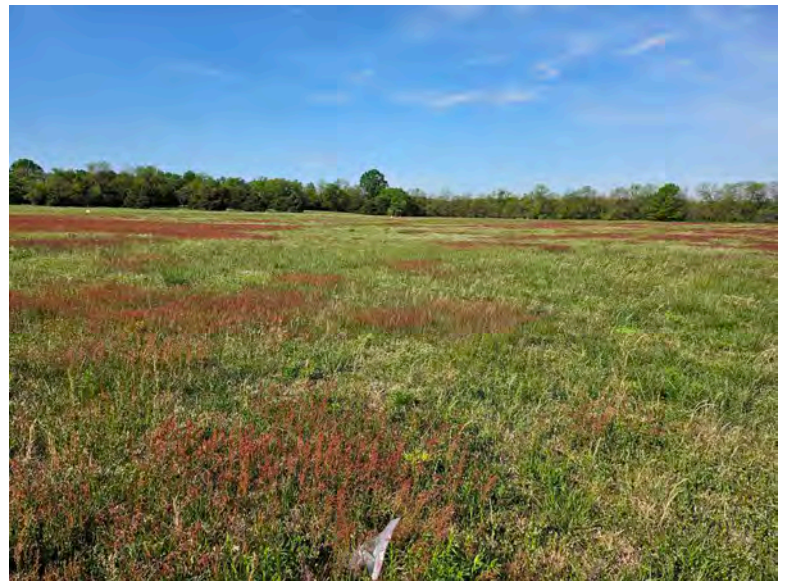
University of Missouri county extension offices offer soil testing and plant testing via the soil testing lab and plant disease diagnostic lab in Columbia, Mo. for Missouri landowners, farmers, gardeners, commercial and agricultural producers. The results from soil tests give producer insight into the pH level, available phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium, organic matter, acidity and cation exchange of their soil. Soil reports also offer educational advice and recommendations from the soil lab and local extension specialists to help producers make important agricultural decisions regarding soil fertilization for intended crops and potential yield goals.

In 2024, 197 field crop samples were submitted through the Jasper County office along with 115 lawn and garden samples, three plant disease samples, three commercial and nine special soil samples for testing.



Farm Visits and County Office Interactions

University of Missouri Field Specialists in Agronomy, Dairy, Livestock and Ag Business offer local farmers and producers individualized education via in-person interaction, phone calls, email, and farm visits to answer agricultural related questions. This education helps farmers and producers make important management decisions for their farms and businesses and helps improve the overall management of Missouri's important natural resources and agriculture production.



Red sorrel weed issues in a pasture taken during a farm visit

Pesticide Applicator Training

University of Missouri Extension provides initial pesticide applicator training and recertification of Missouri's agricultural producers that desire a private pesticide applicator license. This training is for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides. Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT) program is a vital educational program that focuses on providing knowledge of the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides as well as the legal requirements associated with application. During 2024, Agronomist Micah Doubledee along with other specialists and office personnel provided in-person and online pesticide applicator training classes. Forty-seven producers from Jasper County participated.

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Crop Scouting Program

Agronomist Micah Doubledee continued the weekly crop scouting program which informs producers of pest and disease threats during the growing season by scouting fields in Barton, Jasper and Dade counties. Participants pay \$35 dollars a year to join the program to have their fields scouted. A 2- to 3-page report is sent out via email to the participants discussing scouting observations and research-based information on topics such as environmental issues, nutrient deficiencies, plant diseases, pest identification and management, pictures, resource and video links, upcoming agriculture events and more. This report is also sent to the Lamar Democrat newspaper the following week for other local farmers and residents to read.

In 2024, 15 producers actively participated in the program. Participants were from Barton, Dade, **Jasper** and Newton counties.



Fusarium Head Blight on wheat from crop scouting program



State Soybean Specialist Andre Froes de Borja Reis discussed soybean variety selection information

Soybean Variety Tour

Agronomist Micah Doubledee hosted a tour of the University of Missouri Soybean Variety Testing Trial growing on a farm near Carthage, Mo. for local soybean farmers and crop consultants. Doubledee discussed plant disease information. State Soybean Specialists Andre Froes de Borja Reis discussed soybean variety selection information and State Entomologist discussed how to scout for pests.

Donuts and drinks were sponsored by Arvest bank.

Nine people attended the event.

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Youth Education

10th Annual Joplin FFA Ag Expo

MU extension specialists were invited to discuss information about agricultural education and work opportunities in agriculture at the Joplin FFA Ag Expo. MU extension specialists Micah Doubledee, Ian McGregor, and Reagan Bluel hosted booths to interact with students to discuss college opportunities, careers in agriculture and agricultural related information. Micah Doubledee discussed agronomy and plant disease information, Ian McGregor discussed livestock information, and Reagan Bluel discussed ruminant nutrition and jobs supporting the dairy industry. Interacting with youth helps encourage the next generation to seek agriculture education, careers in the agriculture and environmental related fields.

An estimated 1,800 students from Joplin High School/ Franklin Technology Center, and other schools attended the Joplin FFA AG Expo



Agronomist Micah Doubledee explaining plant diseases to students



Livestock Specialist Ian McGregor talked to students about livestock education and careers

Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Missouri Grazing School

Seventeen (17) producers participated in the Grazing School held June 4th – 6th in Neosho, Mo.

Grazing School teaches management-intensive grazing (MiG), which subdivides large fields into smaller paddocks then rotates livestock across paddocks.

The program covered the following topics: Art and Science of Grazing, Economic Aspects of Grazing, Evaluating Resources, Pasture Allocation and Evaluation, Grazers Arithmetic, Stockpile and Strip Grazing, Matching Livestock to Pasture Resources, Livestock Nutrition, Forage Basics, Evaluation of Soil Resources and Fertility, Multi-species Grazing, Water Systems, and System Layout and Design.

**100% of
respondents plan
to adopt a new
management
practice or change
an existing one
because of what
they learned in the
program!**



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Tri-County Livestock & Forage Conference

One hundred thirty producers attended the 3rd annual Tri-County Livestock and Forage Conference held at 2S Angus Cattle Company. Producers learned strategic ways to reinvest the high cattle prices back into the farm.

Two-way partnership between MU Extension and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (McDonald, Newton, and Jasper) brings this winter conference together for area producers each year.



Extension
University of Missouri

TRI-COUNTY LIVESTOCK AND FORAGE CONFERENCE

Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:00 pm

2S Angus Cattle Company
4586 Jute Rd, Seneca MO

Doors Open - 5:30 pm

Smoked Meat Dinner - 5:45 pm

Speakers - 6:00 pm

Door Prizes!!

Including native seed, hats, gift cards, \$100 of mineral

Evening's Presentations:

Economic Update/Outlook

Wesley Tucker, MU Ag Business Specialist

Re-Investing in the Farm

Wesley Tucker, MU Ag Business Specialist

THIS EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

RSVP by Friday, February 2, to secure your meal 417-223-4775 or online:



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2024 Taney County Livestock and Forage Conference

The 2024 Taney County Livestock and Forage Conference took place on February 13 at Forsyth High School. Jasper County landowners were among the 65 participants.

The event covered key topics for landowners, including harvesting and selling timber, managing spring forage growth, and using financial and production records for improved decision-making.

100% of responding participants indicated they were likely or very likely to make changes based on the information presented.

**"Great program!"
"All very informative."**



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



What Ag Lenders Need to Know in 2025

Eighteen agricultural lenders attended the Southwest Region's "What Ag Lenders Need to Know in 2025" at the University of Missouri's Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center in Mt. Vernon. The event focused on the economic outlook for livestock, crops, agricultural inputs, and the broader macroeconomy, with additional discussions on carbon credits, land values, and cash rental rates. Speakers represented MU Extension, the University of Missouri Rural and Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center (RAFF), and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA).

All participating lenders agreed the information shared would help them better assist their agricultural clients.



Jasper County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Poultry Processing at the Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center (SW REEC) Field Day

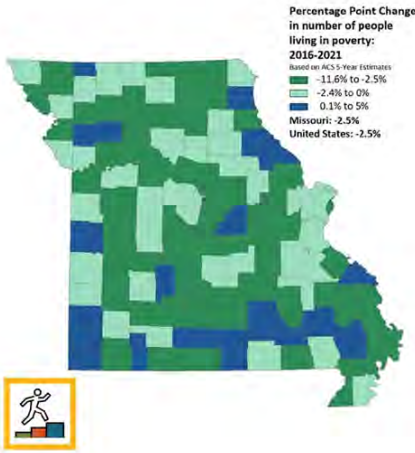
The MU Extension Value-Added Meats Team organized and conducted a poultry processing demonstration during SW REEC Field Day. The team guided 379 high school students and teachers through each step of poultry processing, including slaughter, scalding, plucking, evisceration, chilling, and cutting.

The MU Extension Value-Added Meats Team educates producers and consumers on buying and selling local meat





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



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

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



DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING

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

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



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

Jasper County

Business and Community

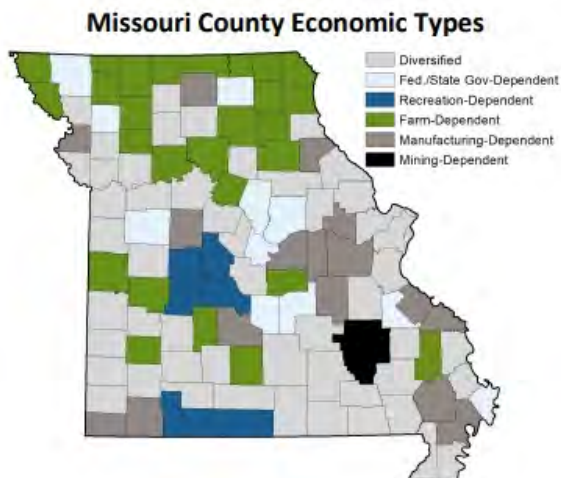
Local Impact

The Regional Economic Development Field Specialist who serves Jasper County is mentored by State Specialists in Regional Economic Development and Community Development.

Data from Exceed and other sources is shared with local decision makers via individual meetings or programming that is developed to serve the needs of the county.

By providing valuable insights and research, they help ensure that all relevant data is considered in planning and development efforts. This data-driven approach enhances the effectiveness of local strategies, helping to prioritize initiatives that will have the greatest impact on the community's economic growth and well-being of our citizens.

Are you interested in Exceed data?
Join the mailing list to receive
Missouri Economy Indicators:



<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/exceed/missouri-economy-indicators>

Collaborations with entities serving the county include educational institutions (Crowder College and Missouri Southern State University), economic partnership (MOKAN Partnership), workforce entities (Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri), and local chambers of commerce will produce a Workforce Summit in 2025.

Together these collaborations efforts strengthen a shared vision for enhancing the economic ecosystem of the county. We are building a brighter future for all who call Jasper County home.

Save the date for the Workforce Summit: Friday, September 26, 2025. The event will be held at Missouri Southern State University in the Billingsly Student Center Ballroom.

Data is available for any entity in Jasper County. Data from CARES (Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems) hosts a Thriving Communities Starter Report which produces data on:

Vitality (Ex. Access to childcare centers)
Belonging (Ex. Housing vacancy rates)
Contribution (Ex. 501c3 organizations)
Thriving Measures (Ex. well-being)
(many other measures are also available)

<https://allthingsmissouri.org/thriving-communities-starter-report/>

Contact Lisa Robinson for a custom report or additional county data.
Office: (417) 358-2158
Email: robinsonlj@missouri.edu

Jasper County

Serving: Jasper County

Business and Community

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) provides support to Jasper County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients to discuss a wide range of topics including:

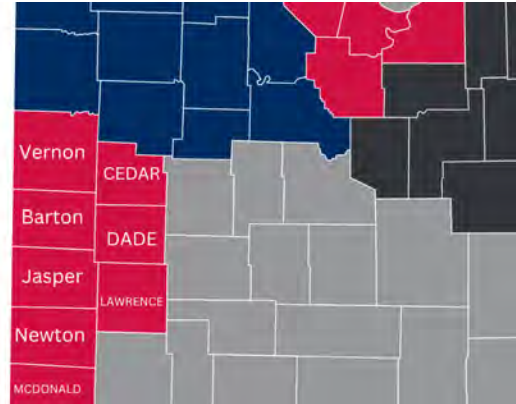
- Starting a business
- Cash flow management
- Business loan refinance and expansion
- Business relocation
- Financial planning
- Marketing and social media strategy
- Purchasing a business
- Childcare grant application assistance
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization
- Experiential projects linking MSSU students and business owners

Through leveraging regional partnerships, we are able to offer the following:

- Innovate SOMO
- Early-Stage Boot Camp
- Government contracting assistance
- Identification of grant opportunities effecting businesses due to imports

KEY OUTCOMES

- ✓ **210** Business owners received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses
- ✓ **5** New businesses started
- ✓ **23** New jobs created
- ✓ **1,857** Jobs retained
- ✓ **36** Government contracts awarded to small businesses in Jasper County
- ✓ **927** Training event attendees



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

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@mssu.edu

417-625-3128

www.mssutrainig.com

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$2,506,426

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

\$603,340

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

\$5,083,509

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC

Jasper County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Neighboring 101

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

Get Started With These Steps

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

What Others Have Said

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

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

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

Contact David Burton at burtond@missouri.edu

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

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

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



Majora Carter



Dave Runyon



Seth Kaplan



Melody Warnick



Mike Mather

Jasper County

Business and Community

Local Impact



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

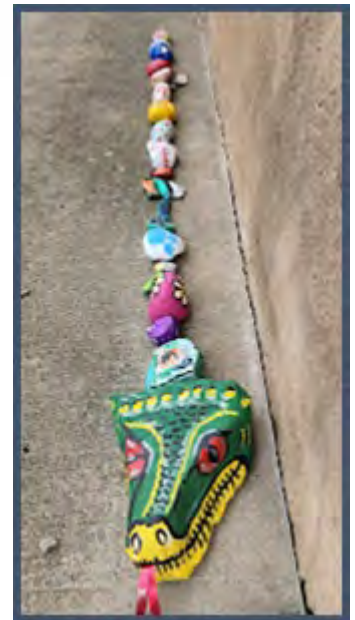
- Promote the engagement of neighbors;
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion within communities; and
- Use art as a tool to increase the sense of belonging.

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

- The program had participation from every extension region.
- 73 total registered sites and 1,182 registered voters.
- 293 participants signed up for the Engaged Neighbor newsletter.
- Over \$3,000 in prizes for regional winning artists was distributed.
- 72% of participants in Show Me Neighborhood Art Week reported an increased sense of belonging and love for the communities by participating.

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

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



Jasper County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Southwest Missouri Led the Way During Neighbor Week

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

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

Total **Acts of Neighboring** during the week was reported from these counties in the SW Region.

Barton 12 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Greene 4,140 |
Jasper 16 | Lawrence 29 | Newton 8 | Polk 22 |
Stone 18 | Taney 24 | Texas 3,015 | Webster 16 |
Wright 12

“Join or Die” Movie Screenings

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

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



Jasper County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The schools were in person and live online. They were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, Certified Public Accounts (CPA), individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues, related party issues, real estate rental activity issues, limited liability company issues, and international tax issues. The schools were approved for eight and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for Certified Financial Planner (CFP) continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,776 hours.

The teaching teams included CPAs, a former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, a certified financial planner, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The evaluations had many positive comments and helpful suggestions. Planning is underway to offer trainings in 2025. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2024 school attendance totaled three hundred fifty people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.





Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development

Jasper County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Labor and workforce development

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



Landscape of National Extension Clearinghouse for Industry and Workforce



Topics Programs Online courses Events Publications Products/Services Missouri 4-H

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

Labor and workforce development

Career development Labor development Management and leadership

Programs



Heroes to Hives

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



Labor Education Program

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



Missouri Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Blend experiential learning to grow your farm Missouri beginning farmers program is a new pilot of training workshops, educational classes, internships and customized one-on-one technical assistance. The goal is to provide information and to assist those who are interested in farming.

MORE PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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

2024

2501Team REPORT



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

Kelly McGowan & Dr. Amy Patillo
Greene County Specialists

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

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



2024 Annual Impacts

423

BEGINNING FARMERS

4

53

88

22

263

VETERAN FARMERS

Farmers Started an USDA Grant Application	Team-to-One Farmers Who Were Coached	Team-to-One Individual Farmer Coaching Sessions	Farmer Workshops & Classes
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346

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

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



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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





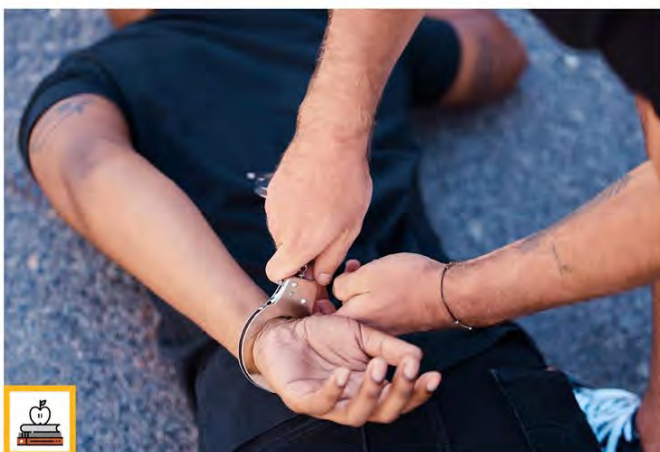
MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Continuing Education**



The **Missouri Extension Disaster Education Network** provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, schools and organizations so they can prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Because of the unique relationship it maintains with each community, MU Extension is a key resource for the public, emergency services and public officials.



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute** (FRTI) is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighters and emergency responders.



The **Law Enforcement Training Institute** (LETI) offers advanced training on a wide variety of topics, including defensive tactics, firearms, use of force and de-escalation. LETI offers customized programs for all required continuing education areas of concentration.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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



Chronic Disease Self-Management programs offer evidence-based information for individuals and their caregivers to boost self-confidence in managing symptoms, enhancing quality of life and even reducing health care expenses.

These programs have undergone rigorous evaluation and are proven to be effective tools for individuals dealing with chronic conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, depression and diabetes.



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults basic exercises to boost strength, balance and overall daily functionality. Participants also gain insights into nutrition and wellness for healthy aging and active living.

After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating **\$1,000** of pantry discretionary spending for **LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

There were 1,110 direct and 4,726 indirect contacts made in Jasper 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 their 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.

Agencies served in Jasper County:

Lafayette House-Joplin
Loving Grace-Joplin
Building Bridges-Joplin
Joplin Empire Market
Webb City Farmer's Market
Eagles Nest Preschool-Jasper
Eugene Field Elementary School-Webb City
Wildwood Elementary School-Sarcoixie
Carterville Elementary School
Columbian Elementary School-Carthage
St. Mary's Catholic School-Joplin
St. Peter's Outreach House-Joplin
Crosslines-Joplin
Crosslines-Carthage
Webb City Public Library
Carthage Public Library
Joplin Public Library
Carthage HeadStart
Missouri Southern State University (MSSU)
Jasper County Health Department



Webb City Farmer's Market

Nutrition Program Associates' food demonstration at the Webb City Farmers Market is a great success. The food is prepared live for all to come up and observe, then the participants get to try what we make firsthand. Our partnership with the Webb City Farmers Market is one of our favorite places to be able to get involved in our community.

Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Amy McNary, Nutrition Program Associate, shared the following success stories from Jasper County:

In 2024, I started teaching a class at the Carthage Public Library that included parents and their children. We have had most of the same families attend the class. We have a great partnership with the Carthage Library. The children always have so much fun helping make the recipes. A mom and three of her children have attended our classes at Carthage Public Library. I have been teaching iCook curriculum. The three children are so sweet and love the class. The mom shared with me the children have made the Fruit Salsa recipe at least six times. The children have made the smoothie recipe several times as well. The family has also come to our table at the Webb City Farmer's Market several times and tried our food samples there. The children enjoy the healthy recipes and making them at home. The recipes we have given to the children have helped them use their love of fruits and vegetables to try new recipes. I love to see the excitement they have in trying new recipes and sharing foods they can add to the recipe.



Amy McNary at Webb City Farmer's Market:

Most weeks we set up a table at the Webb City Farmer's Market and share different recipes, reinforcements and healthy handouts to all ages that stop at our table. The children are always excited to see what food we brought for them to sample, and they love getting different reinforcements to use at home. One of the children's favorites are the jump ropes. A couple kids came up to our table and tried our Farmer's Market Salsa and took a sample for their mom. We also gave them a jump rope. The mom came back to ask us where she could buy the salsa it was so fresh. The brothers were also using the jump rope right after we gave it to them.

Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Ava Smith, Nutrition Program Associate (NPA), shared the following success story from Jasper County:

With the school year starting back up Amy and I dived into Healthy Change workshops at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin. The second lesson covers food safety and why we need to be mindful of food safety. Typically, we have college students all ages that are involved in the library and in turn the classes that get held there. All the participants in the class are very interactive and usually return to make yummy recipes. We have a partnership where the library buys the ingredients for the recipe we are making that day for the students taking the class. As I teach this lesson, I always reiterate how the kids we teach sing their ABCs while washing their hands to get to 20 seconds to time how long they are washing their hands. As I wrapped up this lesson, I had all the participants go wash their hands. Upon walking over, I heard the students singing.... singing their ABCs. I asked what they were up to, and they said, "we had to make sure we washed our hands for long enough." I then asked if this was a normal routine for them which they replied "no, we do not usually time our handwashing but after learning some tricks to time it and at the same time is fun, how could we not?"



In addition to offering fun food demos, MU nutrition program associates teach nutrition to various schools in Jasper County. Pictured above is a kindergarten class at Wildwood Elementary summer school learning one of the six nutrition lessons. Reaching all sorts of ages, we program from pre-K to senior adults.

NPAs also assist people with completing Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) applications and submit them to the local Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) office.

We are always looking for more places to reach our community and help in the ways we can!



Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

100 Miles 100 Days challenge

A free, fun incentive to get more people moving during the summer and spending more time outdoors.

One hundred eleven participants from Jasper County signed up to walk, run, kayak or any kind of exercise equivalent to 100 miles during the 100 days of summer (June 14-September 22).



Healthy Aging in Southwest Missouri

Jamie Eggerman, Nutrition and Health Education Specialist

Relevance

Falls are the leading cause of injury and death among adults aged 65 and older, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Southwest Missouri, approximately 167,828 individuals (18.31% of the population) are aged 65 or older. This highlights the critical need for fall prevention programs and initiatives that support independent living within our communities. Motivated by this, I sought opportunities to engage with local residents and provide them with the tools necessary to reduce the risk of falls and promote healthy aging.

Response

Through a variety of outreach efforts, I was able to impact over 250 individuals, ages 65 and older, through 50 sessions. A key event was the Freeman Health Fair, where I reached more than half of these individuals, focusing on fall prevention. During the event, I conducted balance assessments and discussed the importance of strength training in reducing fall risk. As a result, 20 participants committed to incorporating balance exercises into their weekly routines.



Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

The **Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** program is an in-person strength training class that spans eight weeks and includes 16 sessions. The program is designed to engage participants in exercises that are proven to enhance muscle strength and help individuals maintain their independence for longer.

Together with my colleagues, Hannah Whittaker and Eden Stewart, we facilitated several Stay Strong, Stay Healthy classes. Participants were highly motivated and committed to their personal progress throughout the course. By the final weeks, many participants were brainstorming ways to continue the practices they had learned and expressed interest in additional classes. We have received multiple requests to schedule more sessions in the future.

Results

All participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program completed pre- and post-surveys, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. However, the most rewarding aspect was hearing firsthand accounts of their personal growth. Participants shared stories about improvements in everyday activities, such as tying their shoes with greater ease, and expressed statements like, "I feel stronger." These personal experiences not only highlighted the success of the program but also fostered a sense of community among participants. Some individuals even discussed the possibility of carpooling to a future class in a neighboring area.

Educating over 200 individuals on the value of strength training for maintaining independence has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. It has reinforced the importance of the work we do within the Health and Human Sciences department at MU Extension and its impact on the lives of older adults in our region.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7235a1.htm>

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/acs/acs_general_handbook_2018_ch01.pdf



Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

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

Aging Well in Missouri

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

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

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

The programs implemented created connections which are illustrated below:

"This program made me trade in my flip flops for better shoes. I will get a grab bar for my shower. I learned to slow down and take my time before getting up and turning."- Matter of Balance Participant 2024

"The Alzheimer's Association greatly values the partnership with MU Extension. I know that when Amber Allen is presenting one of our programs, that it's going to be great and impactful to the community.

Amber recently presented for Adult Protective Services and the feedback I received was that it was "phenomenal". That says a lot! When we are asked to present in any community, I think of MU Extension first because I know it will be a high-quality presentation." - Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Greater Missouri Chapter

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

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



Jasper County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Childcare Provider Professional Development

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

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

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

Mental Health and Well-being

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

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



County Highlights

