



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Jefferson County

# 2025

Annual Report



**SERVE MISSOURI.**  
Deliver Mizzou®.

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

# BUDGET AND MORE

## 2025 Statement of Activities

### Revenues and Support

County Appropriations	84,700.00
Program Fees	8,482.20
Investment	1,430.17
Gift/Grants/Contracts	8,236.02
Resales/Educ Services Fees	5,926.81

**Total Revenues and Support** 108,775.20

### Expenses

Personnel-Wages & Benefits	71,500.36
Programs	16,905.93
Soil Tests	3,728.00
Memberships	275.00
Insurance	1,749.21
Advertising	1,025.64
Copy Services	905.59
Supplies/Services	5,424.61
Travel	5,791.04
Postage	1,309.85
Rent/Lease Equipment	2,835.93
Repairs/Maintenance	628.99

**Total Expense** 112,080.15

**Change in Net Position** -3,304.95

## Local support

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

Did you know you can donate directly to *Jefferson County MU 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**.

## Statement of Financial Position

(as of Dec 31, 2025)

### Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalence	59,866.31
Short-Term Investments	24,200.60
Custodial (fiduciary) Fund	21,314.98

**Total Assets** 105,381.89

### Liabilities

Accumulated Funds	108,686.84
Net Position	-3,304.95

**Total Liabilities** 105,381.89

## Notes to Financial Statements

By law, the *Jefferson County MU Extension Council* must annually publish its income & expense financial report for all accounts. Important to note is this financial overview includes monies from all educational engagements and program services at the **MU Extension** office in **Jefferson County**, which includes grants and custodial funds, such as monies for our *Jefferson County Master Gardener Chapter*, **4-H** clubs and *Jefferson County 4-H Council*. Most chapter, club, grant, and project accounts are restricted funds and can only be spent for their intended purposes.

## Return on investment

**MU Extension's** core areas generated **\$1.2 billion** for Missouri's statewide economy, representing a return of about **\$13** on every public & private dollar invested in **MU Extension**

(2025, MU Office of Extension and Engagement)

## MU Extension is a 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 salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

Dear County Council, 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 wellbeing, support local economic development, and prepare youth for leadership through 4H.

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,

*Chadwick C Higgins*

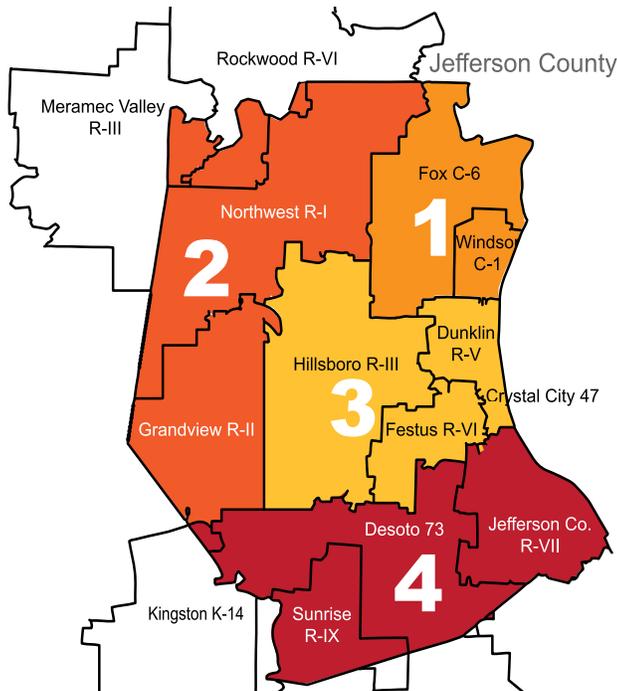
Chad Higgins, PhD  
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement  
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

# WHO WE ARE

## Council Members

Kevin Politte, Chair	District III
DeAnna Shutt, Vice-Chair	District II
James (Jim) Osia, Secretary	District I
Jim Boxx, Treasurer	City of Arnold
Robert Barger	District I
Marshall Day	District IV
Andrea Facio	District IV
Steve Glauber	District III
David (Dave) Jablonski	District III
Caleb Klapp	District II
Alfio (Al) Macri	District II
August Maytas, Jr.	District I
Scott Moser	Beekeepers' Assoc.
Amber Myers	District I
David Reed	Farm Bureau
Mariann Ruoff	District I

As of Dec 31, 2025, there are vacant seats in District II, III, IV, and City of Festus, and representation from Jefferson County Cattlemen's Association.



## Faculty and Staff (based in Jefferson County)



**Mistti Ritter**

*Extension Engagement Specialist and Field Specialist in Community Development*  
[RitterMM@missouri.edu](mailto:RitterMM@missouri.edu)



**Emily Poncher**

*Field Specialist in Community Health*  
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**Sarah Higgins**

*Field Specialist in Natural Resources*  
[Sarah.Higgins@missouri.edu](mailto:Sarah.Higgins@missouri.edu)



**Janet Braun**

*Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development*  
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**Gidget Mudd**

*FNEP Program Manager*  
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**Ashley Hamilton**

*Nutrition Program Associate*  
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**Jody Ferguson**

*Office Support Assistant-Bookkeeper*  
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**Janet Eckstein**

*Office Support Assistant*  
[JEckstein@missouri.edu](mailto:JEckstein@missouri.edu)

# WHO WE ARE

## Faculty and Staff

### MU Office of Extension and Engagement

108 Whitten Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211-6300



#### Chadwick Higgins

Vice Chancellor of Extension  
And Engagement  
Chief Engagement Officer  
573-882-7477

### MU Urban East Regional Office

MU St Louis Metro Area Office  
8225 Florissant Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121-2020



#### Jody Squires

Director of Off-Campus Operations  
Regional Director-Urban East Region  
314-200-2705  
SquiresJ@missouri.edu



URBAN  
EAST  
REGION



Courtesy of University Archives



Courtesy of University Archives



Courtesy of University Archives

## Faculty and staff (serving Jefferson County based elsewhere)

#### Janelle Azmy

Field Specialist in Community Health  
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#### Emily Barbee

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health  
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#### Conne Burnham

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State Specialist-Extension Disaster Education Network  
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#### Gina Corce

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#### Michael Graham

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#### Rachel Hopkins

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#### Elihu Isele

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#### Sarah Kennedy

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#### Ed Lahue

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#### Kate McDonald

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#### Jaymie Mitchell

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#### Colleen Mulvihill

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#### Douglas Swanson

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#### Lynette Watson

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#### Kevin Wilson

Business Development  
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# MU Extension in Jefferson County Community Impact Report 2025



University of Missouri System

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 your county's Impact Report](#)



County population: 228,227



## County students (FY25)

2,218 students

- 1,957 Undergraduates
- 261 Graduate and professional students
- 1,212 Full-time students
- 1,006 Part-time students
- 406 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2025)



## County breakdown

### MU

- 652 students
- 2,839 alumni
- 43 employees

### UMSL

- 1,244 students
- 5,162 alumni
- 70 employees

### Missouri S&T

- 279 students
- 1,213 alumni
- 15 employees

### UMKC

- 43 students
- 220 alumni
- 2 employees



## County employees and retirees

151 people employed by UM

- 130 Campus
- 21 UM Health Care (includes employees via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 38 UM retirees/beneficiaries
- UM salary/retirement income: \$5.3 million
- UM state tax revenue: \$150,001
- UM federal tax revenue: \$767,523



## County alumni

### Selected school alumni

- 65 Medicine
- 541 Nursing
- 248 Health Professions
- 27 Dentistry
- 17 Pharmacy
- 29 Optometry
- 61 Veterinary Medicine
- 374 Agriculture
- 1,293 Engineering
- 85 Law

### Alumni teaching K-12

- 568 teachers (24.3% of all district teachers)
- 25 principals / administrators (20.5% of district principals & administrators)



## Services provided

### Extension

- 139,560 educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
  - 557 related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
  - 138,476 related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
  - 263 related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



## County offices

MU Extension Jefferson County Center



## Projects

\$1.2 million remitted to 4 county vendors for 8 projects

## Health care (FY25)

435 in-state patients seen at **MU Health Care**, with \$61,864 of uncompensated care

- 52 in-state patients seen at **UMSL Center for Eye Care** with a statewide average of \$37.31 per patient in uncompensated care
- 8 in-state patients seen at **UMKC School of Dentistry** with a statewide average of \$50.53 per patient in uncompensated care
- **MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network** recorded 333 visits to 223 patients with Jefferson County associated ZIP codes



University of Missouri System

# UM System Statewide Footprint in 2025

## Economic & Community Development Highlights

In FY24, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 71,140 jobs.

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 FY19 and FY24, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.75 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY25, UM System was issued 26 patents and filed 76 new U.S. patent applications.

In FY25, the UM System awarded 550 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$729.9 million in the state.

In FY25, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network Show-Me ECHO Program provided 17,336 hours of case-based instruction to 3,146 learners located in 102 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.



## Education and Training Provided



40,523 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2024)



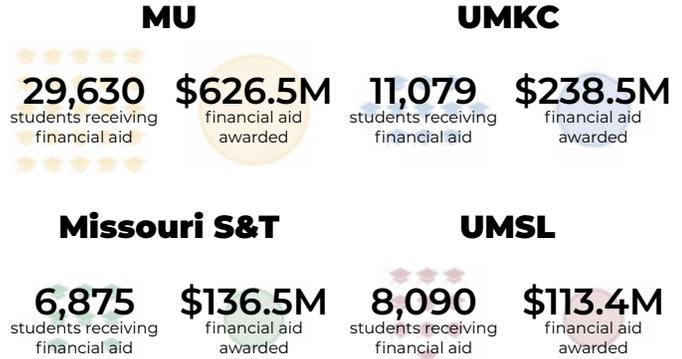
Agriculture and natural resource programs served 297,919 farmers and related businesses (2024)



254,220 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2024)

## Education Highlights

### FY24 Financial Aid Awards



UM System's **MOREnet** provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 school districts (830,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly **3 million Missourians**) in FY24.

UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees of 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.

A \$25 million USDA-funded Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop & Livestock (CRCL) project has had the following impact 2.5 years into the 5-year project: Over 1,200 Missouri farmers implemented conservation practices such as cover crops, regenerative grazing, and improved nutrient management practices on approximately 300,000 acres across the state.

## 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 UM Extension.

Prepared in December 2025, 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

## Knowing Missouri's Needs

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

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

We 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 share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

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

 Increase MU Extension economic impact from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture

 Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%

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



## Jefferson County

[View your county's Grand Challenges Report](#)



### GRAND CHALLENGE 1 Economic Opportunity

#### Business Growth/Change

This indicator reports the net rate of change in business establishments within the report area. Rates are calculated by dividing the net change (births - deaths) over the last year by the total number of establishments in the initial year. The report area saw a net gain of 81 businesses between 2012 and 2023. There were 357 establishment "births" and 276 "deaths" contributing to the change. The rate of change was 2.20% over the ten year period, which is higher than the state average of 0.45%.

#### Establishment Net Change Rate

<b>2.20%</b>		<b>0.45%</b>
Jefferson		Missouri

Data Source: US Census Bureau, US Census Business Dynamics Statistics. 2023.



### GRAND CHALLENGE 2 Educational Access and Excellence

#### 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 12 Head Start programs in the report area, or 9.15 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is lower in this area than in the state.

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

<b>9.15</b>		<b>12.93</b>
Jefferson		Missouri

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, HRSA - Administration for Children and Families. 2025.



### GRAND CHALLENGE 3 Healthy Futures

#### Mental Health Care Providers

Mental health is a critical public health issue and access to services is a challenge across Missouri, which ranks 46 out of 51 states in provider access. In the area there are approximately 349 credentialed professionals providing mental health care to serve the area's 226,739 residents, which means there is 1 provider for every 650 persons, higher than the state average of 324:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

#### Population to Providers Ratio

<b>650:1</b>		<b>324:1</b>
Jefferson		Missouri

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). January 2026.



### GRAND CHALLENGE 4 Agricultural Growth & Stewardship

#### Value Added

Value-added agriculture refers to manufacturing, marketing or other services that increase the value of agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal/pet food, and crop related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone.

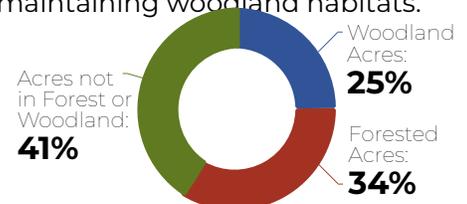
#### Percent Value Added from Agriculture

<b>3.9%</b>		<b>21.98%</b>
Jefferson		Missouri

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority. 2021.

#### Forested, Woodland & Non-forested Acres

Sustainable management of forests & woodlands support the state's \$10.3 billion forest products industries. **Forests** have a closed canopy (>80% cover), little light penetrates to the ground with overlapping layers of trees and a shade tolerant understory. **Woodlands** have a more open canopy (30-80% cover), a sparse mid-story and dense ground cover of wildflowers, grasses and sedges. Fire plays a large role in maintaining woodland habitats.



Data Source: Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium, National Land Cover Database. 2024.

# Jefferson County Extension Council

## 2025 Annual Meeting

### Leaders Honor Roll

Each year, individuals are selected in recognition of time and service in developing and carrying out Extension programs. **Cyndi Rousan** - District Manager of the *Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District* was recognized for the **2025 Jefferson County Extension Leaders Honor Roll**. The presentation was made at the **2025 Jefferson County Agriculture Conference**



(formally known as the Soil & Water Conference) where Cyndi has helped organize and fund-raise to support the event, host the Annual Meeting of the SWDC and conduct the SWCD annual youth poster competition, a



pathway to the annual state competition celebrating the importance of soil.

Cyndi joins 2024 Honor Roll recipient **Pete Ritter** of the Fox 4-H Club and other past awardees in supporting *MU Extension in Jefferson County*.



101st Jefferson County Agriculture Conference

### Letter from the Chair

The *MU Extension Center in Jefferson County* provides county residents local access to the resources and expertise of the **University of Missouri System**. Our Extension programs improve lives by focusing on solving Missouri's *Grand Challenges* that include agriculture growth & stewardship, economic opportunity, educational access, and health & well-being.

As outgoing chair in 2026, I look forward to finding new ways to continue to support the Extension Council in demonstrating the value of **MU Extension** to our community and stakeholders

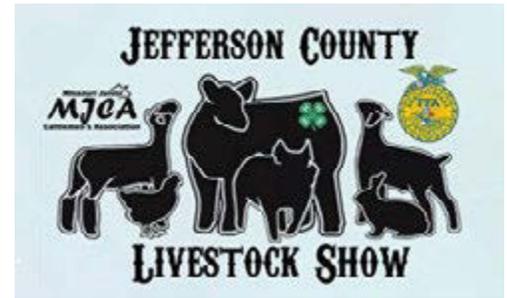
I wish to express thanks to our publicly elected and appointed Extension Council members, MU Extension faculty and educators, office support staff along with our program volunteers—all who work to serve and support our thriving community. We would also like to express our thanks to our *Jefferson County Council* members and our *County Executive* for their continued support of our efforts.

– Kevin Pollite

### Extension Council of the Year

Congratulations to the *Jefferson County Extension Council* for winning the **2025 MU Extension Council of the Year**. The award recognizes the central role Extension Councils have in:

- Identifying local opportunities and challenges around agriculture, economic opportunity, education and health
- Engaging local communities and representative voices
- Connecting MU Extension with local partners
- Supporting initiatives that create measurable, lasting impact



Cattle, Hogs, Goats and Sheep Auction July 19, 2025



2025 Jefferson County Grand Champion Belt buckle, sponsored by the County MU Extension



Pancake Breakfast for Youth participants



Pictured are Kevin Pollite, Chair; Jim Boxx, Treasurer; Dave Jablonski, Ag Conference Chair; Steve Glauber; Finance Committee; Jody Ferguson, staff; Misti Ritter, MU Extension & Engagement Specialist; Dr. Jody Squires, Urban East Regional Director and Director of Off-Campus Operations



# Agriculture and Environment

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

## Missouri Century Farm

**Flinn Farm**  
since 1919

**Ernest Flinn**  
Founder and Grandfather of Donald Flinn



## Missouri Century Farm

**Almany Farm**  
since 1925

**Annie E Murphy**  
Founder and Great Aunt of James P Almany



## Missouri Century Farm

**Harness Farm**  
since 1913

**Thomas Harness**  
Founder and Great-Grandfather of Patrick Gibbons



In 2025, three Jefferson County farms were newly designated as a Missouri Century Farm, a program of MU Extension, UM College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and the Missouri Farm Bureau.



**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.

**In 2025, Jefferson County farmers participated in two East Central Region Show-Me-Select Sales at the Farmington Regional Stockyards. 240 total heifers sold from 15 producers with a gross revenue of \$943,600.**



### Livestock

**MU Extension Livestock Specialist Mike Graham** offered a class on starting a basic cattle operation with 16 county participants. The program emphasized sound recordkeeping and financial budgeting when planning new

cattle. Instructions on facilities, equipment, and where to market animals accommodated participants' production goals.

Research-based livestock information supporting topics including soil health, forage testing, herd health, budgeting for

livestock enterprises, equestrian nutrition, and back yard chick flocks were shared through 120 phone and email consultations. Additional information is available through a monthly newsletter, **The Livestock Ledger**.

## CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



### Soil Testing

The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Soil testing is a service that MU Extension offers where producers can submit samples for quality testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations to clients for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices.

In 2025, 92 agronomic soil tests were submitted from Jefferson County. 1002 agronomic acres. 211 soil tests for residential lawns and gardens representing 98,196 horticulture sq feet.

Contact the Jefferson County MU Extension Center for more details.

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Agriculture and Environment

## Local Impact

### Agronomic Consultations

MU Extension Agronomy Specialist **Kate McDonald** provided her expertise to 50+ Jefferson County producers through programs and consultations related to soil test results and recommendations; forage and pasture management; lime and nutrient requirements, herbicides and weed control, and drought resources and nitrate testing.



*A note from the agronomist about* Jefferson County row crop performance in 2025, “Despite early-season flooding and the severe drought through the end of the growing season, corn performed exceptionally well statewide. Missouri is projected

to set a new record average yield around 187–188 bushels per acre, surpassing last year’s record. Jefferson County contributed strongly to this trend with an average around 175 bu/ac. Soybeans struggled with the drought hitting at just the wrong time for pod set and seed development, but overall maintained some resilience with a state average of around 50 bu/ac.”



### Missouri AgrAbility Project

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

### Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM),

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



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



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

# Agriculture and Environment

## Profiles



Jefferson County Master Gardener Chapter Jefferson College volunteer site

### Missouri Master Gardener

The 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.



**2025 Jeff Co Master Gardener Chapter**  
 President – Al Macri  
 Secretary – Suzi Smith  
 Vice-President – Aaron Adams  
 Treasurer – Barb Williams



Mushroom growing workshop

- Sunrise School Outdoor Classroom, DeSoto
- St. John's Community Garden, Arnold

The also hosted multiple educational presentations during their bimonthly meetings held at Jefferson College. Topics this year included holly care, mushroom foraging, and regenerative agriculture.

All Extension Master Gardeners complete a one-time, 16-week core training offered either in-person or online. In 2025, eight Jefferson County residents completed the core course and two also fulfilled the required 30 volunteer hours to become

active Master Gardeners. With the exception of emeritus members, all active Master Gardeners are expected to participate in continuing education and advanced training. This year, **Jefferson County MU Extension** offered an advanced 3-hour workshop focused on growing gourmet mushrooms using oak log inoculation.

A special thank you to **Al Macri** for finishing a four year term as Chapter President of the Jefferson County Extension Master Gardener Chapter and congratulations to **Aaron Adams** beginning his role as Chapter President in 2026.

Chapter meetings are on the second Tuesday every other month at Jefferson College.

Contact the Jefferson County MU Extension Center for more details.

### Jefferson County Master Gardener Chapter

37 active gardeners reported hours in 2025—contributed a total of 6,182 volunteer hours supporting horticultural education and activities across the county. The value of this service, calculated using the annually updated volunteer rate from Independent Sector, places their contribution at over \$215,000.

Many of these volunteer efforts take place at established project sites throughout the county:

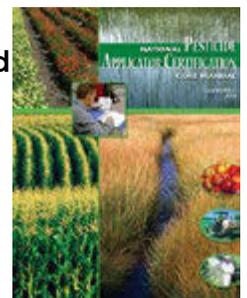
- 911 Memorial Garden, Arnold
- Jefferson College, Hillsboro
- Kade's Playground, Herculaneum
- Kress Farm Garden Preserve, Hillsboro
- Northwest Sports Complex Park, House Springs
- Pony Bird, Mapaville



Cattle utilizing warm season annuals help prevent soil erosion and extend grazing season.

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training

In 2025, **MU Extension Agronomist Kate McDonnald** provided *Private Pesticide Applicator Training* to nine county growers at the Jefferson County MU Extension Center. Participants learn about labeling, personal protective equipment, environmental concerns, formulations, mixing and application. This training is for agricultural producers who seek to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides, and certification of this license must be renewed every five years as



required by the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Bureau for Pesticide Control.

**Grateful to have this available in Jefferson County. Great course.**

# Agriculture and Environment

## Local Impact



In 2025, *Jefferson County MU Extension Center* welcomed *MU Extension Natural Resources Specialist Sarah Higgins* who provides programs topics including woodland and forest soil conservation; forest management (10 acres or larger); and chainsaw safety. In addition to private landowner consultations, 2025 educational programming included tree-identification hikes and several youth programs in conjunction with the *Jefferson County Library*.

Additionally, like many *MU Extension* ag and natural resource specialists, Sarah is assigned to the *Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District*, serving as the board's secretary which supports this unique partnership with the *Missouri Department of Natural Resources* to provide cost sharing opportunities for improving land management practices.



**Women Own- ing Woodlands**  
Women make up a growing portion of private forest landowners, and their knowledge and confidence in managing their land is



invaluable. The program empowers women landowners to take action to secure the future of their land.



### Missouri Woodland Steward

The 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.



### Missouri Master Naturalist

The program is a community based imitative 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.

In 2025, five Jefferson County residents completed the *2025 Missouri Master Naturalist Tri Chapter Core Training*. Additionally, several participated in advanced training courses such as the *Master Pollinator Steward Course and the Root to Profit: Apple & Pear Grafting Workshop*.

Jefferson County's certified **Master Naturalists** participate in one of several volunteer chapters hosted in surrounding counties. Beginning in 2026,



these trained volunteers and others will be able to share their knowledge through a newly formed *Jefferson County Master Naturalists Speakers Bureau*.



*Rain, Drain and Terrain* teaches youth about soil components and conservation, with a soil filtration experiment



Missouri

4-H for ages 8-18

MU Extension through credible statewide programs

**What is 4-H?**

4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and **learn by doing**. Rooted in University of Missouri Extension, 4-H builds confident, capable leaders who are **Beyond Ready** for life—preparing them not just for what's next, but for anything that comes their way.



**2025 Jefferson County 4-H Awards Banquet**

2025 Volunteer of the Year Ashley Crull  
2025 Friend of 4-H Award: Jefferson County Livestock Show Association

**"Learn by Doing"**

4-H Slogan

**To Make the Best Better.**

4-H Motto

**4-H Members: Learning by Doing**

Jefferson County 4-H empowers youth through hands-on learning in science, health, agriculture and civic engagement, fostering leadership, career readiness and finding their SPARK.

**2,155 4-H Participants** (1,873 regular club and specials) + (282 direct ed via grant)



**I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.**

4-H Pledge

**4-H's Healthy Living**

teaches healthy choices and equips youth to tackle life's challenges.

**4-H Feeding Missouri** has helped provide over **2 million meals** to neighbors in need..



Fox 4-H Club prepares for Missouri Crunch-Off



**4-H Clubs**

Community clubs are at the heart of 4-H. Led by trained volunteers, youth plan hands-on activities that build leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. Some clubs focus on a single project while others explore a variety of topics throughout the year, developing skills to be **Beyond Ready** for life.

- Pro Farmers 4-H Club
- Junior Master Gardeners 4-H
- Festus 4-H Club
- Little Homesteaders 4-H Club
- 4-H Clover Kids
- Fox 4-H Club



State 4-H Ambassadors Alana Kimmons and Grady Ruehling present Lizzy Raddin, Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club, achievement recognition

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



To learn more information about 4-H [download our app](#)

# Jefferson County 4-H

## Local Impact

### 2025 Jefferson County 4-H Council Officers:

President–Paisley Epple, Pro-Farmers 4-H  
Vice President–Violet Hermann, Festus 4-H

Secretary–Adalynn Crull, Pro-Farmers 4-H  
Treasurer–Rose Hermann, Festus 4-H  
Reporter–Lizzie Raddin, Junior Master Gardeners

Past President–Holle Ritter, Fox 4-H  
Adult Advisors–Ashley Crull  
Cassie Peterein-Hermann

### 4-H Council

The *Jefferson County 4-H Council*, composed of representatives of county 4-H clubs, contributed to the *Jefferson College Foundation* and a brick was added to the student union patio. Jefferson College provides space for various 4-H events and trainings throughout the year.



### The Heart of 4-H: Volunteers Making a Difference

4-H thrives because dedicated volunteers. 136 Jefferson County 4-H volunteers serve as mentors and role models, helping youth develop confidence, leadership, and lifelong skills, each contributing an average of 100 hours per year, valued at \$473,144 (\$34.79/hour – Independent Sector, 2025 for Missouri.)



### State Fair

Jefferson County 4-H members provided livestock showings as well as demonstrations and projects in the Missouri State Fair 4-H Building.

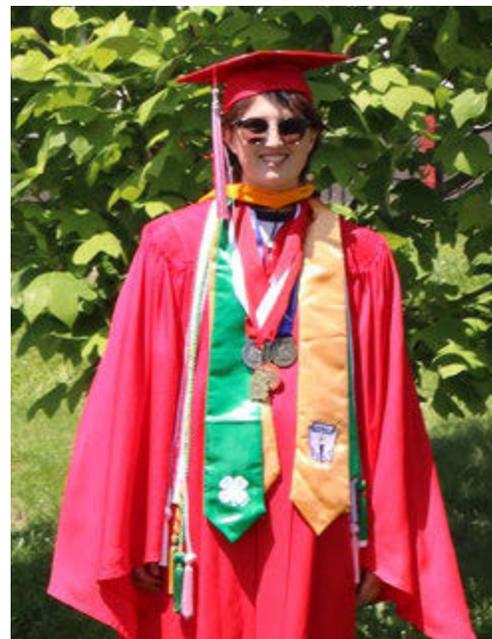
Other state competitions and recognition earned by Jefferson County 4-H members include 4-H Public Speaking and 4-H State Shooting Sports.

### Jefferson Foundation Grant

A \$5,000 grant titled: “Preparing Youth to Thrive: Holistic Wellness for 4-H Youth” from the *Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation* extended 4-H programming to new audiences in both classrooms and community events and trained older 4-H members to present Healthy Habits to younger audiences, addressing 282 youth.

- Hillsboro High School JAG Program: 4-H On My Own Financial Literacy
- New Day Treatment School: 4-H On My Own Financial Literacy
- Crystal City Elem: 4-H Healthy Habits
- Dunklin R-5: Pevely Elem: Happiness & Wellbeing
- DeSoto: Vineland & Athena Elem: Special Ed Classrooms: Happiness & Wellbeing
- Fox 4-H Club: 4-H Healthy Habits Train-the-Trainer
- Fox Elementary: Missouri Crunch-off: Apples! One of Missouri’s favorite local produce crops.
- Grow Well: Hike, Snack and Plant- A public event for youth, hosted by 4-H Junior Master Gardeners and Kress Farm Garden Preserve.

An additional 655 youth and family gained indirect information about wellness-related topics supported by accessible curriculum related to nutrition and awareness of consuming season, local produce. Thank you to the following community partners for hosting youth wellness programming at Hillsboro Lion’s World Sight Day, DeSoto Farmers Market, Youth Day at the Market, and Jefferson College’s Trunk-or-Treat.



Holle Ritter, Fox 4-H Club, stands under a 4-H Liberty Tree clone she planted 10 years ago



### Missouri 4-H Key Award

Congratulations to Holle Ritter, Fox 4-H Club, for receiving the Missouri 4-H Key Award, the highest recognition a 4-H member can receive. Youth receiving this award are those who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in their club and community. Additionally, Holle received the Dennis E. Gallup 4-H Memorial Scholarship through the Missouri 4-H Foundation.



# Jefferson County 4-H

## Profiles



Missouri 4-H Agriculture programs give youth hands-on experiences in areas such as animal science, veterinary science, plant science, and agronomy. Youth can also put their knowledge into practice through statewide competitions, including **Livestock Judging**, **Meat Judging**, **Hippology**, **Missouri 4-H Equine Tour** and more.

Programs like **Show Me Embryology** give students a front row seat to science in action as they explore the life cycle of a chicken. Over **1,000** students across *Jefferson County* care for incubators and track embryo development from egg to hatch. Schools in almost every school district participate along with private and home schools.



4-H's **Leadership and Civic Engagement** programs such as the **Missouri State 4-H Council** and **Civic Engagement Ambassadors** give youth opportunities to represent their peers, advocate for issues that matter and build connections with leaders across Missouri. These experiences help young people grow as confident communicators, ready to lead wherever life takes them.



## STEM

Missouri 4-H is igniting curiosity and cultivating innovation through 4-H Powered STEM. From robotics and coding to environmental science and engineering, youth engage in hands-on learning that makes science come alive.

4-H STEM programs build problem-solving skills, spark discovery and prepare the next generation of innovators. Every young person—no matter where they live or learn—has access to high-quality experiences to become **Beyond Ready** for the challenges of tomorrow.



4-H's **College and Career Pathways** programs emphasize the pivotal role of education in achieving career goals, creating paths to success through exposure to project areas, mentorship, and skill-building experiences. Programs like **On My Own** and **Youth Futures** give youth practical tools in financial literacy, goal-setting, and workplace readiness, helping them gain confidence in planning for life after high school. By connecting education, career exploration, and hands-on learning, 4-H prepares young people to be **Beyond Ready**—equipped with the knowledge, skills, and adaptability to succeed in school, careers, and life.





# Continuing Education

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

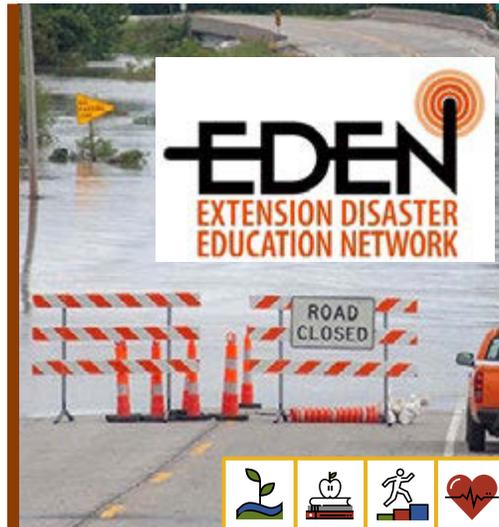


LETI's **National Animal Cruelty Investigations School** provides training on investigating abuse and neglect of animals. Multi-level courses prepare future animal care workers to handle most types of incidents. Several jurisdictions throughout the country require the National Animal Cruelty Investigations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



The programming from the **MU Fire & Rescue Training Institute** (MU 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 firefighter and emergency responders.

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.



- 4 Jefferson county residents completed the course, *Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking.*
- 3 Jefferson county residents completed the course, *Preparing for Initial Company Operations.*
- 4 Jefferson county residents completed the course, *Decision Making for Initial Company Operations.*
- 3 Jefferson county residents completed the course, *Shaping the Future.*
- 6 Jefferson county residents completed the course, *Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations.*



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



## Business and Community

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



## CIVIC MUSCLE INDEX



## All Things Missouri

**MU Extension Community Development** supports Belonging, Contributing, Leadership and Vitality of its Missourians and their communities. Check out these new tools developed and launched by **MU Extension**:

[www.CivicMuscleIndex.org](http://www.CivicMuscleIndex.org) explores peer counties and measures of belonging, contribution, leadership, and vitality.

[www.AllThingsMissouri.org](http://www.AllThingsMissouri.org) has data and reports to help you better understand your

community, its strengths and needs. There you can create a



*Thriving Communities Starter Report* and learn about different factors and their impact.

### Missouri SBDC

Missouri Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) experts provide in-person and online assistance and host events on a variety of business topics. A program of MU Extension along with Missouri APEX Accelerator and Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center, SBDC specialists help businesses in every stage, from concept to start-up, growth to renewal, mature to succession.

In FY2025, Missouri SBDC serving *Jefferson County* supported access to **\$71,060** in loans and



## Strategic Doing™



**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. For more details, contact **Mistti Ritter**, *Extension Engagement Specialist and Field Specialist in Community Development*, a trained **Strategic Doing** facilitator.

equity and a sales increase of **\$170,000**. Additionally, **42** clients received counseling; **11** jobs were created, and SBDC training events attendees totaled **148**.

For more information about SBDC resources, visit [www.sbdc.missouri.edu](http://www.sbdc.missouri.edu). In 2026, look for classes related to intellectual property, effective supervision, communication skills & strategies, emotional intelligence for effective leaders, Introduction to QuickBooks, Project Management, and more.

### SBDC in St. Louis Region

911 Washington Ave.  
Ste. 815  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
314-241-1005

### Missouri SBDC

Small Business Empowerment Center  
Economic Development Partnership  
120 S. Central Ave., Ste. 200  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
314-241-1697

Serving Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis and Warren counties, plus the city of St. Louis. SBDC services are provided in a nondiscriminatory way to all legal residents and citizens in the US.



**Mid-America TAAC reported client sales revenues were more than \$2 BILLION**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



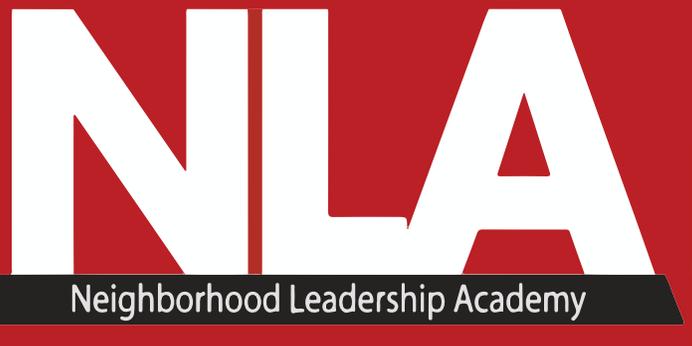
Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Business and Community

## Local Impact



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 I will fully utilize going forward.”** **-NLA graduate**



Communities throughout the county continue to benefit from work done by local folks who have taken the **MU Extension Neighborhood Leadership Academy**. This 10-week class allows participants to develop their leadership skills and take a neighborhood and community

project idea to action, earning a *Chancellor's Certificate* from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The **Jefferson County MU Extension Council** supports a local scholarship for a county participant of this state-wide class. **Mistti Ritter**, *Extension Community Development*

*Field Specialist* in Jefferson County provides instruction and year-round support, and several participants have earned mini grants to fund projects developed in class, underwritten through a state-wide grant the **MU Extension Community Development** unit receives from the *Missouri Foundation for Health*.

The Missouri APEX Accelerator's skilled procurement specialists, part of **MU Extension** and funded through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense, helps businesses obtain federal, state and local government contracts. APEX Counselors help businesses identify opportunities within the government and understand the

contracting process to qualify for government sales dollars. APEX Accelerator counselors can also assist with government vendor SAM registration for no cost.

In 2025, APEX supported 17 businesses in Jefferson County offering a total of 50 separate counseling sessions; and four (4) SAM.gov registrations were



completed. *In total, Jefferson County businesses were awarded 99 contracts valued at \$26,327,872.*



Missouri  
**GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK**

#MOGOODNEIGHBORS

Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **Missouri Good Neighbor Week** Sept. 27 to Oct. 3 by completing neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

**Jefferson County Extension Council** and MU faculty specialists, educators and support staff participated in the 2025 **MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK** by hosting a food drive for Jefferson College's *Vikings Vault Food Pantry*.

Learn more about the Vikings Vault at [www.JeffCo.edu/Vikings-Vault](http://www.JeffCo.edu/Vikings-Vault)

# Business and Community

## Profiles



The **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** Conference, hosted annually by **MU Extension** draws entrepreneurs, business leaders, and civic stakeholders from across Missouri. **CEC** strengthens Missouri's economic development pipeline by equipping participants with practical tools, peer networks, and actionable strategies they take back to their communities.

The next...

### **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference**

September 15-17, 2026  
Maryville, Missouri

## 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.

**Exceed provides data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS. 95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.**



## AMERICA'S SBDC MISSOURI CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)** provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small business across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

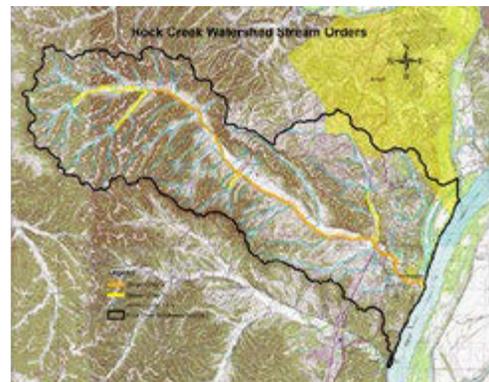
**Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 Million.**

## Early Childhood

**MU Extension** continues to grow in its support of early childcare, an ongoing and critical need in our communities across the state. In 2025, several Jefferson County childcare providers strengthened their work and businesses by participating in early childcare training courses, including *Results-Based Accountability for Early Child Care* and *Early Child Care Supports Thriving Communities*.

Additionally, the *Jefferson County Library* welcomed *MU Community Development Specialist Sarah Kennedy*, leading Extension's work in this area to conduct a training at their 2025 annual professional development session focused on childcare resources available in Missouri, the state of early childcare in Jefferson County, and strategies for how library staff can more effectively partner with and support early childcare centers within their communities.

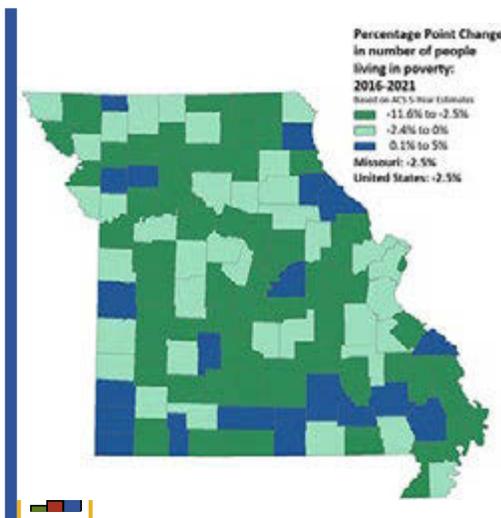
## Rock Creek Watershed.



In 2025, *MU Extension Community Development in Jefferson County* joined state, county and community partners; civic leaders; and residents to better understand the stormwater impact on the **Rock Creek Watershed**. One goal of this convening is to create opportunities for those who live in the watershed to access and understand information, policies, and resources to support their ability to improve this growing geography in *Jefferson County* that, like many areas, is frequently impacted by stormwater events.

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.

**MEI newsletter recipients use the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.**



## Tax Education

**MU Extension** offers statewide tax education opportunities designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys. In 2025, two Jefferson County professionals joined 380 others at in-person or online opportunities hosted each spring and fall. Additionally, these workshops qualify as valued education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and CFP continuing education.

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, MU faculty and MU Extension Ag Business specialists. Content includes 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, IRS issues, installment sales, tax benefits of home ownership, retirement tax issues, and individual tax issues. Special topic workshops also available include **horse-related tax workshops**.





# Health and Human Sciences

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



## 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.**

Resilience is the capacity to adapt when faced with adversity. **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training** is a 2.5 hour training for participants to evaluate their personal resilience, tap into resources and create an action plan to enhance their resilience. Upon completing the training, participants can attend a facilitator session, enabling them to deliver the content within their communities and strengthen resilience within their networks.

100% of participants indicate that the skills and techniques they learned will help them become **MORE RESILIENT**.



## Home Food Preservation



**Preserve the season's bounty in a safe and delicious way.**

Learn safe techniques for pressure canning, boiling water bath canning, steam canning, dehydration, and freezing. Understand the importance of using safe food preservation and storage methods to avoid cross-contamination and food-borne illnesses.

**"This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family's access to quality food."**

**Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET)** is a 2-hour training for older youth and adults to support friends, family, acquaintances, colleagues and neighbors' wellbeing.



## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## Alpha-gal

In 2026, Jefferson County MU Extension Center will welcome **Emily Poncher**, *MU Extension Community Health Specialist* and a member of MU Extension's **alpha-gal syndrome (AGS)** Task Force. AGS is a condition caused by bites from common Missouri ticks, including the lone star tick. Symptoms can vary and may include an allergy to red meat.



Photo by Adrienne van den Beemt. Shared under a Creative Commons License (CC-BY-4.0).

## Nutrition Education

Missouri's **Family Nutrition Education Program** oversees two programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (**SNAP-Ed**) and Expanded Family Nutrition Education Program (**EFNEP**). Together, these programs brought over \$13 million in federal funds to Missouri in 2025. MU Extension's Family Nutrition Education Program engaged with 970,000+ Missourians with low incomes.

Elementary classrooms served included: Crystal City; Athena; Vineland; Pevely; Meramec;



## Nutrition

As part of MU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (**SNAP-Ed**) Jefferson County's **MU Extension Nutrition Associates** served over 1230 individuals of all ages through direct instruction in schools, neighborhoods, farmers markets, food pantries and community gardeners throughout the county. Additionally, 89,079 contacts were made in Jefferson County through newsletters, health fairs and food pantries. In 2026, MU Extension in Jefferson County will provide educational opportunities for limited-re-

Hillsboro; House Springs; Maple Grove; and Murphy.

- *Show Me Nutrition*
- *Fuel for Life*
- *Healthy Plants/Healthy Bodies*
- *Eat Smart/Be Active*
- *Eat Smart/Live Strong*
- *Get Healthy Thru Gardening*
- *Eating from the Garden*
- *Families Eating Smart*
- *iCook (parent & child)*

Additional programs offered at the Jefferson College Childhood Development Center, Jefferson College Community Garden and Vikings Vault Food Pantry, Buren Chapel Community Center, DeSoto Farmers Market, Crystal City Library, DeSoto Library; and

source families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (**EFNEP**) classes.

Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan. This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

also community events including DNR Back-to-School Fair, Lion's World Sight Day, Arnold Family Fun Day, and Jefferson College Trunk-or-Treat featuring the Missouri Crunch-off sharing info about local produce.



## 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.



Extension  
University of Missouri

# Jefferson County

who we are

## 2025 numbers

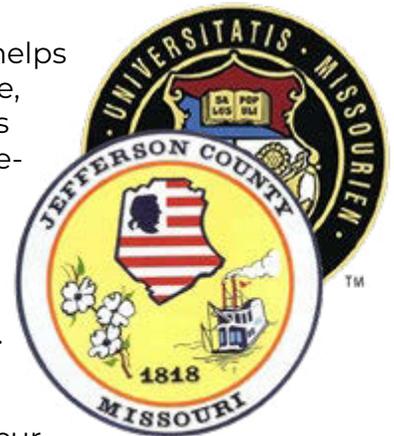


## University of Missouri Extension

University of Missouri Extension (MU Extension) helps citizens across the state gain practical knowledge, understand and adapt to change, solve problems and make informed decisions. Using University research-based knowledge, **MU Extension** addresses a wide range of needs that fall into *three grand challenges* for the state of Missouri: economic opportunity, educational excellence and healthy futures. Every year, more than *one million*



*Missourians* turn to **MU Extension** for education and support specifically designed to respond to current needs, including agriculture and the environment; business and community development; family and youth development; health and safety.



## Services & Support

Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities and economies by producing relevant, reliable and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri. The **University of Missouri** (MU) is a land-grant university, meaning it is a part of a federally mandated mission to carry the benefits of university research beyond campus. Federal legislation in the 1800's provided for the donation of public land to individual states. Missourians chose to apply their land grants to the existing Columbia campus.

This created two universities in one — a land-grant institution leading in research for all citizens of the state, across the nation and around the world, and an intellectual center to advance liberal arts education. Today, through statewide offices, publications and web-based services, extension faculty in every county of Missouri continue to carry the benefits of MU research throughout the entire state.

## Extension has Something for Everyone in Jefferson County

- 4-H Youth Development
- Strategic Doing
- Soil & Water Testing
- Community Health Info
- Woodlands Management
- Neighborhood Leadership Academy
- Stay Strong/Stay Healthy, Levels I & II
- MU Extension Master Gardeners
- Family Nutrition Education Program
- Jefferson County Agricultural Conference

Your one-stop source  
for **PRACTICAL EDUCATION**  
on almost anything.

