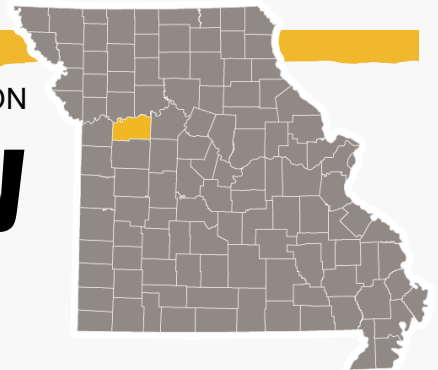




UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Lafayette County

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

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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

**Stacey Steffens:**

Northwest Regional Director

**Chelsea Corkins:**

Extension Engagement Specialist

**Katie Neuner:**

Ag Business & Policy Specialist

**Emily Bergsieker:**

4-H Youth Development Specialist

**Shelby Bargfrede:**

Youth Program Associate

**Christina Todd:**

Nutrition Program Associate

**Cheryl Cooley:**

Office Administrator

**Kathi Mecham:**

Horticulture Specialist

**Jessica Trussell:**

Human Development & Family Science Specialist

**Sue Robison:**

Nutrition & Health Specialist

**Travis Harper:**

Agronomy Specialist

**David Hoffman:**

Livestock Specialist

**Jim Crawford:**

Ag Engineering Specialist



Extension Council, along with MU Extension Faculty, Staff, and 4-H volunteers, sponsored the Higginsville Country Fair Ice Cream & Dessert Social in 2024

## Council members

Chair – Clyde Burchett

Vice-chair – Alex Siefker

Secretary – Hannah Copenhaver

Treasurer – June Thaller-Howell

Member – Joyce Freund

Member – Aaron Haynes

Member – Karen Johnson

Member – Lon Hemmen

Member – Chris Bargfrede

Member – Pete Thaller



Pictured above: Joyce Freund, Arron Haynes, Clyde Burchett, Hannah Copenhaver, Alex Siefker, Pete Thaller, and June Thaller-Howell

## County commissioners

Harold Hoflander – Presiding Commissioner

Dane Plymell – Northern Commissioner

Brad MacLaughlin – Southern Commissioner

# Budget and more

## 2024 Extension Council financials

### Income

District Appropriations	87,430.00
<b>Total Incomes</b>	<b>87,430.00</b>

### Expense

Office Salaries	33,075.00
Payroll Expenses	3,849.14
Non-Payroll Salaries	15,158.39
Non-Payroll Benefits	13,071.12
Travel	2,892.00
Postage	592.51
Telephone	1,925.07
Advertising	500.00
Rent Space	4,510.00
Printer Rental	3,702.57
Supplies/Services	2,555.69
Utilities	542.48
Insurance	1,144.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>82,517.97</b>

## Lafayette County partners

Many partnerships were vital to MU Extension's success in Lafayette County in 2024.

- A special thanks to the No Bad Day Event, held in honor of Jared Moenkhoff, for their very generous donation to the 4-H program.
- Liberty Power made a generous donation to cover the enrollment fees for 350 participants the 4-H program for the 2024-2025 year.
- A special thanks to the Lafayette County C-1 School District and Higginsville Park & Recreation Department for the use of their buildings and property for the 4-H/FFA Fair.
- American Legion - Use of the building for 4-H Banquet.
- Concordia Community Building - Use of their building for events.

Lafayette County 4-H Council established a county endowment in November 2023 through the Missouri 4-H Foundation. This endowment was made possible by the AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES grant on behalf of Darwin and Cindy Niendick.

The funds have been used to set-up the council for long term financial support that will help continue to grow the program as well as help the 4-H members who are learning, growing, and working together to create positive change in our community for many years to come.

Donations can be made at [https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/fund.aspx?item\\_id=908](https://mizzougivedirect.missouri.edu/fund.aspx?item_id=908)

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



### Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Lafayette 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.



# Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

## 4-H Youth Program

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.

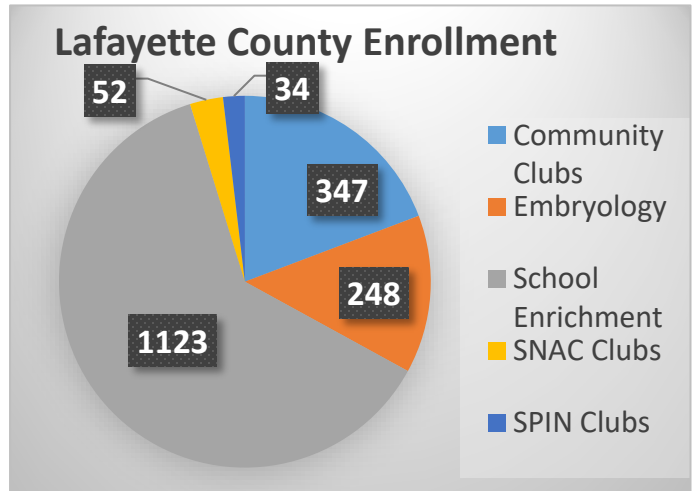
Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

- 4-H participants = 1,804
- 4-H Community Clubs: offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing this under the guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK.
- 4-H offers Community clubs, afterschool clubs and school enrichment. Families and communities can choose what fits their needs.

31.5% of the youth in Lafayette County were reached by 4-H in 2024!



Super Farmer is one of the most popular county wide events!



## Chick-it Out Embryology

Lafayette County served over 10 classrooms with 9 different educational partners. This program provided hands-on education to over 248 youth. Each classroom received an incubator, a dozen eggs, educational binder and a presentations from 4-H staff or faculty.

Teachers expressed how they enjoyed the educational resources we provided to be able to answer questions easily for their students. Students shared how they have learned about the chick life cycle.

Thanks for Jamie & Jo Farmers for the donation of the eggs used in our teaching presentations



Youth are excited to receive a special gift of the 4-H staff at the end of the classroom presentations.



# Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

## 4-H Youth Program

### Summer Enrichment

Lafayette and Ray County was awarded \$3,740 through a Summer Enrichment Grant through DESE to help add or enhance summer programming. Through this grant, the 4-H team was able to purchase a SPIN Bike with a blender attachment & supplies to STEAM activities at various sites in Lafayette & Ray Counties.

2024 sites included:

- Kids First, Higginsville - 12
- Kids Korner, Lexington - 14
- 4-H Camp, Knob Noster - 108
- Clover Kids & Friend Day Camp – Higginsville -27

### On My Own – Financial Literacy

On My Own is a hands-on, real-life simulation that gives young people ages 13-18 the opportunity to experience adulthood in a fun and exciting way. During the simulation, participants assume they are 26 years old, are the primary or sole support of the household, and are encouraged to make healthy and wise lifestyle choices similar to those adults face on a daily basis. After exploring careers, students receive a monthly salary for their chosen career type, a family scenario, and an asset. Then, they proceed through “real life,” deducting taxes, determining a savings goal, and spending their monthly salaries on the necessities as well as luxury items that reflect the career and lifestyle they have chosen.

This curriculum was taught to 47 high school students through the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) in Lexington and 20 middle school student through Agriculture Department at Lex La Ray Technical Center in Lexington.



Making a smoothie while getting exercise was a very popular event at various locations throughout the summer.



Cohlby Jones from BTC Bank one of the money volunteers assisting with the On My Own simulation

## Volunteers are the Heart of 4-H

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H program. They help create, support and deliver educational programs and experiences. Through dedicated volunteers, the Lafayette County Shooting Sports team was a significant project for Lafayette County 4-H members with 60 youth enrolled in at least one shooting discipline.

Lafayette County is proud to have 150 volunteers help youth “Learn by Doing.”

Congratulations to **Tresina Alvested** from 40-Ville 4-H Club received the Frank Graham Volunteer Award, **Carlene Buchanan** was inducted into the Missouri Hall of Fame for her many years of support for the 4-H program and **Tyson Foods** was selected for the Naomi Crouch Volunteer Award.



# Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

## 4-H Youth Program

### Summer Enrichment

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.

For Lafayette County, 52 youth were part of a SNAC Club. Clubs were held at Trinity Lutheran School, Concordia Elementary School, Kids First and Kids Korner.



Eating From the Garden Graduates (SNAC) showing off their Leadership Projects– posters and yard signs. They put them in the hallway and by the front door of the school!

### VR Goggles

Virtual reality is the use of computer technology to create simulated environments. Virtual reality places the user inside a three-dimensional experience. Instead of viewing a screen in front of them, users are immersed in and interact with 3D worlds.



Five out of seven 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade classes at Odessa Upper Elementary utilized the VR Goggles

- 14 youth & 3 chaperones attended Teen Conference.
- 3 youth & 1 chaperone attended State Congress.
- 1 youth attending National 4-H Conference.
- Owen Idsell, Walkenezer 4-H Club was selected as the 2024-2025 Northwest Regional Representative.
- 27 youth, 6 counselor and 1 adults attended camp at Knob Noster State Park.
- 50+ youth participated in the State Shooting Sports Competition.





# Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

## 4-H Youth Program

### Lafayette County Fair Results

#### Achievement Day:

- 63 youth participated in judging (-21)
- 14 Clover Kids gave a Demonstration (+1)
- 54 youth gave a Demonstration (-23)
- 12 youth gave a Public Speech (-7)
- 7 youth participated in Fashion Review (-8)

#### Shooting Sports:

- 132 class entries (+13)

#### Livestock Shows:

- Beef -79 class entries (-21)
- Cat - 7 class entries (-3)
- Goats - 72 class entries (-14)
- Bucket Calf - 3 class entries (-2)
- Dairy - 6 class entries (-4)
- Dogs - 33 class entries (+5)
- Horse – 153 class entries (-5)
- Poultry - 17 class entries (+6)
- Rabbits - 36 class entries (-8)
- Sheep - 38 class entries (-29)
- Swine -64 class entries (-32)
- Meat Cured Ham - 10 class entries (+7)
- Meat Cured Bacon –17 class entry (+4)
- Clover Kid Pet Show - 19 class entries (-6)

#### Exhibits

- 1337 4-H exhibited (+92)
- 254 FFA exhibited (+30)
- Rocket Shoot Off – 30 entries (-19)
- 1 Show Me Wares (-3)

#### Carcass Show

- Swine - 5 animals entered (-1)
- Beef - 2 animals entered (-1)
- Sheep - 2 animal entered (-3)
- Goat – 1 animal entered (0)

\*Numbers in parentheses indicate increase or decrease from previous fair.

### Lafayette County's Missouri State Fair Results

- Received Outstanding 4-H Building Exhibitor
  - 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row
- 176 projects in the 4-H Building
- 7 Best of Show selected
- 14 Demonstrations
- Received Outstanding Beef Exhibitor Award
- Many youth received big wins in the show barns



Trevor Edwards, Hitt 4-H Club with gardening project received Best of Show at the Missouri State Fair.



Alex Dyer, Southwest 4-H Club and Annika Riekhof, 40-ville 4-H Club were selected as the 2024 4-H King & Queen.



Maddy McDowell, Hitt 4-H Club, was selected as the KMMO Brownfield in Ag Buckle winner. Presented by Larry Smith, KMMO.



Walter Finley, Walkenezer 4-H Club with the judge at the Poultry Show.



2024 4-H & FFA Beef Exhibitors





# Agriculture & Environment

## Hydroponics & Companion Gardening



Horticulture Specialist, Kathi Mecham, emphasized her interest in Hydroponics and Companion Gardening in spring 2024. Hydroponics is a popular method for producing vegetables at home or for commercial growers. Pictured is a unit set up at a nearby MU Extension office that allowed for in-person, hands-on learning.

Attendees at multiple events also learned how companion planting helps support natural pest control, attracts beneficial insects, and improves soil fertility and & structure.

### Attendance during two Lafayette County 2024 events included:

- 40 participants stopped by to learn more about growing vegetables in a hydroponic unit
- 28 Participants attended the Companion Gardening program
- 11 Lafayette County residents attended the program. 8 of the 9 people who filled out an evaluation said they would change gardening practices, as a result, of the program including getting a soil test, doing more container gardening, low or no till practices, changing watering practices and implementing raised beds.

## Animal Health and Production

Lafayette County livestock producers (156) participated in University of Missouri Extension Animal Health and Production programs that provide relevant, reliable and timely educational resources that has the potential to improve their production system, increase the economic impact while sustaining their natural resources.

Such programs include:

- Missouri Show-Me-Select Bred Heifer Program,
- Beef Cattle Production Systems,
- Reproductive Management,
- Forage Management and Utilization,
- Beef Cattle Genetic Enhancement,
- General livestock production.

Livestock producers received assistance regarding livestock nutrition, forage management, supplementing poor quality forage, alternative feedstuffs, etc. Producers were reached via farm visit, workshop, phone call and/or email. Livestock producers gained knowledge and/or skills to incorporate management changes in their livestock operation that have the potential to increase the economic impact and improve sustainability of their operation while maintaining their natural resources.



Over 1000 residents receive the monthly horticulture newsletter. MU specialist contributes timely articles addressing topics pertaining to the home gardener.



# Agriculture & Environment

## Soil Testing for Fields and Gardens

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers and gardeners. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Soil samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab are analyzed for soil pH and soil nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron and copper.

Soil sampling provides them with recommended fertilizer application rates for the crop they are trying to grow. Lafayette County's agronomist and horticulture specialist review the soil sample results with the producers or gardeners, fine-tuning the recommendations for their situation and needs. Soil sampling and accurate fertilizer application increases crop production, reduces input cost, maximizes profit, and reduces the environmental impact of fertilizer loss from fields through leaching and runoff.



Above is a tomato plant with herbicide damage. Soil testing could offer insight to this issue.

**In 2024, the Lafayette Extension office processed over 49 soil samples from lawns, gardens and fields.**

## Graves-Chapple Extension and Education Center Updates



Topics covered in 2024 included:

- What the center has learned from 34 years conducting tillage trials
- Planting populations and replant decisions for corn

By providing new and relevant information to attendees at the Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings, MU Extension is providing local, unbiased information to producers to help them maintain their profitability.

## Private Pesticide Applicator Training

- Private Pesticide Applicator Training teaches producers how to safely store, handle, and use restricted-use pesticides in agricultural production.
- Proper application of pesticides results in greater safety for both the applicator and their neighbors.
- Proper application of pesticides results in reduced exposure of pesticides to the environment, ultimately leading to safer living conditions for all Missourians.
- Approximately 67 Lafayette County residents received a license in 2024. There are currently 286 active private pesticide applicators in Lafayette County.





# Agriculture & Environment

## Heroes to Hives

Heroes to Hives is a statewide program offered through Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) and University of Missouri Extension that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. It features online training through MIFFS coupled with hands—on training from University of Missouri Extension at our teaching apiaries in Warrensburg, Mt. Vernon, Popular Bluff and St. Louis.

More than 1200 veterans from across Missouri have participated in the program with numerous participants coming from Lafayette County.

**Heroes to Hives addresses financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping.**

## NW Crops Conference

Forty-eight people took part in the 2-day NW Crops Conference held at Stoney Creek in St Joseph. They received information on a variety of topics including:

- Biological Nitrogen Management Systems
- Selecting and Managing Cover Crops for Forage
- To spray or not to spray: Managing foliar fungal diseases in soybean
- New Weed Management Research Results
- Evaluating Biological Products using On-Farm Research
- Soybean Micronutrient Management

Each attendee received 15 Continuing Education Credits towards their Certified Crop Advisors certification



Attendees listen intently to one of the 28 presentations at the 2023 Northwest Crops Conference

## Cash Rental Rates in Missouri Updated

Cash rental rates in Missouri guide sheet was updates over the summer and released, in part by Katie Neuner, Ag Business & Policy Specialist. The publication assists landowners and farmers make informed decisions about rental arrangements. Read the guide at

<https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g427>



## Business & Community

### Women Landowners Ag Conference-Concordia

The 21<sup>st</sup> Women Landowners Ag Conference took place April 5<sup>th</sup> in Concordia MO. There were 68 attendees from 17 Missouri Counties present. MU Extension specialists Amie Breshears, Denice Ferguson, Mary Sobba, Jou-Han Tsay, Tamra Real, Kathi Mecham and Katie Neuner education participants on a variety of ag business, livestock and horticulture topics. Katie Neuner chaired the Conference Committee, and the Lafayette County office provided administrative assistance for the event.



**This year's program consists of multiple classroom sessions that covered key crop and animal production topics, presented by female industry leaders. Topics spanned the backyard to the back forty!**

### Missouri Ag Food and Forestry Innovation Center Assists with Grants

The Missouri Ag Food and Forestry Innovation Center (MAFFIC) assisted producers with grant application for the Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grant. These grants were available for equipment and infrastructure. Missouri Ag producers working in the food supply chain qualified to apply. Katie Neuner, Ag Business & Policy Specialist, assisted 7 producers with their grant application totaling \$315,156.

### Farm Tax Workshop

This workshop, held in multiple locations across Missouri, is designed to help producers be better prepared to work with their tax professional. The topics included: retirement and social security planning, corporate transparency act, depreciation and section 179, conservation tax issues, sales and exchanges, items set to sunset with the tax cuts & jobs act and more.





# Health & Human Sciences

## Building Strong Families

In 2024, the Human Development and Family Science team, including Jessica Trussell, Human Development Specialist, partnered with the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division to deliver five 6-session online parenting classes. These classes equipped parents with essential skills in communication, stress management, discipline, and positive parenting behaviors, supporting families working toward reunification.

The program reached 81 parents across 32 Missouri counties (including Livingston County), providing 800 hours of parenting education that positively impacted 167 children. Parents reported applying skills learned to:

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



Jessica Trussell, Human Development Specialist, participating in a panel discussing "Enhancing Community Impact through Continuous Learning"

**"Not only does this course teach new things. It also helps affirm strategies already being used and helped make me feel good about myself as a parent. It really has helped me grow. Thank you."**

**Building Strong Families, Participant, Virtual**

## Fall Prevention Programs Aids Adult Missourians

Many older adults worry about falling and losing their independence. Not being active enough can make them more likely to fall and cause other health problems.

- In Lafayette, Chariton, Ray, Carroll, and Saline counties, about 20% of the population is 65 years or older. Less than half of these older adults have places to go for exercise.
- In 2024, Sue Robison, Nutrition & Health Specialist, brought exercise to the Margaret Grey Center, which hosted 19 participants during a Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program.
- Stay Strong Stay Healthy is an 8-week program designed to improve balance, enhance flexibility, reduce stress, lift depression, and lower health risks through strength training. The program utilizes light hand and ankle weights to achieve these results.



**"You are standing so much straighter, and you do not struggle coming in. Be proud of your hard work."**

**Center Observer**



# Health & Human Sciences

## SNAP-Education

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 indirection educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries and the Show Me Nutrition helpline. There were 6,822 direct and indirect contacts made in Lafayette County

**A total of 231 participants were from Lafayette County.**

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

Schools	Agencies
Odessa Upper Elementary	Live Well Community Health Center – Lexington
Lexington High School	Live Well Community Health Center – Concordia
McQuerry Elementary	Lafayette County Health Department WIC Clinic
Grandview Elementary	Wellington-Napoleon Food Pantry
Concordia Elementary	Trails Regional Library – Odessa
Lexington Middle School	Lafayette County Health Department
Wellington-Napoleon Elementary	Higginsville Senior Center
Odessa Child Care Center	

## EFNEP Public Value Statement

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 559 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 2,068 family members. Additionally, 2,864 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

**A total of 52 of these youth and adult participants reside in Lafayette County.**

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



# Health & Human Sciences

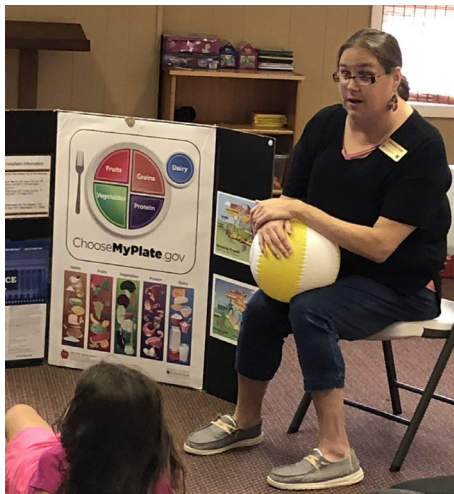
## Missouri Crunch Off

Several Missouri Crunch Off events were held during the month of October distributing more than 7,500 Missouri grown apples or bags of popcorn.

Lafayette County was well represented for the Missouri Crunch Off, events attended:

- Lafayette Courthouse
- Higginsville Trunk or Treat
- Odessa Trails Regional Library
- Odessa Upper Elementary
- Odessa Downtown Trunk or Treat
- St. Paul Lutheran High School
- Concordia Downtown Trunk or Treat
- Lexington Middle School
- Leslie Bell Elementary
- Lexington High School
- United Methodist Church community trunk or treat

Right: Christina Todd participating in the Lexington High School Trunk or Treat  
Below: 4-H members, faculty, and courthouse staff with Crunch Off popcorn.



Christina Todd, Nutrition Program Associate during Kid's Korner, a part of a youth Cooking Class.

## Area Nutrition Activities

The fourth-grade students at Odessa Upper Elementary in Lafayette County have recently been enjoying nutrition programming. During one of their food tastings, they were given pieces of dried mango were handed out for each student to try. Most of the class really liked the taste of it and several said they had never tried mango before.

In spring 2024, Stacey Steffens stepped in for a nutrition lesson with the Waverly Migrant Family program. She prepared carrot and pineapple muffins and discussed

the pros and cons of various forms of fruit – and how to encourage youth to eat them!



“Mmmm, this is so good! It tastes just like Laffy Taffy.” Student 1  
“It is definitely better than Laffy Taffy because it is healthy!” Student 2  
How exciting that our programming can make such an impact!



## County highlights

### Lafayette County State Fair Farm Family

Josh and Larin Payne and family from Concordia were among the families honored during the 67<sup>th</sup> annual Missouri Farm Family Day.

The Payne family was selected as the Lafayette County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Lafayette County and the local Farm Bureau.

The Payne family operate an 800 hair sheep ewes (and 1200 lambs) operation. Not only do the Payne's raise sheep, they also have approximately 30 acres of

Chestnuts. They also share a market garden with a friend from Concordia.

Josh and Larin along with their children Reina, Ella, and Jacob keep the farm and their many endeavors going. In Josh's spare time he is the bi-vocational pastor of St. John's UCC in Emma, Mo. Larin is a teacher at St. Paul's High School.



### Beef Quality Assurance



Seventy-four (74) adults and youth participated in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification, sponsored by Lafayette County Cattlemen's Association, MO Beef Industry Council and Extension. BQA is a program that provides systematic information to beef producers of how good husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions.

### SMQA: Show-Me Quality Assurance for Youth

Show-Me Quality Assurance is a youth program intended to increase the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production.

Topics covered in this hands-on, interactive program include perceived safety, wholesomeness, and nutritional value of food products influence consumer-buying decisions.

David Hoffman, Livestock Specialist had 19 youth from Lafayette County attend the SMQA training in 2024.







# County highlights

## Local 4-H Faculty & Staff Recognition

Emily Bergsieker, 4-H Youth Development Specialist was selected for state, regional and national awards this year as was Shelby Bargfrede, 4-H Youth Program Association receive state awards.

During the annual conference in Boise, ID for the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP), Emily received the North Central's Communicator Award for Promotional Package and Specialty Award for Healthy Living. In addition to the regional awards, Emily along with Mariann Wright from Lincoln University were the Missouri professional selected to receive the Achievement for Service Award (ASA).



During the Extension and Engagement week, Emily received the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation Outstanding 4-H Youth Specialist Award.



Emily & Shelby received awards through UMEA (University of Missouri Extension Association).



Shelby received the Truman Award from Vice Chancellor of MU Extension and Engagement, Chad Higgins, for going above and beyond for Extension and Lafayette County 4-H.

# Lafayette County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



### FY24 county students

**117 students**

- 84 Undergraduates
- 33 Graduate and professional students
- 79 Full-time students
- 38 Part-time students
- 19 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



### County employees and retirees

**38 people employed by UM**

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

16 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$1.8 million

UM state tax revenue: \$59,768

UM federal tax revenue: \$262,663



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 15 Medicine
- 47 Nursing
- 52 Health Professions
- 18 Dentistry
- 22 Pharmacy
- 3 Optometry
- 12 Veterinary Medicine
- 197 Agriculture
- 76 Engineering
- 30 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 30 teachers
- 7.1% of all district teachers
- 4 principals and administrators
- 16.0% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 52 students
- 563 alumni
- 17 employees

**UMKC**

- 48 students
- 257 alumni
- 11 employees

**Missouri S&T**

- 13 students
- 52 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 4 students
- 13 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Lafayette County



County population: 32,858



### County services provided

**Health care (FY24)**

- 507 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$273,115 of uncompensated care
- 57 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 282 visits to 116 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 2,999 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 426 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 1,886 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 537 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Lafayette 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)

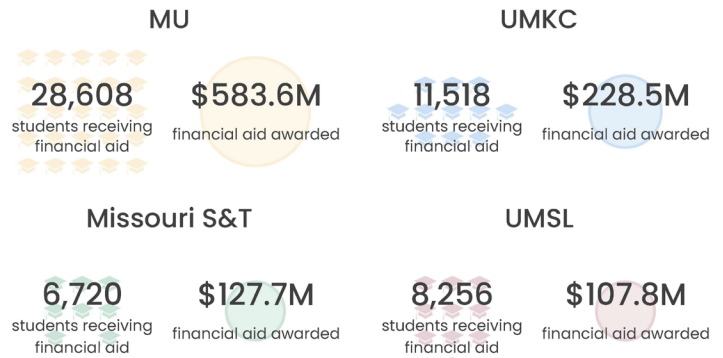


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

### 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

