



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Lewis County 2025 Annual Report

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**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.**

MU Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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Dear County Commissioners, Elected Leaders, and Friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the remarkable progress we have made together. MU Extension continues to deliver on its mission of linking the University of Missouri with every community across our state, ensuring that Missourians have access to the knowledge, resources, and partnerships they need to thrive.

Through the dedication of our faculty, staff, councils, partners, and advocates, MU Extension continues to make a measurable difference across Missouri. Last year, we had more than 1.5 million educational contacts and generated more than \$1 billion in economic impact. Building on that momentum, your support also helped secure a \$5 million recurring increase in state funding. This important milestone is already being invested in people, programs, and facilities to strengthen agriculture, improve health and well-being, support local economic development, and prepare youth for leadership through 4-H.

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

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

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

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chadwick C Higgins'.

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Brenda Schreck
Field Specialist in Livestock

Kaley Bozarth
Nutrition and Youth Program Associate

Chris Coy
County Office Support Staff

Wendy Atterberg
Nutrition Program Associate

Katie Hogan
Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Jennifer Schutter
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Nick Wesslak
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Karen Poe
Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Jeremiah Terrell
Field Specialist in Human Development

Mary Sobba
Field Specialist in Agriculture Business

Mark Christian
Small Business Development Center
Business Specialist

Lisa Doster
Extension Engagement Specialist

Mike Krauch
Extension Regional Director

Council Members

Lea Rash, Chairman, Farm Bureau

Wayne Murphy Jr., Vice-chairman
County Commission

Chelsea Fellinger, Secretary, Southern District

Les Eaton, Treasurer, Cattlemen's Association

Linda Williams, City of Canton

Jake Schaefer, Northern District

Ryan Waterman, Northern District

Diann Brumbaugh, Northern District

Andrew Wiskirchen, Southern District



County Commissioners

Wayne Murphy Jr., Presiding Commissioner

Craig Redmon, Northern Commissioner

Travis Fleer, Southern Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	50,384.83
Total Income	50,384.83

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	42,256.33
Travel	2,999.20
Postage/Printing	1,567.67
Telephone	372.20
Office Supplies/Service	1,499.92
Furniture/Equipment	450.00
Council Operations	502.80
Insurance	736.71
Total Expenses	50,384.83

Economic Highlights

Among other accomplishments 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. The UM system also issued 26 patents, filed 76 new U.S. patent applications and earned \$6.5 million in licensing income.

Key Impacts

- MU Extension programs support both virtual and in-person learning formats, meeting a wider audience and allowing flexibility for busier family lifestyles.
- In 2025, 35% of Lewis County youth (ages 5-18) were reached by MU Extension 4-H program efforts.
- In 2025, Show-Me-Select bred heifers sold at Palmyra, Missouri, returning over \$2,096,212 to northeast Missouri sale consignors.
- In 2025, MU Extension Business Development trainings were attended by 28 Lewis County residents.
- MU Extension served 2,463 contacts in Lewis County, of which 1,767 were related to productive farming and gardening, 656 related to health and finance, and 7 contacts related to starting businesses and developing community leaders.
- In 2025, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 87 visits to 58 patients in Lewis County.

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Lewis County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Lewis County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Lewis County, showcasing the meaningful ways local engagement supports residents. It includes data on the number of students, employees, retirees and alumni affiliated with the University of Missouri System, along with the healthcare and extension services provided over the past year.

In addition, the report highlights the broader contributions of the UM System across Missouri in key areas such as education, research, healthcare, economic development and public service. It features metrics like job creation, financial aid distribution, research investment, healthcare access and broadband expansion.

This report is a valuable resource for understanding the measurable benefits the UM System brings to Missouri communities. It supports informed decision-making, advocacy efforts and strategic planning by illustrating the tangible impact of university-driven initiatives at both the local and statewide levels.

[Access your county's Impact Report.](#)



GRAND CHALLENGES

Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges — Economic Opportunity, Educational Access, Health and Well-being, and Agricultural Stewardship — represent the most pressing issues facing Missouri communities. They are important because:

By focusing on these challenges, MU Extension in Lewis County can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in Lewis County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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





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

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

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

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



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

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



4-H brings hands-on learning directly into schools through in-school and afterschool programs that extend classroom lessons. **Teachers, 4-H professionals, and volunteers** guide students through 4-H projects in areas such as science, agriculture, health, and leadership, helping youth connect learning to the real world.

Programs like **Show Me Embryology** give students a front-row seat to science in action as they watch chicks hatch and explore the life cycle of a chicken. These experiences help students grow curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking skills, preparing them to be Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

2024-2025 Lewis County 4-H Enrollment

- 35% of Lewis County youth (ages 5-18) were reached by MU Extension 4-H program efforts
- 159 members participated in six 4-H community clubs
- Three 4-H Spin clubs (short-term clubs that focus on a specific 4-H projects) emphasized Nutrition and Shooting Sports
- Collectively, youth documented 1,732 hours of community club work
- Over 3,710 hours of community service projects were completed by 4-H members and volunteers
- 83 screened adult volunteers contributed 8,300 hours to the Lewis County 4-H program, valued at \$288,757



4-H members demonstrated learning through the following activities:

- Lewis County members enrolled in a combined total of 793 projects in 2024-2025
- Over 208 4-H members were engaged in science-related projects and experiences
- 950 Lewis County Fair entries from 162 4-H and FFA members
- 25 Missouri State Fair 4-H building and livestock exhibits from Lewis County, with one building exhibit earning Best of Show
- 4 State level Recognition forms completed
- 8 members participated in the spring 4-H Northeast Region Energizer
- 4 members participated youth development events including State Congress, State Public Speaking and 4-H Day at the Capitol
- 22 youth participated in the State 4-H Shoot contest
- 1 youth represented Missouri in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in Grand Island, Nebraska



The Lewis County **4-H Shooting Sports** program was presented a grant from Friends of the NRA and The NRA Foundation for shooting sports equipment which members used to complete their required project hours.

Members were awarded medals for their shooting success at the 2025 Lewis County 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational and County Fair Shoot.

Profiles and stories



Embryology - Hatching Chicks in the Classroom is a 4-H School Enrichment program that allows elementary students to develop life skills like decision making and responsibility, While learning about the development of chicks And how to care for them after hatching.

Lewis County Impact: 336 elementary students, from 13 classrooms, participated in 200 hours of 4-H Embryology program work.

Each year, 4-H clubs in Missouri engage in a friendly **Drive to Feed Kids** competition to raise the most meals for food insecure families through food drives, monetary donations and volunteer work at local food pantries. In the last four years, 4-H clubs have raised over a million meals to feed Missouri families.

Lewis County 4-H donated 101 meals through the 4-H Feeding Missouri Initiative.



Canton Big Truck Safety Night drew 57 youth and 47 adults to Canton R-V School. MU Extension Youth Program Associate Kaley Bozarth led a LEGO booth and visited with potential 4-H families, while MU Extension Livestock Specialist Brenda Schreck engaged attendees with an interactive "Poison Look-Alike" activity. Big Truck Safety Night provides an engaging opportunity for families to explore safety topics that connect with local extension programs.



Profiles and stories



County, regional and state fairs are great opportunities for 4-H members to exhibit their 4-H projects. These events allow 4-H'ers to demonstrate skills learned through county project meetings and share their success with the public. 4-H'ers display their skills through a variety of project categories including public speaking, fashion revue, arts and sciences, shooting sports, as well as small animal, livestock, and horse shows.

By participating in county fair project shows, 4-H members learn through disappointment or excitement, good sportsmanship, social and interview skills and how to manage their feelings for others. Youth who raise livestock learn to care for, work with that animal. County fairs provide an opportunity for youth to develop life skills in a fun and meaningful setting.



State and regional 4-H events provide opportunities for 4-H members to learn critical life skills such as confidence, resilience and independence.

4-H camps provide the full benefits of 4-H along with the excitement of camping in the great outdoors. 4-H teen camp counselors strengthen their leadership skills as they plan camp events and lead young 4-Hers through an exciting camp experience.

Highlights in 4-H



Let's go to the Fair! 4-H and FFA exhibitors get to share their project knowledge with judges during interview sessions at the Lewis County Fair.



4-H Project Night – an opportunity to see what 4-H project might interest you.

Each year, 4-H volunteers are recognized for dedication to the Missouri 4-H program.

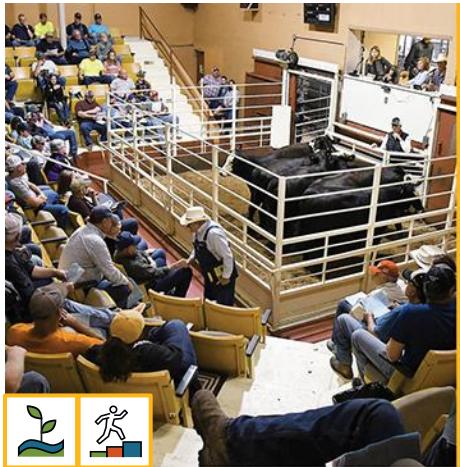
Lewis County 4-H congratulates Rick Hinton and Sharon Marks on being nominated into the **Missouri 4-H Hall of Fame** for over 25 years of volunteer service to the county 4-H program.





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

Agriculture and Environment



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



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



The Missouri 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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact-Livestock

- In 2025, 486 Show-Me-Select (SMS) bred heifers sold at Palmyra, Missouri, for an average of \$4,236 per head and a total of \$2,096,212 in sales to northeast Missouri consignors.
- Buyers from SMS sales in Palmyra, Missouri surveyed a 92% buyer satisfaction rate with heifers purchased from those consigned sales.
- 2025 surveys from the northeast Missouri SMS sale buyers report a low 5.5% loss of calves due to difficult births from tagged SMS heifers, whereas calves from non-SMS first calf heifers report a 22% loss average on a national level.
- In 2025, 33 bulls sold at the Northeast Missouri Performance Tested Bull sale in Palmyra, Missouri, for an average of \$6,221 per head and a total of \$205,293 in sales to northeast Missouri consignors.



The **Show-Me-Select** program focuses on increasing the adoption of management practices by Missouri farmers, improving long-term herd reproductive efficiency, and increasing farm profitability. Program participants learn the importance of pre-breeding examinations and how these practices impact both economic and productivity levels.

The **Missouri On-Farm Performance Tested Bull program** is designed to improve the quality of beef cattle in Missouri through breeding and selection. Bulls enrolled in the program must be registered with their respective breed association and are under the supervision of MU Extension livestock field specialists who serve as unbiased sources for bull conformation assessment and frame data collection.

Agriculture and Environment

Profile and stories-Agronomy



In 2025, MU Extension Agronomist Nick Wesslak set up **migratory insect trapping stations** and monitored a variety of crop pests in corn and soybean fields in Lewis, Marion and Ralls counties.

These stations served as alert systems, indicating which migratory pest species producers should be scouting for in their crop fields.

MU Extension agronomists provide in-person and online **private pesticide applicator certifications**. Producers of agricultural commodities must have a private pesticide applicator license to purchase or apply restricted-use pesticides on property owned by them or their employer.

Lewis County certifications-11.

MU Extension Agronomy Specialist Nick Wesslak chats with MU Extension State Field Crop Specialist Mandy Bish at the **2025 Field Crop and Forage Chat** seminar in Marion County.

Participants at the Chat learned about current plant disease issues in corn and soybeans, grazing management practices and successful strategies for crop and insect pest management.



Profiles and stories-Local Ag Business



The **Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)** ensures the U.S. food supply remains safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination in livestock feed and pet food, to preventing it before feed manufacturing. MU Extension Livestock Specialist Brenda Schreck works directly with agricultural firms that provide and/or process livestock feed to develop and maintain feed safety plans. In Lewis County, three FSMA plans for livestock feed are maintained as part of ongoing compliance efforts.

Across northeast Missouri, Schreck continues to maintain 23 plans for elevators and feed manufacturing firms. Discussions focus on implementing documentation for preventive controls and maintaining accurate records a required by the Food and Drug Administration. Feed safety manuals help firms track preventive measures and ensure animal feed safety standards are met.



Women in Ag is a hands-on program for women involved in the northeast Missouri agriculture industry. In 2025, participants learned about Missouri Farmers Care programs, pollinators, women's health from the ground up, and enjoyed interactive activities such as bug bingo and tasting farm-to table meals. Lewis County attendees-18.

By offering programs targeting women in agriculture, MU Extension empowers women to make informed decisions about farm and home management.

- 98% of respondents rated their overall satisfaction as Very Good or Excellent.
- 100% of respondents gave top marks for the quality of information presented.
- 98% found the materials provided to be highly useful and relevant.

Profiles and stories-Regional Ag Business



MU Extension Ag Lenders Seminars and Tax Schools provide lending institutions and tax preparers the latest information including crop and livestock outlooks, agriculture and tax policy, trusts and estates, enterprise budgets and individual and business entity tax issues. Lenders and tax preparers gain knowledge to help clients make better decisions based on objective education and resources.

The 2025 Ag Lenders Seminar hosted 65 lenders from Missouri and Illinois resulting in an estimated reach of 13,455 loans, valued at \$4.487 million. The 2025 Tax School served 389 attendees from Missouri and other states, which is an 11% increase from 2024. Ag Lender Seminar attendees from Lewis County-3; Tax Seminar attendees from Lewis County-1.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) partnered with University of Missouri Extension to collect **farmers' market** price data on crops present at Missouri farmers' markets June through October of 2025. Five MU Extension specialists collected data while providing production, marketing, and financial resources to producers around the state. In 2025, 1,908 prices were collected from four different farmer's Markets in northeast Missouri.

The price data is available seasonally on MDA's website and helps new and experienced producers determine market prices for their products.



Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories-Youth in Agriculture



The **Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA)** program increases knowledge and awareness among Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production. MU Extension Livestock Specialist Brenda Schreck and Youth Program Associate Kaley Bozarth collaborated to educate 25 youth from Knox, Lewis and Marion counties.



Conservation Day provided Lewis County sixth grade students with hands-on learning about Missouri's natural resources and wildlife. MU Extension Livestock Specialist Brenda Schreck presented a session on pollinators and the importance of habitat creation and conservation practices that sustain Missouri's ecosystems. Lewis County attendees-111

Agriculture Safety Day provided 125 Lewis County fifth-grade students with hands-on learning for staying safe on the farm and around the home.

MU Extension Livestock Specialist Brenda Schreck shared about using appropriate behavior around different animal species, recognizing signs of animal nervousness, and how to respond safely.

MU Extension Agronomist Nick Wesslak also presented a program on the importance and risks of pesticides and other chemicals to human safety and food production.





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Continuing Education



The programming from the **MU Fire and 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.



MU Continuing Education for Health Professions (CEHP) provides evidenced-based, relevant and responsive learning activities designed to narrow professional practice gaps with respect to knowledge, competence, and performance of the healthcare team. A commitment to lifelong learning, in partnership with those we serve, contributes to excellence in practice and improved health outcomes.

CEHP provided 169 LEARNING ACTIVITIES which reached over 53,000 PROFESSIONAL across all Missouri counties.



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.



Legend



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