



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Montgomery County



2024 Annual Report

310 Salisbury St., Ste. E
Montgomery City, MO 63361
573-564-3733

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

Vice Chancellor's Office

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Columbia, MO 65211

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December 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Warm regards,

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



MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXTENSION

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WEBSITE: extension.missouri.edu/montgomery

December 2024

Dear Friends of MU Extension:

MU Extension continues to step up to today's challenges with innovative ideas to connect our citizens and communities with knowledge, resources and programming.

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.

In 2024, face-to-face meetings and local program delivery increased across the county and state.

In Montgomery County, our volunteer advisors - members of the county Extension Council - play a vital role in identifying community needs; providing counsel to regional and campus faculty about educational programs and personnel; and assist in finding resources to support the local educational program.

This annual report highlights part of Extension's yearly educational programming. In 2024, the Montgomery County Extension Office provided a total of 17,359 direct and indirect contacts. These contacts were made through in-person meetings, zoom short courses, newsletters, telephone consultations, personal instruction, electronic mail and educational displays. Program areas include Agriculture and Environment, Business and Community, Youth and Families, Nutrition and Continuing Education.

With your support and the support of the Montgomery County Commission, every effort will be made to identify high-priority needs and to deliver programs that enhance the lives and livelihood of the residents of Montgomery County.

The Montgomery County Extension Council would like to express its thanks to the staff, volunteers, other agencies, associations and businesses for their support and hard work. Special thanks to the County Commission for the county's financial support provided to the Extension Council.

In partnering with the County Commission and the people of Montgomery County, we look forward to working together to meet Extension's grand challenges of economic opportunity, educational access and excellence and health and well-being in 2025.

Sincerely,

Mike Henderson, chairperson

Montgomery County Extension Council

Elizabeth Anderson

Extension and Engagement Specialist

Who We Are

Montgomery County Extension Council

Mike Henderson
Chairperson

Richard Kleinsorge
Vice Chairperson

Dan Cole
Secretary

Donna Viehmann
Treasurer

Jessie Akin

Patsy Cox

Ellie Francois

Gina Hartman

Julia Holman

Susie Keithley

Doug Lensing

Sharon Lensing

Mike Lewis

Toni Schwartz

Melissa Van Booven

Tracy Van Horn

Clinetta Weinrich

2024 Operating Budget

Income:

County Appropriations \$87,000

Expenses:

Personnel Services \$28,000

Payroll Expenses \$23,235

Non-Payroll Salaries \$19,600

Travel \$5,350

Postage \$2,100

Telephone Service \$1,450

Rent/Lease Equipment \$2,290

Supplies/Services \$4,000

Insurance \$725

Repairs/Maintenance \$50

Furniture/Equipment \$200

Meeting Date

Third Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
Extension Council Office

Montgomery County Faculty and Staff

Rusty Lee
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Heather Warren
Nutrition Program Associate

Kim Cullom
4-H Program Associate

Joan Andrews
Office Support Staff

Staff Serving Montgomery County (based in other counties)

Elizabeth Anderson
Extension & Engagement
Specialist

Chrisee Brandl
Field Specialist in Livestock

Maria Calvert
Field Specialist
in Human Development

Mark Christian
SBTDC Business Specialist

Gina Corce
Business Development
Specialist

Charles Ellis
Field Specialist
in Agricultural Engineering

Staff Serving Montgomery County (based in other counties)

Tyler Hall
County Engagement Specialist
in Nutrition & Health Education

Matthew Herring
Regional Director
East Central Region

Nancy Keim
FNEP Associate Director

Billy McCaslin
Forestry Management
Educator

Jamie Mitchell
Missouri APEX
Accelerator Specialist

Marsha Moore
Missouri SBDC
Business Specialist

Emily Poncher
Field Specialist
in Community Health

Brian Schweiss
State Extension Specialist
Sustainable Forestry

Rhonda Shafer
County Engagement Specialist
in 4-H Youth Development

Mary Sobba
Field Specialist
in Agricultural Business

Jana Weitkemper
PTAC State Director

Paul Zacharius
Missouri SBDC
Business Specialist

Montgomery County Commissioners

Ryan Poston
Presiding Commissioner

Dave Teeter
First District Commissioner

Doug Lensing
Second District Commissioner

State Legislators

Senator
Travis Fitzwater
District 10

Representatives
Jeff Myers
District 42

Bruce Sassmann
District 61

About us

Location:
310 E. Salisbury St., Ste. E
Montgomery City, MO 63361

Hours:
8 a.m. to 12 Noon
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Contact:
573-564-3733
573-564-6145 FAX
montgomeryco@missouri.edu

UM System County Impacts

2025 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Montgomery County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

80 students

- 68 Undergraduates
- 12 Graduate and professional students
- 55 Full-time students
- 25 Part-time students
- 30 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

50 people employed by UM

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

20 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$3.5 million

UM state tax revenue: \$100,145

UM federal tax revenue: \$524,337



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 3 Medicine
- 37 Nursing
- 24 Health Professions
- 2 Dentistry
- 10 Veterinary Medicine
- 144 Agriculture
- 44 Engineering
- 12 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 24 teachers
- 20.5% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 27.3% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 44 students
- 385 alumni
- 21 employees

UMKC

- 4 students
- 13 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 16 students
- 38 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 16 students
- 70 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Montgomery County



County population: 11,422



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 2,348 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$964,048 of uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 343 visits to 209 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 5,930 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 1,167 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 3,995 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 9 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

UM System County Impacts

2025 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Montgomery 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.



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

MU		UMKC	
28,608	\$583.6M	11,518	\$228.5M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,720	\$127.7M	8,256	\$107.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded



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

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

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

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

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



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Knowing Missouri's Needs

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

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

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

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



Economic opportunity

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



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

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

Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Labor Market

Average Earnings per Job

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

2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$40,811

Montgomery



Missouri

\$62,528



Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts](#). 2007-2022.

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey, of the 9,188 persons of working age in the report area, 57.53% are included in the labor force. This rate falls short of the Missouri labor force participation rate of 62.90%.

Labor Force Participation Rate

57.53%

Montgomery

Missouri

62.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Grand Challenges

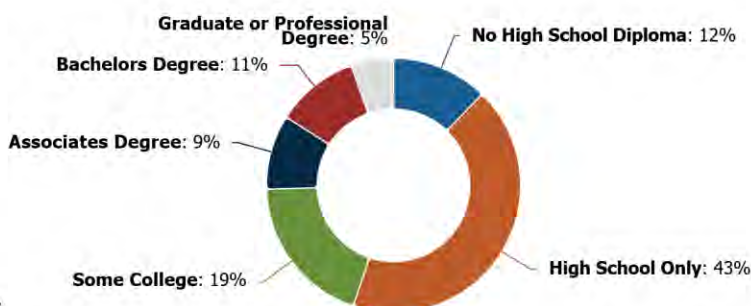


CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

In the report area, 19.4% of adults have at least some college education and 20.1% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 42.9% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 12.3% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

12.26%

Missouri 8.69%

Montgomery

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2018-22.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 56 deaths of despair, or 65.45 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is higher than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 20.47% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

65.45

Missouri 52.01 🟡

Montgomery



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

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.6 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.6 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

5.6

Missouri 5.3 🟡

Montgomery



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



Grand Challenges



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Soils Testing*

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. 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.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Montgomery	26	20	1	0	47
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary, 2022.](#)



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18**



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



A **SPIN club** focuses on a specific topic led by an expert in the field. While community clubs may meet over the full 4-H program year, SPIN clubs meet for set periods, typically from several weeks to a couple months. SPIN clubs can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



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



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

*A community of 287 youth building life skills,
contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.*

Findings from a 2021-22 evaluation study shows that Missouri 4-H:



Rhonda Shafer
Field Specialist
4-H Youth
Development

Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do

98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.
91% set personal goals.
97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.
98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.

Missouri 4-H Grows True Leaders

97% said they like to learn about people who are different from them.
93% said they think about others feelings before they say something.
75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.

4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills

95% help others reach their goals.
86% comfortable speaking in a group.
99% said they show respect for other's ideas.
85% Can work with someone who made them upset.
95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

4-H Builds Social and Emotional Skills

94% said they keep trying until they reach their goals.
89% Stop to think about their choices when making a decision.

97% reported that they like to learn new things.
91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.

4-H Clubs

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 = 226

**Duplicates not removed.*

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, SPIN (special interest) clubs, In school and Afterschool



Kim Cullom
4-H Program
Associate

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Clubs, and school enrichment. Families and communities can choose what fits their needs.

Volunteers

4-H members are supported by 68 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at \$227,732.00

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program.

They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing an average of 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of Montgomery County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$227,000 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

Reference

Independent Sector (2024). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$33.49 per hour. Retrieved from <https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-33-49-per-hour/>

4-H SNAC Clubs

4-H participants = 26

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.

4-H SNAC Club Mini-Grants

In 2024, the Missouri 4-H Foundation partnered with Healthy Blue to provide mini grants of up to \$500 per county, supporting 4-H SNAC clubs throughout the state in implementing their leadership projects. A total of 37 counties received funding, amounting to \$18,500 in mini grants.

4-H School Enrichment Programs

4-H participants = 359

Montgomery County 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities. The most popular 4-H school program in Montgomery County is embryology.

Montgomery County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories



The 2024 Holiday Clover Kid Night attendees included: (front row, l.-r.) Nate Taylor, Nola Taylor, (middle row, l.- r.) Evelyn Cobb, Annabelle Holman, Kaylee Pritchett, Leah Oliver; (back row l.-r.) Judah Imig, Harper Talley, Rylin Bickmeyer, Stella Ridgley and Hadly Warren.

Annual Holiday Clover Kid Night A Success

Each December, Montgomery County Clover Kids are invited to a Holiday Night hosted by the Montgomery County 4-H Council and Kim Cullom and Heather Warren, both Nutrition Program Associates. In 2024, the Clover Kids colored cards

for an area nursing home, crafted ornaments and made their own food. Eleven Clover Kids were in attendance and had a great time. This event gives Clover Kids their own project meeting to attend and a chance to meet youth from other clubs.



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



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.**



Missouri Grazing Schools teach management-intensive grazing by dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend the grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through improved livestock grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be **\$125 MILLION per year in Missouri.**



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



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

Legend



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Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Number of Montgomery County Learners

One hundred seventeen Montgomery County citizens participated in the Private Pesticide Applicator training facilitated by Rusty Lee, field specialist in agronomy. This 2.5 hour program gave a collective learning total of 90 education hours.

What Did They Learn?

Upon completion of the training, participants were able to:

1. Recognize the need to correctly identify pest organism prior to choosing a pest management strategy.
2. Understand the concept of economic thresholds and economic injury levels when making pest management decisions.
3. Possess a basic understanding of biological control and other non-chemical methods of pest management.
4. Better understand the format and information provided on each pesticide label.
5. Recognize the importance of using label information in all phases of application.
6. Understand the importance of having a Material Safety Data Sheet, and other materials available when applying pesticides.

7. Understand the need for proper selection and use of protective clothing and safety equipment.
8. Understand the importance of the "Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP)" designation for certain pesticides
9. Consider environmental impacts when selecting a pesticide for use.
10. Consider impact of pesticides on water sources when applying a pesticide.
11. Understand the need and procedure to develop an emergency plan (fire, storm, flood, other) with local emergency officials.



Rusty Lee
Field Specialist
Agronomy

How Does This Work Make

Montgomery County and Missouri Better?

Enables farmers to meet the legal requirements mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Bureau for Pesticide Control on the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides on their farmlands, including restricted-use pesticides (RUPs). This enables farmers to meet society's demands for lessening agriculture's environmental impact.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Motion Graphic Video Technology

Rusty Lee, field specialist in agronomy, collaborated with MU Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) to create the short video promoting milo grazing education.

Working with IMC Media Storyteller, Trevor

Borgman, an abstract animation that is one minute and 38 seconds in length was created. This allows



the learner to invest a small time commitment and gain a better understanding of the program content.

The video covers the topic of Milo Grazing very quickly and directs the viewer to more in-depth materials if they wish to

learn more. Embedded links to a variety of 30-45 minute videos are included to facilitate the learner continuing with the topic.

Montgomery County

Chrisee Brandl – Livestock Specialist

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Pixels and Pearls of Production – This is a hands-on educational opportunity for women in agriculture. The Pixels session was held via Zoom on topics including estate planning, backyard layers, enhancing value added meat marketing, and beekeeping. The keynote presentation was given by a Professor at the University of Arkansas, Janeal Yancey, who writes about the meat industry from the view as a mom and producer. The Pearls session was held in person at MU Beef Research and Teaching Farm in Columbia, MO. Topics included genetics, forage and pasture, backyard layers, and farm headaches. Youth were able to participate in the Pearls session by interacting hands-on with Missouri agriculture products. They made their own lunch and gained knowledge about the agriculture industry. The program for 2024 had approximately 61 participants.



Show-Me-Select (SMS) Heifer Replacement Program –

The SMS program showed increased adoption rate by farmers in Missouri of management practices that offer potential to improve long term reproductive efficiency of their herds resulting in profitability. The 2024 SMS sale for the Central Region was held in Vienna, MO. Chrisee Brandl is the Regional Coordinator for the Central Region. Chrisee completed 12 farm visits to gather pre-breeding, breeding, pregnancy data along with tagging heifers before the sale. There were 7 consignors that sold 43 heifers at the sale. The sale average was \$3,036. Heifers that were bred artificial insemination averaged \$3,173 and heifers that were bred natural service averaged \$2,946.

Grassland Partnership – This partnership is an USDA-NRCS funded program being led by the University of Tennessee and Extension service partners across nine states, including MU Extension. The partnership invited producers with grazing livestock to enroll in the program and implement specific grasslands management practices on their farms. These practices are known to improve grasslands productivity and provide environmental benefits including greenhouse gas reductions, that may offer an alternative source of income through developing carbon and environmental benefit markets. Chrisee Brandl is an agent for this partnership. Chrisee enrolled one producer that will implement native warm season grasses, amending soil with biochar, and planting legumes. This is a five-year project. Chrisee and Rusty Lee offered an event for producers to learn more about the program prior to enrollment closing. 11 participants attended the event.



Chrisee Brandl presented on the topic of extending the grazing season for livestock producers at various events. She reached approximately 725 youth and 50 producers on this topic.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Agriculture Lender Seminar

Seventy-two lenders from 20 Missouri counties and Illinois attended an ag lender seminar in Mexico. Lenders learned about crop and livestock outlook, agriculture policy, rental rates & land values, MU budgets, wind and solar leasing, input costs and enterprise budgets, Missouri farm business management summary and Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) programs. Four Montgomery County lenders attended the seminar.



Mary Sobba
Field Specialist
Agriculture
Business

By attending University of Missouri's Agricultural Lenders' seminars, lenders gain knowledge to help their clients make better decisions based on objective education and resources. More information and better decisions benefit their portfolio of producers, landowners, and agribusinesses through enhanced

understanding of enterprise budgets, market expectations, and other decision influencing factors affecting families' and businesses' financial health. Lenders in attendance manage farm loans totaling \$155,250,000.



Agriculture lenders learning the current information about rental rates, land values, budgets, wind and solar leasing and farm business management.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and in addition a was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals and attorneys.

One Montgomery County citizen participated in the school. The 2024 school attendance totaled 350 people throughout Missouri.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 sales of property, retirement tax issues, like-kind exchange issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,776 hours.

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

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

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



Mary Sobba, field specialist in agriculture business, presenting up-to-date tax information.

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Profiles and Stories

Horticulture Programming in East Central and Northeast Regions



Justin Keay
Field Specialist
Horticulture

In 2024, there were 2,565 direct contacts from 38 educational programs that Justin Keay, field specialist in horticulture, organized or co-taught. Participants in these in-person and online programs are actively engaged in the learning process. Programs included home vegetable gardening, commercial fruit and vegetable production, on-farm produce safety tours and trainings, value-added agriculture workshops, selling local foods workshops, grant opportunities for small farmers, soil fertility management, integrated pest management, and many more. There were 475 requests for horticulture information through calls, emails, walk-ins from 39 Missouri counties. Justin performed 22 farm visits across the Northeast and East Central regions to help small farmers solve crop production problems on their farms.

Online programming through webinars, videos, and e-newsletters has a state and national reach. The monthly Missouri Produce Growers Video Newsletter reaches over 1100 subscribers every month with a 155 increase in subscription during 2024. Topics

include fruit and vegetable production, small farm business management, pesticide safety, produce safety regulations, invasive pests, and more. Twenty-three educational videos were created and hosted on the MU IPM YouTube Channel. Videos from the newsletter received over 36,744 views in 2024.

Participants who engaged in horticulture programming learned about insects, weeds, diseases, soil health and fertility, general plant care, and variety selection. Small farmers learned how to increase their fruit and vegetable yields, grow their farm revenue, and protect Missouri's natural resources.

- Justin Keay connected seven small farms with MU Center for Regenerative Agriculture grant opportunities, who received a total of \$35,000 to support conservation projects on their farms.
- One-hundred and thirty-four fruit and vegetable farmers were trained on the Produce Safety Rule Food Safety Modernization Act. This training satisfies a regulatory requirement of the Food and Drug Administration.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Expanding Value-Added Production in Missouri

Adding value to fresh fruit and vegetables by processing them into finished products such as juice, ready-to-eat meal kits, sauces, and jams can help small farmers increase farm revenue and grow their farm businesses. This can allow growers to hire more staff and contribute more to the local economy. Justin Keay, field specialist in horticulture, hosted two all-day workshops to help producers understand marketing opportunities, food safety, and regulatory compliance to help producers bring their products to market.

Justin Keay teaching at the 'Selling Local Foods' workshop in Hannibal.



Training Growers on Federal Requirements for Product Safety



Farmers and producers learn about federal produce safety regulations at a local farm.

The Food Safety and Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule places regulatory requirements on produce growers to ensure consumers are provided with safe produce, free of common pathogens such as e. coli and salmonella.

In partnership with Missouri Farmers Union, Justin Keay, field specialist in horticulture, hosted four on-farm produce safety tours, where participants learned how to implement federal regulatory requirements on their farms and to ensure the produce they provide to consumers is safe.

In addition to on-farm tours, Justin Keay, field specialist in horticulture helped train 134 growers during six separate Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule trainings.

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Using Ultrasound to Evaluate Carcass Traits

Objective: “To provide objective and quantitative carcass data through ultrasound on livestock for the purpose of genetic improvement for carcass traits.”

Real-time ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to “see inside” while the animal is still alive. This technology allows for a fast and objective prediction of the carcass composition of the market animal.

Carcass traits are moderately heritable and are a good indicator of lean and fat in live animals. Ultrasound allows county fairs to have a carcass class without having to harvest the animals.

Benefits of using real-time ultrasound includes:

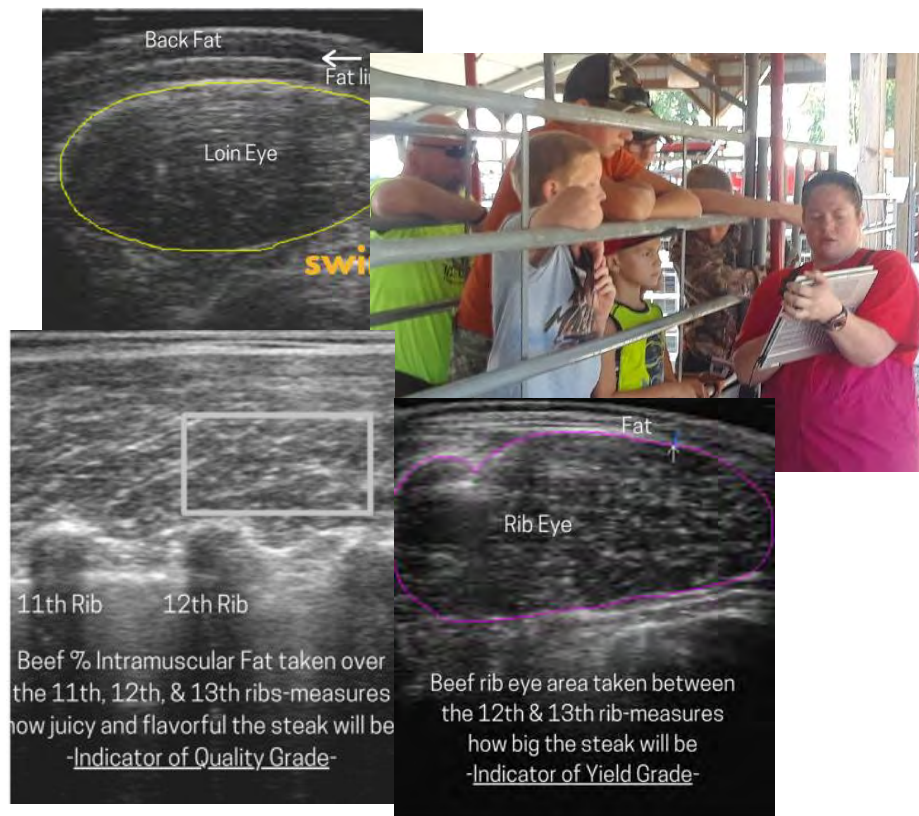
- ❖ Objective prediction of carcass lean (muscle) and fat in live animals
- ❖ Objective measure of percent intramuscular fat (marbling) on live cattle
- ❖ Eliminates the expense and time required by progeny testing for carcass merit



“Think of the animal as a Christmas present. The fancy wrapping and pretty bows is the ‘show’ or how good they look. The real present is the meat we eat inside. Ultrasound allows us to see inside at the gift without unwrapping the present.”



Heather Conrow
Livestock Specialist
State 4-H Animal Science Educator



Beef % Intramuscular Fat taken over the 11th, 12th, & 13th ribs-measures how juicy and flavorful the steak will be
-Indicator of Quality Grade-

Beef rib eye area taken between the 12th & 13th rib-measures how big the steak will be
-Indicator of Yield Grade-

2024 Ultrasound by the Numbers

- ❖ Over **5,700** miles traveled
- ❖ **273** head of cattle scanned
- ❖ **568** pigs scanned
- ❖ **164** head of sheep scanned
- ❖ **83** head of goats scanned
- ❖ Fat-free lean gain has improved from **0.31** kilograms per day to **0.375** kilograms per day in swine
- ❖ Loin eye area has increased from **8.0** to **8.3** square inches in swine
- ❖ Back fat has decreased from **0.9** to **0.79** inches in swine

Montgomery County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Ge • net • ics (/jə'nediks/) the science of genes and how traits are passed on from one generation to the next

Genetic Lockbox

Objectives: "Obtain a basic understanding of genetics. Distinguish genotype and phenotype. Define dominant and recessive alleles and how they are represented."

Genetic Lockboxes are an innovative and interactive means to educate the public about genetics. Participants exercise communication techniques as they work together to solve the puzzles. The puzzles are designed to make participants think through and apply problem-solving skills to genetic concepts. Participants will struggle, make mistakes, and rely on teammates.

Through a partnership with Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, the Genetic Lockbox has gone statewide with **64 boxes** located across the state. Teachers, 4-H volunteers, FFA advisors, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, etc. can reserve box(es) free of charge. It comes with all the puzzles, hint cards, answer sheets, and a 25-page Facilitator's Guide.



Crack the codes to open the locks to get the "prize" in the box. (Prizes not included.)

Fun Facts

- If all DNA strands in all the cells of **ONE** person were stretched out, it would reach to the sun and back more than **600** times
- Scientists can never clone a dinosaur because DNA has a half-life of **521** years
- Humans are **80%** genetically similar to cows
- Bone marrow transplant patients end up with 2 different DNA profiles
- All humans receive **3** feet of DNA from Dad and **3** feet from Mom
- Heart, eye and brain cells never replicate; therefore, they can never be replaced if damaged.
- Less than **2%** of our DNA codes for proteins - the rest is called "junk DNA" but is still useful
- A mouse uses more DNA from its father than its mother
- Almost all tortoiseshell cats are female, only **ONE** in **3,000** calico cats is male



Learn More



Participant working to solve the puzzle



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

AMERICA'S
SBDC
MISSOURI

CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



LOCS
— OF —
GLORY

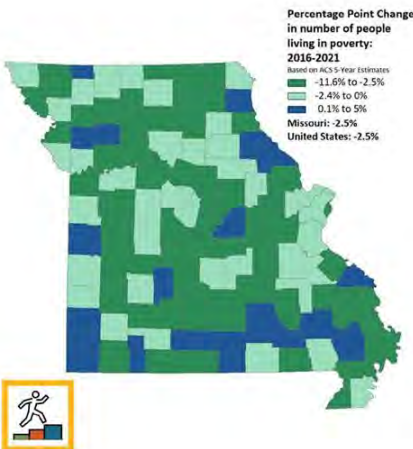
The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.



The **APEX Accelerators** (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) were created in 1984 by the Department of Defense to help businesses navigate the government marketplace. Since 1989, MU Extension has hosted the Missouri APEX Accelerator as a business development partner program. The mission of the program helps businesses learn how to expand their market by selling goods and services to local, state and federal government entities.

From Aug. 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023, the Missouri APEX Accelerators reported over 900 NEW CLIENTS, 4,700 COUNSELING HOURS and OVER 10,000 CONTRACTS AWARDED.



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

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

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& Stewardship



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Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Montgomery County

Business and Community

Local Impact

SBDC Roadshow: Facts & Snacks Comes to Montgomery County

The Missouri Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) Roadshow "Facts and Snacks program held three events in Montgomery County in 2024. These programs helped new and existing business owners with the resources they need.



Paul Zacharius
Small Business
Development Center
Business Counselor

Paul Zacharius and Marsha Moore, small business counselors with Missouri SBDC, presented at each session. Forty-four Montgomery County citizens attended the three sessions.

The first session, 'Small Business Resources', was an overview of the critical first steps associated with starting a business or growing an existing business. Participants learned about the importance of planning, discussed legal and regulatory requirements, identified sources of funding and what the Missouri SBDC offers.

'Creating a Marketing Plan for Your Small Business' helped attendees to evaluate their business by

understanding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in their business. Participants learned to identify their ideal audience and target customers, using marketing channels, setting goals and strategies, determining a marketing budget and plan for continued success.



Marsha Moore
Small Business
Development Center
Business Counselor

The final session focused on 'Bookkeeping Basics' with emphasis on tracking, recording and analyzing business financial transactions including purchases, sales, expenses, payroll and more. These numbers can help small business owners have a picture of business profitability.

In addition to Missouri SBDC, Peoples Savings Bank, American Bank of Freedom, Jonesburg State Bank, Montgomery City Library, Montgomery County Planning and Zoning and MU Extension in Montgomery County partnered to bring these programs to Montgomery County citizens.

Missouri SBDC Assists Montgomery County Citizens

In 2024, the Missouri SBDC professionals offered these personalized and extensive services for Montgomery County:

• \$ of Contract Awards	\$35,000.00
• # of Contract Awards	1
• Jobs Retained	355
• Unique Clients Served	7
• Number of Clients Counseled	8
• Number of Training Event Attendees	49

About the Missouri SBDC

The Missouri SBDC is here to help business owners and entrepreneurs get the information needed to make confident decisions and help Missouri businesses succeed. The business experts of the Missouri SBDC are your neighbors, dedicated to helping businesses grow. Learn more at missourisbdc.org. The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and is a partner of University of Missouri Extension's Business Development Program.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Community and Professional Health Education**



The **Missouri Research-Extension (MO-RE)** Protocol emphasizes the role of Community Health Field Specialists in transforming health and well-being across the state. Following a comprehensive county health needs assessment, each specialist is sharing their findings with partners, stakeholders and organizations in their regions to address the identified priorities.



Rural Immersion Program is an opportunity for medical students interested in rural practice to gain experience in the rewards and challenges of working and living in a rural community, examining rural health disparities and quality of life concerns within a specific region. Group activities and meetings with community leaders in business, government, education, health care and natural resources give students a preview of life in a rural area. The 2024 program was hosted by Union, Mo. and the 2025 host city will be Hayti, Mo.

All of the 2024 participants agreed that the Rural Immersion Program significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.



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.

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Community and Professional Health Education

Local Impact

Emily Poncher – Community Health Specialist

emilyponcher@missouri.edu

Serving Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Montgomery, and Phelps Counties

2024 AT A GLANCE

Hello all! 2024 was an eventful year for myself as a Community Health Specialist, as well as the Community Health Engagement and Outreach team. The year was filled with many successes and growth within the communities we serve across the state.

- I completed a Community Health Needs Assessment for the seven counties I cover. This included a Community Voice Survey, in which I collected 87 responses from community members living and working within these seven counties.
- Upon the completion of the Missouri Research-Extension (MO-RE) program with Dr. Julie Kapp, I identified health priority areas in which I will focus my work as a specialist. These priorities fall into three categories: a chronic disease, an emerging disease, and a cancer.

Chronic Disease: Heart Disease

Emerging Disease: Substance Use Disorder

Cancer: Lung Cancer

- In the fall, the Community Health Engagement and Outreach department aligned with Health and Human Sciences. I am eager to use this opportunity to collaborate more closely with my Nutrition and Health and Human Development and Family Sciences counterparts.



Presenting our research poster at the National Health Outreach Conference in SC

KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ Planned and implemented the 2024 Rural Immersion program in Union, MO for 19 health professional students from across the state
- ✓ Facilitated 5 WeCanProsper Resilience Trainings to over 40 participants region-wide
- ✓ Presented a research poster, "Exploring Innovative Extension-Based Approaches for Community Health Equity: A Comparative Case Study of the Missouri Research-Extension (MO-RE) Program," at the National Health Outreach Conference in Greenville, South Carolina with 3 fellow Community Health Specialists
- ✓ Shared cancer screening and prevention information with over 700 participants at the Sista Strut breast cancer walk in St. Louis
- ✓ Presented needs assessment findings to several internal and external stakeholders to leverage partnerships and resources



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



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



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



The LETI **School Protection Officer Program** provides basic training for school faculty and administrators to become school protection officers. The three-week academy typically runs during June and exceeds the hourly requirements for state recognition and certification.

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



Mental Health First Aid equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use challenges.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people (ages 12-17) facing mental health or addition challenges while the adult version focuses on adults aged 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

In Missouri, approximately 1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.*

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report



Cooking Matters

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

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

"We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!"

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

An engaging way to demonstrate the benefits of food safety, nutrition and physical activity. Meets Missouri's Show-Me Health and Physical Education standards and the state's School Wellness Policy.

"We have struggled with our daughter's picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things."

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant

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Local Impact

SNAP-Ed Program in Montgomery County

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline. There were 7,888 direct and indirect contacts were made in Montgomery 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.



Heather Warren
Nutrition Program
Associate

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Getting Healthy Through Gardening

The Fulton Community Supervision Center partnered with MU Extension in Montgomery County and Heather Warren, nutrition program associate, by teaching the Getting Healthy Through Gardening program at the center.

Participants had hands-on experience of planting, caretaking and harvesting fresh produce. They also learned cooking techniques and recipes using their homegrown vegetables.

The center offers a 120-day, four-phase program tailored to meet each resident's assessed needs, tackle intensive employment-readiness prep work,

provide on-site substance use disorder services and much more.



Center residents in front of their raised bed gardens.

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Montgomery County Success Story

One of several success stories thanks to Heather Warren's hard work and dedication.

The Montgomery County Extension office received a raised garden bed and a really nice shed through the Campus Garden grant last year. This spring our Extension Council paid to fill the bed with soil. The Family Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed) provided the seeds. A council member donated two pepper plants and two tomatillo plants. I planted butter crunch lettuce and spinach seeds and

transplanted the donated plants. So far I've harvested 16 (one gallon) bags of lettuce, and 9 (one gallon) bags of spinach! The produce has been donated to local low-income agencies in the community. We've even donated some lettuce to families that have been walking by while outside harvesting. The feedback we have received has been wonderful!

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Childcare Provider Training

MU Extension Field Specialists provide research-based training to help childcare providers stay current and meet state requirements. Licensed childcare centers in Missouri are required to complete 12 hours of professional development each year to maintain their licenses.

In 2024, MU Extension offered virtual and in-person trainings to a statewide audience. Locally, three virtual sessions were specifically offered to Montgomery County childcare providers, totaling 36 contact hours. These sessions covered important topics like basic nutrition, eating fresh produce, and

physical activity for children.

A total of eight Montgomery County providers participated in MU Extension childcare trainings. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of respondents saying they would recommend these trainings to others. These programs equip providers with the knowledge and skills to create healthier, more engaging environments for the children in their care.



Tyler Hall
Field Specialist
Nutrition & Health

ServSafe Manager Certification

Each year, 1 in 6 Americans - about 48 million people - gets sick from foodborne illnesses, with 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The ServSafe® Food Manager Certification Program is a nationally recognized program that teaches foodservice workers how to safely handle and prepare food. This training helps participants learn how to prevent food contamination, understand food safety principles, and practice good sanitation. By earning this certification, workers can meet regulations, keep their jobs, and improve the safety of the food served



in their communities.

In 2024, seven individuals in Montgomery County participated in ServSafe training. All participants passed their exams and earned certificates, allowing them to continue working in foodservice. Safe food practices help reduce foodborne illnesses, which can cost about \$1,850 per case. Preventing just 50 illnesses in the county could save an estimated \$92,000 in healthcare costs. When food safety is a priority, local businesses thrive, public health improves, and Missouri continues to be known as a safe destination for residents and visitors alike.

Montgomery County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

Learning Canning Basics

The Montgomery City Library and MU Extension in Montgomery County hosted a Food Preservation Class September 24 at the Montgomery City Library Community Room.

Tyler Hall, MU Extension field specialist in Health and Nutrition, led the one-hour introductory course about the basics of safe food preservation. Hall canned salsa using the steam bath canning method.

Participants were given MU Extension guide sheet GH1456 – “How to Can Fresh Tomato Products”. Canning is an important, safe method of food preservation, if research-based recommendations are followed carefully.

For any canning questions, please contact: Tyler Hall, MU Extension in Warren County, 636-456-3444 or by email hallty@missouri.edu.



Tyler Hall, field specialist in Health and Nutrition, explaining canning safety procedures to Joan Tries at the Food Preservation Class held September 24.

County Highlights



Front row: (l.-r.) Angie Poage, Garrett Poage, Madelyn Poage and Scott Poage.; back row (l.-r.) Jerald Andrews, Missouri State Commissioner; Chris Daubert, MU Vice Chancellor & Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Claire Walker, Missouri State Fair Queen; Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau ; Chad Higgins, Vice Chancellor for MU Extension & Engagement, & Chief Engagement Officer, UM System; Christine Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture; and Kevin Roberts, Chairman, Missouri State Fair Commissioner.

2024 Missouri State Fair Farm Family—Montgomery County

Scott and Angie Poage and family of Middletown were among the families honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day Aug. 12 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Poage family was selected as the Montgomery County Missouri Farm Family by MU Extension in Montgomery County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Garrett, Madelyn and Kaitlyn. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA.

The Poage family operates a farm in the Middletown area.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Department of Agriculture; Missouri State Fair Commissioners; MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and MU Extension.

“The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state”, said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”

County Highlights

December to Remember at Jonesburg Elementary

Jonesburg Elementary School sponsored their fourth annual December to Remember event in 2024. Each school day in December has a theme. Students and staff are treated with themed snacks, stickers, pencils, simply crafts or anything else that would be fun. Local organizations, parents or other groups are asked to sponsor one day.

The Montgomery County Extension Council sponsored December 12 – Wild Theme. One hundred six four students and 37 staff members were treated to Buck's Tiger Stripe Ice Cream. The ice cream is made fresh on the MU campus by food science students in the Division of Food, Nutrition and Exercise Science.

The Montgomery County Extension Council partners with Jonesburg Elementary with Eating from the Garden programs at the school's raised garden beds.



Tucker Love, Jonesburg Elementary student, enjoys Tiger Stripe Ice Cream at the December to Remember event.

Becoming An Engaged Neighbor

The Engaged Neighbor Program is dedicated to teaching people how to be friendly, active, and connected neighbors. The program's mission is to make being a kind, active neighbor not only something people do, but something that is seen as healthy, normal, and important.

By offering engaging events, helpful training, and easy-to-follow resources, the program encourages individuals to get involved, build relationships, and contribute positively to their neighborhoods.

Three Montgomery County citizens learned how to be a better neighbor at the Becoming An Engaged Neighbor program held October 17 in Montgomery City. Deana Dothage, extension and engagement specialist, St. Charles County, led the discussion.

Montgomery County Extension Council also participated in the 2024 Good Neighbor Week September 28 to October 4. Members packed food into Buddy Packs for the Wellsville-Middletown R-I Schools.



**Deana
Dothage**

Extension
Engagement

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