

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Morgan/Moniteau County 2025 Annual Report



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**SERVE MISSOURI.  
DELIVER MIZZOU.**

**M** Extension  
*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

108 Whitten Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
PHONE 573-882-2394  
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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



Elaine Anderson  
Extension Engagement Specialist



Joni Harper  
Field Specialist in Natural Resources



Landon Bax  
Field Specialist in 4-H



Laura Baepler  
Youth Program Associate Moniteau



Gabrielle Branstetter  
Youth Program Associate Morgan



Bobbie Kroeschen  
Office Manager

## Other Specialists Serving the Counties

Ramón Arancibia, Horticulture Specialist

Amie Breshears, Agriculture Business Special

Ashley Allen-Brown, Economic Development Specialist

Tina Edholm, Human Development Specialist

Alex Freeburger, Nutrition and Health Specialist

Todd Lorenz, Agronomy Specialist

Gene Schmitz, Livestock Specialist

## Council Members

### Morgan County

Marcel Guhr, Chairman  
Jenny Richens, Vice-chairman  
Marsha Nelson, Secretary  
Diann Holsten, Treasurer  
Wiesje Guhr  
Peggy Huhmann  
Jessca Johnson  
Julie Marriott  
Randy McCoin  
Greg Schad  
Donna Smiley  
Trent Edgar

### Moniteau County

Mac Finley, Chairman  
Kenny Kunze Vice-Chairman  
Dawn Cook, Secretary  
Jenna Berendzen  
Julie Berendzen  
Barb Denker  
Sandy Deraps  
Nicole Hallford  
Darell Hendrickson  
Kenny Kunze  
Chuck Massengill  
Sheila Moon  
Jessie Pace

## County Commissioners

### Morgan County

Tony Stephens, Presiding Commissioner  
Brian Lehman, Eastern Commissioner  
Trent Edgar, Western Commissioner

### Moniteau County

Joe Lutz, Presiding Commissioner  
Doug Naros, Northern Commissioner  
Rick Messerli, Southern Commissioner

# BUDGET AND MORE

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	78,920
Total Income	78,920

### Expenses

Office Support	35,000
4-H YPA Salary	20,015
Travel	8,000
Postage	1,700
Telephone	1,900
Advertising	1,500
Office Supplies	7,950
Insurance	1,500
Miscellaneous	155
Council Elections	300
Repairs	350
Furniture/Equipment	550
Total Expenses	78,920

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

## Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Morgan 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 (your county name) Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts [Your County] 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 (your 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 (your county name) is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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



# Morgan/Moniteau County

## Century Farms



**Morgan County**  
Richard and Darla  
Elliott



**Moniteau County**  
Hill Family

## State Fair Farm Family



**Moniteau County**  
John and Nicole Hallford



**Morgan County**  
Josh and Julie Marriott



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## Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



**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's Leadership and Civic Engagement** programs foster understanding, confidence, and decision-making skills to empower young people to become informed and active citizens. These initiatives prepare youth to become future leaders by engaging them in programs where they have voice and influence.

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



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

# Morgan/Moniteau County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Impact

Morgan and Moniteau counties together form a vibrant community of **1,384 youth** who are actively building life skills, contributing to their communities, and preparing to become college- and career-ready leaders. In 2025, **358 youth ages 5–18** and **34 dedicated volunteers** participated in local 4-H community club programs, demonstrating strong engagement and commitment across both counties. Across the two counties, **13 community 4-H clubs** provided long-term, research-based educational experiences that help young people grow into confident, capable adults. These clubs offer safe, supportive spaces where youth practice essential life skills such as **decision-making, public speaking, teamwork, responsibility, and leadership**. Members “learn by doing” as they explore hands-on projects guided by trained adult volunteers who share their expertise in areas ranging from **computers and the arts to animal science, STEM, agriculture, and healthy living**. Beyond project work, the clubs prioritize well-rounded youth development through meaningful opportunities in **community service, leadership roles, camping experiences, and educational trips**. These activities help youth strengthen civic responsibility, build connections with peers and mentors, and gain experiences that prepare them for future academic and career success. Together, Morgan and Moniteau County 4-H programs continue to create **stronger youth, stronger families, and stronger communities**, ensuring that today’s young people are equipped with the skills and confidence they need to thrive—both now and in the years ahead.



# Morgan/Moniteau County

## Missouri 4-H

### Profiles and stories



**Moniteau County Honoring our Hero's** A group of nine teens from each of Moniteau's traditional 4-H clubs coordinated an Honoring Our Heroes Ceremony in California, MO, held at Lathem Memorial Park. The 4-H youth who participated in the event expressed a strong sense of pride and helped bring the community together. Their celebration drew nearly 200 attendees and received tremendous support from the local community.

Moniteau County also received the **Missouri State Fair Chapter Carcass Sweepstakes** sponsored by the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. This \$500 award is given to the 4-H county with the most points earned in the carcass division. All members who entered their animals in a carcass class at the Missouri State Fair helped earn this award!



The **Morgan County Day Camp** "Powered by the Sun" theme introduced youth to the exciting world of renewable energy through hands-on STEM exploration. Participants worked with solar-powered STEM kits, experimenting with how sunlight can be transformed into usable energy. This engaging experience encouraged curiosity, problem-solving, and teamwork as youth built and tested their solar projects.





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## Agriculture and Environment



**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**



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.



**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.**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Morgan/Moniteau County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Profiles and stories



**Private Pesticide Applicator** training certifies producers for purchasing restricted use pesticides.

Pests limit yields nationally by approximately 30%; safely controlling them using integrated pest management maintains economic value while protecting the environment.

There were **78** producers from Morgan and Moniteau who attended the Pesticide Applicator Program this year in either Private or Commercial.

**Grazing schools** are held in conjunction with Morgan Co. Soil & Water Districts and Missouri Extension. Soil and water districts has cost-share funds available for managed grazing systems; one of the requirements to be eligible for cost-share is that producers attend a Grazing School to learn about managed grazing systems before they create one on their own. Gene Schmitz, Colby Lehman, John Turner, Joni Harper, and Travis Harper presented in the 25 participates at the Fall Morgan County grazing school.

### Show-Me-Quality Assurance Training

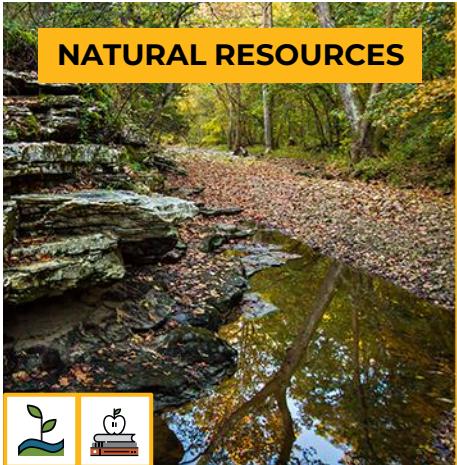
Youth participating in 4-H Market animal projects are required to take the SMQA training throughout their show careers.

Participants learn livestock management skills related to the production of 4-H market animal projects. Emphasis is placed on animal welfare, proper use of animal health products, food safety, and exhibiting good character traits while showing their livestock projects. A total of 68 youth in Benton, Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan, and Pettis counties received training in 2025.



# Morgan/Moniteau County

## Agriculture and Environment



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

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

### **Chainsaw Safety Training**

Participants in the Beginner Chainsaw Safety Training increased their ability to safely operate and maintain chainsaws through hands-on instruction and field practice. As a result of the training, participants demonstrated improved awareness of workplace and woodland safety hazards, proper use of personal protective equipment, and correct cutting techniques—reducing the risk of injury and supporting safer land and woodland management activities.



### **Invasive Plant Control Workshop**

Ten woodland owners who participated in the Invasive Plant Workshop increased their ability to identify priority invasive plant species and understand their impacts on forest health. As a result of the training, participants were better prepared to select and apply appropriate invasive plant management strategies on their own properties, supporting improved woodland condition, enhanced wildlife habitat, and reduced spread of invasive species across the landscape.

# Morgan/Moniteau County

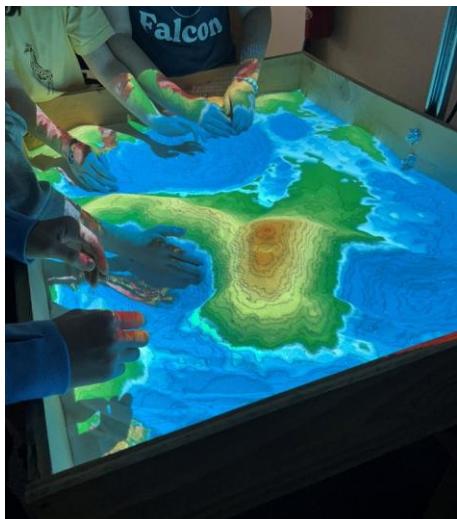
## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

The **Missouri Master Gardener** program enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and apply what they have learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



**In 2025, 43 Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners** completed over **1580 VOLUNTEER HOURS** throughout Morgan and Moniteau counties. The dollar value of their volunteer hours is **\$55011**.



### Experience Earth's Surface — 4-H Youth Summer Camp

The program reached 195 youth, introducing them to topographic maps, watersheds, and watershed health. Participants practiced reading maps, learned key conservation concepts, and used an augmented reality sand table to visualize landforms and water flow through hands-on activities.



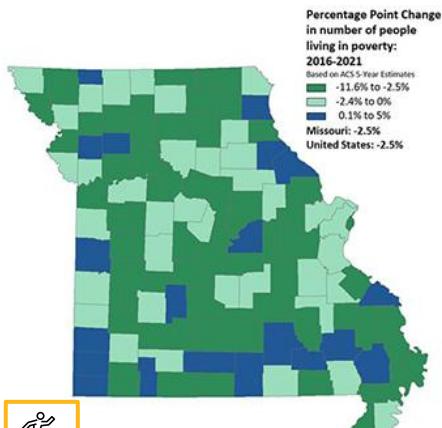
### Missouri Pollinators Youth Program

This program introduced youth to Missouri's pollinators and their role in healthy ecosystems. Participants learned how bees, butterflies, and other pollinators support food production and plants. Youth also explored different flavors of honey, comparing how nectar sources influence taste, color, and aroma. Hands-on activities helped students connect pollinator diversity to the honey they enjoy.



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## Business and Community



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

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

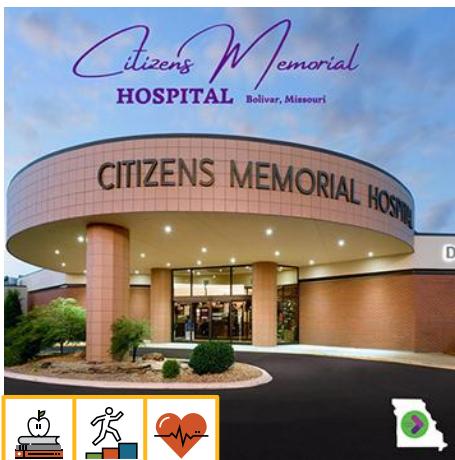


### CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



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

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



**Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFWs)** foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program.

**As of 2024, 41 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,651 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## 2025 SUMMARY

## Business and Community

In 2025, Morgan County demonstrated strong civic foundations and leadership capacity, reflecting a community that is stable, engaged, and well-positioned for continued growth. Deep place attachment, long-term residency, and a shared commitment to community life contribute to a solid base of trust, safety, and civic connection. Together, these strengths create meaningful momentum and a strong platform for decision-making in 2026 and beyond.

At the same time, like many rural communities, Morgan County faces opportunities to further strengthen workforce participation, access to essential services, and pathways that support long-term economic vitality. Strategic alignment—bringing together local leadership, community insight, and data-informed programming—can help turn existing strengths into coordinated action.

**MU Extension Regional Economic Development programming is designed to support this next phase**, helping Morgan County stakeholders, leaders, and whole communities build on what is working while addressing emerging challenges with intention and collaboration.



Ashley Allen-Brown, Ed.D.  
Regional Economic  
Development Specialist  
allen-brown@missouri.edu



### Total Direct Contacts

1726

### Total Program Participants

2809

### Total Indirect Reach

157,413

## Regional Economic Development (RED) Programming Impact: Depth and Reach (2025) Morgan County



**Direct Contacts:** 37 residents interacted or contacted MU Extension B&C RED in **Morgan County** for assistance.



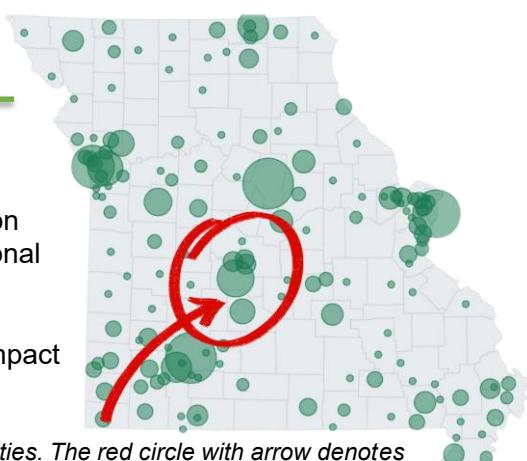
**Program Participants:** 12 individuals and stakeholders from **Morgan County** participated in an MU Extension B&C RED program.



**Indirect Reach:** 1,200 Morgan County residents reached through articles, hard copy educational materials, community events, and social media engagement.

### Did you know?

MU Extension Business and Communities' Economic and community development programming for the Lake of the Ozarks region including Morgan County, is led by one Regional Economic and Community Development Specialist, yet the region continues to exceed engagement goals and deliver measurable impact across multiple counties.



\*The image to the right demonstrates B&C-specific activity heatmap across all Missouri counties. The red circle with arrow denotes heavy concentration of activity in Miller County and the Lake of the Ozarks Region.

# Business and Community Tackling the Grand Challenges through Regional Economic and Community Development Programming

## Crisis to Collaboration: Tackling the Child Care Challenge

Held November 12 in Sunrise Beach, this meaningful program addressed the region's childcare shortage as a critical workforce, economic development, and community sustainability issue. Organized by Dr. Ashley Allen-Brown and hosted by the Camden County Council of MU Extension in partnership with CO-MO Connect, the Community Foundation of Lake of the Ozarks, the Lake West Chamber, and Lake TV, the solutions-focused panel and asset-mapping workshop moved the conversation from awareness to action. Forty-five participants from across Missouri—including educators, community leaders, and practitioners—engaged in identifying root causes, sharing promising practices, and mapping local assets to support collaborative, community-driven solutions for strengthening the Lake of the Ozarks workforce and economy. **There were 45 in attendance from across the state.**



Left: An expert panel moderated by Jennifer Presberry, Economic Development Specialist for CO-MO Connect, kicked off this day of meaningful engagement.

*Photo courtesy of Lake TV.*

Camden County attendees = 16  
Miller County attendees = 1  
Hickory County attendees = 1

Morgan County attendees = 3  
Laclede County attendees = 1

## Four-County Recovery Friendly Workplace Learning Luncheon 2025

Organized by Dr. Ashley Allen-Brown and co-hosted by the Laclede and Camden County Councils of MU Extension. The Four-County Recovery Friendly Workplace Learning Luncheon was underwritten in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Lake of the Ozarks, and the program allowed employers, decision-makers, healthcare practitioners, and concerned community members the chance to hear from labor and workforce development experts regarding the Recovery Friendly Workplace program. This was designed to approach the workforce crisis topic currently plaguing Missouri. Dr. Doug Swanson and Dr. Rob Russell presented strategies to reduce stigma and provide recovery resources. In addition to the program, attendees will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch and interact with key resource providers. **There were 24 individuals in attendance from across the state.**

# Morgan/Moniteau County

**M** Extension  
*University of Missouri*

Presents

## Crisis to Collaboration Tackling the Childcare Challenge

Expert Panel Discussion - Luncheon - Asset Mapping Workshop

A FREE Community Service in partnership with

COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of the LAKE  
Connecting People With Purpose

Co-MO CONNECT

Lake West  
CHAMBER

LAKETV  
LAKE OF THE OZARKS TV STATION

[bit.ly/ChildcareSummit25](http://bit.ly/ChildcareSummit25)



Above left: Morgan County resident and Good Shepherd Learning Center director, Cyndy Andrews, shares her expertise and experience as a childcare provider during the expert panel discussion..

*Photo courtesy of Lake TV.*

**M** Extension  
*University of Missouri*

## RECOVERY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE

LEARNING LUNCHEON AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

MEET YOUR LABOR AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS



DR. DOUG SWANSON



DR. ROB RUSSELL

11:30 AM  
UNTIL  
2:00 PM



WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 9,  
2025

THE LODGE OF FOUR SEASONS  
VALENCIA ROOM  
315 FOUR SEASONS DRIVE - LAKE OZARK, MO

The Recovery Friendly Workplace Learning Luncheon is part of the MU Extension Resilient Economies and Community Health (REACH) Workforce Development Collaborative, and is underwritten in part by the Camden and Laclede County Councils of MU Extension, and

COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of the LAKE  
Connecting People With Purpose



Above: Dr. Doug Swanson provides key information while Miller and Morgan County community leaders and stakeholders listen and engage.

Morgan County attendees = 1

## NONPROFIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION, REFERRALS, AND SUPPORT FOR MISSOURI'S  
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Our statewide regional economic and community development team will answer introductory-level questions and make referrals to other programs, services, and organizations, when applicable. Ashley Allen-Brown, West Central Region, provides expertise in fundraising, marketing, membership development and communication, legislative and grassroots advocacy training.

Counties and number of individuals assisted through NPTA:

Camden County = 5  
Dallas County = 3  
Hickory County = 1  
Laclede County = 1  
Miller County = 1  
**Morgan County = 2**

## Build Your Board Online Training

Hosted a Build Your Board live Zoom to help nonprofit professionals gain essential board leadership skills, covering topics like board operations, fundraising, conflict resolution, and marketing—all in engaging, one-hour sessions. **There were 24 in attendance from across the state.**

Camden County attendees = 2  
Laclede County attendees = 1

Dallas County attendees = 1  
Miller County attendees = 1

**Morgan County attendees = 1**



**BUILD YOUR BOARD**  
Training for nonprofit board members

**Tuesday, April 29 - Session 9: Promoting Your Organization**

Our ninth session of Build Your Board will cover the topic of promoting your organization, including developing a marketing plan, using social media and traditional media.

**BYB Zoom Link**  
Meeting ID: 917 2901 5294  
Passcode: 610981

**Session 9 Facilitator**  
  
**Ashley Allen-Brown**  
Regional Economic  
Development Specialist  
University of Missouri  
Extension

**LET'S  
TALK**

## Morgan County's data reveals strong leadership, deep community roots, and clear opportunities for growth!

Community leaders and stakeholders are encouraged to connect with *Dr. Ashley Allen-Brown, MU Extension Regional Economic Development Specialist*, to host customized, data-driven presentations, programs, and/or workshops that support informed decision-making and local priorities..

Email: [allen-browna@missouri.edu](mailto:allen-browna@missouri.edu)

## REACH is Opportunity to Grow Morgan County's Workforce From Within

Communities throughout West Central Missouri, including **Morgan County**, are facing ongoing workforce shortages and increasing concern about youth outmigration.



The MU Extension Business & Communities **Resilient Economies and Community Health (REACH) Youth Mentoring and Workforce Development Program** offers a proven, school-based approach to strengthening local workforce pipelines by connecting students ages 14–18 directly to local businesses, employers, and career pathways—reinforcing that meaningful opportunities exist right here at home, even for students not pursuing a four-year degree.

REACH builds career awareness, essential 21st-century workforce skills, and confidence while aligning youth readiness with regional labor needs and supporting long-term economic vitality. In its initial implementation, **100% of participants reported increased awareness of local career opportunities and reasons to remain in their community after graduation, and 95% reported stronger understanding of essential workforce skills**, demonstrating strong potential for REACH to deliver similar impact in Morgan County as interest in youth workforce development continues to grow.

Morgan County youth, educators, and business owners are invited to participate in REACH.  
Email: [allen-browna@missouri.edu](mailto:allen-browna@missouri.edu) to learn more.



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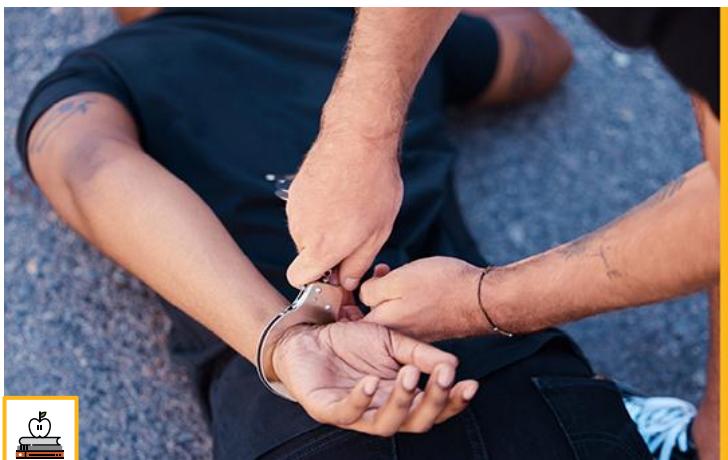
## Continuing Education



Established in 2002, the **Fire Officer Certificate Program** is designed for those who wish to further their professional development without the time and expense of traditional college classes. This program has been developed and evaluated to ensure it provides structured curriculum delivery and academic rigor. The program requires completion of 288 of instruction within three years.



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.



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

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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

## Health and Human Sciences



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

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



**Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** supports older adults in maintaining strength, balance, and mobility to fully engage in the activities that matter most to them. The program combines safe, effective exercises with practical information on nutrition and wellness, helping participants build confidence, connection, and **well-being** for lifelong health.

**After eight weeks, participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program showed significant improvement in their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.**



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

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

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

### Local Impact

#### **SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2025**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 70,722 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 970,939 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, and food pantries.

3349 direct and indirect contacts were made in Morgan/Moniteau 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.

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

#### **EFNEP Public Value Statement 2025**

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 424 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,550 family members. Additionally, 2,942 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

66 of these youth and adult participants reside in Morgan/Moniteau County.

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

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