



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Pemiscot County 2025



Annual Report

2353 County Road 337
Hayti, MO 63851

**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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

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

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

With appreciation,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff Resources



Amber Childers
Extension Engagement Specialist



Richard Rickman
Field Specialist in Labor & Workforce
Development



Mike Milam
Field Specialist in Agriculture &
Environment



Sarah Denkler
Regional Director – Southeast



Jennifer Hall
4-H Youth Development Educator



Audrey Johnson
Field Specialist in Human
Development



Traven Crocker
Field Specialist In Horticulture



Randy Stephens
Field Specialist In Agriculture
Business



Eric Johnson
Field Specialist in Nutrition &
Health

Council Members

Russell Gilmore
Stephanie Waldrop
Paula Guest
Bobby Powell
Jonna Green
Stephanie Sheckell
Amy Boone
Charles Davis
Ray Nabors

Our Community

Every year Missourians turn to the University of Missouri (MU) Extension for practical knowledge, problem-solving, and guidance in navigating change. As a key resource for informed decision-making, we play a vital role in delivering this knowledge, fostering progress, and empowering individuals and communities to thrive.

County Commission

Mark Cartee — Presiding Commissioner
David Greer — District 1
Baughn Merideth — District 2

OUR MAIN PROGRAM AREAS

- › Agriculture
- › Business & Workforce Development
- › Community Development
- › Health and Human Science Initiatives
- › Nutrition & Health Education
- › 4-H Youth Development

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	12,000
Retained Funds	2,700
Total Income	14,700

Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	10,982
Travel	1608
Telephone	435
Office Supplies/Service	565
Professional Services	410
Insurance	700
Total Expenses	14,700

Return on investment

For every dollar invested by Pemiscot County, the University of Missouri invests \$5.957.



Key Outcomes

4_H Youth Development

48 Participants

- 1 Community Club Membership
- 47 In-School Participation

Agriculture

56 Contacts

- 40 Plant Production & Technology Contacts
- 16 Soil Testing

Business and Community

375 Contacts

- 4 Business Development Contacts
- 357 Labor & Workforce Development Contacts

Health & Human Services

14,573 Contacts

- 336 Nutrition & Health Contacts
- 14,231 SNAP-ED Contacts
- 6 Community Health Engagement and Outreach



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to *(name of county)* 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 — INSTRUCTIONS

To help incorporate county-level impact data into your annual report, add the link to your county's report along with the description on Slide 10. (Be sure to add your county name in the title) Remove this slide once completed.

1. Visit [Community Connect](#) to create an Impact Report for your county.
2. On the report site, select the appropriate county.
3. Click on the “View impact report” link.
4. When your report opens, copy the URL and link it to the text “Access your county's Impact Report” on Slide 10.
5. Right-click (Chrome) report webpage and create QR Code.
Save and insert on Slide 10



GRAND CHALLENGES — INSTRUCTIONS

To help incorporate the grand challenge data into your annual report, add the link to your county's report along with the description on Slide 10. (Be sure to add your county name in the first line of paragraphs 2 & 3). Remove this slide once completed.

1. Visit [All Things Missouri](#) to create a Grand Challenges report.
2. Select your county.
3. Once you have selected a county, copy and paste the URL to the text “Access your county's Grand Challenges report” on Slide 10.
4. Right-click (Chrome) report webpage and create QR Code.
Save and insert on Slide 10.



Pemiscot County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Pemiscot County 4-H is pleased to share our successes for the 2025 calendar year. We have served youth in Pemiscot County through our 4-H Youth Farm Animal Art Show and through combined efforts with Lincoln University 4-H.

The 4-H Youth Farm Animal Art Show was held at Caruthersville Public Library in April and was a success. Participants and art viewers were treated to a cookies and punch reception, and the top 3 winners from each grade level progressed to the Margaret Harwell Museum in Poplar Bluff, MO for the regional showing and judging.

In conjunction with Lincoln University, the University of Missouri Extension 4-H taught classes at a summer camp in Caruthersville. The youth Educator, Jennifer Hall, taught classes on Healthy Living, emphasizing identification of fruits and vegetables, the importance of exercise, the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and avoiding things that are toxic to our bodies. Students made healthy smoothies by providing their body's energy to a blender bike to mix fruit, ice, and juice.

At Camp H2O, we taught about buoyancy, weight distribution and did a STEM activity. Students made boats from one sheet of aluminum foil and tested the weight limits of each while floating on the water by adding glass marbles. We documented the number of glass marbles and hypothesized how we could make the boats better, then repeated the experiment, many with better results.



Health and Human Sciences

Stay Strong Stay Healthy



Strength training sessions in a fun and supportive environment to help improve participant strength and leave you more energized and connected as you increase your overall fitness, flexibility and balance. Participants build muscle and increase bone density to reduce frailty, osteoporosis and the risk of falls.

Participants improved their strength, flexibility, balance, and auxiliary activity to decrease the risk of falls and improve their overall health. Classes in 2025 led to a **regional savings of \$116,760 in annual healthcare costs.**



Eric Johnson
Field Specialist in Nutrition & Health

100% of participants who agree or strongly agree they are more knowledgeable of how to safely strength train.

100% of participants who agree or strongly agree their physical fitness has improved.

95% of participants reported fewer falls in the two months during the program.

100% of participants who improved or maintained flexibility and balance.



Health and Human Science SNAP-Ed

Profiles and stories

Fonda Green, Nutrition Program Associate

SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought over \$11,000,000 in federal funds to Missouri in 2025 to support engagement with 70,663 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens.

Through direct education, newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline, Fonda reached 5984 direct and 12483 indirect contacts in Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties.

“I now spend time planning out healthier meals for the week since attending the classes with the nutrition program taught at FCC in Dunklin County.”

MU Extension nutrition educators work with individuals and groups in a variety of settings throughout the state to meet a wide range of needs. Whether reaching out to youth and adults through direct education or working with communities to promote healthy policies, systems and environments (PSE), our goal is to help participants make behavior changes to achieve lifelong health and fitness. Often people tell us how the program has impacted their lives, even years after they have participated. Each day there are new stories that bring home the same important message: The MU Extension Family Nutrition Education Program makes a difference, a difference that means better health and fitness for a lifetime.



5984 participants
(both youth and adult)
received direct education
in Pemiscot and Dunklin
Counties in 2025.



Fonda Green teaching 101 students during a Safety event in partnership with Lincoln University.

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Traven Crocker, Horticulture Field Specialists

MU Extension's horticulture programming in the county focused on consultation, building relations with local businesses, and delivering virtual horticulture education.

Impact

Direct contacts provided timely problem-solving and technical support to residents, totaling 3 one-on-one interactions. Built relations with local businesses to foster community partnerships with MU Extension.

Soil test, horticulture: 6

Program Examples: Individualized consultation

Direct Contact Topics: 3 participants

- Grow lights, commercial business
- Seed starting and selling, commercial business.
- Inquiry to master gardener program

Collaboration with 4-H

- Community garden planning

Poplar Bluff Extension Master Gardeners

In 2025, the Poplar Bluff Area Master Gardener chapter contributed 375 volunteer hours and 124 continuing education hours. These efforts are valued at \$13,046.25, based on the Independent Sector's 2025 rate of \$34.79 per hour.

Chapter Projects

- Ag Day, 83 participants
- Sierra Girls Garden and Grow, 6 participants
- Popeyes demonstration garden
- Butler County Exhibits and More, 165 participants
- Women's Aware event
- Mums fundraising sale

Extension Master Gardener Training: 2 sessions

- Spring, 1 participant
- Fall, 2 participants

Indirect & Virtual Reach

- Two radio interviews on Show Me Today reached approximately 60,000 listeners statewide.
- The Garden Hour virtual series drew 1488 attendees across 12 sessions through the year and delivered horticulture education.
- Sessions are available through live Zoom and posted on the [MU Extension Integrated Pest Management](#) YouTube channel.





Local Impact

Rob Russell with
A Bootheel farmer for ride.



Local Youth at Career Day



Students at Career Day at Delta Center

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories



Market Outlooks: As a result of the increased market uncertainty and low commodity prices I presented multiple market outlooks. They included: 2025 Crop Conference, Perry County Farm Bureau Crop Conference, Big River Ag Grower meeting and TRC Beef Market Outlook.



Southeast Missouri Outlook: I began a newsletter in April that is sent out monthly to 1318 farmers, ag business professionals and ag lenders in the region. The newsletter has been a huge success. Feedback from recipients, as well as data from DotDigital, our email platform, indicates a total open rate of 81%.

Canola Budget: New to the MU Extension line-up of crop budgets is a winter canola budget. I worked with industry representatives and other MU faculty to develop a winter canola budget that will be available to producers to view and download. Interest in canola production has grown in Southeast Missouri as a result of new markets that are available as well as profitable contacting options for canola.

