



Extension
University of Missouri



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Pettis County 2025



Annual Report

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Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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

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

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

We have also adapted to new realities. Even as the 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,

Chadwick C Higgins

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Faculty housed in the Pettis County Office

Elaine Anderson
Extension Engagement Specialist

Sherol Bose
Administrative Assistant

Maria "Monse" Montoya De Rivera ,
Nutrition Program Associate
Pettis County Community Partnership

Alexander Freeburger
Field Specialist in Health and Nutrition

Katharine Hanlon
Nutrition Program Associate

Billie Long
Volunteer - Master Gardener, Emeritus

Seton Miller
4-H Youth Program Associate – Career Readiness

Glenita Montgomery
4-H Youth Program Associate

Gene Schmitz
Field Specialist in Livestock

Additional faculty with assignments in Pettis

Amie Breshears
Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Christina Edholm
Field Specialist in Human Development

Kim Hall
Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Joni Harper
Field Specialist in Natural Resources

Travis Harper
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Kathi Mecham
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Small Business and Technology Development Center at State Fair Community College

Kelly Asbury

West Central Regional Director

Wayne Prewitt

Elected Council Members

Matthew Vickrey, Chairman
Patty Wood, Vice-chairman
Courtlin Saunders, Secretary
Nancy Sellers, Treasurer
Scott Applegate
Israel Baeza
Steve Beard
Mary Beatty
Fred Binder
Kevin Daniel
David Dick
Rhiannon Foster
Craig Guffin
Sue Guffin
Greg Harrell
Jane Henderson
Don Hutcheson
Samantha Rieckhoff
Steven Tucker



County executives

Bill Taylor, Presiding Commissioner
Israel Baeza, Eastern Commissioner
Mark Edwards, Western Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	91,239
Total Income	91,239
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	59,883
Travel	3,350
Telephone	1,300
Office Supplies/Service	3,300
Utilities	3,500
Insurance	2,400
Capital Repairs	100
Rent	17,406
Total Expenses	91,239

Pettis County partners



Pictured are Israel Baeza, Eastern Commissioner; Ivy Elwell, Pettis County 4-H Council President and Missouri FFA, President; Bill Taylor, Presiding Commissioner and Mark Edwards, Western Commissioner

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Pettis 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 Pettis County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Pettis 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 Pettis County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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





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Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



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's College and Career Pathways programs emphasize the pivotal role of education in achieving career goals, creating paths to success through exposure to project areas, mentorship, and skill-building experiences. Programs like **On My Own** and **Youth Futures** give youth practical tools in financial literacy, goal-setting, and workplace readiness, helping them gain confidence in planning for life after high school.

By connecting education, career exploration, and hands-on learning, 4-H prepares young people to be **Beyond Ready**—equipped with the knowledge, skills, and adaptability to succeed in school, careers, and life.



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.

Legend



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Health
& Well-Being

Local Impact

**Pettis County
Youth Served 1148
Adult Volunteers 89
Jr. 4-H Leaders 5**

4-H Day at the Capitol



Pictured: Eli D., Cora S., Samuel G., Micah G., Kinze W., Harley B., Rayleigh B., Avery F., Mallory R., and Avery C.

On March 26, 2025, **ten** Pettis County 4-H members and their chaperones met at the AmTrak Station in Sedalia. For many it was their very first train ride. Nearly **900** 4-H members spent the day visiting the State Capitol, the Senators and Representatives of Missouri.



Missouri 4-Hers pose at Capitol

Chicks in the Classroom

Pettis County 4-H kicked off three Embryology sessions from February to April. In total, the Embryology program reached **10** schools, **41** classrooms, and involved **854** Pettis County students from Pre-K to 4th grade.



Hatching chicks in an incubator



Hatched chick at Parkview Elementary

Pettis County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Pettis County 4-H Dog Show



Pettis County 4-H Dog Project Youth

Pettis County 4-H/FFA Horse Show

Muddy Creek 4-H Saddle Club hosted the Pettis County 4-H/FFA Horse show at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. **48** youth coming from nine Counties to participate. These youth compete in classes from Pleasure Driving to Poles and Barrels. Pettis saw two Reserve High Point buckles come home.



Kinzie H.



2025 Pettis County 4-H/FFA Horse Show Award Winners



Pettis County 4-H Dog Project Youth – Clover Kids

We had **seven** 4-Hers show, **four** Clover Kids participate and one other 4-Her volunteer to help (she didn't think her dog was ready yet). All were members of our Pettis County Dog Project although we had four counties represented!



2025 Pettis County 4-H/FFA Horse Show

Local Impact

Contest Night, Fashion Revue and Achievement Days

These events for 4-H members and Clover Kids to showcase their skills and knowledge gained from their 4-H projects. By taking part in these events, 4-H youth have the chance to qualify for presenting demonstrations and projects at the Missouri State Fair.

Demonstrations

Six 4-H Members

One Clover Kid

Fashion Revue

Four 4-H Members

Achievement Days

132 exhibits in 27 categories

62 4-H Members

22 Clover Kids

Missouri State Fair

44 exhibits

One Clover Kid Demonstration

Four 4-H Member Demonstrations

BEST OF SHOW for Cakes



Basket Weave Cake by Lexi M.

Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show & Sale

The Pettis County Jr. Livestock Show was held on Sunday, July 13th and Monday, July 14th at the Sheep Barn on the Missouri State Fairgrounds.

61 4-H/FFA exhibitors

147 Head of livestock

17 Pee Wee youth (ages 5-7)

Activities kicked off on Sunday with the Poultry and Rabbit shows, then started early Monday morning with livestock check-in, shows throughout the day.



2025 PeeWee Beef Show

Pettis County 4-H Livestock Judging Team qualifies for the Nationals



Elyse C, Elliott C, Maggie R., Rayleigh B.

Local Impact

Pettis County Shooting Sports SPIN Club

32 youth partook in six Shooting Sports Disciplines

30th Annual Pettis County Shoot-Off.

24 4-H Members participated

Missouri 4-H State Shoot

14 4-H Members participated



Pictured, Back row: Bobbie D., Amy C., Jackson K., Phil M., Abram M., Buzz H., Michael C., Madysen S., Riley S. and Don H. Front row: Eliakim C., Avery F., Olivia R., Bennett K., Samuel G., Micah G., and Liliauna C.

College and Career Pathways

The Patterson Grant funds additional education for students grades 6-12 on College and Career Pathways. The 4-H Youth Futures Program is a component of this additional education. The mission of Youth Futures is to help youth identify and aspire to reach personal postsecondary goals based on their strengths and values and to expand accessibility to the paths leading to such goals. The Youth Futures Program was implemented in: Applewood Christian School, Green Ridge R-8, Pettis County R-V, Pettis County R-XII, Sacred Heart Elementary & High School, and the Sedalia Boys & Girls Club. There was a total of **268** youth involved in the program in 2025.

A teacher stated, "... The information is very valuable to the students and curriculum. The hands-on activities were very enjoyable..." A high school student involved in the Youth Futures Program stated, "The info she [Ms. Miller] gave us was clear, understandable, and reliable."

The Pettis County 4-H Archery three-person Intermediate teams, took First and Second Place at the MO 4-H State Shoot



First Place Archery Team
Oliver G., Avery F., Samuel G.



Second Place Archery Team
Liliauna C., Michael C., Moxie C.



Students practicing a hand-shake



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Agriculture and Environment



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



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

"A lot of veterans come right out of the service and may feel disconnected and may be struggling with finding job opportunities. The Heroes to Hives program offers a diversion as well as opportunities."

Eric Work, Heroes to Hives participant

Heroes to Hives offers free professional training in beekeeping to veterans, promoting financial and personal wellness through community development. Missouri's Heroes to Hives group has trained more than 1,200 veterans since 2021. It is the nation's largest agriculture training program for U.S. military service members.



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



In 2025, 2,125 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 112,713 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state, a value of \$3.9M dollars.

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& Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

PEARLS OF PRODUCTION – WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Pearls of Production is a statewide educational program for women involved in livestock production. In 2025, MU Extension offered five virtual sessions providing practical, research-based education on critical topics, including on-farm biosecurity, herd health management, nutrition strategies for pregnant cows and heifers, vaccination and disease prevention, innovative marketing tools such as artificial intelligence, and hands-on programs for new beekeepers. In Pettis County, **2** participants engaged in the program, gaining knowledge and resources to make informed management decisions, improve farm productivity, and promote sustainable practices.



"I have learned so many things from Pearls that I will have to really think about what has helped me the most. I have learned something from everything I've been to, from chainsaws to welding to locker plants, chicken operations, and pig breeders. And especially from the hands-on classes you provide. I can honestly say I've never been bored or didn't learn an essential skill from every session I've attended."



Image of a plant in the ground

Soil Testing

More than **88** soil samples representing more than **1,800** acres were submitted through the Pettis County Extension office for analysis at University of Missouri Extension's soil testing laboratory. Soil sampling provides Pettis County's forage and row crop producers with an accurate analysis of exactly what is in their soil and provides them with recommended fertilizer application rates for the crop they are trying to grow. Pettis County's agronomist reviews the soil sample results with the producers, fine-tuning the recommendations for their particular situation and needs. Soil sampling and accurate fertilizer application increases crop production, reduces input cost, maximizes profit, and reduces the environmental impact of fertilizer loss from fields through leaching and runoff.

Local Impact

PaddockTrac Sensor Yield Estimation Research

Regional specialists continued working with MU faculty to harvest native warm season grass (NWSG) plots with the goal to develop PaddockTrac forage yield estimates for native warm season grass species. PaddockTrac is an integrated electronic forage measurement and yield estimation system. Forage height readings are correlated with clipped sample weights to develop equations to calculate yield estimates. Samples were collected from four NWSG plots at University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. These data support continuing work at MU



PaddockTrack sensor calibration harvest on Native warm season grass plots at UCM-Warrensburg

Livestock Update During PAT trainings

At the invitation of regional agronomy field specialists, I presented a livestock update during Pesticide Applicator Training sessions. This year's presentation focused on replacement heifer development. Approximately 100 producers from Benton, Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan, and Pettis counties attended these sessions.

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.



Presentation of SMQA Card; Gene S. and Wyatt R.

General Programming

Over 1,200 direct contacts have been reported through 11/30/25. These have come from 23 different counties across Missouri. This does not include indirect activities such as news releases, newsletter articles, field day presentations, state-wide commercial media interviews, etc.

Drought or abnormally dry conditions emerged late in the 2025 growing season. Beef cattle feeding and pasture and forage management were the focus of many of these contacts and media efforts due to ongoing weather challenges.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Private Pesticide Applicator Training teaches producers how to safely store, handle, and use restricted-use pesticides in agricultural production. Proper application of pesticides results in greater safety for both the applicator and their neighbors. Proper application of pesticides results in reduced exposure of pesticides to the environment, ultimately leading to safer living conditions for all Missourians. Approximately 26 Pettis County residents received a license in 2025. There are currently **208** active private pesticide applicators in Pettis County.



Person at agricultural sprayer tank

Heroes to Hives

Heroes to Hives is a statewide program offered through Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) and University of Missouri Extension that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. It features online training through MIFFS coupled with hands-on training from University of Missouri Extension at our teaching apiaries in Warrensburg, Mt. Vernon, Poplar Bluff and St. Louis. More than **1500** veterans from across Missouri have participated in the program with numerous participants coming from Pettis County.



Beekeeper at the hive

Local Impact



Master Gardeners of Pettis County

We manned a question & answer booth during the Ag-Expo in February. We held 12 classes during the Expo on the following subjects; Planting Trees, Pruning, Blueberries, Bog Gardening and Butterflies. The classes were provided by four Master Gardeners.

Every Saturday, for six hours, beginning in March through mid May, 11 Show-Me Master Gardeners set up and ran a question & answer booth at Sutherlands' Spring Early bird sales event.

The annual Show-Me Master Gardeners held their fundraiser plant sale on May 9th, 2025. A great many plants were sold along with books and other items.

Billie Long, Master Gardener, Emeritus and other Certified Master Gardeners provided gardening tips and answers at a booth during the Sedalia Area Farmers Market, where approximately **200** contacts were made. Mrs. Long also fielded **36** phone calls in the office for the Pettis County Master Gardener Hotline.

The Judging Class saw **14** Master Gardeners from around the area learn how to judge Floriculture/Horticulture items for not only their respective counties but also be available to judge at the MO State Fair. Boone (4), Laclede (4), and Pettis (6) counties were represented.

The group meets monthly and received **205** hours in continuing and/or advanced education from MU Extension specialists on a variety of gardening topics.

The Show-Me Master Gardeners of Pettis County have **29** active master gardeners, **12** of which have emeritus status.

The Master Gardeners also worked the FFA building during the fair, judging the exhibits of the participating students. **12** Master Gardeners judged.

Pettis County Show-Me Master Gardeners set up and ran the question & answer booth at the Missouri State fair in the Floriculture building. Over 9,500 sheets of information were given out.

One Master Gardener gave nine educational programs at the Home Ec. Building on the Consumer Showcase stage during the Missouri State Fair. Several horticulture topics were covered from Rose Bushes to pruning trees, blueberries to moles.

Show-Me Master Gardeners maintained three gardens this year; Katy Depot, Liberty Statue at the Pettis County Courthouse and the Doughboy also at the Pettis County Courthouse.

During the year several of the Show-me Master Gardeners also attended the Annual meeting in June, Field Days in Versailles, and the Multi-County Dinner in Boonville.

Show-Me Master Gardeners of Pettis County logged:

1,256 Volunteer Hours
120 Continuing Education Hours
111 Advanced Education Hours

Local Impact

Little Sprouts at the Market

This year the Show-me Master Gardeners of Pettis County presented programs at the Sedalia Area Farmers Market for the children that attended the market with their parents. The Market is held twice a week, every month from May to October.

Little Sprouts is held on the fourth Friday of the Month. In 2025 we provided programming to **323** Pettis County youth at the Sedalia Area Farmers Market.



Plaque for the 2024 Project of the Year

During the June 2025 MO Master Gardeners Annual Meeting, Show-Me Master Gardeners Chapter was presented with the 2024 Project of the Year award for "Outstanding Performance and Dedicated Service" for a medium chapter category. The Little Sprouts at the Market is lead by Teresa Fortune, Certified Master Gardener with the Show-Me Master Gardeners Chapter..



Teresa F. teaching youth about pollination

The programs that were done this year were all about Pollinators and the effects that they have on plants and the food we will eat.

The kids made seed bombs to take home and throw out for our pollinators. They learned that there are several types of pollinators, even those that fly at night, like the Luna Moth. Most did not know that even the Hummingbird is an often-overlooked pollinator.

Most enjoyable was the Bee observation hive that was provided by one of our local Beekeepers. The kids even learned how honey is extracted.

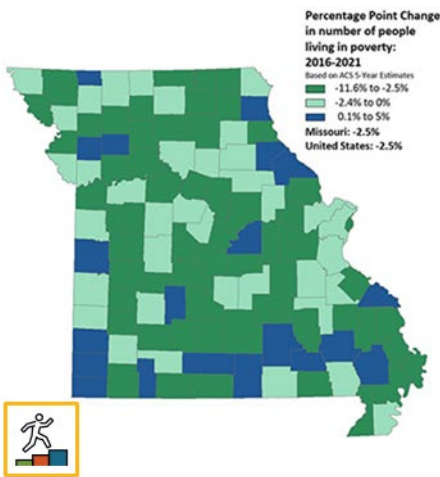


A person and kids at a table learning about pollination



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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.



DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING

MU Exceed offers customized data training. Participants learn how to use public data through hands-on exercises and demonstrations.

In 2022, Exceed provided data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS. 95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.



Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2023 Missouri Good Neighbor Week** Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

In 2023, the goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. That goal was surpassed with 19,752 Missourians being positively affected during MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK.

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Business and Community

Local Impact

2025 Missouri Tax Schools

The 2025 school attendance totaled three hundred eighty-nine people, which was an 11% increase from 2024. The participants were from throughout Missouri and two from out of state. **Five** people from Pettis attended the school.



Wesley Tucker lecturing at tax school

University of Missouri Extension coordinated and offered tax education through one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and an online school. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

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, installment sales, tax benefits of home ownership, retirement tax issues, and individual tax issues. The schools were approved for up to 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 4,024 hours.

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

The evaluations had many positive comments and helpful suggestions. One comment from an online participant was "The video was outstanding – best I've seen on any CPE I've done live.". Planning is underway to offer trainings in 2026. 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, 2025 National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

Ag Lenders meeting in Warsaw, Nov. 18th

I presented on 'Missouri Rental Rates' at the 2024 West-Central Region Ag Lenders Seminar, held at Smith's Restaurant in Bolivar on Nov. 19th. There were 36 registrants attending from 14 counties, 3 MU presenters (Amie Breshears, Ben Brown, and Wesley Tucker), and Marla Young from MASBDA. Wesley Tucker coordinated the meeting and I assisted him.

15 Missouri counties represented – Benton, Boone, Cass, Christian, Dallas, Greene, Henry, Johnson, Marion, Moniteau, Morgan, Pettis, Pike, Polk, Vernon

10 West Central Region counties represented – Benton, Cass, Dallas, Henry, Johnson, Moniteau, Morgan, Pettis, Polk, Vernon

TOPICS INCLUDED:

- crop market outlook
- livestock market outlook
- poultry and egg market outlook
- input costs and enterprise budgets
- land values and cash rental rates



Amie Breshears, Field Specialist in Ag Business
Lecturing at the Ag Lenders meeting

One attendee commented: "I have been to several Ag Lenders seminars over the years, and I can honestly say this was the best one." – C.D.

MU Career Accelerator Program

Whether you're an employer looking to strengthen your workforce or an individual looking to advance in your career, MU's Career Accelerator offers a variety of courses, training events, and certificates to meet your needs. Utilizing the University of Missouri's researchers and instructors, along with various partnerships across multiple industries, the MU Career Accelerator is a valuable resource for upskilling and reskilling America's workforce. We keep Missouri working and we keep Missouri competing.

234 individuals participated in MU Career Accelerator events/trainings

Hosted seven in-person leadership trainings and workshops in Boone County

Trainings and leadership institutes are half-day or full-day workshops. Attendees gain new skills, tactics, and/or knowledge that can be applied directly back to their profession. When the MU Career Accelerator hosts a workshop, we partner with fellow University of Missouri faculty and on-campus departments to deliver accurate and cutting-edge information that directly benefits that specific workforce.

Partnered with three different on-campus schools/departments to deliver content

Additionally, we collaborated with the Missouri Training Institute (a unit housed within Extension) to offer two in-person training events.

This fall, we hosted six workforce summits across the state of Missouri and 1 virtual summit. The Workforce Summits offered insights and resources to various sectors of Missouri's employers (public, private and nonprofit) and explained how MU Extension resources can be leveraged for local economic and workforce development.

Engaged with **263** individuals from across Missouri.



Photo from training course



group photo from Microelectronic training



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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.



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

An engaging way to demonstrate the benefits of nutrition, health, 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



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.

Legend



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Health and Human Sciences

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.

3,636 direct and indirect contacts were made in Pettis 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.



Maria DeRivera and the adult foods class

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.

49 of these youth and adult participants reside in Pettis 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.

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