



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Phelps County



Annual Report 2025

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**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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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.

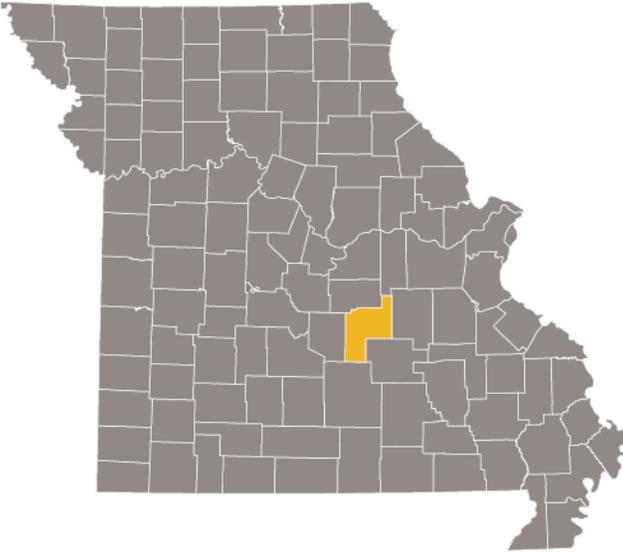
Thank you for your continued partnership. MU Extension belongs to all Missourians, and together we will keep building resilient communities, fostering innovation, and preparing our state for the future.

With appreciation,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff



Extension Engagement Specialist:

Brandi Richardson

Specialists:

Eric Meusch – Livestock

Ray Walden – Community Development

Julianna Thrasher – Youth Development
Specialist, Interim Assistant 4-H Program
Director

Gatlin Bunton – Agronomy, Director at
Wurdack Extension and Education Center

Rachel Hopkins – Agriculture Business

Dhruba Dhakal – Horticulture

Emily Poncher – Community Health

Sarah Higgins – Natural Resources

Kevin Crider – Outreach Educator, Natural
Resources Management

Dawn Hicks – Nutrition Program Associate

Office Support Staff:

Janet Brannan – Administrative Support Staff

Tara Hamilton – Bookkeeper

Council Members

Patty Reynolds – Chair

Jason Grunloh – Vice Chairman

Suzan Van De Mark – Secretary

Chase Lambert – Treasurer

Jon Lovegreen

Sara Lewis

Bobbie Lewis

Sherry Stites

Cindy Strain



County Executives

Joey Auxier – Presiding Commissioner

Sherry Stites – First District Commissioner

Gary Hicks – Second District Commissioner

Laura Johnson – Phelps County Clerk

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	46,567.08
Other Income	1,984.00

Total Income 48,551.08

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	46,567.08
Travel	3,155.00
Telephone	355.00
Postage	35.00
Printing	1007.00
Supplies	255.00
Insurance	750.00
Misc (legal notice, equipment, maintenance)	485.00

Total Expenses 52,609.08

Phelps County Partners

Phelps County Commissioners
Russell House
Rolla Chamber of Commerce
Farm Bureau Insurance
Rolla Public Schools
Missouri S&T
East Central College
St. Patrick Catholic School
Common Grounds Community Garden
James Memorial Public Library, St. James
The Phelps County Fair Board
Phelps County Soil and Water
Rolla Nutrition Site – AgingBest
GRACE – Greater Rolla Area Charitable
Enterprise
The Rolla Mission
Rolla Public Library
St. James FFA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Ozarks Rivers Solid Waste Management
Pioneer Forest
State Senator Jusin Brown
State Representative Tara Peters



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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Phelps 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.

Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



PHELPS 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: *Economic Mobility*

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 (\$)

\$50,114

Phelps



Missouri

\$62,528 🙄

Cost-Burdened Households (30%)

Cost-burdened households, where housing costs exceed 30% of total annual household income, is one measure of the relationship between cost of living and income. Households with high housing costs have fewer dollars remaining for other expenditures and are more likely to live paycheck-to-paycheck. The 26.60% of households in the report area are considered cost-burdened. This exceeds the state average of 23.80%.

Cost-Burdened Households, Percent

26.6%

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Missouri

23.8%

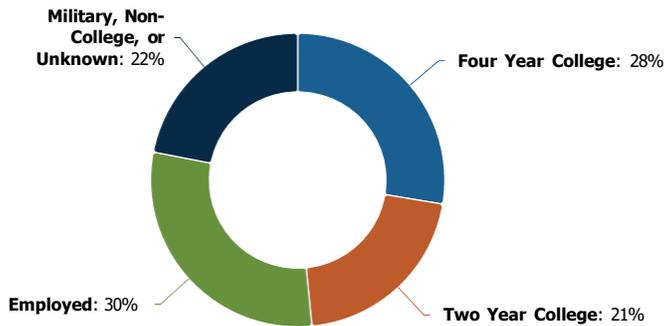
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2019/acs/american-community-survey.html). 2019-23.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *College and Career Readiness*

Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 456 graduates surveyed in the report area, 126 went to a four-year college, 95 to a two-year college, 135 directly entered the job market. The remaining 100 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Access to Care*

Mental Health Care Providers

Mental health is a critical public health issue worldwide. Access to mental health services is a challenge across Missouri, which ranks 46 out of 51 states in provider access. In the report area there are approximately 173 credentialed professionals providing mental health care to serve the area's 44,638 residents. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 258 to 1, which means there is 1 provider for every 258 persons. The ratio of persons to providers in the report area is lower than the state average of 324:1, which means there are more providers per person in this area.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

258:1

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Missouri

324:1

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 35 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 7,815 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 223:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 223 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is lower than the state average of 251:1, which means there are more providers per person in this area.

Rate per 100,000 Seniors

447.90

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Missouri

399.10

Data Source: [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPPES\)](#). January 2026.

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Agricultural Economy*

Jobs Derived

Missouri has a diverse agriculture industry, strong in crops and livestock, as well as food and forestry processing industries. These industries remain a significant part of Missouri's economy, supporting more than 1 in every 10 jobs, on average. In 2021, agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Missouri were estimated to contribute: 456,618 jobs, \$93.7 billion in output and [\\$31.8 billion in household income](#). [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact](#).

Percent of Jobs Derived from Agriculture

9.3%

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Missouri

23.55%

Data Source: Missouri [Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority. 2021.](#)

Value Added

Value-added agriculture refers to production, manufacturing, marketing or other services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal and pet food manufacturing, and crop production and related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact](#).

Percent of Total Value Added from Agriculture

7.4%

Phelps

Missouri

21.98%

Data Source: Missouri [Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority. 2021.](#)



Phelps County



University of Missouri System

UM System Footprint in the county in 2025



FY25 county students

925 students

- 523 Undergraduates
- 402 Graduate and professional students
- 721 Full-time students
- 204 Part-time students
- 189 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2025)



County employees and retirees

2,014 people employed by UM

- 1,990 Campuses
- 18 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 6 UM System

600 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$117.5 million

UM state tax revenue: \$3.5 million

UM federal tax revenue: \$17.7 million



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 44 Medicine
- 52 Nursing
- 46 Health Professions
- 20 Dentistry
- 8 Pharmacy
- 4 Optometry
- 12 Veterinary Medicine
- 145 Agriculture
- 1,477 Engineering
- 44 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 92 teachers
- 20.0% of all district teachers
- 5 principals and administrators
- 20.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 150 students
- 830 alumni
- 25 employees

UMKC

- 17 students
- 100 alumni
- 5 employees

Missouri S&T

- 728 students
- 2,700 alumni
- 1,955 employees

UMSL

- 30 students
- 124 alumni
- 5 employees



County population: 44,948



County services provided

Health care (FY25)

- 2,158 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$1.1 million of uncompensated care
- 3 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$37.31 per patient in uncompensated care
- 4 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$50.53 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 1,161 visits to 697 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2024)

- 11,849 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 1,224 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 8,054 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 2,278 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



Construction projects

- \$3.0 million remitted to 15 county vendors, for 39 projects



County properties and offices

Missouri S&T Campus
 MU Extension in: Phelps County

Phelps County



University of Missouri System

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY24, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 71,140 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 FY19 and FY24, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.75 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY25, UM System was issued 26 patents and filed 76 new U.S. patent applications, and earned \$6.5 million in licensing income.

- In FY25, the UM System awarded 550 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$729.9 million in the state.



In FY25, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 17,336 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,146 learners located in 102 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



41,523 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2024)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 297,919 farmers and related businesses (2024)

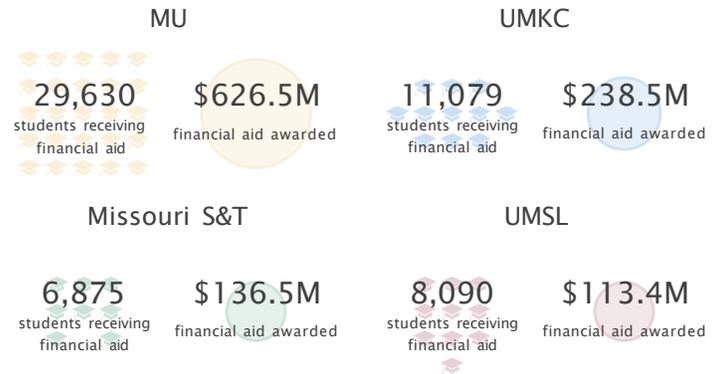


254,220 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2024)

Education Highlights

FY25 Financial Aid Awards

In FY25, 70.6% of the UM System's 78,839 students received financial aid totaling \$1.115 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (231,000 students), 478 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 5.6 million Missourians) in FY24.

- 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.
- A \$25 million USDA-funded [Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop & Livestock \(CRCL\)](#) project has had the following impact 2.5 years into the 5-year project: Over 1,200 Missouri farmers implemented conservation practices such as cover crops, regenerative grazing, and improved nutrient management practices on approximately 300,000 acres across the state.

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 2025, 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





MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

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

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



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

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



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Phelps County

Missouri 4-H

Community Impact



Julianna Thrasher

Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development, Serving Phelps, Dent and Craford Counties
Interim Assistant 4-H Director

4-H Youth Development- Phelps County

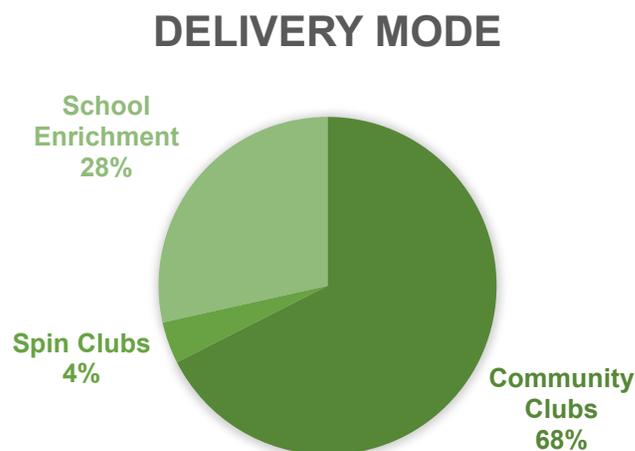
4-H Youth Development Program

4-H programs are built on the belief that youth learn best by doing. With the support and guidance of adult volunteers serving as mentors, youth engage in hands-on learning experiences through projects in areas including engineering and technology, environmental science and natural resources, plant and animal science, leadership and personal development, expressive arts, and healthy living, in addition to taking on leadership positions which help to mold them into the caring, competent, and confident citizens who know the value of contributing to their communities.

During the 2024-2025 4-H Year 1 in 5 Phelps County youth were reached through 4-H programming through MU Extension.

4-H programming reaches youth through a variety of delivery modes in Phelps County, including Community Clubs, SPIN Clubs or short-term 4-H programming, and in-school or afterschool membership or school enrichment programming. These varied delivery modes allow participants to participate in the format that best meets their needs and interests, while focusing on multiple skills including public speaking, leadership, exploring sparks (or interests), developing life skills, responsibility, group decision making, and exploring college and career pathways.

DIAGRAM of Phelps County 4-H Enrollment by Delivery Mode



Phelps County

Community Impact

4-H Community Club Members

- 237 youth reached through the 10 community clubs in Phelps County during the 2024-2025 4-H Year.
- Over 94% 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively, youth participated in 200 hours of documented community club work and 2,400 hours of community service in Phelps County, Horse.

4-H SPIN Clubs

- 14 youth participated in 4-H through the SPIN Clubs which are short-term 4-H clubs focused on a specific topic. Among the 4 SPIN Clubs offered in Phelps County this year, clubs focused on Archery, Shotgun, Cake Decorating.

4-H School Enrichment, In-school and Afterschool Clubs

- 100 youth were reached by school enrichment programs in Phelps County in 2024-2025.

4-H Programming Participation

- 42 youth served in a leadership role within their club or council.
- Phelps County Shooting Sports partnership with the Phelps County Sheriff's Department also helped youth site in on their future through their shooting sports projects which strives to teach them focus and safety while honing their skills and developing sportsmanship.
- 5 youth participated in MOVE Across Missouri, where youth and adults are encouraged to track their physical activity and fitness in their daily life, learning about healthy lifestyles.
- Youth also took their 4-H experience beyond the county lines participating in the following events:
 - 4-H Camp
 - State 4-H Equine Tour
 - State 4-H Teen Conference*
 - State 4-H Congress*
 - State Meats Contest*
 - State Horse Judging Contest*
 - State Hippology Contest*
 - State Livestock Judging Day*
 - State Poultry and Rabbit Day*
 - State Public Speaking*
 - Citizenship Washington Focus
 - Zoo Apprenticeship Camp- Busch Garden

Phelps County

Local Impact

Phelps County members enrolled in a combined total of 748 projects during the 2024-2025 4-H Year. The top project areas included:

- Beef
- Swine
- Poultry
- Rabbits

4-H Programming Impact

- 4-H members are twice as likely to go college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).
- 4-H also prepares youth for the workplace. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision- competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).
- Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase their annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime. (U.S. News and World report, 2011) If 50% of the 352 County youth participating in 4-H events on a college campus receive a Bachelor's degree, 4-H would help young people acquire \$352,000,000 more in lifetime earnings.

4-H Volunteers

4-H Volunteers are the true muscle of the 4-H program, extending the reach of 4-H professionals and making a difference in the lives of youth by connecting them with a caring adult to support them in their development.

- Phelps County 4-H members were supported by 45 enrolled, screened and oriented adult volunteers supporting the development of youth in the 2024-2025 4-h Year.
- Volunteers contributed 4500 hours to the Phelps County 4-H program valued at \$156,555.

Adult volunteers serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into caring, healthy adults who contribute back to their communities, which is priceless.

Phelps County

Community Impact

Resources

Arnold, M., Bourdeau, V., & Nott, B. (2013). Measuring science inquiry skills in youth development programs: The Science Process Skills Inventory, *Journal of Youth Development*, 8(1).

Arnold, M. E. (2018). From Context to Outcomes: A Thriving Model for 4-H Youth Development Programs. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 6(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.54718/NBNL5438>

Independent Sector. (2023). *Value of Volunteer Time Report* | *Independent Sector Resources*. Independent Sector. <https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>

Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V. (2011). The positive development of youth: Report of the findings from the first seven years of the *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*. Retrieved from <http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/>.

U.S. News and World Report (2011). How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/08/05/how-higher-education-affects-lifetime-salary>



Phelps County

Community Impact

Scenes from the year in 4-H

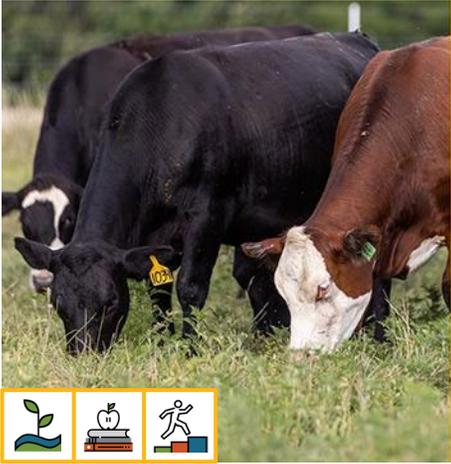




MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

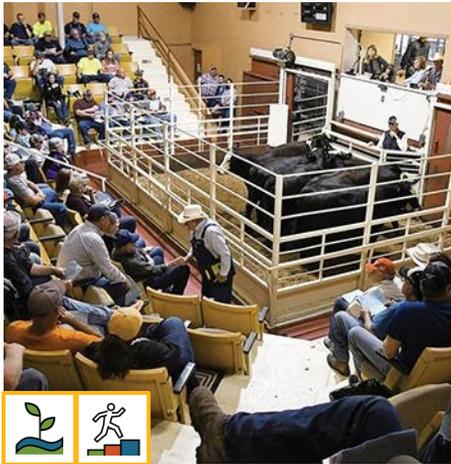
through credible statewide programs

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



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.



Women make up a growing portion of private forest landowners, and their knowledge and confidence in managing their land is invaluable. The **Women Owning Woodlands** program empowers women landowners to take action to secure the future of their land.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



2025 AT A GLANCE

In 2025, the MU Extension Livestock Program delivered comprehensive education and outreach to livestock producers, youth, and communities across Dent, Phelps, Pulaski, Crawford, Shannon, Reynolds, Carter, and Texas counties. Programming emphasized grazing management, livestock nutrition, youth development, value-added enterprises, and herd profitability.

- Grazing Schools held in 4 counties taught approximately 105 livestock producers the fundamentals of Management Intensive Grazing.
- Show Me Quality Assurance events held for Dent, Phelps, Crawford, Shannon and Reynolds Counties trained youth on proper care of livestock. Other youth-oriented activities included Ozark Cattlemen's Beef Day in Salem and the Wurdack Education Day event.
- More than 190 producer consultations were conducted during the year, providing one-on-one information and advice on practical livestock management.
- Attended a National conference (NACAA) in Montana to present work done with the Value Added Meats Team and the Missouri Assisting Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (2501 program).



Good cow-calf herd management has been important throughout 2025 with cattle prices at record levels.

KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ 21 in-person programs were held across my coverage area including all 8 target counties.
- ✓ In the Show Me Select Heifer Development Program the state-wide combined totals for the spring and fall sanctioned sales was 1,691 heifers sold with gross receipts of \$7,035,450. I began working with one new producer in 2025.
- ✓ A total of 1002 youth were reached in direct programming. This includes Show Me Quality Assurance training in 5 counties, the Student Field Day at Wurdack, Ozarks Cattlemen's Beef Day, an urban youth field day, and youth participation in Value Added Meats programming.
- ✓ Missouri Grazing Schools continue to be an important program in this part of the state with schools held in 4 target counties in 2025.

2025 Livestock Highlights

Youth activities



4Hers learn the basics about livestock care at Show Me Quality Assurance training Dent County

Youth development accounted for a significant share of program impact in 2025.

Direct youth outcomes included:

- 188 4-H'ers from 5 counties attended Show Me Quality Assurance Training.
- 528 high school students participating in a Student Field Day at Wurdack Extension and Engagement Farm.
- 45 urban youth engaged through agricultural exposure and natural resource education.
- 195 Dent county 4th graders attended Ozarks Cattlemen's Beef Day.

Grazing Management

Grazing management was a cornerstone of 2025 programming. Management Intensive Grazing Schools were delivered across the region, combining classroom instruction with on-farm demonstrations focused on forage utilization, stocking rate management, fencing systems, and water development. 96 producers participated in grazing schools held in Phelps, Pulaski, Texas and Reynolds counties in 2025.



Grazing Schools provide opportunities learn from other producers during farm visits.

Value Added Meats Programs



Hands-on workshops provided education about carcass evaluation and retail meat cuts.

The Value-Added Meats Team continued its hands on programming in 2025. The focus of many activities has been hands-on education related to processing farm raised livestock into meat cuts for consumption or sales. Workshops included home processing of chickens and breaking down lamb and goat carcasses into retail cuts.

2025 Livestock Highlights

Livestock Nutrition and Feeding Management

Livestock nutrition and feeding management is always an important topic for producers to stay profitable and productive. The West Plains Hay School covered hay management and feeding. The Baled Late, Fed Smart program in Rolla focused on hay testing, meeting the nutritional needs of beef cattle, and the economics of winter feeding. This program was developed to address the poor quality of much of the hay put up this year and gave producers tools they needed to determine hay quality and plan for supplemental feeding. Other programming as held to teach producers how to use Body Condition Scoring as a tool for making nutritional and management decisions related to their cow herd.

Beef Herd Improvement



Show Me Select bred heifers brought record prices at sales across the state in 2025.

Beef herd improvement programming supported cow-calf producers through Cow College workshops, heifer development education, and participation in the Show Me Select Heifer Program. This program helps producers develop high-quality bred heifers sold through certified sales across the state. Participating producers sold heifers in sales in Joplin, Vienna and Farmington getting premium prices for their heifers. These outcomes demonstrate the economic value of applied Extension education focused on genetics, management, and marketing.

Assisting Socially Disadvantaged & Veteran Farmers

The Missouri Assisting Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (2501 program) works with its target group through several approaches including Team-to-One Coaching, conducting hands-on Learning Circles and Farm WalkABOUTs.

Hands-on workshops on processing broiler chickens were held with urban farmers in St. Louis to give them the skills to diversify production on their farms.



Small scale broiler chicken production is popular on small farms including farms in urban areas.

2025 Livestock Highlights

2025 Direct Producer Consultation

Producer consultations are central to the role MU Extension Livestock Specialists, providing individualized, research-based guidance to livestock producers across south-central Missouri and beyond. In 2025, consultations addressed grazing management, livestock nutrition, herd health, marketing decisions, and enterprise development, supporting improved farm profitability and sustainability. Consultations include contacts from producers by telephone, text and email, as well as in person office meetings and farm visits.

Total direct producer consultations: 194

Service area: Dent, Phelps, Pulaski, Crawford, Shannon, Reynolds, Carter, and Texas Counties

Extended reach: Additional Missouri counties and out-of-state producers

Consultations by County

County / Area	Consultations
Dent County	69
Texas County	32
Phelps County	31
Crawford County	17
Reynolds County	16
Carter County	4
Pulaski County	2
Shannon County	2
Other Missouri Counties	15
Out of State	6
Total	194

Seasonal Trends

Consultation activity peaked during **late spring and summer**, aligning with grazing schools, pasture management, nitrate testing and production planning.

Fall and winter consultations emphasized feeding management, hay quality, and preparation for winter livestock care.

2025 Livestock Highlights

Phelps County programs and activities

Management Intensive Grazing School April 23 – 25, St. James

Show Me Quality Assurance Trainings. Training for 4-Hers exhibiting livestock

February 27 and March 13, Phelps County Fairgrounds

4-H Chicken Processing Workshop November 8th, Phelps County Fairgrounds. 17 participants

Baled Late, Fed Smart Program. Producer program focusing on hay quality and feeding.

October 27th at RTI, 38 participants

Participation in the Phelps County SWCD Board

31 Producer consultations

2025 Livestock Highlights

Other programs and activities

- Central Missouri Forage and Beef Conference
 - February 28 in Vienna
- Extension Risk Management Conference
 - March 31 – April 3, Nashville Tennessee
 - Presentation and poster
- Goat Carcass Processing Demonstration
 - May 31. Midwest Buck Sale, Sedalia
- Heart of the Ozarks Fair
 - Weigh-ins. June 1. West Plains
- Local meat processing and sales program
 - June 4, Lincoln University
- PQA Advisor Training
 - June 16, Columbia
- Home Poultry Processing Workshop
 - June 26. Phi Global Farm, St. Louis.
 - 2501 Grant Program
- National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting
 - June 29 – July 3, Billings Montana
 - Presentation and posters
- Show Me Farm Safety
 - Assisted in booth August 11, Missouri State Fair
- Home Poultry Processing Workshop
 - September 26. Phi Global Farm, St. Louis.
 - 2501 Grant Program

Phelps County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Sarah Higgins

Field Specialist in Natural Resources

Covering Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, and Wayne Counties

Statewide Virtual programs:

Monthly Women Owning Woodlands Zoom meetings

Women Owning Woodlands Winter Tree Identification Hike (Feb 2025)

19 participants

Participants learned how to identify common trees in Missouri's forests in the wintertime using bark, buds, and twigs. The was [a Women Owning Woodlands](#) event targeted women landowners and women interested in natural resources.

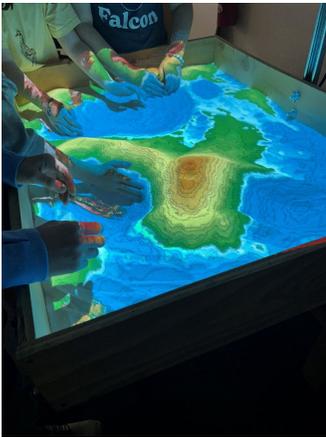
Introduction to Soils presentation for Phelps County Master Gardeners (June 2025)

Experience Earth's Surface for East Central College's Summer Learning Program (July 2025)

5 youth participants

This two-day program taught youth all about topographic maps and watersheds. Participants learned about what makes a healthy watershed, conservation, topographic map symbols, and practiced reading topographic maps with hands-on activities and lessons. Students used an augmented reality sand table to support learning.

Basics of Chainsaw Safety for Phelps County Master Gardeners (November 2025)



Phelps County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Gatlin Bunton

Director - Wurdack Extension & Education Center;
Field Specialist in Agronomy
Serving Crawford, Dent and Phelps Counties

Agronomy

Private Pesticide Applicator Training: Farmers who wish to purchase or apply restricted use pesticides must go through training to obtain or renew a private pesticide applicator license. Approximately six farmers participated in private pesticide applicator trainings in Phelps county in 2025. Farmers who participate in the training learn about pesticide labeling, personal protective equipment, environmental concerns, pesticide mixing and application, principals of pest control and pesticide formulations. The Missouri Department of Agriculture issues private pesticide applicator licenses.

Soil Testing: Soil testing provides farmers, gardeners and homeowners information about the fertility of their soil and recommendations on how to fertilize and lime to improve plant growth. Farmers who use soil testing have reported that yields have improved because of using their soil test results. Other farmers have reduced fertilizer inputs due to soil tests showing that fertility levels are already high. Gardeners and homeowners use soil testing to improve fruit and vegetable production or to make their lawn grow better. Soil testing is the first step in making the most of fertilizer application. Extension guides and personal consultations help people understand their soil test reports and how to use the information in the report. In total 158 field crop and garden soil tests were conducted for landowners and managers in Phelps County in 2025.

Integrated Pest Management: Each year farmers, gardeners and homeowners find that they need information and education on pest management. Weeds, insects and diseases are the primary pest problems. People who have questions about pest management will call or bring in pests to the Extension Center for identification and management options. Pest identification is the first step in developing a management plan. Pest management options are presented for the person to use to make decisions. For farmers and commercial vegetable growers, pest management can be important to profitability. For homeowners, pests may cause aesthetic concerns.

St. James Grazing School: Grazing management is important to maintain forage productivity and animal performance. At this event, farmers learned strategies for management intensive grazing, animal husbandry and the economics of grazing. Participants gain hands on experience for many of the intricacies of implementing a grazing system on their own farms. This event is held in conjunction with the Phelps county soil and water conservation district as well as NRCS and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Twenty-eight farmers attended the grazing school.

Phelps County

Agriculture and Environment



Dhruba Dhakal

Field Specialist in Horticulture

Serving Phelps, Callaway, Cole, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Osage, and Pulaski Counties

Horticulture Programs in Phelps County - 2025

Phelps County Master Gardener Program

The Missouri Master Gardener program is a partnership between the University of Missouri Extension and Volunteers. The program's mission is to train volunteers to educate the public on horticultural practices, help others learn to grow horticultural crops and promote the University of Missouri Extension as a source of gardening information.

The Phelps County Master Gardener organize various gardening programs and educational opportunities for the community. The Master Gardener Chapter organized talk programs on various horticulture topics in 2025. The Phelps County Master Gardeners organized a plant sale in 2025 that brought interest to residents of different backgrounds and areas of residency. Rolla Farmers' Market attracts people from the cities and rural areas (farmers and homesteaders). The educational programs organized by the Phelps County Master Gardeners have been opened to the public understanding the need of the community to succeed in the care of their gardens. The Phelps County Master Gardeners work year-round on different volunteer opportunities that involve beautifying the gardens of public buildings in their cities like community gardens, main street planters, indoor plants on the Phelps Health hospital in Rolla as well as the Rolla public library planters.

The Phelps County Master Gardener has 35 active members. In 2025, 20 members entered their volunteered hours in the system. The members volunteered 727 hours and engaged 93 hours on educational activities with total 820 hours. With the rate of \$34.79 per volunteer hour in Missouri, the economic contribution from Phelps County Master Gardeners was \$28,528.00.

University of Missouri Master Gardener Training

In-person master gardener training was organized in mid-Missouri in 2025 which included participants from various counties in central Missouri. Eight participants attended the 12-week long training. The training educated the participants through 12 lectures and 8 field sessions.

Phelps County

Agriculture and Environment

Horticulture Report

University of Missouri Master Pollinator Steward

In-person master pollinator steward was organized in mid-Missouri in 2025 which included participants from various counties in central Missouri. Five participants attended the 6-week long training. The training educated the participants through six lectures and three field sessions.

Spring Garden Seminar - 2025

A full day-long garden seminar was organized in Jefferson City, MO in 2025. Eighty-five participants attended the seminar. Participants learned various topics such as landscape design, plant disease diagnosis, lessons learned about tomatoes, after 20 years of the TomatoFest, Flower farm in Tipton and garden IPM session.

Other workshops and seminars on horticulture - 2025

Dhruba organized workshops and seminars on various horticulture topics. Some of them were garlic production workshop, talk on planting cover crops in the garden, workshop on cool season vegetable production, workshop on tomato production in home garden, and talk on making and using compost in the garden.

Soil, Plant and Water Sample Test

Extension office receives soil, plant and water samples from local people and sends them to University of Missouri soil and plant testing lab. Field specialist in horticulture receives the test report and provides recommendations and interpretation to the clients. In 2025, Phelps County Extension Center received 48 soil samples for horticulture crop fields. Horticulture specialist sent the reports to the client and discussed with them the nutrient status and other soil properties. The specialist also discussed what needs to be done to improve their soil health and soil fertility status.

On-site Garden and Horticulture Farm Visit

Horticulture specialist also visited home gardens, fruit and vegetable production farms to identify or diagnose the issues and provide research-based management options to the client. Timely diagnosis of issues in the garden/farm helps farmers to save their crops, increase farmer's knowledge and awareness to adopt good agricultural practices (GAP). This helps to increase net farm income by increasing crop productivity and reducing production cost. The increased local economy in Phelps County contributes to the better Missouri state's economy.

Phelps County

Agriculture and Environment

Horticulture Report



Pic. 1: Participants at EMG training field session, Jefferson City



Pic. 2: Participants at Master Pollinator Steward Field Session at Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City

Ag Business

Rachel Hopkins
Ag Business Specialist
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Covering Franklin, Gasconade, Osage, Maries, Miller, Pulaski, Phelps, Dent, Crawford, Washington, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve Counties

2025 AT A GLANCE

- **38** Lenders attended 'What Lenders Need to Know in 2026' in Jefferson City. Lenders heard from presenters discussing Market Outlooks, Policy Updates, Beef Feeding Calculator, Farmland Values and Rental Rates.
- **60** attendees at the Farm Tax Workshops held in December, both in-person and online. Rachel hosted 2 locations (Ste. Genevieve & Vienna) and presented on drought & farm lease.
- **89** mid-Missouri farmers and ranchers attended the Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference in Maries County.
- **35** local producers attended the Wurdack Producer Field Day in October to hear about local applicable topics.
- **120** producers attended three Grazing Schools where Financial Aspects of Grazing were taught.

\$47,753 in lease's consulted on in 2025.



The cannulated bovine is always a memorable time with the FFA students.

1924 DIRECT CONTACTS 7140 INDIRECT CONTACTS



Rachel spoke to the East Central Cattlemen's Association in March 2025 on tips for succession planning.

KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ **Monthly emails** out to subscribers letting them know of upcoming Extension programs in the region.
- ✓ Connect & Educated **50 STL City youth** about agriculture at **Wurdack Extension Center**.
- ✓ **Rural Safety Day** educated **177 3rd graders** in Washington County of hazards they might encounter and thus preventing traumatic injuries.
- ✓ **Annie's Project** brought together **13 women in Maries County** for the 6 weeklong event. It included field trips, guest speakers and activities.
- ✓ **Wurdack FFA Day** provided a learning opportunity for **528 9th graders** on different fields in agriculture and exposes them to new ideas and concepts.



MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Business and Community



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2025, the conference offered breakout sessions in Excelsior Springs' shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

Missouri Good Neighbor Week



Largest civic engagement event of the year in Missouri.



Snapshot of Results for 2025

Honored **20** Neighbors **4** Businesses

138 Neighbor Nominees **42,134** Missourians Impacted **86** Counties

433 Reported Entries **110** Cities

6 Cities **15** City Proclamations

Springfield, Excelsior Springs, Manchester, Houston, Fremont Hills and Lee's Summit

Earn Most Neighborly Status

Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2025 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.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community



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Serving Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington Counties

2025 impacts included:

- Supporting workforce-focused initiatives designed to strengthen employer capacity, expand training access, and align regional strategies, including a Regional Workforce Training Summit held August 4 with employers and training agencies to discuss data, resources, and strategy development.
- Presented information with other community development colleagues on Regional Planning Commission resources and potential opportunities to collaborate.
- Presented a session on Financial Preparation for Grant Projects July 18 as part of a multi-day training workshop for area government and nonprofit representatives.

Other community development projects/programs supported:

- Comprehensive and Strategic Planning
- Statewide housing workgroup
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance (NPTA): one-on-one support, leader skill-building, resource library, referrals
- Give 5 — volunteer engagement events
- Estate Planning Workshop (Dent County April 17)
- Missouri Good Neighbor Week — encouraging residents to recognize and celebrate acts of neighborliness.

Outreach included: Extension Council presentations, local newspaper articles and radio interviews.



MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

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 Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) has provided basic and advanced training for law enforcement since 1948. LETI's **Basic Peace Officer Academy** exceeds the 600 hours of training required for licensure in Missouri. From 2019 through 2025, the basic academy has licensed almost 400 peace officers, more than any other academy in the state. During that time, all but one graduate became employed by a law enforcement agency. LETI graduates come from around the state and return to their communities to serve and protect.



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



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Phelps County

Continuing Education

Community Impact

Extension Tax Schools

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.

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. Phelps County had 1 participant.





MU Extension **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Health and Human Sciences



Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET)

is a 2-hour training for older youth and adults to support friends, family, acquaintances, colleagues and neighbors' wellbeing.



Brain and the Disease of Addiction

provides a foundational understanding of how the brain is affected from substances such as drugs and alcohol and how the disease of addiction develops. The Brain and the Disease of Addiction Program is for individuals, parents, students, healthcare professionals, and groups and organizations who will benefit from an understanding and knowledge of the science of the disease of addiction.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact



Emily Poncher, MPA — Community Health Specialist

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

2025 at a Glance

Hello all! 2025 was a year of connection and collaboration across the counties I serve. My work focused on connecting with communities through local events, professional meetings, and community spaces to share practical health information and strengthen partnerships.

Throughout the year, I supported county and regional efforts related to physical activity, mental and emotional well-being, and emerging health concerns, including Alpha-gal Syndrome. This included facilitating Extension programs, collaborating with Health and Human Sciences colleagues, and sharing community health work through conferences, local media, and public events. In Phelps County, programming emphasized engagement and community connection through initiatives like the 100 Miles 100 Days Community Walk at the Audubon Nature Center.

Key Successes

- Contributed to and promoted 100 Miles 100 Days regional collaboration, which engaged over 700 participants across East Central Missouri
- Hosted 100 Miles 100 Days Community Walk at Audubon Nature Center, encouraging movement, connection, and participation in the regional challenge
- Strengthened visibility of Extension's role in community health through direct engagement



Sharing county and regional work at the Heartland Health Equity Conference in Kansas City

Phelps County

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.

6,365 direct and indirect contacts were made in Phelps 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.

Combined SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Public Value Statement 2025

Missouri's **Family Nutrition Education Program** oversees two programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (**SNAP-Ed**) and Expanded Family Nutrition Education Program (**EFNEP**). Together, these programs brought over \$13 million in federal funds to Missouri in 2025. MU Extension's Family Nutrition Education Program engaged with 970,000+ Missourians with low income. Over 74,000 Missourians participated in nutrition education classes.

Participants in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP 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 **reduces healthcare costs** over the participant's lifetime and **saves taxpayer money** in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Phelps County

2025 Phelps County Century Farm

The importance of agriculture in Phelps County was celebrated at two farms, one at Edgar Springs and one at St. James, Monday, Oct. 20.

The University of Missouri Phelps County Extension office hosted the celebrations honoring Roger and Wilma Harris and their family at Edgar Springs and Jeff and JoAnne Smallwood and their family at St. James.

The University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Farm Bureau presented each family with a Century Farm sign and certificate, recognizing their achievement and continued stewardship of the land through multiple generations.

Also, during the events, state Reps. Tara Peters and Bennie Cook and Sen. Justin Brown presented each family with formal resolutions from both the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate, honoring each family for their dedication to Missouri agriculture and their communities, as well as the farming legacy.

The Harris Farm, established in 1907, has remained in the family for 118 years.

The Smallwood Dry Fork Farm LLC has been in the Smallwood family since 1909, spanning multiple generations who have called it home.



Smallwood Dry Fork Farm LLC at St. James has been designated a Century Farm. The Smallwood family has owned and operated the farm since 1909.

Phelps County

2025 Phelps County Century Farm

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The Harris Farm, established in 1907, has remained in the family for 118 years.



The Harris Farm at Edgar Springs has been in operation since 1907. That is 118 years in the same family, so it has earned a Century Farm designation.