



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Polk County

2024 Annual Report

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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

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December 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff

Mikayla Neil
Extension Engagement Specialist



Wesley Tucker
Ag Business & Policy Specialist



Velynda Cameron
4-H Youth Development



Vonieca Teerlink
June – December
Nutrition Program Assistant



Kathy Drake
Office Manager



Council members

Craig Huff, Chairman
Lynn Williams, Vice-chairman
LaNelda Presley, Secretary
Alvin Rohrs, Treasurer
Joyce Dennis
Ramona Dryer
Mike Higginbotham
Jennifer Schwartz
Jeff Shelenhamer
Katie Williams
Debra Agee
Erin DeHart
Glennis Evans
Drew Perry
Donnie Pulley
Ronda Stewart
Doyle Spear - MFA
Tracy Mason – City of Bolivar
Shannon Hancock – Polk County
Bill Dryer – Polk County Farm Bureau
Ed Vest – Polk County Cattleman
Ellie Samek – Youth Liaison



County commission

Shannon Hancock, Presiding Commissioner
Melinda Robertson, Southern Commissioner
Kyle Legan, Northern, Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	45,000.00
Delarue Trust	7,981.39
Soil Test & Resale	5,996.00
City of Bolivar	5,000.00
Credit Card Rewards	<u>670.00</u>
Total Income	64,647.39

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	51,385.99
Travel	3,787.32
Communications	2,947.35
Supplies	585.30
Utilities	2,151.45
Insurance	1,380.00
Repairs/maintenance	183.37
Miscellaneous	<u>5,326.70</u>
Total Expenses	67,747.48

Restricted Accounts	32,496.16
CDs & Money Market	64,611.75
Shortcourses	2,772.02

Key Outcomes and Numbers

133 Soil test were submitted for analysis. The knowledge gained from these provide citizens with crucial information concern liming and fertilizing and cost savings measures.

68 Individuals completed the requirements for the Private Applicators license.

328 Social media posts were made along with 29 newspaper articles submitted for publication

9 Nitrate tests were administered providing needed information to guide producers during the dry session

8 Pressure gauges were checked to assure safe canning for clients.

824 Clients were provided information in person in the office.
1293 clients were provided assistance by telephone.
98 received information through email inquiries.

24 Clients were loaned various types of tools for their complimentary use

Over 500 Individuals were provided information at various programs held in the county.

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Polk 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.

Polk County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

82 students

- 65 Undergraduates
- 17 Graduate and professional students
- 61 Full-time students
- 21 Part-time students
- 16 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

14 people employed by UM

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

8 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income: \$448,248
 UM state tax revenue: \$12,408
 UM federal tax revenue: \$56,176



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 14 Medicine
- 21 Nursing
- 27 Health Professions
- 8 Dentistry
- 12 Pharmacy
- 2 Optometry
- 17 Veterinary Medicine
- 78 Agriculture
- 58 Engineering
- 22 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 12 teachers
- 2.8% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 12.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 53 students
- 300 alumni
- 9 employees

UMKC

- 3 students
- 62 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 17 students
- 60 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 9 students
- 15 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Polk County



County population: 32,109



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 246 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$214,998 of uncompensated care
- 12 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 237 visits to 116 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 7,157 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 1,901 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 4,818 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 235 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Polk County



University of Missouri System
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UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.



For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

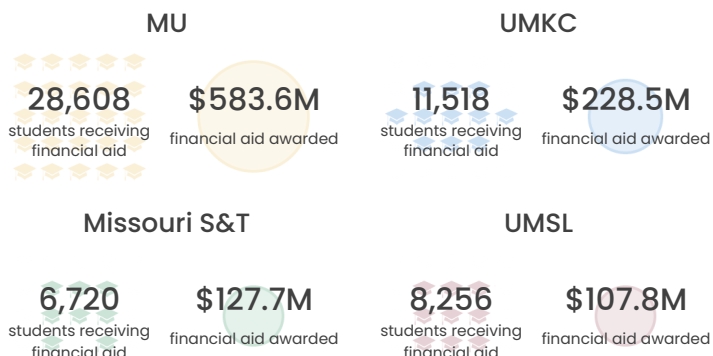


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



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

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

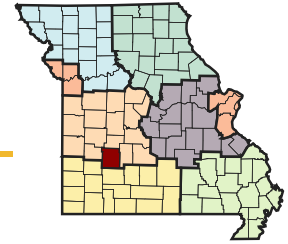
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

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

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



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



POLK 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

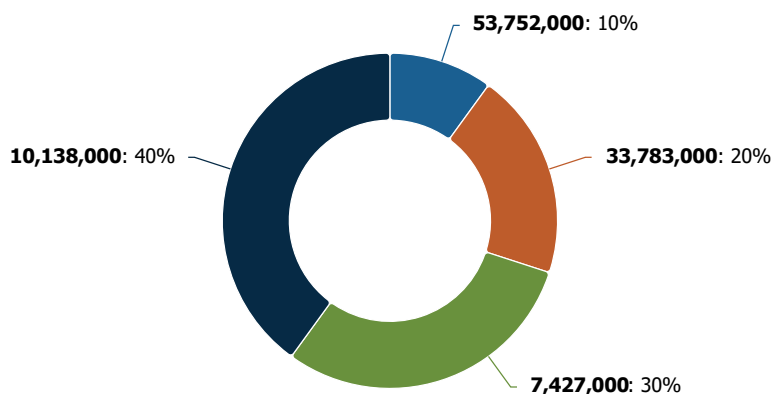
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Agricultural Economics*

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Rank (Sales): \$10



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$19,485,000 in 2017, an average of \$14,119 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Polk	1,380	\$14,119
Missouri	87,887	\$56,606

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

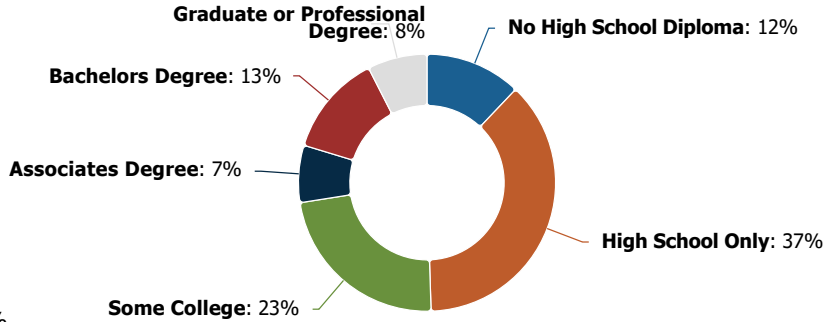


CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

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

In the report area, 23.0% of adults have at least some college education and 20% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 37.4% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 12.1% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

12.09%

Missouri

8.69%

Polk

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

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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2013 and 2015, adults over age 65 in the report area had 1,006 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 5,775 per 100,000 population, which is higher than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have increased since the 2001-03 time period when the rate was 4,942.

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 26 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 5,850 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 225:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 225 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is lower than the state average of 250:1, which means there are more providers per person in this area.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

5,775

Missouri

5,396 😞

Polk



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

Rate per 100,000 Seniors

444.40

Missouri

399.40

Polk

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). 2021.



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

16.8%

Polk

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

8.8%

Polk

Missouri

21.98%

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



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

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



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



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs

employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



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



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



Polk County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults. The mission of 4-H is to provide meaningful opportunities for all youth and adults to work together to create sustainable community change. This is accomplished within three primary content areas, or mission areas – civic engagement and leadership, healthy living, and science. These mission areas reiterate the founding purposes of Extension through agriculture (e.g., community leadership, quality of life, and technology transfer) in the context of 21st century challenges and opportunities.

Our programming empowers youth to be healthy – body and mind – with the skills to make healthy decisions and lead healthy lifestyles. Having the confidence and skills to lead healthy lifestyles not only improves overall well-being; it enables youth to tackle life's challenges today and become leaders in their lives, careers and communities as they grow into responsible adulthood.

Number of Polk County residents served

- 680 4-H Members
- 54 Trained Adult Volunteers



4-H Clubs

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.

4-H clubs offer long and short-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from computer science and arts, to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips. Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

- Community 4-H Clubs
 - 5 community clubs – Eudora (Morrisville), Good Samaritan Boys Ranch (Brighton), Good Times (Halfway), Sheep Only (Morrisville), and Woodlawn (Bolivar)
- 4-H SPIN and special-interest programs
 - 5 County 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs include community partnerships and events, day camps and other educational activities – Clover Kids, Embryology, SOPOCO (livestock), Shooting Sports, and Zoology
- 4-H school programs
 - Polk County 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities.
 - Embryology – hatching chicks in the classroom = 154 in 10 classes at Bolivar Elementary
 - GSBR Ranch Summer School = 40 (entomology, wildlife conservation, horse and foods); 57 (Ag Innovator Day Camp); and 42 (Ag Education on the Move).
 - Nutrition at Bolivar Elementary with Hannah – 265
 - Bolivar Home School – 30 Simple Circuits (January)

Polk County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

Accomplishments

Polk County 4-H members have demonstrated learning through the following activities:

County

- 16 Club Officers
- 4 County Council Officers
- 650 Projects registered by members – Projects with 25+ enrollment were beef, arts & crafts, archery, foods, gardening, photography and wildlife conservation
- 12 members participated in the Capital Tour to Jefferson City and met with the First Lady (March)
- 6 members spoke at the monthly Rotary meeting (March)
- 40 members exhibited 174 handmade projects at county exhibit night (June)
- 10 members participated in summer camps (June and July)
- 57 GSBR members participated in the *Ag Innovator* day camp (July)
- 24 members completed 34 project records (August)
- 18 Clover Kids completed the 4-H year (August)
- 7 members participated in the Agriculture Career Tour (August)
- 1 member attends the County Extension Council meetings as a Liaison from the 4-H Council
- 1 member attended the MU Animal Sciences Youth Leadership Academy (August)
- 4-Hers also participate in many local events such as county 4-H council meetings, county-wide fundraisers, Handmade Exhibit Night, summer camps, the recognition celebration, Light the Park and community service activities.



Missouri 4-H Key Award – The Key Award, the highest award a 4-H member can receive, recognizes 4-H members who have achieved significant leadership at the club or group, community and state levels. The Key Award is a prestigious award rewarding 4-H members for their hard work and accomplishments as well as the contribution they have made to the overall 4-H program.

The objective of the Key Award is to encourage the growth of Missouri young people in the areas of leadership, community service and project excellence.

(Left) Curtis Dickerson and Ellie Samek 2024 Key Award winners.

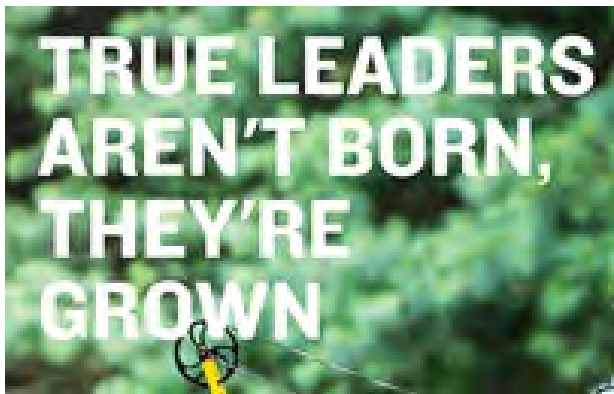
Polk County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact



During the **Polk County 4-H Capital Tour Trip** to Jefferson City – Polk County 4-H members met with Senator Sandy Crawford and State Representative Mike Stephens and explored the Capitol. The 4-H members also enjoyed a special meeting with First Lady Teresa Parson at the Governor’s Mansion.



Jackson Schuber presented the **Ag Innovators** program to 57 students at the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch during their summer school programming in July.



Polk County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

Regional and State Events

- 15 members competed at the regional shooting sports competition (June)
- 1 member competed at the state sport fishing competition (June)
- 1 members competed at the national shooting sports competition (June)
- 20 members exhibited 51 handmade projects at the Ozark Empire Fair (July-August)
- 20 members exhibited 34 handmade projects at the Missouri State Fair (August)
- 2 members competed in the State Public Speaking contest in Columbia (September)
- 2 members assisted as leaders at the summer zoo apprentice camps in Springfield, and Busch Gardens in Florida
- 5 members competed at the state shooting sports competition (August and September)

Special Awards and Recognition

- 3 Club Officer awards
- 2 Camp Counselor awards
- 1 ECYL (Extension Council Youth Liaison)
- 2 *4-H Key Awards*
- 1 4-H member was trained in and presented the National 4-H Program “Ag Innovators” at Humansville School, the Woodlawn 4-H Club and the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch (July)
- 1 4-H member served as a State Shooting Sports Ambassador



To Make the Best
BETTER

TO INVEST IN 4-H IS TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE.
4-H'ERS EXCEL.

about **4X**
more likely to
contribute to
their community.

2X
more likely to
make healthy
choices.



nearly **5X**
more likely to
graduate college.

Polk County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

How does this make Polk County and Missouri Better?

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for a career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly 6 million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System and USDA and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3000 local Extension offices.

The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

- Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024) the contribution of Polk County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$180,846 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

References

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



Val Noblitt and Kelli Dickerson were recognized for 10 years of volunteer service to the Polk county 4-H program.





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.



“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 Agricultural Business and Policy (ABP) program drives the growth of Missouri’s agriculture economy by equipping farmers, ranchers, landowners and agribusinesses with the knowledge and tools to make sound farm management decisions. ABP provides interactive programming and tailored resources such as enterprise budgets and farm accounting tools and valuable executive education through its annual Agricultural Lenders School and seminars. These programs deliver key insights, market outlooks, policy updates and practical tools to help lenders and their clientele navigate volatile farm economies. ABP conducts unbiased comprehensive surveys on farmland values, custom farming rates and cash rental rates. These surveys for farm operators, ag lenders, government agencies and industry stakeholders provide valuable insights into trends and indicators of farm financial health.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence

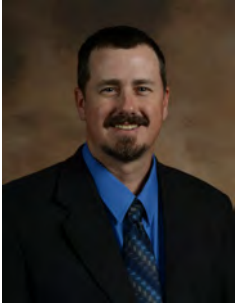


Health & Well-Being

Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Wesley Tucker
*Field Specialist in
Agriculture Business*

Southwest MO Beef Conference

Polk County is the largest cow/calf county in Missouri. Therefore, Polk County Extension sponsors this regional educational event to update producers on key management practices and help improve their profitability. Producers from all over Southwest Missouri come to Bolivar to attend this great educational event. Topics included:

- Cash Rental Rate Trends
- Pasture Weed & Brush Control
- The Importance of Matching Cows to the Environment
- What I've Learned from Custom Grazing



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Grazing School

Each year Polk County Extension, NRCS, and the Soil & Water Conservation District partner together to teach a five-night course on how to get the most out of your forages. With rising costs of land, fertilizer, diesel fuel, and feed, the management practices taught in this school are more important today than ever. On surveys of landowners that attended the grazing school more than 5 years ago, participants reported that attending the school allowed them to increase their profitability by an average of 22%.

Farm Succession Planning Workshops

Farm succession planning is so important if we want to see the next generation be successful. Rural America is about to transition many businesses from one generation to the next. To help meet this crucial need, Polk County Extension partnered with Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) to offer succession planning workshops. Topics included:

- Navigating family roles and business roles to prevent conflict
- Improving communication within the family farm business
- Sharing farm management decision-making with family during short-term crises
- Organizing a plan to transition farm ownership and management responsibilities to the next generation

In addition to workshops, Polk County Extension staff provides one-on-one counseling to help families through the farm transition process. Families travel from many counties away to the Bolivar office to receive counseling. This is a tremendous resource we have in our community.



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Polk County Livestock & Forage Conference

Since beef & forage production are so vital to our county, Polk County Extension hosts this annual conference to educate producers on timely production topics. This year's conference included presentations on:

- Weather Update & Growing Season Outlook
- Rebuilding the Cow Herd in 2024 Through Heifer Development
- How Long Can We Expect Cattle Prices to Stay High?

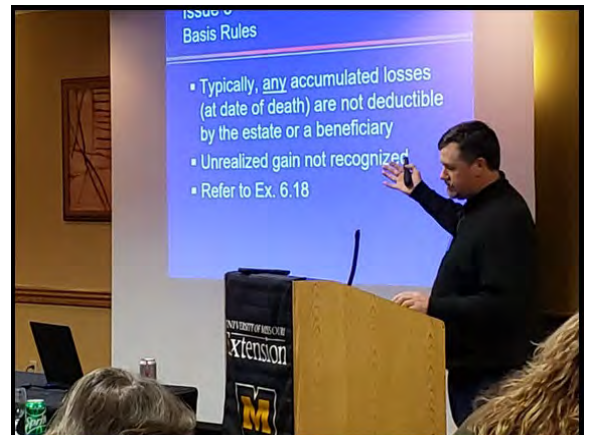


Supervisory Training

As businesses promote employees from within the skills that made them a good front line employee are not the same skills needed to manage other people. Polk County Extension provides human resource training on important topics such as leading teams, coaching employees, conflict resolution, and legal responsibilities of managers.

Farm Tax Management Workshops

Polk County Extension hosted and taught farmer tax meetings to help local producers understand the changes in recent income tax legislation. This program will help producers make better management decisions and improve the profitability of their operations.



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Junior Livestock Auction

Each year Polk County Extension organizes and conducts the Junior Livestock Auction so area youth can be rewarded for all their hard. 100% of the money raised goes straight to the kids to help them cover the cost of their livestock projects and grow them into thriving ag businesses in the future. This year raised \$27,689.82 for Polk County Youth.

Buyer Craig Lehman visiting with Lila Brown about her swine project prior to the Junior Livestock Auction in June.



Agricultural Lenders Seminar

All segments of agriculture are experiencing tremendous financial volatility due to drought and highly volatile commodity prices. Polk County Extension used its annual ag lender's seminar to provide training and educational resources to local lenders to prevent a recurrence of the 1980's. On evaluations **100% answered the information presented would help them serve and advise their agricultural clients.**



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Extension Tax Schools

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

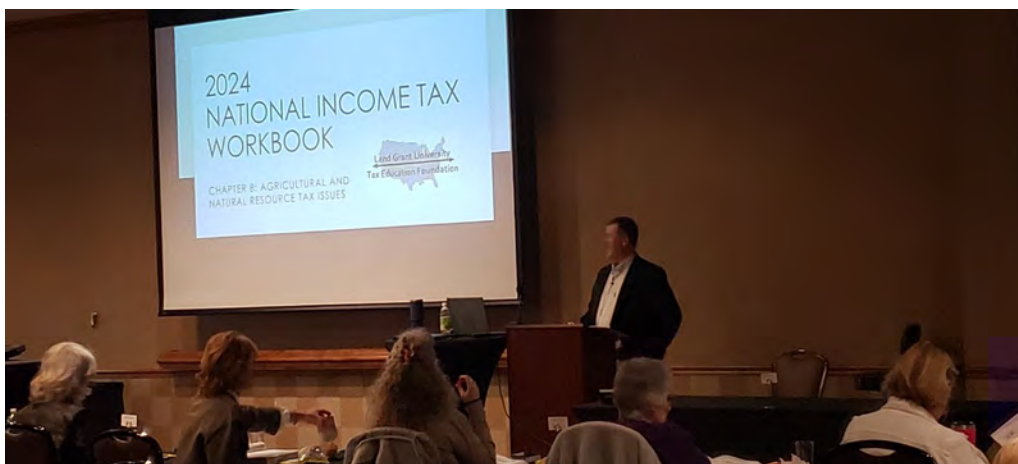
The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, related party issues, real estate rental activity issues, limited liability company issues, and international tax issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,776 hours.

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

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

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

The 2024 school attendance totaled three hundred fifty people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories



Terry Halleran conducted a Private Applicator Training session in Polk County in February with over 50 attendees.



Two Polk County residents attended the Cattlemen's bus tour in August. They joined other cattle producers touring Southwest Missouri, Oklahoma and Southern Kansas.

A second Private Applicator Training session offered by Terry Halleran.



Polk County

Agriculture and Environment



Joni Harper
Field Specialist in Natural Resources
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Covering West Central Counties of Missouri

This year saw the expansion of natural resources programming to many of my counties. Here are some highlights of 2024:

- Woodland Steward Workshop
- Forest Farming Workshop
- Revival of Missouri Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) program
 - Monthly virtual Zoom meetings connecting with women woodland owners over topics of interest.
- Heroes to Hives Program
- Youth programming: 4-H soil and water experiment and watershed curriculum
- Keep Your Forest in the Family Legacy Workshop

It was great getting to connect with everyone in person and over Zoom. I will continue to offer virtual natural resources programming as it's the best way to reach all my counties. I will also continue to bring in-person programming to more counties as well. Thank you all for your support in 2024.

Stay Up-to-Date on Natural Resources Programming

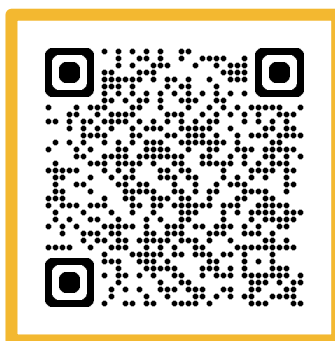
Follow our newsletters to receive information monthly about our upcoming programs & learn more about Missouri's natural resources:

MU Extension Natural Resources Newsletter



[bit.ly/MU -Ext-Natural-Resources](https://bit.ly/MU-Ext-Natural-Resources)

Women Owning Woodlands Newsletter



[bit.ly/missouri -wow](https://bit.ly/missouri-wow)

Looking at 2025

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2025.

- Women Owning Woodlands Monthly Zoom meetings
- Chainsaw Safety Courses
- Invasive Plant Workshops
- Agroforestry Programming
- Forest Management field days & tours
- Natural Resources youth programming

Let me know what you'd like to see in your county - looking forward to engaging with everyone in conservation next year!



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 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

The 2023 conference drew **104 ATTENDEES**, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around **\$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Polk County

Serving: Polk County

Business and Community

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University (MSU) provided support to Polk County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. In 2024 our Center partnered with the Small Business Administration and New Growth MO to bring "Credit As An Asset" & "Becoming a Better Borrower" to Bolivar. We also worked with the Economic Development Partnership for Bolivar and Polk County to bring our 8-Session Early-Stage Business Boot Camp to Polk County.

Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients in Polk County to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization

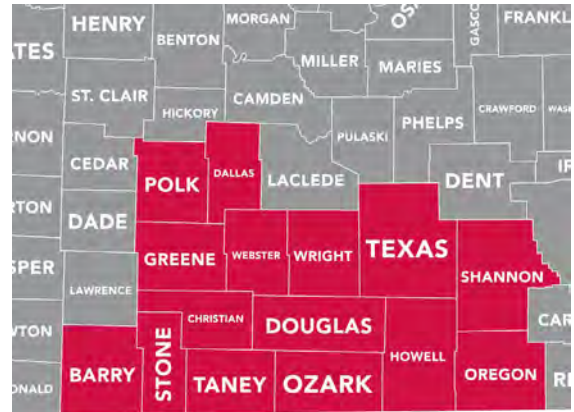
Through leveraging regional partnerships, several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. In 2024 this initiative brought one of our Early-Stage Business Boot Camps to Polk County. The Early-Stage Business Boot Camp helped 14 entrepreneurs in Polk County look at all aspects of their business including, feasibility, business planning and understanding business financials.

KEY OUTCOMES IN POLK COUNTY

21 Business owners in the County received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.

119 Jobs retained

86 Attendees from Polk County joined our business and professional development training programs.



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

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417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$158,348,440

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the SBDC

\$96,731,627

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

\$20,468,645

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC



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



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

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



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

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



MU **Continuing Education for Health Professions** (CEHP) provides evidenced-based, relevant and responsive learning activities designed to narrow professional practice gaps with respect to knowledge, competence, and performance of the healthcare team. A commitment to lifelong learning, in partnership with those we serve, contributes to excellence in practice and improved health outcomes.

CEHP provided 169 LEARNING ACTIVITIES which reached over 53,000 PROFESSIONALS across all Missouri counties.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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



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



The 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 2023, the basic academy has licensed almost 300 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 LETI **School Protection Officer Program** provides basic training for school faculty and administrators to become school protection officers. The three-week academy typically runs during June and exceeds the hourly requirements for state recognition and certification.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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



Home Food Preservation

Preserve the season's bounty - deliciously and safely.

Learn safe techniques for pressure canning, boiling water bath canning, steam canning, dehydration and freezing.

Understand the importance of using safe preservation and storage methods to avoid cross-contamination and foodborne illnesses.

"This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family's access to quality food."



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

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

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

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

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

1,482 direct and indirect contacts were made in Polk 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.

Polk County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

During 2024 youth and adults were served through Schools, Community Groups and Agencies.

Schools served were - Halfway Elementary, Humansville Elementary, Bolivar Broadway Headstart and Morrisville Elementary.

Community groups and agencies served were Greater Polk County Farmers Market, Pleasant Hope Farmers Market, Polk County Community Outreach Ministries and Humansville Fall Festival.

In October Polk County also participated in the annual "Crunch Off" celebrating Farm to School Month. Farm to School (FTS) is any activity connecting schools to local food and farms. The main goals of FTS are to serve fresh, high-quality, locally grown food in school cafeterias; to provide agriculture, health and nutrition education; and to support local and regional farmers.

Missouri Farm to School works with schools, farmers, vendors and communities to get more fresh, flavorful foods to local cafeterias. By increasing access to these foods, we not only help the littlest Missourians develop healthy, life-long eating habits, but we also support family farmers and our economy.

Local locations where the "Crunch Off" activity took place were – Halfway Elementary, Polk County Extension Council, Bolivar High School football game on Oct. 18, 2024 and Community Connections monthly meeting held at the Polk County Library.

With the focus of making healthier food choices Polk County Community Outreach Ministries was able to receive supplies for their Community Garden from their "Wish List". These supplies were provided by garden grant funding through the University of Missouri FNEP program.

Members of the Polk County Extension Council participated in the Crunch off at their October 7, 2024



Polk County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories



Participants from Polk Co. attended the Country Cured Ham Class where myself, Hannah Whittaker and Extension and Engagement Specialist, Kyle Whittaker provided history and instruction on how to cure a ham. Each participant left with a ham, and some entered their ham into county, regional, and Missouri State Fair.



This photo was taken at a training held in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Soy Chef training was directed at Nutrition and Health Specialists on how we could provide more education to local farmers and consumers on the use and health benefits of soybeans in our area.

The Spring Garden Planning class was a fantastic start to our spring season in West Central Missouri. This class provided insights on how and when to start your garden no matter the amount of space you have. This class encouraged participants to eat what they grow and try new recipes. Some participants also had plans to preserve their harvest.



Polk County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Elementary students from Polk County participated in a nutrition summer school program with myself, Hannah Whittaker, and 4-H Youth and Development Specialist, Velynda Cameron. We saw Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders at the Bolivar Primary School. Students were taught lessons from the program Kids in the Kitchen where they learn about nutrition, cooking skills, food handling, and kitchen safety. Students were provided a lesson and a tasting or snack at each lesson. Students would return talking about the new things they tried at home, whether that was cooking in the kitchen with mom and dad or a new food that they tried after their lessons.





Della Miller
Field Specialist in
Human Development

Polk County

Serving Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Polk,
 Benton, Hickory, Wright and Webster Counties

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

What is the Role of Field Specialist in Human Development in the Community?

Field Specialists in Human Development deliver evidence-based programming to communities across Missouri. These initiatives are designed to meet the unique needs of each community by providing education on topics such as parenting, family strengthening, mental health awareness, adolescent development, aging well, early childhood care and education, and other related areas.

Families & Parenting Programs

Building Strong Families

The Human Development and Family Science team partnered with the Missouri Department of Social Services Children’s Division to provide parenting classes for parents who are trying to bring their children home from foster care. We offered five 6-session parenting classes online throughout the year. These classes covered topics such as communication, stress management, discipline and more.

Impact

- The team taught 81 parents who earned 800 hours of parenting information.
- Positively impacted the 167 children of these parents.
- Parents joined the classes from 32 different counties across the state of Missouri.

What Participants Are Saying About Our Programs:

“The stories and scenarios to help in how to best approach youth in crisis. Especially for very difficult conversations that we ourselves may feel anxious bringing up.” – Youth Mental Health First Aid Participant

“Not only does this course teach new things. It also helps affirm strategies already being used and helped make me feel good about myself as a parent. It really helped me grow. Thank You.” - Building Strong Families Participant

“This was one of the most useful programs I’ve ever heard. Growing older is not easy, but I like all the tips to try to keep us safe” – Keep Your Keys Participant

“Everyone should be taught this information. Thank you for coming to talk to us!” – Alzheimer’s Association Program Participant

Professional Development Programs

Childcare Provider Training Virtual (Collaborative) and In-Person Childcare programming by Human Development and Family Science Field Specialists in-person and virtually was completed statewide. The childcare programming provides statewide clock hours for professional development for childcare providers who are required to obtain 12 hours each year.

Impact

- Provided 422 childcare providers across the state of Missouri through 41 sessions.
- 844 clock hours provided for professional development
- In-person trainings were provided to childcare providers in Laclede, Miller, and Camden Counties.

Well-Being Programs

Taking Care of You

This multi-session program provides practical strategies and hands-on experiences designed to help you effectively manage stress in your daily life.

Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP)

A six-week program that equips participants with essential tools to better manage chronic conditions. Topics include self-management techniques, action planning, healthy eating, and effective communication with healthcare providers.

Mental Health First Aid (Adult and Youth)

This program teaches individuals to identify the signs of mental health and substance use challenges in both adults and youth, promoting early intervention and support.

Impact

- Well-being programs positively impacted 80 participants across 20 counties, including Camden, Laclede, Dallas, and Miller Counties.

Aging Well Programs

Alzheimer’s Association Programs

This program offers informative presentations on a range of Alzheimer’s and dementia-related topics, including the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer’s, effective communication strategies, and how to understand and respond to dementia-related behaviors.

Keep Your Keys

Focused on driving safety, this program covers how to maintain the physical and medical fitness necessary for safe driving, when and how to plan for driving retirement, and provides valuable tools and resources to enhance road safety.

Impact

- The Aging Well programs reached 48 individuals across several counties, including Hickory, Miller, Dallas, and Laclede, making a significant impact on their well-being.



Polk County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories

The Artz Family, Zach, Ashley, Peyton, Hadley and Hayden represented Polk County at the 2024 Missouri State Fair as the Polk County Farm Family. The Artz Family are active in the agriculture community and the children are members of Polk County 4-H and participate in local, area and state fairs.

They are shown here with Missouri Farm Bureau President Garrett Hawkins; Missouri Department of Agriculture Director Chris Chinn; University of Missouri Extension Chancellor for Extension and Engagement Chad Higgins; Missouri State Fair Commissioner Jerald Andrews; MU Vice Chancellor & Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Chris Daubert; Missouri State Fair Queen Claire Walker; Chairman, Missouri State Fair Commissioner Kevin Roberts.

