



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Putnam County 2025



Annual Report

1601 Main Street  
Room 104  
Unionville, MO 63565  
660-947-2705

**SERVE MISSOURI.  
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

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

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

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

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

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

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

With appreciation,

*Chadwick C Higgins*

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

# WHO WE ARE

## Faculty and Staff



Raylene Ray  
Office Support Staff

Valerie Tate  
Agronomy Field Specialist

Zac Erwin  
Livestock Field Specialist

Jennifer Schutter  
Horticulture Field Specialist

Jerimiah Terrell  
Human Development Field Specialist

Darla Campbell  
Community Economic Development Field Specialist

Anastasia Tiedemann  
Business Development Specialist (SBDC)

Michael Krauch  
NE Regional Director

Mary Sobba  
Ag Business Specialist

Tracie Moore  
Extension Engagement Specialist

Hillary Robedeaux  
4-H Youth Development Educator

## Council Members

Shelby Selvy  
Chairman

Lindsay Hague  
Vice-chairman

Craig Griswold  
Secretary

Katelyn Haines  
Treasurer

Shane Bradshaw  
Appointed

Rachael Shipley

Rita Smith

Cole Young

Amber Burkhiser

Devin Burkhiser



## County executives

Robert Munden  
Presiding Commissioner

Shane Bradshaw  
Eastern District Commissioner

Robert Valentine  
Western District Commissioner

# BUDGET AND MORE

## Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	35,000
Total Income	35,000
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	25,000
Travel	1,200
Telephone	1,000
Office Supplies/Service	3,000
Utilities	2,500
Insurance	1,200
Capital Repairs	800
Total Expenses	34,700

## Return on investment

University System	100,000
Donations	14,000
Program Revenue	4,087

## Putnam County partners

County Commissioners  
Unionville Lions Club  
Putnam County Library  
Unionville Livestock Market  
Putnam County R-1 Schools  
Shelter Insurance  
MFA  
Putnam County State Bank  
Farmers Bank of Northern MO  
International State Bank  
Hy-Vee  
The Store Building, LLC  
JR Meats Co.  
Putnam County Fair Board  
The City of Unionville  
Vernon Graphics

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



## Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Putnam* County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

# UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

## MU Extension in Putnam Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Putnam County, showcasing the meaningful ways local engagement supports residents. It includes data on the number of students, employees, retirees and alumni affiliated with the University of Missouri System, along with the healthcare and extension services provided over the past year.

In addition, the report highlights the broader contributions of the UM System across Missouri in key areas such as education, research, healthcare, economic development and public service. It features metrics like job creation, financial aid distribution, research investment, healthcare access and broadband expansion.

This report is a valuable resource for understanding the measurable benefits the UM System brings to Missouri communities. It supports informed decision-making, advocacy efforts and strategic planning by illustrating the tangible impact of university-driven initiatives at both the local and statewide levels.

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



# GRAND CHALLENGES

## Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges — Economic Opportunity, Educational Access, Health and Well-being, and Agricultural Stewardship — represent the most pressing issues facing Missouri communities. They are important because:

By focusing on these challenges, MU Extension in Putnam can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in Putnam is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

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





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

## Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



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.



Missouri 4-H Natural Resources programs engage youth in hands-on learning across climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing, and wildlife conservation. Programs like the **4-H Sportfishing Contest** and **Sportfishing SLAM** give young people practical experience while building teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a love of the outdoors.

The **4-H Shooting Sports** program teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting, and archery principles, demonstrating how 4-H encourages holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs help youth cultivate life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics while exploring the natural world around them.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture programs give youth hands-on experiences in areas such as animal science, veterinary science, plant science, and agronomy. Members explore the biology, care, and management of animals and crops while developing problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

Youth can also put their knowledge into practice through statewide competitions, including **Livestock Judging, Meat Judging, Hippology,** the **Missouri 4-H Equine Tour** and more. These experiences help participants apply what they've learned, gain confidence, and prepare for future careers in agriculture and related fields.

## Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being

### Local Impact

#### 4-H Youth Development- Northeast Missouri- Putnam County

A community of 287 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.

About 1 in every 3 Putnam County youth under the age of eighteen participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2025.

#### 4-H Members

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects 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. Putnam County served youth through 5 community clubs, 1 In-school program offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others.

- During the 2024-2025 4-H year, 287 youth were involved in community clubs and school enrichment classes in Putnam County. Over 64 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively youth participated in 1166 hours of community club work in Putnam County.



## Missouri 4-H

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

- Around 300 exhibits at the 2025 Putnam County Fair from more than 75 4-H members who are also supported through youth programming.
- Putnam County youth exhibited over 30 exhibits in the 4-H Building and livestock shows of the Missouri State Fair.
- 11 state level recognition forms were completed by members. These forms provide members with a vital step in the Experiential Learning Model. Members reflect on the things they have done and learned throughout the 4-H year and how they can apply what they have learned in the upcoming year.

4-H Clubs offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under this guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK. Club and project leaders also involve youth and teens in community service, leadership opportunities, and educational trips. 4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests in citizenship, communication, and leadership.

Putnam County members enrolled in a combined total of 550 projects in 2025. The top project areas included:

- Arts and Crafts
- Photography
- Poultry

### Impacts of 4-H Programming

- 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)..

### 4-H Volunteers

- Putnam County 4-H members were supported by 30 enrolled, screened and oriented adult volunteers supporting the development of youth in 2025.
- Volunteers contributed 30,000 hours to the Putnam County 4-H program valued at \$10,437,000.

Volunteers participate in development opportunities like project leader training and club leader summits, in addition to ongoing support from MU Extension youth faculty and staff gaining knowledge in how to offer a valuable learning experience for the youth they are working with while maintaining a safe, supportive environment. Volunteers create, support, and are a vital part of the 4-H community. Dedicated volunteers help to organize club meetings, fundraisers and events. They also provide learning opportunities for youth in their projects, teaching life skills and instilling qualities of character like respect and responsibility in members. Adult volunteers serve as mentors for our youth, helping them transition into caring, healthy adults who contribute back to their communities, which is priceless.

## Missouri 4-H

### Findings from a 2021-2022 evaluation study shows that Missouri 4-H:

#### **Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do**

- 98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.
- 91% set personal goals.
- 97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.
- 98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.

#### **Missouri 4-H Grows True Leaders**

- 97% said they like to learn about people who are different than them.
- 93% said they think about others' feelings before they say something.
- 75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.

#### **4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills**

- 95% help others reach their goals. 86% are comfortable speaking in a group.
- 99% said they show respect for other's ideas.
- 85% can work with someone who made them upset.
- 95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

#### **4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills**

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- 99% said they show respect for other's ideas.
- 85% can work with someone who made them upset.
- 95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

#### **4-H School Enrichment- Embryology**

There were 136 students from three classrooms who participated in the Hatching Chicks in the Classroom program in 2025.

Students participated in over 50 hours of learning with the "Chick It Out" program.

During the Embryology program, students learn about the 21-day development occurring within a fertilized, incubated egg that can result in the hatching of a chick. Students identify the parts of an egg and discover what each part provides for the developing chick. Students learn how to tell if an egg is raw or boiled and explore the strength of the egg's shell providing protection to the developing chicks. Students review the necessity of hand washing due to potential contamination caused by salmonella in poultry and poultry products. Students often gain experience with death and disabilities. Throughout the experience, students are charged with rotating the eggs three times a day and are responsible for checking to make sure the incubator has water and is maintaining the correct temperature. Once the chicks hatch, the students care for them, providing feed, water, warmth, and a calm environment.

#### **4-H Builds Social and Emotional Skills**

- 94% said they keep trying until they reach their goals.
- 89% stop to think about their choices when making a decision.
- 97% reported that they like to learn new things.
- 91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.



### Local Impact



Students practice life skills including decision making and responsibility, helping them to develop qualities that will shape their development into adults. Students are provided with the opportunity for a practical experience that connects with the core subjects of communication arts, math, science, and health. Youth with hands-on experience with science are more likely to pursue science-related careers, which are critical to our county, state, national, and global economy. Students are conscious of the need to practice proper hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of illness and disease. Students also learn compassion and develop an understanding of how to accept individuals with disabilities, as well as how disabilities can be compensated for.

#### 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).

Independent Sector (2023). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time \$31.80 per hour. Retrieved from: <https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-31-80-per-hour/>

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>

#### Which line or part of the 4-H pledge means the most to you and why?

“My health to better living”. This is meaningful to me because I’m constantly trying to improve and be better in all aspects of life.





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## Agriculture and Environment



**The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM)**, funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

**The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.**

**“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.



**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**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) ensures the U.S. food supply remains safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it in livestock feed. MU Extension livestock specialist Brenda Schreck works directly with agricultural firms that provide and/or process livestock feed to develop and maintain feed safety plans. In Putnam County, one plan is maintained as part of ongoing compliance efforts. Across Northeast Missouri, Schreck continues to maintain 23 plans for elevators and feed manufacturing firms. Discussions focus on implementing documentation for preventive controls and maintaining accurate records as required by the FDA. Feed safety manuals help firms track preventive measures and ensure animal feed safety standards are met.



MU Extension delivered a quarterly Horsemen's Webinar Series in 2025 to provide practical, research-based education for horse owners and equine operations. The free, online series featured MU Extension specialists and university experts who addressed key topics impacting horse health, safety, and farm management, including forage management, toxic weed identification, hay selection, and farm tax considerations. The series helped participants improve horse health, reduce risk, and strengthen farm management decisions.

In Putnam County, one participant attended the webinars, contributing to a program that reached 116 registrants from 12 states and two countries. The strong participation demonstrates both local need and the efficiency of Extension's virtual delivery model, which maximizes county investment while expanding access to high-quality education.



## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

**Master Gardener Program:** In 2025, Putnam County Master Gardener volunteered 33.5 hours of service and completed 11 hours of continuing education. The value of the service hours was \$1,165.47 using the value of \$34.79 for 2025 per volunteer hour from the Independent Sector.

The Master Gardener planted flowers and maintained a small park off the Unionville square; coordinated and set up the flower show at the Putnam County Fair; helped with a plant sale; and learned how to tag monarch butterflies then tagged several and released them. Throughout the year, Master Gardeners attend meetings, participate in educational opportunities and providing service to their community.

**All-America Selection Display Garden Program and Tour:** Nine members of the Putnam County Garden Club attended a program on the All-America Selections Plant program in Kirksville and toured the AAS Display Garden at the Adair County MU Extension Center.

**Women in Agriculture:** A Women in Agriculture program was held November 5, at Wildflower Grove in Green Castle. Twenty-five women attended the workshop, with 1 attending from Putnam County. Various sessions on agriculture topics were taught throughout the day. These included Estate and Financial Preparedness, Artificial Intelligence and Agriculture, Missouri Beef Industry Update and Plant Diagnostics. Women in Agriculture programs bring women together to network, form connections, and gain knowledge they can use in their farm operation or agriculture business.



**Horticulture program:** A horticulture program on selecting and exhibiting fruits, vegetables and flowers was held at the Putnam County Fair. Fifteen participants learned how to select the best quality produce and flowers for exhibition, and tips for staging them to make them look their best.

**Consultations:** Throughout the year, home gardeners and producers in Putnam County received information and advice on various gardening questions, to help them make more informed choices about their vegetable gardens, flower gardens, fruit trees, lawns and landscapes.

**Garden Talk Newsletter:** Forty-two people from Putnam County receive a hard copy of the Garden Talk newsletter each month. The newsletter provides them with timely gardening tips and information on a variety of horticulture topics. It also includes upcoming horticulture programs and activities. Some residents receive it electronically.

## Agriculture and Environment

The private pesticide applicator license issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture is required for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. Restricted use pesticides are classified as such because without additional training they pose a risk to people, animals, or the environment. Agricultural producers needing to obtain or renew certification of this license must take this pesticide safety training every five years. New licensing requirements went into effect in 2025 which required producers to obtain a Category 20-CORE license which was valid for many restricted use pesticides. Producers who purchase and/or apply soil fumigants, non-soil fumigants, or apply restricted use pesticides using a drone, helicopter or airplane on their own farm or farmland they rent, must obtain supplemental licenses in addition to the CORE.

During the training, participants learn about:

- safe handling of pesticides
- proper mixing, calibration techniques
- environmental ramifications of improper mixing or careless application
- chemical breakdown of pesticides in the environment
- what records are needed
- pesticide formulations
- personal protective equipment and how to clean it
- pesticide storage
- common Missouri pests
- integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

During 2025, 8 agricultural producers in Putnam County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Laboratory are analyzed for pH and nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron, and copper.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Laboratory are:

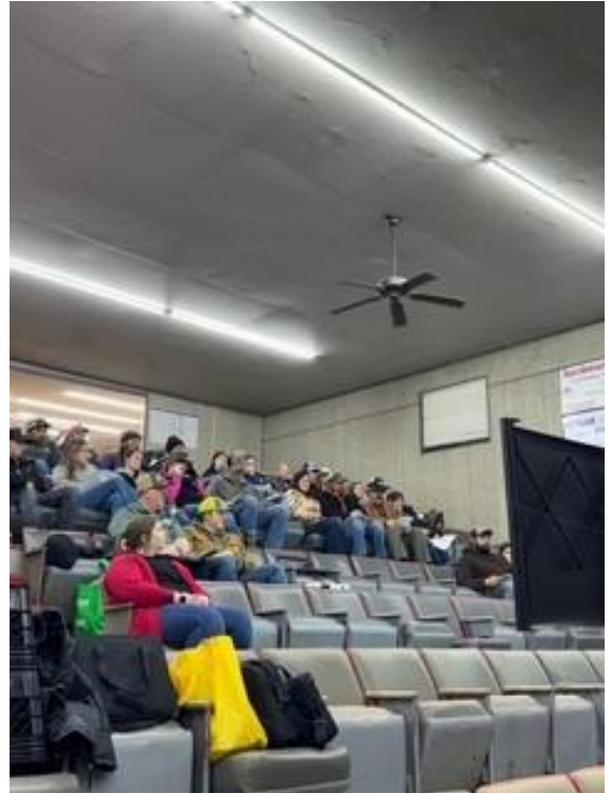
- to help farmers make effective use of fertilizer to increase their financial returns
- benefit society with improved environment and water quality through efficient use of fertilizer
- to ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.

University of Missouri Soil Testing Laboratory ensures Missouri farmers are efficiently using the plant nutrients which are applied to agricultural fields by providing unbiased, research-based fertilizer and limestone recommendations based on soil fertility analysis. This is a cost-effective way to determine if adequate fertilizer is being applied to obtain the yield goals set by the farmer. It also ensures the farmer is not applying excess fertilizer, which is not only costly, but can be damaging to the environment. In 2025, the MU Soil Testing Laboratory analyzed 21 soil samples from Putnam County.

## Agriculture and Environment

### BQA Training in Putnam

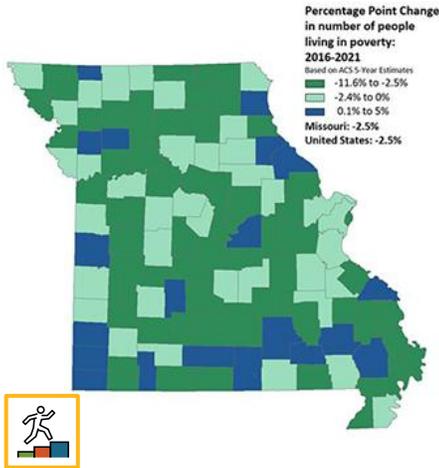
BQA is a national program that helps producers identify management processes, leading to increased herd profitability and a commitment to quality within every segment of the beef industry. Producers learn about animal biosecurity, feeds and feed additives, antibiotics and residue avoidance, non-ambulatory cattle and euthanasia, vaccine administration and principles of cattle handling. A BQA training program was held in Putnam County at the Unionville Livestock Market where it was estimated that 30 producers attended.





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## Business and Community



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

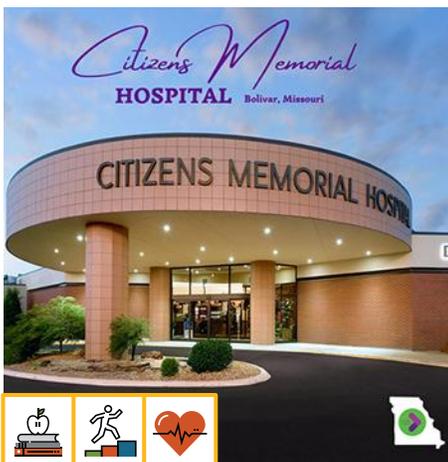
**In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.**



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



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



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



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

### Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being

## Business and Community

### Local 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. One participant from Putnam County attended the tax school.

## Business and Community

### Local Impact



The Missouri Department of Agriculture partnered with University of Missouri Extension to collect farmers' market price data on crops present at Missouri farmers' markets June-October of 2025. Five MU Extension Specialists collected data while providing production, marketing, and financial resources to producers around the state. The data is available seasonally on MDA's website and helps new and experienced producers determine market prices for their products. There was a total of 45 different markets visited in 2025 with 1908 prices collected.

I made 16 market visits to 12 different markets in Northeast and Central Missouri. These markets were in Kirksville, Unionville, Brookfield, Milan, La Plata, Louisiana, Hannibal, Palmyra, Mexico, Lancaster, and Columbia.

Vendors in Putnam County: 15



## Business and Community

### Serving on Public Boards

This comprehensive program is designed to help navigate your role with clarity, confidence, and purpose. Whether you're newly appointed or have years of experience, this class will deepen your understanding of board responsibilities and strengthen your leadership in public service.

Serving on a public board is a vital role in shaping community services, ensuring ethical governance, and managing public resources effectively. A pilot class was held in Kirksville in March where we asked for input on our updated curriculum. Four attendees from Putnam participated in this program.



### Economic Development in Putnam County

In 2025, a group of citizens worked on an economic development plan. They identified three key areas which include economic development, communication/leadership, and housing. They formed a committee called Prosperity for Putnam, a nonprofit.

I have been involved from the beginning with this process, focusing in three areas – airport expansion, housing and farmers' market. The RPC had visited the city of Unionville and shared they were next in line to apply for a \$9 million grant for upgrades to their airport.

I got a hold of the feasibility plan for the airport expansion and then I contacted the owner of CB Aerial Application to present to the city council using a form I developed, CB Aerial Application shared the economic impact of the airport over a three- year period.

One year - one business surpassed the feasibility study projected economic development. Since the meeting, more information was acquired from CB Aerial Application and the city has communicated with the RPC about potential airport funding.



## Business and Community

### Housing – Darla Campbell & Jackie Spainhower

When the community prioritized housing as one of the most immediate needs, we began working using an established framework for improving housing in rural communities, collaborative strategy development.

The focus of the November 10<sup>th</sup> session was to help analyze housing conditions, identify needs and opportunities, build shared goals, and create actionable strategies.

Through facilitated discussions prior to November 10th involving 53 residents and stakeholders, four major housing focus areas were identified with specifics under each.

- Research & Information Gathering
- Financing & Resource Mobilization
- Housing Assessment & Inventory
- Code Enforcement, Standards & Property Conditions

As a result of the community's focus on housing, Green Hills RPC conducted a countywide housing survey, which closed November 15, 2025. Results will serve as a foundational data set for strategy refinement and future implementation planning.

By continuing this momentum into 2026, the county is well-positioned to develop a coordinated, actionable plan that improves housing availability, quality, affordability, and overall community well-being.

### Growing Farmers' Markets in NE Missouri – Darla Campbell

A USDA Business Builder grant project is supporting markets in Putnam, Schuyler, Sullivan, and Scotland Counties. The emphasis is on youth entrepreneurship, marketing, reducing waste, and strengthening local food systems. Funds are being used for education, market manager salaries, and items that reduce market barriers for young vendors.

#### Business Development Programming for the Northeast Region: 1/1/2025 to 12/15/25

Loans and Equity	\$11,104,965.00
Sales Increase	\$15,903,081.00
New Businesses Started	49
Money Amount of Government Contract Awards	\$8,053,599.00
Number of Government Contract Awards	37
Jobs Created	109
Unique Clients Served	647
Number of Clients Counseled	627
Number of Training Events Attendees	921



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## Continuing Education



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 PROFESSIONAL across all Missouri counties.**



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



The **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



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

## Health and Human Sciences



### Home Food Preservation

*Preserve the season's bounty in a safe and delicious way.*

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

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

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



**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.

**Rural Immersion Program participants agree that it has significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.**



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

**"Understanding that divorce doesn't ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable."**

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### Profiles and stories



#### **Direct/Indirect Contacts:**

*Be An Active Family*  
(Putnam Co Library) – 7

*Be An Active Family/Dig into Good Health* (Putnam Co Library)- 14

*Build a Healthy Plate*  
(Putnam Co Health Dept.) -11

*Putnam Co Elementary Programming* – 66 (K and 1<sup>st</sup> Grades)

*Fruits and Veggies / Food Safety*  
(Putnam Co Library and Health Dept.) – 45

*Health and Nutrition*  
(Putnam Co Health Dept and Putnam Co School) – 38

*What's for Breakfast*  
(Putnam Co Library and Health Dept.) – 40

*Family Meals*  
(Putnam Co Health Dept) - 7

Family Nutrition Education Programs (FNEP) is the term used to refer to MU Extensions' two key nutrition programs for low-income Missourians: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

SNAP-ed grant funds come to MU Extension from USDA, Food and Nutrition Services through Missouri's food stamp program. The focus of FNEP is on youth and the adults who support them. Nutrition Program Associate's (NPA's) work with grant eligible audiences in helping to achieve lifelong health and fitness.

#### **Success Story Quote:**

"This class has motivated me to move and be more active for myself. My goal for the summer is to walk 20 minutes per day and then go on to running/jogging. I will also be working on drinking more water and limiting sugary drinks."

