



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Ripley County

2024

Annual Report



**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**

100 Courthouse Square
Suite 7
Doniphan, MO 63935
573-996-2921



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

Vice Chancellor's Office
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL chiggins@missouri.edu

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

Dr. Jason Morris, PhD
Agriculture Business Specialist



Mary Russom
Office Manager



Tony Merkel
4-H Youth Program Associate



Veronica Taylor
Nutrition Program Associate



Sarah Denkler
SE Regional Director



Jennifer Williams
Engagement Specialist



John Fuller
Human Development Specialist



Emily Doosing
4-H Youth Development Specialist



Elizabeth Picking
Livestock Specialist



Traven Crocker
Horticulture Specialist



Kelley Brent
Nutrition & Health Specialist



****Not pictured:** Haley Schwantz
Agronomy Specialist

Council Members

Warren Bland, Chairman

Jesse Roy, Jr., Vice-chairman

Tabitha Allen Secretary

Caleb Stewart, Treasurer

David Buxton

Ed Mobley

James Bland

Marilyn Smith

Nikki Johannsen

Kenny Freeman

Steve Smith



Ripley County Commissioners

Jesse Roy, Jr., Presiding Commissioner

Gary Emmons, Commissioner East District

Keith Whiteside, Commissioner West District

Michael Williams, County Clerk

Financials and more

Receipts and Expenditures 2024

Income

County Appropriations 29,500

Total Income 29,500

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 20,955

Travel 3,325

Telephone 1,422

Office Supplies/Service 1,752

Council Expense 500

Insurance 1,914

Soil Test 1,345

4-H 2,807

Copier & equipment 2,124

Total Expenses 36,144

Key Outcomes and Numbers

- ✓ 1282 direct contacts attended University of Missouri Extension programs in 2024. An additional 594 people were contacted indirectly in program area events.
- ✓ Programs attended by Ripley county citizens in 2024 included: Beef Production, Horticulture, Integrated Pest Management, Master Gardener Programs, Food Preservation, Matter of Balance, Stay Strong / Stay Healthy, Missouri Grazing School, Missouri Woodland Steward, Women in Agriculture Estate Planning, and Labor & Workforce Development.
- ✓ 112 licensed private applicators in Ripley 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 Ripley County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Ripley County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

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

Missouri Century Farm

In 1976, Missouri's Centennial Farm project awarded certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. The MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and MU Extension planned a 10-year update in 1986 called the Century Farm program. Since then, the program has been an annual event, recognizing more than 100 farms each year.

Three generations of the Kernodle family have continued to carry on a tradition of farming, a legacy which began with **212 acres** established in **1923** in west Ripley County.



Ripley County State Fair Family

The Bland Family was among those honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day Aug. 12th at the Missouri State Fair. The **Warren and Diane Bland Family** was selected as the Missouri County Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the local Farm Bureau.



Ripley County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

17 students

- 12 Undergraduates
- 5 Graduate and professional students
- 17 Full-time students



County employees and retirees

3 people employed by UM

- 3 Campuses



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 13 Nursing
- 4 Health Professions
- 1 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 2 Veterinary Medicine
- 16 Agriculture
- 15 Engineering
- 8 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 3 teachers
- 1.6% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 12 students
- 63 alumni
- 3 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 10 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 2 students
- 13 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 1 student
- 16 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

Naylor Archeological Support and Storage
MU Extension in Ripley County



County population: 10,755



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 22 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$3,229 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 27 visits to 10 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 996 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 292 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 551 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 46 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Ripley County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

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.

\$3.1
billion

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$158 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

MU		UMKC	
28,608	\$583.6M	11,518	\$228.5M
Students receiving financial aid	Financial aid awarded	Students receiving financial aid	Financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,720	\$127.7M	8,256	\$107.8M
Students receiving financial aid	Financial aid awarded	Students receiving financial aid	Financial aid awarded



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



Ripley County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact and Stories



Ripley County 4-H walking the infield track and carrying the club banner at the St. Louis Cardinals game.



Fire safety day at the 4-H building.

Josie Kennon, 4H Horse club member wins 1st place buckle at local saddle club event.



Ripley County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact and Stories



Bicycle Rodeo winners at the Ripley County Fair



Labor Day Parade

Ripley County 4-H and Farm Family Float

Horsemanship Class at the Ripley County Fair



Ripley County Fair

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact and Stories



Baylor Jackson's market lamb
1st year novice showman
Age 9



Riley Johannsen was awarded the
Grand Champion Steer and the Steer
Largest Loin Eye Area.

Grand Champion
Junior Beef
Showmanship -
Audrey Braschler with
her heifer named
"Darla," receiving the
Lavell Mobley
Memorial Best of
Show award.





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18

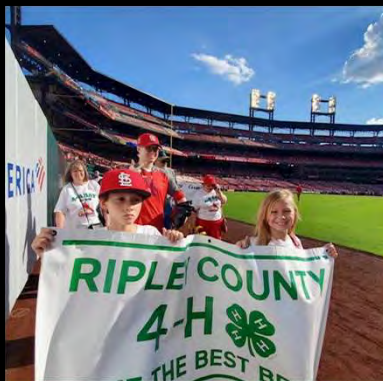


"4-H is essential in Ripley County, helping kids build confidence, make connections, and grow into strong leaders. It gives them the tools to succeed and thrive in life."

Emily Doosing
4-H Specialist
edoosing@missouri.edu
573-226-3268

"As a 4-H Educator, I get to see firsthand the positive impact our programs have on Ripley County youth. It is inspiring to watch them grow and thrive."

Cara Carswell
4-H Youth Educator
Ripley County



"4-H is the best! I get to learn cool things, make new friends, and go places. It makes me feel like I can do anything!" – Theodore, Ripley County 4-H member



4-H'ers are...

- 4X** more likely to give back to their communities
- 2X** more likely to make healthier choices
- 2X** more likely to participate in STEM activities

61

Youth served by Ripley County 4-H.

- Community Clubs
- SPIN Clubs
- School Enrichment
- After School Programs



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

6,430.08

8 volunteers served 4-H youth in Ripley County in 2024. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of Ripley County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$6,430.08 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.



Educational
Access &
Excellence

AGRONOMY IMPACT – Haley Schwantz, Agronomist



Soil testing is a tool that producers in Ripley County have access to use to monitor fertility and pH levels for forage and crop production. There were 84 interpretations of soil test reports by the Agronomy Field Specialist for 2024.



Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings certify crop producers for restricted use pesticides. MU Extension provides classes for these certification needs. There were a total of 12 private applicator trainings in Ripley County in 2024.

Missouri Agriculture contributes \$93.7 billion annually to the economy.*

*Missouri Department of Agriculture 2024 Status Report

CARTER COUNTY GRAZING SCHOOL

June 26-28th, 2024



June 26th & 27th: 8AM – 4:30PM
June 28th: 8AM – 12PM



The Beavers Teeth
25 Commercial Drive
Van Buren, MO 63965
(573) 323-0216



Cost: \$180/person
Additional person from
same farm: \$75



Snacks, drinks, & lunch provided



Register by June 7th
Carter County Soil & Water
Conservation Office
573-322-0233

Topics covered:

- The "Art and Science" of Grazing
- Soils, Soil Management and Fertility
- Plant Growth, Forage Quality and Persistence
- Fencing and Water Systems
- Matching Livestock and Forage Resources
- Meeting Nutritional Needs of Livestock from Pasture
- Layout and Design of Grazing Systems
- Economics of Management
- Intensive Grazing
- Outdoor Field Exercises and Tour of Producers' Farms (Dress appropriately for weather)



Carter County
Soil and Water Conservation District

The 2024 Grazing School was held in Carter County at the Beaver's Teeth Restaurant in Van Buren. This is a required training for cost share programs for producers in Missouri and have been conducted in the state since 1991. This program aims to teach farmers the art and science of grazing livestock.

The Carter County SWCD handled registrations and funding for the event partnering with the USDA, NRCS, MU Extension and Grasslands Partnership. There were 12 attendees during the program from July 26 – 28th.

Ripley County

Agriculture Business and Policy

Local Impact and Stories

Annie's Project

A new program was delivered in the Southeast Region which involved women in agriculture. More than nine On My Own programs were scheduled throughout the 18 county Southeast Region.

Grazing School

In conjunction with other Extension disciplines and outside stake holders, Agriculture Business and policy was involved in numerous Grazing School programs offered in varying counties.

Ag Lenders Seminar

The Ag Lenders Seminar is a multi county programming effort to educate those who work in the field of agriculture finance and those who desire knowledge. This program consists of marketing outlooks, weather forecasts as well as past and current trends related to farming.

Soil and Water Boards

Through state law, Extension serves on each county Soil and Water Board. Through this service Ag Business is heavily involved in farm and field days as well as conferences.

Farm Lease Classes

Many questions related to farm leases from producers and landlords are addressed yearly by MU Extension agricultural business specialists. As a relatively new program, several throughout Southeast Missouri participated in this program on-line and in-person. The two primary topics covered were items in a lease and terminating a farm lease. Estimates have 33 percent of farm leases in Missouri are still oral and oral lease termination is complicated and somewhat unique to the state. This program continues to draw participants, and elderly landowners appreciate the in-person option greatly.

Farm Tax Workshops

MU Extension hosted and taught Farm Tax Workshops for farm businesses and farm and ranch families. The content included Corporate Transparency Act, TCJA, estate & gift tax sunset, conservation tax issues, managing high/low-income years, Section 179 and depreciation, sales & exchanges and retirement and social security planning.

The online participants planned to take some action before the end of the year. The planned actions included: reviewing farm records (70%), meeting with tax preparer before the end of the year (67%), communicate with family members (50%) and fifty percent plan to review resources before purchasing begins in 2025.

Other Highlights

Regional 4-H Ranch Sorting and Team Penning clinics and summer long participation.

Beef Producers

One of the greatest impacts for 2024 was addressing issues and needs which faced Southeast Missouri beef producers. Extension and Ag Business hosted several meetings throughout the year to educate producers regarding weather conditions, marketing options, financial directives and more. MU Extension was involved in or participated in no less than eight cattle related meetings.

2024 Program Highlight

Beef Producers at risk: For the second year in a row, I invited Dr. Tim Evans, Assoc. Prof. & State Ext. Specialist, Veterinary Medicine from MU, to help find solutions facing local beef producers. In addition, Dr. Evans presented at two cattlemen's association meetings. This year, we transversed five counties and met with numerous producers. We have secured future endeavors to host farm and field days. Originating from a one county visit, this small project has grown into a program encompassing many counties.

Some questions and comments were:

"How can I get Dr. Evans to my farm?"

"Will and can he come back next year?"

"Why have we not done this before

2024 Summary

Sarah Cope
Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach
Educator
573-469-2679
sarah.cope@missouri.edu



Serving Butler, Stoddard, Wayne, Carter, Ripley, Oregon, and Howell Counties

2024 Update:

It has been a busy year for the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership!

New equipment was offered to two of my counties (Wayne, and Butler) affected by feral hogs and Wayne has received a payout for the purchase of a lime buggy already. Equipment that was placed before 2024 in Carter, Ripley, Reynolds, Oregon, Howell, and Wayne counties is still available for use. The equipment is in place for use free of charge to those with feral hog damage, the others are going to be placed this coming spring. The equipment can also be rented for those wishing to utilize the equipment for other projects and is managed by the local SWCD offices.

Firm numbers are not yet available for 2024, however, there is a ballpark estimate of around 5,000 feral hogs taken off the landscape in 2024, as numbers were around 4,500 before the end of the year when aerial operations began. Comparatively, elimination specialists removed 7,780 feral hogs in 2023.

Aerial operations began again in December and the MFHEP staff are busy locating feral hogs and sending the coordinates to the helicopter for daytime aerial removal. Aerial operations are planned through March with the USDA helicopter, as we have done for the last few years.

In 2024 I attended numerous events & meetings in my counties, updating extension councils, SWCDs, Farm Bureau, and others about the Partnership's activities and progress throughout the year. Highlights include several Ag conferences, Ecology Days, other natural resource events, and landowner meetings that I hosted.

I also contributed to many written publications for the Partnership throughout the year and have been working with USDA by creating lesson plans that can be used to meet state requirements for learning while educating high school students about the importance of removing feral hogs from the landscape.



MFHEP Outreach Educators Jerry Richards, Sarah Cope, and Kevin Crider attend Vienna Beef Forage Conference.



MFHEP Outreach Educator Sarah Cope was a featured speaker at the Ripley County Annual Farm Bureau Dinner.



MFHEP display at O'Neal Elementary's Ecology Day in Butler County.

Looking at 2025

My goals for the new year include:

- Continuing to work closely with Farm Bureau and Missouri Cattlemen's Association and building those relationships.
- Focusing on leads for absentee landowners in hot spots of feral hog activity.
- Continue to make more connections with landowners using targeted outreach strategies.
- Creating more written materials for publication to inform Missourians about feral hogs and the MFHEP.

I am worked diligently in the month of January with my fellow educators to ensure that the 2024 MFHEP Report is ready to be distributed. Both of which I will be distributing to Partners over the next coming months and attending extension council meetings to update the councils on operations statewide and local to their respective counties.

Please contact me for any details related to the program.



Boost Your Brain and Memory

Alzheimer's is predicted to be the number one medical issue in the world by the year 2050. This six-session class discusses six areas to have shown in reducing the risk of some for of dementia

People that took the class have shared in their surveys that before the class 29% have done at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's Disease? After the course, 82% now report they are now doing at least one thing to lower their risk for Alzheimer's.

10 Sessions for
10 weeks
Starting September
18th at 1:30 pm

4-H Building Ripley County
Fairgrounds
142E-2A
Doniphan, MO 63935

No Charge

This program is
designed for those
60 years and older

For more information
and requirements
call 573-996-4097

Computer and Technology Classes

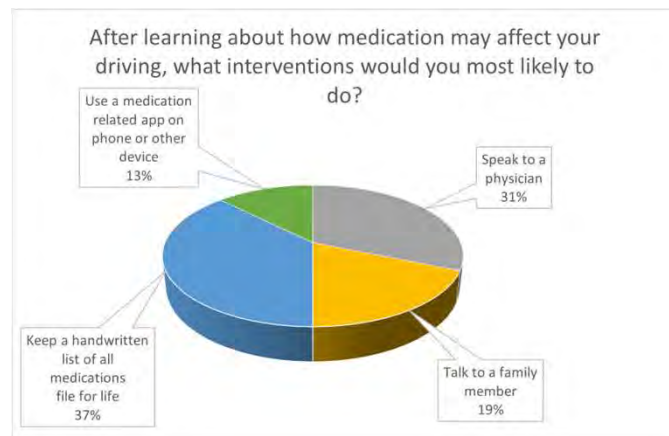
This has been a great response to a need for the Southeast Region. From learning how a Chromebook works to understanding their phones better. Thanks to a grant that Aging Matters received. We were able to provide these classes at no charge. In our lectures and workshops, 74.6% reported to have learned a new skill. In our courses, of those surveyed, 18 people before the class either agreed or strongly agreed to be comfortable with a computer. After the class, 32 people agreed or strongly agreed to feeling comfortable with a computer.

Keep Your Keys

MU Healthcare Outreach & Injury Prevention developed a statewide program called Keep Your Keys!

A program designed for the older driver aged 55+ The objectives of this course is to: keep drivers safe and keep drivers on the road for as long as safely possible

Over 1/3rd were going to talk to their doctors about the effects medication has on their driving ability or keeping a record of the medication with them in case of them being in an accident. A few even recognized that it may be time to retire their keys.



Health and Human Sciences

SNAP Education

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.

250 direct and indirect 2,789 contacts were made in Ripley 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.



Success Story

I had one little boy in a kindergarten class I taught at the beginning of the year that has some sensory issues with food and is VERY hesitant to try any new foods. We did the story "Space Mice" and tried different kinds of cheese. He normally will only eat cheese flavored crackers and mac and cheese, no sliced or string cheeses. Due to sensory issues of my own, I do not force anyone to try something they may have that sort of issue with but this day he decided he wanted to go ahead and try anyway. He tried all four types of cheese and did end up liking one of them, mild cheddar. His mother was very excited and proud that he tried something new due to our programming.

NPA Veronica Holley teaching second grade Show Me Nutrition and doing Garden Yoga at Doniphan R-1 School



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

Estate Planning: What's the Worst That Can Happen???

Jennifer R. Williams, JD
University of Missouri Extension



SERVE **MISSOURI.**
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This class uses the fictional family pictured above to demonstrate the consequences of not having an estate plan.

Jennifer R. Williams taught an estate planning class in Ripley County to **15 adults**, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.

"I was unaware of beneficiary deeds in Missouri and will certainly execute such when I update other documents."

"'What's the worst thing that could happen' is way worse than I ever imagined!"



Economic
Opportunity