

2024 Annual Report

Schuyler County University of Missouri Extension

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION SCHUYLER COUNTY

- Darla Campbell, Community Development Specialist
- Kelli Harris, Youth Program Associate
- Jessie Stewart, Nutrition Program Associate
- Sara Thompson, Office Secretary

FACULTY FROM OTHER COUNTIES SERVING SCHUYLER

- Michael Krauch, Northeast Regional Director
- Tracie Moore, Extension Engagement Specialist
- Jennifer Schutter, Horticulture Specialist
- Zachary Erwin, Livestock Specialist
- Valerie Tate, Agronomy Specialist
- Karen Poe, Nutrition and Health Specialist
- Katie Hogan, Youth Development Specialist
- Deann Turner, Nutrition Program Manager
- Nancy Keim, FNEP Associate Director
- Charles Holland, Director of Family Impact Center
- Jeremiah Terrell, Human Development Specialist
- Anastasia Tiedemann, Business Development, Missouri SBDC in Northeast Missouri
- Ashley Shafer, Business Development, Missouri SBDC in Northeast Missouri



Schuyler 2024 State Fair Farm Family:
Travis, Crystal, and Brenna Whitlow

Schuyler County Extension Council

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Chris Talbert-Chair | Tommy Roberts |
| Shannon Bowen-Vice Chair | Dakota Schmitter |
| Kebbie Sullivan-Treasurer | Adrian Starbuck |
| Reba Brown-Secretary | Curtis Talbert |
| Tara Lovekamp | Candy Tallman |
| Emeritus Morehead | Charles Tallman |
| W.O. Poe | Connie VanWye |
| Jim Werner | |



Schuyler Office



Darla Campbell



Kelli Harris



Jessie Stewart



Sara Thompson

MU Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status.

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

**Schuyler County Extension Council Financial Report for the Year Ending
December 31, 2024**

REVENUES:

County Appropriations	\$54,000.00
Gifts/Grants/Contracts	\$ 1,500.56
Resales/Education Services Fees/Other	\$ 64.11
Total Income	\$55,564.67

EXPENSES:

Salaries & Wages	\$32,488.00
Staff Benefits	\$ 5,151.10
Travel	\$ 2,343.00
Supplies/Services	\$ 3,063.40
Communications	\$ 1,199.54
Insurance	\$ 407.00
Equipment & Repairs	\$ 1,095.00
Postage/Postage Rental	\$ 813.76
YPA Allocation	\$ 8,743.48
Other	\$ 260.39

Total Expense	\$55,564.67
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES:	0.00



Youth Fishing Tournament

Youth Fishing Tournament Held at Spencer Lake

Schuyler Extension Council

Fifty-six youth plus parents, grandparents and friends attended this event held the Saturday of Labor Day weekend at Spencer Lake in Lancaster. Prizes were donated by businesses in the community allowing all youth to win a prize. First and second place winners in each age category were given cash prizes for most fish caught and biggest fish overall.



Kirksville Farmers' Market

Farmers' Markets provide price data to support new and existing producers

Darla Campbell

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 2024. Five MU Extension Specialists collected data while providing production, marketing, and financial resources to producers around the state. There was a total of fifty-nine different markets visited in 2024 with 2295 prices collected.

I made sixteen market visits to thirteen different markets in Northeast and Central Missouri. These markets were in Kirksville, Unionville, Brookfield, Milan, LaPlata, Louisiana, Hannibal, Palmyra, Mexico, Center, Booneville, and Columbia. Five vendors from Schuyler County participated in these markets.

Community Organizations

Darla Campbell

REACH

MU Extension partnered with this organization by managing the community center reservations; marketing; assisting with their fundraisers; writing an MFA grant for benches; updating the by-laws; and giving input into general operations. As a board member, I am one of eight that handles building inspections, cleanup, maintenance, and use guidelines. There were sixty-six events with 1703 people that utilized the Schuyler County Community Center in Glenwood in 2024.

Ministerial Alliance

MU Extension engages in the monthly operational meetings where I serve as board secretary. This work builds a strong network with the faith community. In 2024, the Food Room was able to purchase additional items every month with the \$25,000 ARPA grant funds that I secured the previous year. I chaired the scholarship committee which included planning, implementing, and facilitating the graduate baccalaureate program. The office assists with sourcing and ordering some of their office supplies.

In September, the Food Room went from two days a month to one day a month for distribution. This results in better utilizing the volunteers and allows for more donations to be picked up. Besides what the Central Food Bank sends on the monthly truck, local stores in Schuyler, Scotland, and Adair counties typically donate between 1000 and 3000 pounds a month. I worked with a team of community members to box, distribute, and deliver food to the 179 families and 410 individuals served on average each month throughout the year.



Baccalaureate

Schuyler FFA Alumni

This organization serves as an advisory council for the Schuyler County Vocational Agriculture program. The Alumni supports the FFA chapter and awards scholarships. The Alumni raised \$7,800 this year with the assistance of Trent Snowbarger who operated a gun raffle for the alumni. I currently serve as the Secretary-Treasurer after serving several years as the President.



Community Development Block Grant Public Meeting

Schuyler County Nutrition Site

I began meeting with the Nutrition Site board in April. Since that time, we have regularly engaged with the county commission, RPC, MECO Engineering, Lancaster city council, NE Missouri Area Agency on Aging, Macon Nutrition Site, and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Through a strategic process, the board has analyzed their financials; determined a location for a new facility; purchased property; hired an engineering firm; identified & applied for grant funding; and transferred deed for existing facility. Our office wrote and communicated the RFP for the Community Development Block Grant. We then worked with the Regional Planning Commission

to hold the public meeting, prior to which I had surveyed three boards using the CDBG community assessment tool. Our office worked most of September on the Neighborhood Assistance Program application for \$500,000/\$350,000 in tax credits. We continue to work through the CDBG process in preparation for the April grant cycle.



Schuyler County Nutrition Site Board visits Macon to see their building design and operations

USDA grant will Strengthen Local Food Systems

Darla Campbell

I submitted a \$50,000 Business Builder grant to USDA to develop and strengthen farmers' markets in Putnam, Sullivan, Schuyler, and Scotland Counties. Focus of the project (if funded) will be youth entrepreneurship, developing marketing plans for individuals and the market, and pursuing alternative market venues to strengthen local food systems.



Farm & Home Safety Day: Water Safety

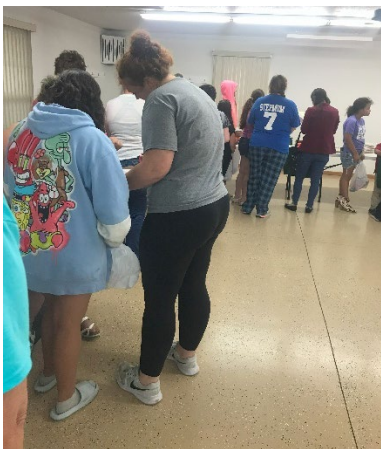
Farm and Home Safety Day

Darla Campbell

MU Extension focuses on youth safety through this event featuring twelve interactive stations to teach about safety on the farm and in the home. The learning stations included Firearms, Electrical, Poison Look-Alike, How Germs Spread, Hands-Only CPR, Grain, Sun, Internet, Power Take-off (PTO), Water, Tornado Safe Places, and What Should be in your Emergency Backpack. There were 324 youth and eighteen adults who engaged in hands-on learning. Partners included Schuyler R1 School, NEMR, Schuyler County Health Department, Rathbun Lake Water Safety, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Missouri Department of Conservation and Exchange Bank of Northeast Missouri.



**Farm & Home Safety Day:
What Should Be in Your
Emergency Backpack**



Back to School Fair

Back-to-School Fair

Darla Campbell

After a request from the Schuyler Elementary School principal asking for family support, our office reached out to the Ministerial Alliance and Tri-County Electric Foundation for initial funding. We then partnered with Bryanna Western through the Lancaster Christian Church, REACH, and the school. Bryanna ordered and delivered supplies; REACH provided the Community Center at Glenwood free of charge; and both the school and churches provided volunteers the day of the event. The event served 187 youth onsite with additional families being served with supplies delivered to the school. A total of fifty-four volunteer hours were given. Several other entities and individuals also donated money and supplies. Our office coordinated the fair; handled communications & marketing; managed registrations; and compiled event data. This event was a great demonstration of the collaborative heart of our community.



**Schuyler County SWCD
Annual Meeting**

Schuyler Soil and Water Conservation District

Darla Campbell

This year saw unprecedented investment with \$413,427 obligated and \$336,506 paid in cost share. This is \$112,000 more than last fiscal year and over \$250,000 more than the previous year. As one of five board members, we have attained this goal through policy change; consistently training employees; and a strong working partnership with NRCS. Board members consist of Edgar Berry, Josh Sprague, Steve Weohr, Ivan Kaden, and Darla Campbell. Employees are

Tierney Baker and Vanessa Shultz. The Soils and Parks Tax revenue is a great source of county economic development.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training
Valerie Tate

The private pesticide applicator license issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture is required for producers wanting to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. Agricultural producers needing to obtain or renew certification of this license must take this pesticide safety training every five years. They must be 18 years of age and directly involved in the production of agricultural commodities to obtain this license.

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 wear and how to clean it, pesticide storage, common Missouri pests, and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.

During 2024, seven agricultural producers in Schuyler County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Soil Testing
Valerie Tate

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 Lab are analyzed for pH and nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Soil can also be evaluated for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron, and copper.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Lab 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 on farms, lawns and gardens; and to ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.

University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab 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. In 2024, the MU Soil Testing Lab analyzed seventeen soil samples from Schuyler County.

SNAP-Ed
Jessie Stewart

There were 3,692 direct and indirect contacts in Schuyler County through this program. Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of healthier meal and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, being more willing to try new foods, and increase their physical activity. Those who practice healthy eating and physical activity are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout their 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. In 2024, our programming partners included the Schuyler County Elementary School, Schuyler County Head Start, Schuyler County Health Department, and Schuyler County Food Room.

Success Story

I went into the Pre-K classroom to teach about vegetables and what they can do for the body. We read a book, did the physical activity, and taste tested different vegetables.

Several days later, a parent shared they got their child to try broccoli at home as well as other vegetables, whereas before they could not get her to.

4-H Clubs

Kelli Harris

Schuyler County 4-H clubs had 105 community club members ranging in age from 5 to 18 this past year. These clubs offer long-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 cake decorating and first aid to poultry and goats. Clubs also involve children and teens in community service, camping and educational trips.

Community Service

Kelli Harris

The four community clubs gave back to the county well over six hundred hours of community service. Flowers were planted in parks and around towns, parks were cleaned, flags were put out at cemeteries, presents were bought for nursing home residents, the nursing home was decorated for the holidays, a coat drive was held, and presents were bought for the adopt a child program. Service is a hallmark of all 4-H programs, teaching youth about the importance of giving back and improving our communities.

National 4-H Week and Scarecrow Contest

Kelli Harris

This year's scarecrow contest reached 2,279 people and we had over three hundred engagements during the voting. All four clubs

put scarecrows up at the courthouse with a theme connected to 4-H. Each day of 4-H Week (October 6-12), Facebook followers were invited to participate in posts for a chance to win a prize.

SNAC

Kelli Harris

This year thirty-seven fourth grade students at Schuyler R-1 participated in the Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) program. They learned about nutrition and the importance of choosing healthy snacks while playing games and making simple recipes.



SNAC (Student Nutrition Advisory Council)

Jr Livestock Show

Kelli Harris

Ninety-three 4-H members participated in the Jr Livestock Show this year. The events that take place during the Jr Livestock Show give 4-H and FFA members opportunities to improve their public speaking, social, and problem-solving skills.



Jr. Livestock Beef Show



**Swine Show at the Jr.
Livestock Show**

Leadership Opportunities

Kelli Harris

Eight 4-H members participated in a Jr Superintendent Program at the Jr Livestock Show, where they assist fair superintendents. These members kept lines moving during Art Hall judging, helped in the barn with animals during the shows, and helped with any other projects that needed completed during the fair.

One member attended camp as a counselor. We also have one member who continues to serve as a State and National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador.



S.T.E.M. Class

Elementary S.T.E.M.

Kelli Harris

The local homeschool co-op held an elementary S.T.E.M. class during their first semester. Four students participated in this class and learned about DNA, recessive and dominant genes,

blood typing, how the eye works, and how germs spread.

Robotics

Kelli Harris

This year a robotics class was offered to the local homeschool co-op. Six youth between 6th and 12th grade participated in the semester long class. The youth learned about the robotics kits, what each piece was, and how to build the robots. Each session, they improved the functions of their robot and solved problems as they encountered them.



Robotics

Embryology

Kelli Harris

This year, three classrooms and six homeschool families participated in the embryology program. This program allows students to be able to study the life cycle while also getting hands-on experience with hatching chicks and caring for them. Classes receive an incubator and curriculum to use along with eggs that have been pre-incubated so there is less weekend work for the teachers and increases the likelihood that the eggs will hatch when students are in the classroom.

Besides the traditional “hatching chicks in the classroom” embryology class, twenty-two adults and youth participated in a one-day class about chickens, how the eggs form, how to candle eggs, the development of the chick inside the egg, and about the incubator.



Julesburg Elderberry Farm

MAEP Explore MO Tour

Jennifer Schutter, Darla Campbell, and Zac Erwin

The 2024 Missouri Agriculture Extension Professionals (MAEP) Explore Missouri tour was held in Schuyler County on June 21. Stops included CB Aerial Application LLC, where participants learned about Brett and Layton Campbell’s spraying operation. They watched as Brett took a plane up and demonstrated how to spray a crop field. The next stop was Julesburg Elderberry Farm, where owner/operator Kevin Wheeler discussed elderberry production and gave participants a tour of the operation. Then it was off to tour the cattle farm of Mike and Donna Gray. Donna discussed their farm operation which includes cattle, horses, and hay. The final tour stop was at the home of Darla Campbell, where participants learned about and viewed her dog operation, then they enjoyed a home cooked meal prepared by Darla.



CB Aerial Application, LLC

Education and Technical Assistance

Jennifer Schutter

Forty-seven individuals from Schuyler County receive 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.

Farm visits were made to Lilac Hill Greenhouse and Julesburg Elderberry Farm to discuss production practices and marketing.



Julesburg Elderberry Farm



**Farm & Home Safety Day:
Poison Look-Alikes**

Stay Strong Stay Healthy

Karen Poe

This is a resistance training program for older adults aimed to increase physical function and maintain independence, each session is eight weeks in duration and meets twice a week. The goal is for the participants to remain physically active, improve strength, balance, and flexibility, further improving overall health, and reducing risk of falls.

Two of these classes were held at the Schuyler County Library with each class having 12-15 participants.

Strength in Numbers

Karen Poe

The mission of Strength in Numbers is to improve the health of the community by encouraging individuals to commit to making lifestyle changes, encourage healthy behaviors, and introduce concepts and skills to improve and maintain healthier lifestyles.

This class was also offered at the Schuyler County Library with an average of fourteen participants at each session.



Stay Strong Stay Healthy



Karen Poe becomes CPR certified through the Schuyler County Ambulance District, Autumn Robinson, Instructor

Gift of Aging Conference

Karen Poe

This conference held in Hannibal had three Schuyler County participants. Sessions included Scammers on the Internet, Navigating Finances, Pearls of Aging, and Estate Planning.

Overall, there were over six hundred Nutrition and Health contacts made in Schuyler County.



Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program

Zac Erwin

The Show-Me-Select program focuses on increased adoption rate by farmers in Missouri of management practices that offer potential to improve long-term reproductive efficiency of their herds and resulting profitability, also focusing on increasing marketing opportunities for and adding value to Missouri-raised heifers with the creation of reliable sources of quality replacement heifers in terms of genetics and management.

In 2024, twelve heifers were enrolled from Schuyler County in the Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement heifer program. Analyzing data from sales show that Show-Me-Select tagged heifers when compared to those that do not carry the Trademarked tag, realize a 284-dollar increase in value. That equates to an added value of \$227,484 returned to participating producers in Northeast Missouri.



Show-Me-Select Sale

25th Annual Missouri Livestock Symposium

Zac Erwin

The Missouri Livestock Symposium (MLS) started in 2000 as a means of providing the latest research and best management practices to area livestock producers and landowners. The MLS has evolved into an annual educational program attracting hundreds of livestock producers from across the Midwest and is considered a source for professional development by area agricultural educators and professionals. The MLS involves a twenty member, all volunteer, planning committee contributing approximately 672 hours annually to planning and another 293 hours for event implementation.

Strong attendance was noted for the 2024 Livestock Symposium. Keynote speaker, Cassandra Fish, Beef Market Analyst headlined the event as she spoke about “How the Industry has Changed.” Many notable topics and speakers were featured on Saturday, December 7th as livestock producers looked for answers and interaction with experts in livestock production.



Governor-Elect Mike Kehoe addressed the Friday evening crowd at Missouri Livestock Symposium

Feedlot School

Zac Erwin

Currently 82% of beef calves raised in Missouri are fed and harvested out of state. If the state’s feeding capacity is expanded, it will have a significant economic impact. It is estimated that every head of cattle fed in Missouri will add

\$1,140 per head to farm revenue. Feedlot School is a statewide initiative designed to help cattle producers capture post-weaning growth potential. The curriculum includes topics such as competitive advantages, feedlot performance expectations, health management, diet formulation, budgeting, marketing, and feeding technologies. Participants gain practical tools to apply changes on their farms and enhance post-weaning growth and performance. Feedlot School also includes opportunities to engage with processing industry representatives and tour local farms in Missouri where cattle finishing is actively practiced.

In 2024, the largest Feedlot School to date was August 29-30 in Kirksville, MO. Two producers attended from Schuyler County.

Evaluation results revealed that 96% of attendees currently feed or plan to start feeding cattle in Missouri.

- 62% plan to build a feedlot with a shelter.
- 80% plan to increase on-farm feeding capacity.
- 64% plan to start feeding cull cows.
- 44% plan to adopt working with a consulting feedlot nutritionist.



Feedlot School



Practitioner Tax School had two Schuyler County participants



Agricultural Lender Seminar had two Schuyler County participants



Schuyler County Nutrition Site Board visits Macon to get building design ideas

The 2024 year started strong for the University of Missouri Extension Council of Schuyler County with a budget increase, which helped retain our Youth Program Associate, Kelli Harris and our seventeen-year veteran secretary, Sara Thompson. We appreciate that our County Commission recognizes the efforts and programs offered through our office. Some of these efforts include a Neighborhood Assistance Program application for the Schuyler Nutrition Site, Community Development Block Grant preliminaries also for the Nutrition Site, six exercise and health classes, Community Gardens, Hatching Chicks in the Classroom, Robotics, and the Family Nutrition Education Program. Our 4-H program continued to flourish with enrollment at 105. We welcomed Jessie Stewart onboard as the Nutrition Program Associate.

We have a diverse and engaged council, with representation across the workforce sector. The council participated in a day of service during Good Neighbor week by donating 354 pounds of food, in conjunction with the Greentop 4-H club to the Schuyler County Ministerial Alliance Food Room. The council submitted a \$50,000 grant to USDA to develop and expand farmers' markets in Schuyler, Scotland, Putnam, and Sullivan Counties.

The council looks forward to another successful year of programming and connecting in the community and continued excellence & dedication on the part of the specialists and staff that serve Schuyler County.

Sincerely,

Chris Talbert, Chair
Schuyler County University of Missouri Extension Council