



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Scotland County 2025 Annual Report

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**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

Michael Krauch

Regional Director

Lisa Doster

Extension Engagement Specialist

Kristy Eggleston-Wood

Youth Program Associate

Brenda Schreck

Field Specialist in Livestock

Jennifer Schutter

Field Specialist in Horticulture

Robert (Nick) Wesslak

Field Specialist in Agronomy

Mary Sobba

Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Julie Shaw Brown

Office Support Staff & Bookkeeper



Council Members

Deidra Musgrove

Chair, Jefferson District

Dawn Triplett

Vice-Chair, Combined District

Tasha Fadiga

Secretary, Combined District

Beverly Shelley

Treasurer, Combined District

Tara Shultz

elected member, Combined District

Michael Billings

elected member, Combined District

Ben Brownlow

elected member, Combined District

Alexis Kittle

elected member, Combined District

Joanie Baker

elected member, Combined District

Holly Harris

elected member, Jefferson District

Denny Ward

elected member, Jefferson District

Kim Ludwick

elected member, Jefferson District

Judy Musgrove

elected member, Jefferson District

David Jackson

appointed member, Farm Bureau

Mike Stone

appointed member, City of Memphis

David Wiggins

appointed member, County Commission

County executives

Duane Ebeling

Presiding Commissioner

Brent Rockhold

Eastern District Commissioner

David Wiggins

Western District Commissioner



BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations 36,354.00

Total Income 36,354.00

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 30,838.00

Travel 1,116.00

Telephone 500.00

Office Supplies/Service 2,000.00

Postage 100.00

Insurance 1,500.00

Advertising 150.00

Publishing/Printing 50.00

Furniture/Equipment 50.00

Miscellaneous 50.00

Total Expenses 36,354.00

Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Scotland 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.



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

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Scotland County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Scotland 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 Scotland County 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 Scotland County 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's Healthy Living programming teaches skills for healthy choices and lifestyles, enhancing overall well-being and equipping youth to tackle life's challenges. Emphasizing social-emotional health, 4-H fitness, health, nutrition, and safety programs cultivate confident, caring young leaders who prioritize mental and physical well-being.

4-H Feeding Missouri has helped provide over **2 million meals to neighbors in need across the state in the last seven years.**



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.



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



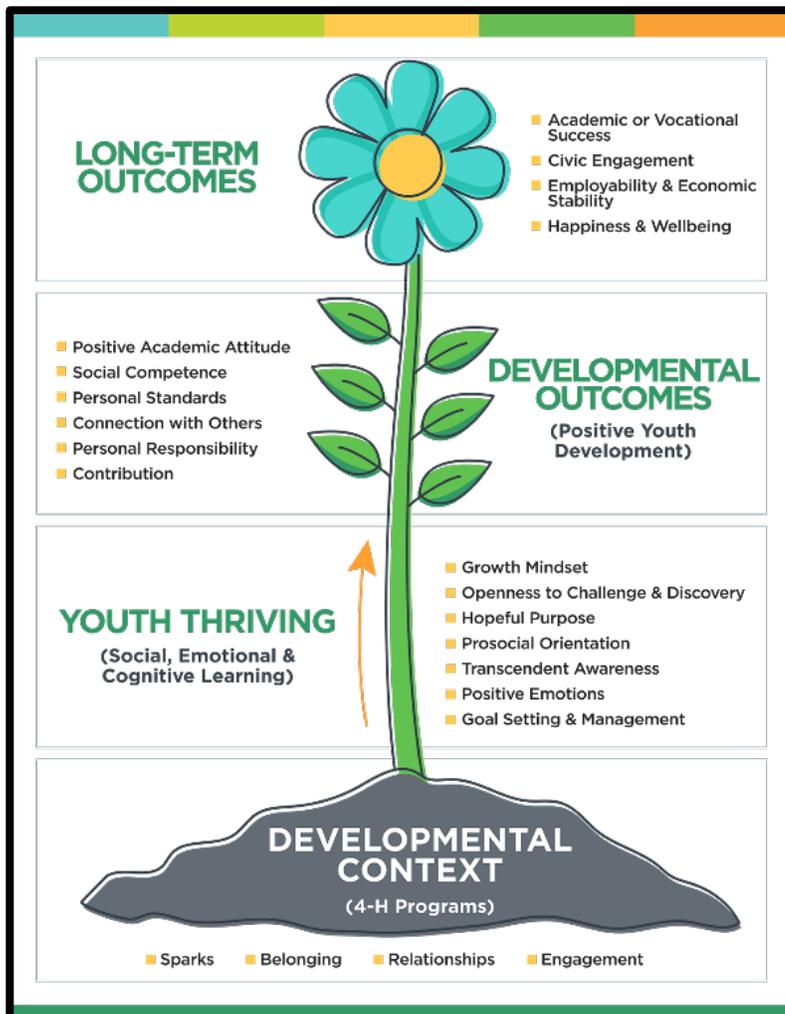
Health
& Well-Being

Local Impact

4-H by Kristy Eggleston-Wood

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. Scotland County served youth through three community clubs and one SNAC club offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others.

- ❖ A community of 250 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.
- ❖ 1 in every 8 Scotland County youth under the age of eighteen participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2025.



- ❖ There were 126 members in the community clubs and 24 members in SNAC club in Scotland County during the 2024-2025 4-H Year.
- ❖ Over 100 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- ❖ Collectively youth participated in 1261 hours of community club work in Scotland County.
- ❖ Over 2000 hours of community service projects were completed by 4-H members and volunteers during the 2024-2025 4-H Year.

Local Impact

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

- ❖ 37 youth participated in a total of 4 different events during the 2024 Scotland County 4-H Achievement event
- ❖ 1 member participated in the Northeast Region Energizer held in the fall of 2025 in Macon
- ❖ 1,018 exhibits at the 2025 Scotland County Fair from 106 4-H members and 36 FFA members, who are also supported through youth programming.
- ❖ Scotland County youth exhibited over 50 exhibits in the 4-H Building and livestock shows of the Missouri State Fair.
- ❖ 8 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.
- ❖ 3 members participated in the State 4-H Teen Conference, which offered youth a fantastic opportunity to experience being a teen in 4-H. This event provides a safe and enjoyable campus experience where youth can enhance their skills and forge new friendships.
- ❖ Scotland County was represented at State 4-H Congress by one delegate. Delegates attended workshops covering diverse areas from science to leadership development that were complemented by experiences at the MU Student Center, social activities, and inspirational speakers. State Congress plays a vital role in helping these teens develop essential life skills, exploring potential career paths, nurturing leadership abilities, and fostering new friendships with peers from across the state.
- ❖ Three youth from Scotland County participated in skill development contests on the State level including State Meats Contest, State Livestock Judging, State Fashion Revue, State Poultry Day, State Public Speaking, and 4-H Day at the Capitol. Participation in these events helps youth to develop confidence and practice their decision making and public speaking skills through competitions tied to project areas they are passionate about.
- ❖ 7 youth from Scotland County participated in the State Shoot events
- ❖ Scotland County has two 4-H State Shooting Ambassadors
- ❖ Scotland County has one youth on State 4-H Council

Scotland County members enrolled in a combined total of 1,018 projects in 2025.

The top project areas included:

**Beef
Woodworking
Photography
Swine
Dog
Foods
Shotgun
Rifle
Archery
Arts & Crafts**

Local Impact

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).
- ❖ Youth who earn a bachelor's degree increase their annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime. (U.S. News and World report, 2011) If 50% of the Scotland County youth participating in 4-H events on a college campus receive a Bachelor's degree, 4-H would help young people acquire \$7,000,000 more in lifetime earnings.

4-H Volunteers

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.

- ❖ **28 adult and 2 youth volunteers contributed 3000 hours to the Scotland County 4-H program valued at \$95,400.00.**
- ❖ **Scotland County 4-H members were supported by thirty-two enrolled, screened and oriented adult volunteers supporting the development of youth in 2025.**



Local Impact

4-H School Enrichment- Embryology

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.

Impacts of Programming

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.

- ❖ **Students participated in over 30 hours of learning with the “Chick It Out” program.**
- ❖ **There were 258 students from 10 classrooms who participated in the Hatching Chicks in the Classroom program in 2025..**

4-H SNAC Clubs

4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) clubs are offered in a variety of settings including before school, during school, afterschool, and in other community settings helping youth build knowledge about nutrition and fitness. Youth participate in a leadership project where they are encouraged to become an ambassador of Healthy Living in their communities by designing and implementing a leadership project that will improve education and the fitness of others. Across the state, youth have developed creative ways to advocate for healthy living. In 2025, there were 91 SNAC Clubs across Missouri with 2,577 youth participating and reaching 4,300+ youth through the leadership projects.



In Scotland County, SNAC efforts reached 24 youth and leadership projects completed included preparing meals for Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.





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

Agriculture and Environment

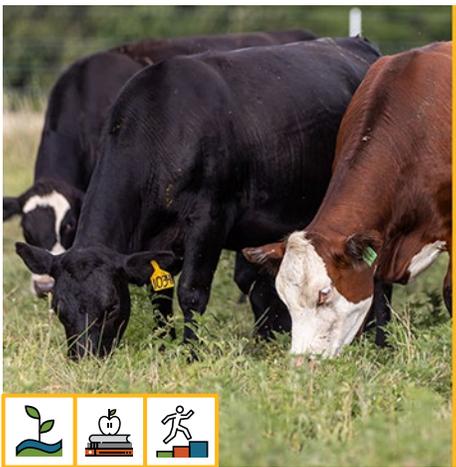


MU Extension Specialists quickly respond to **emergencies and disasters** across the state. If a disease outbreak occurs in livestock, specialists are there. If a natural disaster such as flooding occurs, specialists are there. Missouri farmers can count on MU Extension to guide them through emerging issues with knowledge and expertise.



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.



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

Pesticide Applicator Training by Nick Wesslak

Nick Wesslak taught 87 total applicants for PPAT licensing in the Northeast Region.

Nick presented at the 2025 Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training Recertification in Columbia, Missouri to 953 individuals over a 9-day period, with 68 of those individuals being online.

Nick also conducted Non-Certified Restricted Use Applicator (NRUP) Training for area agribusinesses. All total, 66 individuals employed by agribusinesses in the Northeast region were able to receive the necessary training to conduct commercial application operations

Pesticide Safety by Nick Wesslak

Nick Wesslak taught youth pesticide safety programming to high school and middle school aged children so they could learn safe usage of pesticides and other chemicals.

The program aimed to help youth better understand why pesticides and other chemicals are important to human safety and food production, while also helping them to a better understanding of the risks involved with the use of these products.

775 middle and high school students participated in this programming in the Northeast Region



Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Integrated Pest Management by Nick Wesslak

Nick Wesslak participated in several activities regarding MU IPM (Integrated Pest Management) efforts in the field. Several photos and videos related to IPM were captured for later educational use during educational activities.

The Northeast Region was home to several IPM activities such as corn and soybean disease scouting and migratory insect trapping and monitoring stations for the IPM Pest Management Network.

This network served as an alert system for the entire northeast Missouri region and helped indicate to producers what species of migratory pests should be scouted for in the field.

The MU Extension 4th Annual Crop and Forage Chat held in the Northeast Region attracted 18 in person attendees and 13,705 indirect educational contacts were generated through partnering with the Quincy Herald Whig.

Participants took from that day a better understanding of current plant disease issues in corn and soybeans, grazing management practices, and corn and soybean insect pest management.

Nick also conducted an in-field TV interview with WGEM discussing farmers' winter preparations for next year's crop. This interview broadcast to approximately 99,000 homes and generated 113,241 indirect educational contacts.



Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Horticulture Information by Jennifer Schutter

Radio

Jennifer Schutter provided timely gardening information, garden tips and discussed upcoming events on KMEM Coffee Break several times during the year, reaching 5,000 listeners each time. Horticulture podcasts on timely topics can be found weekly on the KMEM website.

Consultations

Throughout the year, citizens of Scotland County receive information and advice for various gardening questions and soil testing, to help them make more informed choices about their vegetable gardens, flower gardens, fruit trees, lawns and landscapes.

Program

Jennifer Schutter presented a garden program in June for the Memphis Rotary Club. She discussed the All-America Selection Plant Program and showed a slide show of AAS plants growing in her display garden. AAS plants are superior plants chosen for their productivity, drought and heat tolerance, disease or insect tolerance and outstanding performance. She encouraged audience members to select AAS plants for their gardens and landscapes.

Garden Talk Newsletter

Thirty-two people from Scotland 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. Some residents receive it electronically.



The **Missouri Master Gardener** program enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.



In 2023, almost 4,000 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 149,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Women in Agriculture Workshop by Brenda Schreck

Women in Ag is a hands-on workshop geared toward women involved in agriculture in northeast Missouri. 1 Scotland County participant attended the workshop and learned about Missouri Farmers Care programs, pollinators, women's health from the ground up, and enjoyed interactive activities such as bug bingo and tasting farm-to-table meals. Participants also created barn quilts as part of the hands-on experience.

By offering programs targeting women in agriculture, MU Extension empowers women to make informed decisions about farm and home management.

98% of respondents rated their overall satisfaction as Very Good or Excellent

100% of respondents gave top marks for the quality of information presented

98% found the materials provided to be highly useful and relevant

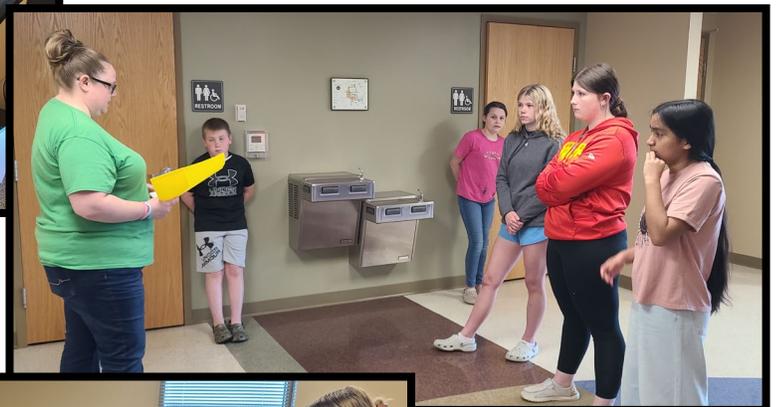


Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Show Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) by Brenda Schreck

The Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) program increases knowledge and awareness among Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production. MU Extension livestock specialist Brenda Schreck collaborated with Youth Program Associate Kristy Eggleston-Wood to plan and implement the Scotland County 4-H SMQA training event. Brenda Schreck opened the Scotland County event with a presentation on SMQA and the food supply continuum, then organized youth into six groups to rotate through stations. Three stations were led by local agricultural professionals, Kristy Eggleston-Wood taught carcass quality and bruising, Lisa Doster, MU Extension and Engagement Specialist, presented on general animal care, and the Scotland County Extension office manager, Julie Shaw, taught veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). In Scotland County, 30 youth participated in SMQA certification training from Scotland and Marion counties.



Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Livestock Lick Tub Roundup

Since 2022, University of Missouri Extension has partnered with local farmers to repurpose used livestock lick tubs into container gardens for nutrition education. This program, led by MU Health and Human Sciences and SNAP-Ed staff, promotes sustainability and hands-on learning for adults and youth. Brenda Schreck, MU Extension Livestock Specialist, has coordinated tub collection efforts across the region, encouraging farmers to contribute to this statewide initiative. In Scotland County the program engaged 1 participant, and farmer donated 13 tubs, strengthening community engagement and eco-friendly practices. To date, Schreck has collected over 550 tubs.





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

Business and Community



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

The conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 for Benton County.

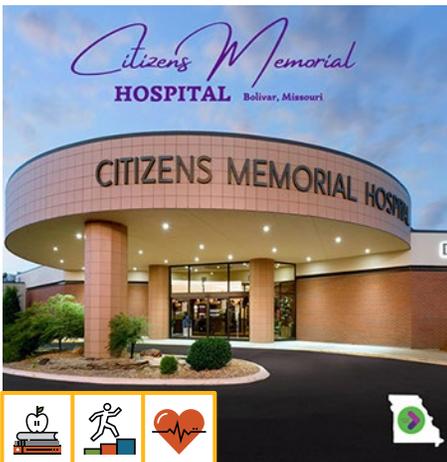
AMERICA'S SBDC MISSOURI CLIENT HIGHLIGHT



LOGS
- OF -
GLORY

The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)** provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small business across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 Million.



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

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools by Mary Sobba

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.



Business and Community

Local Impact

Agriculture Lender Seminar by Mary Sobba

Sixty-five lenders from 20 Missouri counties and Illinois attended an ag lender seminar in Mexico. Lenders learned about crop and livestock outlook, agriculture & tax policy, rental rates & land values, input costs and enterprise budgets and regulatory updates. The average tenure of agricultural lender was 12 years with a range of 1 to 38 years. On average, lenders had 207 agricultural loans in their portfolio with an average loan size of \$33,526. Given this information, it is estimated the Mexico Agricultural Lenders Seminar reached 13,455 loans valued at 4,487.6 million dollars. Attendees drove an average of 49 miles to attend the program with a range of 5 to 95 miles.

By attending University of Missouri's Agricultural Lenders' seminars, lenders gain knowledge to help their clients make better decisions based on objective education and resources. More information and better decisions benefit their portfolio of producers, landowners, and agribusinesses through enhanced understanding of enterprise budgets, market expectations, and other decision-influencing factors affecting families' and businesses' financial health.

Participants described the seminar as informative, well-organized, and enjoyable. Several complimented the quality of the presentations and expressed appreciation for the event overall. In addition to the ag lender seminar in Mexico, there were seminars in Chillicothe, Jefferson City, Springfield and Warsaw. The total statewide attendance was 198 ag lenders.





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

Health and Human Sciences



Cooking Matters

Make quick, tasty, and affordable meals everyone will enjoy.

Learn valuable tips for stretching your food dollars and how to prepare a recipe and sample easy, low-cost, nutritious and delicious dishes.

“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it.”



A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

“I have cleaned my house of clutter for safety, put non-slip stickers on my tub floor, I’m getting much more regular exercise and I’m feeling stronger.”



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy supports older adults in maintaining strength, balance, and mobility to fully engage in the activities that matter most to them. The program combines safe, effective exercises with practical information on nutrition and wellness, helping participants build confidence, connection, and **well-being** for lifelong health.

After eight weeks, participants in the Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program showed significant improvement in their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2025

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 70,722 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 970,939 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, and food pantries.

699 direct and indirect contacts were made in Scotland 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.

EFNEP Public Value Statement 2025

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 424 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,550 family members. Additionally, 2,942 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

24 of these youth and adult participants reside in Scotland County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making 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.



Highlights from 2025

Boyer Home Farm Recognized as a Missouri Century Farm

The University of Missouri Extension office has proudly recognized Boyer Home Farm as a Missouri Century Farm, an honor that celebrates over 100 years of continuous family ownership and dedication to agriculture.

A Century of Stewardship The legacy of Boyer Home Farm began in 1925 when Charles Wallace (CW) Boyer purchased the land from Dr. B.H. Edelen. The farm remained in the family, passing to CW's son and daughter-in-law, Wallace and Lucille Boyer, in 1950. In 1978, Keith Boyer, Wallace's son, and his wife, Ruth Ann Boyer, acquired the farm and formally incorporated it as "Boyer Home Farm, Inc."

Keith Boyer, alongside Ruth Ann, held immense pride in maintaining the farm as a cherished showcase, a place they thoroughly enjoyed sharing with family and friends. Their passion for the land and its heritage was evident to all who visited. Keith sadly passed away in 2023, but his spirit and love for the farm, shared by Ruth Ann, endure.

A Deep-Rooted Family Connection

The Boyer family's connection to farming in the Gorin and Rainbow area runs deep, tracing back to their arrival from Ohio in the 1840s. This long-standing commitment to the land and agricultural traditions has been a cornerstone of their family history.

Today, Ruth Ann Boyer, along with her children Kent, Tim, and Julie, and the family of the late Jeff Boyer, continue to share the family's profound love and appreciation for Boyer Home Farm



Highlights from 2025

Scotland County Farm Family

Jenna Ketchum and family of Downing were among the Missouri families honored at the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day on August 11 during the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.

The Ketchum family was chosen as the Scotland County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the Scotland County Farm Bureau. The family includes Jenna, Zada, Cora, Rhett, and Kruz.

Each year, the Missouri State Fair designates a day to celebrate farm families from across the state who are engaged in production agriculture, demonstrate strong community involvement, and participate in outreach and youth development programs such as 4-H or FFA.

Jenna and the late Jesse Ketchum purchased and operated a cow/calf operation with hay and pasture ground outside of Downing. Jesse was a life-long advocate for agriculture, 4-H, and FFA, where he was an alumni of both organizations. He purchased his first farm as a senior in high school in 2002 where he raised Simmental cattle and dabbled in row crops for a couple of years. Jesse and Jenna grew this operation in 2006 with the purchase of their current farm.

Zada, Cora, Rhett, and Kruz learned to love agriculture from a young age. After Jesse's passing in 2017, many people jumped in to help wherever needed to ensure that the Ketchum family could continue their passion of agriculture and their love of 4-H, FFA, and showing cattle.

Through the years, the Ketchums have been happy to volunteer and give back to those who have helped them and those just starting out to have the same passion.

Jenna is a lifelong resident of Scotland County. She began her 19th year teaching this fall at Scotland County R-I Schools where she teaches Family Consumer Science & Human Services to 7-12 graders focusing on Foods & Culinary classes, Personal Finance, Child & Human Development, as well as Entrepreneurship Classes. Jenna loves teaching in a vocational area where students can learn hands-on skills. She is also the advisor for the Scotland County FCCLA Chapter. She has the pleasure of having all 4 kids attend Scotland County R-I Schools where she teaches.

Zada is a senior at Scotland County R-I where she is highly involved, and serves as President of FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, NHS, Student Council, and the Class of 2026. She also shoots trap and is serving as a co-captain this year. She is also serving as the Missouri FFA Area 3 Sentinel this year and is currently serving on the Missouri Cattlemen's Board as a Regional Vice President.

Zada is active in the Missouri Jr. Hereford Association and the Missouri Jr. Simmental Association, where she served as the Missouri Simmental Queen in 2022. In her free time, Zada enjoys showing cattle at the local, state and national level, trapshooting, serving in organizations, and mentoring local youth interested in agriculture. After this year, Zada is planning on pursuing her passion through a career in Agriculture Education at Northwest Missouri State University.

Cora is a sophomore at Scotland County R-I where she is also highly involved and holds offices in FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, Student Council, the Class of 2028. Cora is actively involved in the Missouri Jr. Simmental Association where she is currently serving as the Missouri Simmental Queen. In her free time Cora enjoys playing softball on her high school and travel teams where she plays first base, shooting archery, as well as showing cattle at the local, state, and national level. Cora has a passion for showing cattle and working with livestock.

Scotland County

Highlights from 2025

Rhet is in 8th grade at Scotland County R-I where he is a class officer for the Class of 2030 and is on the Scholar Bowl Team. Rhet is also very involved with the Missouri Jr. Simmental Association and previously the Missouri Jr. Hereford Association. Rhet enjoys showing cattle at the local, state, and national level, showing dogs, working with his animals, and practicing his baking and grilling skills.

Kruz is in 5th grade this year at Scotland County R-I. He plays Tiger Cub Football and has begun showing cattle also. He really enjoys shooting sports where he shoots .22 Rifle and Archery as well as learning many skills in Hunting & Outdoor Skills through 4-H. He has started his leadership career by holding his first office in 4-H this year.

Jenna and all of the kids are all extremely involved in 4-H. Jenna serves as the leader of the Azen Jolly Timers and an advisor for the Scotland County 4-H Council. She also currently serves as a project leader for Foods, Clover Kids, and Beef. She has previously served as a project leader for Sewing, Electricity, Livestock Judging, and Arts & Crafts. She loves helping new families become involved in 4-H and learning the ropes. Zada serves as the President of both the Azen Jolly Timers and Scotland County 4-H Council and loves mentoring young members. Cora currently serves as the Secretary of both the Azen Jolly Timers and Scotland County 4-H Council where she prides herself on an accurate account of minutes and meeting proceedings. Rhet is currently serving as the Vice President of the Azen Jolly Timers and has previously held offices in 4-H Council. Kruz currently serves as a 4-H Council Representative for the Azen Jolly Timers. 4-H is a family affair. For the Ketchum Kids, this is a 5th generation family tradition. Their great-great grandparents chartered the Azen Jolly Timers 4-H Club and they are proud to carry on such a strong legacy.

As a family, the Ketchum's spend countless hours volunteering for 4-H and other community events and even cooking and providing meals for many of these events. They take pride in helping out wherever they can and helping younger generations expand their passion for agriculture. They, themselves, are very active in our community, the show industry, and advocating for agriculture. They are very proud to represent Scotland County as this year's State Fair Farm Family at the Missouri State Fair.

Farm Family Day is made possible through the support of the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri State Fair Commissioners, the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and MU Extension.

"This day is a meaningful tradition that puts the spotlight on the families who are the backbone of Missouri agriculture," said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. "They're not only feeding our state and nation, but they're also leading in their communities and supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders. It's an honor to recognize their dedication."





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