



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Scott County 2025



Annual Report

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**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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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,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Amber Childers
Extension Engagement
Specialist



Thomalee McCoy
Office Support Assistant



Teresa Green
Nutrition Program
Associate



Taylor Clark
Community
Development
Specialist



Randy Stephens
Field Specialist In
Agriculture Business



OUR COMMUNITY

Every year Missourians turn to the University of Missouri (MU) Extension for practical knowledge, problem-solving, and guidance in navigating change. As a key resource for informed decision-making, we play a vital role in delivering this knowledge, fostering progress, and empowering individuals and communities to thrive.

OUR MISSION

As a land-grant institution, our mission is to **Bring Mizzou to YOU**. We bring the University of Missouri's cutting-edge research and expertise to the residents of the county, helping individuals, businesses, and municipalities make informed decisions that improve quality of life. Through our educational programs, we aim to strengthen communities, boost local economies, and promote sustainable growth by offering accessible, relevant, and responsive solutions backed by the resources of the University of Missouri System.

OUR MAIN PROGRAM AREAS

- › Agriculture
- › Business & Workforce Development
- › Community Development
- › Health and Human Science Initiatives
- › Nutrition & Health Education
- › 4-H Youth Development

Who are we

Faculty and Staff Resources

Sarah Denkler
Regional Director - Southeast
Region



Audrey Johnson
Field Specialist In Human
Development



Jennifer Hall
4-H Youth Development Educator



Donna Aufdenberg
Field Specialist In Horticulture



Scotty Smothers
Field Specialist In Agronomy



Alexis Stumpe
Field Specialist In Livestock



Council Members

Vice Chair- Barry Blevins
Secretary- Teletia Atkins
Treasurer- Danny Tetley
Chairman – Joe Pattongill

Member – Will Watson
Member- Millie Dannemueller



Members

Not Pictured: Dawn Collier, Joey Hayes,
Kevin Fennewald
Shan Howard , Robyn Sitzes

County Commission

Scott County Clerk Allen Seabaugh



**The Scott County Extension Council, Faculty & staff
would like to Express our appreciation to the
Scott County Commissioners for their
Continued support of Extension Programs**



Danny Tetley
Presiding Commissioner
Office Phone: 573-545-3549
Home Phone: 573-620-4005 (cell)



David F. Hough
First District Commissioner
Office Phone: 573-545-3549
Home Phone: 573-380-3239 (cell)



Chase Asmus
Second District Commissioner
Office Phone: 573-545-3549
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Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	\$54,000.00
Retained Funds	\$14,400.00
Total Income	\$68,400.00
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	\$44,578.56
Travel	\$3,288.00
Telephone	\$840.00
Office Supplies/Service	\$2,553.44
Office Space Rental	\$14,400.00
Utilities	\$1,740.00
Insurance	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$68,400.00

Return on investment

University System
Donations
Program Revenue

**For every dollar invested by the county,
MU invests \$3.459**

Key Outcomes

Some of Our Scott County Key Outcomes for 2025:

* Taylor Clark, our Community Development Specialist, received the Community Excellence Award as part of the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities team during Extension Engagement Week.

* Scott County received several office visitors requesting information related to horticulture, crop budgets, cash rental rates, and custom rate guides.

- Over 100 Soil Testing
- Donations Made for our 4-H Programs
- Crop Conferences Held (Corn/soybean/Cotton)
- 4-H Program (Sikeston Superstars)
- Over 100 Attended the Multi County Women's Health Conference.



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Scott 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.

Health and Human Science

Profiles and stories

Teresa Green, Nutrition Program Associate

SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought over \$11,000,000 in federal funds to Missouri in 2025 to support engagement with 70,663 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients and eligible citizens. Through direct education, newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline, Teresa reached 9941 direct and 13,090 indirect contacts in Scott Counties.

MU Extension nutrition educators work with individuals and groups in a variety of settings throughout the state to meet a wide range of needs. Whether reaching out to youth and adults through direct education or working with communities to promote healthy policies, systems and environments (PSE), our goal is to help participants make behavior changes to achieve lifelong health and fitness. Often people tell us how the program has impacted their lives, even years after they have participated. Each day there are new stories that bring home the same important message: The MU Extension Family Nutrition Education Program makes a difference, a difference that means better health and fitness for a lifetime.

Teresa Green giving participants a taste of healthy smoothies.

9941 participants (both youth and adult) received direct education in Scott County in 2025.



Families Eating Smart and Moving More – Open Door Fellowship Ministries

I provided nutrition education through the *Families Eating Smart and Moving More* program at Open Door Fellowship Ministries. The lesson focused on making fruit smoothies and discussing the different kinds of fruits that can be used in smoothies. The class was a success and very interactive. One grandmother shared that she did not like yogurt. However, when we reviewed the smoothie recipe, she was surprised to learn it included one cup of vanilla yogurt. After tasting the smoothie, she stated that she enjoyed it and plans to make smoothies at home with her grandson. This demonstrated how hands-on education can change perceptions and encourage healthier family habits.

Profiles and stories



Sikeston Super Stars 4-H meets twice a month at the Malone Park Center for the Arts. We have made marshmallow catapults, held a bake sale, elected officers, and had special guest speakers. Shown here is guest Jimmy Aubrey with his bottle-fed calf "Sonny." The Super Stars enjoyed asking questions and petting the calf.



Sewing has become a highly requested activity in Scott County. Teaching both hand sewing and machine sewing has been successful with most class participants requesting parents to get them a sewing machine of their own. We have made stockings, pillows, ornaments, aprons, and other creative items.

Our Sikeston Superstars love to participate in "Show What You Know." At each meeting, we have 4-Hers bring something to show and explain to the group. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate special events in the lives of our youth and talk about things like raising animals, taekwondo, emotional support, and favorite hobbies. It also gives the youth a safe space to learn how to speak in front of their peers with positive reinforcement.



Missouri 4-H

Profiles and stories

Scott County 4-H had a successful year in 2025. Beginning the year, we had a minimal presence in Scott County, but with the revitalization of one long standing club and adding a new club, we have quickly grown. The New Hamburg Eager Beavers club has expanded to include an after-school program in Kelso, and we have started a new club, Sikeston Super Stars. We now have 30 official 4-H members county wide. In addition, we have participated in the Cotton Carnival Parade, Sikeston Middle School family night, sewing classes, The 4-H Youth Farm Animal Art Show, and summer camps in Scott county, serving around 400 youth.

We are committed to being more involved in our community. This year, 4-Hers participated in the Cotton Carnival Parade by riding on a float and displaying their love for 4-H! We also participated in the Sikeston Middle School Family night event. Some pictures from each event are seen here.



4-H has joined with Malone Park Center for the Arts to provide programming in sewing, etiquette, leadership and art. We have hosted several sewing events there, plus we hold our Sikeston Super Stars Club at this location. We are proud to work with Malone Park Center for the Arts and look forward to future successes with this growing relationship. We also have worked with the Sikeston Middle School and The Christian Academy

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Soil Testing

Soil health begins with a proper soil analysis and interpretation. Agriculture producers, homeowners and gardeners rely upon MU Extension to provide accurate soil analysis and amending recommendations. In addition to gaining knowledge of soil health, many agricultural producers rely on funds from county, state, or federal cost share programs to invest in their operations. Most of these programs require a soil analysis from a reputable soil testing facility. In 2025 there were 69 soil samples processed and interpreted for Scott County. Those samples represented 304 total acres in Scott County.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPAT)

All Agricultural producers in Missouri who use restricted use pesticides on properties that they own or lease, are required to attend a state approved safety training before purchasing or applying Restricted Use Pesticides. MU Extension is tasked with providing access to those trainings. In 2025, there were 2 in person trainings offered in Scott County and 25 producers were certified to purchase and apply Restricted Use Pesticides.



Scott County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Key Successes:

Monthly Newsletter sent out to 1318 recipients

Presented at 2025 Southeast Missouri Crop Conference and other conferences and grower meetings throughout the year

Worked to develop a canola production budget for Southeast Missouri

Worked with campus to update MU Guide sheets

Co-taught Farm Leasing class

Worked across program area to help start an afterschool 4-H program at New Hamburg School

Taught and Facilitated PPAT classes

2025 At A Glance

404 Direct contacts with producers through the nine-state region

60,769 Indirect contacts with the public

Represented MU Extension on Scott County Soil & Water Board

Monthly collaboration with FSA for USDA Crop Progress Report

Interviewed by **Iowa Farmer Today**



Scott County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Alexis Link, Field Specialist in Livestock

In 2025, the Show-Me-Select Heifer Replacement Program marketed 1,689 heifers statewide. Sales conducted in Southeast Missouri generated \$318,350 from fall-calving heifers and \$164,350 from spring-calving heifers. Through the program, producers apply total quality management practices to on-farm heifer development, strengthening herd management, reproductive performance, and genetic quality through retained ownership or by marketing heifers for added income. Buyers benefit from improved herd quality and reduced rates of dystocia and calf or heifer losses.



More than 50 Scott County residents were reached through SMQA programming, on-farm visits, FFA Field Day, the Black Vulture Meeting, and direct producer consultations. Educational topics included, but were not limited to, nutrition, reproduction, disease management, heifer quality, herd health, small ruminant production, and youth livestock education. Producers are able to apply this information to strengthen management practices and enhance the productivity and sustainability of their operations.

Agriculture and Environment

Horticulture Highlights – Donna Aufdenberg, Horticulture Specialist

Donna Aufdenberg offers horticulture programming in the Southeast Region in Missouri. Services offered include plant diagnostics, plant identification, insect identification, soil test assistance, greenhouse consultations and troubleshooting, and gardening programs.

In 2025, there were a total of 1749 direct contacts through gardening programs where participants (locally and across the state) engaged in learning through in-person and online programs.

Popular Programs in 2025

- Beginning Hydroponics
- Hobby Greenhouses
- Growing and Using Herbs
- Gardening in Containers
- Growing Strawberries
- Seed starting
- Winter Sowing



Hands-on learning with container gardening

Master Gardeners (78 members from Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Scott and Perry Counties) completed 2,596 hours valued at \$90,000 given to local communities through beautification, education, and service to others. Twenty-two gardeners complete Master Gardener Core training in 2025.



Demonstration Garden

Donna oversees the All-American Selections demonstration garden at the MU Extension office in Jackson, MO where over 400 plants can be observed growing. Over 250 gardeners from the surrounding counties visited the demonstration garden in 2025 to learn what annuals and perennial flowers do best in Missouri gardens. Each plant is labelled with a QR code leading to websites about the plants. Area Master Gardeners help maintain the garden.

Horticulture

/ ' hōrdə , kəlCHər/

Noun 1. the art or practice of garden cultivation and management

900+

Participants in 35+ Programs in the Southeast Region

800+

One-on-One Education
➤ Calls and Emails
➤ Walk-ins

Top Gardening Requests

Vegetable Gardening • Growing Berries • Planting Fruit Trees • Composting • Soil Testing • Raised Bed Garden • Hydroponics • Greenhouses

Garden Spade Newsletter reaches over 2,556 subscribers every month with a 9.6% increase in readership during 2025. Each issue shares practical, research-based information that is “Reliable, Responsive, and Relevant” to Missouri Gardeners. Subscribe to the garden spade at <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/ca-pe-girardeau> or click the QR code at the right.





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

Agriculture and Environment

Local Residents chosen as Missouri Farm Family for Scott County

Sikeston, Mo. — Kevin and Terra Holt and family of Sikeston were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair. The Holt family was selected as the Scott County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Scott County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Tyler and Madalyn Holt and Trey and Kyanna Holt.

Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H -or FFA.

The Holt family operates a 7,000-acre row crop and cattle operation.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension.

The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state, said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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

Health and Human Sciences

Audrey Johnson
Field Specialist in
Health and
Human Sciences



**Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi,
New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, and Stoddard
counties**

Extension Health & Human Sciences is dedicated to helping Missourians improve their lives. Using research-based education and proven strategies, Extension professionals work in partnership with communities to improve conditions that help Missourians live better where they live, learn, play and work. Our programs help individuals and families, rural and urban, reaching Missourians of all ages in every county and the city of St. Louis.

Senior Technology Classes

Five Senior Technology classes were taught, with a total of 41 participants, in the following counties: Mississippi(1), Scott(2), and Stoddard(3). The classes included:

- **AI All Round**
- **All Things Zoom**
- **Finding Information Online**
- **Protecting Your Personal Information Online**
- **Digital Coupon Tools**

Surveys taken after sessions showed that of the 41 participants,

- 15 reported being interested in trying something new because of the program
- 11 reported wanting to learn more about the topic that was covered
- 11 stated it is extremely likely they would attend another Senior Planet program



Participants stated the classes were “Very informative”, “Good to get new knowledge”, “Need to keep up with increasing technology”, “This program (AI All Around) is informative and helpful to the generation we live in”, “Great opportunity to receive information.”



**Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship**



**Economic
Opportunity**



**Educational
Access &
Excellence**



**Health
& Well-Being**

Building Momentum: The 2025 CEC Conference Strengthens Missouri's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Business and Community

The **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference**, hosted annually by University of Missouri Extension, delivers immediate and long-term economic benefits to Missourians and host communities alike. By drawing entrepreneurs, business leaders, and civic stakeholders from across Missouri and beyond, the conference generates direct local economic activity as attendees invest in lodging, dining, shopping, and unique attractions not available in their home communities. In 2025, the conference brought 164 attendees from 48 Missouri counties and four states to Excelsior Springs, significantly increasing visitor spending while showcasing local businesses, venues, and cultural assets. Beyond short-term tourism impacts, CEC strengthens Missouri's economic development pipeline by equipping participants with practical tools, peer networks, and actionable strategies they take back to their communities—multiplying the conference's impact through improved entrepreneurship support, workforce development, and civic capacity across the state.



Taylor Clark, M. Ed.
Community Development Specialist
2025 CEC Committee Member
taylor.clark@missouri.edu

MEASURABLE IMPACT

The 2025 CEC Conference demonstrated measurable learning impact and intense participant satisfaction:

- ✓ **Pre-conference understanding:** 77% rated their knowledge as average to high.
- ✓ **Post-conference understanding:** 91% rated high to very high — an **18% gain in applied learning effectiveness.**
- ✓ **Educational relevance:** 55% reported they could apply what they learned directly in their communities.
- ✓ **Value perception:** 67% rated the conference a good value for the cost.
- ✓ **Presenter effectiveness:** 100% of respondents rated presenters as Effective or Highly Effective.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Communities across Missouri—rural, micropolitan, and urban—continue to seek practical tools and strategic insights to strengthen local economies. The CEC conference delivers both **tactical, ready-to-use frameworks** paired with the **inspiration and storytelling** that build momentum and civic muscle. Participant feedback confirmed that this blend is essential to moving from ideas to implementation, especially for communities working to diversify their economies, support small businesses, and grow their workforces.

49 Missouri Counties and 4 States Represented

Andrew = 2	Cole = 2	Johnson = 3	Phelps = 1	Worth = 1
Atchison = 1	Cooper = 1	Lafayette = 1	Platte = 2	
Barton = 2	Dade = 1	Lincoln = 2	Putnam = 1	
Bates = 2	Dekalb = 2	Macon = 3	Saline = 2	
Boone = 14	Douglas = 1	Marion = 2	Scott = 2	
Butler = 5	Gasconade = 1	Mississippi = 4	St. Charles = 4	
Callaway = 2	Gentry = 2	Moniteau = 2	St. Clair = 1	
Camden = 1	Greene = 3	New Madrid = 1	St. Louis City = 4	
Cass = 2	Grundy = 1	Nodaway = 4	St. Louis County = 8	
Chariton = 1	Howard = 1	Osage = 1	Taney = 2	
Clay = 22	Jackson = 14	Perry = 1	Vernon = 2	
Clinton = 1	Jefferson = 2	Pettis = 2	Washington = 1	



Above: Members of the MU Extension and Excelsior Springs 2025 CEC Conference Planning Committees with several conference attendees.



Above: Conference attendees enjoyed 25 Breakout Sessions held in the quaint storefronts located in Downtown Excelsior Springs.



Connecting
Entrepreneurial Communities
University of Missouri Extension

Join us in Maryville – Sept. 15-17, 2026

Business and Community

Empowering Women: The 2025 Women's Conference

The 20th Annual Women's Health Conference was a powerful, multi-day experience that brought together over 100 attendees from the Bootheel and four states represented. New additions this year included a Welcome Reception for sponsors and entrepreneurs, and an intimate Women's Empowerment Brunch attended by 14 women committed to advancing health and leadership in their communities.

This year's conference achieved record-breaking sponsorships and donations, allowing MU Extension and its partners to deliver an unforgettable experience filled with breakout sessions, expert panels, and interactive workshops. Participants received conference swag bags, custom t-shirts, access to local vendors, and giveaways that created an energetic, supportive atmosphere.

Through the support of our sponsors like Missouri Foundation Health with a \$5000 sponsorship, partners, and volunteers including youth from Charleston R-1 School District and Fresh Start C2C, the conference made a lasting impact on health equity and leadership development across the Bootheel region.

Feedback from attendees and vendors has been overwhelmingly positive, affirming the conference's value in empowering women who are strong in mind, body, and spirit.

Topics Covered

- Physical & Mental Health
- Maternal Health
- Medicare & Estate Planning
- Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Disability Advocacy
- Volunteerism
- Small Business Ownership



Taylor Clark, M. Ed.
Community Development Specialist
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She Rises
20TH ANNUAL
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in (your county name) Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts [Your County] 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 Scott 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 (your 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 (your county name) is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

[Access Scott County's Grand Challenges Report.](#)

