



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
St. Clair County

2024 Annual Report

**SERVE
MISSOURI.
DELIVER
MIZZOU.**

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Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff

Wayne Prewitt

West Central Regional Director

Allison Gunter

Extension and Engagement Specialist

David Brown

Livestock Specialist Small Ruminant Emphasis

Patrick Davis

Livestock Specialist

Vacant

Agronomist

Wesley Tucker

Agriculture Business Specialist

Ramon Arancibia

Commercial Horticulture Specialist

Linda Clinton

Youth Development Specialist

Beth Tilton

Nutrition and Youth Program Associate

Kyleigh Brown

Human Development and Family Science Specialist

Lynnlee Parrott

Nutrition and Health Specialist

Mitchell Moon

Labor and Work Force Development Specialist

Debbie McSperitt

Office Manager

Council members

Matt Noakes, Chairman

Karry Phillips, Vice-Chair

Jill Chapman, Secretary

Mike Nance, Treasurer – Farm Bureau

Debbie Siegismund

Sharon Murray

Jodine Trout

Kathy Colby

Randy Smith, County Commissioner



County commissioners

Robert Salmon, Presiding Commissioner

Leroy Strope, North Commissioner

Randy Smith, South Commissioner



Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	45,000.00
Surplus Funds	9,715.00
Total Income	54,715.00
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	35,732.00
YPA/NPA Salary/Benefits	7,689.00
Travel	2,876.00
Telephone	847.00
Office Supplies/Service	487.00
Copy Services	1,180.00
Advertising	25.00
Insurance	1,643.00
Postage	260.00
Furniture/Equipment	243.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Total Expenses	53,789.00
Return on investment	
University System	83,000
Grants/Donations	9,005
Program Revenue	4,640

St. Clair County partners

St. Clair County State Bank
 Osceola Optimist
 St. Clair County Soil & Water District
 Osceola Chamber of Commerce

KEY NUMBERS

Social Media Contacts - Office	28,614
Telephone Inquiries - Office	562
Walk-In Inquiries - Office	267
Hay & Soil Tests - Office	73

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to St. Clair 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.

County Highlights

Missouri Farm Family

The Matt and Jessica Stephan family of rural Montrose were among the families honored during the 67th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, August 12 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Stephan family was selected to represent St. Clair County by University of Missouri Extension in St. Clair County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Coy, Lila and Reid.

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 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.



Barn Quilt Class

9 residents participated in an all day session creating unique, colorful designs on 2 x 2 or 1 x 1 boards to be displayed on barns, garages or on the side of their home. Everyone enjoyed the project and the camaraderie that went along with the session.

More sessions are planned for 2025.



St. Clair County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

33 students

- 30 Undergraduates
- 3 Graduate and professional students
- 13 Full-time students
- 20 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

7 people employed by UM
 • 7 Campuses
 2 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income:
 \$188,299
 UM state tax revenue: \$2,816
 UM federal tax revenue: \$17,074



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 3 Medicine
- 7 Nursing
- 9 Health Professions
- 2 Dentistry
- 2 Pharmacy
- 7 Veterinary Medicine
- 35 Agriculture
- 17 Engineering
- 11 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 4 teachers
- 3.3% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 14.3% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 14 students
- 91 alumni
- 7 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 38 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 1 student
- 10 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 16 students
- 2 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: St. Clair County



County population: 9,451



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 68 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$116,984 of uncompensated care
- 14 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 250 visits to 118 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 2,423 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 483 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 1,821 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 22 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

St. Clair County



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

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.



For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

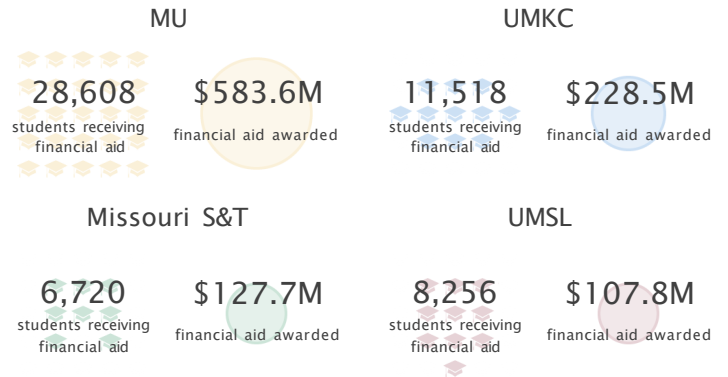


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration · UM IR · MU Institute for Public Policy · Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) · MU · UMKC · Missouri S&T · UMSL · UM System · UM Health Care · MU Extension · US Census Bureau · US Dept. of Health and Human Services · National Science Foundation



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Labor Market*

Average Earnings per Job

Average earnings per job can reflect the type of economy, skill of employees, and availability of jobs and workers in an area. Average earnings is calculated by dividing total full-time and part-time employment by total earnings. Earnings is the sum of three components of personal income--wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Both employment for wages and salaries and proprietors employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers is not included. Average earnings per job is a measure of the wages paid at jobs in the county not the earnings of people who live in the county. The dollar figures shown are not adjusted for inflation.

2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$33,096

St. Clair



Missouri

\$62,528 🤔

Data Source: US [Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts, 2007-2022.](#)

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey, of the 7,713 persons of working age in the report area, 50.40% are included in the labor force. This rate falls short of the Missouri labor force participation rate of 62.90%.

Labor Force Participation Rate

50.4%

St. Clair

Missouri

62.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22.](#)

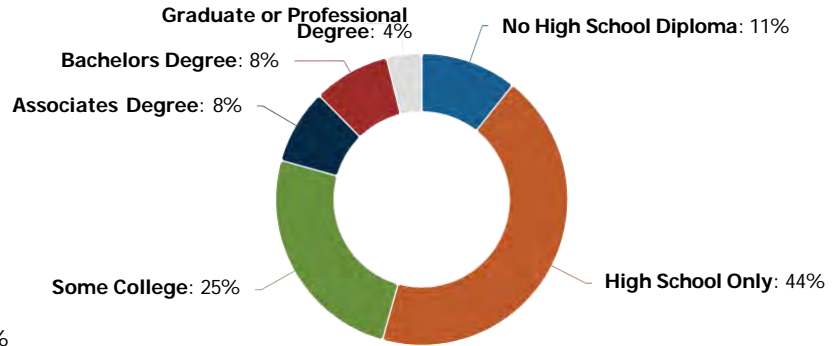


CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

In the report area, 25.0% of adults have at least some college education and 16.8% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 43.7% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 10.7% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

10.65%

Missouri

8.69%

St. Clair

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).

Data Source: [US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22](#).



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Weight*

Obesity (Adult)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults aged 20 and older self-report having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Respondents were considered obese if their Body Mass Index (BMI) was 30 or greater. Body mass index (weight [kg]/height [m]²) was derived from self-report of height and weight. Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues.

Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.

Percentage of Adults Obese, 2016

24.9%

Missouri

33% 🙄

St. Clair



Data Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2021](#).

Physical Inactivity

Within the report area, 1,494 or 18.2% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no active leisure time, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.

Adults Age 20+ with No Leisure Time Physical Activity, Percent

18.2%

Missouri

21.4%

St. Clair

Data Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2021](#).

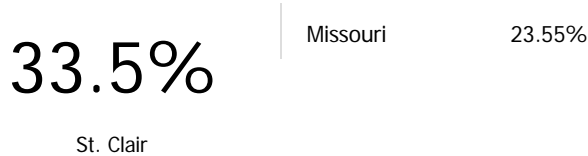


CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Agricultural Economy*

Jobs Derived

Missouri has a diverse agriculture industry, strong in crops and livestock, as well as food and forestry processing industries. These industries remain a significant part of Missouri's economy, supporting more than 1 in every 10 jobs, on average. In 2021, agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Missouri were estimated to contribute: 456,618 jobs, \$93.7 billion in output and [\\$31.8 billion in household income](#). [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

Percent of Jobs Derived from Agriculture

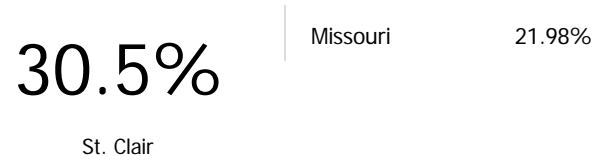


Data Source: Missouri [Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority, 2021.](#)

Value Added

Value-added agriculture refers to production, manufacturing, marketing or other services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal and pet food manufacturing, and crop production and related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

Percent of Total Value Added from Agriculture



Data Source: Missouri [Department of Agriculture, Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority, 2021.](#)



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

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs

employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



4-H's Healthy Living

programming teaches skills for healthy choices and lifestyles, enhancing overall well-being and equipping youths 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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

St. Clair County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Linda Clinton Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

A community of 408 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.

Common Measures

Findings from a 2021-22 evaluation study shows that Missouri 4-H:

Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do

98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.

91% set personal goals.

97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.

98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.

Missouri 4-H Grows True Leaders

97% said they like to learn about people who are different from them.

93% said they think about others feelings before they say something.

75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.

4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills

95% help others reach their goals.

86% comfortable speaking in a group.

99% said they show respect for other's ideas.

85% Can work with someone who made them upset.

95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.

4-H Builds Social and Emotional Skills

94% said they keep trying until they reach their goals.

89% Stop to think about their choices when making a decision.

97% reported that they like to learn new things.

91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.



St. Clair County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories



Missouri 4-H engaged in expanded and enhanced programming throughout the summer of 2024. 4-H team members across Missouri provided diverse educational opportunities to 5,349 young people. Program offerings included career and college awareness and exploration through simulations, program series, and day camps. In partnership with community libraries and community centers, youth unfamiliar and familiar with 4 H had the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM programs, including coding, aerospace, robotics, embryology, and gardening.

Funding for the ARPA Summer Enrichment grant was made possible through a contract with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to distribute a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 1% Set-aside for Summer Enrichment to youth serving programs across the state.

Missouri 4-H Summer Enrichment 2024



Summer Enrichment programs kept us extremely busy in St. Clair County with two different Cooking/STEM clubs. We had one location in Osceola, and the second was in Lowry City. Both groups had a week full of fun activities. Youth were able to learn to make and can jelly and pickles, bake bread, to make and decorate cupcakes. During their down time, they worked together to complete multiple STEM projects like a nightlight, solar car, and caterpillar. The kids started getting creative on their STEM projects and working together to modify their creations for race day.



St. Clair County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

4-H clubs

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas 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. Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

4-H participants = 53 *Duplicates not removed.

4-H Community Clubs: offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing this under the guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK.

4-H offers Community clubs, SPIN (special interest) clubs, In school and Afterschool Clubs, and school enrichment. Families and communities can choose what fits their needs.

Volunteers

4-H members are supported by 18 youth and adult volunteers

Time valued at ~\$12,000

Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing an average of 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$33.49 per hour (Independent Sector, 2024), the contribution of St. Clair 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$40,000 in 2024. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.

Reference

Independent Sector (2024). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$33.49 per hour.

Retrieved from <https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-33-49-per-hour/>

4-H SNAC Clubs

The Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) clubs are available in various settings, including before school, during school, after school, and within community programs. These clubs empower youth to enhance their knowledge of nutrition and fitness. Participants take on leadership roles, becoming ambassadors of Healthy Living by designing and executing projects that promote nutrition education and improve fitness in their communities. In 2024, Missouri saw the establishment of 121 SNAC Clubs, engaging 2,543 youth and reaching over 7,330 others through their leadership initiatives.

4-H SNAC Club Mini-grants

In 2024, the Missouri 4-H Foundation partnered with Healthy Blue to provide mini grants of up to \$500 per county, supporting 4-H SNAC clubs throughout the state in implementing their leadership projects. A total of 37 counties received funding, amounting to \$18,500 in mini grants.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Agriculture and Environment**



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.



The Agricultural Business and Policy (ABP) program drives the growth of Missouri's agriculture economy by equipping farmers, ranchers, landowners and agribusinesses with the knowledge and tools to make sound farm management decisions. ABP provides interactive programming and tailored resources such as enterprise budgets and farm accounting tools and valuable executive education through its annual Agricultural Lenders School and seminars. These programs deliver key insights, market outlooks, policy updates and practical tools to help lenders and their clientele navigate volatile farm economies. ABP conducts unbiased comprehensive surveys on farmland values, custom farming rates and cash rental rates. These surveys for farm operators, ag lenders, government agencies and industry stakeholders provide valuable insights into trends and indicators of farm financial health.



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.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

David Brown, Ph.D.
Field Specialist in Livestock
Small Ruminant Emphasis

Sheep & Goats **Monthly Webinar** **Series**

"The webinar series ran
from January to
November 2024."

"The webinar provided practical insights that I could immediately apply to improve the health and management of my flock."

"I just wanted to let you know that I found this webinar to be very helpful".

"Thank you for your consistency in providing timely topics to support sheep and goat producers in the state."

Total participation in 2024: Over
1,500 across the state.

DELIVER MIZZOU.

Sheep and Goat Monthly **Webinar Series**

January 30, 2024 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Topic: Common Diseases in Sheep &
Goats (Symptoms, Prevention & Management)



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Osceola Chamber of Commerce



**55th Annual Missouri
Cattlemen's Association
Convention Conference,
Margaritaville – Panel
Discussion**



“Thank you for sharing your programming efforts with us”!

St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

"The panel discussion covered all aspects of my sheep production. Thank you!"

Over 40 participants attended the small ruminant break out session.



Sheep & Goats Panel Discussion at Spring Forage Conference

St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Future of Missouri Agriculture Video

Topics such as the importance of agriculture to Missouri, agricultural growth & stewardship, how to measure impact in your unit, value-added agriculture and lots more were discussed.



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2nd Annual Sheep & Goats Field Day Mt. Vernon, Lawrence County

Event Sponsor

MO Forage & Grassland Council,
Mazzio's Pizza, American Lamb
Board, FCS Financial, Katahdin Hair
Sheep, Vit-A-Zine, North Central
Extension Risk Management Center.

Over 100 producers participated

**“I drove 4 hours for this
program, it was worth the
drive”!**



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



SWREEC Exploration Day, Mt. Vernon

"Provided an educational talk to approximately 1,500 students and members of the public on the Five-Point Check for sheep and goats. Additionally, conducted a hands-on FAMACHA demonstration to enhance practical learning."



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Missouri Katahdin Expo, Mexico, MO

I delivered 2-day presentation on drought management at the annual Missouri Katahdin Expo.

More than 80 producers participated

“I learnt about drought indicators, feed formulation, toxic weeds, & mitigation strategies to deal with drought”!



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Rodeo Daze & Food Drive

MU Extension Faculty & Staff, David Brown & Debbie McSperitt, participated in Rodeo Daze, delivering educational information to the public & spearheading the Good Neighbor Week initiative with a food donation to the St. Clair County Food Bank.



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Patrick Davis MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist

Programming

- **Appleton City Management Intensive Grazing School**
 - 16 people were educated on grazing and cattle management
 - The goal is for cattle producers to use this knowledge to more efficiently manage their cattle and forage operation
- **Backyard Laying Hen Workshop**
 - 13 people were educated and provided hands on demonstration on small scale layer and egg management.
 - The goal was that participants could use the knowledge on their own operations in the areas of management, egg rules/regulations, biosecurity, and egg processing/grading
- **St. Clair County Cattlemen's Meeting**
 - 37 people were educated on management strategies to protect their cattle operations from drought
 - The goal was that cattle producers take the knowledge and utilize it to better manage forage and cattle so that their operations are more drought resilient



St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and Stories

Heather Conrow Livestock Specialist State 4-H Animal Science Educator

Backyard Laying Hen Workshops

The number of backyard flocks continues to increase across the state. Over **40** participants attended these workshops, representing **10** counties.

Participants learned basic management practices to ensure a healthy backyard flock, in addition to biosecurity, licensing and labeling requirements, processing, washing, and grading eggs.

Hands-on opportunities included equipment demonstrations and processing, candling, and grading of eggs.

100% of participants said they would recommend the workshop to others for the following reasons, “lots of good information, great basis to start,” “very informative and fun.”



Participants increased their knowledge on the following topics with the percent increase following:

- Getting started with chickens: **38%**
- Caring for laying hens: **58%**
- Protecting your flock and family: **68%**
- Washing and storing eggs: **42%**
- Grading eggs: **72%**

Program Feedback

“Now I know how to actually evaluate a hen rather than just guessing.”

- “Some of the best hands-on info I have been to.”
- “Perfect for all ages.”
- “Great workshop! I would love to attend more.”
- “Well worth my time.”

St. Clair County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Joni Harper Field Specialist in Natural Resources

Covering West Central Counties of Missouri

2024 In Review

This year saw the expansion of natural resources programming to many of my counties. Here are some highlights of 2024:

- Woodland Steward Workshop
- Forest Farming Workshop
- Revival of Missouri Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) program
 - Monthly virtual Zoom meetings connecting with women woodland owners over topics of interest.
- Heroes to Hives Program
- Youth programming: 4-H soil and water experiment and watershed curriculum
- Keep Your Forest in the Family Legacy Workshop

It was great getting to connect with everyone in person and over Zoom. I will continue to offer virtual natural resources programming as it's the best way to reach all my counties. I will also continue to bring in-person programming to more counties as well.

Thank you all for your support in 2024.

Looking at 2025

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2025.

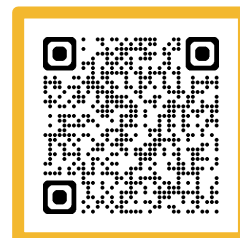
- Women Owning Woodlands Monthly Zoom meetings
- Chainsaw Safety Courses
- Invasive Plant Workshops
- Agroforestry Programming
- Forest Management field days & tours
- Natural Resources youth programming

Let me know what you'd like to see in your county - looking forward to engaging with everyone in conservation next year!

Stay Up-to-Date on Natural Resources Programming

Follow our newsletters to receive information monthly about our upcoming programs & learn more about Missouri's natural resources:

MU Extension Natural Resources Newsletter



bit.ly/MU-Ext-Natural-Resources

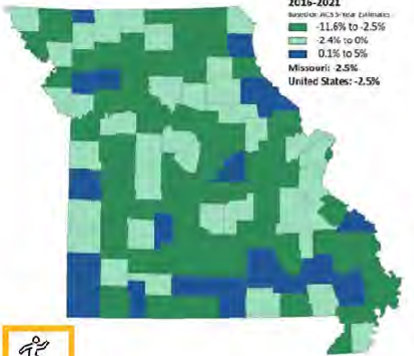


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



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 2023 conference drew **104 ATTENDEES**, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around **\$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.**



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

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



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

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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

St. Clair County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Mitchell Moon Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development



Mitchell and the Labor and Workforce Development team help Missouri businesses and employees thrive by offering various training programs and specialty-tailored presentations to help communities make informed decisions. Mitchell works constantly with data professionals on-campus to ensure accurate, unbiased economic information is being shared with communities. Some of the information Mitchell monitors are employee inflow/outflow from each county, median wages by each county, total number of employed persons per county, and amount of private establishments operating in each county. These specific data topics help paint a picture of a community's economic well-being and offer insight to local policymakers as to how to further improve their business community. In short, Mitchell is proud to tackle your county's economic and workforce challenges by collaborating with seasoned professionals at our land-grant institution and local stakeholders to deliver positive results, serving Missouri by delivering Mizzou.

Mitchell serves as a commissioner-appointed board member for the Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission, also having a seat on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee. Here, he is an advocate for economic and workforce development for four West Central Missouri counties. Mitchell was elected in June 2024 to a board of directors seat on the Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC). At MEDC, this council acts as the authoritative voice on Missouri economic and workforce development by providing statewide policy suggestions, networking and collaboration amongst professionals, and education opportunities.

I attended this year's 2024 Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference located in Fulton, Missouri. Here, over 100 attendees learned from local business leaders and entrepreneurs about their day-to-day challenges and what tricks these successful individuals have used to grow their business. This conference is very immersive in the host-community, as the sessions are held throughout downtown in local shops, cafes, banks, and not in your typical hotel conference room. This conference moves from town to town in Missouri, with the 2025 conference being held in Excelsior Springs, MO. I invite all Extension council members, small business owners, local elected officials, and those interested in entrepreneurship to attend a CEC conference. Truly, this is an experience dedicated to growing Missouri's business community where attendees have the opportunity to network and learn directly from industry professionals. This was my third CEC conference, and I look forward to attending this event each year!

St. Clair County

Business and Community

Profiles and Stories



The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses 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.

Missouri Small Business Development Center Activity

Name: Definition for County Annual Report - 2024

Cumulative Period Start: 10/1/2023

Current Period Start: 10/1/2023

Scorecard End: 9/30/2024

St. Clair County

Data Elements	Value
Capitalization	#####
Sales Increase	\$1.00
New Businesses Started	1
\$ of Contract Awards	\$0.00
# of Contract Awards	0
Jobs Created	2
Jobs Retained	58
Unique Clients Served	12
Number of Clients Counseled	13
Number of Training Event Attendees	26



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Community and Professional Health Education**



Resilience is the capacity to adapt when faced with adversity. **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training** is a 2.5 hour training for participants to evaluate their personal resilience, tap into resources and create an action plan to enhance their resilience. Upon completing the training, participants can attend a facilitator session, enabling them to deliver the content within their communities and strengthen resilience within their networks.

100% of participants indicate that the skills and techniques they learned will help them become **MORE RESILIENT.**



Rural Immersion Program is an opportunity for medical students interested in rural practice to gain experience in the rewards and challenges of working and living in a rural community, examining rural health disparities and quality of life concerns within a specific region. Group activities and meetings with community leaders in business, government, education, health care and natural resources give students a preview of life in a rural area. The 2024 program was hosted by Union, Mo. and the 2025 host city will be Hayti, Mo.

All of the 2024 participants agreed that the Rural Immersion Program significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.



Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14, is a seven-session series for parents or caregivers and their young teens to attend together to improve family communication, resolve conflict and improve parental skills.

A research study conducted by the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute found a RETURN OF \$9.60 for every dollar spent implementing the Strengthening Families Program.

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**



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults basic exercises to boost strength, balance and overall daily functionality. Participants also gain insights into nutrition and wellness for healthy aging and active living.

After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.



Show-Me Nutrition

Programming for preschool through junior high

An engaging way to demonstrate the benefits of food safety, nutrition and physical activity. Meets Missouri's Show-Me Health and Physical Education standards and the state's School Wellness Policy.

"We have struggled with our daughter's picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things."

Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant



Mental Health First Aid equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use challenges.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people (ages 12-17) facing mental health or addiction challenges while the adult version focuses on adults aged 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

In Missouri, approximately 1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.*

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

St. Clair County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact

Lynnlee Parrott Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

STAY STRONG, STAY HEALTHY: Lynnlee Parrott taught one Stay Strong, Stay Healthy class to thirteen participants. Eleven of the thirteen participants completed twelve or more sessions of a possible sixteen. Of those eleven participants, five participants completed all possible sessions. Eleven participants improved their balance and muscle endurance based on their fitness assessments at the beginning and end of the program. This Stay Strong, Stay Healthy class contributes to an estimated \$11,200 in savings for annual healthcare costs. One participant shared, “This class was enjoyable, but also challenging. It has helped me be able to get up from a chair much easier.”



Local Impact

Kyleigh Brown Field Specialist in Human Development & Family Sciences

Alzheimer's Association Programming

10 community members gathered at The Four Fillies Mercantile of Lowry City to learn strategies to improve brain health and prevent Alzheimer's Disease. Human Development and Family Science Specialist, Kyleigh Brown, provided the Alzheimer's Association program Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body.

Since 2019 MU Extension has been partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to provide Alzheimer's Disease related community education, particularly in rural communities. The program in Lowry City had a good crowd with insightful conversations and connections to additional resources were made.

86% of respondents would recommend the program to a friend.



St. Clair County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

MU Extension provided Youth Mental Health First Aid Training to 19 faculty and staff of Appleton City High School. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an in-depth training in recognizing signs or symptoms of a mental health challenge in youth and how to connect them and their families to appropriate services. This training results in a three- year certification for completers.

Focus on Kids

In 2024, 13 St. Clair residents took Focus on Kids online and 1 individual took the in-person class. Focus on Kids meets state law requirements for parents who are developing filing for divorce, paternity, or a modification to a current parenting-plan. Participants learn valuable communication skills to manage conflict and decrease stress for their children.



Local Impact

Debbie Dody, Mike Dobbs and Janet Fox Nutrition Program Associates

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

3161 direct and indirect contacts were made in St Clair 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 2024

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 559 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 2,068 family members. Additionally, 2,864 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

1222 of these youth and adult participants reside in St Clair 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.
