



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Ste. Genevieve County 2025



## Annual Report

1300 Progress Parkway  
Suite B

Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670  
(573) 883-3548

[Stegenievec@missouri.edu](mailto:Stegenievec@missouri.edu)

**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 sunseting 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

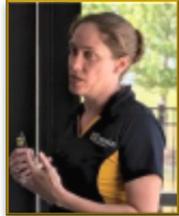
# WHO WE ARE

## Faculty and Staff



### Headquartered in Ste. Genevieve

- ❖ **Alyssa Bowyer**, Nutrition Program Associate (early 2025); 4-H Youth Program Associate (late 2025)
- ❖ **Makenzie Fincher**, 4-H Youth Program Associate (early 2025)
- ❖ **Kate Kammler**, Horticulture Field Specialist
- ❖ **Jodi Ralston**, Office Support



### Also Serving Ste. Genevieve

- ❖ **Sarah Barks**, Community Health Field Specialist
- ❖ **Janet Braun**, 4-H Youth Development Field Specialist
- ❖ **Maria Calvert**, Human Development Field Specialist
- ❖ **Kendra Graham**, Extension Engagement Specialist
- ❖ **Michael Graham**, Livestock Field Specialist
- ❖ **Matt Herring**, East Central Regional Director
- ❖ **Sarah Higgins**, Natural Resources Field Specialist
- ❖ **Rachel Hopkins**, Agricultural Business Field Specialist
- ❖ **Kate McDonald**, Agronomy Field Specialist



## Council Members

- ❖ **Missy Marberry**, Chair
- ❖ **Michael Naeger**, Vice-chair
- ❖ **Jill Naeger**, Secretary
- ❖ **Louis Naeger**, Treasurer
- ❖ **Paul Arnold**
- ❖ **Sam Fischer**
- ❖ **Cory Ford**, County Commission Appointee
- ❖ **Mike Kertz, Jr.**
- ❖ **Dennis Otte**
- ❖ **Mary Otte**, 4-H Council Appointee
- ❖ **Corey Simmons**
- ❖ **Jerry Staab**
- ❖ **Evan Weiler**, Farm Bureau Appointee



**A few of the new Extension Council officers being sworn in by County Clerk Sue Wolk**

## Annual Report Contributors and Attributions

- ❖ **Contributors:** Sarah Barks, Janet Braun, Alyssa Bowyer, Maria Calvert, Makenzie Fincher, Kendra Graham, Michael Graham, Rachel Hopkins, Kate Kammler, Kate McDonald, and Jodi Ralston.
- ❖ **Staff Photos (in order):** Kendra Graham, Kate Kammler, Alyssa Bowyer, Makenzie Fincher, Janet Braun, and Jodi Ralston
- ❖ **Cover Photos:** 4-H Day at the capital (left), 4-H Beef club (top), install of mobile audio-visual system (middle), staff and council at the fair (bottom), 4-H awards at the fair (right)

# BUDGET AND MORE

## 2025 Budget

<b>County Appropriations</b>	65,667
<b>Center of Operations*</b>	3,435
<b>Advertising*</b>	
	<b>125</b>
<b>Payroll/Payroll Expense</b>	49,926
<b>Furniture/Equipment/Repairs*</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Insurance/Bond</b>	1,400
<b>Office Rent</b>	12,000
<b>Office Supplies/Services/Software/Dues*</b>	<b>3,210</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	925
<b>Travel</b>	1,416

\* Expenses paid from Center of Operations Funds

## Support

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

**Did you know you can donate directly to Ste. Genevieve 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.

## Connect with Us through Featured Newsletters, Reports, Social Media, & More

The Garden Spade  
(horticulture)



Livestock Ledger  
(livestock)



Commercial Horticulture



All Things Missouri  
(report center)



muextensioninstegencounty



<https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/stegenevieve>

# NOTABLE IMPACTS

## Horticulture, Agriculture, & Environment

- ❖ **Horticulture: 269 calls, emails, and walk-ins** received research-based horticulture information.
  - Topics ranged from soil test results to weed identification, from fall web worm to orchid care, from hydroponics to vegetable gardening, and many more!
  - Approximately **300 participants** were reached through horticultural educational programs and training
- ❖ **Master Gardeners:**
  - **12 volunteers** committed to **340.25 volunteer Hours, which is valued at \$11,837.30** (according to Independent Sector evaluation at \$34.79/hour).
  - **Number of Continuing Education Hours: 30.5**
- ❖ **Agronomy: 27 program participants** and **20+** direct contacts (calls, texts, and emails).
  - Popular topics include soil test results and recommendations, forage and pasture management, lime and nutrient requirements, herbicides and weed control, and drought resources and nitrate testing.
  - **2 farm visits** were conducted in the county.
- ❖ **Soil Tests processed:** 157 samples.
- ❖ **Livestock: 54 calls and emails** providing research-based livestock information.
  - Topics included: Soil health, Forage testing, Herd health, Budget sheets for livestock enterprises, Backyard chicken flocks, and Equestrian nutrition.
  - **356 producers** each month received the livestock newsletter, *The Livestock Ledger*.



**Gavin Graham, recipient of State Winner Beef Entrepreneurship FFA Proficiency Award, pictured with parents, Extension's own Mike and Kendra Graham**



**From Ireland Nursery & Horticulture Tour — continuing education for Horticulture Specialist Kate Kammler**



**Annie's Project group during the South Central Regional Stockyards Tour**

# NOTABLE IMPACTS CONTINUED

## Health, Business, Community, & 4-H/Youth

- ❖ **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** assisted **16 clients** and helped small businesses obtain more than **\$10.7 million** in government contracts.
  - Hosted by Extension, SBDC provides professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small business across the state.
- ❖ **Missouri APEX Accelerators** served **6 clients** and **held 29 counseling sessions**.
  - Hosted by Extension, the program helps businesses learn how to expand their market by selling goods and services to local, state and federal government entities.
- ❖ **MU Health Care's Missouri TelehealthNetwork** recorded **372 visits to 258 patients** having ZIP codes associated with the county
- ❖ **The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education** had **924** direct and indirect contacts
  - The program helps people make their SNAP dollars stretch, teaches them how to shop for and cook healthy meals, and lead physically active lifestyles
- ❖ **Youth/4-H:**
  - **629** participants and **17** sessions or events held in the county.
  - **119** community club members.
  - **29 Volunteers** registered through 4-H with **301 volunteer hours**.
  - **Youth** performed **1023 service** hours in the community.

### Did You Know?

4-H strengthens communities through hands-on service. One recent project focused on the Ste. Genevieve County fairgrounds. Through fundraising efforts and volunteer labor, **members contributed over \$20,000 in materials** and **300 hours** to improve the barns at the Ste. Genevieve County fairgrounds.

### 4-H'ers are...

**4X**

more likely to give back to their communities

**2X**

more likely to make healthier choices

**2X**

more likely to participate in STEM activities



4-H volunteers and members at their annual Chicken Fry fundraising event

# LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## County UM System Footprint

- ❖ **Private Pesticide Applicator Training** – Ste. Genevieve (22 participants)
- ❖ **Pesticide Applicator Changes** – MFA Open House, Ste. Genevieve (65 participants)
- ❖ **Bug Bingo** – SWCD Youth Conservation Day – for youth (or adults!) to learn about common insects – Ste. Genevieve (100 youth, 25 adults)
- ❖ **Flowering Bulbs** – Hill & Dale Garden Club, Ste. Genevieve – class on different kinds of spring & summer flowering bulbs, care & planting (15 participants)
- ❖ **Master Gardener Training – Ste. Genevieve** – 12 sessions (12 participants)
- ❖ **4-H Club Activities and Programs** –
  - 7 club leader meeting participants
  - 10 participants in Hope Christian Academy (7 sessions)
  - 125 participants at Conservation Day
  - 37 4-H camp participants
  - 320 Pollinator program participants at Bloomsdale Elementary
  - 11 STEM night participants
  - 181 building entries and 97 animal exhibits sold for \$358,051 with 72 buyers, at the 2025 Ste. Genevieve County Fair



**Bug Bingo**

### Did You Know?

The Master Gardener Program is an educational outreach initiative by the University of Missouri Extension designed to train volunteers in horticulture and gardening best practices. After completing the training, participants volunteer their time to share research-based gardening information with their communities.

In Ste. Gen, Master Gardeners host the popular Garden Walk and Plant Sale, drawing visitors to explore local landscapes and purchase unique plants. Proceeds fund beautification grants that help transform public spaces across Ste. Genevieve.



**Master Gardener trainees collaborating to diagnose plant problems using class knowledge.**

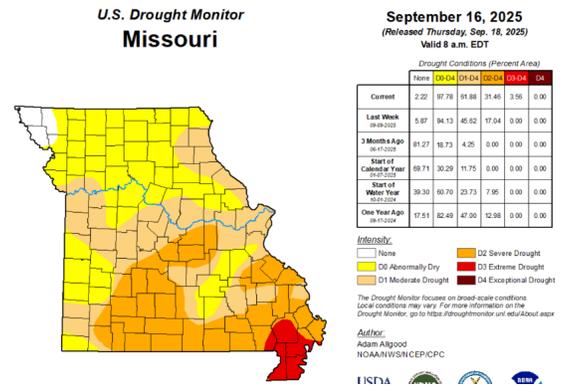
# REGIONAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Multi-County UM System Footprint – Programs Open to Ste. Genevieve Residents

- ❖ **Missouri Century Farms** – celebrates the lasting contributions farmers and ranchers have made to our country's and state's heritage. Four local farms achieved century farm status: Steve & Dee Joggerst, Poggemoeller/Miller, Roseann & Welton Schwent, and Zerwig Farms
- ❖ **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Farm Family Day** – the county was represented by Jesse and Chrissy Gegg's family, for their dedication to agriculture, community leadership, and youth involvement
- ❖ **Farm Tax Workshops** (Ste. Genevieve & Vienna) – presented on agriculture related tax topics including drought and farm leases. (60 attendees)
- ❖ **Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference in Maries County** – presented timely information on beef production relevant for mid-Missouri Farmers and ranchers (89 attendees).
- ❖ **Grazing Schools** – three program offerings on the financial aspects of grazing (120 producers attended)



**Geggs as Farm Family**



### Did You Know?

Missouri weather delivered its usual mix of challenges in 2025. A cool, wet spring delayed planting, and repeated storms forced many fields to be replanted. Early-summer rains revived optimism, but by August conditions flipped to extreme heat and drought. Ste. Genevieve County moved from **abnormally dry** in mid-August to **severe drought** by September 16, mirroring statewide trends.

Despite the swings from flooding to drought, corn performed exceptionally well. Missouri is on track for a record **187–188 bushels per acre** average, with Ste. Genevieve County contributing a strong **175 bu/ac**. Soybeans were hit harder by late-season dryness, but still held near the **50 bu/ac** state average.

# REGIONAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

## Multi-County UM System Footprint – Programs Open to Ste. Genevieve Residents

- ❖ **Annie's Project in Maries County** – 6 week-long educational event designed to strengthen women's roles in modern agriculture (13 women attended).
- ❖ **Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program** - educational program aimed at improving heifer development. Two sales were held in East Central Region in 2025 at Farmington Regional Stockyards. 240 total heifers sold from 15 producers. Gross revenue from the Farmington Show-Me-Select sales were \$943,600.00 in 2025.
- ❖ **Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET)** – six program offerings, with five partner organizations, to address mental and emotional health issues early and prevent crises (approx. 65 participants)
- ❖ **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training (WRT)** – eleven program offerings to increase personal resilience and promote behavioral health by accessing and applying available resources online and in the participants' community (approx. 130 individuals)
- ❖ **Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative (RFW)** – partnered with more than 20 organizations to help empower workplaces to support people affected by substance use disorders and those in recover
- ❖ **Building Strong Families** – empowers families with tools and resources to enhance communication, manage stress, and build resilience. In the virtual class, 96% participants reported better understanding of the traits that help strengthen families, and 96% know ways to help build their child's self-esteem.



**Community Health Field Specialists Sarah Barks, Janelle Azmy, and Emily Poncher presenting at the Heartland Conference on Health Equity and Patient-Centered Care**



**4-H Day at the Capitol**



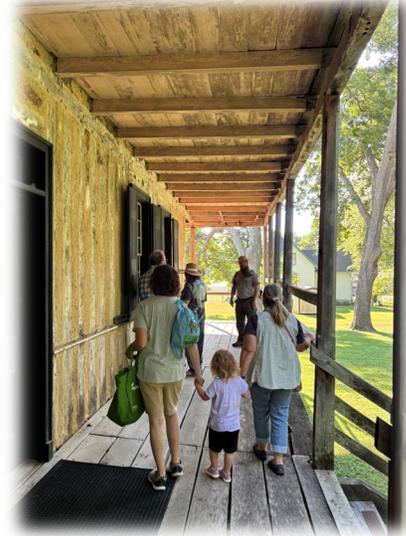
**East Central Show-Me-Select bred Heifer Sale**

# SUCCESS STORIES

## A Walk in the Park

On August 6, Ste. Gen County kicked off its 100 Miles, 100 Days Community Walk. Five participants joined Jeff Kulp, a guide from Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park, for a tour of the local historic buildings, including the Jean Baptiste Valle House and Green Tree Tavern. The 100 Miles, 100 Days is a no-cost movement program designed to increase physical activity throughout the summer.

This event was a collaboration between Maria Calvert (HDFS), Sarah Barks (CHEO), and Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park. It highlighted how small steps can lead to meaningful progress, reinforcing the value of beginning and maintaining an active lifestyle.



**100 Miles, 100 Days Event in Historic Ste. Genevieve**

## Expanding Garden Knowledge in Missouri

Each month, The Garden Spade newsletter delivers articles, tips, program updates, training opportunities, and practical, research-based guidance on insects, weeds, trees, fruits, vegetables, and more—helping Missourians make informed gardening decisions.

In 2025, the e-newsletter grew to more than 2,556 subscribers—a 9.6% increase from the previous year. This continued growth reflects the strong demand for trustworthy horticulture information and underscores the value of Extension resources in supporting healthy, productive gardens across the state.

## Outstanding Leaders



**Amanda Schwent (left) and Karen Stuppy (left) receiving their awards from staff and council**

Extension recognizes the many ways volunteers lead and serve the county. This year's Leader's Honor Roll recipients were Amanda Schwent, for her pivotal role in organizing the 2024 Farmer's Table fundraising event to support Ste. Genevieve 4-H; and Karen Stuppy, for her years of liaising with Extension, as well as her community work with the Fair Board and the Ste. Genevieve Community Services Forum.

# Ste. Genevieve County



University of Missouri System

## UM System Footprint in the county in 2025



### FY25 county students

**88 students**

- 75 Undergraduates
- 13 Graduate and professional students
- 49 Full-time students
- 39 Part-time students
- 14 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2025)



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 34 students
- 304 alumni
- 9 employees

- 1 student
- 15 alumni
- 1 employee

**Missouri S&T**

- 20 students
- 102 alumni
- 1 employee

**UMSL**

- 33 students
- 183 alumni
- 1 employee



County population: 18,551



### County employees and retirees

**18 people employed by UM**

- 12 Campuses
- 6 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)

6 UM retirees and beneficiaries  
 UM salary and retirement income: \$832,311  
 UM state tax revenue: \$23,375  
 UM federal tax revenue: \$128,867



### County services provided

**Health care (FY25)**

- 26 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$1,008 of uncompensated care
- 4 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$37.31 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 372 visits to 258 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2024)**

- 29,555 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
  - 29,408 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
  - 17 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 6 Medicine
- 38 Nursing
- 44 Health Professions
- 4 Dentistry
- 3 Pharmacy
- 5 Optometry
- 9 Veterinary Medicine
- 69 Agriculture
- 125 Engineering
- 9 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 19 teachers
- 12.1% of all district teachers
- 2 principals and administrators
- 22.2% of all district principals and administrators



### Construction projects

- \$2.4 million remitted to 2 county vendors, for 2 projects



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Ste. Genevieve County

# Ste. Genevieve County



University of Missouri System

## UM System Statewide Footprint

### Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY24, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 71,140 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 FY19 and FY24, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.75 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY25, UM System was issued 26 patents and filed 76 new U.S. patent applications, and earned \$6.5 million in licensing income.

- In FY25, the UM System awarded 550 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$729.9 million in the state.



In FY25, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 17,336 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,146 learners located in 102 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

### Education and Training Provided



41,523 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2024)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 297,919 farmers and related businesses (2024)

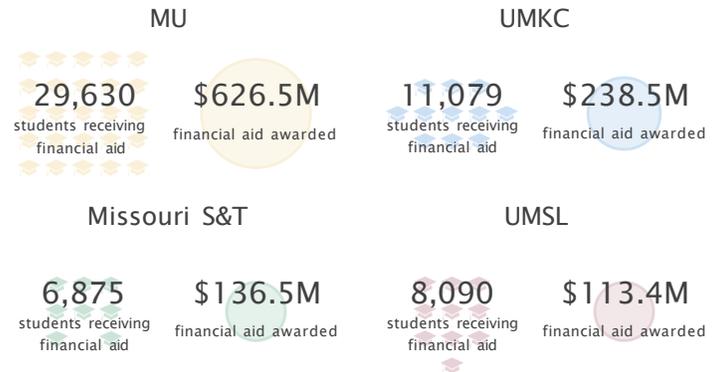


254,220 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2024)

### Education Highlights

#### FY25 Financial Aid Awards

In FY25, 70.6% of the UM System's 78,839 students received financial aid totaling \$1.115 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (231,000 students), 478 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 5.6 million Missourians) in FY24.

- 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.
- A \$25 million USDA-funded [Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop & Livestock \(CRCL\)](#) project has had the following impact 2.5 years into the 5-year project: Over 1,200 Missouri farmers implemented conservation practices such as cover crops, regenerative grazing, and improved nutrient management practices on approximately 300,000 acres across the state.

## 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 2025, 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



Data last updated 12/18/2025