



Taken by: Ben

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Stoddard County

# 2024 Annual Report

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**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**



**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

### 2024 Stoddard County Extension Staff

Kristal Smith, Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Scotty Smothers, Field Specialist in Agronomy

Zenita Smith, 4-H Youth Program Associate

Jeanie Huey, Nutrition Program Associate

Toni Wheatley, County Secretary

Stoddard County has a strong tradition of support for University of Missouri Extension programs and local partnerships are vital to our success. We appreciate the many volunteers, local organizations, and businesses that make our educational programs possible.

Our mission is to provide practical education to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills, and make informed decisions using science-based knowledge. This report highlights a few of our innovative programs in youth development, agricultural profitability, nutrition and health, building family and individual strengths, affordable housing, environmental quality and business development.

The extension office is your front door to the four campuses of the University of Missouri System and Lincoln University. We invite you to explore learning opportunities and resources available on-line and through our office. Your ideas for improving our educational programs are always welcome as we work together to help the citizens of Stoddard County build a better future.



## Council Members

### 2024 Stoddard County Extension Council

Chairman – Chris Rowland

Vice-Chairman – Kelly Midkiff

Secretary – Ashley Jarrell

Treasurer – Pamela Elder

Member - Anthony Bockhold

Member – Robinn Daves-Huey

Member – Michael Lee

Member – Lora Rowland

Member – Carol Jarrell  
Regional Council Representative

### County Commissioners



Presiding Commissioner  
Greg Mathis

Commissioner  
Carol Jarrell

Commissioner  
CD Stewart

# Budget and More

## Appropriations Budget

### Income

County Appropriations 55,000

**Total Income** 55,000

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 45,010

Travel 3,790

Telephone 2,300

Supplies/Services 3,400

Insurance 500

**Total Expenses** 55,000

## Return on investment

University System 100,000

Donations 14,000

Program Revenue 4,087

**For every dollar invested by the county, MU invests \$3.40.**

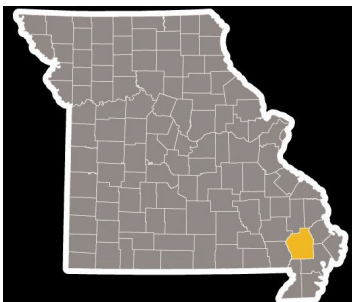
## Key Outcomes and Numbers

- ✓ There are 502 active certified private applicators in Stoddard County. Of those, 82 were recertified or newly certified in 2024 [through extension \(MDA database\)](#).
- ✓ 12566 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
  - ◆ 3,981 contacts related to equine management, productive farming, better gardening, woodlands, and grazing
  - ◆ 7,366 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, mental health first aid, and food and nutrition
  - ◆ 576 contacts in 4-H-related youth development
  - ◆ 126 contacts related to business management, workforce development, and agriculture economy
  - ◆ 517 contacts related to direct office engagements

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



### Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Stoddard 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.

# Stoddard County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact and Stories

### Stoddard County 4-H

- 148 members in 2023-2024
- Participated in the 4-H Youth Farm Animal Art Show.
- Hosted Camp Blast for all Stoddard county Youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Sent leaders to training for Shooting Sports.
- Began preparations to start Shooting Sports program in Stoddard County.
- Participated in Liberty Days with Blender Bikes in Bloomfield, MO
- Participated in the Stoddard County Fair in Dexter.
- Several 4-Hers showed their artwork, exhibits, and animals at the fair.
- Raised money for a Stoddard County youth to attend the 4-H Ignite Conference in Washington, DC in 2025.



**Camp BLAST!** was held in July at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dexter, MO. Campers were eager to complete STEM projects while learning about pre-historic science theory, chemistry, space exploration and environmental sciences. We incorporated lessons on character building, safety, and physical activity. We partnered with Fresh Start in Charleston to offer lunch to each participant in the three-day camp. 100 percent of students who attended stated that they learned something they didn't know before and would love to return to camp next summer!



# Stoddard County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact and Stories

**IPM:** One of the greatest impacts for 2024 was addressing issues that Ag producers face through various Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. A pest is defined as anything that diminishes the value of ag resources or interferes with the production and utilization of crop and livestock used for food and fiber.

**PPAT:** University of Missouri Extension is tasked with certifying private applicators through training at event venues or in-person office visits. In 2024 there were 20 programs offered for growers to receive initial certification or renew their existing certification. 11 programs were offered through event venues and nine programs were performed at the office in Stoddard. In total, there were 82 participants that received or renewed their private applicator licenses.

**Nitrate Testing:** Nitrates accumulate in certain grass species during extreme drought conditions. This year there were 15 on-farm analyses performed at the grower's locations.

**Insect Traps:** Insects are considered sporadic pests. IPM focuses on minimizing the damage caused by cyclical pest-feeding patterns. This year I monitored Stoddard County by making weekly visits of six locations. Insects were recorded and reported on the IPM mobile app.

**Personal Contacts:** IPM focuses on identifying and addressing pests throughout the growing season. This calls for email correspondence, farm visits, office visits, or phone calls. This year, there were roughly 180 contacts made through digital or personal contact.

### **Other Highlights**

**Soil Analysis:** 79 soil applications prepared and analyzed for Stoddard County.

**Fertilizer Analysis:** 4 fertilizer applications prepared and analyzed.

**Media:** Interviewed with KTMO at the FDREEC annual field day. (10,000 audience)  
Contributed to Delta Newsletter (420 membership)

**Fair Service:** Judged roughly 420 field crops at 2024 Stoddard County Fair.

### **2024 Program Highlight**

**Ag Education on the Move:** This year, I introduced a new program to elementary students. In collaboration with Missouri Farmers Care, I spent 10 weeks visiting 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students at Puxico Elementary School. The program teaches students where their food comes from and the value of Missouri Agriculture. There are fun hands-on activities that go with every lesson. Some of the quotes from the students, teachers, or parents were:

"This is the best part of the week"

"My child always tells me how much they learned during your visit"

"The class really enjoys when you come by"

While this was a bit outside of my usual contact, I believe the impact will be long lasting. These students will take what they've learned and better understand the value of Missouri Agriculture.



**Scotty Smothers**  
Field Specialist-  
Agronomy



# Stoddard County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### 2024 Programs:

- Two educational classes were held for the Juvenile Justice Center in Butler County. The life skills class topics included an introduction to gardening, seed starting, and propagation. There were 18 youths present.



Traven Crocker  
Field Specialist in Horticulture  
573-686-8046

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

Butler, Carter, Ripely, Shannon, Oregon,  
Stoddard, Pemiscot, New Madrid, Dunklin.

Hello, everyone. I am Traven Crocker, the new Field Specialist in Horticulture. I am based in Butler County and serve nine counties in the southeast region. I started this position in October 2024. My focus has been to meet with council members from all nine counties to assess their programming needs. I have also collaborated with the Poplar Bluff Area Extension Master Gardeners to implement more educational programs for the upcoming year.

#### Programming for 2025:

- Extension Master Gardener in-person course is scheduled for January 16th – April 17th at the Butler County Extension office, Thursdays from 6-9 pm.
- Home Gardening Webinar Series February 6- March 27, Thursdays at 12:00 pm-1:30. Zoom, Registration costs \$80.
- Pruning Workshop February 7, 2025, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Rover, MO, Registration cost \$10
- Private applicators license training TBA.
- Workshops for commercial and consumer horticulture throughout the year.

#### Upcoming Outreach events:

- Biscuits Gravy and Dirt. Held at Greenway Equipment in Poplar Bluff. January 9th, 9-11 am.
- Garden Hour
- Garden Spade Newsletters

The Poplar Buff Area Extension Master Gardeners chapter includes Butler, Carter, Stoddard, Ripley, and Wayne counties.

The chapter president is Laura Thompson, the secretary is Rebecca Tindall, and the treasurer is Kathy Pucci.

There are fourteen active Extension Master Gardener Members. Three members have Emeritus status, seven are certified, and three are trainees.

The chapter reported 566.95 volunteer hours and 119.75 education hours for the year.

The value of the chapter's volunteer time is over \$8,987.15, while the educational hours are \$4,010.42.

The values are based on the Independent Sector Value of Volunteer Time of \$33.49 Per Hour. (WASHINGTON, April 23, 2024).



## Service and Teaching Activities:

- **Ag Day in Carter County:** Members hosted a hands-on learning experience for students, who rotated through various learning stations.
- **Sierra Girls Program:** Members organized a summer program for girls at the Sierra Osage Treatment Center.
- **Demonstration Garden:** Members provided exceptional landscaping and maintenance for the Popeye's Garden at the Westwood Blvd. and Kanell Blvd. intersection.
- **Exhibits and More:** Members displayed flowers, plants, and canned goods at the Butler County event and played key roles in planning.
- **Mums Sale:** Members successfully hosted a fundraiser selling over 50 plants.
- **Veterans Hospital:** Members assisted with planning and implementing improvements to the grounds.
- **Women's Day Event:** Members hosted a full-day event to help women veterans learn about gardening and supported fundraising through sales.
- **Facebook:** Members maintained an informative presence for members and the public.

The Poplar Bluff Area Extension Master Gardeners meet regularly at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the VA Educational Building, 1500 N. Westwood Blvd. For more information, contact 573-686-8064.



# Stoddard County

## Agriculture Business and Policy

### Local Impact and Stories

#### **Annie's Project**

A new program was delivered in the Southeast Region which involved women in agriculture. More than nine On My Own programs were scheduled throughout the 18 county Southeast Region.

#### **Grazing School**

In conjunction with other Extension disciplines and outside stake holders, Agriculture Business and policy was involved in numerous Grazing School programs offered in varying counties.

#### **Ag Lenders Seminar**

The Ag Lenders Seminar is a multi-county programming effort to educate those who work in the field of agriculture finance and those who desire knowledge. This program consists of marketing outlooks, weather forecasts as well as past and current trends related to farming.

#### **Soil and Water Boards**

Through state law, Extension serves on each county Soil and Water Board. Through this service Ag Business is heavily involved in farm and field days as well as conferences.

#### **Farm Lease Classes**

Many questions related to farm leases from producers and landlords are addressed yearly by MU Extension agricultural business specialists. As a relatively new program, several throughout Southeast Missouri participated in this program on-line and in-person. The two primary topics covered were items in a lease and terminating a farm lease. Estimates have 33 percent of farm leases in Missouri are still oral and oral lease termination is complicated and somewhat unique to the state. This program continues to draw participants, and elderly landowners appreciate the in-person option greatly.

#### **Other Highlights**

Regional 4-H Ranch Sorting and Team Penning clinics and summer long participation.

#### **Farm Tax Workshops**

MU Extension hosted and taught Farm Tax Workshops for farm businesses and farm and ranch families. The content included Corporate Transparency Act, TCJA, estate & gift tax sunset, conservation tax issues, managing high/low-income years, Section 179 and depreciation, sales & exchanges and retirement and social security planning.

The online participants planned to take some action before the end of the year. The planned actions included: reviewing farm records (70%), meeting with tax preparer before the end of the year (67%), communicate with family members (50%) and fifty percent plan to review resources before purchasing begins in 2025.

#### **Beef Producers**

One of the greatest impacts for 2024 was addressing issues and needs which faced Southeast Missouri beef producers. Extension and Ag Business hosted several meetings throughout the year to educate producers regarding weather conditions, marketing options, financial directives and more. MU Extension was involved in or participated in no less than eight cattle related meetings.

#### **2024 Program Highlight**

Beef Producers at risk: For the second year in a row, I invited Dr. Tim Evans, Assoc. Prof. & State Ext. Specialist, Veterinary Medicine from MU, to help find solutions facing local beef producers. In addition, Dr. Evans presented at two cattlemen's association meetings. This year, we transversed five counties and met with numerous producers. We have secured future endeavors to host farm and field days. Originating from a one county visit, this small project has grown into a program encompassing many counties.

Some of the questions and comments were:

*"How can I get Dr. Evans to my farm?"*

*"Will and can he come back next year?"*

*"Why have we not done this before?"*

# Stoddard County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

#### SNAP Education

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.

940 direct and 6,426 indirect contacts were made in Stoddard 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 their lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



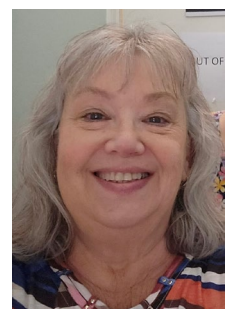
#### Success Story

**We would be doing a disservice if we didn't highlight the efforts and impact that Mrs. Jeanie Huey, University of Missouri Extension, has made on the community garden. From helping along the way to secure items we need for the growing garden to offering advice as we embark on this endeavor, Mrs. Huey and her knowledge have been a comfort as we wade into what we envision the garden to be. We've outlined the items she has helped us obtain in the past, and the list has grown substantially in the past month or so. Mrs. Huey has informed us that we will be receiving a 10'x12' polycarbonate greenhouse and a 10'x16' storage shed for the community garden.**

**This is a dream come true for me, and I am so proud to be a part of it.**

NPA: **Jeanie Huey** was able to help with obtaining a greenhouse for a community garden in her county.

**Jeanie Huey**  
Nutrition Program  
Associate





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



Audrey Johnson  
 Human Development  
 Specialist

**Mental Health First Aid**

The Youth Mental Health First Aid program is an interactive session that teaches individuals how to identify the warning signs of mental health problems. MHFA gives adults who work with youth and adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

**Stoddard County**

**Mental Health First Aid for Adults**

**Blended/In-Person** (13 participants)

- 38.5% reported that this course has better prepared them for the work that they do professionally

**Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid** (9

participants) - training to participants via Zoom

- 30.8% reported that the course has better prepared them for the work that they do professionally



- **Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia**
- **10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's**
- **Healthy Living For Your Brain and Body**

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. Over 11 million Americans provide unpaid care for people *with Alzheimer's or other dementias*. *Alzheimer's Association programs are designed to offer research-based recommendations about taking care of our brains and our bodies to age as well as possible and learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, and types of treatment.*

*In 2023 a total of 5 Alzheimer's programs were taught in Mississippi and Stoddard counties with a total of 61 participants.*





# Estate Planning: What's the Worst That Can Happen???

Jennifer R. Williams, JD  
University of Missouri Extension



**SERVE MISSOURI.  
DELIVER MIZZOU.**



This class uses the fictional family pictured above to demonstrate the consequences of not having an estate plan.

Jennifer R. Williams taught an estate planning class in Stoddard County to **18 adults**, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.

**“I was unaware of beneficiary deeds in Missouri and will certainly execute such when I update other documents.”**

**“‘What’s the worst thing that could happen’ is way worse than I ever imagined!”**



# Stoddard County

## Business and Community

### Local Impact and Stories

#### Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and one online school. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, related party issues, real estate rental activity issues, limited liability company issues, and international tax issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,776 hours.

The teaching teams included CPAs, a former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, a certified financial planner, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The evaluations had many positive comments and helpful suggestions. Planning is underway to offer trainings in 2025. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2024 school attendance totaled three hundred fifty people. There were two participants were from Stoddard County.



## Missouri Century Farm

Stoddard County had one farm that was recognized as a Missouri Century Farm in 2024.

The Griffin Family has three generations working the farm. They were presented with a certificate during the September MU Extension Council meeting.

In 1976, Missouri's Centennial Farm project awarded certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. The MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and MU Extension planned a 10-year update in 1986 called the Century Farm program. Since then, the program has been an annual event, recognizing more than 100 farms each year.



The Griffins pictured L to R: Curtis, Choe, Trisha, Terry, Laura, and Carter.

## Missouri State Fair Farm Families

Ashley Jarrell and son, Jackson, of Bloomfield and Sam and Jeanie Huey of Dexter were among the families honored during the 67<sup>th</sup> annual Missouri Farm Family Day, August 12 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Jarrell and Huey families were selected as the Stoddard County Missouri Farm Families by the University of Missouri Extension in Stoddard County and the local Farm Bureau.

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 Jarrell and Huey families operate two small homestead farms in Stoddard County. A multi-generational 4-H family that continues to be active members of 4-H. The Huey's farm is set just south of Dexter on five acres, where they have raised everything from sheep to a pair of emus. Ashley Huey has since started Twisted JAM Farms on six acres just outside of Bloomfield with her husband and son. The families currently raise Katahdin hair sheep, goats, hogs, rabbits, chickens, turkeys, and livestock guardian dogs. Jackson is the third generation to enter his livestock and vegetables at the Stoddard County Fair. 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.

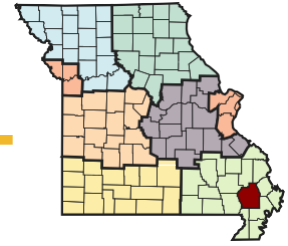
The event showcases the impact that Missouri farm families have on the economy and heritage of the state, said Missouri State Fair Director Jason Moore. "These families engage in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase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

**Back Row: L to R** - Jerald Andrews, Missouri State Commissioner; Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau; Sam Huey; Jackson Jarrell; Chad Higgins, Vice Chancellor for MU Extension & Engagement, & Chief Engagement Officer, UM System; Kevin Roberts, Chairman, Missouri State Fair Commissioner

**Front Row: L to R** - Jeanie Huey; Ashley Jarrell; Christine Chinn, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture



# Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



## STODDARD 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

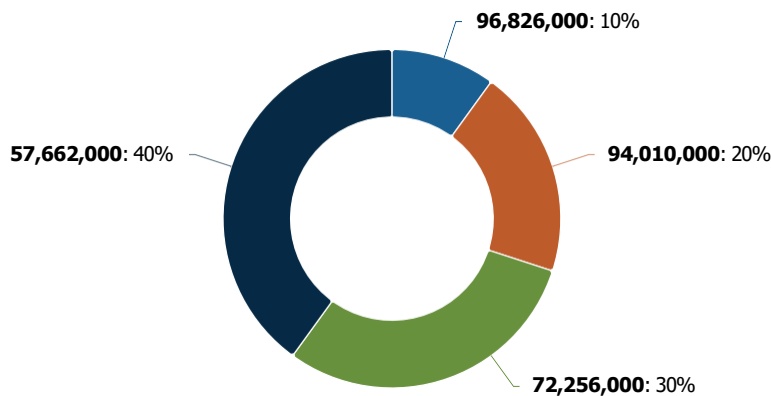
### Knowing Local Challenges



#### CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: *Agricultural Economics*

#### Leading Agricultural Products

Total Rank (Sales): \$10



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.

#### Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$136,849,000 in 2017, an average of \$214,834 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Stoddard	637	\$214,834
Missouri	87,887	\$56,606

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.



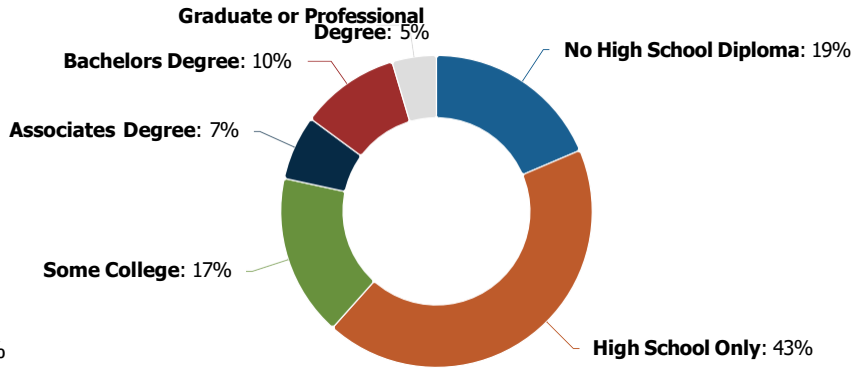


## CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

### 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, 16.8% of adults have at least some college education and 17% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 43.0% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 18.6% of adults did not complete high school.



#### No High School Diploma

18.55%

Missouri 8.69%

Stoddard

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

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



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

### Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 98 deaths of despair, or 46.62 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 3.19% since the 2001-2007 report period.

### Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.4 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 5.3. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.6 mentally unhealthy days per month.

#### Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

Mortality Rate,  
2014-2020  
46.62

Missouri 52.01 😞

Stoddard



5.4

Missouri 5.3 😞

Stoddard



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#). 2021.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#). 2014-20.



## 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

49.6%

Stoddard

Missouri

23.55%

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

47.8%

Stoddard

Missouri

21.98%

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

# Stoddard County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



### FY24 county students

**43 students**

- 34 Undergraduates
- 9 Graduate and professional students
- 36 Full-time students
- 7 Part-time students
- 15 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



### County employees and retirees

**18 people employed by UM**

- 18 Campuses

12 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$814,706

UM state tax revenue: \$22,638

UM federal tax revenue: \$91,538



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 5 Medicine
- 15 Nursing
- 30 Health Professions
- 3 Dentistry
- 3 Pharmacy
- 3 Optometry
- 5 Veterinary Medicine
- 62 Agriculture
- 42 Engineering
- 24 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 15 teachers
- 3.8% of all district teachers
- 4 principals and administrators
- 16.7% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 26 students
- 216 alumni
- 17 employees

**UMKC**

- 3 students
- 21 alumni
- 1 employee

**Missouri S&T**

- 11 students
- 35 alumni
- 0 employees

**UMSL**

- 3 students
- 28 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Stoddard County



County population: 28,547



### County services provided

**Health care (FY24)**

- 45 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$52,679 of uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient 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 50 visits to 17 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 8,685 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 3,981 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 4,055 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 126 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Stoddard County



## 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.

**\$3.1 billion**

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)

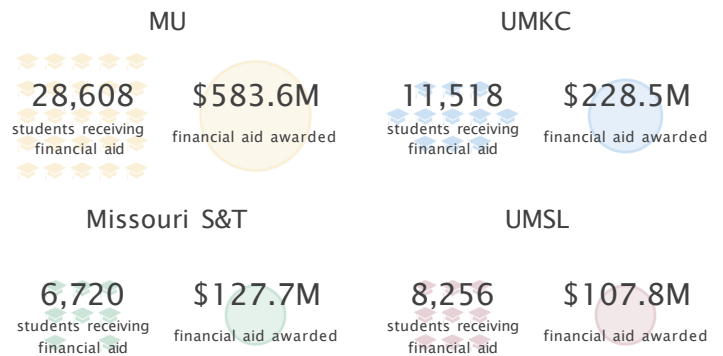


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

### 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

