



Historic Y – Bridge in Stone County

The bridge was completed and dedicated in 1927. It was in service for 59 years until 1986 and was closed to car traffic. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Stone County

2024 Annual Report

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**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

Vice Chancellor's Office
108 Whitten Hall
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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



Tim Schnakenberg
Agronomy Field
Specialist



Amanda McCormick
Nutrition Program
Associate



JoEtta Bowling
County Office
Support Staff



Kyle Whittaker
Extension Engagement
Specialist



Sarah Havens
Regional Director
Southwest Region

Council members

Chairman
Vice-chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

Seth Fortner
Brad McCain
Ali McCain
Mike Kaup
Wayne Blades
Ashley Copley
Cassie Cunningham
Bryan Evans
Jerad Finch
John Giebler
Tim Hejlek
Mark Hyde
Monica Mueller
Jennifer Noriega
Ryan Scammahorn

Youth Representatives

Jacob Coones
Kiley Evans
Olivia Finch
Reese Hejlek



County executives

Mark Maples **Presiding Commissioner**
Wayne Blades **Northern Commissioner**
Hank Smythe **Southern Commissioner**

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	61,800
Total Income	61,800

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	45,539
Travel	2,758
Telephone	1,875
Office Supplies/Service	1,960
Postage	730
Insurance	865
Capital Repairs	70
Youth Appropriations	2519
Total Expenses	56,316

Return on investment

University System	174,388
Donations	2,300

Stone County partners

Stone County Commissioners
Stone County Farm Bureau
Table Rock Community Bank
Simmons Bank
Stockman's Bank
Old Missouri Bank
Early Bird Feed and Fertilizer
FCS Financial
Four State Stockyards
Rocking W Farm & Home
Shelter Insurance - Hammen Agency
Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Stone County Soil & Water Conservation District
Crane First Baptist Church
Kimberling Area Library
Stone County Library - Galena
Faith Lutheran Church
New Testament Christian Church
Community Presbyterian Church
Library Center of the Ozarks

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Stone 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.

Stone County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

67 students

- 57 Undergraduates
- 10 Graduate and professional students
- 61 Full-time students
- 6 Part-time students
- 24 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

15 people employed by UM

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

24 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income: \$914,589
 UM state tax revenue: \$30,939
 UM federal tax revenue: \$109,316



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 13 Medicine
- 31 Nursing
- 24 Health Professions
- 11 Dentistry
- 12 Pharmacy
- 2 Optometry
- 9 Veterinary Medicine
- 55 Agriculture
- 80 Engineering
- 12 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 9 teachers
- 2.9% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 5.3% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 45 students
- 283 alumni
- 8 employees

UMKC

- 3 students
- 86 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 16 students
- 78 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 3 students
- 57 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Stone County



County population: 31,697



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 133 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$52,109 of uncompensated care
- 5 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 238 visits to 114 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 7,100 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 504 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 6,514 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 34 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Stone 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.

\$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)

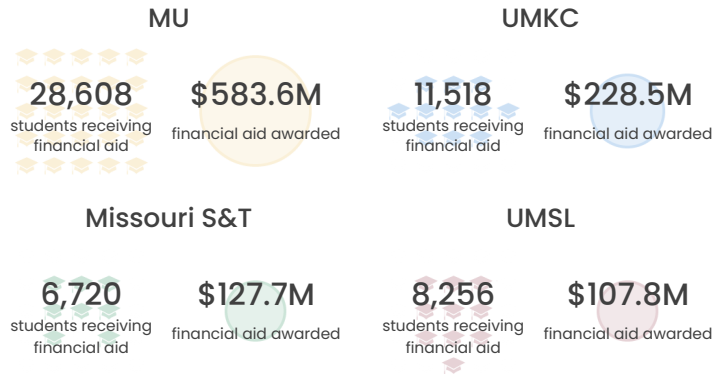


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

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.

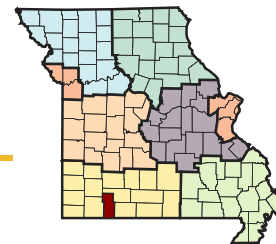
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

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



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



STONE 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

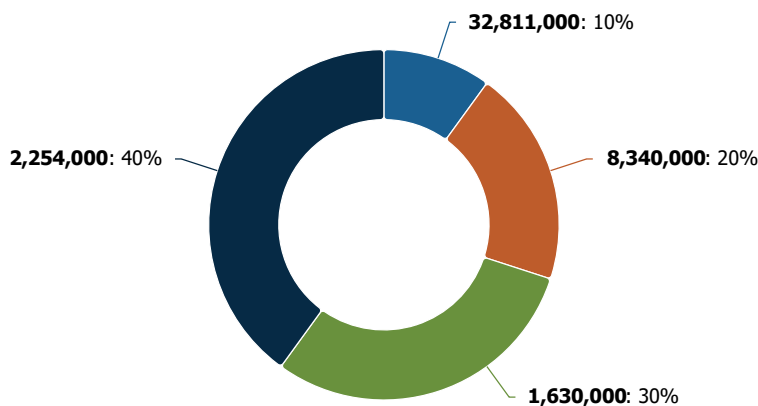
Knowing Local Challenges



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 \$18,382,000 in 2017, an average of \$31,368 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$56,606.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Stone	586	\$31,368
Missouri	87,887	\$56,606

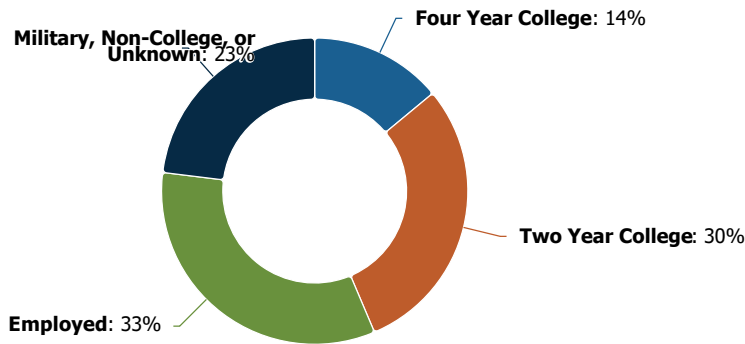
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *College and Career Readiness*

Post High School Report

The 12-month post-graduation activity of recent high school graduates can inform communities about postsecondary education, career readiness, and characteristics of the future workforce. In 2022, of 243 graduates surveyed in the report area, 34 went to a four-year college, 72 to a two-year college, 81 directly entered the job market. The remaining 56 are reported as in the military, not in college, or unknown.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#). 2022.



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2013 and 2015, adults over age 65 in the report area had 1,194 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 3,912 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have increased since the 2001-03 time period when the rate was 3,110.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

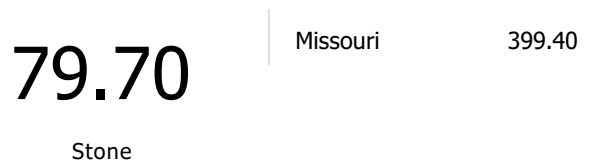


Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population, and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 8 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 10,035 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 1,254:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,254 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 250:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Rate per 100,000 Seniors



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). 2021.



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Soils Testing*

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Stone	133	35	5	0	173
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary](#). 2022.



2024 Century Farm Recipients Martin Family

Martin Family recognized by Century Farms Program

Galena, Mo. – The Stone County University of Missouri Extension recognized the 2024 Missouri Century Farms program inductee from Stone County, the Martin family, on Sept. 5th at the MU Extension Annual Picnic. The event was hosted by the Stone County MU Extension Council and was held at the Crane City Park. The evening included a meal served by the council members and special recognitions for the Century Farm family. Family members Wade and Annette Martin accepted the award. The Martin family originally acquired the farm in 1918. The original owners of the 80 acre farm was O.O. and Sarah Baker located in Galena. Currently the farm is used for beef cattle and hay production, by brother Wade and Doug Martin.

The Centennial Farm project was initiated in Missouri in 1976, it awarded certificates to those individuals owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. In 1986, the University of Missouri Extension and the MU College of Agriculture created the annual Century Farm program and recognition. Missouri Farm Bureau became a co-sponsor in 2008. Since the program started in 1976, more than 8,000 Missouri farms have received the Century Farm designation.

Pictured (L to R) (front row) Annette Martin, Wade Martin, Doug Martin, and Kay Martin (back row) (L to R) Chad Wilson, Sharon Martin, Coy Keithley, Jessica Keithley and Riley Marton.



Jerad Finch Family

**Pictured are:
Olivia, Lasche, Jerad,
Ellie**

Finch family chosen as Missouri Farm Family for Stone County

Galena, Mo. — Jerad & Lasche Finch and family of Shell Knob were among the families honored during the 66th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 14 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Finch family was selected as the Stone County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Stone County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes daughters Olivia and Ellie.

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 Finch family operates a 230-acre beef operation. The entire family is involved in the day to day operations of the farm.

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 Mark Wolfe. “These families are involved in agriculture activities in their communities and are active participants in local outreach and extension. As the premier showcase for Missouri agriculture, the Missouri State Fair is most certainly the appropriate place to celebrate these families.”

The Finch family was also honored at the Stone County MU Extension Annual Picnic on Sept. 7th. The event was held at the city park in Crane, a meal was served by the extension council members. The event was sponsored by Table Rock Community Bank

Stone County MU Extension Council Youth Representatives



Pictured L to R: Oliva Finch – Blue Eye High School & Resse Hejlek – Reeds Spring High School.

These youth representatives served a two-year term and provided valuable information to the extension council by giving a report each month. The Stone County Council thank them for their service!

**2024 Leaders Honor Roll Recipients
were Jim Pam Sleeper**



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.



A **SPIN club** focuses on a specific topic led by an expert in the field. While community clubs may meet over the full 4-H program year, SPIN clubs meet for set periods, typically from several weeks to a couple months. SPIN clubs can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



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.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

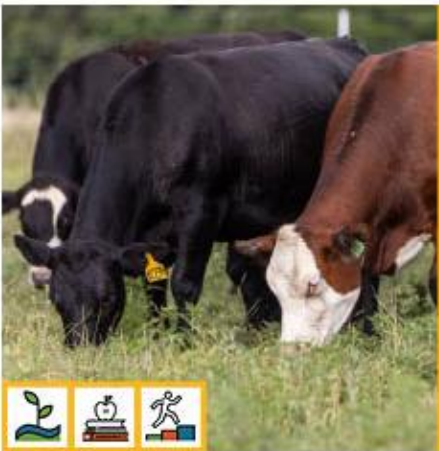


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Agriculture and Environment**



The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.



Missouri Grazing Schools teach management-intensive grazing by dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend the grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through improved livestock grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri.



The Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri. The program brings in the power of animal genomics through an enhanced DNA-option, Show-Me-PLUS.



Since its inception more than 900 FARMS have enrolled, with an estimated statewide impact of \$200 MILLION.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Stone County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



“As always, a very helpful and enjoyable meeting with lots of good information.” “Always a good program”

There were 112 participants who attended the **Stone County Livestock and Forage Conference** in February. Topics covered included a beef market outlook for 2024, management considerations for retaining calves and tapping into your clover’s potential. In the survey at the end of the meeting, 100 percent of the participants ranked the program as either meeting or exceeding their expectations. Stone County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable.



Three **Native Warm Season Grass Tours** were offered this summer on six farms in Stone, Lawrence and Barry Counties. Of the 107 who participated, there were Stone County farmers who attended all of these. The Stone County event was in association with the Stone County Soil & Water Conservation District and it occurred on the Larry Israel farm north of Crane. Also highlighted was an additional farm that featured methods of developing a Management-intensive grazing system. Twenty-five people attended the Stone County event.

Corn Stunt was first identified in Christian County this year and soon was found in all southwest Missouri counties by August. This quickly hit national farm news and a lot of press went out. This significant disease was found in a field and later confirmed by the MU diagnostic laboratory. This was the first time in 40-50 years that stunt made an appearance in Missouri. Trapping for the vector, corn leafhopper, has continued by extension agronomists to monitor its movement.



Stone County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



There were 115 participants who attended the **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings** offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Trainings occurred in Cassville, Springfield, Galena, Ozark, Mt. Vernon (2X) and Branson. Pesticide applicators also benefited from a 1.5-hour prerecorded Zoom session that was used for training statewide. Several other classes were offered virtually across the state. This training has direct impact on environmental safety, human safety and the safety of the American food supply. Farmers are retrained every five years in order to maintain a private pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

"Very knowledgeable class instruction." "Very good job! Rubber met the road." "Tim always does a great job!" "Very happy with the whole class and experience." "I like these classes and I always learn new methods and knowledge about chemicals and applying chemicals."



Regional Drought Assessments were conducted by Tim Schnakenberg and Micah Doubledee in fourteen counties. These extensive reviews of the 2024 drought helped the state FSA office and county committees to determine financial assistance for landowners who had signed up for drought insurance programs.

There were around 400 farm producers who participated in the **40th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference** in Springfield in February. There were fourteen key presentations and a trade show. This is one of Missouri's largest gatherings of farmers and ranchers and is hosted by a committee made up of extension field specialists and professionals from Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Missouri Department of Conservation.



Stone County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact



Missouri Grazing Schools provide the most in-depth training on how to be successful with Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) practices. These three-day schools are unique to Missouri and have set a standard for teaching and demonstrating the newest grazing concepts. Schools were offered in 2024 in Lawrence, Stone, Webster, Newton, Barton and Polk counties. The schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were around 100 livestock producers who attended the sessions from many counties. Numerous presentations were offered along with on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems. The Stone County event was in Crane and two farms were used for tour sites at Crane and Hurley.

*"We hope to apply this information to leave a better place for future generations." "Start to finish, teachers and students were impressive and full of practical information and support." "You **can** teach an old dog new tricks!"*



This year's **Ozark Empire Fair Hay Show** had outstanding participation with 36 entries submitted from seven counties. Several ag specialists traveled to 20 farms to collect samples of the entries. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. Counties represented this year included Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Stone, Shannon, Dade and Barry counties. The highest-testing entry and champion dry hay came from Glenn and Toni Obermann of Monett. It was a first cutting alfalfa hay entry that was harvested on April 18. It produced a 258 Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). The champion haylage was entered by Groves-View Dairy of Billings, Missouri. It's cutting date was April 22 and the RFQ was 249. The show has occurred since 1985. Tim Schnakenberg and Reagan Bluel served as Superintendents for this show.

Farm Fest at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield is the largest gathering of the farm community in Southwest Missouri. MU Extension ag specialists staff a booth at this event throughout the entire weekend in October. Thousands of visitors streamed by the booth and hundreds stopped in to visit with regional specialists.

Stone County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Insect Pest Monitoring is an ongoing effort by extension agronomists to monitor insect pest movement in Missouri. Counts from traps based in Christian and Barton Counties are recorded weekly on the MU IPM website and alerts are provided for farmers who sign up for the service. The service provides a heads-up for insect invasions in both crops and forages. Insects are monitored including fall armyworm, true armyworm, stinkbug, Japanese beetle, corn leafhopper and black cutworm. In addition, there was an extensive evaluation in Christian and Stone counties this year of soybean stinkbug levels. This was conducted by Dr Ivair Valmordia, state extension entomologist, on five farms.



Career Day at Blue Eye High School was an event where community members from various industries converged at the high school in Blue Eye to discuss their careers. Tim Schnakenberg participated this year and discussed opportunities to pursue a career in agriculture and more specifically in agronomy.



Kyle Whittaker
Extension Engagement Specialist
Greene County

Stone County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Stone County



Extension Engagement Specialist Kyle Whittaker, conducted a Barn Quilt Class in Stone County. The workshop was held in Crane. The 20 attendees learned how to create a barn quilt. Participants chose their pattern and paint colors, each person left with a 2' x 2' barn quilt to display at home.





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



MU **Continuing Education for Health Professions** (CEHP) provides evidenced-based, relevant and responsive learning activities designed to narrow professional practice gaps with respect to knowledge, competence, and performance of the healthcare team. A commitment to lifelong learning, in partnership with those we serve, contributes to excellence in practice and improved health outcomes.

CEHP provided 169 LEARNING ACTIVITIES which reached over 53,000 PROFESSIONALS across all Missouri counties.



The **Diabetes Prevention Program** is recognized as "Full Plus," the highest status given by the CDC and is provided by licensed lifestyle coaches to prevent type 2 diabetes. Through lifestyle changes participants can achieve sustainable weight loss, increase in physical activity and learn coping skills to manage stress.

More than 1 IN 3 PARTICIPANTS have reached the 5 - 7% WEIGHT LOSS GOAL.



Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can lead to trauma and increased risks of substance use disorders, including opioid and alcohol misuse.

Show-Me ACEs:

- In collaboration with Kinship Caregivers and the MU School of Law, developed a trauma-informed legal toolkit to help reduce the impact of ACEs across the state.
- Partnered with the Missouri Community Health Commission to offer Empowerment Workers sessions (17 sessions, 122 participants) and Healing Circles (2 sessions, 15 participants) in southeast Missouri.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



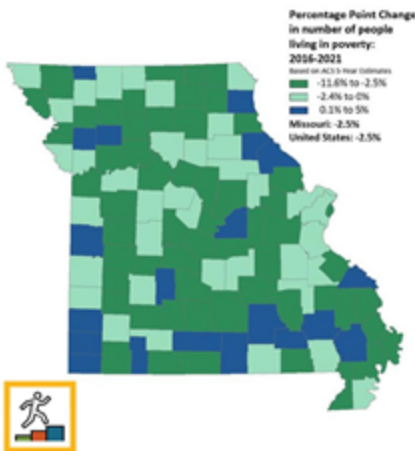
MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



The **Neighborhood Leadership Academy** provides in-depth leadership training that emphasizes community-building principles, project planning, organizational leadership and personal leadership skills.

“The overall knowledge that I have gained through this course has been amazing. From how to engage stakeholders in the community, to planning events and hosting meetings, these are all tools that I will fully utilize going forward.”

2022 NLA graduate



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.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community Development

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LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Headquartered in GREENE COUNTY

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key “Muscle Groups.”



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Seth Kaplan (at left), author of “Fragile Neighborhoods.” Program has participants from 38 different states now.

Show-Me Neighborhood Art Week — This new statewide art program celebrating public art and an increased sense of belonging as a result of this event. Had hundreds of participants, including 73 art installations statewide.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week— statewide we document 31,129 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4 with reports from every county in region.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day — Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger’s birthday. KY3 was a key partner in promoting this regionally.

“Join or Die” movie — Did total of 12 showings of this documentary with nearly 500 participants before it went to Netflix.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhoods USA — Presented two workshops on neighboring at the national conference and two students in Neighboring 101 won national awards.

Be a thought leader — Wrote 72 newspaper and magazine columns in 2024.

Springfield Neighborhoods—Helped with annual training and support.

Neighborhood Leadership Academy—The Southwest Missouri cohort had 7 participants this year. We also celebrated completion of 6 projects from 2023.



VITALITY

Coaching / Pledge / Newsletter — Advised 52 individuals on a neighborhood events nationwide.. Media efforts related to neighboring resulted in over 1 million impressions on social media and perhaps as many in traditional print and television. Had 124 people take the Engaged Neighbor Pledge this year.

National Movement—Was asked to speak in three different states (Michigan, New York & Colorado) on developing a good neighbor week.

Springfield Culture Fest — Council supported this new effort in Springfield.

Neighboring 101

Neighboring 101 is not just for new homeowners or people new to community life. This ongoing monthly program (started in 2020) is for anyone wanting to improve their neighborhood and community or their personal life and health. *One-time \$25 enrollment fee.*

Get Started With These Steps

1. Visit [extension.Missouri.edu](https://extension.missouri.edu) and register for Neighboring 101.
2. Receive an exclusive newsletter with links to videos of all past classes.
3. Attend monthly sessions live to ask questions. Class is the third Thursday of each month at 12 pm (CST).
4. Access exclusive materials and resources for the Engaged Neighbor network.
5. Take what you learn and improve your neighborhood, your community and yourself.

What Others Have Said

“Every month I learn something that I can apply in my neighborhood.” - Laura

“This program has inspired the work we are now doing in my community.” - Jen

“Every month I say that is the best speaker we have had but then the next one is better. Every month I am inspired.” - Chet

Contact David Burton at burtond@missouri.edu

Program Enrollment for 2024 totaled 832 including these counties (and number enrolled).

Barton 2 | Barry 2 | Cedar 4 | Christian 18 | Dade 4 |
Douglas 2 | Greene 189 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 9
McDonald 3 | Newton 2 | Ozark 1 | Polk 2 | Stone 8
Taney 9 | Texas 6 | Webster 8 | Wright 2

Guests have included practitioners, authors and leaders in the neighboring movement:



Majora Carter



Dave Runyon



Seth Kaplan



Melody Warnick



Mike Mather

SHOW ME

Neighborhood Art Week



Show Me Neighborhood Art Week is a University of Missouri Extension art-focused outreach program that strives to promote creative expression and public art made by residents, regardless of their skill level, as a contribution to the community's sense of place and residents' sense of belonging. The program goals are to:

- Promote the engagement of neighbors;
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion within communities; and
- Use art as a tool to increase the sense of belonging.

We promoted and solicited participation in our pilot Show Me Neighborhood Art Week statewide. After creating an online map of sites registered, statewide viewing was June 1-15 2024. Participants were sent yard signs to display next to their installations.

- The program had participation from every extension region.
- 73 total registered sites and 1,182 registered voters.
- 293 participants signed up for the Engaged Neighbor newsletter.
- Over \$3000 in prizes for regional winning artists was distributed.
- 72% of participants in Show Me Neighborhood Art Week reported an increased sense of belonging and love for the communities by participating.



Regional participation (artist and/or participant) was as follows:

Barton 12 | Barry 6 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Douglas 4 | Greene 389 | Jasper 8 | Lawrence 29
McDonald 12 | Newton 21 | Stone 28 | Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 38 | Wright 22



Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024

Snapshot of Results



Named "Neighboring Program of the Year" in 2023 by Neighborhoods USA



82 +

Service Events

These groups — including 67 MU Extension county councils — worked together to serve their neighbors.



7891 +

Visitors to website

to learn more about what it means to be an engaged neighbor in Missouri.

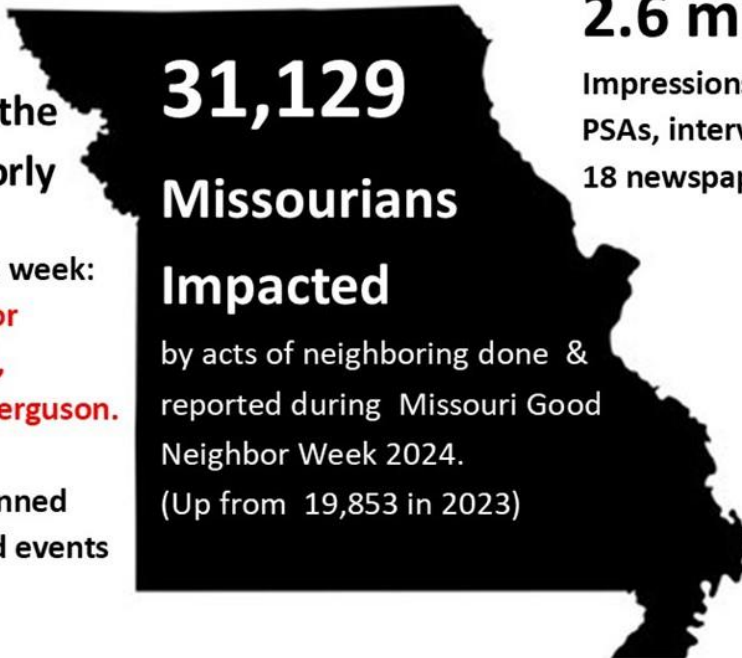


5 Cities

were named the most neighborly

Based on points accumulated this week:
Houston, Excelsior Springs, Sikeston, Springfield and Ferguson.

13 Cities also planned neighbor-focused events or campaigns.



31,129

Missourians Impacted

by acts of neighboring done & reported during Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024.
(Up from 19,853 in 2023)

2.6 million

Impressions from TV PSAs, interviews, radio, podcasts & 18 newspaper columns statewide.



13

proclamations done by towns and cities in support of Missouri Good Neighbor Week.

122

People were nominated as one of Missouri's **Most Engaged Neighbor.**

Missourians really appreciate neighbors that go the extra mile.



2896

People involved in an **act of neighboring.**

Everything from mowing yards to delivering cookies to first responders. Many times more than one person was involved.

<http://missourigoodneighborweek.com>

Southwest Missouri Led the Way During Neighbor Week

Counties in Southwest Missouri were well represented during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. Statewide, projects organized by county extension councils reached over 14,000 individuals. The following county councils reported doing a community service activity during the week.

Barton 85 | Barry 2 | Cedar 75 | Dade 300 | Dallas 50 |
Douglas 325 | Greene 525 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 65 |
Stone 45 | Texas 60 | Webster 45 | Wright 100

In Greene County, the council collected 200 high quality coats for distribution to new residents of Springfield from international locations (Pic 1). Springfield had 18 registered block parties during the week. (Pic 2) Council members also staffed at table at the Springfield Cultural Festival (Pic 3).

We also recognized 22 individuals statewide as the Most Engaged Neighbor and these counties had an honoree. These honorees were from Greene County:

- Chance Parish, Springfield (Pic 4)
- Stefanie Johnson, Springfield
- Nancy Susan Williams, Springfield
- Rudy Widmar and Rebecca Welsh, Springfield
- Jamie Tatum, Springfield
- Hayden Hradek, Republic

Besides the winners, we had 130 nominations for “Most Engaged Neighbor” including nominations from these counties:

Christian 2 | Dallas 1 | Newton 1 | Polk 3 | Stone 2 |
Taney 4 | Greene 12 | Webster 3 |

Additionally, the City of Springfield was named one of the five “Most Neighborly Cities” in Missouri based on numbers during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. David Burton presented the award to the Springfield City Council. (Pic 5) Republic was a runner-up in its city size category.

Totals Acts of Neighboring During the Week Reported From These Counties in SW Region.

Barton 12 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Greene 4140 | Jasper 16 |
Lawrence 29 | Newton 8 | Polk 22 | Stone 18 | Taney 24 |
Texas 3015 | Webster 16 | Wright 12





Be a Thought Leader

National Efforts Contribute to Vitality

1. KY3 worked with me to produce 12 different PSAs in 2024 that ran on air nearly 1,000 times.
2. Had the opportunity to speak to various audiences about neighboring in Colorado during 2024.
3. Spent a day in Arvada, Colorado, with Dave Runyon, author of "The Art of Neighboring."
4. Was invited to speak at the Michigan Municipal League Conference on Mackinac Island about the power of neighboring and spoke to two standing-room only groups.





Economic Opportunity

Serving: Stone County

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University (MSU) provided support to Stone County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. One Stone County entrepreneur shared the following during one of our Early-Stage Business Boot Camp Sessions “Everyone should take this class before opening a business. Most business owners don’t know this information and need it.”

Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients in Stone County to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Business expansion and relocation
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization

Through leveraging regional partnerships, several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. In 2024 this initiative brought one of our Early-Stage Business Boot Camps to Stone County through partnership with Table Rock Lake Chamber of Commerce. The Early-Stage Business Boot Camp helped 10 entrepreneurs in Stone County look at all aspects of their business including, feasibility, business planning and understanding business financials.

KEY OUTCOMES IN STONE COUNTY

39 Business owners in the County received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.

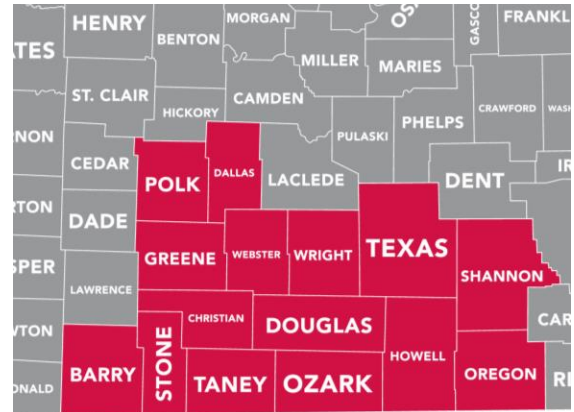
\$51.5k Approved capital funding

2 New businesses started

459 Attendees from Stone County joined our business and professional development training programs.



Missouri State UNIVERSITY



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@missouristate.edu

417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$158,348,440

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the SBDC

\$96,731,627

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

\$20,468,645

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC

Impact data is client verified and obtained by approximately 30% of clients annually for the statewide network.

The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.



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



Established in 2002, the **Fire Officer Certificate Program** is designed for those who wish to further their professional development without the time and expense of traditional college classes. This program has been developed and evaluated to ensure it provides structured curriculum delivery and academic rigor. The program requires completion of 288 hours of instruction within three years.



The **Missouri Extension Disaster Education Network** provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, schools and organizations so they can prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Because of the unique relationship it maintains with each community, MU Extension is a key resource for the public, emergency services and public officials.



The **Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI)** offers advanced training on a wide variety of topics, including defensive tactics, firearms, use of force and de-escalation. LETI offers customized programs for all required continuing education areas of concentration.

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



Cooking Matters

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

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

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

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant



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 addition 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



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Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

Skaggs Foundation Helping Hands Grant Award Recipient



Pictured Above: Jenni Nevatt and Skaggs Grant Board member and grant committee member, Linda Sprague.

The University of Missouri Extension and Fordland Clinic of Kimberling City are collaborating to enhance access to a whole-person approach to wellness. ***Beyond Balance: Whole-Person Fitness*** will provide educational opportunities for underserved middle-aged and older adults in the **Stone and Taney County area**. Through series of evidence-based educational programs and patient consultations, MU Extension and Fordland Clinic of Kimberling City will be offering whole-person healthcare that can enhance the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of clients. Programs such as *Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention*, *Wits Workout*, and *Stay Strong, Stay Healthy* will **empower individuals to address all**

aspects of health, fostering a healthier community with improved quality of life, resilience, and wellbeing. Like the nation, people living and working in Stone and Taney Counties have high rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and depression. Additionally, this area has a higher rate of older adults which is a population that has increased chronic conditions and rate of fall injuries and fall-related deaths. **This collaborative program will provide access to educational wellness opportunities and empower individuals to make healthy choices to positively impact their health and wellbeing.** Efforts to address chronic conditions must focus on preventative measures, improved healthcare access, and education to promote healthier lifestyles. Programs that promote whole-person wellness can play a significant role in **reducing the burden of chronic conditions by fostering healthier habits and increasing awareness about risk factors.** The **\$7,500** in grant funds will cover the cost of participant fees for educational health programs, health tools for participants, certified instructor travel, and teaching materials.



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention (TCAFP) in partnership with **Table Rock Career Center**, Reeds Spring, implemented by Jenni Nevatt

- Wednesdays & Fridays, 9/18-11/15, 4:00-5:30 pm, 15 registrants
- Objectives: improve balance and mobility to reduce arthritis pain and stiffness and fall risk

TCAFP is an evidence-based program designed to improve multiple aspects of health through slow, gentle movements that can be practiced almost anywhere. The degree of exertion can be easily adjusted making this program suitable for adults of all levels and abilities but especially those with arthritic pain or concerned about falls.



Economic Impact:
\$3,333
in estimated annual
healthcare cost savings

"I take the time to shift my weight and do a 'tai chi turn' when working in the yard. This kept me from falling!"

Impacts from TCAFP in Stone and Taney Counties:

- 92% improved or stayed the same in the Chair Stand Test, lower-body strength and endurance
- 83% improved or stayed the same in the 10-Foot Up-&-Go Test, agility and balance
- 92% improved or stayed the same in the Balance Assessments which indicates reduced risk of falling and continued independent living
- 100% participants felt they could find a way to reduce falls
- 100% participants reported they plan to continue to exercise
- 100% participants reported they feel more comfortable increasing their activity
- 100% participants reported they would recommend this program to a friend or relative

Healthy Living Lunch & Learns at the **Kimberling Area Senior Center**

Nutrition and Health Specialist, Jenni Nevatt, provided four presentations and staffed a resource table to promote healthy choices.

- Power of Protein to Prevent Falls: shared the latest recommendations and discussed special dietary needs for older adults to help prevent falls
- Cooking for 1 or 2: tips and tricks for success when planning and cooking nutritious and delicious meals of smaller portions without food waste
- Balance Basics: shared the fundamentals of maintaining balance, posture, and strength for safer and more confident movement in daily life
- Healthy Twists on Holiday Favorites: shared tips to make those holiday favorites healthier without sacrificing flavor



Policy, Systems, & Environmental Change

Improving community health by making the healthy choice the easy choice.



Pictured Above: MSU Dietetic Interns, Simoriah Longhorn and Madi Smith, lead a cooking workshop at the new community kitchen at the Stone County Health Department.

Nutrition and Health Specialist, Jenni Nevatt is a member of the **Stone County Community Health Coalition's** Heart Health Committee, contributing to efforts aimed at reducing cardiovascular disease-related incidences in Stone CO as a part of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

- Plans included a partnership with the Missouri State University Dietetic Interns and Stone County Health Department /WIC to implement cooking demonstrations and hands-on cooking workshops to help educate people in the community about heart healthy food choices.
- Partner agencies such as Reeds Spring Parents as Teachers provided a corresponding youth program

NutriQuest: New Nutrition and Health Video Game



Nutrition and Health Specialist, Jenni Nevatt served as the subject matter expert on the development of a new video game, NutriQuest. This is a collaboration between College of Education & Human Development, specifically the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies and MU Extension Health and Human Sciences. The team has received a grant to develop this game geared toward SNAP-eligible middle school age youth and their caregivers to extend SNAP-Ed learning objectives.



Community Engagement:

Heart Health & Recovery Crazy Sock Walk and Drug Take Back Event

- Port of Kimberling Marina, Kimberling City
- Stone County Community Health Coalition, Heart Health Committee team member, Jenni Nevatt
- Provided educational materials, healthy recipes, and a make your own trail mix bar



2024 Southwest FFA District Food Science Career Development

- Darr Agricultural Center of the Missouri State University
- Nutrition and Health Specialist, Jenni Nevatt served as judge for the Team Product Development section of the contest for 8 teams

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.

1755 direct and 2135 indirect contacts were made in Stone 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.

Nutrition Educator, Amanda McCormick, programmed at the following schools: Reeds Spring Primary and Preschool, Crane Elementary and Preschool, Blue Eye Elementary and preschool, Hurley Elementary and Galena Elementary and Preschool.

Amanda also programmed at Stone County Recovery, Larry Simmering Center-Taney co., OACAC, Our Lady of the Cove Catholic Church, Stone County Health Dept, Galena and Crane PAT, OACAC Head Start. Along with a Senior Center Event and Reeds Spring Back to school events.





Amanda McMich
Nutrition Program Associate

Stone County

Health and Human Sciences

New Community gardens in Stone County went into Hurley High school, Galena Preschool, Stone County Recovery Center, Pregnancy Lifeline, 4 Ozark Senior in collaboration with Life Song Church and Reeds Spring High school. This makes total of 34 new garden beds and gardening supplies.

Success stories:

While teaching a gardening class at Galena Elementary, a parent stopped to tell me her preschooler is now eating her veggies due to growing them herself. Her daughter was excited for this year's garden at the school!

I received an email from a client this week that I had done an ESBA class with at Larry Simmering Center in Branson, MO. (Taney co.) The client wanted me to know he had graduated the program and had gotten a new apartment. The director of the program stated, "he is still making the food demos he learned during class and that he appreciates the practical nutrition classes that help him in real life"!

