



Serendipity Artistry 2024©



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Washington 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

### Headquartered in Washington County

Rachel Hopkins, Field Specialist in Ag Business  
Lacey Tiefenauer, Office Secretary  
Kaylee Boyer, Nutrition Program Associate

### Headquartered Outside the County

Kendra Graham, Extension Engagement Specialist  
Sarah Barks, Field Specialist in Community Health  
Janet Braun, Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Dev.  
Gina Corce, Business Development Consultant  
Charles Ellis, Field Specialist in Ag Systems Tech.  
Micheal Graham, Field Specialist in Livestock  
Matthew Herring, Regional Director  
Sarah Higgins, Field Specialist in Natural Resources  
Kate Kammler, Field Specialist in Horticulture  
Jerry Richards, Feral Hog Outreach Educator  
McKenzie Tuttle, Senior Program/Project Support  
Ray Walden, Field Specialist in Community Dev.

## Council members

### Appointed

Doug Short, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner  
Jim Reed, Farm Bureau Rep. – Chair

### District #1

Andy Silvery  
Kaitlin Govero - Treasurer  
Rexanna Brewer  
Holli Gillam

### District #2

Amy Stringer – Secretary  
Brian Merke I- Vice Chair  
Carrie Minx  
Marty Yount  
Jesse Rowe  
Ryan Yount

### Youth Member

Gunnar Merkel

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

## 2024 Appropriations Budget

<b>Income</b>	
<b>County Appropriations</b>	51,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>51,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Salaries/Benefits</b>	37299.95
<b>Postage</b>	285.78
<b>Telephone</b>	2343.85
<b>Rent/Lease Equipment</b>	1364.80
<b>Reproduction/Copy Services</b>	663.95
<b>Supplies/Services</b>	2095.85
<b>Professional Services</b>	672.00
<b>Utilities</b>	527.85
<b>Insurance</b>	2240.98
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	482.84

## County commissioners

### Presiding

Dave Sansegraw

### District #1

Doug Short

### District #2

Cody Brinley

# Washington County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

## UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



### FY24 county students

**73 students**

- 53 Undergraduates
- 20 Graduate and professional students
- 45 Full-time students
- 28 Part-time students
- 27 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



### County employees and retirees

**9 people employed by UM**

- 9 Campuses
- 1 UM retiree or beneficiary  
 UM salary and retirement income: \$340,381  
 UM state tax revenue: \$8,807  
 UM federal tax revenue: \$48,069



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 1 Medicine
- 31 Nursing
- 15 Health Professions
- 2 Dentistry
- 3 Optometry
- 4 Veterinary Medicine
- 26 Agriculture
- 36 Engineering
- 4 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 24 teachers
- 8.5% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 17.6% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

#### MU

- 24 students
- 123 alumni
- 5 employees

#### UMKC

- 4 students
- 17 alumni
- 0 employees

#### Missouri S&T

- 17 students
- 47 alumni
- 1 employee

#### UMSL

- 28 students
- 149 alumni
- 3 employees



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Washington County



County population: 23,483



### County services provided

**Health care (FY24)**

- 110 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$97,043 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient 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 156 visits to 93 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2023)**

- 5,293 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 159 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 4,749 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 61 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Washington 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)

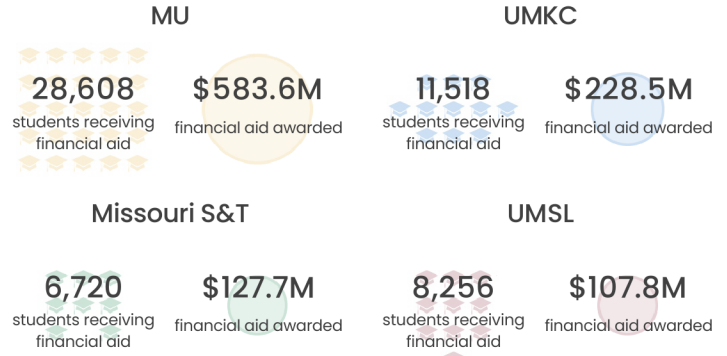


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

### 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.

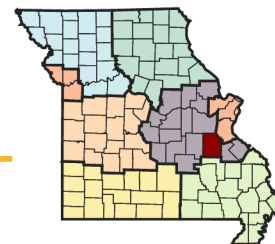
Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

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



## WASHINGTON 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: *Business Dynamics*

#### Business Growth/Change

The rate of business change reflects the net gain or loss in total establishments. The report area saw a net gain of 21 businesses between 2011 and 2021. There were 539 establishment "births" and 518 "deaths" contributing to the change. The rate of change was 7.17% over the ten year period, which is lower than the state average of 9.32%.

##### Establishment Net Change Rate

7.17%

Washington

Missouri 9.32%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [US Census Business Dynamics Statistics](#). 2011-2022.

#### Largest Job Sectors

Understanding the local economy is vital to describing a community. In this region, the largest sector by employment size is Government and government enterprises, which employs 1,567 people. The average wage for the industry is \$61,696. Retail trade and Manufacturing are the next largest sectors, and they employ 908 and 635 workers, respectively.

Job Sector	Total Employment	Average Wage
Government and government enterprises	1,567	\$61,696
Retail trade	908	\$24,700
Manufacturing	635	\$57,456

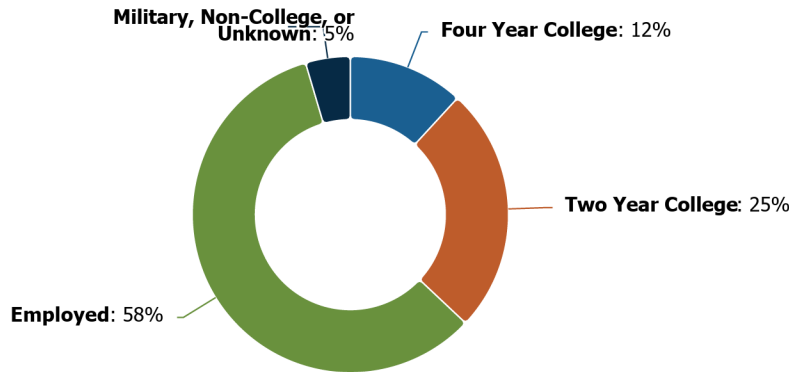
Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis](#). 2022.



## 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 262 graduates surveyed in the report area, 31 went to a four-year college, 66 to a two-year college, 153 directly entered the job market. The remaining 12 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 Weight*

### Obesity (Adult)

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

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

#### Percentage of Adults Obese, 2016

32.4%

Missouri

33% 🙄

Washington



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

### Physical Inactivity

Within the report area, 4,107 or 21.7% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no active leisure time, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

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

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

21.7%

Missouri

21.4%

Washington

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 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
Washington	152	28	0	0	180
Missouri	13,742	4,773	421	6,406	25,342

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

## Community Health by Sarah Barks

Since starting with MU Extension in April I have been very busy! I completed the MO-RE course which assisted in creating a Strategic Plan for my regions. Part of this course included conducting a Community Voices survey in which all Missourians were given a chance to have their voices heard. Eighty-six respondents across my regions fully participated. The findings are insightful and helped identify and prioritize my focus areas. In East Central and Southeast Regions of Missouri, the three priority areas were identified as heart disease, poor mental health and lung cancer. Much of my time is spent doing work in these counties with the focus of these priority areas.



I attended coalition meetings in each county, participated in Sequential Intercept Mapping and helped develop a Community Health Improvement plan. I achieved certification in WeCanPropser Resiliency Training and have since offered this course five times. I have presented my regional needs assessment findings to MU Extension councils and community partners including coalitions. I recently presented about the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. In August, I was trained in Strengthening Families Program 10-14 and assisted facilitating the training to a local coalition.



# Washington County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact

**A community of 84 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.**

**2% of the county youth under the age of 18 participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2024.**



Members of the cured meats project



Grand champion winners at the 2024 Washington County Fair

## 4-H Members

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment, youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.

Washington County served youth through 3 community clubs, and 1 special interest program- offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others.

- There were 84 members in Washington County community clubs during the 2023-2024 4-H year.
- Over 95% of 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively youth participated in 2,600 hours of community club work in Washington County.
- Over 100 hours of community service projects were completed by 4-H members and volunteers during the 2023-2024 4-H Year.

# Washington County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Impact

#### 4-H members have demonstrated learning through the following activities:

- Approximately 148 exhibits in the exhibit hall and 94 animals in the Washington County Fair from 4-H members in Washington and Iron Counties and FFA members from Washington County, who are also supported through youth programming. The livestock sale held during the fair brought in \$208,469 for the local youth
- As responsible citizens, we promote generosity and community strengthening through service. 114 meals were donated in Washington County through the 4-H Feeding Missouri Initiative in 2024.
- 2 members participated in over night camp this year. One as a camp counselor. This is the first year that any members have participated in overnight camp.

4-H Clubs offer in-depth educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others. Members learn by doing under this guidance of adult volunteers, who lead a wide variety of projects that support 4-H members in finding their SPARK. Club and project leaders also involve youth and teens in community service, leadership opportunities, and educational trips. 4-H project work and related educational experiences help youth explore interests in citizenship, communication, and leadership.



4-H youth members exhibiting livestock at the 2024 Washington County Fair

# Washington County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact

Washington County members enrolled in a combined total of 50 projects areas in 2024.

The top project areas included:

- Beef
- Swine
- Small Animal
- Arts and Crafts
- Photography
- Cake Decorating
- Gardening
- Horse
- Cured Meat

## Impacts of 4-H Programming

- 4-H members are twice as likely to go to college compared to their non-4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).
- 4-H also prepares youth for the workplace. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision- competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013).



4-H member showing off rewards of hard work and lessons learned



Youth fair exhibitor with a few supporters of the Washington County Fair Youth Livestock Auction

# Washington County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Profiles and Stories



Teaching about pumpkins, squash, and gourds at the State Women in Ag Conference.

### 2024 HORTICULTURE AT A GLANCE

- **1961 direct contacts** through programming where participants are actively engaged in the learning process. Programs included home vegetable gardening, commercial organic specialty crop production, Garden Hour with MU Extension, bug bingo, plant diseases, pumpkin production, weed control, and many more.
- **610 requests** for horticulture information through calls, emails, walk-ins or site visits from **28 counties** and **4 states**.
- **2,310+** subscribers to the monthly Garden Spade newsletter with a **5%** increase in subscriptions during 2024. Topics include insects, weeds, landscape plants, trees, fruit, vegetables and much more.
- **36,700+** views of horticulture MU IPM YouTube videos for commercial producers.

### KEY SUCCESSSES

- ✓ Participants in pesticide safety programs increase their knowledge on pesticide handling, safety, restricted use, disposal, contamination, understanding labels, and guides.
- ✓ Plant identification can help determine edibility, control strategies, and possible issues for animals and people.
- ✓ Youth and adults learned about pest versus beneficial insects, and how to identify common insects by playing bug bingo.
- ✓ Participants in the hydroponic workshop learned basic terms, hydroponic systems, problem solving, and growing.
- ✓ Many soil tests results have excess phosphorus and potassium. Provide clients education on “loving” their plants to death—soil tests save clients money and the environment by not over applying fertilizers, manures, composts, & organic matter.



Bug Bingo is a fun way for youth and adults to learn insect identification, pests vs. beneficial insects.

# Ag Business

Rachel Hopkins  
Ag Business Specialist  
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Covering Franklin, Gasconade, Osage, Maries, Miller, Pulaski, Phelps, Dent, Crawford, Washington, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve Counties

## 2024 AT A GLANCE

- **757** direct contacts in Beef Production Systems.
- **42** Lenders attended 'What Lenders Need to Know in 2025' in Jefferson City. Lenders heard from presenters discussing Market Outlooks, Policy Updates, MASBDA and Farmland Values and Rental Rates.
- **115** attendees at the Farm Tax Workshops held in December, both in-person and online. Rachel presented on Conservation Tax Implications for this workshop.
- **97** mid-Missouri farmers and ranchers attended the Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference in Maries County.
- **22** local producers attended the Wurdack Producer Field Day in October to hear about local applicable topics.
- **6** attendees at the Succession Planning in Ste. Genevieve
- **66** producers attended three Grazing Schools where Financial Aspects of Grazing were taught.



The cannulated bovine is always a memorable time with the FFA students.

## 1678 DIRECT CONTACTS 3447 INDIRECT CONTACTS



Producer Field Day at Wurdack is a great way to reach local producers. The topic this year was the financial aspects of Native Grass.

## KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ **Monthly emails** out to subscribers letting them know of upcoming Extension programs in the region.
- ✓ Presented at the **Missouri Livestock Symposium** on the Beef Feeding Profitability Tool, G462.
- ✓ **Rural Safety Day** educates 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Washington County of hazards they might encounter and thus preventing traumatic injuries.
- ✓ **Tax Workshops** educate participants on timely tax issues and how they can better manage tax liability.
- ✓ **Wurdack FFA Day** provides a learning opportunity for 9<sup>th</sup> graders on different fields in agriculture and exposes them to new ideas and concepts.

# 2024 Report

Sarah J. Higgins  
Field Specialist in Natural  
Resources  
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Covering Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, and Wayne Counties

## 2024 In Review

This year saw the expansion of natural resources programming to many of my counties. I'm happy to report some highlights of 2024:

- Forest Health Field Day in the Shoal Creek Watershed in Crawford County
- Invasive Plant Workshops in Dent and Texas Counties
- Revival of Missouri Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) program
  - Monthly virtual Zoom meetings featuring women natural resources professionals connecting with women woodland owners over topics of interest.
- Youth programming: 4-H soil and water experiment and watershed curriculum
- Keep Your Forest in the Family Legacy Workshop

It was great getting to connect with everyone in person and over Zoom. I will continue to offer virtual natural resources programming as it's the best way to reach all my counties. I will also continue to bring in-person programming to more counties as well. Thank you all for your support in 2024.

## Stay Up-to-Date on Natural Resources Programming

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

### MU Extension Natural Resources Newsletter



[bit.ly/MU-Ext-Natural-Resources](https://bit.ly/MU-Ext-Natural-Resources)

### Women Owning Woodlands Newsletter



[bit.ly/missouri-wow](https://bit.ly/missouri-wow)

## Looking at 2025

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

- Women Owning Woodlands Monthly Zoom meetings
- WOW Chainsaw Safety Courses
- Invasive Plant Workshops
- Tree identification hikes
- Forest Management field days & tours
- Natural Resources youth programming

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

# 2024 Summary

Serving Bollinger, Iron, Madison, Reynolds, St. Francois, and Washington Counties

Jerry Richards  
Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach  
Educator  
573-854-9845  
[jerryrichards@missouri.edu](mailto:jerryrichards@missouri.edu)



## The Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership (MFHEP)

To start the year, I had the opportunity to be interviewed by television stations in Springfield and Cape Girardeau. The interviews wound up appearing on stations in those cities, as well as on sister stations in Jonesboro, Arkansas and Paducah, Kentucky. Those interviews gave us the opportunity to reach a huge and diverse audience with our message, and we had great feedback from individuals who saw the interviews and reached out to us with very positive feedback.

While final numbers are not yet available for 2024, it looks like we will have eliminated about 5000 feral hogs in the state in the past 12 months. This compares to 2023 when we removed a little less than 8000 swine. The fact that this number is down is a very positive sign. It indicates that there are fewer hogs on the landscape causing damage to our public and private lands....evidence of the success of our program. When there are fewer hogs to be eliminated, our efforts will yield results that reflect this decrease.

In December, aerial operations began with our USDA helicopter. We have been fortunate to have the full-time use of a more powerful helicopter this year, which allows for increased performance and safety when engaged in the process of getting as close to the hogs as possible during elimination efforts. The educators such as myself have the opportunity to participate as part of the "ground crew" during aerial ops, and it is a very rewarding

experience. Snow on the ground greatly aids visibility when locating hogs, so winter conditions can substantially increase our success.

Washington, Iron and Reynolds counties were approved to receive new equipment, free of charge, to help remediate damage caused by feral hogs. The equipment includes such items as harrows and no-till drills and is given to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Landowners with damage caused by the swine can use this equipment free of charge. The availability of this equipment represents incredible cost savings for individuals who otherwise would have to come up with it on their own. The fact that drills, harrows and other equipment is readily visible sitting outside of SWCD offices goes a long way towards showing the public that we are working diligently to help restore private lands to the condition they were in before the arrival of this invasive species.

This past year I traveled extensively to bring our message to County Commissions, Farm Bureaus, SWCDs, MU Extension Offices, schools, community meetings, agricultural conferences, career days, feed stores, equipment dealers, powersports dealers, etc. I basically try to go anyplace that there are people affected, in one way or another, by feral hogs. One particularly gratifying thing I have experienced in the past few years is that students who have heard my presentation in one year are willing and eager to share our message and strategies with their classmates when we return to their schools. They are absorbing and sharing why we do things the way we do.



MFHEP Outreach Educator Jerry Richards delivers equipment to Bollinger County



Elementary students have fun with Jerry and the mounted feral hog

# Livestock

Michael W. Graham  
Livestock Specialist  
573-756-4539  
mwgraham@missouri.edu



Franklin, Jefferson, Iron, Madison, St. Charles, St. Francois,  
St. Louis, St. Louis City, Ste. Genevieve and Washington counties

## The Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program

Created in 1998 the three objectives for the Show-Me-Select Heifer program is: 1. Improved heifer development through a Total Quality Management strategy. 2. Increased marketing opportunities for and added value for Missouri-raised heifers. 3. Creating of reliable sources of quality replacement heifers based on management, reproduction, and genetics. This program utilizes a collaborative effort between the producer, the MU extension livestock specialists, and local veterinarians to create a reliable source of replacement heifers in terms of genetics and management.

### KEY OUTCOMES

- Two sales were held in St. Francois County in 2024 at the Farmington Regional Stockyards. 228 total heifers sold from 15 producers.
- Gross revenue from the Farmington Show-Me-Select sales were \$692,775.00 in 2024.



Heifers selling at the December 2024 sale in Farmington.



# Livestock

Michael W. Graham  
Livestock Specialist  
573-756-4539  
mwgraham@missouri.edu



Franklin, Jefferson, Iron, Madison, St. Charles, St. Francois,  
St. Louis, St. Louis City, Ste. Genevieve and Washington counties

## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION – Rural Safety

Agriculture is still the number one employer in the United States. However, for most people when we talk about agriculture they think of the farmer, the person who supplies our nation with food. That number is less than 2% of the nation's population! As that percentage continues to decrease, it is critical that we educate individuals on where their food comes from and why we have farms.

Rural Safety Day is a program designed to expose and educate young people to agriculture, and what the safety

considerations are around agriculture, 250 students participated in and had hands-on learning for animals commonly found on a farm. Students had the opportunity to look at and ask questions related to several domestic animals and learned more about our food chain.

### KEY OUTCOMES

- Kids received an awareness and appreciation for the animals we use to feed our society.



Youth learning about cattle and horse safety

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Community Development

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Serving Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington Counties

## At a Glance

I serve as a Community Development Specialist out of Salem in Dent County and also cover the counties of Crawford, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington in the East Central Region.

Some of the projects I supported during 2024 included:

- Continue efforts to identify community development priorities and potential partners in support of community development programs and services
- Providing updates on community development programs and formal presentations to county councils and other stakeholders
- Rural Infrastructure Challenge Grant with Missouri S&T
- Multi-State Housing Survey

## Looking at 2025

Plans for 2025 include:

- Continuing efforts with MU Extension's North Central Region Housing Working Group
- Serving as a member of MU Extension's Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grant Team
- Supporting MU Extension's MO Eats initiatives for the HFFI Grant
- Working with communities to identify potential community development related grants

Please contact me with any questions about community development programs or services. I am glad to be serving the East Central Region and look forward to working with your county!

# Washington County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact

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. There were 6,545 direct and indirect contacts were made in Washington 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.



# 2024 MU Extension Reach Report Washington County



The MU Extension offers programs in **four key areas** to support communities across the state:

- **4-H** empowers youth with hands-on learning experiences that build essential leadership, citizenship, and life skills, ensuring they are prepared for success in school, careers, and life.
- **Agriculture and Environment** focuses on producing food and increasing profits while sustaining farms and natural resource management.
- **Business and Communities** builds ecosystems that support local workforce growth, business development, and thriving communities.
- **Health and Human Sciences** promotes wellness and educates Missouri citizens and decision-makers to improve the quality of life for individuals and families.

Each area is designed to address local needs and strengthen Missouri's communities.



## 4-H Youth Development

**88 participants**

4 chartered clubs

13 volunteers



## Business and Community

**61 Contacts**

61 Business Development Contacts



## First Responder Education

**Fire Rescue Training Institute (FRTI)**

34 Number of Students



## Health and Human Sciences

**5,008 Contacts**

4,749 Nutrition & Health Contacts



**Population: 23,483**



## Agriculture and Environment

**159 Contacts**

29 Plant Production & Technology

Contacts 102 Ag Business & Policy  
Contacts

28 Natural Resources