



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Washington County 2025



Annual Report

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**SERVE MISSOURI.
DELIVER MIZZOU.®**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

Dear County Commissioners, Elected Leaders, and Friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the remarkable progress we have made together. MU Extension continues to deliver on its mission of linking the University of Missouri with every community across our state, ensuring that Missourians have access to the knowledge, resources, and partnerships they need to thrive.

Through the dedication of our faculty, staff, councils, partners, and advocates, MU Extension continues to make a measurable difference across Missouri. Last year, we had more than 1.5 million educational contacts and generated more than \$1 billion in economic impact. Building on that momentum, your support also helped secure a \$5 million recurring increase in state funding. This important milestone is already being invested in people, programs, and facilities to strengthen agriculture, improve health and well-being, support local economic development, and prepare youth for leadership through 4-H.

We have also adapted to new realities. Even as the sunseting of federal SNAP-Ed funding forced hard choices, our commitment to delivering nutrition and health programs to families in need has not wavered. We are expanding investments in rural health, civic leadership and community development to address the priorities Missourians tell us matter most. We are also aligning our work with university, state, and federal priorities to maximize impact, whether in rural healthcare, agricultural innovation or workforce development.

Our strengths remain clear: people, programs, and partnerships. From nearly 6,000 4-H volunteers to county council members, master gardeners, and master naturalists, Extension thrives because of the dedication of those who serve. Our trusted, research-based content was accessed nearly 2 million times and downloaded more than 76,000 times last year, and innovative programs, from soil testing to urban revitalization initiatives, continue to meet Missouri's evolving needs.

Thank you for your continued partnership. MU Extension belongs to all Missourians, and together we will keep building resilient communities, fostering innovation, and preparing our state for the future.

With appreciation,

Chadwick C Higgins

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Headquartered in Washington County

Rachel Hopkins, Field Specialist in Ag Business
Lacey Tiefenauer, Office Secretary

Headquartered Outside the County

Kendra Graham, Extension Engagement Specialist
Sarah Barks, Field Spec. in Community Health
Janet Braun, Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Dev.
Maria Calvert, Field Spec. in Human Dev.
Michael Graham, Field Specialist in Livestock
Matthew Herring, Regional Director
Sarah Higgins, Field Spec. in Natural Resources
Kate Kammler, Field Specialist in Horticulture
Kate McDonald, Field Specialist in Agronomy
Jerry Richards, Feral Hog Outreach Educator
Ray Walden, Field Specialist in Community Dev.



Jeanette Allen, county clerk, swearing in of new council officers (above) and new members (below) at the 2025 Extension annual dinner.



Council Members

Appointed

Doug Short, 1st District Commissioner
Jim Reed, Farm Bureau Rep. – Chair

District #1

Paulett Long
Kaitlin Govero
Rexanna Brewer
Holli Gillam

District #2

Amy Stringer – Secretary
Brian Merkel- Vice Chair
Ryan Yount - Treasurer
Carrie Minx
Todd Thompson
Ethan McClary

Youth Member

Gunnar Merkel

Commissioners

Presiding

Dave Sansegraw

District #1

Doug Short

District #2

Lynn Portell

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	48,000.00
Total Income	48,000.00

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits/Payroll	34,000.00
Travel	3,200.00
Postage	500.00
Telephone	1,000.00
Rent/Lease Equipment	1,500.00
Reproduction/Copy Services	1,000.00
Supplies/Services	1,500.00
Professional Services	300.00
Utilities	1,500.00
Insurance	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00
Total Expenses	48,000.00

Washington County State Fair Farm Family



Washington County State Fair Farm Family, Colten and Brianna Summers family (front and center).

The Summers family was chosen as the Washington County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension and the Washington County Farm Bureau.

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 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.

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Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Washington 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.

Washington County



University of Missouri System

UM System Footprint in the county in 2025



FY25 county students

64 students

- 48 Undergraduates
- 16 Graduate and professional students
- 46 Full-time students
- 18 Part-time students
- 29 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2025)



County employees and retirees

11 people employed by UM

- 11 Campuses
- 1 UM retiree or beneficiary
 UM salary and retirement income: \$342,259
 UM state tax revenue: \$8,798
 UM federal tax revenue: \$49,076



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 30 Nursing
- 14 Health Professions
- 2 Dentistry
- 3 Optometry
- 6 Veterinary Medicine
- 25 Agriculture
- 39 Engineering
- 5 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 26 teachers
- 9.4% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 18.8% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 25 students
- 120 alumni
- 6 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 18 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 14 students
- 49 alumni
- 2 employees

UMSL

- 23 students
- 150 alumni
- 3 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Washington County



County population: 23,483



County services provided

Health care (FY25)

- 166 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$36,205 of uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$37.31 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 245 visits to 185 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2024)

- 4,602 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 743 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 2,699 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 1,043 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Washington County



University of Missouri System

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY24, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 71,140 jobs.

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



- Between FY19 and FY24, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.75 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



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

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



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

Education and Training Provided



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



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

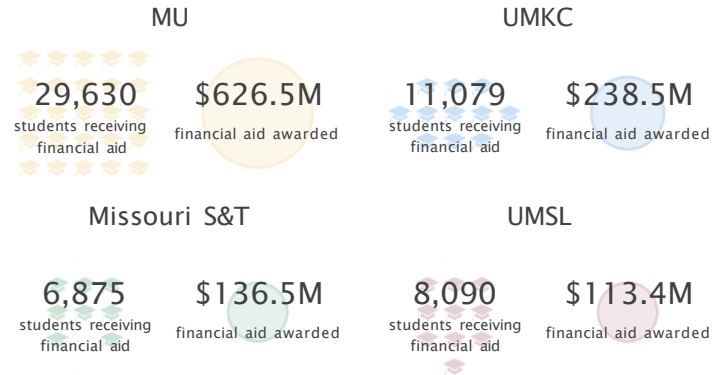


254,220 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2024)

Education Highlights

FY25 Financial Aid Awards

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



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

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- A \$25 million USDA-funded [Missouri Climate-Resilient Crop & Livestock \(CRCL\)](#) project has had the following impact 2.5 years into the 5-year project: Over 1,200 Missouri farmers implemented conservation practices such as cover crops, regenerative grazing, and improved nutrient management practices on approximately 300,000 acres across the state.

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

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

Prepared in December 2025, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration · UM IR · MU Institute for Public Policy · Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) · MU · UMKC · Missouri S&T · UMSL · UM System · UM Health Care · MU Extension · US Census Bureau · US Dept. of Health and Human Services · National Science Foundation



Washington County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Janet Braun, Field Specialist in 4-H youth Development

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 2025.



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 69 members in Washington County community clubs during the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 4-H Year.

Washington County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and stories

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

- Approximately 103 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 \$201,391.50 for the local youth
- As responsible citizens, we promote generosity and community strengthening through service. 86 meals were donated in Washington County through the 4-H Feeding Missouri Initiative in 2025.
- 2 members participated in over night camp this year. Both as a camp counselor. This is the second 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 craft exhibits at the Washington County Fair



Young 4-Her showing off her grand champion market hog award at the Washington County Fair

Washington County

Agriculture and Environment

Rural Safety Day



A total of 177 third-grade students from Washington County Schools participated in Rural Safety Day at Potosi City Park. Growing up in a rural setting makes safety a high priority, and this annual event is designed to help students learn how to stay safe in their everyday environments.

The program is a collaboration between Washington County Extension, Washington County Farm Bureau, Potosi FFA, and Valley FFA. Numerous local organizations and Extension personnel contributed to the educational sessions, including:

- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Missouri Highway Patrol
- Crawford Electric Cooperative
- Washington County Volunteer Fire Department
- U.S. Forest Service
- Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Feral Hog Partnership

Students rotated through a variety of hands-on presentations, and teachers, students, and administrators expressed excitement about the engaging learning opportunities offered throughout the day.

Topics covered included:

- Electric Safety
- Missouri Highway Patrol
- Weapon Safety
- Livestock Awareness
- Tractor/PTO Safety
- Pesticide Safety
- Dangerous Plants
- ATV/UTV Safety
- Wildlife and Feral Hog Awareness
- Fire and Chainsaw Safety



ATV/UTV Safety with Janet Braun



Ag Business

Covering Franklin, Gasconade, Osage, Maries, Miller, Pulaski, Phelps, Dent, Crawford, Washington, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve Counties

2025 AT A GLANCE

- **38** Lenders attended 'What Lenders Need to Know in 2026' in Jefferson City. Lenders heard from presenters discussing Market Outlooks, Policy Updates, Beef Feeding Calculator, Farmland Values and Rental Rates.
- **60** attendees at the Farm Tax Workshops held in December, both in-person and online. Rachel hosted 2 locations (Ste. Genevieve & Vienna) and presented on drought & farm lease.
- **89** mid-Missouri farmers and ranchers attended the Central Missouri Forage & Beef Conference in Maries County.
- **35** local producers attended the Wurdack Producer Field Day in October to hear about local applicable topics.
- **120** producers attended three Grazing Schools where Financial Aspects of Grazing were taught.

\$47,753 in lease's consulted on in 2025.



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

1924 DIRECT CONTACTS 7140 INDIRECT CONTACTS



Rachel spoke to the East Central Cattlemen's Association in March 2025 on tips for successions planning.

KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ **Monthly emails** out to subscribers letting them know of upcoming Extension programs in the region.
- ✓ Connect & Educated **50 STL City youth** about agriculture at **Wurdack Extension Center**.
- ✓ **Rural Safety Day** educated **177 3rd graders** in Washington County of hazards they might encounter and thus preventing traumatic injuries.
- ✓ **Annie's Project** brought together **13 women in Maries County** for the 6 weeklong event. It included field trips, guest speakers and activities.
- ✓ **Wurdack FFA Day** provided a learning opportunity for **528 9th graders** on different fields in agriculture and exposes them to new ideas and concepts.

Washington County

Agriculture and Environment

Horticulture Highlights—Katie Kammler, Horticulture Specialist

Client Contacts:

13 calls and emails providing research-based horticulture information.

Topics included:

- Soil test results
- Controlling water lilies
- Peach tree pruning
- Propagating grapes
- Testing soil for lead
- Groundhog issues
- And many more horticulture-related inquiries

Programs Delivered:

- **Rural Safety Day**– Potosi (177 participants)

Impact:

- Reached **177 participants** through educational programs
- Provided timely, science-based solutions for home gardeners and landowners
- Supported community awareness on horticulture and environmental safety



"Reliable, Responsive, and Relevant Information for the Missouri Gardener"

October 2025

The Garden Spade



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Subscribe Now!

Receive a monthly email link to "The Garden Spade".

[SUBSCRIBE HERE!](#)



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/AGE/SEX/RELIGION/ETHNICITY/SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY/STATUS ORGANIZATION

Be Vigilant for Spotted Lanternfly

Emily Althoff
MU Extension Entomology
emilyalthoff@missouri.edu



Missouri residents are urged to be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly (SLF), an insect that could have devastating effects on the state's \$4.2 billion wine and grape industry. SLF can damage fruits including grapes, as well as ornamentals and urban landscapes.

Since its first detection in Pennsylvania in 2014, SLF has been found in 19 states, including states that neighbor Missouri, says University of Missouri Extension and Lincoln University Urban Entomologist Emily Althoff. SLF has been intercepted three times in Missouri since 2022.



Althoff says SLF could be spotted on shipping materials from now until December.

Those in agriculture and transportation should inspect equipment for this insect, which hitchhikes across country on metal objects such as trains and other vehicles.

Althoff said it important to know what SLF looks like in various stages. She noted that it may appear as egg masses, nymphs or adults on vehicles and equipment. Live SLF are easiest to spot at dusk or night when they move up and down the trunks of plants. SLF's preferred host is Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Learn more about SLF in the "Keeping an Eye Out for

The spotted lanternfly is of particular concern to Missouri's \$4.2 billion wine and grape industry because it attacks grapes, says Dean Volenberg, MU Extension viticulturist. Photo courtesy of Kevin Rice, Virginia Tech.

continued on page 2 >>

Success Story: Growing Garden Knowledge in Missouri

In 2025, the **Garden Spade e-newsletter** continued to be a trusted resource for horticulture enthusiasts across Missouri. With **2,556+ subscribers** and a **9.6% increase in subscriptions**, the newsletter reached more people than ever before.

Each monthly issue delivered practical, research-based tips on topics such as **insects, weeds, landscape plants, trees, fruits, and vegetables**, helping readers make informed decisions in their gardens and landscapes.

This growth reflects the strong interest in reliable horticulture information and the value of Extension resources in supporting healthy, productive gardens. By expanding its reach, the Garden Spade is empowering more residents to succeed in their gardening efforts year-round.

Local Impact

Michael Graham, Field Specialist in Livestock



East Central Show-Me-Select bred Heifer Sale



Livestock Ledger Newsletter

I authored a monthly livestock news article titled *The Livestock Ledger*, which was emailed to 356 producers each month. The article delivered timely, practical information relevant to the livestock industry and highlighted upcoming educational programs and events across each county. To expand its reach beyond email, I also shared the article on social media platforms, where it had the potential to reach an audience of 90,000+ people. This effort strengthened communication with producers, increased awareness of Extension programming, and broadened outreach to a wider agricultural audience. If you are interested in getting emailed "*The Livestock Ledger*" newsletter, contact the extension office and provide your email address.

The Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer program

Created in 1998, the three objectives for the Show-Me-Select Heifer program are:

1. Improved heifer development through a Total Quality Management strategy.
2. Increased marketing opportunities for adding value for Missouri-raised heifers.
3. Creating 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.

- Two sales were held in East Central Region in 2025 at Farmington Regional Stockyards. 240 total heifers sold from 15 producers.
- Gross revenue from the Farmington Show-Me-Select sales were \$943,600.00 in 2025.

Client Contacts:

23 calls and emails providing research-based livestock information.

Topics included:

- Soil Health
- Forage testing
- Herd health
- Budget sheets for livestock enterprises
- Backyard chicken flocks
- Equestrian nutrition

Local Impact

Franklin, Jefferson, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve and Washington Counties

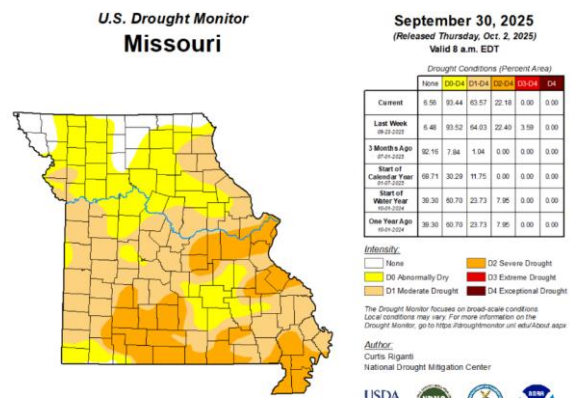
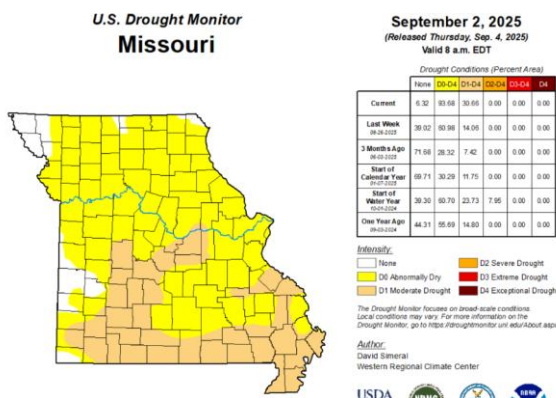
Kate McDonald
Field Specialist in Agronomy

In typical Missouri fashion, 2025 brought on its mix of challenges. The year started off cool and wet, making it hard for farmers to get in the field and get things planted. Late spring in April and May we saw some sporadic rainfalls, some with severe weather and flooding. Many fields were replanted due to this. As we rolled into summer and crops were established, the timely rains were perfect and left many optimistic about the year. However, in August the rain turned off, and we faced some extreme heat sending us into a drought. By the first week of September, 94% of the state was considered abnormally dry (d0) and 31% of the state was moderately dry (d1). Through September, the

hot, dry trend increased rapidly, sending Washington County into a severe drought (d2) by September 30th. Despite early-season flooding and the severe drought through the end of the growing season, corn performed exceptionally well statewide. Missouri is projected to set a new record average yield around 187–188 bushels per acre, surpassing last year's record Washington County contributed strongly to this trend with an average around 180 bu/ac. Soybeans struggled with the drought hitting at just the wrong time for pod set and seed development, but overall maintained some resilience with a state average of around 50 bu/ac.

Soil testing is another service that MU Extension offers where producers can submit samples for quality testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations to clients for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices. This year I analyzed and provided support for 76+ soil tests in Washington County.

I had 9 program participants and 15+ direct contacts (calls, texts, and emails) from Washington County producers this year. Popular topics include soil test results and recommendations, forage and pasture management, lime and nutrient requirements, herbicides and weed control, and drought resources and nitrate testing. One in person farm visit to Washington County.



Local Impact

Serving Bollinger, Iron, Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Washington Counties

Sarah Barks
Field Specialist in Community Health

Mental health for the region:


Across the report area, mental health remains a top concern, with all counties exceeding state and national averages for poor mental health days. Community Voices data reflects widespread concern, with most respondents identifying mental health and substance use as their primary concerns. Rural and underserved communities continue to face provider shortages and stigma, making timely support difficult. These challenges guided my work throughout the year.

To address these needs, I engaged in Community Health Improvement initiatives, local coalitions, and statewide partnerships, providing tailored materials to improve behavioral health literacy and reduce stigma.

Key trainings provided:

WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training (WRT):

- 11 sessions delivered statewide (virtual and in person). Professional development sessions for businesses and organizations helped in expanding access through a SEED grant, secured collaboratively with other specialists, that allowed both COMET and WRT to be offered at no cost.
- Approximately 130 participants reached



Do you know what to do when concerned about someone's mental or emotional well-being?

In **COMET Community Trainings**, participants will:

- Learn ways to talk with a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance about mental health topics
- Learn a conversational guide and the importance of being "the other person"
- Practice the COMET intervening questions and plan how you will use COMET to have in conversations about another's well-being

Extension University of Missouri | HIGHPLAINS RESEARCH NETWORK

Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) is a 2-hour training for older youth and adults to support friends, family, acquaintances, colleagues' and neighbors' wellbeing:

- 6 sessions delivered with 5 partner organizations
- Approximately 65 participants reached

Profiles and stories

Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) Initiative:

- Training and education empowered workplaces to support people affected by substance use disorders and those in recovery.
- 1 workplace achieved RFW designation

Across all efforts, I partnered with more than **20** organizations to strengthen connections among agencies, providers, and community members and to expand support in underserved areas. My work reached more than **1,000 individuals** through trainings, presentations, and coalition engagement.

Evaluation data showed:

- Increased coping and resilience skills
- Greater confidence in supporting individuals experiencing mental health challenges
- Improved awareness of mental health resources
- Enhanced workplace readiness to support employees affected by substance use and recovery

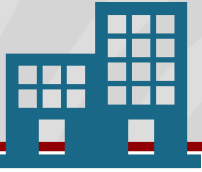
Collectively, these efforts helped reduce stigma, expand behavioral health education, and strengthen resilience across rural Missouri



Recovery Friendly Workplace
MISSOURI



100 Miles, 100 Days is a free statewide summer wellness program that encourages Missourians to stay active through walking, biking, dancing, or other movement. Participants set goals, track progress, and receive weekly motivation. The program supports physical and mental well-being and builds community through team participation. As part of the initiative, I co-hosted a county-based community walk in Washington County.



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



The annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2025, the conference offered breakout sessions in Excelsior Springs' shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.

Missouri Good Neighbor Week



Largest civic engagement event of the year in Missouri.



Snapshot of Results for 2025

Honored **20** Neighbors **4** Businesses

138 Neighbor Nominees

42,134 Missourians Impacted by acts of neighboring done during Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2025. Up from 31,129 acts in 2024.

86 Counties

110 Cities

433 Reported Entries

15 City Proclamations

6 Cities Springfield, Excelsior Springs, Manchester, Houston, Fremont Hills and Lee's Summit

Earn Most Neighborly Status

Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2025 Missouri Good Neighbor Week** Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community



Ray Walden
Community Development Specialist
573-729-3196
r.walden@missouri.edu

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

2025 impacts included:

- Supporting workforce-focused initiatives designed to strengthen employer capacity, expand training access, and align regional strategies, including a Regional Workforce Training Summit held August 4 with employers and training agencies to discuss data, resources, and strategy development.
- Presented information with other community development colleagues on Regional Planning Commission resources and potential opportunities to collaborate.
- Presented a session on Financial Preparation for Grant Projects July 18 as part of a multi-day training workshop for area government and nonprofit representatives.

Other community development projects/programs supported:

- Comprehensive and Strategic Planning
- Statewide housing workgroup
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance (NPTA): one-on-one support, leader skill-building, resource library, referrals
- Give 5 — volunteer engagement events
- Estate Planning Workshop (Dent County April 17)
- Missouri Good Neighbor Week — encouraging residents to recognize and celebrate acts of neighborliness.

Outreach included: Extension Council presentations, local newspaper articles and radio interviews.



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

Business and Community



The **APEX Accelerators** (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers) were created in 1984 by the Department of Defense to help businesses navigate the government marketplace. Since 1989, MU Extension has hosted the Missouri APEX accelerator as a business development partner program. The mission of the program helps businesses learn how to expand their market by selling goods and services to local, state and federal government entities.

In 2025, the Missouri APEX Accelerators served 3 CLIENTS and held 5 COUNSELING sessions in Washington County.



The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small business across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

Missouri SBDC assisted 17 clients and helped Washington County small businesses create 3 jobs.