



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Wayne County

2024

Annual Report

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Greenville, MO 63944
573-224-5600, ext. 8

**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
Columbia, MO 65211
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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



Jennifer Williams
Extension
Engagement
Specialist



Kelley Brent
Health and Human
Science Specialist



Davida Pedigo
4-H Youth
Program
Associate



Judith Koehr
Nutrition Program
Associate



Fran Mann
Office Manager

Council members

Julie Gronski, Council Chair
Christina Kime, Council Vice-chair
Kim Combs, Secretary
Angie Boshell, Treasurer
Kimberly Diesel
Shelby Henson
Dawn Barks
Donna Pennington
Rye Huff
K. Sue Henry
Vinnie Clubb, Farm Bureau Appointed Member
Brian Polk, Presiding County Commissioner



County commissioners



Brian Polk, Wayne County Presiding Commissioner
Steve Foster, Western District Commissioner
Doug Wood, Eastern District Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	30,000
1Time Additional. Funds	5,000
Total Income	35,000

Expense

Salaries/Benefits	29,120
Travel	4,162
Copier/Maintenance	1,775
Office Supplies/Services	1,170
Insurance	842
Unanticipated Expense	76
(Notary Fee, Chamber Membership)	
Total Expenses	37,145

Return on investment

2023-24 CRC/USDA Grant	\$50,158
2024-25 CRC/USDA Grant	\$71,470
USDA Community Garden Grant	\$3,967
“Eat Smart in Parks” Grant	\$5,000
4-H Grants	\$10,500
4-H Scholarships	\$2,000

MU Extension is a unique 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.

Key Outcomes and Numbers

- 838 contacts were reached by phone/email with information on programs; answering questions pertaining to garden pests, rose bush problems, elderberry canning, eradicating bees from house, well repair, pesticide disposal, used battery collection, correct fridge temperature, solar energy financing, fence laws
- 150 visitors came for soil sample boxes and to bring in soil samples, farm tax record books, farm equipment rental rates information, water sample information, incubators, garden questions, rat control, Master Gardening, timber issues
- 237 soil samples were brought by farmers, 11 garden samples, 3 community area samples
- New 4-H Club started in Piedmont
- 17,187 reached on Facebook
- 2 school teams and 2 adults entered pies in the Wayne County Extension Pie Contest at the Wayne County Fair
- 4 attended classes held by the MU Extension Tax Schools
- Events Extension participated in: AgConnect, Local Producer Distributions, Senior Expo, Regional 4-H Art Show, Clearwater Family Night, Greenville Trunk or Treat, Greenville Easter Egg Hunt, Jack O’ Lantern Jubilee, Greenville Christmas Activities, Williamsville Christmas Activities
- 16 children attended 4-H Extension Swim Lessons
- Collected canned goods for the Good Neighbor Week Service Day
- Programming held in Wayne County: Wellness Series, Tai Chi, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy, Chronic Disease Self-Management, Private Pesticide Training, Estate Planning, Chromebook Basics, Know Your Smartphone, Smartphone Beyond Photography, MO Crunch Off, Greenville Career Day, 4-H Camps, 4-H Congress, Gardening at Greenville and Clearwater

Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Wayne 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.



Wayne County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

18 students

- 16 Undergraduates
- 2 Graduate and professional students
- 14 Full-time students
- 4 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

3 people employed by UM

- 3 Campuses



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 4 Nursing
- 4 Health Professions
- 2 Dentistry
- 1 Pharmacy
- 3 Veterinary Medicine
- 14 Agriculture
- 6 Engineering
- 10 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 5 teachers
- 3.9% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 9 students
- 66 alumni
- 3 employees

UMKC

- 1 student
- 6 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 6 students
- 3 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 2 students
- 16 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Wayne County



County population: 10,942



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 27 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$30,892 of 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 27 visits to 9 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 11,169 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 41 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 1,437 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 7 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Grand Challenges

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

Food Security & Access – Agricultural Growth & Stewardship Challenge

The ability to access healthy and affordable food can be a challenge in Missouri's rural and urban communities alike — with negative impacts on people's health and food security status. Food insecurity is the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life. It is associated with many adverse social and health outcomes. Missouri's overall food insecurity rate is 11.8% — and 12.8% for children under age 18. More than half of Missouri's 114 counties and the City of St. Louis report food insecure populations of 12.6% or higher. Multiple interventions that address the root causes of food insecurity can impact this critical public health issue.

Through a partnership with Community Resources Council and a USDA grant, MU Wayne County Extension was able to address food insecurity by distributing 1,940 lbs. of local ground beef, 485 half-pint bottles of local honey and 1,200 locally grown pumpkins at multiple events to acknowledge local producers and resources for helping with food insecurity.





Health & Well-being

Grand Challenge to Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

Kelley L. Brent, Nutrition and Health Field Specialist, Southeast Region

2024 Impact Numbers:

- 3,320 direct contacts for area education
- \$33,437 in captured grant funds and donations distributed over 4 counties for local products and education



Wayne County and Surrounding Area Education:

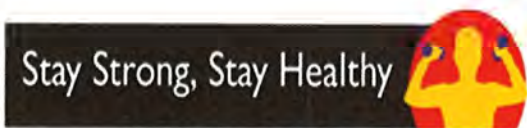
- Virtual Diabetes Self-Management 6-session Series: statewide participants
- Walking Group 16-session Series, Community Resource Council Partnership: Butler County
- Middle School Garden Club Meeting, MU Presentation, USDA Garden Grant Partnership: Butler County
- Food Preservation-Pressure Canning Education and Classes – Butler, Carter, Wayne, and Ripley Counties
- Tai Chi for Overall Health and Fall Prevention 16-session Series and Presentations: Wayne, Mississippi, Carter Counties
- Iron Horse Festival, County Fair Baked Goods and Canning Judge: Butler County
- Matter of Balance 8-session Series: Stoddard County
- Regional USDA-NRCS Education Presentation for Missouri area staff
- Chronic Disease Self-Management 6-session Series: Wayne, Iron, Reynolds Counties *included SNAP-Ed Program
- Stay Strong, Stay Healthy 16-session Series; Wayne, Scott Counties
- Eating for Brain Health Presentation and NPA collaboration with the Housing Authority, Poplar Bluff
- USDA Garden Grant MU Supplies to 8 partners in Butler County Total: \$8,061 (\$12,528 throughout area)
- USDA Local Producer Grant and Food Distribution Events: Butler County, 2 events, \$17,540 of product from Local Producers and distributed into the community, purchased and distributed 1200 lbs. of chicken and 1940 lbs. of ground beef, with an additional 485 half pints of honey, 700 locally produced pumpkins with included educational information, 2,763 indirect household members impacted, Participation: 19 MU Faculty/Staff, 28 Extension Council and Community Volunteers, 22 Community Partners, 12 Free Service Stations at Event, 5 local ranchers, 1 meat processor, 2 pumpkin producers, 1 honey producer
- USDA Local Producer Grant and Food Distribution Events: Wayne County, 3 events, \$2,869 of local product purchase and distribution throughout the area, purchased and distributed 132 bottles of local honey, 500 locally produced edible pumpkins with included educational information, 632 direct education contacts, 1,999 indirect contacts, 11 MU Faculty/Staff workers, 6 community volunteers, 5 community partners, 1 free service station, 1 honey producer, 1 pumpkin producer

Ongoing Efforts in Wayne County and Surrounding Area:

Wi-Fi and workstation at Wayne County MU Extension office, Regional Swimming Lessons, USDA Garden Grant Distribution, Health Fairs, County Fairs, Local Producer Product Distribution Events, Jack-o-Lantern Jubilee Halloween events for region, Annual Women's Conference Speaker (on-going), ECHO Outreach and Education Group, Eat Smart in Parks Initiatives, High Obesity Grant Team Initiatives, MU Extension Resilience Team Initiatives

Actively participating in council meetings, planning meetings, boards, coalitions, committees and community events.

Currently serving: Missouri Parks Association Board of Directors and Officer: Vice-President, Community Resource Council Board of Directors, Board of Directors for the University of MO Extension Employee Association, member of the Butler County Wellness Council, member of the Wappapello Lake Area Association





Health & Well-being

2024 Event and Program Highlights



MU Extension and Greenville Schools Garden Partnership



MU Extension and Williamsville Nutrition Center Partnership and Local Producers Honey Education Event

SNAP Education

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

542 direct and 5,392 indirect contacts were made in Wayne 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.



NPA: Judy Koehr working with our cooking challenge at the Missouri State Fair

Success Story

" I saw a boy at my classes at Greenville Elementary and he immediately remembered me from the summer school classes of "Kids in the Kitchen", even remembered some of the food we had made, and all the kids around him wanted to know if I would be there next summer, and if so, they wanted to go."

Wayne County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Profiles and Stories



“I needed to get active again. Some of my friends were going to the Tai Chi Extension class so I decided to go too. Kelley instructed in a way that it was easy for me to move. I am sure glad I went.”

Veronica Schlater – Tai Chi Attendee



“I enjoy these classes. Everything I need to become stronger is in this class. What a wonderful service to the community.”

Yvonne Miller – Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Participant

“I’m tired of having to ask my grandkids how to do things on my computer. I want to learn for myself.”

Rita Clements –
“Chromebook Basics”
Attendee



Wayne County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Wayne County 4-H member and 4-H State Council Vice President Aaliyah Higgs

Aaliyah Higgs has been a 4-H member for over 10 years. She has worked her way from local member, Greenville Club President, 23-24 Southeast Regional Ambassador, to the 24-25 Missouri 4-H State Council Vice President.



Missouri 4-H Foundation 2025 Scholarship Cycle

William	Friley	FCS Financial 4-H Youth Futures Scholarship
Ashlyn	West	Beverly Coberly 4-H Youth Futures Scholarship
Lillian	Allen	FCS Financial 4-H Youth Futures Scholarship
Courtney	Dilport	Waldo and Mary Belle Turner 4-H Scholarship



Wayne County 4-H Youth dominated the Arts and Crafts show at the Wayne County Fair. Over twenty 4-H'ers placed 1st with two receiving Best of Show in their category.



4-H Regional Farm Art Show

Over 300 Wayne County Youth participated, with 12 placing at regional level.



Wayne County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



Greenville Summer School Camp

In School summer enrichment camp with over 100 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade and some high school IEP students.



Patterson STEM Camp

Area STEM camp for both 4-H youth and non-4-H members. This two-day camp had over 50 youth participating in various activities such as slime making, Oobleck, arts and crafts, healthy nutrition, and gravity defying activities.

Williamsville Outdoor Camp

This three-day outdoor themed camp taught over 50 youth how to grow their own food, make simple recipes outside, archery, taxidermy, nature style arts and crafts, plus making turkey calls and turkey preservation.



Wayne County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



4-H at the Lake – a day filled with STEM projects, emergency training and ecology experiments. 14 from Wayne County attended along with 5 volunteers. Classes held were: Survival Skills, Mental Health, Water & Fire Safety, Food Nutrition, Heat & Hydration, and Wild Animals.



4-H Cardinal Day – a fun day for the family! 30 4-H'ers and 10 volunteers loaded in vehicles and headed for St. Louis to be a part of a professional baseball experience. Young and old were in awe as they toured the Cardinal Baseball Museum. What a day for making 4-H memories that will never be forgotten!

2024 Ignite Group

Wayne County 4-H was represented well as 14 local/regional members attended the 2024 Ignite along with 3 sponsors for 4 days. They learned about healthy living, STEM, and Agri-Science. In their free time, they were allowed to tour our nation's monuments and take in the sights of Washington DC. Not only did the trip expand the 4-H members world view, it also challenged them to better their world once they returned to Missouri.



Wayne County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

PPAT: University of Missouri Extension is tasked with certifying private applicators through trainings, either at event venues or in person office visits. In 2024, there were 4 programs where growers from Wayne County received initial certification or renewed their existing certification. All 4 programs were offered through event meetings. In total, there were 10 participants that received or renewed their private applicator licenses.

2025 Program Highlight

One program that had the largest impact over this past year is the option of in-person PPAT training. While the video serves the basic purpose to certify and recertify Private Applicators, beginning in 2025, that option will not be allowed. The process to obtain a Private Applicators license in 2025 will be much more difficult and there were improvements made by Wayne County personal and myself to ensure that anyone who needed a license was given the opportunity to obtain one.

IPM

One of the most important impacts for 2024 was addressing issues that Ag producers face through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. A pest is defined as anything that diminishes the value of ag resources or interferes with the production and utilization of crop and livestock used for food and fiber. IPM helps producers identify and deal with constant and cyclical pests through the growing season.

Personal Contacts: IPM focuses on identifying and addressing pest throughout the growing season. This calls for email correspondence, farm visits, office visits or phone calls. I had correspondence with several Wayne County producers throughout the growing season. There were 12 farm visits performed where services such as nitrate testing and hay analysis was performed.



Other 2024 Highlights for MU Agronomist, Scotty Smothers, serving Wayne County:

1. Soil Analysis: In 2024 MU processed 251 soil analysis for Wayne county.
2. Media: Interviewed with KTMO at the FDREEC annual field day. (10,000 audience)
3. Contributed to Delta Newsletter (420 membership)
4. Wayne County SWCD board member

Wayne County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

2024 Program Highlight

Jason Morris, MU Ag Business Specialist, invited Dr. Tim Evans, Associate Professor and State Extension Specialist of Veterinary Medicine for MU, to make a visit to Wayne County. During the day, Dr. Evans talked to farmers on their farms and observed the cattle issues that were being discussed.

In the evening, Dr. Evans attended the Wayne County Cattlemen's Association meeting. Approximately 50 farmers came to listen. Dr. Evans presented the "Beef Producers at Risk" program, provided a market outlook and answered a variety of questions from those in attendance.

Beef Producers

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





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

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

Jennifer R. Williams, JD
University of Missouri Extension



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

Jennifer R. Williams taught an estate planning class in Wayne County to **13 adults**, educating them on the importance of completing an estate plan.

“Two weeks after taking this class, my wife and I created our estate plan. I also shared the information I learned from this class with my siblings, and they updated their estate plans too!”



Economic
Opportunity

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

Building Strong Families

Division of Family Services needs parenting classes for their clients. I partnered with the Wayne County division to provide 6-sessions of classes.

Because of the response from the class, we have schedule to do more over the next year. One case manager let me know that one of the parents was already incorporating some of the skills. They had learned from the class.

10 Sessions for 10 weeks
 Started September 16th at 9:30 am

Wayne County
 Piedmont Nazarene Church
 State Hwy 34
 Piedmont MO 63957

No Charge

This program is designed for those 60 years and older

For more information and requirements call 573-996-4097

Computer and Technology Classes

This has been a great response to a need for the Southeast Region. Topics discussed range from learning how a Chromebook works to understanding their phones better. Thanks to a grant that Aging Matters received, we were able to provide these classes at no charge. In our lectures and workshops, 74.6% reported to have learned a new skill. Of those surveyed in our courses, 18 people before the class either agreed or strongly agreed to be comfortable with a computer. After the class, 32 people agreed or strongly agreed to feeling comfortable with a computer.

Keep Your Keys

MU Healthcare Outreach & Injury Prevention developed a statewide program called Keep Your Keys! It's a program designed for the older driver aged 55+. The objectives of this course is to: keep drivers safe and keep drivers on the road for as long as safely possible.

Over 1/3rd were going to talk to their doctors about the effects medication has on their driving ability or keeping a record of the medication with them in case of them being in an accident. A few even recognized that it may be time to retire their keys.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

2024 Summary

Sarah Cope
Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach
Educator
573-469-2679
sarah.cope@missouri.edu



Serving Butler, Stoddard, Wayne, Carter, Ripley, Oregon, and Howell Counties

2024 Update:

It has been a busy year for the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership!

New equipment was offered to two of my counties (Wayne, and Butler) affected by feral hogs and Wayne has received a payout for the purchase of a lime buggy already. Equipment that was placed before 2024 in Carter, Ripley, Reynolds, Oregon, Howell, and Wayne counties is still available for use. The equipment is in place for use free of charge to those with feral hog damage, the others are going to be placed this coming spring. The equipment can also be rented for those wishing to utilize the equipment for other projects and is managed by the local SWCD offices.

Firm numbers are not yet available for 2024, however, there is a ballpark estimate of around 5,000 feral hogs taken off the landscape in 2024, as numbers were around 4,500 before the end of the year when aerial operations began. Comparatively, elimination specialists removed 7,780 feral hogs in 2023.

Aerial operations began again in December and the MFHEP staff are busy locating feral hogs and sending the coordinates to the helicopter for daytime aerial removal. Aerial operations are planned through March with the USDA helicopter, as we have done for the last few years.

In 2024 I attended numerous events & meetings in my counties, updating extension councils, SWCDs, Farm Bureau, and others about the Partnership's activities and progress throughout the year. Highlights include several Ag conferences, Ecology Days, other natural resource events, and landowner meetings that I hosted.

I also contributed to many written publications for the Partnership throughout the year and have been working with USDA by creating lesson plans that can be used to meet state requirements for learning while educating high school students about the importance of removing feral hogs from the landscape.



MFHEP Outreach Educators Jerry Richards, Sarah Cope, and Kevin Crider attend Vienna Beef Forage Conference.



MFHEP Outreach Educator Sarah Cope was a featured speaker at the Ripley County Annual Farm Bureau Dinner.



MFHEP display at O'Neal Elementary's Ecology Day in Butler County.

Looking at 2025

My goals for the new year include:

- Continuing to work closely with Farm Bureau and Missouri Cattlemen's Association and building those relationships.
- Focusing on leads for absentee landowners in hot spots of feral hog activity.
- Continue to make more connections with landowners using targeted outreach strategies.
- Creating more written materials for publication to inform Missourians about feral hogs and the MFHEP.

I am worked diligently in the month of January with my fellow educators to ensure that the 2024 MFHEP Report is ready to be distributed. Both of which I will be distributing to Partners over the next coming months and attending extension council meetings to update the councils on operations statewide and local to their respective counties.

Please contact me for any details related to the program.

County Highlights

Wayne County State Fair Farm Family – The Winner Family

The Winner Family were among those honored during the annual Missouri Farm Family Day held Aug. 12 at the Missouri State Fair. They were selected as the Wayne County Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension Wayne County and the local Farm Bureau. Each year, the fair sets aside a day to recognize farm families from across the state that are active in their communities, involved in agriculture, and/or participate in local outreach and extension programs such as 4-H or FFA. The Winner family operates a 45 plus acre cattle operation. They also manage the Eagle Sky Christian Camp ranch where they raise elk, bison, and cattle.



Wayne County Leaders Honor Roll

The MU Leaders Honor Roll recognizes outstanding leaders and volunteers who have supported and helped to advance MU Extension in their communities.

Julie Gronski and Therra Sisson were added to the Wayne County Extension Leaders Honor Roll in 2024.



County Highlights



Just a glimpse of 2024 Wayne County Extension!
We thank everyone who participated in our programming and events!

