

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Webster County 2025



Annual Report

800 South Marshall Street
Marshfield, MO 65706
417-859-2044

**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 sunset 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



Kyle Whittaker
Extension Engagement Specialist

Jeannie Moreno
Youth Program Associate

Erin Snow
Office Manager



Council Members

- Susan Keene, Chairman**
- Junior Bateman, Vice-chairman**
- Blair Gann, Secretary**
- Alea Clark, Treasurer**
- Lisa Jameson**
- Ilene Philbin**
- Dean Witte**
- Kelly Haymes**
- Carter Campbell**
- Nick Guthery**
- Joel Olsen**
- Rick Fletcher**
- Bill Messick**
- Dale Fraker**



County executives

- Paul Ipock – Presiding Commissioner**
- Dale Fraker – Northern Commissioner**
- Randy Owens – Southern Commissioner**
- Stan Whitehurst – County Clerk**

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriations	55,720
Student Fees	4,969
Friends of Extension	6,190
Resale Services	1,786
Total Income	78,190
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	52,600
Travel	7,137
Telephone	1,899
Office Supplies/Service	1,036
Utilities	2,414
Insurance	3,579
Total Expenses	68,665

Return on investment

University System	188,792
Donations	6,190
Program Revenue	4,969

Webster County partners

Webster County Soil and Water
 Webster Electric Cooperative
 City of Marshfield
 Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce
 Webster County Cattleman's
 Webster County Farm Bureau
 Webster County 4-H Leader's Council
 OACAC
 Marshfield MFA
 Webster County Health Unit
 Marshfield Lion's Club
 Webster County Fair
 Hillside Christian Church
 Marshfield High School & FFA
 Las Cazuelas
 Case Real Estate
 Brooks Gas
 Webster County Beekeeping Club
 Friends of Extension
 Marshfield Machinery
 M3X
 Arvest Bank
 Central Bank

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



Local support

Did you know you can donate directly to Webster 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 Webster County Beekeepers.

UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Webster Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Webster County, showcasing the meaningful ways local engagement supports residents. It includes data on the number of students, employees, retirees and alumni affiliated with the University of Missouri System, along with the healthcare and extension services provided over the past year.

In addition, the report highlights the broader contributions of the UM System across Missouri in key areas such as education, research, healthcare, economic development and public service. It features metrics like job creation, financial aid distribution, research investment, healthcare access and broadband expansion.

This report is a valuable resource for understanding the measurable benefits the UM System brings to Missouri communities. It supports informed decision-making, advocacy efforts and strategic planning by illustrating the tangible impact of university-driven initiatives at both the local and statewide levels.

[Access your county's Impact Report.](#)



GRAND CHALLENGES

Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges — Economic Opportunity, Educational Access, Health and Well-being, and Agricultural Stewardship — represent the most pressing issues facing Missouri communities. They are important because:

By focusing on these challenges, MU Extension in Webster can better leverage university resources, data and partnerships to empower people to improve their lives, businesses and communities.

This report presents localized data and insights in how MU Extension in (your county name) is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

[Access your county's Grand Challenges Report.](#)





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

Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



Missouri 4-H Natural Resources programs engage youth in hands-on learning across climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing, and wildlife conservation. Programs like the **4-H Sportfishing Contest** and **Sportfishing SLAM** give young people practical experience while building teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a love of the outdoors.

The **4-H Shooting Sports** program teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting, and archery principles, demonstrating how 4-H encourages holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs help youth cultivate life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics while exploring the natural world around them.



4-H's Healthy Living programming teaches skills for healthy choices and lifestyles, enhancing overall well-being and equipping youth to tackle life's challenges. Emphasizing social-emotional health, 4-H fitness, health, nutrition, and safety programs cultivate confident, caring young leaders who prioritize mental and physical well-being.

4-H Feeding Missouri has helped provide over 2 million meals to neighbors in need across the state in the last seven years.



4-H brings hands-on learning directly into schools through in-school and afterschool programs that extend classroom lessons. **Teachers, 4-H professionals, and volunteers** guide students through 4-H projects in areas such as science, agriculture, health, and leadership, helping youth connect learning to the real world.

Programs like **Show Me Embryology** give students a front-row seat to science in action as they watch chicks hatch and explore the life cycle of a chicken. These experiences help students grow curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking skills, preparing them to be Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Local Impact

4-H Clubs

- ❖ 4-H participants in Webster County = 133 members
- ❖ 83 4-H Volunteers + 6 youth volunteers
- ❖ 547 student participated in school enrichments programs
- ❖ Webster County 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from computers science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.
- ❖ 37 Kids participated in SNAC (Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) Clubs – Missouri's 4-H Student Nutrition Advisory Council (SNAC) Initiative, developed in collaboration with MU Extension Family Nutrition Education Program (FNEP), creates 4-H clubs that focus on teaching healthy eating in combination with leadership and citizenship skills central to 4-H. SNAC club members learn to advocate for increased healthy eating awareness, education, and initiatives to improve the health of their community.



Webster County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and stories



Building Bird Houses at Roaring River State Park



2025 Clover Kids Camp



4th of July
Parade float

Webster County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and stories



Mighty Eagles Club members stocking the food pantry



4-H Ham Workshop



4-H Clover Kids



Webster County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and stories



4-H Beef Project



4-H Demonstration



4-H Christmas Party



4-H Archery

Profiles and stories



4-H 2025 Honor Award
T-Shirt Winners



4-H Shooting Sports Awards



4-H Western Heritage

Missouri 4-H

Jeannie Moreno, Youth Program Associate - Webster County 4-H

4-H members contribute hundreds of thousands of hours back to their community every year. [Service is a hallmark of all 4-H programs](#), teaching youth about the importance of giving back, [improving our communities](#) and developing innovative solutions to solve problems, large or small. 4-H'ers learn skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, community engagement and build a sense of compassion, confidence and pride.

4-H is an innovator in developing youth leadership and decision-making skills to prepare young people for the future. Our civic engagement programs engage youth in programs, organizations, and communities where they share a voice, influence, and decision-making authority. 4-H civic engagement programs equip young people with [confidence and leadership skills](#) to be leaders today and tomorrow.

Our programming empowers youth to be healthy – body and mind – with the skills to make healthy decisions and lead healthy lifestyles. Having the confidence and skills to lead healthy lifestyles not only improves overall well-being; it enables youth to tackle life's challenges today and become leaders in their lives, careers and communities as they grow into responsible adulthood.





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

Agriculture and Environment



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

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



“A lot of veterans come right out of the service and may feel disconnected and may be struggling with finding job opportunities. The Heroes to Hives program offers a diversion as well as opportunities.”

Eric Work, Heroes to Hives participant

Heroes to Hives offers free professional training in beekeeping to veterans, promoting financial and personal wellness through community development. Missouri’s Heroes to Hives group has trained more than 1,200 veterans since 2021. It is the nation’s largest agriculture training program for U.S. military service members.



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



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

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Jeremy and Joni Day and family of Marshfield were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair.

The Day family was selected as the Webster County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Webster County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Hollis, Hadley, Harper, and Heston.

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 Day family operates a 70-acre cow-calf operation. They raise commercial and registered Simmental cattle and the kids show heifers each year.

The annual event is sponsored by five partner agencies: the Missouri Farm Bureau; the Missouri Department of Agriculture; the Missouri State Fair Commissioners; the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; and MU Extension.

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





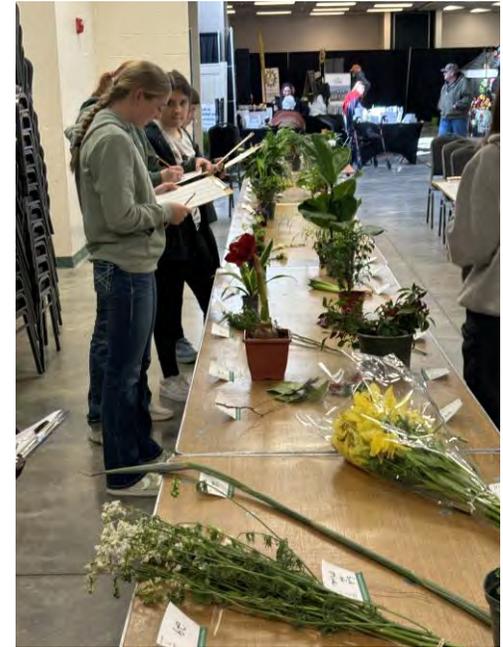
Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Regional Impact

Engagement Activities



Extension Engagement Specialist Kyle Whittaker, MU Extension Workforce Development Specialist Amy Patillo, MU Extension Horticulture Specialist Kelly McGowen and Youth Program Associate Bailey Andrews conducted a Career Development Event workshops at the Springfield Lawn and Garden Show on February 21st. The workshops were held in conjunction with the lawn and garden show hosted by the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. The team provided the workshops for FFA students preparing for district and state competitions. Three workshops were conducted in the areas of Floriculture, Nursery/Landscaping and Entomology.

The Floriculture Career Development Event includes identifying 60 plants from a list of 143 plants. A plant diagnosis and disorders practicum, greenhouse and floral item identification practicum and a written exam.

The Nursery/Landscaping Career Development Event includes 50 plants specimens from a list of 91 shade trees, flowering trees, perennials, evergreen shrubs, vines and ground covers, turf and flowering shrubs. The event also includes a plant disorder and diagnosis practicum, a landscape design practicum and a written exam.

The Entomology Career Development Event includes identifying 40 insects specimens from a list of 114. The event also includes an insect/plant diagnosis practicum, pesticide formulation problem and a written exam.



Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Regional Impact

Engagement Activities



Extension Engagement Specialist – Kyle Whittaker conducted the Southwest District Poultry and Meats Evaluation Career Development Events (CDE) held on the campus of Missouri State University. The meats CDE involved 27 teams from schools throughout southwest Missouri and the poultry CDE involved 30 teams, 204 students participated in the events. The District CDE was held April 3rd and 4th and is a qualifying event for FFA teams competing for the state FFA CDE.

Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Regional Impact

Engagement Activities



Area youth have success at the 2025 Gold Buckle Gala Ham Show. Kyle Whittaker Extension Engagement Specialist serves at the ham show superintendent and hosted several ham curing workshops throughout southwest Missouri. The Gold Buckle Gala is held at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in mid-July



Extension Engagement Specialist – Kyle Whittaker conducted a country cured ham judging clinic in conjunction the Gold Buckle Gala ham show. The clinic was for ag teachers and 4-H project leaders.



Kyle Whittaker Extension Engagement Specialist serving Webster County conducted a poultry processing workshop at the Ag Academy- Springfield Public Schools. The 4th – 6th grade students raised some birds, and the workshop was to harvest the birds. Approximately 75 students and parents attended the workshop held at the DARR School of Agriculture.



Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Regional Impact

Engagement Activities



Kyle Whittaker Extension Engagement Specialist provided instruction of feeder and slaughter cattle grades at the Ag Innovation event hosted by Mid Missouri bank. The event involved hundreds of area agriculture education students. The vent was designed to provide real-world learning. Students were given a budget and paired with a mentor to purchase feeder calves.



Extension Engagement Specialist – Kyle Whittaker a goat carcass fabrication workshop at the 2025 Goat Expo held at the Missouri State fairgrounds last summer. Attendees learned how to process a goat carcass into retail cuts and enjoyed eating chevon (goat meat).



Kyle Whittaker provided a professional development session and exhibited a poster at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents conference held in Billings Montana last July.



Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Webster County



Webster County MU Extension faculty and staff conducted the annual Country Cured ham workshop last January. Several youth and adults participated in the workshops held at the Extension Center..



The Webster County MU Extension Council hosted the 100th Annual Webster County Diversified Ag Conference at Marshfield High School. The vent was well attended with several different topics for attendees to learn about.



Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Webster County



Webster County MU Extension faculty and staff conducted multiple Dry Cured bacon workshops in 2025. Each participant learned how to cure a fresh pork belly using a dry cure. Several Webster County residents have cured bacon, if you have never tried dry cured bacon you should sign up for a class in 2026!



The Webster County MU Extension faculty and staff delivered a variety of programs in 2025. Pictured on the left is a youth sewing class held at the Extension Center. Pictured on the right is a home poultry processing workshop held in Webster County.





Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

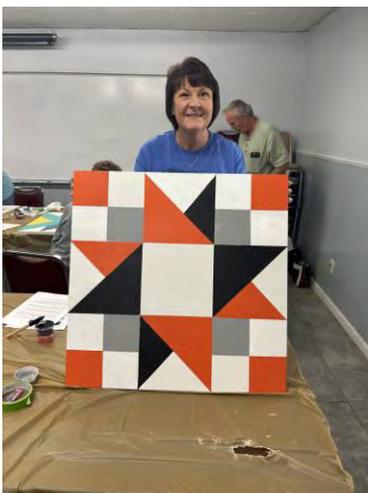
Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Webster County



Webster County MU Extension faculty and staff conducted multiple Barn Quilt workshops in 2025. Each participant learns how to layout a pattern. Each attendee is provided with all materials needed to complete the project. Several Webster County residents have done a barn quilt over the years.





Extension Engagement Specialist
Webster County

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Engagement Activities in Webster County



Webster County Extension hosted a farm lease program. Attendees learned the aspects of a proper farm lease



The Webster County MU Extension council meets once a month. The group helps guide the programming efforts for the county.



Webster County Mu Extension faculty and staff are assisting local 4-H members in preparing for the state 4-H meats competition.



The Webster County Mu Extension Council supports the Leadership Marshfield program. This is an intense year long program.

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories



Dry Cured Bacon Workshop — led by Kyle Whittaker teaches attendees how to apply cure and make their own bacon.

Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories



Field to Freezer led by Kyle Whittaker. This workshop teaches how to score deer antlers using two different methods and how to make deer sausage. This is a hands-on workshop, and attendees can take home some sausage that they made.



Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Profiles and stories



Taney County Buchanan Elementary Career Day



Stoutland FFA Poultry Contest — One of many FFA contests ran by Kyle Whittaker

Lamb Carcass Cutting Demonstration — Kyle Whittaker and Eric Meusch led a demonstration on cutting up a lamb carcass into usable pieces.





MU Extension
through credible statewide programs
Agriculture and Environment



One program that I really enjoy being a part of is **Cattle Artificial Insemination School**. This biannual program happens every spring and fall and is very popular with cattle producers. We educate them on all things reproduction from protocols to getting hands on with live cattle.

This year I branched out and took on a role with the **MU Extension Ag Drone Education Team**. Myself and other specialists work to deliver ag drone based programming across the state as apart of a grant secured by Jay at the SWREEC. We will continue this program into 2026, please reach out if interested.



My last highlight of 2025 was serving as a reasons judge at the State Level for the **Missouri FFA and 4-H Dairy Judging Contest**. This is one event that I participated in as a youth myself, with both FFA and 4-H, and has heavily influenced my educational and career path.



Chloe Collins, MS | Dairy Field Specialist

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



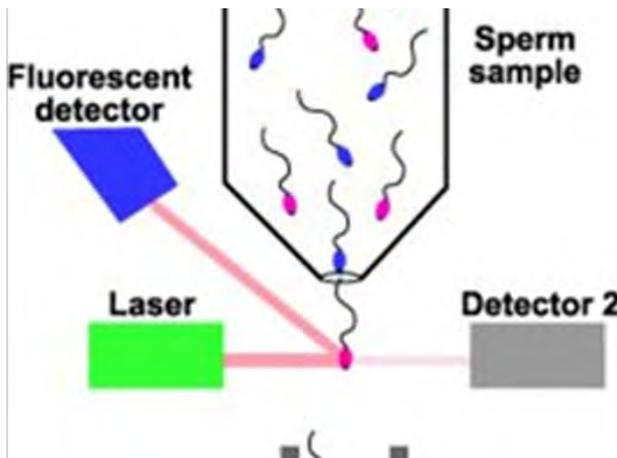
Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment



I started the year in Webster County by partnering with Ag Business Specialist, Jake Hefley, to host a **Land Lease Workshop**. We covered basic leasing topics, structure basics, and even touched on leasing cattle themselves.

I was able to present at the **Webster County Diversified Ag Conference** this past spring where I discussed building back cattle body condition score coming out of winter. This is especially important for spring calving herds whose cattle will be having calves and lactating.



One online webinar program that was offered and had attendees from Webster County was my **Sexed Semen Webinar**. I taught about what sexed semen is within artificial insemination and how to most successfully utilize it in our herds.



Webster County

Agriculture and Environment

Agriculture Business & Policy



The 2025 Spring Forage Conference provided **47 Webster County producers** with research-based training on soil fertility, forage species, grazing systems, native grasses, and managing fescue toxicosis across beef, dairy, and small-ruminant operations. Participants gained practical, production-focused strategies to improve pasture resilience and livestock performance.



Practical Economic Insights for Agricultural Lenders helped **3 Webster County lenders** interpret commodity trends, analyze farm financial stress indicators, and assess credit risk in agricultural loan portfolios. Attendees strengthened their ability to support producer financial resilience in a volatile economy.

The SW-REEC Poultry Processing Demonstration

trained **54 Webster County students and teachers** in small-scale poultry processing, including safe handling, sanitation, workflow design, and regulatory compliance. Participants gained skills to support on-farm or direct-market poultry enterprises.





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

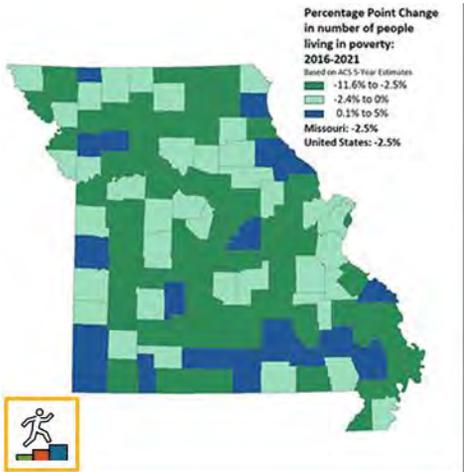
Business and Community



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

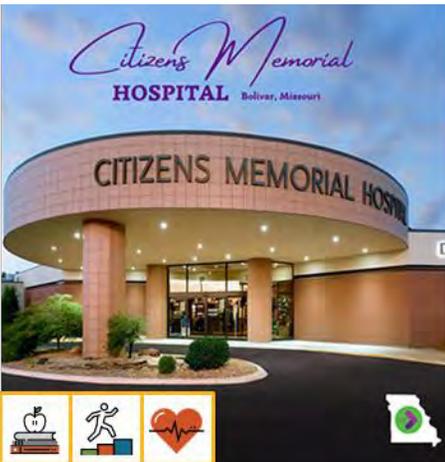
“The overall knowledge that I have gained through this course has been amazing. From how to engage stakeholders in the community, to planning events and hosting meetings, these are all tools that I will fully utilized going forward.”

2022 NLA graduate



The **Missouri Economy Indicators (MEI)** series explores business, industry and workforce topics that affect Missouri’s economy. The data is shared through newsletters and on social media. MU Extension faculty and staff receive talking points and collateral to share with local stakeholders.

In 2022, MEI published 15 issues, and MEI online resources were accessed MORE THAN 5,000 TIMES. Two out of five MEI newsletter recipients reported using the information to help guide policy or decision-making in their work.



Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFWs) foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension’s Labor and Workforce Development Program.

As of 2024, 41 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,651 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community

Profiles and Stories

Reimagining Your Workforce



Second-Chance Hiring Practices

Reimagining Your Workforce Conference 2025

The **Reimagining Your Workforce Conference** highlighted the impact of strong partnerships—MU Extension, Arvest Bank, Ozark Region Nexus, Missouri Recovery Friendly Workplace, and Springfield Workforce Development & Economic Vitality. Through shared risk, shared learning, and shared commitment, partners deepened trust, aligned their priorities, and launched coordinated strategies to expand talent pipelines, support recovery-informed workplaces, and strengthen Missouri's economic vitality.

Featured speakers delivered powerful insights on employer engagement, talent pipeline development, recovery-informed workplaces, and regional workforce alignment. Their expertise helped deepen collaboration, spark new partnership commitments, and equip communities with actionable strategies to strengthen Missouri's workforce and economic vitality.

Recovery Friendly Workplace Employer Designation Training

In addition to presenting to approximately 50 leaders at the Ozark Region Nexus statewide meeting, the Recovery Friendly Workplace Employer Designation Training engaged 28 employers and community partners who gained practical tools to support employees in recovery, reduce stigma, and strengthen workplace culture. Participants reported increased understanding of recovery-informed practices and greater confidence in implementing policies that promote safety, stability, and employee retention across their organizations.

The **Reimagining Your Workforce Conference** convened 93 statewide participants representing **employers, educators, service providers, and community leaders**. Attendees gained evidence-based tools, built partnerships, and strengthened alignment around Missouri's short-, medium-, and long-term workforce needs—resulting in measurable increases in knowledge, collaboration readiness, and actionable next steps.

Strong Partnerships at Reimagining Your Workforce Conference 2025



Business and Community

Profiles and Stories



Barry-Lawrence County Ag Resource Fair and Disability Expo

The Barry—Lawrence Counties Community Resource Fair & Disability Expo welcomed 105 families, caregivers, community members, and service providers on September 25, 2025, at the Southwest Extension, Engagement, and Education Center in Mt. Vernon. More than 50 organizations participated, offering a wide range of services and support for individuals with disabilities and their families across southwest Missouri. The event was made possible through the partnership of University of Missouri Extension, Missouri AgrAbility, the Lawrence County Board for the Developmentally Disabled, the Coalition of Charities, and local collaborators. Attendees praised the event’s organization, the quality and variety of information provided, the excellent facility, and the inspiring performances by Champion Athletes and the Art Creative Dancers.

Second-chance hiring Engagements

Across three speaking engagements with Rotary clubs and regional Recovery Coalitions, *Reimagining Your Workforce: Breaking Barriers Together* reached 167 community leaders, employers, and service partners. These presentations strengthened understanding of second-chance hiring, highlighted effective workforce strategies, and equipped attendees with practical tools to support justice-involved individuals in reentering employment. Participants reported increased awareness, stronger cross-sector collaboration, and a renewed commitment to expanding opportunity for workers across southwest Missouri.



Second-chance hiring at the Ozarks Recovery Coalition meeting

Business and Community

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension coordinated and offered tax education through one summer and three fall tax schools. The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, installment sales, tax benefits of home ownership, retirement tax issues, and individual tax issues. The schools were approved for up to 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 4,024 hours.

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

The evaluations had many positive comments and helpful suggestions. One comment from an online participant was “The video was outstanding — best I’ve seen on any CPE I’ve done live.”. Planning is underway to offer trainings in 2026. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, 2025 National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2025 school attendance totaled three hundred eighty-nine people, which was an 11% increase from 2024. The participants were from throughout Missouri and two from out of state.

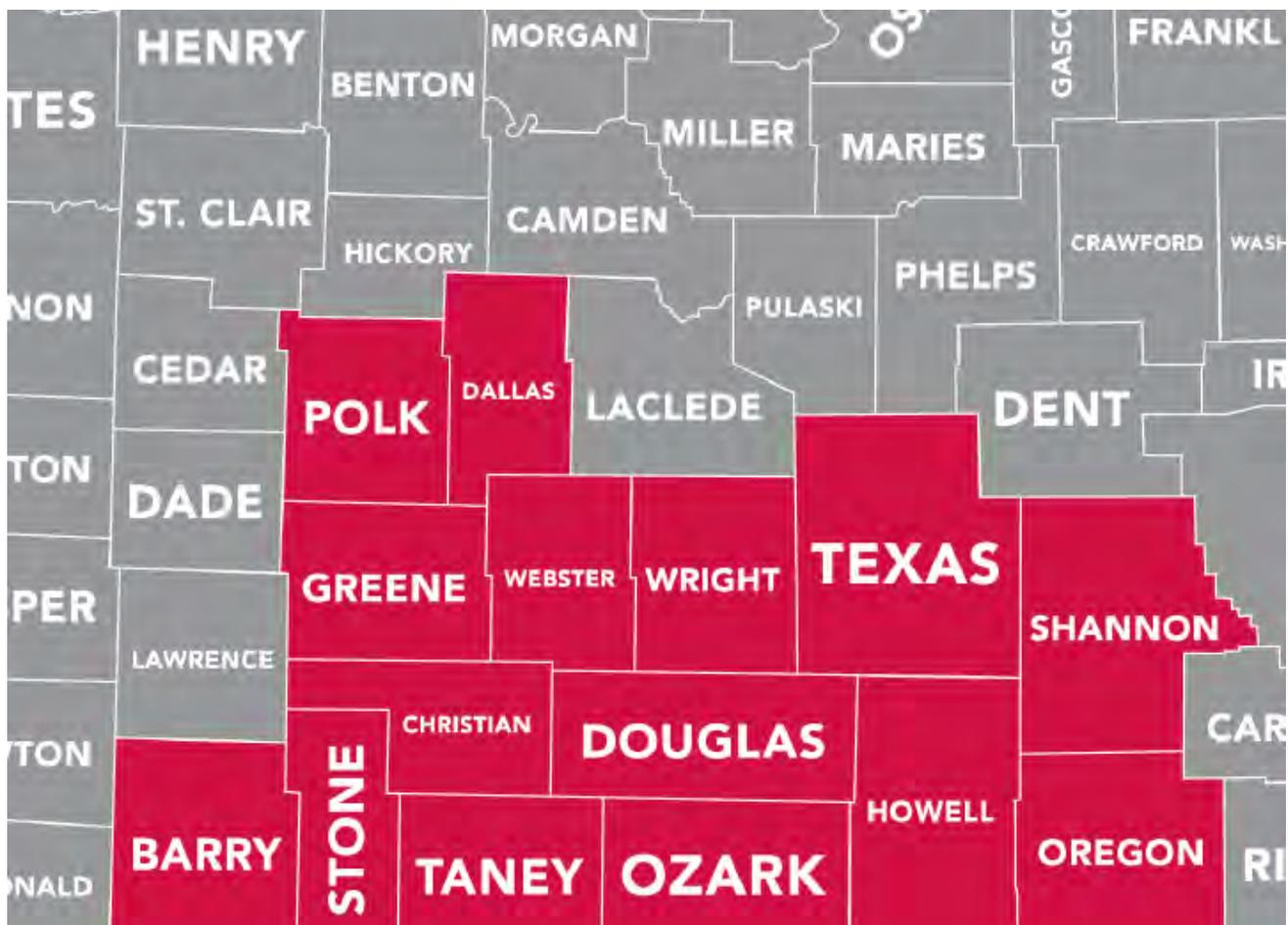


Current Period Start: 01/01/2025

Scorecard End: 12/15/2025

Webster County

Data Elements	Value
\$ of Government Contract Awards	\$696,382.00
# of Government Contract Awards	13
Unique Clients Served	32
Number of Clients Counseled	33
Number of Training Event Attendees	432





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

Continuing Education



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute** (MU FRTI) is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighter and emergency responders.



LETI's **National Animal Cruelty Investigations School** provides training on investigating abuse and neglect of animals. Multi-level courses prepare future animal care workers to handle most types of incidents. Several jurisdictions throughout the country require the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School's training for employment as animal cruelty investigators.



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



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

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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

Health and Human Sciences



A Matter of Balance helps older adults overcome their fear of falling, increase their activity levels and reduce their risk of falls. In eight classes, participants learn fall-prevention strategies, develop personal prevention plans, acquire balance-improving exercises and make lifestyle changes to minimize their fear of falling.

“I have cleaned my house of clutter for safety, put non-slip stickers on my tub floor, I’m getting much more regular exercise and I’m feeling stronger.”



Cooking Matters

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

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

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

Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant



Rural Immersion Program is an opportunity for medical students interested in rural practice to gain experience in the rewards and challenges of working and living in a rural community, examining rural health disparities and quality of life concerns within a specific region. Group activities and meetings with community leaders in business, government, education, health care and natural resources give students a preview of life in a rural area.

Rural Immersion Program participants agree that it has significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2025

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,419,598 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 70,722 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 970,939 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, and food pantries.

11,070 direct and indirect contacts were made in Webster 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.

EFNEP Public Value Statement 2025

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought \$1,624,777 federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll 424 limited-resource families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing 1,550 family members. Additionally, 2,942 youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes.

33 of these youth and adult participants reside in Webster County.

Participants in EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, increasing their physical activity, and making 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.

Webster County

Health and Human Science

Profiles and stories



**State of Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS**
*“Improving Lives for Safer
Communities”*
**Employee Health and
Benefit Fair**
at the
**Ozarks Correctional
Center in Fordland,
MO**

Alicia Amyx-Winrod, Field Educator in Nutrition and Health, and Kelly McGowan, Field Specialist in Horticulture represented the Webster County Extension office at the Ozark’s Correctional Center Health Fair in November 2025. Serving up Energy Bites, nutrition publications, seeds, and gardening resources, Alicia and Kelly served more than 65 staff members at this health fair. The both provided additional resources in 4-H, mental health, community resources and highlighted up-coming programming for Webster County Extension.

Cooking Matters: Nutrition Education Project

The Nutrition Education Project is a FREE series of 6 Cooking Matters classes taught by MU Extension, funded by Missouri Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, that allow you to cook alongside instructors from your own home. The virtual instruction is provided live to a small group with the opportunity to interact with the instructor and other participants and free groceries to prepare each recipe that are delivered to your home



Local Impact



Safe, Efficient Food Systems for All

Salmonella remains one of the world's most persistent foodborne threats, causing 1.35 million infections and over \$4 billion in annual economic losses in the U.S. alone. Despite decades of national efforts, infection rates have remained unchanged—underscoring the need for new, data-driven solutions. The **SENS-D** project (Sensor-Enabled Decision Support for Food Safety), funded by the National Science Foundation's Convergence Accelerator brings together an interdisciplinary team of 19 experts in public health, food science, engineering, supply chain analytics, and AI to combat this issue through a *One Health* approach. By developing rapid sensing technologies and an integrated decision-support system (DSS), **SENS-D** enables real-time detection of *Salmonella* within 10–60 minutes and supports optimized, equitable, and sustainable food supply chains. Working with partners across industry, food banks, and academia, **SENS-D** aims to create a safer, more resilient food system—one that can also be adapted to detect other pathogens and reduce the \$152 billion national burden of foodborne illnesses.



Partnerships to Fight Foodborne Illness

A National Science Foundation grant project

The Webster County Health Unit in Marshfield, Missouri, agreed to collaborate with University of Missouri Health and Human Sciences and participate in an interview investigating the application for food safety information and conversations in Webster County in November 2025.

Unit Administrator, Scott Allen, along with xxx, and xxx participated in a virtual interview with MU SENS-D scientists and MU Extension HHS staff for an in-depth conversation about food safety and food born illness in the rural landscape.

These partnerships are invaluable when investigating foodborne illness detection opportunities.



SENS-D team's lab demonstration with an NPR reporter at University of Missouri campus. Right to left, Drs. Mahmoud Almasri, Kate Trout, Tatijana Fisher, Haitao Li, Hoa Hoang, Project Manager James Rohl, PhD student Mohammed Almalaysha. Dr. Amit Morey (not included in the photo) joined via Zoom.



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



Home Food Preservation

Preserve the season's bounty in a safe and delicious way.

Learn safe techniques for pressure canning, boiling water bath canning, steam canning, dehydration, and freezing.

Understand the importance of using safe food preservation and storage methods to avoid cross-contamination and food-borne illnesses.

"This course made me more self-sufficient and improved my family's access to quality food."



Chronic Disease Self-Management programs offer evidence-based information for individuals and their caregivers to boost self-confidence in managing symptoms, enhancing quality of life and even reducing health care expenses.

These programs have undergone rigorous evaluation and are proven to be effective tools for individuals dealing with chronic conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, depression and diabetes.



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

HELPING HANDS FOOR PANTRY leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating \$1,000 of pantry discretionary spending for **LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE**



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Webster County



Carol Hughes leads a class on Water Bath Canning
This class is a part of a monthly series on Food Preservation.

Water Bath Canning Class

Food Preservation Classes
that were offered by
Webster County
Extension in 2025.

- Jelly in Water Bath Canning
- Garden Planning
- Pressure Canning
- Backyard Foraging
- Lacto-Fermentation
- Pressure Canning 2
- Herbal Remedies
- Backyard Chickens



Webster County Impacts

Participants

2,324

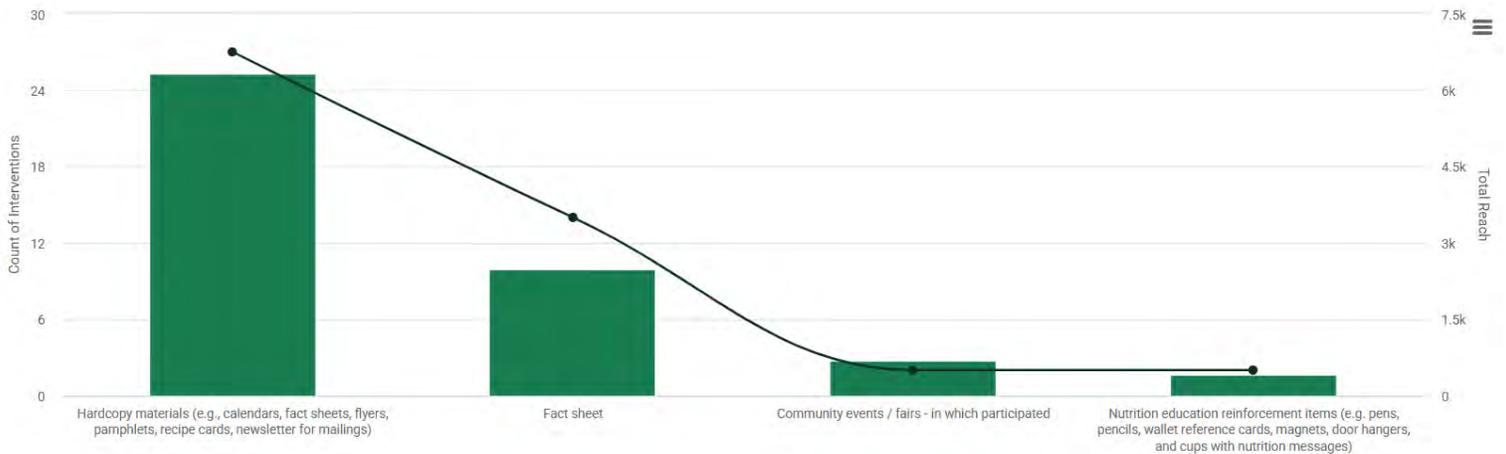
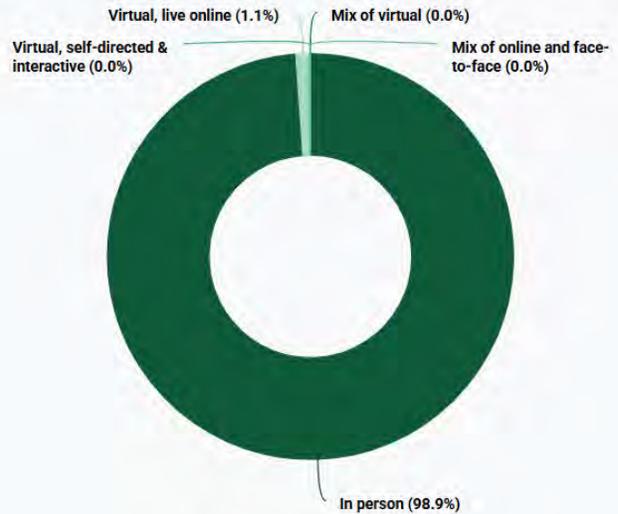
Sessions

309

Hours

297

Delivery Methods



Intervention Channels and Reach

Category	Total Reach	Channel Count
Hardcopy materials (e.g., calendars, fact sheets, flyers, pamphlets, recipe cards, newsletter for mailings)	6295	27
Fact sheet	2455	14
Community events / fairs - in which participated	675	2
Nutrition education reinforcement items (e.g. pens, pencils, wallet reference cards, magnets, door hangers, and cups with nutrition messages)	385	2

Webster County Impacts



**Barn/Garden Quilt
Class December 6th,
10am-3pm**



What is a Barn Quilt?

It is a 2' x 2' quilt pattern painted on wood.

What is a Garden Quilt?

It is a 1' x 1' quilt pattern painted on wood.

To register for the class, contact the MU Extension Center in Webster Co. at (417) 859-2044 or register online at <http://extension.missouri.edu>; keyword search "Barn / Garden Quilt Class Webster County".

Class will be held at:

Webster County Extension Center
800 S. Marshall Street
Marshfield, MO. 65706

All supplies and materials will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a sack lunch, light snacks will be provided.

Cost—Barn Quilt—\$50
Garden Quilt—\$25



An equal opportunity/ADA Institution



**University of Missouri Extension
Webster County**

Do you want to learn how to dry cure your own ham?

When: **Sat. Jan. 11th 3pm-7pm** Inclement weather date is **Jan. 18th**
This is a one hour class. When registration please pick the 1 hour time slot you prefer.

Each person will be provided with all materials and will leave with a 20-23 pound ham and instruction on what to do next.

Registration deadline is December 19, 2024. Cost of this workshop is \$45.00. Mail your registration to Webster Co. MU Extension 800 S. Marshall Street, Marshfield, MO 65706. Or stop by the office.

* Cash or check only.



Extension YOUTH AND FAMILY

EACH HAM REQUIRES A SEPARATE REGISTRATION

Sat. Jan. 11
3pm 4pm 5pm 6pm 7pm

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

An equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran employer

Key Outcomes in 2025	Totals		Totals
Phone Calls	1,972	Facebook Followers	1,336
Walk-ins	862	Facebook Views	67,100
Soil Tests	186	2025 4-H Membership	133
4-H Member Increase	29%		
4-H Volunteers	83		
4-H School Enrichment	547		

Report Based on the "County Contact Summary" produced from our MyExtension



Extension
University of Missouri