



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Worth County

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# Office of Extension and Engagement

*University of Missouri*

## OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT

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December 2022

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

We have much to celebrate and anticipate in 2023. As you know, Chad Higgins is taking over from me as interim vice chancellor of extension and engagement and interim chief engagement officer for the UM System.

Chad believes in transformational leadership and change that will continue to advance the University of Missouri's land-grant mission. He has a strong team around him to support MU Extension in this time of transition.

Most important, Chad has **you** as key partners in championing our work to empower each county and community and to improve every Missourians' access to economic and educational opportunities and health and well-being.

We started our journey in 2016, reimagining what extension and engagement needed to be to meet communities' 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. Your partnership has led to a true renaissance of extension and engagement that will serve as the foundation for MU Extension's healthy future through this decade and beyond.

The challenges of the pandemic showed us how to be even more responsive and nimble. Thanks to the foresight of state leadership, we are also now in a much stronger budget position. We have the organizational, staffing and program structure in place to keep growing the value and impact of MU Extension and university engagement work at the local level.

We have made strides in each year's areas of focus: broadband, workforce development, community and mental health access and care, and now food security in this current year.

I hope you see throughout this county annual report the impact of your own partnership and hard work in these areas. I thank you for your continuing support as we recommit ourselves to do what we do best: Serve Missouri, Deliver Mizzou.

Sincerely,

Marshall Stewart, EdD  
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement  
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

# Who we are

## Faculty and staff



Kevin Fisher, Worth County Extension Office Manager and Bookkeeper is employed by the Worth County Extension Council in partnership with the Worth County Progress organization.

## Faculty and Staff Serving Worth County

### **Randa Doty**

County Engagement Specialist in Agriculture and Environment, Community Development

### **Kevin Fisher**

Office Manager, Progress Development Planner

### **Cody Green**

Youth Program Associate through April

### **Jim Crawford**

Field Specialist in Agricultural Engineering

### **Shawn Deering**

Field Specialist in Livestock

### **Rebecca Lobina**

Small Business Development Center Director

### **Debbie O'Neal**

Nutrition Program Associate

### **Katie Pemberton**

Field Specialist in Human Development

### **Becky Simpson**

Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

### **Kaylie Walker**

Field Specialist in Health and Nutrition Education

### **Connie Griffith**

Family Nutrition Program Manager

### **Gina Lucas**

Extension Engagement Specialist

### **Stacey Steffens**

Northwest Regional Director

## Council members

David Hunt, Chairman, MFA Representative

Chevy Davidson, Vice-Chairman, Ag Sector

Jessica Davidson, Secretary, Business

Julie Tracy, Treasurer, Farm Bureau

Meggan Brown, City of Grant City

Steve Cordell, Ag

Adam Downing, 4-H

Staci Downing, Business

Amanda Gilland, Home & Family

Abby Hawk, Business

Mary Kay Hunt, Home & Family

Tyler Paxson, County Commissioner

Sherri Runde, Home & Family

Justin Seipel, 4-H



The Worth County Extension Council held an annual Stocktober personal care supply drive for the Worth County school. Mission Possible donated clothing items and other items were donated by the community. Pictured L-R; Jessica Maschino, Sherri Runde, Meggan Brown, Amanda Gilland, Amanda Campbell, Jessica Davidson, Amanda Pottorff, Cris Healy, & Marty Myers

## County commissioners

### **Jubal Summers**

Presiding Commissioner

### **Regan Nonneman**

East District Commissioner

### **Tyler Paxson**

West District Commissioner

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### 2022 Income

County Appropriations	\$6,600
Investment Income	196
Student Fees – 2023 Barn Quilt Class	750
Worth County Progress Contract	7,913
Soil Test Services	333
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15,792</b>

### 2022 Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	\$13,435
Travel	1,418
Telephone	360
Office Supplies/Service	427
Printing/Advertising	14
Insurance	256
Soil Test Expense	279
Program Expenses	63
Bank Fees	6
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,258</b>

## Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ The 4-H program in Worth County had 41 Youth members and 8 volunteers enrolled in 3 clubs in the county. Members participated in the Worth County Livestock Show, Achievement Day, Missouri State Fair and were given opportunities to participate in state activities.
- ✓ The Worth County Progress organization continued the partnership with the Worth County Extension Council by partnering together for a shared Office Manager/Development Planner.
- ✓ In December, the Worth County Extension Council partnered with MU Extension and the Nodaway County Extension Council to hire a Youth Program Associate that will work 10 hours per week in Worth County. Please help us welcome Dana Auffert to the county.
- ✓ A Tigers for Troops site was held in Worth County. This program is a Veterans Clinic through the School of Law at the University of Missouri. Veterans were given the opportunity for free consultations.

## Worth County Progress partnership with Worth County Extension Council

Kevin Fisher, Worth County Extension Council Office Manager/Worth County Progress Development Planner's key accomplishments

- ✓ Monthly bookkeeping and reports to the extension council and the Worth County Progress Organization
- ✓ Assisting and supporting individuals and businesses to promote Worth County
- ✓ Support grant funding to Worth County including access to high speed internet

## 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 salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

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



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Worth 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.



# Economic Opportunity

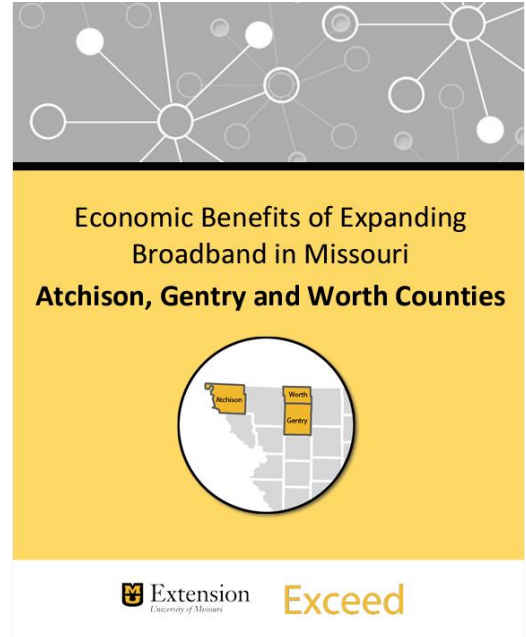
## UM System Broadband Efforts – Digitally Connected Communities

Broadband access in rural areas has been a major priority at federal, state and local levels. The Northwest Regional Council of Governments partnered with MU Extension to address this issue by developing a broadband plan for Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway, and Worth Counties. NWRCOG, MU Extension Field Faculty, and economic developers worked together to hold community forums in each county, survey individuals and businesses, and to develop a plan for northwest Missouri’s broadband expansion.

The community vision that was adopted by the group is: "To create a northwest Missouri where all residents and businesses have access to reliable and affordable broadband to meet their daily needs regardless of where they access the digital network. In addition, provide support and education to assist those who need it, and increase the adoption of this technology to improve daily lives." The plan is complete and available on the NWRCOG website. It has already been used by local governments and internet service providers to aid them in grant applications and planning for expansion of broadband.

As a result of the work that was done by the DCC team, in northwest Missouri, the UM System Broadband Team identified this area to be the focus of the P3 Business Plan competition. For this event, three teams of UM System students competed for cash prizes. Their task was to complete a Private, Public Partnership plan for broadband in northwest Missouri. They were given all the work that the DCC committee had completed, along with the Broadband Benefits Analysis for Atchison, Worth, & Gentry County and the Analysis for Nodaway County. Both analyses were prepared by the CARES team at the University of Missouri.

The teams used those resources along with other resources that they identified to draft a business plan and presentation. They made their presentation in Maryville to members of the communities, elected officials, and other dignitaries in the region. The NWMO Region benefitted from this effort. The region is prepared to apply for funding for buildout of broadband and has identified needs within the community.



An Economic Analysis of the impact of broadband to Atchison, Gentry and Worth Counties was compiled by MU Extension’s Exceed program.



MU Vice Chancellor of Extension and Engagement, Marshall Stewart, addresses the audience of northwest Missourians about the importance of rural broadband at the P3 Competition Event.

To view the Economic Benefits of Expanding Broadband in Atchison, Gentry and Worth Counties or the Digitally Connected Communities Broadband Plan for NWMO, scan the QR Code or visit <https://nwmorcog.org/programs/economic-development/>





# Educational Access & Excellence

## County 4-H & Youth Programing

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

### 4-H community clubs

- 4-H participants = 41
- Worth County 4-H community 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 computer science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.

### 4-H SPIN and special-interest programs

- 4-H participants = 13 Gentry/Worth Horsemanship SPIN Club
- Worth County 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs and programs include community partnerships and events, and other educational activities.

### Volunteers

- 4-H members are supported by 10 youth and adult volunteers



Youth participating in a service project for one of the local communities

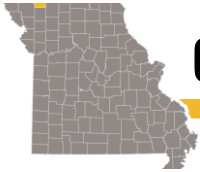
- Time valued at \$29,950
- Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$29.95 per hour (Independent Sector, 2019). More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.



Worth County Livestock Show



Youth completing a leather work project during a club meeting



# County highlights

## Family Nutrition Education Program

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.

During 2022, 441 youth and adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Worth County: Worth County Elementary and Mission Possible Food Pantry.

In addition to the numbers, Nutrition Program Associate, Deb O'Neal shared this success story demonstrating local impact: One of the first Kindergarten classes I taught was at Worth County Elementary in Grant City. When it was my last session, the children told me that nutrition was their favorite class, and they were going to miss learning about it. They were sad for the classes to end, but excited to know that I would be coming back to see them in the fall when they were in first grade. They said they couldn't wait to see what we would learn about next year. They also asked if we could have astronaut pudding with every lesson because in their words "That was the best snack EVER!" Several students also said that they had shared recipes on the newsletters with their families to help them make healthier snack and meal choices. It is so exciting when we see evidence that the Family Nutrition Education Program is truly making a difference in the lives of the residents of Missouri!!

## Policy, Systems and Environment Programming

Because a portion of their salaries are paid with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) funding, nutrition and health education specialists are required to initiate approved policy, systems and environment (PSE) projects in each county they serve.

In 2022, Kaylie Walker worked with Worth County Head Start on signing up for the Go NAPSACC program. Kaylie is a technical assistant consultant for Go NAPSACC which helps child care providers improve their practices, policies and environments to meet best practices in seven areas. These seven areas include child nutrition, breastfeeding & infant feeding, farm to ECE, oral health, infant & child physical activity, outdoor play and learning and screen time.

The providers at Worth County Head Start are also participating in Physical Activity Learning Session (PALS) taught virtually by Kaylie Walker and Debbie Bennett. PALS consists of five trainings where providers can earn CEUs and resources to use at their centers. PALS goal is to increase ECE providers knowledge of best practices for physical activity in children birth to five. This training started in late 2022 and will continue on into 2023.

## NWMO VITA Program

MU Extension Specialist, Randa Doty, and community volunteers offered free tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to clients across the Northwest Missouri Region. In 2022, 216 federal and state tax returns were filed. Clients were also counseled on ways to reduce their tax burden through education and savers credits.

Specialists helped several clients claim their Economic Impact Payments and many received Earned Income Tax Credits. Many clients may not have filed returns without our free services. Total Federal Returns for the clients serviced by the regional team was \$224,764, with an average return of \$982.24. The total in state returns was \$56,993, with an average of \$238.39 per taxpayer.

Many clients are repeat customers. They trust us to file their returns with accuracy, privacy and to treat them with respect and dignity. Through VITA MU Extension trains community volunteers to and are looking forward to growing this program in the future.



**Free Personal Income Tax Preparation**

MU Extension is offering FREE tax return assistance for the 2021 tax year through IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in northwest Missouri.

