



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Worth County 2025

Annual Report



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**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

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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,

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

WHO WE ARE

Faculty and Staff

Jennifer Osborn

Extension Engagement Specialist

Kevin Fisher

County Office Support Staff

Rachel Brown

Field Specialist in Community Health

Katie Buchs Pemberton

Field Specialist in Human Development

Jim Crawford

Field Specialist in Agri Systems Technology

Denise Ferguson

Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Jennifer Miller

Field Specialist in Agronomy

Gwen Funk

Field Specialist in Horticulture

Connie Griffith

Nutrition Program Manager

Shawn Deering

Field Specialist in Livestock

Deb O'Neal

Nutrition Program Associate

Debbie Bennett

Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Annette Deering

Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Jackie Spainhower

Field Specialist in Community Development

Council Members

Chevy Davidson, Chair

Meggan Brown, Vice Chair

Amanda Gilland, Secretary

Jessica Davidson, Treasurer

Kyle Dignan

Whitney Dillard

Staci Downing

Mary Kay Hunt

Morgan O'Grady

Tyler Paxson

Farah Richey

Sherri Runde

Michelle Summers

Julie Tracy



County Commissioners

Jubal Summers, Presiding Commissioner

Tyler Paxson, West Commissioner

Regan Nonneman, East Commissioner

BUDGET AND MORE

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	9,500
Investment Income	1,002
Gifts/Grants/Contracts	8,882
Resale/Educational Service Fees	178

Total Income 19,562

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	15,098
Travel	2,691
Telephone	215
Advertising	195
Office Supplies/Service	764
Insurance	447
Miscellaneous	21
Bank Service Charge	24
Soil Expenses	92
Election Expense	50

Total Expenses 19,597

Worth County partners

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



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.

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 or Master Gardeners.

Local support

[Click here to support Worth County MU Extension](#)

In the designation box, find Extension and click the down arrow, then the County Funds down arrow, then scroll down to **“Worth County Gift Fund”**



UM SYSTEM COUNTY IMPACTS

MU Extension in Worth County Community Impact Report

This report offers a detailed overview of how MU Extension positively impacts Worth 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.

[Worth 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 Worth County 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 Worth County is addressing these challenges. Each section breaks down county-specific statistics compared to state averages.

[Worth County's Grand Challenges Report.](#)





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Missouri 4-H for Ages 8 – 18



What is 4-H?

4-H is where Missouri's young people find their spark and learn by doing. Whether raising animals, coding robots, growing gardens, or giving back to their neighbors, 4-H members gain real-world skills with the help of caring mentors.

Rooted in University of Missouri Extension, 4-H connects classrooms, communities, and families to create learning that sticks—building confident, capable leaders who are Beyond Ready for life. In 4-H, youth discover their strengths, practice resilience, and learn to lead with heart—preparing them not just for what's next, but for anything that comes their way.



Community clubs are at the heart of 4-H. Led by trained volunteers, members come together regularly to learn, lead, and serve. Youth elect officers, enroll in projects, and plan hands-on activities that build leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. Some clubs focus on a single project—like photography or livestock—while others explore a variety of topics throughout the year.

SPIN (Special Interest) **clubs** provide a short-term way to dive deep into a specific topic with expert guidance. These clubs meet for several weeks to a few months, giving youth flexibility while developing skills to be Beyond Ready for life.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture programs give youth hands-on experiences in areas such as animal science, veterinary science, plant science, and agronomy. Members explore the biology, care, and management of animals and crops while developing problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership skills.

Youth can also put their knowledge into practice through statewide competitions, including **Livestock Judging**, **Meat Judging**, **Hippology**, the **Missouri 4-H Equine Tour** and more. These experiences help participants apply what they've learned, gain confidence, and prepare for future careers in agriculture and related fields.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

4-H Camp at Crowder State Park

The best gift we can offer to our youth is the chance to grow into capable, resilient, and independent individuals—equipped with skills that last a lifetime.

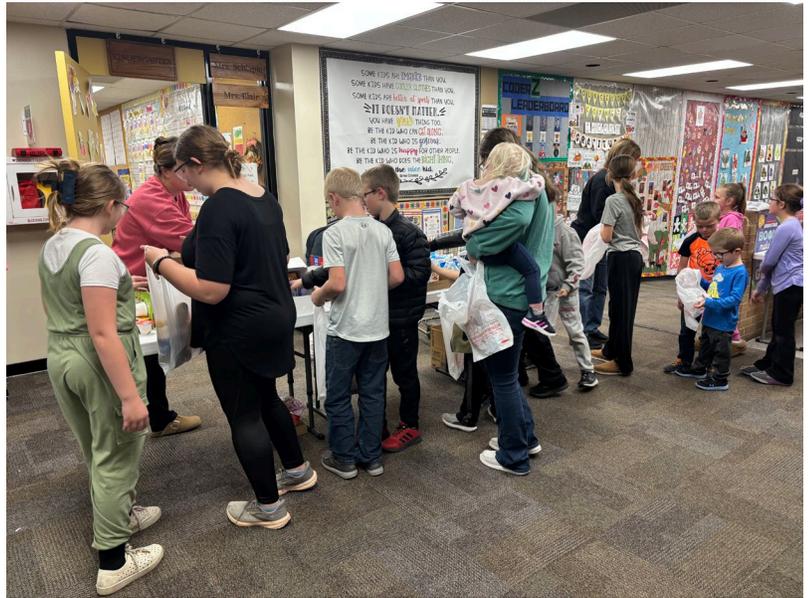
That's exactly what kids found this summer at 4-H camp at Crowder State Park. Held over three sessions—June 2–5, June 6–7, and June 9–12—camp gave over 235 youth the opportunity to unplug from devices and connect with nature, peers, and themselves. More than just a fun summer experience, 4-H camp is a unique environment where kids learn resilience, independence, problem-solving, and leadership. These are the very traits that help young people navigate stress, challenges, and setbacks—not just now, but for the rest of their lives.

The benefits of 4-H camp don't end when the bags are unpacked, and the bug spray is put away. What kids take home—self-confidence, resilience, lasting friendships, and a sense of achievement—are tools they'll carry with them for years to come.



Profiles and stories

Worth County 4-H- Making an Impact



The Allendale Arrows 4-H Club, pictured above, volunteered time after the school day to fill Backpack Buddy bags. The time devoted to addressing food security in Worth County was of great benefit to the residents of the county. Over 15 kids participated. The youth filled 180 bags of food for the Backpack Buddy program, which translated to six weeks worth of food.

Northwest Missouri 4-H Energizer

120 youth across the 14 NWMO counties joined at the Northwest 4-H Energizer on February 1st. Youth had a number of learning sessions to choose from that consisted of Cake Decorating, Beginner Cooking, Intermediate Cooking, Advanced Cooking, Leatherwork, Woodworking, Conservation K-9 working dog demonstration, Punch Needle Art, Photography, Arts and Crafts, Geology, Poultry, Dogs and Cats, Crochet and Knitting, Arts and Crafts, Mechanical Flowers and Water Color, Electricity, Public Speaking, Yoga, Sportfishing, Healthy Living- "Mastering Love with Discipline and Respect", and Mammal Study. Special day-long programming was offered to 4-H Clover Kids, 4-H Youth aged 5-7 years which included first aid training provided by the Cameron Ambulance District.





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Agriculture and Environment



The **Missouri Master Gardener** program enables people of all ages to get in-depth horticultural training and apply what they've learned to improve their communities and educate others about gardening.

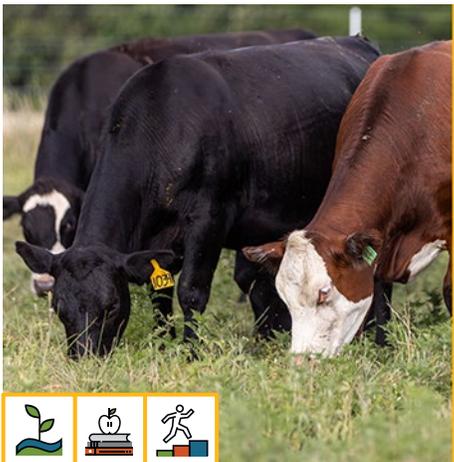


In 2023, almost 4,000 Missouri Extension Master Gardeners completed over 149,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.



The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for more than 30 years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems in crops. In addition, the new Soybean Growth Monitoring Report is released through IPM every two weeks during the growing season.

The MU Soil Testing Program delivers research-based nutrient and lime recommendations to more than 32,500 customers annually.



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

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Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Agriculture and Environment

Three-State Beef Conference

The 40th annual Three-State Beef Conference continued to be a major educational event for local beef producers, drawing 37 participants in Maryville and reaching another 72 producers in Iowa and Nebraska. Attendees learned about the genetics of calving, yearling bull management, and the latest research on pinkeye all topics that directly influence herd health and profitability. Producers also worked through practical bull-buying exercises using EPDs, helping them confidently apply genetic tools to real-world decisions.

The conference strengthened the local beef industry by improving producers' ability to manage herd health challenges, make informed breeding selections, and respond to emerging livestock issues. Its multi-state format also enhanced networking and knowledge-sharing, creating stronger regional connections that benefit farms across the region.



Utilizing Drones in Missouri Agriculture Workshop

Eighteen people attended to learn more about drones in Missouri agriculture. The workshop, led by Field Specialist in Ag Engineering, Jim Crawford, featured a classroom session covering the rules, regulations and license requirements to operate a drone as well as calibration steps, tips on spraying herbicides, and fungicides and also seeding cover crops with a drone. The afternoon provided hands on training in the operation of drones. After the workshop, attendees are better equipped to make the decision on purchasing and/or utilizing drones in their operations.



Horticulture Local Impacts

Collaboration and Community Partnerships

Strong partnerships amplified program impacts throughout 2025. Collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation, county commissions, community organizations, and industry partners supported events such as homesteading workshops, Women in Agriculture meetings, and native plant programs.

Regionally, The Great Plains Growers Conference, held in Northwest Missouri, reached approximately 300 participants from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, connecting producers with educational sessions and industry vendors. Education was provided by MU Extension, Lincoln University, K-State, University of Iowa Extension and University of Nebraska Extension



Ag Update and Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Extension delivered comprehensive training to educate crop producers on the safe handling and application of restricted-use pesticides, strengthening regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship across the region. Participants gained critical knowledge in pest identification, economic thresholds and injury levels, emergency planning procedures, and the environmental ramifications of improper pesticide application.

Following Private Applicator Training, Extension agriculture staff expanded learning through “hot topic” sessions addressing emerging issues and innovations in horticulture, agricultural engineering, agronomy, livestock production, and agricultural business. Additional specialized training was also provided for aerial application and non-soil fumigation, ensuring applicators were certified to safely apply pesticides in grain bins and utilize drones when needed.

Together, these efforts enhanced producer knowledge, supported safe and efficient pesticide use, and reinforced Extension’s role in promoting sustainable and responsible agricultural practices.





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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 annual **Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities** conference is designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators and nonprofits interested in increasing their communities' potential for entrepreneurship. In 2023, the conference offered breakout sessions in Benton County's shops and businesses, providing firsthand insight into the world of entrepreneurial communities.



Missourians from all walks of life celebrated the **2023 Missouri Good Neighbor Week** Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 by completing and reporting neighboring acts and nominating others as the most engaged neighbors in their counties.

In 2023, the goal was to document 15,000 acts of neighboring. That goal was surpassed with 19,752 Missourians being positively affected during MISSOURI GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK.



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Health & Well-Being

Business and Community in the Region

In 2025, community development work across Northwest Missouri continued to focus on strengthening people, places, and systems in ways that foster belonging, expand contribution, cultivate leadership, and support long-term community vitality. Serving ten very rural counties, my role emphasized facilitation, capacity building, leadership development, and cross-sector collaboration—often acting as a connector between residents, organizations, and institutions. The activities summarized below reflect a year of intentional place-based work designed to ensure that rural communities are not only resilient, but welcoming, engaged, and positioned to thrive. Many northwest Missouri residents participated and benefitted from programming and activities offered throughout the region. Jackie Spainhower, Community Development Specialist made these offerings a reality for the betterment of the region.

Belonging

- Engaged Neighbor and Good Neighbor Week
- Extension Express – NW Region Newsletter

Contribution

- Grant Writing 101
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance
- Strengthening Local Food Systems (72)

Leadership

- Neighborhood Leadership Academy (4)
- Build Your Board (4)
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (16)
- Maximize Northwest Missouri
- First Impact (18)

Vitality

- MO EATs (72)
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (16)
- CEC Monthly Exchange Webinars (34)
- Grant Writing 101
- Digital Marketing Workshops (32)
- Nonprofit Technical Assistance
- Show Me Neighborhood Art (3)
- Workforce Summits (29)
- Public Board Training
- Strategic Doing & Facilitations (45)



"I like being amongst like minded people that are focused on community."

-2025 NLA participant



Business and Community

Strategic Doing and CEC Conference

Strategic Doing

Community Development Specialist Jackie Spainhower facilitated Strategic Doing with several groups across Northwest Missouri. This method has benefitted local groups in the region to move their work forward with intention in an organized and efficient way. Strategic Doing is a method of enticing change through group collaboration. By finding common goals, identifying internal strengths, and planning action items, immense change can occur. Jackie facilitated Strategic Doing with Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation and with the Gentry/Worth Mental Health Task Force.



The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference

The CEC Conference, hosted annually by University of Missouri Extension, delivers immediate and long-term economic benefits to Missourians and host communities alike. By drawing entrepreneurs, business leaders, and civic stakeholders from across Missouri and beyond, the conference generates direct local economic activity as attendees invest in lodging, dining, shopping, and unique attractions not available in their home communities. In 2025, the conference brought 164 attendees from 48 Missouri counties and four states to Excelsior Springs, significantly increasing visitor spending while showcasing local businesses, venues, and cultural assets. Beyond short-term tourism impacts, CEC strengthens Missouri's economic development pipeline by equipping participants with practical tools, peer networks, and actionable strategies they take back to their communities—multiplying the conference's impact through improved entrepreneurship support, workforce development, and civic capacity across the state.

In 2026, the conference will be held in Nodaway County.



Connecting
Entrepreneurial Communities
University of Missouri Extension





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

Continuing Education



The **Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)** program provides specialized fire training for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated airports. The program uses a Mobile Aircraft Fire Training simulator to provide realistic on-site fire and rescue training at airports, which are required to provide recurring ARFF training for their airport firefighters.



The **Missouri Extension Disaster Education Network** provides education and technical assistance to individuals and families, local governments, schools and organizations so they can prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Because of the unique relationship it maintains with each community, MU Extension is a key resource for the public, emergency services and public officials.



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.**



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Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Council Development

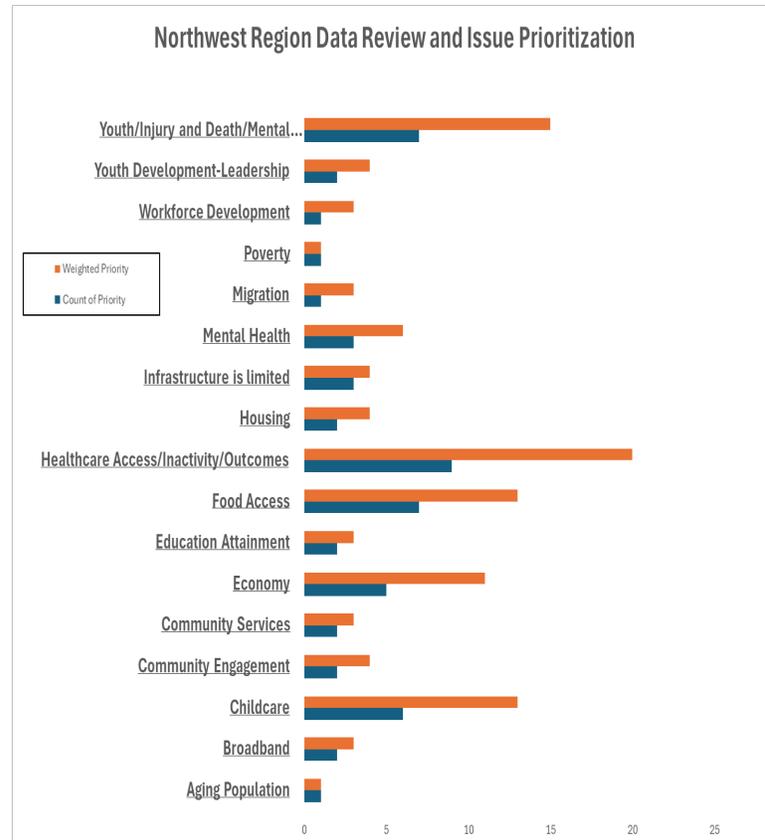
COUNCIL STRATEGY FOCUSED COLLABORATION

MU Extension Councils guide local programs, manage resources, and support community needs. For their work to be effective, decisions must draw on both data and local knowledge. MU Extension's statewide mission focuses on Missouri's grand challenges in Agriculture, Health, Economy, and Education – issues that are especially varied and complex in Northwest Missouri. Councils in Northwest Missouri reviewed a significant amount of local data from All-Things Missouri, a data platform through CARES at the University of Missouri.

This initiative helps councils use data more strategically to strengthen decision-making and increase local impact. By blending statewide data with community insight, councils can identify top needs, set clear priorities, and deliver programs that directly address local concerns. In Worth County, the councils, identified and prioritized food security, mental health, and youth leadership as areas of focus.

The Northwest EES team was able to glean information throughout the region that was shared with stakeholders, the university, and legislators as well.

Priorities in the Northwest Region saw similar priorities as seen on the bar graph to the right.



☰ Maps Reports Resources Support

All Things Missouri

Your gateway for interactive mapping, reporting, and insights into issues facing Missourians.



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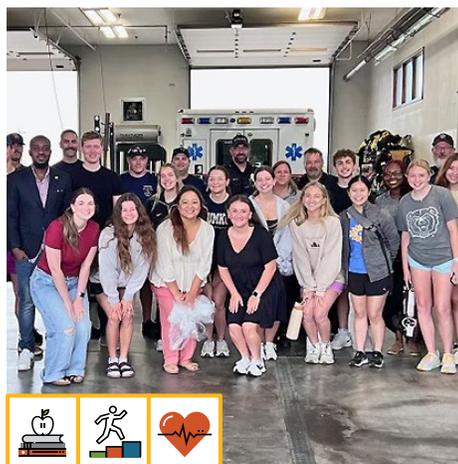
Health and Human Sciences



Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can lead to trauma and increased risks of substance use disorders, including opioid and alcohol misuse.

Show-Me ACEs:

- In collaboration with Kinship Caregivers and the MU School of Law, developed a trauma-informed legal toolkit to help reduce the impact of ACEs across the state.
- Partnered with the Missouri Community Health Commission to offer Empowerment Workers sessions (17 sessions, 122 participants) and Healing Circles (2 sessions, 15 participants) in southeast Missouri.



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.



Mental Health First Aid equips people to recognize and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use challenges.

Your Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people (ages 12-17) facing mental health or addition challenges while the adult version focuses on adults aged 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.



In Missouri, approximately 1 MILLION ADULTS and 72,000 ADOLESCENTS suffer from MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.*

*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

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Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impacts

Mental Health First Aid

In 2025, Katie Pemberton and Jessica Trussell, trained 123 individuals through Mental Health First Aid training, including both Youth and Adult modules offered virtually across all nine counties. Mental Health First Aid equips participants with the knowledge to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental health challenges and provides an overview of common treatments.

The program has been proven to:

- Improve understanding of mental health conditions
- Reduce stigma surrounding mental illness
- Increase the amount of support provided to those in need

By delivering this training, Trussell contributed to fostering healthier communities and empowering individuals to provide critical mental health support when it is needed most.



Local Impacts

SNAP Education

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.

1,320 direct and indirect contacts were made in Worth 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.



Agriculture and Environment

Worth County State Fair Farm Family

The Cadle family of Grant City were among the families honored during the 68th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 11 at the Missouri State Fair. Chris, Ashley, Addison, Aurora, and Alivia were able to attend the event and are pictured below.

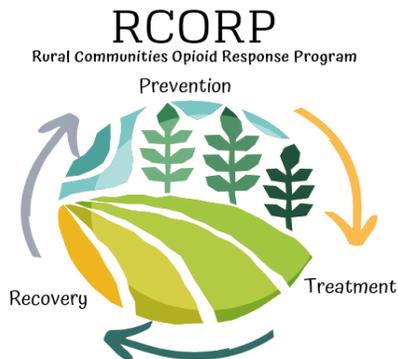
The Cadle family was selected as the Worth County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Worth County and the local Farm Bureau.

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 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.”



Coalition Work



The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program has been in place in Northwest Missouri for many years and I have been a part of this group from the beginning. The most recent round of RCORP covered 4 years and \$2,000,000.00. Partners were able to initiate behavioral health services into one school in year one to 23 by year four. The group has been able to support prevention and stigma reduction work in northwest Missouri to coalitions in the region and has pushed the work beyond to include mini grants supplied to schools, faith-based groups, and more.

Jen Osborn, EES and Rachel Brown, Community Health Specialist, have been involved in the sustainability team for this grant in 2025 aiming to ensure that the progress is sustained beyond of the end of the grant set for August of 2026.

Proposal

Develop	Develop Advisory Committee for NW Commission
Target	Target continued telehealth in a streamlined way throughout the region
Utilize	Utilize RCORP Consortium to centralize prevention efforts
Peer	Leverage Peer Support and Community Health Workers for cost efficiency



Sustainability planning has included reviewing where grant funding has flowed and determining feasibility of the behavioral health providers in the area to bill for services and provide capacity for services. 50% of the grant funding has been directed to treatment, primarily to Northwest Missouri youth in the school system through telehealth therapy services, in person therapy and peer support. Establishing follow up and warm handoff has been critical. Telehealth services have been provided by Embark Counseling as well as from UMKC which is within the UM System. The other 50% has been allocated to prevention and education in the region. Prevention has been provided by Northwest Health Services (NWHHS) themselves, but funding has also been funneled to various local prevention coalitions of which Brown and Osborn have been able to partner with throughout 2024 and 2025. We proposed that communities look at the use of Opioid Settlement Funds to keep funding local and to support prevention and education work. Jen Osborn, EES, was able to provide education at the Northwest Missouri Regional Commissioner’s Meeting in Sheridan in the fall. The abatement strategies of the opioid funding aligns with the work that has been done through RCORP funding by local coalitions.

To continue aligned priorities of coalition work, in 2026 NWMO coalitions have agreed to form a northwest regional coalition for continued impact. Representation will include coalitions from Harrison, Daviess, Worth, Nodaway, Andrew and Atchison to name a few.

First Impact

First Impact was brought to Worth County by Jackie Spainhower, Community Development Specialist. The presentation was co-facilitated by Jackie and fellow Community Development Specialist, Deana Dothage. First Impact is an evidence-based traffic safety education program delivered across Missouri to reduce teen motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities. The program focuses on educating parents and teen drivers about Missouri's Graduated Driver License (GDL) law and the critical role families play in promoting safe driving behaviors. The interactive session increased awareness of teen driving risks, strengthened parent-teen communication, and equipped families with practical tools to support safe driving during the most vulnerable years.



Worth County Leader's Honor Roll

The MU Extension's Leaders Honor Roll recognizes leaders and volunteers who have helped to advance MU Extension's work in their communities. Worth County Leaders Honor Roll recipient, Sherri James, was honored at the basketball game. Sherry was presented with the Leaders Honor Roll certificate by MU Extension Council representatives, Julie Tracy, Chevy Davidson and Kyle Dignan, pictured right.

