



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Wright County 2024

Annual Report

608 East State Street
Mountain Grove, MO 65711
417-349-4134

SERVE
MISSOURI.

DELIVER
MIZZOU.



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

Office of Extension and Engagement

University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT

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December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

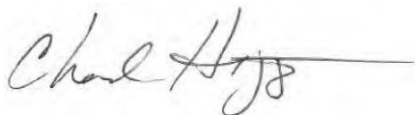
We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,



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

Who we are

Faculty and staff



- Kyle Wake, 4-H Specialist
- Ashley Garner, Nutrition Educator
- Chloe Collins, Dairy Specialist
- Janice Weddle, Extension and Engagement Specialist
- Christi Crisp, Nutrition Educator
- Courtney Smith, Office Manager

Council members

- Lee Richardson, Chairman
- Gail Newton, Vice-chairman
- Courtney Emery, Secretary
- Connie Mitchell, Treasurer
- Edie Richardson
- Randy Pamperien
- Susan Brooks
- Janice Duke
- David Ellis
- Mary Holder
- Rhonda McIntosh
- Tim Sparks
- Chris Tinsley
- Becky Davis
- Donna Harper
- Jacob Kelley

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	54,480
City Appropriations	6,100
Total Income	60,580

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	34,879
Mileage	2,736
Telephones	4,900
Supplies/Services	6,500
Utilities	0
Insurance	1,470
Capital Repairs	2,500
Total Expenses	52,985

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 *Wright* County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the *Wright* County Commissioners and the City of Mountain Grove for their continued support of extension programs.

Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to *Wright* 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.

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Wright County



University of Missouri System
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UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

23 students

- 17 Undergraduates
- 6 Graduate and professional students
- 15 Full-time students
- 8 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

3 people employed by UM

- 3 Campuses



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 4 Medicine
- 8 Nursing
- 8 Health Professions
- 5 Dentistry
- 7 Pharmacy
- 8 Veterinary Medicine
- 24 Agriculture
- 28 Engineering
- 5 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 6 teachers
- 2.2% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 16.7% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 14 students
- 96 alumni
- 2 employees

UMKC

- 4 students
- 23 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 3 students
- 26 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 2 students
- 5 alumni
- 0 employees



Construction projects

- \$9,600 remitted to 1 county vendor, for 1 project



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Wright County



County population: 18,244



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 128 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$86,385 of uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$43.61 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 105 visits to 43 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

- 2,550 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 156 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 2,394 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development

Wright County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM system Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In 2022, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 81,645 jobs.



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

- Between FY17 and FY22, UM system brought Missouri more than \$1.46 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY23, UM System was issued 33 patents and filed 61 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY23, the UM System awarded 805 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$279.2 million in the state.



In FY23, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 18,381 hrs of case-based instruction to 2,938 learners located in 112 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



41,992 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2022)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 174,692 farmers and related businesses (2022)



311,749 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2022)

Education Highlights

FY23 Financial Aid Awards

In FY23, 67.3% of the UM System's 80,702 students received financial aid totaling \$973.7 million

MU		UMKC	
27,256	\$536.0M	11,859	\$217.3M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded

Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,748	\$117.7M	8,489	\$102.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 485 K-12 school districts (832,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2022.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 32,098 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2022-23.
- UM System awarded 36.6% of the 1,935 research doctorates and 26.9% of the 3,593 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2022-23.
- In FY23, UM System's \$37.9 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.3% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2023, over 10,900 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM system Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure. MU Extension also supported residents in making individual challenges to the FCC that resulted in \$810,000 in additional funding for the state of Missouri.

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

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

Prepared in December 2023, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions



WRIGHT COUNTY

Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

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

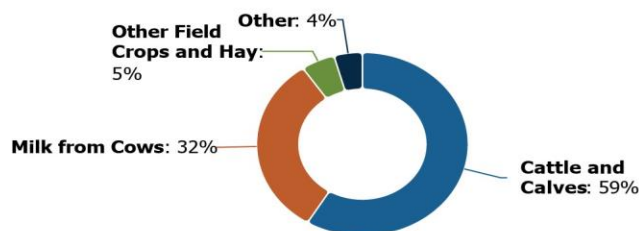
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$44,776,000



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.

Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$5,600,000 in 2017, an average of \$5,022 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Wright	1,115	\$5,022
Missouri	95,320	\$29,485

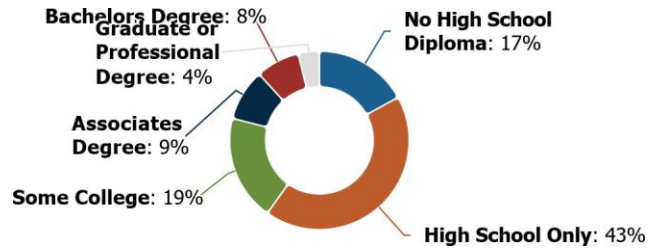
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.

£. CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Educational Attainment*

Adult Educational Attainment

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 and is an estimated average for the period from 2017 to 2021.

In the report area, 19.1% of adults have at least some college education and 17.2% of adults have an associate's level degree or higher. However, 42.8% stopped their formal educational attainment after completing high school, and 17.0% of adults did not complete high school.



No High School Diploma

17.03%

Missouri 9.02%

Wright

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2017-21.

CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2019 and 2021, adults over age 65 in the report area had 480 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 4,365 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have improved since the 2013-15 time period when the rate was 4,532.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

4,365

Missouri 5,396 ↘

Wright



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population, and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 3 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 3,630 residents over the age of 65. The patient provider ratio in the report area is 1,210:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,210 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 242:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

1,210:1

Missouri 242:1

Wright

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#). December 2023.

CHALLENGE 4: Agriculture: *Jobs Derived from Agriculture*

Missouri has a diverse agriculture industry, strong in crops and livestock, as well as food and forestry processing industries. These industries remain a significant part of Missouri's economy, supporting more than 1 in every 10 jobs, on average. In 2021, agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Missouri were estimated to contribute: 456,618 jobs, \$93.7 billion in output and \$31.8 billion in household income. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

Percent of Jobs Derived from Agriculture

21.60

Wright

Missouri

23.55

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, [Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority](#). 2021.



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Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



4-H In-school clubs meet during the school day. Members participate in projects that supplement their existing lessons. Clubs may meet for short periods or span the full 4-H program year. Members can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs

employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Local Impact

Community Club Impact

In **2022-2023** Calendar Year:

Community clubs consisted of **97 members** in two clubs

In **2023-2024** Calendar Year:

Community clubs consisted of **117 members** in three clubs.



Wright County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

Community Club Impact

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Community clubs consisted of **97 members** in two clubs

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Community clubs consisted of **117 members** in three clubs.



Wright County

Missouri 4-H

Profiles and Stories

Wright County 4-H in-school members participated in a new curriculum focused on first aid. The students were able to learn about: Blood pressure, CPR, the use of a tourniquet, and basic suturing skills.

Wright County Community Club members had the opportunity to learn how to dry cure hams that would be not only preserved but also able to be show at the fair.



Wright County 4-H got the opportunity to spend time in the Ag department at one of the local schools where we discussed beef cattle production and youth got to observe reproduction tracts and see stages of pregnancy.

Total Enrollments

22-23: 91

23-24: 117





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through credible statewide programs

Agriculture and Environment

SWREEC Career Exploration Day

SWREEC Mount Vernon, MO - September 19th

1600 local youth, middle to highschool age, attend the field day.

“Chloe Collins spoke to multiple groups of students about the structure and function of the rumen. She was also able to expose and educate students on a cannulated cow and their purpose in the agriculture research industry.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Ask The SW Ag Experts

Online Zoom Program - December 12th

3 attendees, 9 specialists

“Chloe Collins organized a region wide program which involved agronomy, horticulture, dairy, livestock, and ag business specialists. Specialists introduced themselves and spoke about their area of expertise and what programs might be of interest to producers. Then time was given for attendees to ask questions from the specialists.”

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Spring Forage Conference

Springfield, MO - February 20, 2024

“The 40th Annual conference is a collaboration between University of Missouri Extension regional ag specialists, Natural Resource Conservation Service employees, and Soil & Water Districts. This conference brought in nationally recognized speakers to create a high-quality conference. This conference had approximately 450 producers and industry stakeholders attend. The Spring Forage Conference planning committee is made up of NRCS, Soil & Water, and MU Extension personnel including: Elizabeth Picking, Patrick Davis, Andy McCorkill, Tim Schnakenberg, Micah Doubledee, Terry Halleran, Reagan Bluel, Chloe Collins, David Brown, Wesley Tucker, Jake Hefley, and Jennifer Lutes.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Artificial Insemination School

Joplin, MO - April 16-18th, October 29-31st

“Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, Reagan Bluel Dairy Specialist, and Chloe Collins Dairy Specialist taught artificial insemination schools in April and October of 2024 in partnership with Kent Daniels from Select Sires, FCS Financial in Joplin, American Foods Group, and Joplin Regional Stockyards. This multi-day school combined classroom learning about estrous synchronization, reproductive anatomy, and management strategies to increase AI success with hands-on learning. Attendees were able to get hands on practice artificially inseminating cows and handling and thawing semen. These 24 attendees, from across SW Missouri, became certified to artificially inseminate cattle.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Ozark Fall Farmfest

Springfield, MO - October

“Chloe Collins served as one of the co-coordinators for the annual MU Extension booth at the Farmfest event. This is a three-day agriculture focused event with an estimated 40,000+ people in attendance. This year we were set up in the new Wilson Arena, a prime vendor location, and multiple extension staff were present to interact with attendees.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Ozark County Livestock & Forage Conference

Gainesville, MO -

“The Ozark County conference was a partnership with Ozark County Soil and Water Conservation District and Stockman’s Bank. 65 beef and dairy producers attended the event. Elizabeth Picking spoke about Reproductive Management of the Cowherd in 2024, Chloe Collins presented about Assessing the Mineral Status of your Herd, and Dr. Sarah Kenyon spoke about Weed Management.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
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Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Wright County Junior Fair Dairy Show

Grovespring, MO - June 2024

“The Wright County Junior Fair Dairy show was a huge success this year thanks to multiple sponsors and volunteers. Multiple youth competed in breed classes, with representation from all seven dairy breeds, as well as showmanship classes. Chloe Collins served as ring help, presented awards, helped with announcing the show, taking registrations, and even made a show ring appearance to help a family who ran out of showmen.”



Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
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Health
& Well-Being



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Agriculture and Environment

Marshfield Booster Club Dairy Judging Contest

Marshfield, MO - March 2024

“Chloe Collins provided guidance and organizational support for the Dairy Judging contest held at the Webster County Fairgrounds. From sorting cow classes to taking oral reason presentations from contestants, this was a great event to educate youth on a small portion of the dairy industry and pique their interest.”

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being



County highlights

Heather Conrow
Livestock Specialist
State 4-H Animal Science Educator

Ge • net • ics (/jə'nediks/) the science of genes and how traits are passed on from one generation to the next

Genetic Lockbox

Objectives: "Obtain a basic understanding of genetics. Distinguish genotype and phenotype. Define dominant and recessive alleles and how they are represented."

Genetic Lockboxes are an innovative and interactive means to educate the public about genetics. Participants exercise communication techniques as they work together to solve the puzzles. The puzzles are designed to make participants think through and apply problem-solving skills to genetic concepts. Participants will struggle, make mistakes, and rely on teammates.

Through a partnership with Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, the Genetic Lockbox has gone statewide with **64 boxes** located across the state. Teachers, 4-H volunteers, FFA advisors, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, etc. can reserve box(s) free of charge. It comes with all the puzzles, hint cards, answer sheets, and a 25-page Facilitator's Guide.

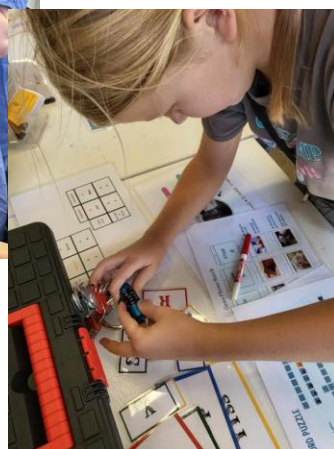


*Crack the codes to open the locks to get the *prize* in the box.*

*Prize not included

Fun Facts

- ❖ If all DNA strands in all the cells of **ONE** person were stretched out, it would reach to the sun and back more than **600** times
- ❖ Scientists can never clone a dinosaur because DNA has a half-life of **521** years
- ❖ Humans are **80%** genetically similar to cows
- ❖ Bone marrow transplant patients end up with **2** different DNA profiles
- ❖ All humans receive **3** feet of DNA from Dad and **3** feet from Mom
- ❖ Heart, eye, and brain cells never replicate; therefore, they can never be replaced if damaged
- ❖ Less than **2%** of our DNA codes for proteins - the rest is called "junk DNA," but is still useful
- ❖ A mouse uses more DNA from its father than its mother
- ❖ Almost all tortoiseshell cats are female, only **ONE** in **3,000** calico cats is male



Learn More



2024 Report



Covering Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, and Wayne Counties

2024 In Review

This year saw the expansion of natural resources programming to many of my counties. I'm happy to report some highlights of 2024:

- Forest Health Field Day in the Shoal Creek Watershed in Crawford County
- Invasive Plant Workshops in Dent and Texas Counties
- Revival of Missouri Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) program
 - Monthly virtual Zoom meetings featuring women natural resources professionals connecting with women woodland owners over topics of interest.
- Youth programming: 4-H soil and water experiment and watershed curriculum
- Keep Your Forest in the Family Legacy Workshop

It was great getting to connect with everyone in person and over Zoom. I will continue to offer virtual natural resources programming as it's the best way to reach all my counties. I will also continue to bring in-person programming to more counties as well. Thank you all for your support in 2024.

Stay Up-to-Date on Natural Resources Programming

Follow our newsletters to receive information monthly about our upcoming programs & learn more about Missouri's natural resources:

MU Extension Natural Resources Newsletter



bit.ly/MU-Ext-Natural-Resources

Women Owning Woodlands Newsletter



bit.ly/missouri-wow

Looking at 2025

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2025.

- Women Owning Woodlands Monthly Zoom meetings
- WOW Chainsaw Safety Courses
- Invasive Plant Workshops
- Tree identification hikes
- Forest Management field days & tours
- Natural Resources youth programming

Let me know what you'd like to see in your county- looking forward to engaging with everyone in conservation next year!

Business and Community Development

David L. Burton
Community Development
Specialist
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LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

Headquartered in GREENE COUNTY

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key “Muscle Groups.”



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Seth Kaplan (at left), author of “Fragile Neighborhoods.” Program has participants from 38 different states now.

Show-Me Neighborhood Art Week — This new statewide art program celebrating public art and an increased sense of belonging as a result of this event. Had hundreds of participants, including 73 art installations statewide.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week— statewide we document 31,129 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4 with reports from every county in region.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day — Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger’s birthday. KY3 was a key partner in promoting this regionally.

“Join or Die” movie — Did total of 12 showings of this documentary with nearly 500 participants before it went to Netflix.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhoods USA — Presented two workshops on neighboring at the national conference and two students in Neighboring 101 won national awards.

Be a thought leader — Wrote 72 newspaper and magazine columns in 2024.

Springfield Neighborhoods—Helped with annual training and support.

Neighborhood Leadership Academy—The Southwest Missouri cohort had 7 participants this year. We also celebrated completion of 6 projects from 2023.



VITALITY

Coaching / Pledge / Newsletter — Advised 52 individuals on a neighborhood events nationwide.. Media efforts related to neighboring resulted in over 1 million impressions on social media and perhaps as many in traditional print and television. Had 124 people take the Engaged Neighbor Pledge this year.

National Movement—Was asked to speak in three different states (Michigan, New York & Colorado) on developing a good neighbor week.

Springfield Culture Fest — Council supported this new effort in Springfield.

Neighboring 101

Neighboring 101 is not just for new homeowners or people new to community life. This ongoing monthly program (started in 2020) is for anyone wanting to improve their neighborhood and community or their personal life and health. *One-time \$25 enrollment fee.*

Get Started With These Steps

1. Visit [extension.Missouri.edu](https://extension.missouri.edu) and register for Neighboring 101.
2. Receive an exclusive newsletter with links to videos of all past classes.
3. Attend monthly sessions live to ask questions. Class is the third Thursday of each month at 12 pm (CST).
4. Access exclusive materials and resources for the Engaged Neighbor network.
5. Take what you learn and improve your neighborhood, your community and yourself.

What Others Have Said

“Every month I learn something that I can apply in my neighborhood.” - Laura

“This program has inspired the work we are now doing in my community.” - Jen

“Every month I say that is the best speaker we have had but then the next one is better. Every month I am inspired.” - Chet

Contact David Burton at burtond@missouri.edu

Program Enrollment for 2024 totaled 832 including these counties (and number enrolled).

Barton 2 | Barry 2 | Cedar 4 | Christian 18 | Dade 4 |
Douglas 2 | Greene 189 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 9
McDonald 3 | Newton 2 | Ozark 1 | Polk 2 | Stone 8
Taney 9 | Texas 6 | Webster 8 | Wright 2

Guests have included practitioners, authors and leaders in the neighboring movement:



Majora Carter



Dave Runyon



Seth Kaplan



Melody Warnick



Mike Mather

SHOW ME

Neighborhood Art Week

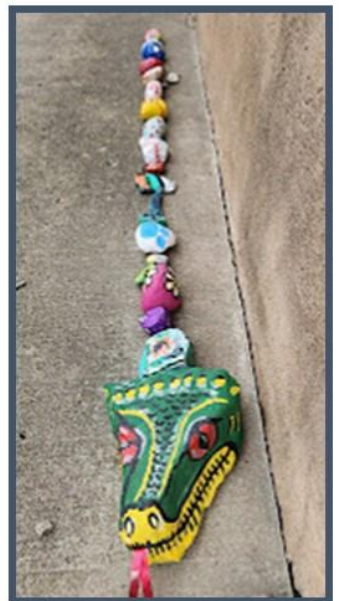


Show Me Neighborhood Art Week is a University of Missouri Extension art-focused outreach program that strives to promote creative expression and public art made by residents, regardless of their skill level, as a contribution to the community's sense of place and residents' sense of belonging. The program goals are to:

- Promote the engagement of neighbors;
- Foster a sense of belonging and inclusion within communities; and
- Use art as a tool to increase the sense of belonging.

We promoted and solicited participation in our pilot Show Me Neighborhood Art Week statewide. After creating an online map of sites registered, statewide viewing was June 1-15 2024. Participants were sent yard signs to display next to their installations.

- The program had participation from every extension region.
- 73 total registered sites and 1,182 registered voters.
- 293 participants signed up for the Engaged Neighbor newsletter.
- Over \$3000 in prizes for regional winning artists was distributed.
- 72% of participants in Show Me Neighborhood Art Week reported an increased sense of belonging and love for the communities by participating.



Regional participation (artist and/or participant) was as follows:

Barton 12 | Barry 6 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Douglas 4 | Greene 389 | Jasper 8 | Lawrence 29
McDonald 12 | Newton 21 | Stone 28 | Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 38 | Wright 22



Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024

Snapshot of Results



Named "Neighboring Program of the Year" in 2023 by Neighborhoods USA



82 +

Service Events

These groups — including 67 MU Extension county councils — worked together to serve their neighbors.



7891 +

Visitors to website

to learn more about what it means to be an engaged neighbor in Missouri.

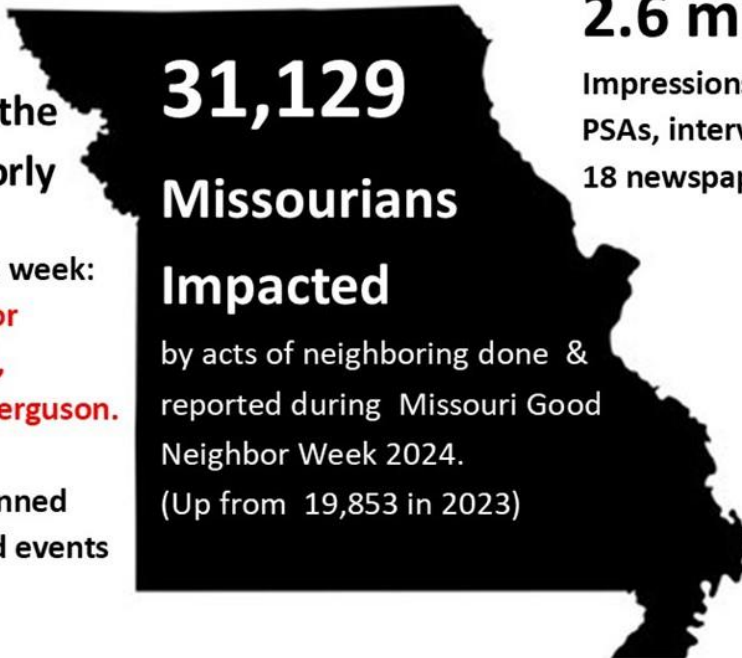


5 Cities

were named the most neighborly

Based on points accumulated this week:
Houston, Excelsior Springs, Sikeston, Springfield and Ferguson.

13 Cities also planned neighbor-focused events or campaigns.



31,129

Missourians Impacted

by acts of neighboring done & reported during Missouri Good Neighbor Week 2024.

(Up from 19,853 in 2023)

2.6 million

Impressions from TV PSAs, interviews, radio, podcasts & 18 newspaper columns statewide.



13

proclamations done by towns and cities in support of Missouri Good Neighbor Week.

122

People were nominated as one of Missouri's **Most Engaged Neighbor.**

Missourians really appreciate neighbors that go the extra mile.



2896

People involved in an **act of neighboring.**

Everything from mowing yards to delivering cookies to first responders. Many times more than one person was involved.

<http://missourigoodneighborweek.com>

Southwest Missouri Led the Way During Neighbor Week

Counties in Southwest Missouri were well represented during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. Statewide, projects organized by county extension councils reached over 14,000 individuals. The following county councils reported doing a community service activity during the week.

Barton 85 | Barry 2 | Cedar 75 | Dade 300 | Dallas 50 |
Douglas 325 | Greene 525 | Jasper 12 | Lawrence 65 |
Stone 45 | Texas 60 | Webster 45 | Wright 100

In Greene County, the council collected 200 high quality coats for distribution to new residents of Springfield from international locations (Pic 1). Springfield had 18 registered block parties during the week. (Pic 2) Council members also staffed at table at the Springfield Cultural Festival (Pic 3).

We also recognized 22 individuals statewide as the Most Engaged Neighbor and these counties had an honoree. These honorees were from Greene County:

- Chance Parish, Springfield (Pic 4)
- Stefanie Johnson, Springfield
- Nancy Susan Williams, Springfield
- Rudy Widmar and Rebecca Welsh, Springfield
- Jamie Tatum, Springfield
- Hayden Hradek, Republic

Besides the winners, we had 130 nominations for “Most Engaged Neighbor” including nominations from these counties:

Christian 2 | Dallas 1 | Newton 1 | Polk 3 | Stone 2 |
Taney 4 | Greene 12 | Webster 3 |

Additionally, the City of Springfield was named one of the five “Most Neighborly Cities” in Missouri based on numbers during Missouri Good Neighbor Week. David Burton presented the award to the Springfield City Council. (Pic 5) Republic was a runner-up in its city size category.

Totals Acts of Neighboring During the Week Reported From These Counties in SW Region.

Barton 12 | Christian 24 | Dade 14 | Greene 4140 | Jasper 16 |
Lawrence 29 | Newton 8 | Polk 22 | Stone 18 | Taney 24 |
Texas 3015 | Webster 16 | Wright 12



Neighborhood Leadership Academy



Grant Beach Neighborhood Kit

Jamie Tatum used her class time to grow connections in the Grant Beach Neighborhood Association (Springfield). Then she wrote a grant to create a party and meeting kit for the Hovey House, the neighborhood meeting location, which made it easier to host block events. Her efforts have brought life to this midtown neighborhood.



Youth Sports Equipment Library

Hayden Hradek worked with staff at the Republic City Parks Department to purchase a storage container and sock it with youth sports equipment (thanks to Amazon). The library helps any youth be able to join a team, even if they cannot afford the equipment needed to play. This was a \$10,000 project.



Veterans Memorial in AG

Melissa Mau and Jennifer Wilkinson gathered community support and volunteers for their NLA project. Together they turned a community planter into a memorial for veterans in Ash Grove. Now instead of being an overgrown eyesore in the middle of town it is a place of honor.

Program Introduction and Impact

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is an annual 10-session program offered online and in person. Residents in Greene, Lawrence, Christian and Webster counties can enroll in the "Southwest Cohort." Students from Springfield & Republic are the target audience for this program.

NLA focuses on developing projects for community betterment, developing new leaders and building a bench of active community leaders. As part of the class, students develop a written plan for a neighborhood project and some receive grant funds to complete their project.

The 2024 class had the following participants from Southwest Missouri:
Greene County—6 | McDonald County—1 | Webster County— 1

Be My Neighbor Day 2024

KY3 partnered in helping us celebrate the birthday of Mister Fred Rogers on March 20. We also used the week to encourage membership in Springfield Neighborhood Associations. Over 750 people reported doing an act of kindness for their neighbor to celebrate the day. Local individual participation included:

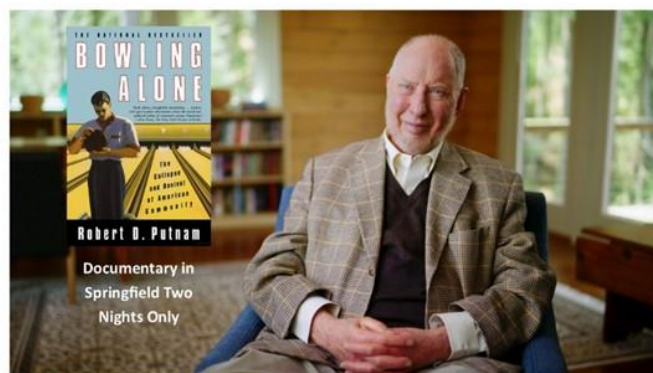
Barton 8 | Barry 6 | Christian 102 | Dade 11 |
Greene 323 | Lawrence 49 | Newton 5 | Stone 38 |
Taney 49 | Texas 16 | Webster 68 |



“Join or Die” Movie Screenings

Did 12 showings of this documentary with a total attendance of 523 participants in 2024. Attendees have reported joining clubs as a result, and at least one attendee is working on forming a Rotary Club in Republic. Local individual attendance included:

Barry 8 | Christian 82 | Dade 7 | Greene 302 | Jasper 6 |
Lawrence 39 | Newton 4 | Polk 14 | Stone 18 | Taney 7
| Texas 4 | Webster 14



Neighborhoods USA

David Burton presented two workshops on neighboring at the national Neighborhoods USA conference in Lubbock, Texas. But he also had two students in his Neighboring 101 win national awards. One of those, the team from Houston, Missouri, was recognized as the best multi-neighborhood effort in the United States for 2024. Houston celebrates National Good Neighbor Day with community events and an effort to distribute 3000 roses to neighbors.



Springfield Neighborhoods

David Burton led the annual training event for neighborhood leaders (held in March) this year with a guest speaker from St. Louis and nearly 40 in attendance. He also annually assists with the Neighborhood Organization Volunteer Awards (NOVA) event in December. MU Extension is now a sponsor of that event. In 2024, David was also recognized by Community Partnership of the Ozarks at the NOVA event as a “rising star” for Springfield neighborhoods.





Be a Thought Leader

National Efforts Contribute to Vitality

1. KY3 worked with me to produce 12 different PSAs in 2024 that ran on air nearly 1,000 times.
2. Had the opportunity to speak to various audiences about neighboring in Colorado during 2024.
3. Spent a day in Arvada, Colorado, with Dave Runyon, author of "The Art of Neighboring."
4. Was invited to speak at the Michigan Municipal League Conference on Mackinac Island about the power of neighboring and spoke to two standing-room only groups.





Economic Opportunity

Serving: Wright County

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

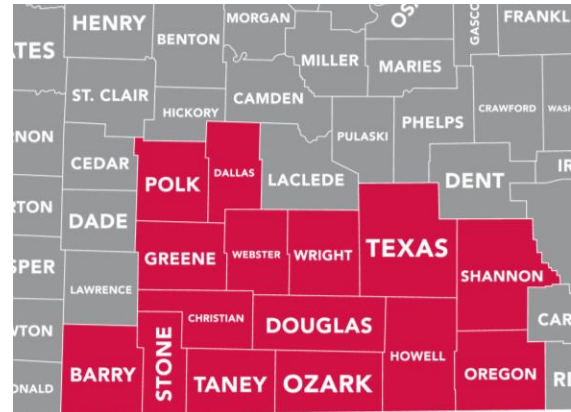
The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University (MSU) provided support to Wright County entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training.



Missouri State University

Over the course of 2024, our office met with clients in Wright County to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Business expansion and relocation
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Through leveraging regional partnerships, several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. In 2024 this initiative allowed for our Center to partner with OzSBI and offer an Early-Stage Business Boot Camp in Wright County. This Early-Stage Business Boot Camps helped 10 entrepreneurs look at all aspects of their business including, feasibility, business planning and understanding business financials.

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@missouristate.edu

417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$158,348,440

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the SBDC

\$96,731,627

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX (formerly MO PTAC)

\$20,468,645

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC

KEY OUTCOMES IN WRIGHT COUNTY

24 Business owners in the County received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.

\$993k Approved capital funding

18 Attendees from Wright County joined our business and professional development training programs.

Impact data is client verified and obtained by approximately 30% of clients annually for the statewide network. The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Name: Definition for County Annual Report - 2024

Cumulative Period Start: 10/1/2023

Current Period Start: 10/1/2023

Scorecard End: 9/30/2024

Wright County

Data Elements	Value
Capitalization	\$993,000.00
Sales Increase	\$0.00
New Businesses Started	1
\$ of Contract Awards	\$0.00
# of Contract Awards	0
Jobs Created	9
Jobs Retained	6
Unique Clients Served	8
Number of Clients Counseled	24
Number of Training Event Attendees	18



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

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2024

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

1905 direct and 8059 indirect contacts were made in Wright 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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Schools/Agencies served:

- Manes Elementary
 - Wilder Elementary School (Mansfield)
 - Grovespring Elementary
 - Mountain Grove Elementary, Middle & High School
 - Hartville Elementary and Jr. High
 - Mountain Grove Head Start
 - Norwood Elementary and Highschool
 - Love Center Food Pantry
 - Mountain Grove Christian Academy
 - Wright Co. Division of Family Services
 - Wright County Crisis Center
 - Wright County Pregnancy Resource Center
 - Ozark Action -Wright County
 - Town and Country Supermarket-Hartville
 - Mountain Grove Farmer's Market
-

Local Profiles and Stories

Nutrition Program Associate, Christi Crisp, shared the following success stories from Wright County:

On July 27th at the Wright County Crisis Center and Thrift Store, I made the recipe “Grape Salsa” for participants to sample. I had a lady stop by my table and ask about the recipe. She looked at the food and the recipe. I could tell she really didn’t want to try it, but after some encouraging, she did. After tasting the salsa, she said, “If I had not tried this recipe, I wouldn’t have known how good it is! If the recipe was just here and not a sample, I would have passed it up. This is so good though; I am going to make it for my family!”

Last week in my 3rd grade class at Norwood Elementary, I talked to the students about whole grains and how to identify them. This week when I reviewed that lesson with the class, one student told me she went home and looked at all the grain foods in her home. She told me, " We have some whole grains at home, it was the cereal! But the bread wasn't." This student took home what information I gave her and proceeded to do an investigation of whole grains on her own.



Local Profiles and Stories

Nutrition Program Associate, Ashley Garner, shared the following success story from Wright County:

In May, I was teaching Building MyBody out of the Show Me Nutrition curriculum at Mountain Grove Elementary, we had gone over Lesson 3 the day before and discussed Fat in Fast Food. The next day, a 3rd grade student came up to me in the hallway and said, “My Mom, took me to McDonalds last night for supper, but instead of getting a Big Mac, I got a happy meal instead” He was so proud, and so was I! He even mentioned, that his Mom asked him are you learning how to eat healthy in school and he was so happy that she was proud of him.





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



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.



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

is designed to improve multiple aspects of health through slow, gentle movements that can be practiced almost anywhere.

After eight weeks, Tai Chi participants IMPROVED their BALANCE, STRENGTH, and PAIN



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 FOOD 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

Wright County

Health and Human Sciences

Local Impact



Stay Strong, Stay Healthy teaches older adults basic exercises to boost strength, balance and overall daily functionality. Participants also gain insights into nutrition and wellness for healthy aging and active living.

After eight weeks, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy participants significantly IMPROVED their STRENGTH, BALANCE and SLEEP QUALITY.

83% improved or maintained and lower body **strength and endurance** needed for activities such as climbing stairs, walking, and getting up from a seated position

100% improved or maintained **flexibility** and joint **pain control** and needed putting on socks and shoes, dressing, and using stairs

100% improved or maintained upper-body and shoulder **flexibility** needed combing hair, dressing, and reaching

100% improved or maintained **agility and balance** needed for standing quickly from a seated position and walking

100% improved or maintained **reduced risk of falling** and **continued independent living**

83% of participants reported participating in more strength training and balance activities, had **less concern about falling**, and reported **fewer falls**

50% of participants reported participating in more aerobic or physical activities

67% of participants felt their **overall health was better** and were **confident** they would be able to continue the strength training exercises on their own

This 8 week, 17 session program was held in partnership with Country Living and the MU Family Nutrition Education program served **10 participants** in Wright County. At an estimated \$1,024 in healthcare savings per participant, this program had an **\$6,144 economic impact**.

“I enjoyed everything about the class and Alicia was wonderful, very encouraging and always positive and always in a cheerful mood.”

SSSH Participant

WRIGHT COUNTY

Sessions	17
Contacts	170



Wright County

Health and Human Sciences

Profiles and Stories



Empowering Seniors: Health, Fun, and Fitness Expo Wright County information booth and tasting with Missouri grown popcorn, University of Missouri information, and available programs in Wright County. This event was pivotal in marketing both Tai Chi and Dining with Diabetes 122 Wright County seniors.



100 Miles, 100 Days statewide initiative by MU Extension, is a free program igniting physical activity over summer. **807 Missourians** joined this program including Douglas County residents. This program encourage participants to increase or maintain their physical activity throughout the summer through education, competition, and goals.



Home Food Preservation

Preserve the season's bounty - deliciously and safely.

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

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

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