

“If you're looking to unlock your full potential, whether it's for yourself, your family, your community, or your business, you're in the right place. University of Missouri Extension is here to partner with you and your loved ones to realize your life's unlimited possibilities. We offer a wealth of knowledge in areas like agriculture, business, youth development, health, community involvement, and overall well-being. Reach out to your local MU Extension office and let's make progress together.”



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Dallas County

2023

Annual Report

119 S. Maple St.
Buffalo Municipal Building
PO Box 1072
Buffalo, MO 65622
417-345-7551

**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
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL: cchiggins@missouri.edu

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

Housed in Dallas County:

Hannah Whittaker
Field Specialist in
Nutrition and Health

Andy McCorkill
Field Specialist
In Livestock

Katie Stewart
Office Support

Specialist Serving Dallas County

Allison Gunter
EXTENSION ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
Mu Extension in Hickory County
417-745-6767

Ramon Arancibia
FIELD SPECIALIST IN
HORTICULTURE
MU Extension in Bates County
660-679-4167

Velynda Cameron
FIELD SPECIALIST IN
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
MU Extension in Polk County
417-326-4916

Ashley Allen-Brown
FIELD SPECIALIST IN
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MU Extension in Camden County
573-346-2644

Terry Halleran
FIELD SPECIALIST IN AGRONOMY
MU Extension in Hickory County
417-745-6767

Wesley Tucker
FIELD SPECIALIST IN
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS
MU Extension in Polk County
417-326-4916

Council members

Travis Bybee, Chairman
Brandon Jackson, Vice-chairman
Rachel Badgett, Secretary
Joe Carver, Treasurer
Angie Allen
Bill Monday
Debby Dryer
Tanya Watson
Eric Otterness
Jen Portis
Dalton Trippe
Destiny Cooke
Nicole Bryan
Brandi Udelhoven

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MISSOURI EXTENSION
DALLAS COUNTY

County commissioners

John Crawford, Presiding
Roger Bradley, Associate, North
Mike Lewis, Associate, South

State legislators:

Sandy Crawford
SENATOR

Jeff Knight
REPRESENTATIVE

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations 41658.46

Total Income 41658.46

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits 34873.46

Travel 2328

Telephone 420

Office Supplies/Service 1000

Advertising 125

Insurance 837

Misc/Other/Furnishings 2075

Total Expenses 41658.46

Office Activities:

Social Media:

Reach: 16,942

Interactions: 1.3K

Followers: 1.1K

Link Clicks: 356

Phone Calls: 364

Walk ins: 167

Soil/Hay Tests: 81

Dallas County partners

Thank you to Southwest Electric Coop and CoBank for presenting MU Extension Dallas County with this generous grant. Ted Zeugin, right, of Southwest Electric Coop in Bolivar, awards a \$6,600 check, a 50/50 grant from Southwest Electric and CoBank, to the Dallas County MU Extension. Pictured are, from left, Andy McCorkill, Extension Field Specialist in Livestock; Katie Stewart, Extension County Office Support; and Allison Gunter, Extension Engagement Specialist. REFLEX PHOTO BY STEVE JOHNSON



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

Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Dallas 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



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

Dallas County

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

24 students

- 19 Undergraduates
- 5 Graduate and professional students
- 20 Full-time students
- 4 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

5 people employed by UM

- 4 Campuses
- 1 MU Health Care



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 2 Medicine
- 5 Nursing
- 11 Health Professions
- 5 Dentistry
- 3 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 5 Veterinary Medicine
- 24 Agriculture
- 17 Engineering
- 8 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 5 teachers
- 2.6% of all district teachers



County breakdown

MU

- 16 students
- 83 alumni
- 4 employees

UMKC

- 1 student
- 27 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 7 students
- 23 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 0 students
- 7 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Dallas County



County population: 16,946



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 152 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$81,942 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient 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 465 visits to 219 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

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

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Dallas County



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

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UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Dallas County

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.



\$3.1
billion

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)



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

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

27,256

students receiving financial aid

\$536.0M

financial aid awarded

UMKC

11,859

students receiving financial aid

\$217.3M

financial aid awarded

Missouri S&T

6,748

students receiving financial aid

\$117.7M

financial aid awarded

UMSL

8,489

students receiving financial aid

\$102.8M

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.

UM System County Impacts



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

DALLAS 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

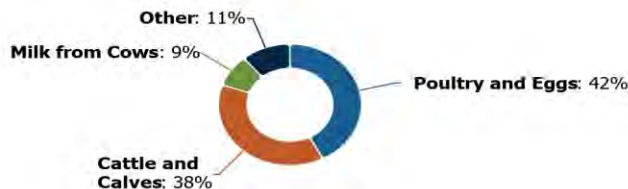
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$51,330,000



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 \$4,240,000 in 2017, an average of \$3,605 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Dallas	1,176	\$3,605
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: *Early Childhood Education*

Access to Early Childhood Education

Head Start is an early childhood education program for at-risk children through age 5. Families utilizing Head Start have better success meeting developmental goals and achieving economic stability. In 2018, there were 2 Head Start programs in the report area, or 17.47 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

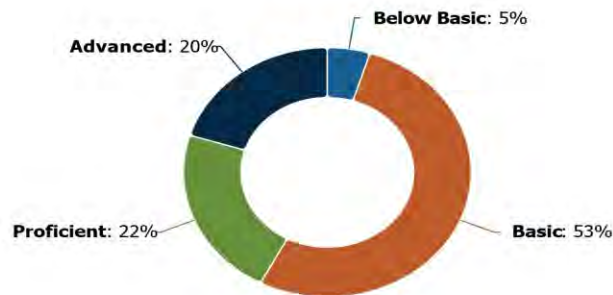
Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)



Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [HRSA - Administration for Children and Families](#), 2022.

English Language Arts Proficiency

Starting in the 4th grade, public schools emphasize proficiency in reading and reading comprehension. The ability to comprehend becomes the foundation to find and process information in later years and it is important to prevent children from falling behind. Of the 104.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 55.00. The number tested as below basic was 5.00, basic was 55.00, proficient was 23.00, and advanced was 21.00.



Data Source: [Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#), 2022.

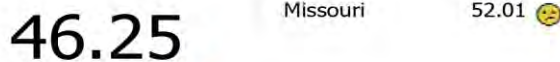


CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 56 deaths of despair, or 46.25 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 9.47% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020



Dallas

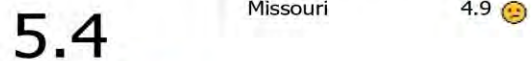


Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#), 2014-20.

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 5.4 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is higher than the state average of 4.9. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.6 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018



Dallas



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#), 2020.



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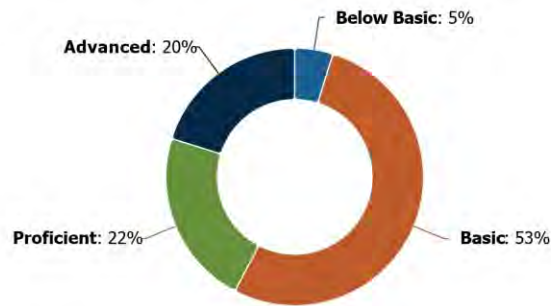
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County highlights

Hannah Whittaker Nutrition and Health Specialist Dallas County



I joined Dallas County on November 1st of 2023 and wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I attended Missouri State University and received my bachelor's in agriculture business, and I am currently attending Grand Canyon University to receive my Masters degree. I have been working with Extension since March of 2022 and started out as a Youth Program Associate, working with the 4-H in Cedar County. I accepted the Nutrition and Health Specialist position and have really enjoyed exploring this area of MU Extension. In 2024 I plan to teach food preservation classes, Stay Strong Stay Healthy, Cooking Matters, and more. I am excited to be serving those located in Dallas, Cedar, Polk, and Hickory Counties.



Hannah, along with Lyle Whittaker, from the Missouri Department of Conservation, hosted a Field to Freezer class in December. Class participants learned to score deer antlers using the Pope and Young/Boone and Crockett methods of scoring. Participants also learned how to make summer sausage and each took a package home with them.



County highlights

DALLAS COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults. The mission of 4-H is to provide meaningful opportunities for all youth and adults to work together to create sustainable community change. This is accomplished within three primary content areas, or mission areas – civic engagement and leadership, healthy living, and science. These mission areas reiterate the founding purposes of Extension through agriculture (e.g., community leadership, quality of life, and technology transfer) in the context of 21st century challenges and opportunities.



Number of Dallas County residents served

- 107 4-H Members
- 8 Trained Adult Volunteers

4-H Clubs

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement in a positive environment youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.

4-H clubs offer long and short-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. Regardless of how youth participate, all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

- Community 4-H Clubs
 - 3 community clubs – The Eagles (Long Lane), Friendship Builders (Elkland) and The Beef Kids (Buffalo)
- 4-H SPIN and special-interest programs
 - County 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs include community partnerships and events, day camps and other educational activities – summer day camp (June)
- 4-H school programs
 - Dallas County 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom. Teachers, 4-H volunteers or 4-H staff lead these activities.
 - Endless Key project at Buffalo Middle School (58 participants)



County highlights

DALLAS COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Project Area Enrollment

Youth select projects according to personal interest. Projects with the most enrollment included:

- Beef (8), Swine (13) and Arts & Crafts (15)

Accomplishments

Dallas County 4-H members have demonstrated learning through the following activities:

County

- 3 Clover Kids completed the year
- 21 members completed the year
- 8 participated in 4-H conference judging with their handmade projects (June)
- 10 earned the Dallas County Super 4-H'er award t-shirt
- 120 projects registered by members – projects with 8+ enrollment were arts and crafts, swine and beef
- 16 members completed 24 project records (August)
- 4-Hers also participate in many local events such as county 4-H council meetings, county-wide fundraisers, Handmade Exhibit Night, summer camps, the recognition celebration, local parades and events and community service activities.

Regional and State Events

- 3 members attended the West Central Regional Energizer (February)
- 3 members exhibited 5 handmade projects at the Ozark Empire Fair (July-August)
- 2 members exhibited 3 handmade projects at the Missouri State Fair (August)

Special Awards and Recognition

- The Dallas County Beef Project was the recipient of the Outstanding County Beef Award from the Missouri State Fair 2023 for accumulating the most points in the 4-H Beef Division. This is the second year in a row that Dallas County youth have won this county award.



Dallas County beef project members with project leader Becky Doehring receiving the award during the 2023 recognition program. some members not present for photo)



County highlights

DALLAS COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Missouri 4-H Members

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

TO INVEST IN 4-H IS TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE. 4-H'ERS EXCEL.

about 4X more likely to contribute to their community.

2X more likely to make healthy choices.



nearly 5X more likely to graduate college.

The Missouri 4-H program also prepares youth for the work place. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision – competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented to solve problems that have yet to be identified. 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, engineering, learning technologies and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive (Arnold, Bourdeau, & Nott, 2013)

How does this make Dallas County and Missouri Better?

4-H, the nation’s largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for a career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly 6 million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation’s Cooperative Extension System and USDA and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3000 local Extension offices.

The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

- Youth who earn their bachelor’s degree, increase annual earnings by \$2 million over their lifetime (U.S. News and World Report (2011).
- 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 \$31.80 per hour (Independent Sector, 2023) the contribution of Dallas County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$25,440 in 2023. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.



4-H

ISN'T JUST ABOUT SHOWING LIVESTOCK. IT'S ABOUT KIDS LEARNING TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. TO GROW INTO TOMORROW'S LEADERS.



County highlights

DALLAS COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The Eagles 4-H Club was recognized for their community service during the 2023 4-H year.



Summer day camp participants



Dallas County 4-H'ers that participated in the annual recognition program.

References

Arnold, M., Bourdeau, V., & Nott, B. (2013). Measuring science inquiry skills in youth development programs: The Science Process Skills Inventory, *Journal of Youth Development*, 8(1)

Independent Sector (2023). Independent sector releases new value of volunteer time of \$31.80 per hour. Retrieved from <https://independentsector.org/blog/independent-sector-releases-new-value-of-volunteer-time-of-31-80-per-hour/>

Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V. (2011). The positive development of youth: Report of the findings from the first seven years of the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development. Retrieved from <https://www.4horg/about/youth-development-research/>

U.S. News and World Report (2011). How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/08/05/how-higher-education-affects-lifetime-salary>



County highlights

William “Terry Halleran Field Specialist in Agronomy Housed in Hickory County



Another year has come and gone. In the area of agronomy, for MU Extension, the topic has been all about the drought. Pastures running short if not out, hay production ½ to 2/3rds at best, stocking rates, culling cows, cutting dry land corn for silage as it did not make, nitrates/nitrate poisoning, buying overpriced hay, where can I get hay, shipping cost, alternative feed sources, planting something that will grow in a drought because we need something, etc. The list goes on and on. The Drought was and still is a major concern as we go into the next year.

To address these and other issues the following offerings were made in the counties I serve. Dallas, Hickory, Camden, Polk and Laclede. Even if all were not taught specifically in your county, they were made available in surrounding counties and available to all. Courses were even taught by zoom for those who wished to attend that way.

Courses/ teaching opportunities offered throughout the year: (in Person or by Zoom)

Understanding Your Hay Crop and How to Use it for Maximum Potential

PPAT (8 classes)

Building it From the Ground Up Dallas County (7 weekly sessions)

Buffalo Middle School Career Day Activity Dallas County

Grazing Schools (3)

Rebuilding your Pastures and Hay Fields after the Drought 2022 (Zoom)

Cool Season and Warm Season Forage Options (6)

Drought Survival Meeting Class Laclede County

All Hay is not Created Equal (Zoom)

Fall and Winter Drought Plans for Feeding (5)

Bee keeping Workshops (3)



County highlights

William “Terry Halleran Field Specialist in Agronomy Housed in Hickory County



Several articles were written and/or released in my counties, as needed, to address the current issues at hand. Many were released through the local extension offices internet and public communication systems. Hopefully the local newspapers released them as they were all contacted.

Articles published and or sent out throughout the year:

- Just What Kind of Hay Did You Buy This Year?
- Is Bee Keeping For you?
- Forage Livestock Town Hall Videos DROUGHT ISSUES
- Be Careful What You Feed Your Cattle.
- Timely Pasture Renovation Tips
- Water as a Resource.
- Seeding for Annual Pasture Within a Perennial Pasture
- Broomesedge is not a quality grass for cattle.
- Troublesome Pasture Plants of the Week
Articles

Along with the classes listed above Farm Visits were made in every county I serve.

They included Hay and Forage testing, Pasture Evaluations, Soil Testing, etc.

Most all soil tests handled in my counties come across my desk for evaluation and recommendation. Hopefully I have helped those in need of soil health concerns.

Along with this, the Annual Hickory County Bus Tour, August 7-10, was taken with several from my counties in attendance.



County highlights



Ramon Arancibia, Horticulture Specialist **Housed in Bates County**

MU Extension Specialist based in Bates County to service 9 counties in the West Central Region. As the Field Specialist in Horticulture, the priority is to address the concerns of specialty crop growers in the west central region and statewide in collaboration with other regional specialists.

Face to face farm visits was the main contact method with Amish/Mennonite growers since they don't have access to computers or social media. However, face to face visits as well as phone and emails were contact methods with other produce growers and homeowner. Among the main concerns addressed were soil test results and fertilizer recommendations, soil-borne diseases, foliar diseases, and pesticide use. In addition, assisted produce growers with sampling and submission of samples for plant disease identification and management recommendations.

Information generated from two studies funded by the Missouri Department of Agriculture on sweet potato and watermelons and other specific topics were extended to specialty crop growers. Materials include video posts in **YouTube MUIPM** (<https://www.youtube.com/@MUIPM>) **Horticulture and Garden Hour** (<https://ipm.missouri.edu/townHalls/>), and through printed articles in the **MO Produce Growers Bulletin** (<https://ipm.missouri.edu/MPG/>) and the American Society for Horticultural Science (<https://ashs.org/>), **HortTechnology**. Other venues were in person seminars and conferences with growers and garden clubs, and online webinars as well as Q&A sessions (MU Extension Garden Hour). Coordinated three tracks in the 2023 **Great Plain Growers Conference** (GPGC) (<https://www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org/>) and became the chair of the 2024 GPGC organizing committee. And as MU Horticulture team member, co-coordinated and presented in two webinars: Organic Agriculture Production and Protected production of specialty crops. In addition, gave 7 seminars in person to county garden and master gardeners clubs in the West Central region, and contributed to the weekly Q&A sessions of the Garden Hour (<https://ipm.missouri.edu/townHalls/>).

Extending information and assisting produce growers in their farms are expected to increase local production and the sustainability of the industry.

Planning and upcoming events

1. Engage with growers on a new grant to manage soil-borne diseases in high tunnels.
2. Conduct series of workshops on gardening and hydroponics in covered counties.
3. Bates Co. Soil and Water Conservation District
4. Direct client consultations (farm visits)
5. Train farmers on food safety
6. Chair of the 2024 GPGC and contribute with presentations.
7. Publications



County highlights



Ramon Arancibia, Horticulture Specialist Housed in Bates County

MO direct contacts		1858
MO indirect contacts		57,591
Farm visits/consultations		101
Phone consultations		106
Email consultations		233
	Presentations/ Sessions	Contacts
Presentations/workshops/field days		
Great Plains Growers Conference (Veg. Prod. Moderator/spkr)	3	296
Montevallo Produce auction.	1	23
County garden/master gardener club meetings	6	74
Career Exploration Day	1	210
Courses/trainings:		
Food Safety Modernization Act – PSA training	3	118
Master Gardener Core Training Kansas City and surroundings	15	327
Master Gardener Laclede	10	183
Commercial Vegetable Production Webinar (online)		
Production in tunnels	2	61
Organic production	1	26
Website/Social media		
Articles MPG July 2022 (MU Extension website and print)	1	626
Commercial Hort. Video Newsletter (YouTube-MUIPM)	1	418
Garden Hour with MU Extension (Statewide online, YouTube-MUIPM)	32	2429
Development RSVP AmeriCorps (Bates)	1	1930
Soil and Water Conservation District (Bates)	10	63
4H Vegetable Contest Judge (Bates)	1	16
Farmers Market consultations (Henry, Benton, Cass, Polk, Vernon, Cedar, Laclede, Dallas)	14	58
Grants/studies		
NC-SARE Fusarium biocontrol		
Development RSVP Americorp		

Dallas County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



Making Informed Lending Decisions: What Agricultural Lenders Need to Know for 2024

Forty-seven (47) agricultural lenders attended the November 15th at Springfield, MO. **2 participants from Dallas County attended.**

MU Extension specialists presented 2024 outlooks for crops, livestock, and enterprise budgets and farm input costs.

The new Feedstuff Finder Resource was launched.

Presenters from the Farm Service Agency and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority provided agency updates.



Dallas County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



Sheep & Goat Production Management Workshop

Fifty-four (54) producers attended the course April 6th in Mt. Vernon, MO. Participants learned about different ways to manage their sheep and goat farms. **2 participants from Dallas County attended.**

Participants learned about nutrition and body condition scoring, selecting replacements and culls, managing grazing and pasture rotation, and creating year-round forages.

“Very good information, I’m glad I came and learned!”



Dallas County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



Direct Marketing Beef School

Eleven (11) beef producers participated in the two-day school held August 17th and 18th in Union, MO. 1 participant from Dallas County attended.

Producers learned how to add value to their cattle by finishing animals and marketing beef direct to consumers. They also toured a confinement beef feeding operation and learned from local processors.

“Very Informative class, I learned lots of great information!”





County highlights

Dallas County Farm Family 2023

9/6/2023

Local residents chosen as Missouri Farm Family for Dallas County

Buffalo, Mo. — Andy and Jen McCorkill and family of Elkland, MO were among the families honored during the 66th annual Missouri Farm Family Day, Aug. 14 at the Missouri State Fair.

The McCorkill family was selected as the Dallas County Missouri Farm Family by University of Missouri Extension in Dallas County and the local Farm Bureau. The family includes Molly and Marylee.

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 McCorkill family operates a cow-calf operation.

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 Mark Wolfe. “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.”





County highlights



Dallas County Barn Quilt Classes, 2023

- 7 Barn Quilt Painting classes were held at the UM Extension Dallas County office in 2023, with a total of 30 attendees. Many are repeat attendees and many travel from outside Dallas County, and even from other states.
- By inviting them into our office for the day, we are able to not only teach them to paint a Barn Quilt, but also introduce them to other programs and services provided by Extension.
- Purchasing our supplies and materials almost exclusively locally allows us to support local businesses. Our students often buy supplies from local stores after they leave and many eat lunch at local restaurants while they are here.
- Establishing a Barn Quilt Trail in Dallas County would increase tourism.





County highlights

Missouri Century Farms



Century farms and ranches have shaped our nation and state. In every kitchen, behind every barn door, and in every soiled and calloused hand lie stories of those who feed our nation. The Missouri Century Farm program celebrates the lasting contributions farmers and ranchers have made to our country's and state's heritage.

In 1976, the Centennial Farm project was initiated in Missouri, awarding certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. Ten years later, the University of Missouri Extension and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources created the annual Century Farm program and recognition. The Missouri Farm Bureau joined as a co-sponsor in 2008. Since the program began in 1976, more than 8,000 Missouri farms have received the Century Farm designation.

Landowners with farms that have been in the same family for 100 years can be recognized with signs, a certificate and a booklet. Application period will reopen Feb. 1, 2024.

Congratulations to our Dallas County Century Farm 2023 recipients:

Jack and Jerry Dill

Brian and Stephanie Nimmo

Lew Bramwell





County highlights

Nutrition education

The goal of the Family Nutrition Education Program is to help participants make behavior changes to achieve lifelong health and fitness.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$10,874,798 in federal funds to Missouri. During FY2023, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over 78,000 Missourians through direct classroom education. Each person participated in an average of 6 hours of education totaling over 15,000 hours. In addition, an additional 760,135 persons participated in indirect education. Direct and indirect education resulted in over 1.8 million total contacts with Missourians.

A total of 120 participants were from Dallas 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.

During 2023, youth and adults were served through direct teaching at schools, community groups and agencies. The following is an example of some of the locations where participants were served in Dallas County:

Schools Agencies
Mallory Elementary

