

Lawrence  
County  
4-H'ers  
raise  
funds for  
14,892  
Wreaths  
for  
Warriors  
in 2023



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Lawrence County

# 2023 Annual Report

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**

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**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



*Karla Deaver*  
4-H Youth



*Melissa Briggs*  
Nutrition Program Assistant



*Debbie Pankau*  
Youth Program Assistant



*Janet Adams*  
Administrative Assistant



## Council members

Name		Term Ends
<b>Chairman</b>	Mike Bloss	2025
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Kody Hedrick	2025
<b>Secretary</b>	Tiffany Wilke	2024
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kim Duwe	2024
Member	Angela Crismore	2024
Member	Jamie Lowry	2024
Member	Tim Neely	2024
Member	James Rees	2025
Member	Kris Callison	2024
Member	Glenn Callison	2025
Member	Karl Wilke	2024

### Appointed Members:

David Botts	County Commission
Doug Bowerman	Farm Bureau
Carrie Howlett	City of Aurora



Dr. Mike Bloss, Chairman is sworn in by Tammy Riebe, Lawrence County Clerk at the Annual Meeting in February 2023.

## County commissioners

Bob Senninger	Presiding Commissioner
Tim Selvey	Eastern Commissioner
David Botts	Western Commissioner

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	40,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	40,933.91
Travel	4,620.00
Postage (Reimbursed)	(66.40)
Telephone	1,630.16
Rent/Lease Space	178.00
Office Supplies/Service	2,026.94
Insurance	100.00
Election Expense	74.77
Furniture/Equipment	22.39
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>49,519.77</b>

## Return on investment

Education and Services	5,165.57
Specialists & Associates	200,000.00
Faculty & Staff Travel	3,000.00
Network & Computer Equipment:	3,800.00

## Lawrence County partners

**Ozark Electric Cooperative**  
**Mid-Missouri Bank**  
**Old Missouri Bank**  
**Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association**  
**Joplin Regional Stockyards**  
**Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce**  
**City of Aurora**  
**Lawrence County Commissioners**  
**Farm Bureau**  
**Barry-Lawrence Regional Library**  
**Missouri Forage and Grassland Council**  
**Alliance For Grassland Renewal**  
**Central Elementary (Miller R-II)**  
**Mt. Vernon Elementary**  
**Pate Early Childhood Center**  
**St. Susanne Catholic Church**  
**Miller Christian Service Center**

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



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Lawrence 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.

# Lawrence County Year In Pictures

## Leader Honor Roll Recipients



Dr. Mike Bloss, Council Chairman presents certificate to Kim Duwe.



Dr. Mike Bloss, Council Chairman presents honor roll certificate to Matt & Denise Massie

## State Fair Farm Family – Dustin & Scynthia Schnake



# Lawrence County Year In Pictures



“MU 4 You” Conference was held in Columbia. Pictured are those attending from the Southwest Region including Janet Adams, Lawrence County secretary who received her 35th year certificate.



Lawrence County Commissioner Bob Senninger speaks to the crowd at the Lawrence County Soils & Crops Conference held at the MU Southwest Research Extension & Education Center

# Lawrence County



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

## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

#### 65 students

- 52 Undergraduates
- 13 Graduate and professional students
- 46 Full-time students
- 19 Part-time students
- 18 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County employees and retirees

#### 25 people employed by UM

- 23 Campuses
- 2 MU Health Care

84 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$1.5 million

UM state tax revenue: \$25,892

UM federal tax revenue: \$116,939



### County alumni

#### Selected school alumni

- 10 Medicine
- 22 Nursing
- 11 Health Professions
- 4 Dentistry
- 7 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 11 Veterinary Medicine
- 67 Agriculture
- 52 Engineering
- 19 Law

#### Alumni teaching K-12

- 14 teachers
- 2.7% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 3.6% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

#### MU

- 30 students
- 200 alumni
- 23 employees

#### UMKC

- 8 students
- 46 alumni
- 0 employees

#### Missouri S&T

- 20 students
- 67 alumni
- 0 employees

#### UMSL

- 7 students
- 10 alumni
- 0 employees



### County properties and offices

Southwest Research Center  
MU Extension in: Lawrence County



County population: 38,123



### County services provided

#### Health care (FY23)

- 145 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$127,953 of uncompensated care
- 4 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 325 visits to 122 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

#### Extension (2022)

- 6,019 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 4,079 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 1,921 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 19 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

# Lawrence 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.

**\$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)

### 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](http://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



## LAWRENCE 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

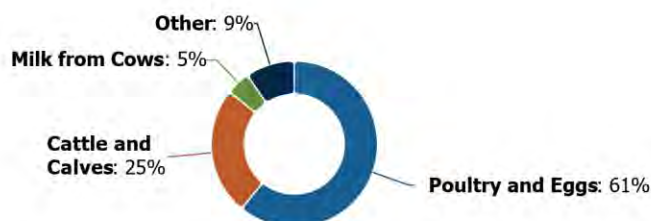
### Knowing Local Challenges



#### CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

#### Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$241,029,000



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 \$53,131,000 in 2017, an average of \$31,309 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Lawrence	1,697	\$31,309
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 4 Head Start programs in the report area, or 14.95 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

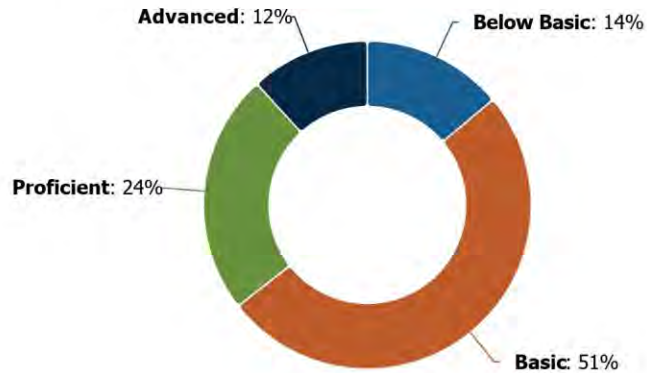
#### Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)

14.95 Missouri 11.76  
Lawrence

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 402.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 189.00. The number tested as below basic was 52.00, basic was 189.00, proficient was 89.00, and advanced was 44.00.



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



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Weight*

### Obesity (Adult)

This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults aged 20 and older self-report having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Respondents were considered obese if their Body Mass Index (BMI) was 30 or greater. Body mass index (weight [kg]/height [m]<sup>2</sup>) was derived from self-report of height and weight. Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues.

*Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.*

#### Percentage of Adults Obese, 2016

26.4% Missouri 33% 🙄  
Lawrence

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 2021.

### Physical Inactivity

Within the report area, 5,551 or 18.8% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no active leisure time, based on the question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?" This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

*Note: In 2021, the CDC updated the methodology used to produce estimates for this indicator. Estimated values for prior years (2004 - 2017) have been updated in this platform to allow comparison across years. Use caution when comparing with saved assessments generated prior to November 10, 2021.*

#### Adults Age 20+ with No Leisure Time Physical Activity, Percent

18.8% Missouri 21.4%  
Lawrence

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#). 2021.



## CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Agricultural Economy*

### Jobs Derived

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

32.3%

Lawrence

Missouri

23.55%

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

### Value Added

Value-added agriculture refers to production, manufacturing, marketing or other services that increase the value of primary agricultural commodities. In 2021, the total value-added derived from agriculture, forestry and related economic activity was an estimated \$34.9 billion. Meat processing, food processing, animal and pet food manufacturing, and crop production and related industries are Missouri's top value-added products: \$9.5 billion and 155,425 jobs from livestock production and related industries alone. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

#### Percent of Total Value Added from Agriculture

27.5%

Lawrence

Missouri

21.98%

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



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



**4-H's Leadership and Civic Engagement programs** foster understanding, confidence and decision-making skills to empower youths to become informed and active young citizens. 4-H civic engagement initiatives prepare young people to become future leaders by engaging them in programs where they have voice and influence.



**4-H's College and Career Pathways program** emphasizes the pivotal role of education in attaining career goals, creating paths to success through exposure to project areas and mentorship. In addressing workforce challenges, 4-H strives to equip young people with financial literacy and basic skills for productivity.



**4-H Natural Resources programs** employ hands-on activities in climate science, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, sportfishing and wildlife conservation. The **Shooting Sports program**, which teaches marksmanship, safe firearm use, hunting and archery principles, is a prime illustration of how 4-H programs promote holistic youth development and responsible citizenship. Supported by caring adult leaders, these programs offer opportunities to cultivate life skills, self-worth and conservation ethics.



### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## Local Impact

## Volunteers who Make a Difference



As a 4-H volunteer, Kaye Scott served in a number of roles for Lawrence County. She served as a club for Liberty & Center 4-H Club. Whatever the club and county needed, Kaye fulfilled that need. From serving as assistant club leader to leading projects such as foods, Discovering 4-H, junior leadership, clothing, home improvement, and veterinary science, Kaye stepped up to ensure 4-H youth in the county had a capable, caring adult to guide them. She also served as Lawrence County 4-H council representative. Kaye's flexibility and dedication is truly appreciated



Robert Pankau, at left with wife Debbie, was recognized with a Show-Me Service award for his volunteer service. An AmeriCorps Senior Volunteer since 2021, Robert has contributed countless hours to the program in a variety of locations, including Life 360 resource center in Monett, Lawrence County 4-H, Verona 4-H, Mount Vernon and Miller libraries, and community service locations in Chesapeake and Freistatt. In his service to his community, Robert has worked with youth in foster care, 4-H youth, and community youth. He has taught woodworking, leather crafting, junk drawer robotics, gardening, and various other crafts and projects. In addition, Robert is always there to lend a hand. He has helped to build and drive floats in local parades, helped with community service projects, worked with other adult volunteers to plan events and activities, and provide general support for the program.

Through his volunteer service, Robert has made a positive impact in the lives of numerous youth in foster care who need the guidance and influence of caring adults. Robert has served as that caring adult, and has established a rapport with many of these children. Some even refer to him as their honorary grandfather. Additionally, Robert has worked extensively with 4-H youth in the county, providing guidance and support in assisting them in gaining important life skills to help them be successful in the future. Without Robert's volunteer service, many of these youth would not have the opportunity to learn and gain these needed skills. He is one of the first to step up to volunteer.



on

## Local Profiles and Stories

## Service Learning, Giving Back



Lawrence County 4-H played a major role in raising money and helping to lay wreaths for the Wreaths for Warriors Project. More than 35 youth and 31 adult volunteers representing Lawrence County 4-H helped lay wreaths on the headstones of veterans of the Civil War, Revolutionary War, World Wars I and II, the Spanish American War, and more during a Wreath Laying Ceremony and event on December 18 in Springfield. Funds provided were used to sponsor wreaths for some of the 14,982 veterans laid to rest at this location. After multiple fund raisers, including bake sales and cornhole tournaments; a letter writing campaign, writing grant applications and word of mouth, Lawrence County 4-H raised nearly \$18,000 for the project.

4-H members from the county were active participants in the ceremonial laying of the wreaths at the beginning of the ceremony. At right, Zane and Lindsay McDonald assist in the ceremony.



## Local Impact

## Active 4-H Members



Above: Lawrence County 4-H members are involved! Members attended State Teen Conference, National 4-H Congress, the State Livestock Judging Contest, and the Gold Buckle Gala! At left, Rosalina Albaladejo and Keenan Kleiboeker represent the county at State 4-H Teen Conference. Second from left, Caydance Welters achieved one of the highest honors in Missouri 4-H by earning the opportunity to represent the state at National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Second from right, for the first time in several years, Lawrence county had members compete in the State Livestock Judging Contest. At right, three teams competed at the Ozark Empire Fair Gold Buckle Extravaganza. The senior team was first, and the two junior teams were first and second.

Below: the partnership we have with the Barry-Lawrence Regional Library is one that provides many opportunities for youth in our community to learn and grow. Below left, Youth Program Associate Debbie Pankau does a foods demonstration for a class at the Aurora library; second from left, Debbie teaches at seed germination and makes seed bombs at the Mount Vernon library; second from right, Debbie oversees youth exploring their creativity and learning about woodburning; and far right, youth learn about patriotism and how to properly fold a flag at a program in conjunction with the Mount Vernon library and the Park Program.





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible statewide programs  
**Agriculture and Environment**



**The Missouri Integrated Pest Management Program**

funded by USDA grants, has been an important extension program for 30-plus years. Mizzou IPM distributes articles, pest monitoring data and publications on how to improve the application of integrated pest management strategies and systems.

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



**The Missouri Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program**

strives to enhance beef herd reproductive efficiency, boost farm income and establish dependable sources of quality replacement cows in Missouri.



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

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

**Eric Work, Heroes to Hives participant**



Two programs provide resources to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in Missouri.

**The Missouri AgrAbility Project**

supports the independence of farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

**Heroes to Hives**

offers free professional training in beekeeping to veterans, promoting financial and personal wellness through community development.

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



*“This was our first time attending. The food and atmosphere were great. We learned a lot and are excited to try and apply what we learned.”*



There were 90 participants who attended the 98<sup>th</sup> **Lawrence County Soils and Crops Conference** in January. Topics covered included a beef market outlook, winter grazing of milo vs feeding hay and challenges of feeding high nitrate hay and silage. In the survey at the end of the meeting, 100 percent of the participants ranked the program as either meeting or exceeding their expectations. Lawrence County farm producers are an economic generator for the local economy. When they suffer economically, their farm product suppliers (feed and fertilizer dealers, hardware stores, fuel suppliers, seed dealers, etc) also suffer. Their economic situation can tie directly to food costs in grocery stores. This program addressed ways this sector in the county economy can remain viable.

A **Pierce City FFA Student Training and Workshop** was offered by Tim Schnakenberg and producer John Kleiboeker in November. There were 22 students who learned about forage species in the classroom, then visited the Kleiboeker farm at Stotts City to learn about forages, cover crops and soil health.

Thirty-four farm producers converged on the **Kleiboeker Clover Creek Farm Field Day** near Stotts City in September. Tim Schnakenberg and Missouri Forage and Grassland Specialist, Adam Boman, spoke to the group regarding soil health, cover crops and native warm season grasses.



# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



There were 341 participants who attended the **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings** offered by Tim Schnakenberg. Trainings occurred in Cassville, Springfield, Galena, Clever, Mt. Vernon, Fair View, Taneyville and Point Lookout. Pesticide applicators also benefited from a 1.5-hour prerecorded Zoom session that was used for training statewide. Several other classes were offered virtually across the state. This training has direct impact on environmental safety, human safety and the safety of the American food supply. Farmers are retrained every five years in order to maintain a private pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides.

*“Very informative program that is great for gaining knowledge about pesticides.” “I think the program was well thought out and interactive.” “I like the examples and stories you share to relate info to the real world.”*



**Regional Drought Assessments** were conducted by Tim Schnakenberg, Micha Doubledee and Hunter Lovewell for Farm Service Agencies in 13 counties. These extensive reviews of the 2023 drought helped the state FSA office and county committees to determine financial assistance for landowners who had signed up for drought insurance programs.



Thirty-five local farm producers participated in the **Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop** in Mt. Vernon in March. Other events were offered in Virginia and Georgia this year. This program is sponsored by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal program that involves many extension specialists. In addition, Tim Schnakenberg assisted in a nationwide Zoom training for farm government employees and extension employees. There were 105 participants across the Eastern US, including many from Missouri.

# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



**Missouri Grazing Schools** provide the most in-depth training on how to be successful with Management-intensive Grazing (MiG) practices. These three-day schools are unique to Missouri and have set a standard for teaching and demonstrating the newest grazing concepts. Schools were offered in 2023 in Christian, Greene, Newton, Dade and Lawrence counties. The schools allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were 131 livestock producers who attended the sessions from many counties. Numerous presentations were offered along with on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems.



This year's **Ozark Empire Fair Hay Show** had outstanding participation with 39 entries submitted from eight counties. Several ag specialists traveled to 23 farms to collect samples of the entries. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. Counties represented this year included Greene, Vernon, Lawrence, Christian, Webster, Stone, Pettis and Barry counties. The highest-testing entry and champion dry hay came from Charles Kruger of Verona. It was a third cutting alfalfa hay entry that was harvested on June 27. It produced a 277 Relative Forage Quality (RFQ). The champion haylage was entered by Groves-McDonald of Billings, Missouri. It's cutting date was June 21 and the RFQ was 223. The show has occurred since 1985. Tim Schnakenberg and Reagan Bluel served as Superintendents for this show.



**Farm Fest** at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in Springfield is the largest gathering of the farm community in Southwest Missouri. MU Extension ag specialists staff a booth at this event throughout the entire weekend in October. This year there was an emphasis on native warm season grasses. Thousands of visitors streamed by the booth and hundreds stopped in to visit with regional specialists.

# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact



There were 370 farmers and ranchers from across Southwest Missouri who attended the 39<sup>th</sup> annual **Spring Forage Conference** this year in Springfield. This is the largest conference and trade show offered to the livestock community in the region. There were sixteen concurrent sessions were held throughout the day on a variety of topics of interest to most grass producers. This event is a partnership between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State University.



**Career Exploration Field Day** is a large gathering of high school agriculture students from sixty-one communities in Southwest Missouri. The picture shows about a half-mile of school buses in the parking lot. Most MU Extension regional specialists were involved in this effort at the Southwest Research, Extension and Education Center at Mt. Vernon in September. Each provided a booth and an agricultural topic to discuss for about 20 minutes. They also took time to discuss career options for these youth to consider in agriculture. Over 1600 students along with volunteers, extension and MU faculty and businesses made the Career Exploration Field Day successful!



**Building Resilience in the Beef Industry** events were offered in Mt. Vernon and Clever in August to assist livestock producers who were directly affected by the drought. There were 56 participants from nine counties who attended. There were six field and state specialists who provided presentations on topics such as assessing the price of stored forages, market outlook, culling tips, early weaning, forage renovation and irrigation options.

# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Heroes to Hives

##### Patrick Byers, Field Specialist in Horticulture

This program provides beekeeping training for veterans using a combination of online classes and hands-on experiential training at apiaries in Mount Vernon (SWREEC), Warrensburg and Poplar Bluff. Activity in 2023 included the maintenance of the SWREEC apiary, and a series of 10 monthly workshops at the apiary that served 9-15 veterans per workshop.



#### SWREEC Field Day

Hundreds of students at the annual FFA Exploration Day at the MU SWREEC learned about beekeeping and the importance of pollination from Heroes to Hives project participants.



#### Mount Vernon Vocational Agriculture Pruning Day

Patrick Byers has consulted with a demonstration orchard managed by the Mount Vernon Vocational Agriculture program for many years. In 2023, a fruit tree pruning clinic was organized. 16 students and the program advisor participated in the pruning clinic.

# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Japanese Beetle Trapping Project

Patrick Byers collaborated with a team of entomologists headquartered at Michigan State University, to investigate the natural occurrence of Japanese beetle parasitoids in Missouri. Beetles were trapped at 9 sites across southwest Missouri, and samples sent to the MSU Entomology lab for analysis. Several Missouri sites had naturally occurring parasitoids



#### Elderberry Field days

Landowners from Southwest Missouri learned about the details of planting, managing and marketing a commercial elderberry planting for supplemental farm income. Following this field day there have been 3 new commercial plantings in Barry Co.

Women in Dairy also toured Elder farms to explore / better understand Elderberry opportunities to enhance gross farm receipts. We began the day at MU's Southwest Research Extension Engagement Center to learn from elderberry expert, Andrew Thomas about the ins and outs of successfully establishing a planting. Then Elder Farm's owner, David Buehler, hosted the WID on farm to familiarize and encourage members to consider planting 2-5 acres. Please consider supporting this entrepreneur. Elder Farms: <https://elderfarms.com/>



# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### Artificial Insemination Schools

Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, Reagan Bluel Dairy Specialist, and Chloe Collins Dairy Specialist taught artificial insemination schools in March and November of 2023 in partnership with Kent Daniels from Select Sires, the MU Southwest Research, Extension, and Education Center, 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 attendees became certified to artificially inseminate cattle.



#### Livestock & Forage Conference

Dr. Mike Bloss, DVM who serves as Lawrence County Extension Council Chair speaks at the Stone County Forage Conference



# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

#### **Bull Breeding Soundness Exam Days**

This program is a cooperation with SW MO Veterinarians, MU Extension, and pharmaceutical companies. Bull owners that schedule breeding soundness exams (BSE) for their bulls are educated by MU Extension Livestock Field Specialist on the BSE, body condition scoring, foot scoring, genomic testing, and proper management of the bulls as they enter the breeding season. Due to the cooperation with pharmaceutical companies the bull producer is eligible for rebates on vaccinations during the events which helps in educating bull owners to make sure bulls are vaccinated properly as they enter the breeding season. These bull BSE days are held in the spring and fall as bull owners prepare for each upcoming breeding season. In the spring, there were two (2) cattle producers, participating where 13 bulls were tested and 0 failed.

#### **Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program and Sales**

This program provides education to cattle producers in the area of cattle management and heifer development. This program leads to the development of value-added heifers that if sold can lead to optimum profitability for a cattle operation. Heifers are then sold at auction at the Joplin Regional Stockyards in May and November. During the year, MU Livestock Specialists worked with 14 cattle operations that enrolled in the program. These cattle operations sold a total of 218 heifers. As part of this program, specialists work with producers on data collection and processing at pre-breeding, initial pregnancy check and final pregnancy check time. They also work with the producer to make sure the correct breeding bulls are used during the program to make sure the heifers are eligible to sell in either the spring or fall sale. 92 registered buyers from Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Kansas attended the auction with \$559,050 in gross sales.



#### **Fall Sellers From Lawrence County**

John Wheeler, Marionville  
Hunter Lane Cattle Co., Pierce City

#### **Spring Sellers From Lawrence County**

Broken S Land & Cattle LLC, Aurora  
J & J Farms, Sarcoxie  
Hunter Lane Cattle Co., Pierce City  
Show Me Prime Angus Ranch, LLC, Sarcoxie  
Steven & Jared Kleiboeker Farms, Wentworth  
Robert Miller, Aurora  
Nolan Kleiboeker Farm LLC, Wentworth



# Lawrence County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories



University of Missouri Extension held its **first annual Sheep and Goat Field Day** at the Southwest Research, Extension and Education Center (SWREEC) on November 17. There were over 65 people in attendance including producers across the state, MU extension specialists, Lincoln University Small Ruminant Specialists and SWREEC faculty and staff members. Former President of the Katahdin Association and the current executive board member of the American Sheep Industry (ASI) was also in attendance.

***“The aim of the event was to disseminate current research-based information that equips producers with the knowledge and resources needed to improve their productivity”*** explained David Brown, the team leader of the Sheep and Goat Field Day.

Tim Schnakenberg (MU extension), Jennifer Lutes (MU extension), David Brown (MU extension) Dr Homero Salinas (Lincoln University) and Dr Mohan Acharya (Lincoln University) shared relevant sheep and goat information with the audience. Micah Doubledee (MU extension) also assisted with the program. The day concluded with FAMACHA and Five-Point Check outdoor demonstration.

Submitted by David Brown, MU Sheep and Goat Specialist.





# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Business and Community**



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

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



## **DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DATA TRAINING**

**MU Exceed** offers customized data training. Participants learn how to use public data through hands-on exercises and demonstrations.

**In 2022, Exceed provided data training to MORE THAN 200 MISSOURIANS. 95% of the attendees said that the information they learned was useful to their work.**

## **AMERICA'S SBDC MISSOURI CLIENT HIGHLIGHT**



**LOGS  
— OF —  
GLORY**

The **Missouri Small Business Development Centers** (SBDC) provide professional training and customized one-on-one counseling to small businesses across the state. Working with the Missouri SBDC helps business owners make confident decisions.

**FY2020-2022, Missouri SBDC ASSISTED 878 STARTUPS and helped Missouri small businesses earn more than \$440 MILLION.**

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Labor and Workforce Development

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## LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

## GREENE COUNTY

MU Extension Labor and Workforce Development is dedicated to advancing the skilled workforce of Missouri through a comprehensive approach to applied research and teaching. Through our commitment to research-based solutions, we are able to provide cutting-edge strategies that are tailored to the specific needs of the workforce actors we partner with across the state. By working together, we can build a skilled and sustainable workforce that will drive Missouri's economic growth and prosperity.

### Building Workforce Capacity

**AgriProspects** a national collaboration with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Extension Foundation to form a robust network of public and private entities across every U.S. region and 112 Land Grant Universities to build the nation's capacity to respond to the changing needs in the food and agriculture sector.

A preliminary Workforce Development Assessment identified 113 Workforce Development programs in Cooperative Extension and identified ongoing workforce challenges.



### Heroes to Hives, Workforce Development for Veterans and their Allies



Heroes to Hives seeks to address the financial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. This project is funded by United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Enhancing Agriculture Opportunities for Military Veterans grant.

24 year military veteran reports, "MU Extension programs are a godsend. I benefit from the amazing, high-quality learning opportunities that University of Missouri Extension continually provides, not only to veterans but many other diverse groups that are interested in learning and potentially pursuing new careers."

### Missouri Farm and Ranch Stress



The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance program provides mental health assistance and suicide prevention services. The program served 3,173 farm community members in 114 of 114 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis. In 2023, the total value of mental and behavioral health services totals \$411,976. Through MU Extension's Farm and Ranch Stress programs and five different field-tested workshops, rural participants are equipped with tools to improve their mental health, are connected to useful mental health resources, and participants gain access to free one-on-one telepsychology sessions.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible statewide programs  
**Community and Professional Health Education**



The **Diabetes Prevention Program** is a CDC-recognized program provided by licensed lifestyle coaches to prevent type 2 diabetes. Through lifestyle coaching participants can achieve sustainable weight loss, increase in physical activity and learn coping skills to manage stress.

**More than 1 IN 3 PARTICIPANTS**  
**have reached the**  
**5 - 7% WEIGHT LOSS GOAL.**



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

**All of the 2023 participants agreed that the Rural Immersion Program significantly contributed to them FORMING INSIGHTS on the suitability of living and working in a rural community, both personally and professionally.**



**Strengthening Families Program: for Parents and Youth 10-14,** is a seven-session series for parents or caregivers and their young teens to attend together to improve family communication, resolve conflict and improve parental skills.

**A research study conducted by the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute found a RETURN OF \$9.60 for every dollar spent implementing the Strengthening Families Program.**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **First Responder Education**



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



The Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) has provided basic and advanced training for law enforcement since 1948. LETI's **Basic Peace Officer Academy** exceeds the 600 hours of training required for licensure in Missouri. From 2019 through 2023, the basic academy has licensed almost 300 peace officers, more than any other academy in the state. During that time, all but one graduate became employed by a law enforcement agency. LETI graduates come from around the state and return to their communities to serve and protect.



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



## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

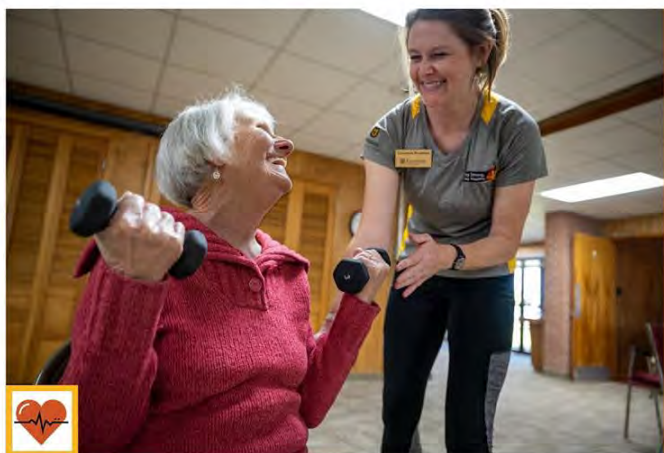


MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible statewide programs  
**Health and Human Sciences**



Divorcing or separating parents encounter distinct challenges when living apart. **Focus on Kids** guides parents in fostering effective co-parenting strategies to support their children through this process.

**“Understanding that divorce doesn’t ruin children, but parents can significantly influence positive outcomes through good communication, was invaluable.”**



**Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** teaches older adults easy yet powerful exercises to boost strength, balance and daily life capabilities. Participants also gain insights into nutrition for healthy aging and active living.

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



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

The youth version of the program is designed to support adolescents ages 12-17 facing mental health or addiction challenges, while the adult version focuses on adults age 18 and older. Participants learn how to offer initial assistance and guide individuals toward the care they need.

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

\*Missouri Department of Mental Health 2020 Status Report

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Lawrence County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

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 1041 participants were from Lawrence County.**



Students at Aurora community garden unload soil received from the garden grant.

I program at Pate Early Childhood Center in Aurora every year. This year during the fruit lesson, the PE teacher shared with me that every time her family goes on a road trip now, she has to buy dried mango. I always offer dried fruit as a taste at Pate and last year we tasted the mango. I make the comparison of the dried fruit to fruit-flavored candies, explaining that the tastes can be very similar, sweet and tart, but that the fruit has nutrients that the candy does not and that substituting the dried fruit for candy can be a healthy change they can make.



Melissa Briggs, Nutrition Program Associate sets up obstacle course for Kids in the Kitchen in Miller

Kids in the Kitchen at Central Elementary in Miller this summer. The students participated in the food preparation and ate what they made. At the end of the series of lessons each student received a bag that included a copy of all the recipes we made. I saw two of my students, who happen to be brothers, and their mother later in the summer. As we were talking one of the boys said, "Hey, we made that Tasty Hamburger Skillet at home." I asked if he helped. He shyly turned away, saying no. His mom interjected and told me that he did help, encouraging him to tell me what he did. He finally said, "I crumbled the hamburger in the pan." This programming encouraged hands-on meal preparation and introduced healthy meals to kids. It's rewarding to know that the recipes that were made in class were appealing enough to make at home and this student shared the recipe with his family and his family was supportive in making it at home.

#### Schools/Agencies served:

Central Elementary (Miller R-II)  
Mt. Vernon Elementary  
Pate Early Childhood Center  
St. Susanne Catholic Church  
Wal Mart – Aurora  
Miller Christian Service Center