

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# Phelps County

# 2023

## Annual Report



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Rolla, MO 65401  
573-458-6260

 **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



***Our commitment***

Brandi Richardson  
Extension Engagement Specialist  
Jean Day  
Nutrition Program Associate  
Sarah Higgins  
Field Specialist in Natural Resources  
Julianna Thrasher  
4H Youth Development Field Specialist  
Alivia Engelmeier  
Administrative Assistant

## Council members

Patty Reynolds, Chairman  
Jason Grunloh, Vice-chairman  
Suzan Van De Mark, Secretary  
Chase Lambert, Treasurer  
Jennie Chatman  
Rena Engelmeier  
Theresa Davidson  
Jacob Rohter  
Karina Avagyan  
Sherry Sites – (District 1 Commissioner)



## County commissioners

Joey Auxier, Presiding Commissioner  
Sherry Stites, District 1 Commissioner  
Gary Hicks, District 2 Commissioner

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	48,902.04
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,902.04</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	32,496.88
Travel	2388.80
Telephone	285.60
Office Supplies/Service	316.41
Temporary Secretary	4155.67
Insurance	1,564.00
Capital Repairs	915.91
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>42,123.27</b>

## Phelps County partners

- Rolla Chamber of Commerce
- Farm Bureau Insurance
- The Phelps County Dream Center
- Rolla Nutrition Site – AgingBest
- Rolla Public Schools
- St. Patrick Catholic School
- M S&T
- GRACE – Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprise
- East Central College
- The Rolla Mission
- Common Grounds Community Garden
- Rolla Public Library
- James Memorial Public Library, St. James
- The Phelps County Fair Board
- Pioneer Forest
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Phelps County Soil & Water Board
- State Senator Justin Bron
- State Representative Tara Peters
- St. James FFA
- Meramac Regional Planning Commission
- Ozarks Rivers Solid Waste Management
- Phelps County Sheriffs office

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

## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Phelps 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.



# Phelps County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

**373 students**

- 299 Undergraduates
- 74 Graduate and professional students
- 242 Full-time students
- 131 Part-time students
- 73 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County employees and retirees

**1,910 people employed by UM**

- 1,895 Campuses
- 7 MU Health Care
- 8 UM System

578 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$103.0 million

UM state tax revenue: \$3.0 million

UM federal tax revenue: \$14.4 million



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 33 Medicine
- 58 Nursing
- 51 Health Professions
- 19 Dentistry
- 8 Pharmacy
- 4 Optometry
- 12 Veterinary Medicine
- 145 Agriculture
- 1,422 Engineering
- 43 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 98 teachers
- 21.2% of all district teachers
- 4 principals and administrators
- 17.4% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

**MU**

- 184 students
- 831 alumni
- 26 employees

**UMKC**

- 17 students
- 94 alumni
- 3 employees

**Missouri S&T**

- 149 students
- 2,568 alumni
- 1,862 employees

**UMSL**

- 23 students
- 128 alumni
- 4 employees



County population: 44,692



### County services provided

**Health care (FY23)**

- 1,788 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$1.2 million of uncompensated care
- 3 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$34.82 per patient in 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 747 visits to 394 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

**Extension (2022)**

- 2,320 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 1,419 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 901 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development



### Construction projects

- \$5.0 million remitted to 16 county vendors, for 55 projects



### County properties and offices

Missouri S&T Campus  
MU Extension in: Phelps County

# Phelps 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



## PHELPS 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

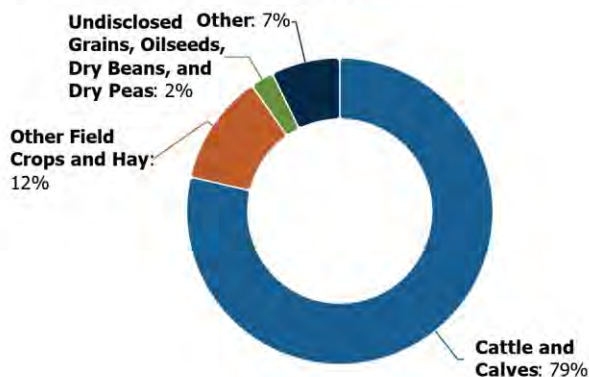
### Knowing Local Challenges



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

#### Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$14,000,000



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 \$-1,646,000 in 2017, an average of \$-2,260 per farm. This is below the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Phelps	728	\$-2,260
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 7.11 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is lower in this area than in the state.

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

7.11

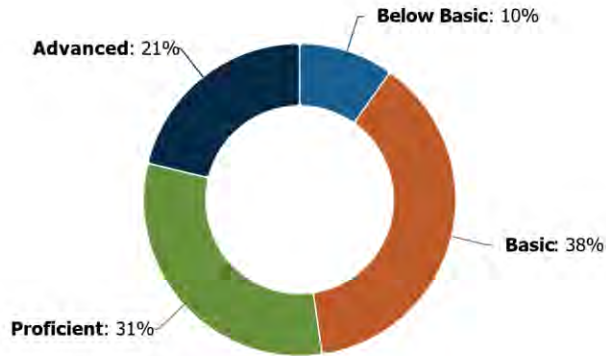
Missouri 11.76

Phelps

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 459.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 166.00. The number tested as below basic was 43.00, basic was 166.00, proficient was 136.00, and advanced was 93.00.



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



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Access to Care*

### Mental Health Care Providers

Mental health is a critical public health issue worldwide. Access to mental health services is a challenge across Missouri, which ranks 46 out of 51 states in provider access. In the report area there are approximately 59 credentialed professionals providing mental health care to serve the area's 44,638 residents. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 757 to 1, which means there is 1 provider for every 757 persons. The ratio of persons to providers in the report area is lower than the state average of 855:1, which means there are more providers per person in this area.

#### Ratio (Population to Providers)

757:1

Missouri 855:1

Phelps

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPPES\)](#). December 2023.

### Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 43 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 7,352 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 171:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 171 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is lower than the state average of 242:1, which means there are more providers per person in this area.

#### Ratio (Population to Providers)

171:1

Missouri 242:1

Phelps

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

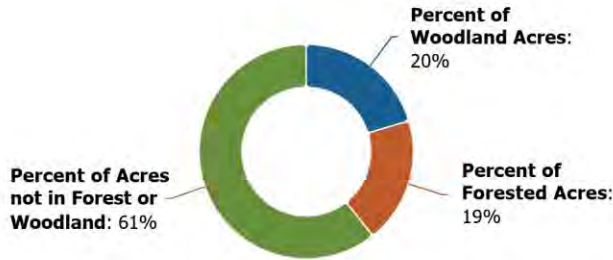




## CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Land Use*

### Forested, Woodland & Non-forested Acres

Sustainable management of forests and woodlands and harvesting of mature trees support the state's \$10.3 billion forest products industries. Forests have a closed canopy (>80% cover) permitting little light to penetrate to the ground below. They consist of several overlapping layers of trees, with a mid-story and understory comprising a variety of shade-tolerant shrubs and a sparse layer of soft-stemmed plants. Woodlands have a more open canopy (30-80% cover), and their sparse, woody mid-story allows more sunlight to reach the ground. This light permits the growth of a dense ground cover containing a variety of wildflowers, grasses and sedges. Fire plays a large role in maintaining woodland habitats.



Data Source: Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium, [National Land Cover Database](#).

### Recreational Land Acres

The recreational land use data documents Missouri land under federal, state or local government control with open or restricted access to the public. Land with no access is not included.

#### Acres in Protected Area

**65,405** Missouri 1,791,829

Phelps

Data Source: [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Protected Areas Database](#), 2023.



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

## Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



A **SPIN club** focuses on a specific topic led by an expert in the field. While community clubs may meet over the full 4-H program year, SPIN clubs meet for set periods, typically from several weeks to a couple months. SPIN clubs can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.



**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.



**Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs** employ hands-on activities that foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and exploration in engineering and technology. Agriculture programming emphasizes biology, environmental science, agri-science, veterinary science and engaging activities such as animal care and agronomy. STEM programs delve into computer science, robotics, aerospace, physics, chemistry and veterinary science.



### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Phelps County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Impact

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Through hands-on projects 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. Phelps County served youth through 9 community clubs, offering long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking, and working with others.



**A community of 254 youth building life skills, contributing to their community, and becoming college and career ready.**

**1 in every 4 Phelps County youth under the age of eighteen participated in a MU Extension 4-H Youth Development program in 2023.**

# Phelps County

Missouri 4-H

## Local Profiles and Stories



- There were 252 members in the community clubs in Phelps County during the 2022-2023 4-H Year.
- Over 92% of 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences.
- Collectively youth participated in 3810 hours of community club work in Phelps County.
- Over 5723 hours of community service projects were completed by 4-H members and volunteers during the 2022-2023 4-H Year.

- Phelps County 4-H members were supported by 57 enrolled, screened, and oriented adult volunteers and 12 youth volunteers supporting the development of youth in 2023.
- Volunteers contributed 6,900 hours to the Phelps County 4-H program valued at \$219,420.



# Phelps County

## Missouri 4-H

### Local Profiles and Stories

- There were 250 livestock exhibits and 300 building exhibits at the 2023 Phelps County Fair from 4-H members.
- There were \_\_\_ livestock exhibits and 75 building exhibits at the 2023 St. James Grape and Fall Festival from 4-H members.
- Phelps County youth exhibited over 20 exhibits in the 4-H Building and livestock shows of the Missouri State Fair.
- 6 state level recognition forms were completed by members. These forms provide members with a vital step in the Experiential Learning Model. Members reflect on the things they have done and learned throughout the 4-H year and how they can apply what they have learned in the upcoming year.
- Phelps County was represented in the Missouri 4-H State Ambassadors by a youth delegate. Delegates attended workshops covering diverse areas from science to leadership development that were complemented by experiences at the MU Student Center, social activities, and inspirational speakers. State Ambassadors play a vital role in helping these teens develop essential life skills, exploring potential career paths, nurturing leadership abilities, and fostering new friendships with peers from across the state.
- 7 youth participated in MOVE Across Missouri, where youth and adults are encouraged to track their physical activity and fitness in their daily life, learning about healthy lifestyles.
- As responsible citizens, we promote generosity and community strengthening through service. 5,390 meals were donated in Phelps County through the 4-H Feeding Missouri Initiative in 2023.



# Phelps County

## Missouri 4-H

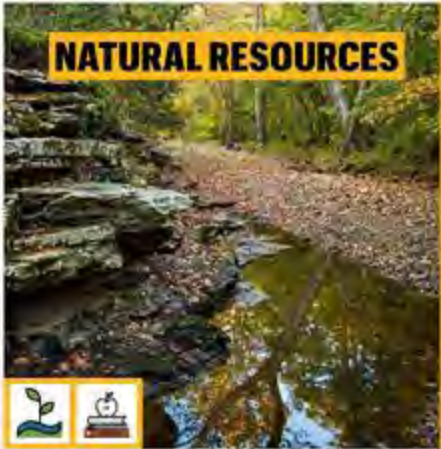
### Local Profiles and Stories

#### Findings from a 2021-2022 evaluation study shows that Missouri 4-H:

Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do	Missouri 4-H Grows True Leaders	4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills	4-H Builds Social and Emotional Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.</li><li>• 91% set personal goals.</li><li>• 97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.</li><li>• 98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 97% said they like to learn about people who are different than them.</li><li>• 93% said they think about others' feelings before they say something.</li><li>• 75% reported feeling comfortable being a leader.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 95% help others reach their goals.</li><li>• 86% are comfortable speaking in a group.</li><li>• 99% said they show respect for other's ideas.</li><li>• 85% can work with someone who made them upset.</li><li>• 95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 94% said they keep trying until they reach their goals.</li><li>• 89% stop to think about their choices when making a decision.</li><li>• 97% reported that they like to learn new things.</li><li>• 91% of Missouri 4-H'ers surveyed said they are willing to try something they might get wrong.</li></ul>



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



**The Missouri Master Naturalist program** is a community-based initiative for adults, supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation and MU Extension. It aims to create a group of knowledgeable volunteers who can offer education, outreach and service for the responsible management of natural resources in Missouri communities.

Additionally, the **Missouri Woodland Steward program** offers a short course that equips private landowners with knowledge of woodland management, helping them identify wildlife habitats, develop plans and connect with local natural resource experts.



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



**In 2022, almost 4,000 Missouri Master Gardeners completed over 133,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS throughout the state.**



**Management-intensive grazing** involves dividing large fields into smaller paddocks and systematically rotating livestock among them. Producers who attend grazing schools learn how to reduce costs through improved livestock, grazing and pasture management while getting insights into fencing, watering systems and grazing system design.

**The annual impact of management-intensive grazing is estimated to be \$125 MILLION per year in Missouri.**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

## Livestock

Eric Meusch  
Livestock Specialist  
573-729-3196  
meusche@missouri.edu



Serving Dent, Phelps, Crawford, Pulaski, Shannon Reynolds, Carter, and Texas Counties

### 2023 AT A GLANCE

- Drought was one of the main topics working with beef producers. This included programming on herd management and nutrition.
- Show Me Select Heifer development activities expanded as I took over coordination of Central Missouri, working with producers and assisting with the Spring Sale in Vienna.
- Poultry programs including backyard chickens and home butchering of chickens were in demand in many counties.
- Show Me Quality Assurance events held in Dent, Phelps and Crawford Counties trained youth on proper care of livestock. Other youth-oriented activities included Ozark Cattlemen's Beef Day in Salem and the Wurdack Education Day event.
- The Value-Added Meats (VAM) team collaborated with Feedlot School team to develop the Direct Marketing Beef School. VAM also worked through the 2501 Program to conduct a hands-on chicken processing workshop for urban farmers in the St. Louis area



A Livestock producer shares her experience in developing and managing her grazing system at a Grazing School in Texas County

### KEY SUCCESSES

- ✓ 94 Show Me Select Heifers were sold at Central Region Sale in Vienna in May totaling \$199,450 in sales. Statewide a total of 1647 Show Me Select heifers were sold for \$4,180,575 in 2023.
- ✓ Over 200 youth in 3 counties received Show Me Quality Assurance training, learning industry standards for food animal care and husbandry. This training is required for youth exhibiting livestock at county fairs and Livestock Expos.
- ✓ Participants in Missouri Grazing schools learned the basics in management intensive grazing, including soil and forage management, grazing system layout, livestock management and infrastructure development..
- ✓ Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers participated in livestock related programs such as backyard poultry, sheep and goat production, and small-scale chicken processing. This was part of the grant funded 2501 program. This program also supported farm visits, learning circles and team to one coaching.



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.



## 2023 Livestock Highlights



Discussing herd management during a drought at the Wurdack Extension Farm Field Day.



Show Me Quality Assurance training for youth that will be exhibiting livestock in Phelps county.



Presenting on Direct Marketing Meat at the Ag Connect Conference in Poplar Bluff as part of the Value-Added Meats Team



A Show Me Select Heifer sold at the Central Regional Heifer sale.



Small-scale chicken processing is a popular hands-on training. This event was hosted by the 2501 Program.



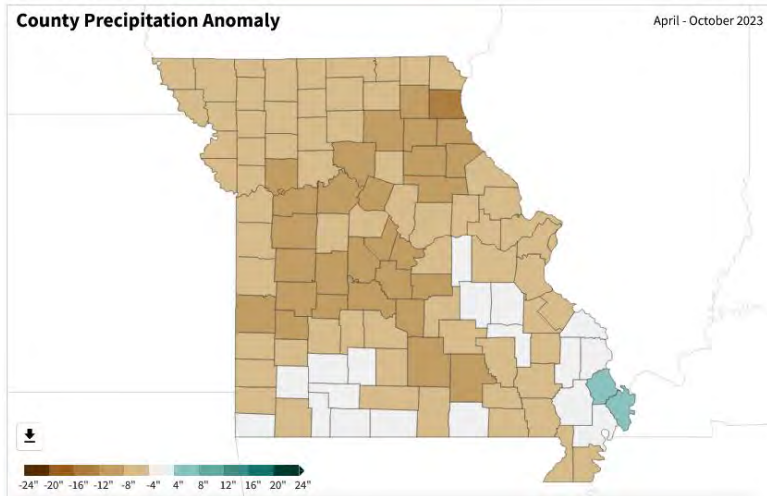
Ozarks Cattlemen's Beef Day is a collaboration between Extension, Cattlemen's Association, FFA and others in the community targeting grade-schoolers in Dent County.

# Phelps County

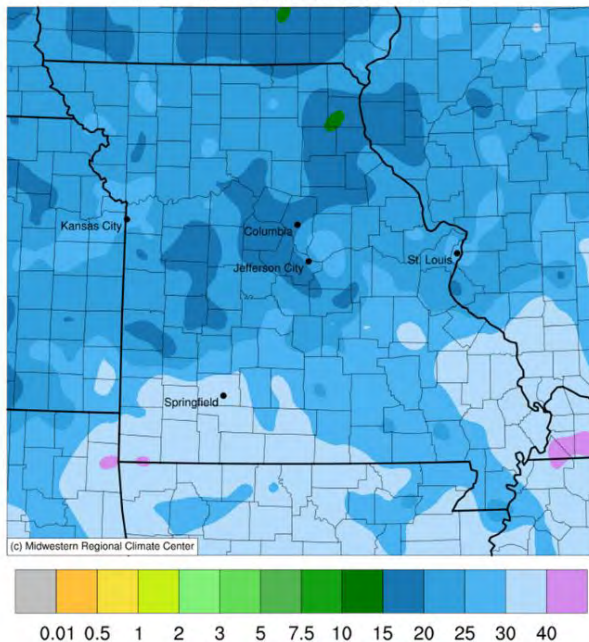
## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

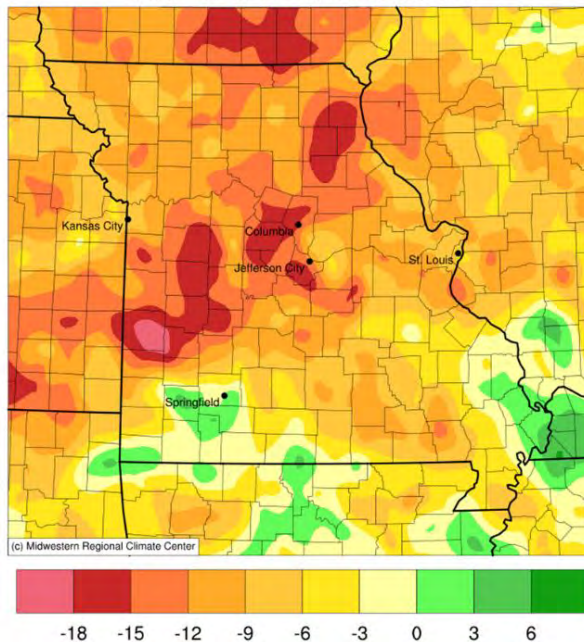
The 2023 forage production season featured a prominent drought event that continues to impact the State. Drought conditions first emerged in April (Figure 1) when the state recorded its 4<sup>th</sup> driest April (- 2.17") dating back to 1895. Precipitation totals remained below average in May (-1.87") and June (-2.72") with average monthly temperatures running 1 to 2 °F above normal (Figure 2). Several rounds of heavy rainfall in late July and early August helped to bring temporary drought relief, but dry conditions returned in September and October. Overall, the seven-month period from April to October has been the 14<sup>th</sup> driest (-6.02") for Missouri and 2023 is currently the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest year on record through October (Figure 3). The largest precipitation deficits and areas most impacted by drought are approximately located along an axis from southwest to northeast Missouri.



Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
March 15, 2023 to November 15, 2023



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
March 15, 2023 to November 15, 2023

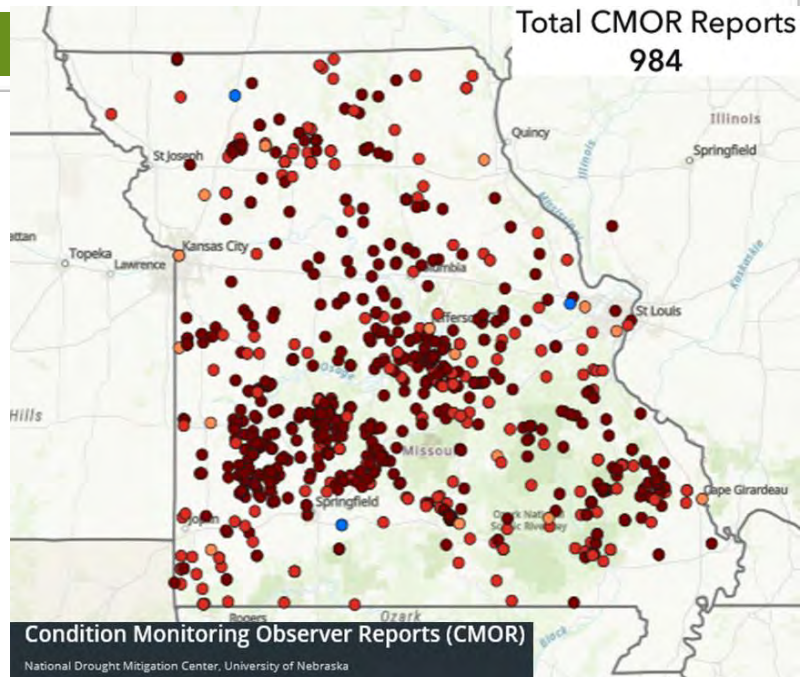


# Phelps County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Profiles and Stories

This year's drought occurred during the growing season, resulting in widespread negative impacts to the agricultural sector. Depleted soil moisture has led to poor pasture and crop conditions along with mature tree stress. Timely rainfall in July and August provided some relief to crops, but the return of hot and dry conditions in September and October limited fall pasture growth. Agricultural water supply has also been a persistent issue with many pond levels low or dry. Larger streams and rivers have also been dry, with up to 40% of the state's monitoring gauges measuring streamflow that is well below normal since April. Hydrological drought has also contributed to commercial navigation impacts along the Mississippi River, especially south of St. Louis. Altogether, there have been 984 community drought impact reports through the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) program this year.



### 2023 Missouri Statewide Monthly Precipitation Departures

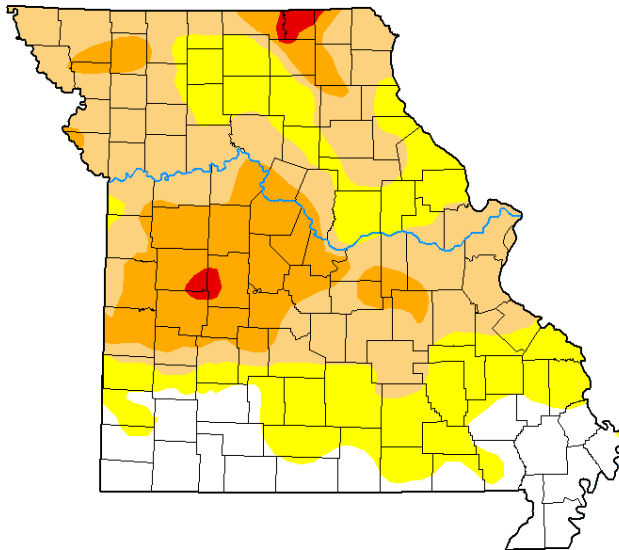


# Phelps County

## Agriculture and Environment

### U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri

**November 14, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

**Author:**  
Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



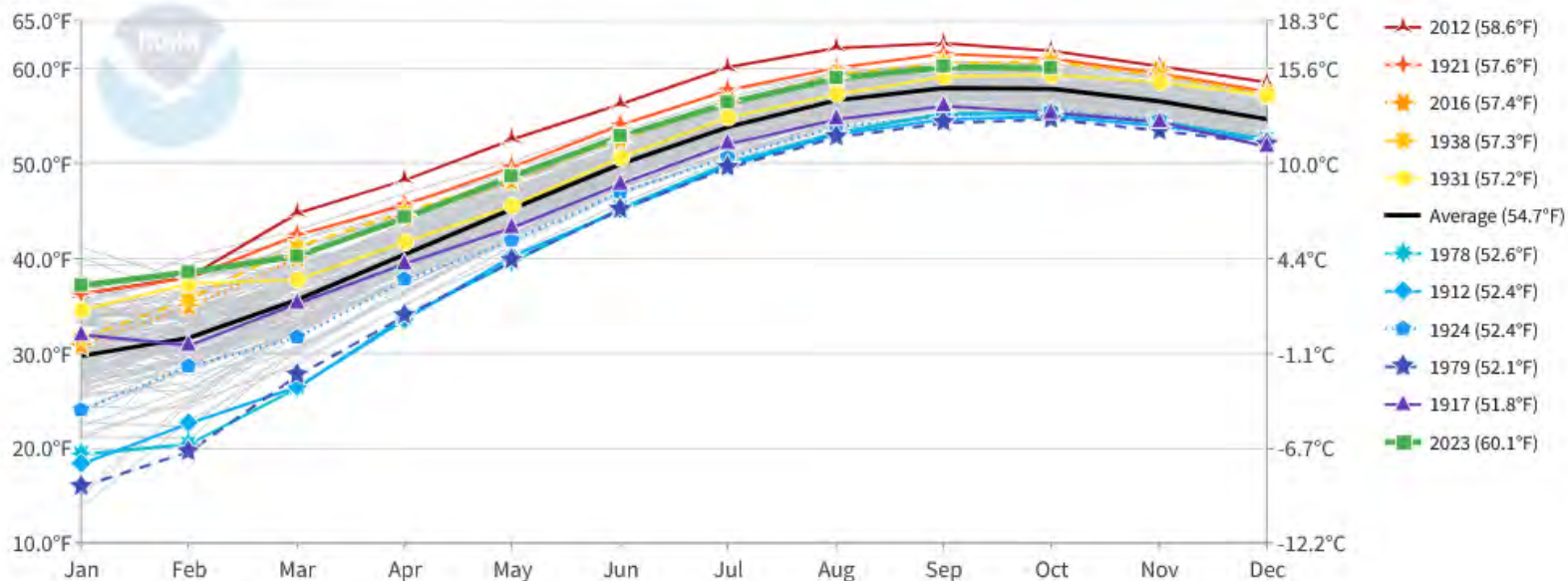
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

These measurements, observations and conversations shape Phelps County to have experienced a 57 % reduction in forage growth for the 2023 growing/grazing season.

Assuming soil fertility is adequate, soil moisture is the largest determining factor of forage production. This direct plant response makes tracking rainfall, and its contribution to soil moisture, an excellent barometer of forage production. During the April - June period, rainfall for Phelps County was 7.80 inches below the 1901-2000 average amounts. This represents a 57 % decline in precipitation during this critical period of forage production. My observations of pastures and hayfields in the county, including conversations with area producers, provided a verification of this expected reduced forage productivity claim.

### Missouri

Year-to-Date Average Temperature



# Natural Resources

## 2023 Update

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

### About me & 2023 in review

Hello all! I started my position as a Natural Resources Specialist on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I am based out of Phelps County in Rolla, and I serve 28 other counties in southeast Missouri. I got the opportunity to work in this part of the Ozarks while pursuing my undergraduate degree Environmental Science from Mizzou and loved getting to explore the beautiful landscapes in this region. I moved back to Missouri after receiving my master's in Environmental, Soil, & Water Science from West Virginia University, and I feel so grateful to be back. I'm excited to work with the people in this region to conserve our beautiful natural resources.

Since starting in July, I've gotten the opportunity to meet many others in the area involved in natural resources, including private landowners, Missouri Department of Conservation employees, and Natural Resources Conservation Service employees, people involved in the timber industry, and other Extension professionals. I'm looking forward to developing these partnerships more in 2024 and collaborating on programs to deliver in southeast Missouri. Please contact me to talk more about what kinds of natural resource programming you'd like to see in your county. Looking forward to working more with you all in 2024!



Field site demonstrating the need for timber management at the MO Tree Farm Conference.



Invasive bush honeysuckle from an invasive species workshop in Versailles, MO. Other invasive species discussed included autumn olive, multiflora rose, wintercreeper, sericea lespedeza, princess tree, and eastern redcedar (a native field invader).

### Looking at 2024

Here are a few programs to keep an eye out for in 2024. I also hope to visit more counties and attend some Extension council meetings, so please reach out if you'd like me to come!

- Restarting Women Owning Woodlands program. We hope to have social hikes and monthly virtual meetings.
- White Oak, Whiskey, and Wine webinar series at 12 pm on Mondays in January.
- Hybrid (virtual & in-person) Succession Planning workshop on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Invasive Species workshop in March.
- Forest health webinar series in early April, followed by a forest health field day on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me for any details related to the programs above. I will send more information and updates on programs throughout the year. I'm eager to work with you all next year!



# 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.**



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

**The 2023 conference drew 104 ATTENDEES, generating an estimated initial economic impact of around \$33,000 FOR BENTON COUNTY.**



## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

## Community Development

Ray Walden  
Community Development Specialist  
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Serving Crawford, Dent, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski, and Washington Counties

### At a Glance

I started my position as a Community Development Specialist on June 12, 2023. I am based out of Salem in Dent County and also serve the counties of Crawford, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington in the East Central Region. I previously served Extension as Coordinator for the Salem Telecommunications Community Resource Center (TCRC) from 2000 through 2011 and also served as Salem's City Administrator and Economic Development Director.

Since June, I have had the opportunity to meet people from the counties I serve along with other Community Development and Extension staff. I have also been on-boarding with various Community Development programs and their use to meet different types of community needs.

### Looking at 2024

Plans for 2024 include:

- Work with counties to identify community development priorities and potential partners in support of community development programs and services
- Provide regular updates on community development programs and formal presentations to county councils and other stakeholders as requested

Other projects I am assisting with include:

- Collaboration to offer a Public Manager Certification
- Rural Infrastructure Challenge Grant with Missouri S&T
- Multi-State Housing Survey

Please contact me with any questions about community development programs or services. I am glad to be serving the East Central Region and look forward to working with your county!

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### BUILDING CIVIC CAPACITY FOR

### THRIVING COMMUNITIES

#### What is Civic Capacity?

The collective strength of people in a place to respond to challenges and pursue thriving communities.

#### What we do

Experienced community development specialists provide research-based programming and resources to individuals, organizations and local governments based on their unique issues and assets.

#### How we do it

Through statewide programming, we empower residents, organizations and governments to build:

##### BELONGING

Building social capital and inclusivity

##### COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Engaging residents in civic life and decision-making

Guiding collaborations with diverse community leaders

Creating conditions for equitable, thriving, resourceful places

##### CONTRIBUTION

##### VITALITY



#### Why it's important:

When people feel belonging within the community, they are more likely to contribute to cultivating strong, equitable, prosperous places.

Community-led change is more likely to meet the needs of all residents and make enduring progress toward local vitality.



### Testimonial

"I have learned that my voice is very important, and I am a force to be listened to. I had many ideas but didn't have the courage to pursue all avenues and to make things better for my community, but I now feel that my voice is very important and should be heard."

- Community Development program participant

### Programs and Services

- Asset Mapping
- Community Arts Programming
- Community Assessment
- Community Engagement
- Community Planning Support/Coaching
- Community Resource Development
- Facilitation
- Neighborhood and Leadership Classes
- Strategic Doing
- Youth Civic Engagement Programs

### About us

The University of Missouri Extension and the University of Missouri-St. Louis have a history of successful partnerships building capacity for thriving communities.

Contact us to discuss how we can work with you to build civic capacity for YOUR thriving community.

[extension.missouri.edu/topics/community-development](http://extension.missouri.edu/topics/community-development)

# Phelps County

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate one summer and three fall tax schools. The summer school was in person and live online. Fall schools were in Columbia and Springfield and in addition a was online. The schools were designed for those who prepare taxes including enrolled agents, tax preparers, CPAs, individuals, and attorneys.

The training included updates on legislation, rulings and cases, individual taxpayer issues, agricultural and natural resources topics, ethics, trusts and estates, agriculture and natural resource tax issues, business tax issues, business entity tax issues, IRS issues, penalties and defenses, form 4797 sales of property, retirement tax issues, like-kind exchange issues. The schools were approved for 8 and 16 hours of continuing education credit by the IRS, Missouri Bar and for CFP continuing education. Total continuing education hours reported to IRS for the schools was 3,336 hours.

The teaching teams included a CPA and former IRS stakeholder liaison, an IRS certified retired ag economics professor, an attorney, Missouri Department of Revenue and extension ag business specialists.

The resources for the schools included the IRS, the National Income Tax Workbook from the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation, and materials written by the instructors.

The 2023 school attendance totaled three hundred twenty-seven people. The participants were from throughout Missouri.





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



**Recovery Friendly Workplaces** (RFWs) foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health and well-being through strategies that support managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. The framework was developed in partnership with MU Extension's Labor and Workforce Development Program.

**As of 2023, 25 Missouri businesses have been designated recovery friendly workplaces, and 2,248 EMPLOYEES have been trained on addiction, stigma and naloxone distribution.**



**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.**



**PROSPER** is a research-supported approach that promotes positive youth development and strong families through lifeskills education that increase protective factors and reduces risky behaviors among teens. Through a campus-community partnership, PROSPER Teams are created to support the implementation of two evidence-based programs with middle school students and their families.

**"They have the old saying it takes a village to raise a child, the more the community comes together the better off the children are going to be in that community."**

**Peggy Saphian PROSPER Model Participant in Fredericktown, MO**

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# Phelps County

## Community and Professional Health Education

### Local Impact

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.

Delivery of the second grant-funded shed to Common Grounds Community Garden, photo by Hairy Dayton, Missouri Master Naturalist 10/28/23



# Phelps County

## Community and Professional Health Education

### Local Profiles and Stories

In addition to the numbers, **Jean Day** shared this success story demonstrating local impact:

*I offered iCook 4-H, a course designed for adult & child pairs, at Phelps County Faith Distribution. During our third session, I asked who had used something from our iCook class during the last week. One of the adults looked at three youth participants -- two siblings and a cousin -- and said, "Go ahead, tell them what you did."*

*The oldest cousin offered "we made the fruit salsa" and another said, "and the chips."*

*The other adult in this family explained that the extended family met for dinner on Sunday, and the three youth participants had prepared both recipes for the group with no adult help!*

*One youth added "we let (three-year-old cousin) cut up the bananas."*



A total of 708 Direct Education participants were from Phelps County.

# Phelps County

## Community and Professional Health Education

### Local Profiles and Stories

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.

Phoenix Hazell and Brody Fulk are behind thriving community gardens in Phelps County.





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.”**



Preschool through junior high youths learn how to maintain healthy lifestyles through information about nutrition, food safety and physical activity. **Show-Me Nutrition** classes support Missouri’s Show-Me education standards for health and physical education and the state’s School Wellness Policy.

**“We have struggled with our daughter’s picky eating for years and have tried so many techniques to try and get her to eat new foods. Your influence on her has worked magic this year. She has come home so excited about trying new foods and has now become not only willing but excited to try new things.”**

**Parent of a Show-Me Nutrition participant**



**Cooking Matters** teaches shopping strategies, using nutrition information to make healthier choices and to learn how to cook delicious, affordable meals at home.

**“We prepared barley jambalaya in class and one participant mentioned she had never tried barley before. She tried the jambalaya and really enjoyed it. A few days later she excitedly said she made the recipe at home and her whole family enjoyed it!”**

**Cooking Matters facilitator about a class participant**

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



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Health & Well-Being

# Phelps County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact

Diane Hagni opened the Phelps County Dream Center classroom & teaching kitchen for Extension programming. Hagni received an Extension Leadership Honor Roll certificate from Cece Kimmel & I.





# Phelps County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Profiles and Stories

Nutrition and Health Specialist Cecelia Kimmel and Nutrition Program Associate Jean Day join the Phelps County Dream Center for food distribution. From The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri's Pantry to Plate, try a Black Bean Chocolate Chunk Brownie!

June 7, 2023

