



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Reynolds County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Ellington, MO 63638



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

Evan Holley
Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health
Office located in Reynolds County

Donna Aufdenberg
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Leslie Davis
Nutrition Program Associate

Emily Doosing
Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

John Fuller
Field Specialist in Human Development

Sarah Higgins
Field Specialist in Natural Resources

Jason Morris
Field Specialist in Agriculture Business

Eric Meusch
Field Specialist in Livestock

Jerry Richards
Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach Educator

Stephanie Schindler
Extension and Engagement Specialist

Haley Schwantz
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Shana Sorg
Field Specialist in Community Health

Debra Rayfield
Council Volunteer Secretary



Council members

Jason Dane, Chairman
Lesajoy Helt, Vice-chairman
Debra Rayfield, Secretary
Darlene Helt, Treasurer
Dawn Bell
Richard Clayton
Katie Hoskins
John Lewis
Jeremy Manning
Larry Pogue, Commissioner



County commissioners

Steve Chitwood
Presiding Commissioner

Larry Pogue
Associate Commissioner 1st District

Eddie Williams
Associate Commissioner 2nd District

Financials and more



Extension
University of Missouri

Extending our resources to county residents...

- 720 total county direct contacts through programs, phone calls, office visits, etc.
- Over 1000 indirect contacts through events
- SNAP-Ed programming provided to 2 county schools, the health department and the nutrition center
- 29 soil tests processed
- 4 Private Pesticide Applicator recertifications conducted



2023 Council Appropriations Budget

County Appropriations 20,000

Expenses

Travel	1,308.58
Office Supplies/Service	3,119.91
Rent, Utilities, Phone	2,675.49
Insurance	700.00
Postage	192.75
Furniture and Equipment	921.14
Advertising (including election)	1,292.42
Programming supplies	900.00
Salaries and wages	8,889.71
Total Budgeted Expenses	20,000

Reynolds County Missouri State Fair Farm Family

Dustin, Kelsey, Judson, Denver and Darby Keene

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Reynolds 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.

Livestock

Eric Meusch
Livestock Specialist



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 SUCCESSSES

- ✓ 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.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Agriculture Business

Rachel Hopkins
Ag Business Specialist

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

Work in Reynolds County

During 2023, phone calls, emails, walk-ins and farm visits were conducted serving citizens in 15 counties in the topics covering general agriculture and agricultural business. Topics ranged from how to add value to thin cows, rental rate questions and inquiries, written lease documents, hay pricing, how to take a hay sample, cow culling strategies, cost share programs, different types of business entities, and so forth. These counties included Cape Girardeau, Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Iron, Maries, Miller, Montgomery, Osage, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Washington and Webster.



Eric Meusch, MU Livestock Specialist discusses beef management through drought and forage issues to the field day attendees.

Wurdack Producer Field Day

Wurdack – The Annual Field Day at Wurdack Extension Center is an annual gathering of local producers to hear about pertinent topics on what is happening in the area. This day is also used as a way to take “knowledge to the people”, Extension’s original mission by providing relevant, timely research to local farmers.

At the 2023 Field Day, 29 producers attended from Boone, Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Phelps, Reynolds and Webster Counties.

Extension personnel presented topics at various stops during the tour. Eric Meusch discussed beef management during drought and forage shortages. Rachel Hopkins, challenged producers to think about unit cost of production, major costs in cow calf enterprises and potential tax issues stemming from the drought. Rusty Lee had them start thinking about alternative winter-feeding sources such as milo grazing. Gatlin Bunton, Wurdack Director, provided the guided tour and explained the milo grazing that is happening; and different seeding trials regarding native grass establishment.



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



MU Extension specialists

play an important role in addressing emergencies and disasters. MU Extension specialists swiftly distribute information so farmers and ranchers can make timely decisions that safeguard their enterprises.



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.

“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



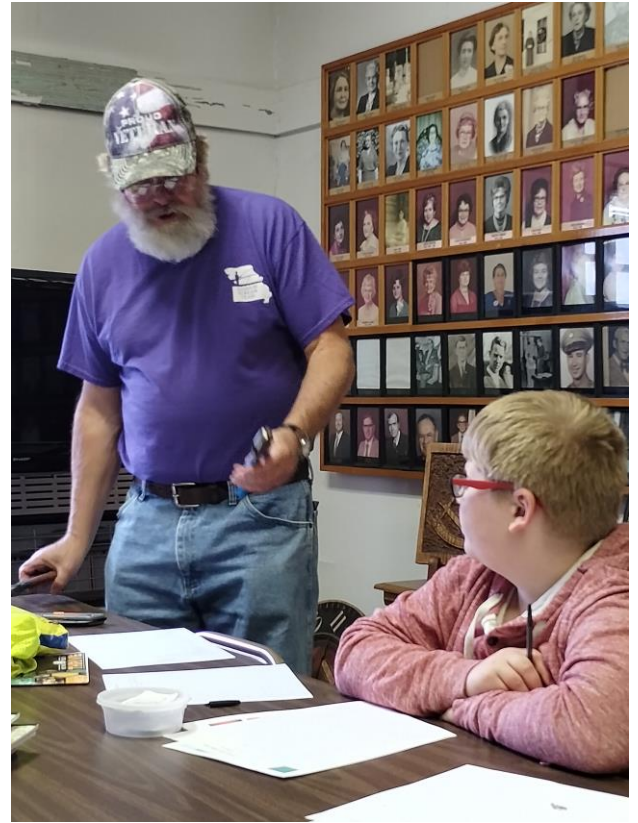
Economic Opportunity

4-H Provides Endless Opportunities for Positive Youth Development



(Left) Emily Doosing, 4-H Specialist

(Right) 4-H Volunteer, Eric (Rick) Mansfield educates a 4-H member on tools for river stewardship.



1 New Club
4 Members
2 Volunteers
Reynolds County 4-H



4-H'ers are...

4X more likely to give back to their communities

2X more likely to make healthier choices

2X more likely to participate in STEM activities

MU Extension
University of Missouri



(Above) Reynolds County 4-H members listen during a 4-H meeting.



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



Health & Well-being

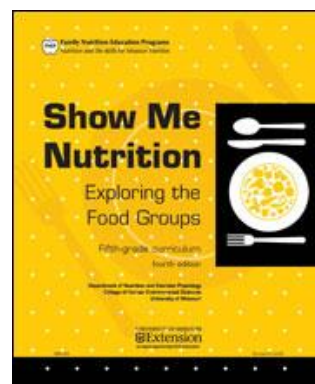
Family Nutrition Education Program

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 154 participants were from Reynolds County.

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan.

This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.



Reynolds County Welcomes Nutrition Specialist

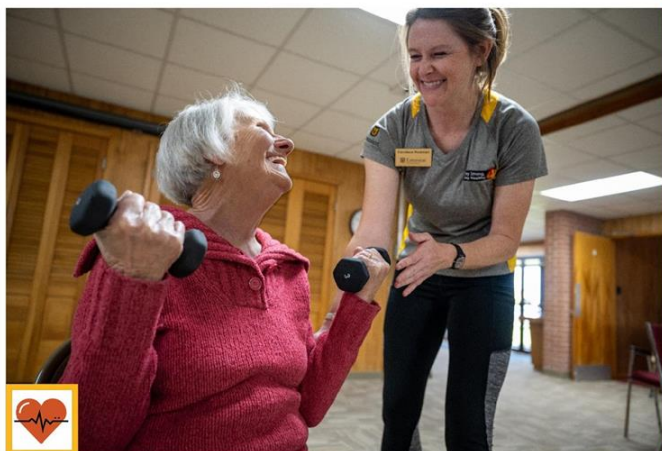
My name is Evan Holley. I am the new Nutrition and Health Specialist serving Reynolds County. I come to MU Extension with a master's degree in Nutrition and Human Performance from Logan University, along with previous experience working as a nutritionist at a WIC clinic and with individual clients. I am currently certified to offer Stay Strong Stay Healthy Level 1, Cooking Matters, and Chronic Disease Self-Management.

Much of my time in 2023 was spent training, learning the job, along with the organization and mission of MU Extension, and networking to make connections with others working with the same goal of improving the health and well-being of Iron County residents. The groups I met with include the Reynolds County Health Department and Missouri Highlands in Ellington, who are enthusiastic about partnering together to maximize the reach and effectiveness of our programming.

In August, a one-time class, Eating for Brain Health was offered. A large portion of my time in Reynolds County during 2023 was spent networking within the community, along with learning and identifying which needs are present that MU Extension can help to meet.



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



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.



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



Policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes encourage residents to improve community health by making healthy choices easier and more accessible. Residents design strategies around local needs, assets, and interests.

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY leaders decided pantry clients needed access to healthier foods. Review of food procurement and display practices led to a new policy allocating **\$1,000** of pantry discretionary spending for **LOW-FAT DAIRY OR FRESH PRODUCE.**

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Natural Resources

Sarah J. Higgins
Field Specialist in
Natural Resources



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 5th, 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 29th.
- Invasive Species workshop in March.
- Forest health webinar series in early April, followed by a forest health field day on April 13th.

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!

Reynolds County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

15 students

- 14 Undergraduates
- 1 Graduate and professional student
- 14 Full-time students
- 1 Part-time student



County employees and retirees

9 people employed by UM

- 9 Campuses

4 UM retirees and beneficiaries
 UM salary and retirement income: \$164,186
 UM state tax revenue: \$3,397
 UM federal tax revenue: \$19,018



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 1 Medicine
- 6 Nursing
- 7 Health Professions
- 6 Agriculture
- 17 Engineering
- 2 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 3 teachers
- 3.4% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 12.5% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 9 students
- 48 alumni
- 8 employees

UMKC

- 0 students
- 3 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 5 students
- 15 alumni
- 1 employee

UMSL

- 1 student
- 21 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Reynolds County



County population: 6,138



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 49 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$59,382 of uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 51 visits to 25 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

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