



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Mississippi County

2023 Annual Report



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 **Extension**
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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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

Budget and more

Appropriations budget		2023
Income	0210 · County Appropriations	42,000.00
Total Income		42,000.00
Expense	2700 · Salaries & Wag	13,728.00
	2800 · Payroll Expenses	7,303.90
	3100 · Travel	2,796.00
	3600 · Postage	500.00
	3700 · Telephone	600.00
	3900 · Advertising	3,583.20
	4700 · Printing	1,500.00
	5100 · Supplies	2,652.78
	5600 · Services	600.00
	5900 · Utilities	4,212.00
	6800 · Insurance	2,022.9
	7010 · Election Exp.	200.00
	7300 · Repairs	2,265.24
Total Expense		42,000.00

Return on investment

University System 407,951.00
(Salaries, Computer Equipment, travel)

For every dollar invested by the county, MU invests \$9.71!

Mississippi County Faculty and Staff

- Sarah Denkler – Regional Director
- Amber Childers – Extension Engagement Specialist
- Susan Norship-Haney – Field Specialist in Community Health
- Jennifer Hall – 4-H Youth Development Educator
- Robyn Mulloy – Field Specialist in Agronomy
- Richard Rickman – Field Specialist in Workforce Development
- Kristal Smith – Field Specialist in 4-H Youth Development
- Barbara Ann Cleaves - Nutrition Program Associate
- Paula Cates- Nutrition Program Associate
- Audrey Johnson – Field Specialist in Human Development
- Maude Harris – Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health
- David Reinbott – Field Specialist in Ag Business
- Sherrie Crossfield – Office Support Staff
- Vacant Position – Youth Program Associate

MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way federal, state, and county government partnership. Federal and state money through the University of Missouri system pays 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 *Mississippi* County Extension Council, faculty, and staff would like to thank the Mississippi County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Mississippi 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 donate to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

Budget and more



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.



In 2023, Dr. Maude Harris provided programming in Scott county and throughout the region. Maude had **1,748** direct programming contacts and over **15,442** indirect contacts for programs and engagement. Dr. Harris was co-instructor for two **Tai Chi** classes, two **Matter of Balance** classes, one **Stay, Strong, Stay Healthy** class, six **Keep Your Keys** classes, ten **Food Preservation** classes, two **Dining with Diabetes** classes, and two **Diabetes Self-Management** classes. Dr. Harris also coordinated other programming to be brought into the area. Dr. Harris serves on several boards and committees. She is currently co investigator for Type 2 African American Diabetic adults and Stress in the Missouri Bootheel Counties

A **Matter of Balance** helps adults 60 years old and up realize that falls — and the fear of falling — are controllable. The program provides information on changing your environment to limit risk factors contributing to falling. It will help you find strength and balance exercises to reduce your chances of falling. *Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention combines gentle physical exercise, stretching, and mindfulness. This program is evidence-based and recommended by the CDC. It is suitable for all ages. Tai Chi can improve health, quality of life, and balance*



The community garden is used for FNEP in-service and community education. Produce used in food preservation workshops



Hands-on **Food Preservation** workshops, that include fact sheets and answers to questions on canning, freezing, dehydrating and storing food products for long term storage.

UM System County Impacts



Little Green Thumb Garden Program Garden



Missouri 4-H Agriculture and STEM programs

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In partnership with the Mississippi County Youth & Drug Coalition, we co-hosted a Life Skills Camp in the Summer of 2023. Youth learned life skills such as culinary arts, sewing, robotics, gardening, and much more!



Health & Well-being

Kelley L. Brent, Nutrition and Health Field Specialist, Southeast Region

Mississippi County Education:

Tai Chi Series – October - November, 8 weeks, 2x week, 16 sessions, 15 participants



- Serving on the Missouri Highland Healthcare Board of Directors
- Serving on the Missouri Parks Association Board of Directors

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy



A MATTER OF
BALANCE

SHOULD CONCERN ABOUT FALLS





Engagement Work:

- I started my journey with MU Extension in May 2023. In July, I took part in Camp Soar in Mississippi County, teaching life skills to students in grades 3-8. We also covered the importance of avoiding drugs.
- In August I participated in the Family Fun Fest with Parent Link and the Family Resource Center in New Madrid and interacted with the community with the Blender Bikes to promote healthy snacks and exercise.
- In August, I began a non-credit course called MO-RE Implementation, focusing on gathering data for a comprehensive Needs Assessment across six counties. This assessment looks into infectious diseases, chronic diseases, and cancer to improve skills and set consistent standards in the region.
- Come September, I got involved in the Scalable Mental Health Pilot Program for New Madrid County. It's a telehealth initiative where UM System Universities provide mental health services through extension offices.
- Field Specialist within MU Extension are also partnering with the Missouri Telehealth Network on promoting programs like Show Me Echo's, and connecting healthcare professionals and communities to share knowledge and resources.
- In November I assisted with the Women's Conference in Scott County and engaged in an energetic day of partnership learning and fellowship with women in the community.



Key Outcomes:

- I've actively collaborated with community partners through Regional Resource Meetings in Kennett. Additionally, I attended key events like the Diabetes Shared Learning Network meeting in Jefferson City and Extension and Engagement Week in October, gaining valuable insights.
- I also participated in discussions at the Youth Vaping Conversations Meeting in Poplar Bluff and the Rural Health Research Conference in Columbia, focusing on effective engagement and information gathering. I attended the Rural Health Research Summit in Columbia, engaging in conversations about improving services in rural areas and overcoming related barriers.
- On the professional development front, I've completed the Brain and the Disease of Addiction Trainer Program and the Layperson Naloxone Administration Trainer Program. Currently, I'm in training to become a facilitator for the We Can Prosper Resilience Trainer Program and to conduct Recovery Friendly Workplace training. I look forward to offering these trainings in partnership with communities in the coming year.

UM System County Impacts



MU Crop Conference

The 2022 regional corn and soybean commodity conference was held at the Miner Convention Center during January. Participants from 19 MO counties, including New Madrid County, and two other states were presented research-based information in market outlook, commodity organization updates, corn disease management, weed management and herbicide resistance as well as soybean varieties and nutrient management.

Over 100 attendees rated the overall value from the information provided at 8.3 average out of a maximum of 10.

When asked what changes would be made as a result of the information provided the responses included:

- 1) More soil sampling, mix herbicide chemistry;
- 2) Looking more into conventional beans, change weed control;
- 3) Check availability to herbicide;
- 4) Look more on Tar Spots;
- 5) Flood Tolerance;
- 6) Less Chemicals

Overall, the research-based education increased overall knowledge in the topic areas which will lead to informed decisions that can help implement changes in management practices. Therefore, improving the economic viability of farm operations.



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.



Mississippi County



University of Missouri System

COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

18 students

- 9 Undergraduates
- 9 Graduate and professional students
- 14 Full-time students
- 4 Part-time students



County employees and retirees

12 people employed by UM

- 12 Campuses

1 UM retiree or beneficiary

UM salary and retirement income:

\$303,969

UM state tax revenue: \$7,673

UM federal tax revenue: \$37,470



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 2 Medicine
- 1 Nursing
- 9 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 4 Pharmacy
- 1 Veterinary Medicine
- 36 Agriculture
- 13 Engineering
- 4 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 5 teachers
- 3.3% of all district teachers
- 1 principal or administrator
- 10.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 11 students
- 103 alumni
- 12 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 9 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 2 students
- 11 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 3 students
- 11 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Mississippi County



County population: 12,305



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 36 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$65,732 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$34.82 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 16 visits to 10 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

- 2,747 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 140 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 2,493 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 114 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy