



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Texas County

2023

Annual Report

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**

114 West Main Street
Houston MO 65483
417-967-4545
texasco@missouri.edu



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT
108 Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
PHONE 573-882-2394
EMAIL: cchiggins@missouri.edu

December 2023

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

Thank you for your important partnership with the University of Missouri Extension this past year.

I want to highlight three areas that address needs you helped us identify.

You may recall that the FY 23 state budget provided a one-time \$5 million infusion to MU Extension for growth. Of that, we allocated about \$3 million for field faculty in the areas of agriculture, 4-H, health/human development and business and community development.

Through a dedicated hiring effort, and thanks to that allocation, we have hired 168 new employees since November 2022. That includes 72 academic/faculty members, most of whom are field specialists in a priority area noted above, and 96 staff members (e.g., office administrators, youth and food and nutrition associates, etc.).

We also returned more faculty to local program delivery that best serves your county's needs, while preserving the partnership and relationship building work you value. Our extension and engagement specialists focus full-time on that work as they serve their assigned multi-county groups. Currently, 19 have been hired, with two more in the pipeline.

Finally, we are prioritizing our work with county extension councils. In the new role of partnership and council development director, Lorin Fahrmeier focuses on strengthening council representation and governance. This role will build stronger links with regional, educational and campus leadership to better identify and address local priorities.

At the UM System level, our engagement work across four universities and with leaders across the state makes a difference in areas of greatest need: broadband, workforce development, health access, food security and healthy futures for our youth.

Your county annual report shows what we are accomplishing together as we Serve Missouri and Deliver Mizzou. We look forward to strengthening that partnership with county commissioners and community stakeholders in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Dr. Janice Weddle
Extension Engagement Specialist

Sarah Havens
Regional Director

Dana McGuire
Nutrition Program, Educational Associate III

Kay Jordan
County Office Support

Kyle Wake
4-H Youth Development Specialist

Eric Meusch
Field Specialist in Livestock

Dr. Sarah Kenyon
Field Specialist in Agronomy

Chloe Collins
Field Specialist in Dairy

Patrick Byers
Field Specialist in Horticulture

Kevin Crider
Cooperative Feral Hog Outreach Educator

Jacob Hefley
Field Specialist in Agricultural Business

Willis Mushrush
Field Specialist in Procurement

Stephanie Johnson
Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health

Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development

Elizabeth Picking
Field Specialist in Livestock

Shelby Yake
Field Specialist in Community Health

Council members

Susan Haller, Chair
Robert Rouse, Vice-chairman
Farm Bureau Representative

David Keeney, Secretary
Vanessa Haneline, Treasurer
John Casey, Regional Delegate,
Commission Representative

Dr. Justin Copley, Member
Jeff Gettys, Member
Kristie Miller, Member
Ross Richardson, Regional Alternate
Darrell Scheets, Member



County commissioners

Scott Long
Presiding Commissioner

John Casey
Commissioner, District 1

Robert Ross
Commissioner, District 2

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	\$38,000
Total Income	38,000

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	14,830
Travel	2,674
Telephone	1,435
Office Supplies/Service	2,335
Utilities	3,757
Insurance	6,087
Capital Repairs	5,315
Total Expenses	\$36,433

Serve Missouri Deliver Mizzou

Stephanie Johnson, Nutrition and Health Field Specialist taught a Keep Your Keys class November 6 at Houston Senior Center with 15 participants.

Ke Outcome: "Participants loved the information and the majority felt more prepared approaching driving retirement."

The Keep Your Keys program is a driver-safety course geared toward people 55 and older, caregivers and facilitators, typically health educators, policy or highway patrol departments, nurses, etc. University of Missouri Health Care's Injury Prevention and Outreach Program provide resources for adults – both individuals and caregivers – who may need support to continue driving or retire from driving.

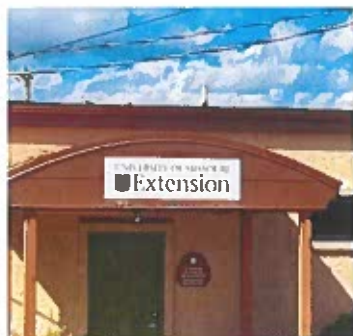
Return on investment

University System	\$100,000
Event Room Rental	\$ 1,655
Program Revenue	\$ 3,670

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Texas 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 Agriculture.

UM System County Impacts



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 2,591 participants were from Texas 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.

Schools/Agencies served:

Summersville Elementary School
Success Elementary School
Licking Elementary School
Raymondville Elementary School
Cabool Head Start
Houston Head Start
Houston High School
Texas County Library, Summersville branch

Texas County Food Pantry
Texas County Food Pantry outreach, Summersville
United Community Help Center, Licking
Lone Star Farmers Market
Texas County Library, Houston branch
Texas County Library, Licking branch
Texas County Library, Cabool branch

Dana McGuire, Nutrition Program Associate, shared the following success stories for Texas County:

- *A woman that I see with adult programming came up to me last week and was excited to tell me that she was using her meat thermometer. She said she had gotten an air fryer and used her thermometer to make sure the wings were done. It can be difficult to get an adult to change the way they have been doing things for years, but this shows that presenting good information does make a difference in the lives of Missourians.*
- *I happened to run into a young man at a local grocery store who had been a part of my programming in school and more recently in adult programming. We chatted a few minutes, then he made a point to show me some things he was purchasing, and he told me how he was buying in bulk and how he had found some marked down items to save some money at the grocery store. He told me, "You might not have thought I was paying attention, but see, I was!" I told him I was proud he remembered and to keep up the good work. It is nice to know that SNAP-Ed programming is making a difference.*

UM System County Impacts

Sarah Kenyon, Ph.D.

Field Specialist in Agronomy



In 2023, drought was once again a major topic in agronomic programming, marking two years in a row where drought impacted the region. In 2023, drought workshops were held in Howell, Ozark, Texas, and Reynolds Counties, over 80 farmers attended these workshops.

Nitrate spot testing (active ingredients diphenylamine and sulfuric acid) was conducted on forages. Nitrates sometimes accumulate during drought and high levels can result in livestock loss. Texas County Extension Center provides nitrate spot tests for various forage crops.



The **Private Pesticide Applicator** program educates farmers about the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides. To purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides, producers in Missouri must attend a training session, view a training video, or attend a Zoom session. A total of **44** private applicators received training in 2023 at Texas County Extension center either attending the class held by Dr. Kenyon in February or viewing the training video.

Texas County Soil Samples Tested

Total Tests	Lab Fees	Postage	Charge to Customer
334	\$3,950	\$560	\$6,320

UM System County Impacts



Eric Meusch
Livestock Specialist



Regional grazing schools were established in Missouri in 1995 and since then have been taught by MU Extension and NRCS, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Missouri Forage and Grassland Council (MFGC), and Missouri Department of Agriculture. These partners have contributed research, cost-sharing incentives, and educational outreach to promote the adoption of management-intensive grazing (MiG) in Missouri.

Missouri's 7.1 million acres of permanent pasture provide feed for the state's 1.9 million cows. Pasture yield and quality, in turn, drive the productivity of Missouri's beef industry. Over the past 30 years, public agencies in Missouri have devoted extensive effort toward educating and incentivizing more than 18,300 producers to adopt improved grazing management practices. A 2018 report on Missouri Grazing Schools estimates the economic output of Missouri's beef industry increases by more than \$125 million annually due to grazing management practices.

Texas County Grazing School conducted in September 2023 had 24 students enrolled. Students received classroom instruction, and made two local farm visits where they learned to use a grazing stick.

Texas County Extension hosted a **Pasture Weeds & Fly Control Workshop** in April 2023 with 17 attending. Extension Specialists Eric Meusch, Dr. Sarah Kenyon, Elizabeth Picking and Haley Schwartz presented on identifying and controlling flies on livestock and pasture weed identification and control. This workshop was offered in 6 locations with a total of 110 attendees.

Texas County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Texas County State Fair Farm Family

Cody and Elishah Nickels, their children, Sierra, Colt, and nephew Blake attended the Missouri State Fair August 14 representing Texas County at Farm Bureau Farm Family Day.

Farmer Appreciation Lunch

MU Extension Texas County, with contributions from Texas County Fair Board and Texas County Farm Bureau hosted the annual lunch during the Texas County Fair. Extension Council members and staff served about 200 individuals.

MU Extension Leaders Honor Roll recipients, Lisa Steelman (left) and Elaine Campbell (right)



Missouri Good Neighbor Week

September 28 – October 4, 2023

Dana McGuire and Kay Jordan, Extension Staff, gave “thank you” pasta forks and recipe cards to community members helping this event exceed their state-wide goal of 15,000 acts of neighboring!

Houston School-A-Palooza

Dana McGuire and Kyle Wake, 4-H & Youth Specialist participate in providing extra support to area families and students.

(Pictured below right)



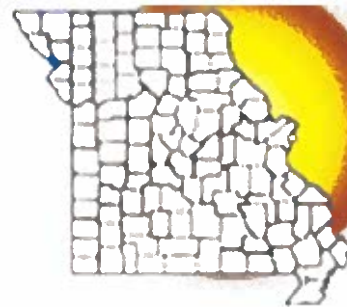
Texas County

Business and Community

Local Impact

MU Extension COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2023

County Name: Texas



As entrepreneurs and innovators, Missouri's small businesses are becoming a more diverse group that continues to make the state's economy productive. There are approximately 500,000 small businesses in Missouri. Nearly 98 percent of all businesses with employees are categorized as small businesses. In assisting the owners and managers of those businesses, MU Extension contributes to a county's economic development through growth in jobs, sales, innovation, technology development and commercialization.

In Texas County, during 2023, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business Development Centers (MO SBDC), and Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC) reported 12 individual management counseling cases resulting in the following economic impact to Texas County:

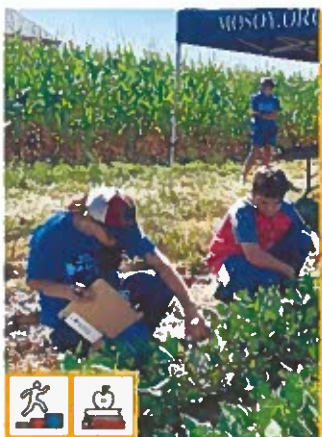
- PTAC Contract Awards: \$10,622,648
- Number of PTAC Awards: 40
- Jobs Retained: 25
- Business training attendees and conference participants: 47



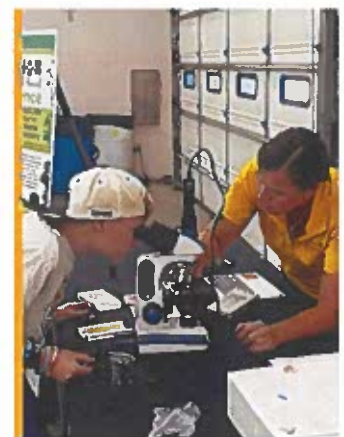
MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible statewide programs **Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18**



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.



4-H In-school clubs meet during the school day. Members participate in projects that supplement their existing lessons. Clubs may meet for short periods or span the full 4-H program year. Members can elect officers and plan learning activities with options of public speaking, community service and links to career readiness.

Legend



Agricultural Growth
& Stewardship



Economic
Opportunity



Educational
Access &
Excellence



Health
& Well-Being

Texas County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

- 4-H Shooting sports continues to be one of the top clubs in Texas County. They meet weekly nine months out of the year for practice and have competed on both the State and National level.
- Through Shooting Sports youth learn the importance of safety and leadership.
- Youth in Shooting Sports learn the importance of practice and hard work to achieve a goal.

4-H Builds Leadership and Communication Skills

95% help others reach their goals.

86% comfortable speaking in a group.

99% said they show respect for other's ideas.

85% Can work with someone who made them upset.

95% Look for ways to involve all members of a group.



Texas County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



- 4-H provides curriculum and incubators to schools so students can experience the process of growing and hatching chicks. Through this process the students learn about embryology and the growth patterns/life cycle of chicks.
- These Chicks were hatched in a middle school classroom in Houston.

Missouri 4-H Inspires Kids to Do

98% said they are willing to work hard on something difficult.

91% set personal goals.

97% said they try to learn from their mistakes.

98% said they treat others the way they want to be treated.

- 4-H members are supported by 19 youth and adult volunteers
 - Volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support, and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing an average of 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$31.80 per hour (Independent Sector, 2023), the contribution of Texas County 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$60,420 in 2023. More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth.
-