



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Ozark County

2023 Annual Report

Ozark County Extension
P.O. Box 187 • 526 3rd Street
Gainesville, MO 65655
417-679-3525
Ozarkco@missouri.edu



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



Janice Weddle
Extension
Engagement Specialist



Alicia Winrod
Field Educator in
Nutrition and Health



Nick Sanchez
4-H Youth
Program Associate



Cally Jo Clayton
Administrative
Assistant

Council members

Eric King • Chair

Larry Patterson • Vice-Chairman

Paula Bodenhamer • Secretary

Jeff Nash • Treasurer

Shanna Clayton

Emma Dixson

Logan Dixson

Renee Hambelton

Doug Hawkins

Bryan Luark

Layne Nance

Dan Noah

Larry Patterson

Konnie Plumlee

Kenny Warden

Earl VanRanken



County commissioners

Terry Newton • Presiding

Gary Collins - Associate for the East
District

Layne Nance • Associate for the West
District



Economic Opportunity

Soil Testing

Soil testing assists landowners with understanding the nutrient needs of their soils and helps producers determine the best course of action for fertilizing pasture and crop ground. Soil testing also enables producers to determine the best investment for profitability.

The Ozark County Extension Office conducted over 100 farm and garden soils tests for the year 2023.

Forage Testing

Hay tests help producers develop cost-effective feeding programs to meet animal production and performance goals. A minimal investment in hay testing allows producers to manage feed costs that directly affect the bottom line.

The Ozark County Extension Office conducted 14 forage tests and 9 nitrate checks for the year 2023.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training

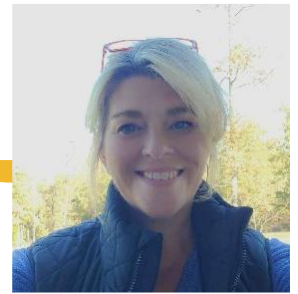
This program educates farmers about the safe and proper use of agricultural pesticides. To purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides, producers in Missouri must attend a training session, view a training video, or attend a Zoom session.

The Ozark County Extension Office completed 8 Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings via the teaching video for the year 2023.





County highlights



Alicia Amyx-Winrod – Field Educator Serving Ozark, Douglas, Wright, and Webster County

Ozark County Health and Human Sciences

- AmeriCorps Grant administration for Ozark County
- Senior Technology project with Senior Age
- Ozark County Community Garden project
- Gainesville Elementary School Garden project
- CDC Hop Grant
- National Convening Washington, D.C. AmeriCorps Senior Demonstration Project
- Judge, Bakersfield 2023 Bakersfield Science Fair
- Chicken Processing workshop merging Ozark and Douglas County communities
- Nutrition education from Preschool to Adult
- Ozark County Senior Center direct and indirect programming
- Snap benefit assistance



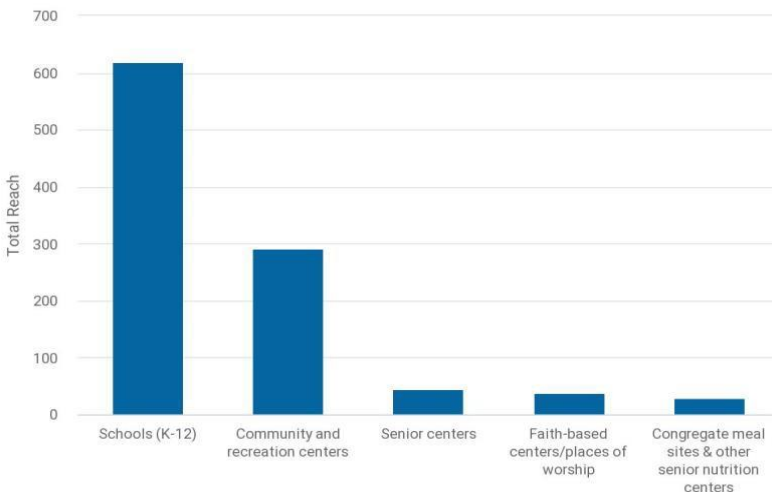
New Program Training

Stay Strong Stay Healthy:

Exercise program that incorporates the latest research to help develop fitness, flexibility, and balance that enables and maintains independent living.

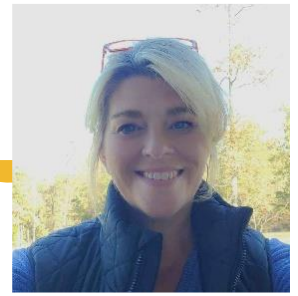
Chronic Disease Self-Management:

Adult workshop on chronic health conditions that focuses on disease management skills including decision making, problem-solving, and action planning





County highlights



Alicia Amyx-Winrod – Field Educator Serving Ozark, Douglas, Wright, and Webster County

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2023

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 889 participants were from Ozark 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.



AmeriCorps Ozark County

2023 was an amazing year for the AmeriCorps project in Ozark County working on our community with:

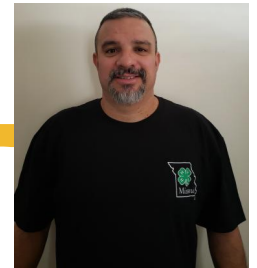
- The Ozark County Community Garden
- Gainesville Elementary School Garden project
- Senior Tech project

Our Senior Demonstration Project has 46 seniors volunteering more than 85 hours to these projects serving 1033 community members and 148 community youth.





County highlights



Nick Sanchez – Ozark County's 4-H Program Associate



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible statewide programs

Missouri 4-H for ages 8 – 18



Community clubs are organized by volunteer club leaders and teams of recognized volunteers. Members attend club meetings, elect officers, enroll in projects and plan learning and community service activities. Some clubs opt to be single-project clubs, where all members focus on the same project.



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.



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



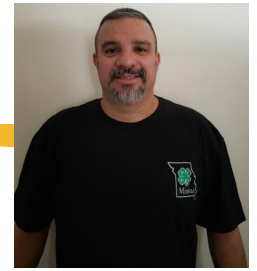
Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



County highlights



Nick Sanchez – Ozark County's 4-H Program Associate

Ozark County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

The Dusty Boots community club is based on Horse Showmanship. Club members are learning about grooming and the tools used properly groom a horse, an essential part of care for a great looking horse.

The iCOOK SPIN Club is cooking up some healthy and tasty stir fry to replenish the energy spent on the physical activities they just performed.

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.

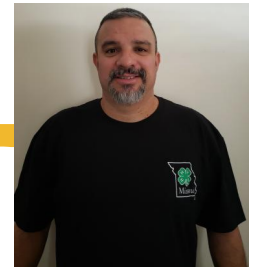
85% Can work with someone who made them upset.

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





County highlights



Nick Sanchez – Ozark County's 4-H Program Associate

Ozark County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



SNAC Club at the Gainesville Elementary School is teaching youth to grow healthy food and provide life skills. Students learn Botany along with how to plant, water, weed, fertilize, and maintain garden beds. Here the students grew several heads of romaine lettuce that was donated to the local food pantry.



Above, 4-H volunteers are shown promoting and recruiting new members and volunteers at the Gainesville, *Wonders Of Winter* event. Clover's, brochures, and pamphlets were available for education on 4-H programs. Also, Christmas cookies were passed out to help entice involvement.

4-H in collaboration with Ozark County UM Extension Office has begun a Community Garden. This garden is great way to connect youth and seniors as all ages participated in the workdays to construct raised beds and fencing. This garden will also help the community with social skills, life skills, and SPARK many other interests.





Educational Access & Excellence

Sarah Kenyon PhD – Field Specialist in Agronomy
Elizabeth Picking – Field Specialist in Livestock



Impact of Missouri's Grazing Schools

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

MiG is a way to increase output from a fixed amount of land. This gain is accomplished via increased forage production and utilization, higher stocking rates, often better animal performance, and using stockpiling to extend the grazing season.

MiG can also cut input costs such as feed, hay, fertilizer, and weed control. Soil fertility should improve over time in a MiG system with improved manure distribution, resulting in fewer fertilizer purchases. Chemical usage for weed and insect control should decrease with intensive management of pastures. Livestock will perform more of the forage harvest themselves. They also increase utilization, which results from intensified grazing pressure followed by rest periods. Deferred grazing or stockpiling offers an opportunity to extend the grazing season and as a result, less hay feeding is needed. Additionally, farmers have reported that cattle are easier to handle as they are trained to move throughout the grazing system.

Sarah Kenyon and Elizabeth Picking held a MiG conference for cattle and other livestock owners in Ozark County during the period of August 9th through August 11th, 2023.

The number of participants enrolled in the Ozark County's 2023 Management Intensive Grazing School was 17.



Farmers learn how to use a grazing stick while attending Missouri Grazing School



Farmers listening to outdoor demonstrations while attending a Grazing School in Gainesville, Missouri.



Educational Access & Excellence



Sarah Kenyon PhD – Field Specialist in Agronomy
Elizabeth Picking – Field Specialist in Livestock

Drought Programming

In 2023, drought was once again a major topic in agronomic programming, marking two years in a row where drought impacted the region. Drought workshops were conducted by Sarah Kenyon and Elizabeth Picking in Howell, Ozark, Texas, and Reynolds Counties. Over 80 farmers attended these workshops.



Soil Testing

Soil testing assists landowners with understanding the nutrient needs of their soils and helps producers determine the best course of action for fertilizing pasture and crop ground. Soil testing also enables producers to determine the best investment for profitability. The following are the number of farm soil tests conducted in the multi-county area: Howell - 530; Ozark – 123; Douglas - 106; Texas - 334; Wright – 154; Webster - 267.



Pasture Weeds & Fly Control Workshops

Elizabeth Picking presented on identifying and controlling flies on livestock. Sarah Kenyon presented on pasture weed identification and control. This workshop was offered in 6 locations with a total of 110 attendees.





Educational Access & Excellence



Sarah Kenyon PhD – Field Specialist in Agronomy

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

This 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 163 private applicators received training in 2023 by either face-to-face meetings or two Zoom trainings directed by Sarah Kenyon .



Farm Visits

Consultations with individuals and small groups are a significant method of knowledge transfer for MU Extension. These contacts include phone conversations, office walk-ins, emails, and on-site farm visits. Consultations typically have made up a large portion of my work and have involved a wide range of topics. Fifty-five farm visits were conducted in the multi-county area.





Stephanie Johnson - Nutrition and Health Specialist

Everyone Deserves Delicious, Healthy Food

Cooking Matters is a program run by Share Our Strength, a nonprofit working to solve problems of hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Cooking Matters has been helping families lead healthier lives for 30 years. Cooking Matters is on a mission to make eating healthier fast and affordable for families everywhere.

Stephanie Johnson taught Cooking Matters with Alicia Amyx-Winrod in Gainesville starting July 2021, along with the 6-session course at the Gainesville Lions Club with a partnership with the Ozark County Health Department. They met twice a week for two hours. Cooking Matters Adult is designed to help adults make healthy meals on a budget.

Policy System and Environment changes were implemented in the county including creating a Healthy Rewards program with some of the area teachers. Taking the first steps to set up a seed library in the Ozark County office and working with Alicia to establish the community garden.

We offer free cooking classes for parents, kids and childcare providers. Each lesson is taught by experts in many different community-based settings. Participants learn about cooking, meal prep, grocery shopping, food budgeting, and nutrition.



“This class was fun! The recipes are easy and my kids like the food.”
Participant



The Ozark County Health Department partnered with MU Extension as well as Senior Age. In this partnership, the health department offered amazing prizes for each participant from cutting boards to an air fryer. The participants were very grateful and enjoyed the class.

Stephanie Johnson also taught a Food Preservation Presentation for the Theodosia Garden Club, consuming of over 25 people, and a Food Preservation Class on Jellies at the Gainesville Lions Club with 12 participants.



Ozark County

Community and Professional Health Education

Shelby Yake, Community Health Specialist (CHS)

Background Information

- Hello! My name is Shelby Yake. I am the new Community Health Specialist (CHS) with MU Extension. My office is in Ava (Douglas County), but I serve the rural southwest region of the state. I serve Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Texas, Webster, and Wright counties. I started this position in July 2023.
- I was born and raised in southwest Missouri. After high school, I attended Missouri State University (MSU) in Springfield, MO. I have a Bachelor of Science in Operations Management, with a minor in International Marketing, as well as a Master of Science in Secondary Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education. I also have a lifelong teaching certificate in K-12 FCS education.



Office of Health Outreach, Policy, and Education (HOPE)

- I am an employee of HOPE.
- HOPE is a partnership between MU Extension, MU School of Medicine, and MU School of Health Professions.
- The director of HOPE is Dr. Kathleen Quinn.
- HOPE has 5 departments: Missouri TeleHealth Network (MTN), Rural Scholars Program, Continuing Education for Health Professions, Center for Health Policy, and Community Health Engagement and Outreach (CHEO).



Community Health Engagement & Outreach (CHEO)

- I am a specialist with the CHEO team.
- Our mission at CHEO is to achieve optimal health and well-being for every Missourian at every stage of life. We serve people of all ages – youth and adults.
- CHEO's main focuses are prevention, health and well-being promotion, and opioid and substance use disorder programs. CHEO's programs cover topics such as: vaccinations, diabetes prevention, health disparities, recovery friendly communities, trauma-informed health education, and promoting resilience.
- If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact me.



Ozark County

Community and Professional Health Education

Shelby Yake, Community Health Specialist (CHS) – Ongoing Programs

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) → Partnership with Missouri TeleHealth Network (MTN)

MU Extension's Show-Me ECHO uses videoconferencing to connect interdisciplinary teams of experts with primary care clinicians and other professionals. ECHO topics include Hepatitis C, pain management, eating disorders, Head Start, diabetes, kidney disease, HIV, hypertension, oral health, opioid use, asthma, and more. Part of my role as a CHS is to educate people about ECHO and market and attend ECHOs.



Layperson Naloxone Training

This course is designed to teach people how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, discuss harm reduction strategies in the opioid public health crisis, understand overdose prevention tips, and confidently and accurately administer Naloxone. This class can be 30 or 60 minutes.



Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFW)

The RFW initiative empowers workplaces to support people affected by substance use disorders and those in recovery. RFW foster a workplace culture that promotes employee safety, health, and well-being through strategies that provide support for managers and employees, including reducing stigma and providing recovery resources related to the challenges surrounding substance use disorders. I can meet with any employers/businesses interested in becoming Recovery Friendly.



The Brain & The Disease of Addiction

The course is designed to teach people about the disease of addiction by looking at brain neuroplasticity, how the brain is affected by substances such as drugs and alcohol, how the disease of addiction develops, and how treatment and recovery can change and reset the brain. This class can be 30 or 60 minutes.



WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training (WRT)

WRT is a research-based training grounded in a long tradition of resilience enhancement science that enables participants to improve personal stress management, clarify their resilience needs, identify relevant supportive resources, and build skills to enhance resilience during their daily routines. I am certified to facilitate the WRT virtually and in person.





Ozark County

Community and Professional Health Education

Shelby Yake, Community Health Specialist (CHS)

2023 Programs & Events in Ozark County

- Ozark County Council Meetings: 1



← Community Health Engagement & Outreach (CHEO) Team at MU Extension & Engagement Week on 10-23-23

2023 Missouri Substance Use Prevention Conference
in Columbia, MO (November 13 & 14, 2023) ↓



Community Health Specialists (L to R): Me, Rachel Brown, Emily Poncher, & Hari Koirala ↓



Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

All CHSs have been working on CHNA since September 2023. The assessments focus on strengthening the bridge between leading scientific research and community-based Extension practice. The goal is to create a dissemination and implementation protocol that will facilitate acceleration of relevant knowledge and discovery into the most vulnerable Missouri communities throughout MU Extension's CHEO office. Some key findings about Ozark County from the CHNA are listed below.

- Lowest population of all counties in my coverage area
- Lowest population density of all counties in my area
- Average age of farm/ranch operators: 58.8 years
- Percentage of people walking or biking to work: 6.13% (highest in my area – MO: 2.11% and US: 2.95%)
- Percentage of adults who are current tobacco smokers (age-adjusted rate): 27.80% (highest in my coverage area – MO: 19.18% & US: 13.80%)
- Percentage of population living in an area affected by a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA): 55.27% (MO is 27.43% and US is 23.78%)
- No Addiction/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) providers
- # of Primary Care Physicians: 1 (11 per 100K pop)
- # of Dentists: 5 (57 per 100K population)
- # of Mental Health providers: 1 (11 per 100K population – lowest in my coverage area)
- Most commonly diagnosed cancer: Lung & Bronchus



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



Resilience is the capacity to adapt when faced with adversity. **WeCanPROSPER Resilience Training** is a 2.5 hour training for participants to evaluate their personal resilience, tap into resources and create an action plan to enhance their resilience.

100% of participants indicate that the skills and techniques they learned will help them become **MORE RESILIENT.**



The **Missouri Research-Extension (MO-RE)** Protocol program focuses on strengthening the bridge between leading scientific research and community-based practice by creating a dissemination and implementation protocol that will facilitate acceleration of relevant knowledge into the most vulnerable Missouri communities through Community Health Engagement and Outreach.



Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can lead to trauma and increased risks of substance use disorders, including opioid and alcohol misuse.

Show-Me ACES

- offers educational opportunities to professionals, communities, and individuals to help mitigate the impact of ACEs within communities
- empowers individuals to make trauma-informed decisions related to ACEs and chronic stress

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Business and Community Development

David L. Burton
Community Development
Specialist
417-881-8909
burtond@missouri.edu



LOCAL IMPACT FOR ANNUAL REPORT

OZARK COUNTY

MU Extension Community Development Specialists (CDS) help build Civic Muscle, which is the collective strength of people in a place (neighborhood, town, region) to respond to challenges and proactively pursue thriving communities. CD specialists coach communities to build Civic Muscle in four key “Muscle Groups.”



BELONGING

Neighboring 101 is offered monthly on Zoom and features nationally known practitioners of neighboring, like Maxwell King (at left), author of “The Good Neighbor” on Mister Rogers. **Ozark County** has 2 individuals in this class.

Media Outreach & Podcasts on Neighboring featuring David Burton reached over 5,000 people in **Ozark County** this year.



CONTRIBUTION

Missouri Good Neighbor Week— statewide we document 19,582 acts of neighbor between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4. **Ozark County** had 2 acts reported.

Wont You Be My Neighbor Day — Has become a national effort to celebrate Mister Roger’s birthday. We had 2 participants from **Ozark County**.



LEADERSHIP

Neighborhood Leadership Academy—The Southwest Missouri cohort had 12 participants this year.

Being a thought leader — Presented a workshop on neighboring at the Neighborhoods USA conference and won the Best Neighboring Program of the Year. Research and writing led to individual coaching calls on this the subject of neighbors and neighboring from 2 individuals in **Ozark County**.



VITALITY

Engaged Neighbor Pledge — A commitment to pursue the Engaged Neighbor principles. In **Ozark County**, 2 people have taken the pledge.

Engaged Neighbor newsletter — 6 subscribers in **Ozark County**.

Coming in 2024 — Neighborhood Exploration Teams, Neighborhood Labs and Show-Me Neighborhood Art Week are being introduced in 2024.



Economic Opportunity

Serving: Greene, Polk, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Shannon, Oregon, Howell, Ozark, Douglas, Christian, Taney, Stone, Barry

Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University provides support to your county's entrepreneurs and small business owners through 1:1 assistance and training. Over the course of 2023, our office met with clients to discuss a wide range of topics including:

- Starting a business
- Business financing
- Business expansion and relocation
- Financial planning & cash flow management
- Marketing strategy & strategic growth
- Course projects with MSU students
- Purchasing a business
- International expansion opportunities
- Technology commercialization

Through leveraging regional partnerships several programs geared toward small businesses and enhancing the local workforce were offered through an initiative called Innovate SOMO. This collaborative effort led by Codefi and efactory aims to unlock the full potential of entrepreneurship and innovation to transform communities in the southernmost 47 counties in Missouri. Programs offered throughout the region include:

- Early-Stage Business Boot Camp
- 120 Day Tech Startup
- Code Labs
- Youth Coding League

REGIONAL KEY OUTCOMES

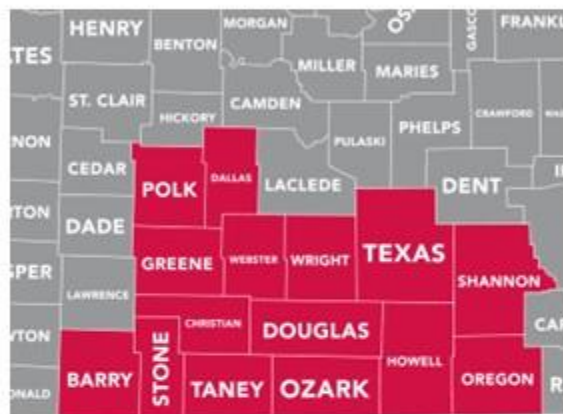
- ✓ **704** Business owners received multiple 1:1 consulting sessions regarding their small businesses.
- ✓ **\$33.4 million** Approved capital funding
- ✓ **\$86.3 million** Increase in sales
- ✓ **31** New businesses started
- ✓ **403** New jobs created
- ✓ **39,446** Jobs retained
- ✓ **1589** Attendees joined our business and professional development training programs.

Impact data is client verified and obtained by approximately 30% of clients annually for the statewide network.

The Missouri SBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



The Missouri SBDC at Missouri State University serves 15 counties in southwest Missouri (highlighted).

Learn more about our latest programs and training

sbdc@missouristate.edu

417-837-2617

sbdc.missouristate.edu

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

\$730,110,142

Increase in sales for client companies through the assistance of the Missouri SBDC network

\$525,507,913

Government contracts secured through the assistance of APEX Accelerators (formerly MO PTAC)

\$153,938,797

Capitalization secured through the assistance of the SBDC



Economic Opportunity



Willis Mushrush – Field Specialist in Procurement

Missouri Small Business Development Centers

MU Extension
Business Development Programs
COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2023



County Name: Ozark

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 Ozark County, during 2023, business development program specialists and business counselors with MU Extension, Missouri Small Business Development Centers (MO SBDC) reported 6 individual management counseling cases resulting in an economic impact to the county of \$600,000 in new capital investments, \$370,000 in sales increases, 2 new jobs created, and 12 jobs retained.



Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions

OZARK 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: Labor Market

Average Earnings per Job

Average earnings per job can reflect the type of economy, skill of employees, and availability of jobs and workers in an area. Average earnings is calculated by dividing total full-time and part-time employment by total earnings. Earnings is the sum of three components of personal income--wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Both employment for wages and salaries and proprietors employment are included, but the employment of unpaid family workers and volunteers is not included. Average earnings per job is a measure of the wages paid at jobs in the county not the earnings of people who live in the county. The dollar figures shown are not adjusted for inflation.

2022 Average Earnings (\$)

\$29,914

Ozark



Missouri \$62,528

Data Source: US Department of Commerce, [US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts](#), 2007-2022.

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey, of the 7,221 persons of working age in the report area, 42.97% are included in the labor force. This rate falls short of the Missouri labor force participation rate of 62.82%.

Labor Force Participation Rate

42.97%

Ozark

Missouri 62.82%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#), 2017-21.



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 40.4 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is higher in this area than in the state.

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

40.4

Ozark

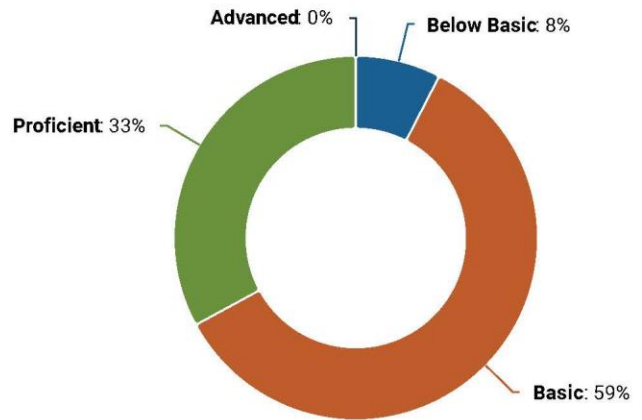
Missouri

11.76

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 104.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 47.00. The number tested as below basic was 6.00, basic was 47.00, proficient was 26.00, and advanced was 0.00.



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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Healthy Aging*

Fall Injuries

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related fatality and hospitalization among older adults in the United States. Between 2013 and 2015, adults over age 65 in the report area had 131 hospital or emergency room admissions for fall and jump-related injuries. The rate of these injuries was 1,654 per 100,000 population, which is lower than the state rate of 5,396. Falls hospitalizations have increased since the 2001-03 time period when the rate was 1,322.

Rate per 100,000, 2019-2021

1,654

Ozark



Missouri

5,396

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#). 2019-2021.

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 2 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 2,600 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 1,300:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,300 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 242:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

Ratio (Population to Providers)

1,300:1

Ozark

Missouri

242:1

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: Soils Testing

Recent public initiatives and USDA programs are putting a focus on producers to improve the health of their soil. The USDA-NRCS defines soil health as the continued capacity of the soil to function as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans. A variety of practices can improve soil health, including regular monitoring, sampling and testing protocols. The MU Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory provides testing and unbiased, research-based recommendations for economically viable and environmentally safe nutrient management practices across Missouri.

Report Area	Agriculture	Home and Garden	Community Areas	Research	Total
Ozark	82	20	0	0	102
Missouri	11,785	4,192	315	3,708	20,000

Data Source: [University of Missouri Extension Soil and Plant Testing Laboratory Annual Summary](#). 2022.



Appreciation and Thanks

Gainesville Livestock Auction

The Ozark County Extension Office would like to give an enormous thank you to Jim and Lydia Donley for letting the Extension Office use the sale barn for various programs over the past years.

The Extension Office would also like to thank Jim's mother, Patty Donley, and her sister, Peggy Johnson, for all the delicious homemade food that was served at these programs.

Another thank you is sent to Sherry Garrison who always has the sale barn cleaned and prepped, ready to go for all the curriculums that the Extension Office has held there.



Gainesville Lion's Club



The Ozark County Extension Office would also like to thank the Gainesville Lion's Club for letting the Extension Office have meetings and programs inside the Hoerman Memorial Community Building as well.



Ozark County Commissioners

Federal, State, and County Funding

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state, and county government. The University of Missouri provides salaries and benefits for two professional staff members, located in Ozark County. The federal and state money through the University of Missouri system, provides in-service training expenses including travel and lodging for staff; salaries; annual leave; retirement; medical benefits; and matching funds for computer equipment costs and maintenance.

The University of Missouri Extension programs in Ozark County are funded by the Ozark County state and federal appropriations. Local funding for support is provided by the Ozark County Commissions' Office. They fund office space and utilities, office operating expenses, clerical salaries, and travel expenses of specialists who conduct educational programs in the County.

A very special acknowledgement is given to the Ozark County Commissioners for their continued support.





2023 Ozark County Budget

Income	
County Appropriations	25,000.00
Total Income	25,000.00
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	21,990.00
Payroll Expenses	1,965.04
Post Office Box	80.00
Copy Machine	571.96
Surety Bond	100.00
Worker's Comp Insurance	293.00
Total Expenses	25,000.00

- Ozark County partners**
- Bakersfield R-IV School District
 - Dora R-III School District
 - Gainesville Livestock Auction
 - Gainesville School District
 - Lutie R-VI School District
 - Ozark County Commission
 - Ozark County Health Department
 - Ozark County Soil and Water
 - Ozark Action Head Start
 - The Center
 - Senior Age

Thank you to our program sponsor:



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Ozark 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.