



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Marion County



2023 Annual Report

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Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution

**SERVE
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT**

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Columbia, MO 65211

PHONE 573-882-2394

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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

Jim Meyers
Extension Engagement
Specialist Northeast Region

Nick Wesslak
Agronomist

Deann Turner
Family, Nutrition, Education
Regional Program Manager

Russell Schleiermacher
4-H Specialist

Karen Coleman
4-H Youth Program Associate

Rebecca Romig
Secretary

Council members

Amy Masterson, Chairman
Nancy Goellner, Vice-chairman
Marcia Bross, Treasurer
Rose Hudson, Secretary
Stephen McGregor
Kristy Trevathan
Kay Ellis
Steve Begley
Mason Burch
Austin Yackley
Wesley Tuley
Dave Redd
Barb Bimson
Aaron Ball

County commissioners

David Lomax, Presiding
Larry Welch, Eastern District
Steve Begley, Western District

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	58,500
Misc Income	20.94
Total Income	58,520.94

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	26,924.50
Payroll Expenses	2,175.79
Travel	4,200.22
Telephone	926.60
Supplies/Service/Furniture	3,395.57
Non-payroll Salaries	529.60
Insurance	2,596.00
Postage	88.74
Advertising	533.75
Total Expenses	41,370.77

Marion County partners

Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Ace Hardware, Palmyra
Palmyra Spectator

Return on investment

University System
Donations
Program Revenue

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

Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Marion 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.

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Marion County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



FY23 county students

179 students

- 139 Undergraduates
- 40 Graduate and professional students
- 148 Full-time students
- 31 Part-time students
- 36 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



County employees and retirees

27 people employed by UM

- 16 Campuses
- 11 MU Health Care

10 UM retirees and beneficiaries
UM salary and retirement income: \$974,072

UM state tax revenue: \$28,404

UM federal tax revenue: \$146,373



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 19 Medicine
- 49 Nursing
- 90 Health Professions
- 16 Dentistry
- 10 Pharmacy
- 1 Optometry
- 14 Veterinary Medicine
- 178 Agriculture
- 124 Engineering
- 41 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 41 teachers
- 10.3% of all district teachers
- 5 principals and administrators
- 23.8% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 135 students
- 756 alumni
- 13 employees

UMKC

- 14 students
- 75 alumni
- 2 employees

Missouri S&T

- 19 students
- 82 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 11 students
- 56 alumni
- 1 employee



Construction projects

- \$94,639 remitted to 1 county vendor, for 2 projects



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Marion County



County population: 28,564



County services provided

Health care (FY23)

- 1,379 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$1.4 million of uncompensated care
- 4 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$34.82 per patient in uncompensated care
- 2 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$43.61 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 243 visits to 146 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2022)

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

UM System County Impacts

2024 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Marion County

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In 2022, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 81,645 jobs.



\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY17 and FY22, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.46 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY23, UM System was issued 33 patents and filed 61 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY23, the UM System awarded 805 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$279.2 million in the state.



In FY23, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 18,381 hrs of case-based instruction to 2,938 learners located in 112 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



41,992 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2022)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 174,692 farmers and related businesses (2022)



311,749 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2022)



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

Education Highlights

FY23 Financial Aid Awards

In FY23, 67.3% of the UM System's 80,702 students received financial aid totaling \$973.7 million

MU

27,256
students receiving financial aid

\$536.0M
financial aid awarded

UMKC

11,859
students receiving financial aid

\$217.3M
financial aid awarded

Missouri S&T

6,748
students receiving financial aid

\$117.7M
financial aid awarded

UMSL

8,489
students receiving financial aid

\$102.8M
financial aid awarded



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 485 K-12 school districts (832,000 students) and 132 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2022.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 32,098 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2022-23.
- UM System awarded 36.6% of the 1,935 research doctorates and 26.9% of the 3,593 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2022-23.
- In FY23, UM System's \$37.9 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.3% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2023, over 10,900 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure. MU Extension also supported residents in making individual challenges to the FCC that resulted in \$810,000 in additional funding for the state of Missouri.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

UM System County Impacts



The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2023, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation

Missouri Grand Challenges: Local Solutions

MARION COUNTY



Knowing Missouri's Needs

MU Extension asked Missourians to share the greatest challenges they and their communities face.

We heard that feedback and made big changes in the way we work with council and local partners to improve lives. Locally, a network of county engagement and subject matter specialists now share MU's knowledge, research and engagement, targeting programs, information and assistance in:

- agriculture and environment
- youth and family
- business and community
- health and safety

For each grand challenge, MU Extension and Engagement targets a specific gain by 2023:



Economic opportunity

Increase MU Extension and Engagement's economic impact to the State of Missouri from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion overall, and from \$88 billion to \$100 billion in agriculture, the top economic sector



Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



Health and well-being

Improve Missouri's health ranking from 40th to 35th in the nation

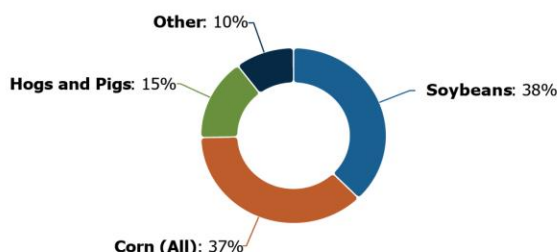
Knowing Local Challenges



CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Agricultural Economics

Leading Agricultural Products

Total Commodity Sales: \$99,117,000



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.

Net Farm Income

Net farm income (total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income minus total farm expenses) reflects the strength of the local agricultural community and can be an important measure for lenders and policy makers. The report area had a combined net farm income of \$25,014,000 in 2017, an average of \$42,613 per farm. This compares favorably to the statewide average farm income of \$29,485.

Report Area	Total Farms	Average Farm Income
Marion	587	\$42,613
Missouri	95,320	\$29,485

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#). 2017.

Grand Challenges



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 6 Head Start programs in the report area, or 30.35 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)

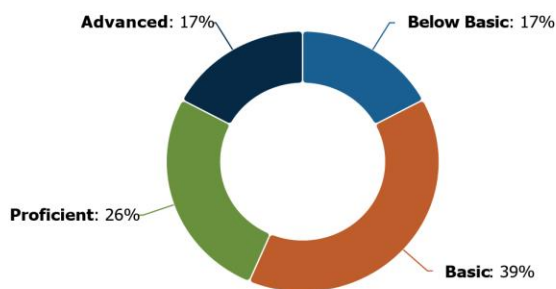
30.35 Missouri 11.76

Marion

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 314.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 119.00. The number tested as below basic was 52.00, basic was 119.00, proficient was 80.00, and advanced was 52.00.



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



CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Mental Health*

Deaths of Despair

Untreated mental health conditions, substance abuse, and stress have caused an epidemic of "deaths of despair" across the United States. Research shows that deaths due to suicide, alcohol-related disease, and drug overdose have caused the first decreases in U.S. life expectancy in the 21st century. Within the report area there were an estimated 98 deaths of despair, or 49.28 deaths per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2017. This rate is lower than the state rate of 52.01 per 100,000, and represents an increase of 12.95% since the 2001-2007 report period.

Mortality Rate, 2014-2020

49.28 Missouri 52.01 😞

Marion



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [CDC - National Vital Statistics System](#). Accessed via [CDC WONDER](#), 2014-20.

Poor Mental Health Days

Self-reported mental health status is a widely used measure of health-related quality of life. In 2018, adults in the report area averaged of 4.9 mentally unhealthy days per month, which is lower than the state average of 4.9. This measure of mental health status has worsened since 2014, when adults in the report area averaged 4.3 mentally unhealthy days per month.

Average Poor Mental Health Days per Month, 2018

4.9 Missouri 4.9 😞

Marion



Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#). Accessed via [County Health Rankings](#), 2020.

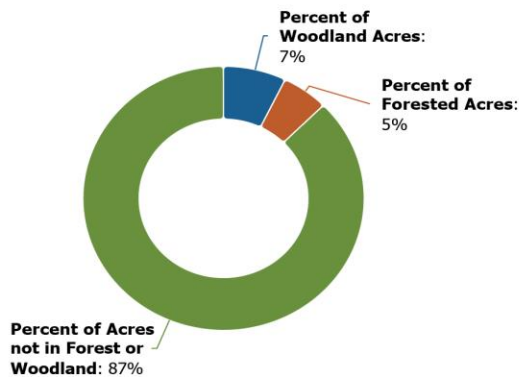
Grand Challenges



CHALLENGE 4: Agricultural Growth & Stewardship: *Resource Management*

Forested, Woodland & Non-forested Acres

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



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

Rotational Grazing

A planned rotational grazing system allows time for vegetation to rest and recover before being grazed again. In 2017, nearly 16,000 Missouri farms reported practicing rotational or management-intensive grazing. With 11 million acres of row crops and nearly 2 million grazing livestock animals (mainly cattle), Missouri is well suited to capitalize on the grazing potential of cover crops. In addition to generating more income, grazing cover crops can have a positive impact on soil health. Manure, hoof action and the root responses that grazing elicits stimulate soil biological activity and lead to healthier soil and healthier crops.

Percent of Operations Utilizing Rotational Grazing



Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Census of Agriculture](#), 2017.



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's Leadership and Civic Engagement programs foster understanding, confidence and decision-making skills to empower youths to become informed and active young citizens. 4-H civic engagement initiatives prepare young people to become future leaders by engaging them in programs where they have voice and influence.



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.



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Marion County

Missouri 4-H

Local Impact

There are nine active 4-H Clubs in Marion County. They participate in many community activities, and all clubs take turns volunteering at the local recycling center in Palmyra, MO.

The Fabius 4-H Club has approximately 60 members. They had many activities in 2023. In October they had their annual hayride, and in December the club went Christmas caroling. They also adopted a Christmas tree on Main Street in Palmyra and participated in the decorating contest. In the new year they club went to Gem City gymnastics. They are looking forward to the Winter Round-Up.



Marion County

Missouri 4-H

Local Profiles and Stories



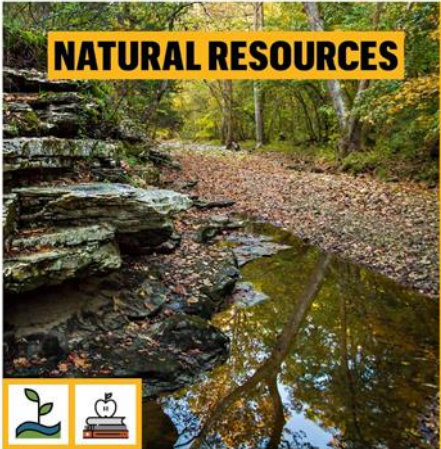
Many Clover kids and 4-H members participated in showing events at the Marion County Fair in 2023. Dogs, rabbits, cats, fish, and many other animals were well represented by their young owners.

Marion County had a very competitive livestock showing at the Fair this year.





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



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

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



The Missouri Master Gardener program

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



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



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.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Marion County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Extension faculty (Nick Wesslak and Russell Schleiermacher) presented to the Palmyra Kiwanis organization, where participants were able to interact with MU Extension specialists from different program areas (Agronomy and 4-H Youth) and learn about what services are provided by MU Extension at their local Extension Office. 20 participants attended.

Crop Consultations and Contacts:

Nick Wesslak consulted with 596 different individual agricultural contacts on topics related to row crops, forage crops, and horticulture crops across his eight different assigned counties plus two outside counties. Only 35 contacts were related to horticulture. Individual contacts for counties were as follows: Boone had 4, Clark had 21, Knox had 17, Lewis had 62, Marion had 312, Monroe had 46, Pike had 7, Ralls had 75, Scotland had 17, and Shelby had 35.

Nick Wesslak and Russel Schleiermacher attended the Palmyra Fire Department November meeting and discussed building a partnership with the Fire Department. The two primary focuses were on the planned Ag Safety Day at the County Fair in 2024 and the goal of doing an armed intruder training at the Marion County courthouses. Participants in the meeting gained a greater understanding of the goals MU Extension has for serving the communities in which it operates. A successful relationship was established with the Palmyra Fire and Rescue team. 25 participants were involved in that meeting.

Soil and Water Conservation and Management:

Nick Wesslak served as Secretary on the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. He also wrote a forage loss assessment report for the Farm Service Agency at the end of 2023. Across 5 meetings, there was 45 participants in this event.



Marion County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



Nick Wesslak taught 30 participants for private pesticide applicator training (PPAT) in Marion County, 197 total applicants were trained for PPAT licensing in the Northeast Region.

Nick taught 180 youth pesticide safety programming to high school age children so they could learn safe usage of pesticides and other chemicals. The ultimate goal was equipping the next generation with the knowledge necessary to reduce easily avoidable pesticide and other chemical exposures caused by misuse, improper storage, lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), and improper disposal.

The MU Extension in the Field Crop and Forage Chat was held in the Northeast Region in Marion County. There were 13 in person attendees. In person participants and article readers took from that day a greater understanding of MU in Field Research and drought mitigation strategies. Nick Wesslak spoke on corn silage considerations during drought as part of drought mitigation. Prior to the event, flyers were distributed locally, and promotional newspaper and radio interviews were conducted.



Hannibal hosted a career day. Nick Wesslak and Charlie Ellis presented for the ag career sessions in Hannibal and focused on their careers in Extension and what the land grant mission means and how the University of Missouri carries out that mission. 40 children participated in this event.

At Palmyra career day, Extension faculty (Nick Wesslak, Charlie Ellis, Russel Schleiermacher) gave their background on their careers in extension, what educational background is required for their jobs, what a typical day in their role looks like, and the services that are provided at the local Extension Office. 60 children attended in Palmyra.



Marion County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Profiles and Stories



36 Marion County residents attended horticulture classes with topics on composting, tomato disease, weed control in the garden, and how to appropriately fertilize a garden. Students received research-based information from MU Extension to help their gardens, landscapes and lawns thrive, while protecting pollinators by reducing insecticide use and protecting the environment from nutrient pollution caused by fertilizer runoff.

6 Marion County residents subscribed to MU Horticulture Newsletters (Garden Spade Newsletter, Missouri Produce Growers Bulletin, and the MU Commercial Horticulture Video Newsletter) or attended the Live Garden Hour weekly town hall.

13 Marion County gardeners and produce growers had their soil tested and received detailed fertility recommendations, guidance, and support to help their gardens thrive, while protecting our state's waterways from nutrient pollution.

42 Marion County homeowners and fruit/vegetable farmers received 1 on 1 support to help them solve problems in their crops and landscape such as; how to take a soil sample and how to fertilize a vegetable garden, how to deal with pests on flowers and vegetables, weed control in lawns, pricing at the farmers market, how to increase vegetable yields, how to connect with USDA farm programs, herbicide drift diagnosis, and use of cover crops.



Farm Succession Planning Workshops

Farm succession planning benefits individuals and families by increasing the understanding and knowledge, leading to improved communication, and eventually leading to transitioning farm businesses. Succession planning builds stronger families. Farm businesses that successfully transition to the next generation contribute to the local tax base and contribute to vibrant and strong rural economies.

The workshops were successful at helping participants gain new knowledge in the four key subjects. Survey respondents were asked at the end of each session to rate their knowledge on four concepts before the training (pre-test) and after the training (post-test). Participants were offered a 1 to 5 scale and asked to rate their knowledge from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high). After the training, participants offered an assessment of a 3.9 or higher indicating they felt their knowledge on the concept was "high". This assessment was higher than their perceived level of knowledge before the training began in all four categories.



Marion County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Group

The Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist Group has been growing every year. Projects they have done over 2023 include their Annual Christmas Bird Count with 25 volunteers and 57 species identified, a prairie planting at Hannibal Regional Hospital, helping at the Youth Deer Hunt and Annual Deer Hunt for Disabled Person, Endangered Turtle Fence workday, and a Winter Sowing Workshop.

This robust group also does prescribed burns, monthly hiking session, discusses educational nature books in their monthly book club, teaches kids to fish, removes invasive plants from different properties, and encourages and educates the public about native plantings. They help at Clarksville Eagle Days every year and are looking forward to hosting Hannibal's first Eagle Day in 2024.

2024 will hold a new Core Training Class that has been scheduled for April 2nd with orientation on March 19th. Join the fun!

-Rebecca Romig

BY THE NUMBERS 2023

(rounded to nearest whole hour as of December 31, 2023)

SERVICE PROJECTS

Volunteer Service Projects Total Hours = 5895

ADVANCED TRAINING

Advanced Training Total Hours = 893

Recognition for achieving Initial Certifications!

- ◆ Cindy Vishy
- ◆ Mack Ellis

Congratulations on 2023 Annual Certifications!

- * Shannon Jenkins
- Mark Weatherford
- Quintin Heaton
- Doris Kurz
- Gale Rublee
- Bella Erakko
- Pam Whiston
- Matthew Harris
- Barb Holmes
- Tracy Fuller
- Beth Whelan



Special Congratulations for achieving their **Bronze Milestone** pins for 250 volunteer hours:

- ◇ Mark Weatherford
- ◇ Matthew Harris
- ◇ Shannon Jenkins
- ◇ Deborah Daniels
- ◇ Ann Humphreys



Congratulations for achieving Gold with Rhinestone Milestone pin for
5,000 volunteer Hours!
Bob Kendrick

Marion County

Agriculture and Environment

Local Impact

Salt River Master Gardener Group

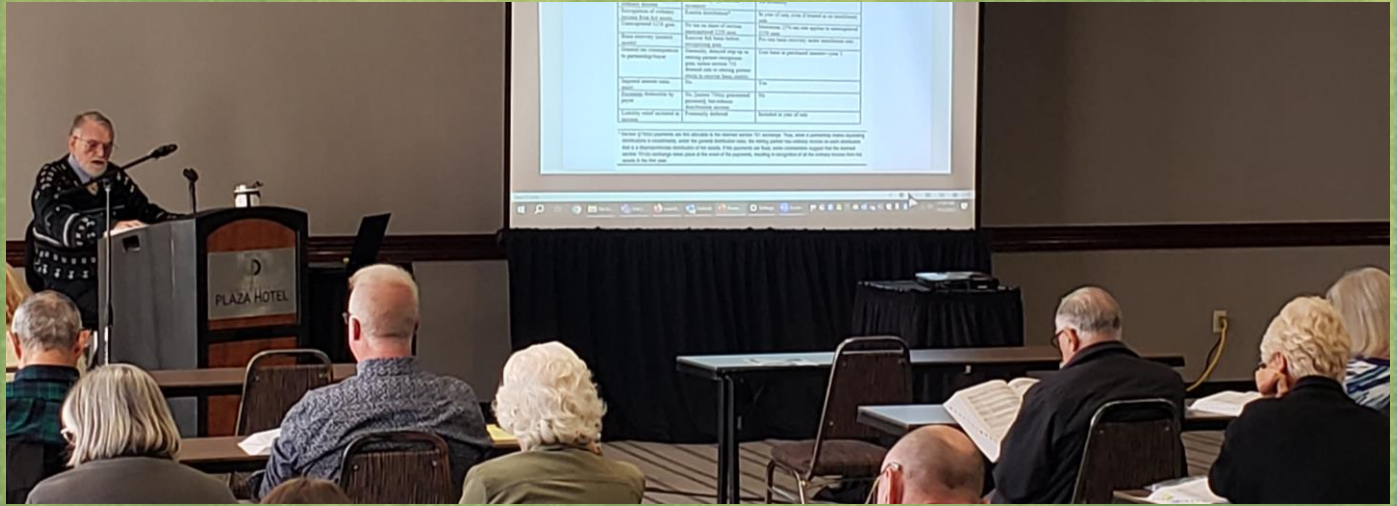
The Salt River Master Gardener (SRMG) Plant Sale is held every year on the first weekend in May, usually the Saturday before Mother's Day. SRMG starts getting ready for this event in February. Plants sold are most generally outdoor fruiting perennials and annuals, but there is also indoor plants and arrangements. Annual fruiting garden plants sold are typically tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower, broccoli, and eggplant. This event is not only a sale, but also a good educational opportunity for the public. SRMG answers a large amount of horticultural questions and inquiries pertaining to what a master gardener does and can do for the community.

A planter is maintained by SRMG in downtown Hannibal on 3rd street. Many members volunteer at the Mark Twain Boyhood Home gardens, Bluff City Theater, Luthor Manor Cottages, plant flowers in city beds, and serve on the Downtown Hannibal Beautification Committee. Members also presented educational information at monthly meetings. Total volunteer hours for SRMG were 366, and total educational hours were 303. SRMG also donated \$1000 to Hannibal LaGrange University and \$500 to the Salvation Army Foodbank of Hannibal. Nick Wesslak served as the SRMG coordinator and helped the club out with various activities throughout the year. Group





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



Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

Marion County

Business and Community

Local Impact

Extension Tax Schools

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

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

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

The trainings received positive evaluations and planning is underway to offer trainings in 2024. Local county residents benefit when local tax preparers have the opportunity to gain knowledge, which benefits their clients and communities. The tax schools are a program of the ag business and policy program of MU Extension, coordinated by Mary Sobba with help from a team of ag business specialists throughout the state.

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

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



Marion County

Community and Professional Health Education

Local Impact

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$10,874,798 in federal funds to Missouri. During FY2023, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over 78,000 Missourians through direct classroom education. Each person participated in an average of 6 hours of education totaling over 15,000 hours. In addition, an additional 760,135 persons participated in indirect education. Direct and indirect education resulted in over 1.8 million total contacts with Missourians.

A total of 650 participants were from Marion 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.



Left to right Nutrition Program Associates: Amanda Lehenbauer, Beth Thordsen, Sarah Woodrow

Marion County

Community and Professional Health Education

Local Profiles and Stories

"During our last week of summer school at the Palmyra Middle School, we had a celebration to pass out prizes to all the students which including water bottles, frisbees, measuring cups and more. In order to win prizes, the students had to answer questions about kitchen safety and I was impressed to see how well these 5th, 6th and 7th graders had learned in the past two weeks!"

Beth Thordsen

"After each lesson for Show Me Nutrition, students get a newsletter that includes a recipe to take home and share with their families. One 3rd grade student at A.D Stowell Elementary couldn't wait to tell me that he had made the recipe from the newsletter. He and his mom made baked apple chips and he said they were delicious! He couldn't wait to see what the next newsletter recipe might be!"

Sarah Woodrow

"A common response that I have noticed in all the different schools, grades and curriculum is that the students enjoy the classes and are excited when the "Nutrition Lady" comes to their classes. I did not expect as many students to try foods they have never had before during tastings. The older students are engaged in lessons and wanting to learn with the questions they ask about nutrition and food preparation."

Amanda Lehenbauer

"While providing SNAP Outreach at a food pantry I had recipe cards to share for a sweet potato and apple bake. One of the patrons and I were discussing the flavors of both those ingredients and making predictions on the taste. I mentioned that there were sweet potatoes available at the pantry and she said that she would definitely be picking them up to try the recipe."

Amanda Lehenbauer





MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**
 through credible statewide programs
First Responder Education



The programming from the **MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute** (FRTI) is available to all qualified fire and emergency first responders. Seventy percent of courses are held at the local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service personnel considered volunteer or part-time, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighters and emergency responders.

Russell completed LETI training in armed intruder response becoming a certified facilitator in armed intruder response training.

Russell also met with FRTI administration and discussed the schedule of an onsite grain bin rescue demonstration and training to be held in Marion County.



The Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) has provided basic and advanced training for law enforcement since 1948. LETI's **Basic Peace Officer Academy** exceeds the 600 hours of training required for licensure in Missouri. From 2019 through 2023, the basic academy has licensed almost 300 peace officers, more than any other academy in the state. During that time, all but one graduate became employed by a law enforcement agency. LETI graduates come from around the state and return to their communities to serve and protect.

Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being