



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Chariton County

2024 Annual Report

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MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER
MIZZOU.**



Extension
University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

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

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Rebecca Bentley

Youth Program Associate

Carie Johnson

Office Manager

Chelsea Corkins

Extension Engagement Specialist

Tennille Manson

Nutrition Program Associate

Sue Robison

Nutrition & Health Education Specialist

Kathi Mechan

Horticulture Specialist

Heather Conrow

Livestock Specialist

Valerie Tate

Agronomy Specialist

Jeremiah Terrell

Human Development & Family Science Specialist

Fred Smith

Youth Program Specialist

Katie Neumer

Agriculture Business Specialist

Mitchell Moon

Labor & Workforce Development Specialist

Jim Crawford

Agricultural Engineering Specialist

Council members

Doug Helmers, Chair

Raechel Ostermann, Vice-chair

Angie Neidholdt, Secretary

Susan Creason, Treasurer

Kyna Billue

Deanne Fessler

Maranda Harrison

Debbie Littleton

Jared Meyer, Commissioner

Debbie Minshall

William Montgomery

Ryan Niemier, Farm Bureau Rep

Deb Seyler



County commissioners

Evan Emmerich

Presiding Commissioner

Terry Milford

Western District Commissioner

Jared Meyer

Eastern District Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income

County Appropriations	40,000.00
Total Income	40,000.00

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	29,768.94
Payroll Expenses	2,453.39
Travel	4,332.86
Postage	198.00
Telephone	964.96
Advertising	206.28
Publishing/Printing	1,010.69
Office Supplies/Service	226.41
Insurance	1,866.10
Extension Council Elec	203.98
Total Expenses	41,231.61

Chariton County Partners

- MU Extension faculty, staff, Extension Council members, and volunteers worked to spread knowledge and resources throughout Chariton County in 2024 including programming during each of the following:
- Pumpkin Festival
 - Goose Festival
 - Sterling Price Day
 - Pecan Festival
 - Land Learning Family Day
 - Government Day
 - Chicks in the Classroom/Embryology
 - Clover Kids Camp
 - Babysitting Clinic
 - Drivers Education
 - Summer STEM enrichment
 - Salisbury Senior Center
 - Chariton County Health Center

Serve **Deliver**
MISSOURI **MIZZOU**

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Chariton 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.



Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Chariton County 4-H

In 2024, Chariton County 4-H served over 550 youth through various programs, including community clubs, school enrichment, and summer camps.

The involvement of more than 19 volunteers highlights the community's support and engagement in educational programs.

Chariton County participated in various 4-H camps and activities, including a three-day camp with 13 campers, 2 counselors, and 4 volunteers from Chariton County, fostering youth development and community involvement.



Chariton County Shooting Sports program as grow in the past few year due to these exceptional leaders. Kevin Fischer, Eljay Noel, Doug Cruse, Eric Stallo, Dennis Speichinger, & Randy Harris. This year Chariton had 42 youth enrolled in 85 shooting sports projects.

In 2024, 11 Chariton youth attended the State 4-H Shoot in 4 different disciplines and came home with 8 top 10 ribbons and 1st and 2nd place individual finishers plus 1st and 2nd place teams.



2024 4-H Camp was held June 3 - 6 at Heit's Point in Lincoln, MO.

Youth participating in a variety of fun learning opportunities including crafts, swimming, sing-alongs and STEM activities.



PIG OUT with 4-H was this year's Clover Kid Camp theme. Youth ages 5 thru 7 were split into groups and attended various stations where they decorated PIG cookies before petting and learned about caring for pigs. Activities also included making a piggy bank, hearing a story about a pig and having pigs-in-the-banket for lunch.



Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Chariton County Fair & State Fair

- More than 245 exhibits were submitted by 4-H members, with 165 youth participating
- The Chariton County Mayors volunteered their time to each select their top exhibit – each received an inaugural Mayor’s Choice Award

Missouri State Fair:

- 44 projects in the 4-H Building
- State Shooting Sports had 11 youth participants from Chariton County with one 1st place, two 2nd place, and a Team 1st and 2nd place awards in Archery and Smallbore Rifle (.22)



4-H In-School & Outreach

In 2024, Chariton 4-H continued its strong engagement with area schools, festivals, and summer activities.

- 30 youth were a part of the STEM summer enrichment – a new activity secured from state 4-H grant funding. This program provided hands on robotics and design projects that required youth to cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving with a technical guide
- Embryology and county festival booths kept youth learning with new topics such as a Poison Look-a-Like display





Business & Community

Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is a 10-week community development leadership program that provides participants with the skills, confidence, and strategies to plan and implement projects in their own communities. Participants come from across the entire state and meet virtually using Zoom. The program provides participants with 30 hours of educational instruction, group and individual coaching that will assist them with completing their project. Participants that complete the program are eligible to apply for mini-grants to support their projects.



What participants said about NLA:

"I enjoyed the breakout sessions. Although we are from all different backgrounds, communities, we all want the same things in our communities."

One-on-one Counseling Continues to Make Impacts

Individualized consultations supported ag producers across the state throughout 2024. Many clients were in specialty crop production and lacked resources and information needed to be successful.

One-on-one support in 2024 included:

- Missouri Ag Food and Forestry Innovation Center
- Missouri Socially Disadvantaged Farm and Rancher 2501 Team to One Coaching
- Heartland Regional Food Center Technical Assistance Provider

Katie Neuner, Agriculture Business Specialist, undertook efforts resulting in 127 counseling sessions totaling 60 hours of contact time, and over \$500,000 in requested grant funds. This resulted in realized financial gains of \$43,480 to producers with other grants still pending.

Extension Tax Schools

University of Missouri Extension ag economics department and ag business specialists worked together to coordinate Extension Tax Schools, 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, and other tax related issues.

The 2024 school attendance totaled 350 people. Six participants were from Chariton County.

Weatherization and renewable Energy

In 2024, Jim Crawford, Agricultural Engineering Specialist, helped NW Missouri learn easy, low-cost ways to reduce their energy consumption and thus their energy bills through weatherization or renewable energy.

This included:

- Energy conservation /weatherization – Steps and processes people can use to reduce their energy costs at home.
- Renewable energy – home and commercial scale wind and solar energy production systems, including how a large, commercial scale solar or wind farm can affect property values, family and lifestyle.





Health & Human Sciences

Fall Prevention Programs Aids Adult Missourians

Many older adults worry about falling and losing their independence. Not being active enough can make them more likely to fall and cause other health problems.

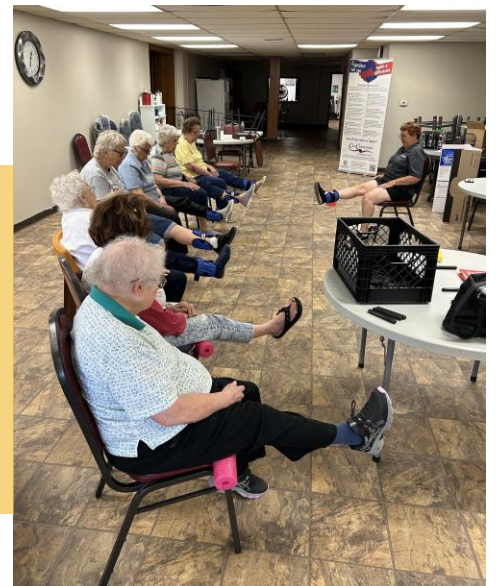
In Chariton, Ray, Carroll, Saline and Lafayette counties, about 20% of the population is 65 years or older. Less than half of these older adults have places to go for exercise.

In 2024, Sue Robison, Nutrition & Health Specialist, brought exercise to the Salisbury Senior Center, which hosted 9 participants during a Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program.

Stay Strong Stay Healthy is an 8-week program designed to improve balance, enhance flexibility, reduce stress, lift depression, and lower health risks through strength training. The program utilizes light hand and ankle weights to achieve these results.



“You are standing so much straighter, and you do not struggle coming in. Be proud of your hard work.”
Senior Center Observer



Home Food Preservation

Food Preservation has gained interest as families seek solutions to food insecurity and the desire to for locally grown foods. Many are turning to preserving their own produce to ensure access to fresh, healthy options year-round.

At sessions held near Chariton County in 2024, participants engage in hands-on learning and acquired essential skills in:

- Utilizing pressure canners
- Understanding water bathing techniques
- Knowing when to use pectin
- Recognizing unsafe substitutions for food preservation



Above: Health and Nutrition Specialist Sue Robison is instructing how a water bath preserves foods.



Health & Human Sciences

SNAP-Education in 2024

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.



757 direct and indirect contacts were made in Chariton County.

Schools	Agencies
Brunswick Elementary	Chariton County Health Center
Keytesville Elementary	Salisbury Senior Center

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.

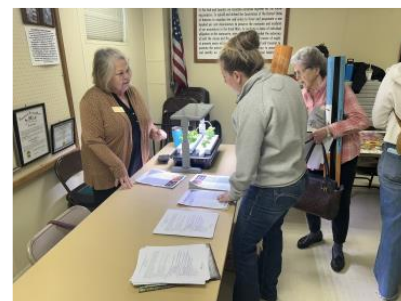
This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Companion Gardening & Hydroponics

At multiple events this year, MU Extension Horticulture Specialist, Kathi Mecham, showcased Companion Gardening & Hydroponics – often tools for home gardeners interested in growing their own food.

Attendees learned how companion planting helps support natural pest control, as many pests typically prefer monocultures - plants of a single variety. It also:

- Helps attract beneficial insects & pollinators
- Improves soil fertility and structure
- Allows for crop rotation and healthier soil





Agriculture & Environment

Tar Spot Education

Tar spot was a common topic for MU Extension Agronomy Specialists, in 2024. Tar spot can cause severe yield loss on susceptible hybrids. While Missouri has experienced



some extremely high temperatures this year, evenings in many weeks were milder and caused the disease to continue spreading. The pathogen can survive Missouri winters. Industry Reps in NW Missouri submitted this picture of tar spot in corn. Industry groups and MU Extension have a good working relationship sharing information of what is happening in the field.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

During this training held in 2024, participants learned about safe handling of pesticides, proper mixing, calibration techniques, environmental ramifications of improper mixing or careless application, and more as it pertains to protective wear, records, and pest management.

In 2024, 26 agricultural producers in Chariton County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides with Agronomy Specialist, Valerie Tate.

Livestock Grazing Grant



In 2024, MU Extension Livestock Specialists were able to enroll seven cooperators from northwest Missouri in the Grasslands Partnership with University of Tennessee. Through this partnership, MU Extension brings over \$140,000 to support these seven operations in enhancing their grazing operations over the next four years.





Agriculture & Environment

Show-Me-Quality Assurance (SMQA)

Show-Me Quality Assurance is a youth program intended to increase the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production.

Topics covered in this hands-on, interactive program include perceived safety, wholesomeness, and nutritional value of food products influence consumer-buying decisions. If consumers are not confident a product is of the highest quality they have come to expect, they will not purchase it.

- Statewide, more than **36,500** youth have been certified, with 15 youth in Chariton county attending in 2024
- Resulted in an average savings of **\$3.00 to \$5.00** per head by reducing herd health expenses and providing a safe food product
- Participants have increased their knowledge about food quality and animal well-being by **2.5** points on a 1-5 scale



Soil Testing Inquires

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers and gardeners. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab are analyzed for pH and nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron and copper. Valerie Tate, Agronomy Specialist, & Kathi Mecham, Horticulture Specialist, are available to help interpret results.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Lab are:

- to help farmers and gardeners make effective use of fertilizer to increase their financial returns;
- benefit society with improved environment and water quality through efficient use of fertilizer on farms, lawns and gardens;
- to ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.



In 2024, 8 soil samples were processed through the Chariton office analyzed by the MU Soil Testing Lab.





County highlights

Government Day

More than 90 students from Chariton County schools attend the 30th Annual Chariton County Government Day. At this event, students toured county offices, hearing first-hand about the duties and responsibilities of each office. They also participated in a mock trial. At the end of the day, a trivia event was used to test their youth's knowledge about county government.



Government Day, hosted by the Chariton 4-H team, has been recognized on both state and national levels.

Extension Outreach & Engagement

“Show-Me How Missouri Operates” was a big hit with youth and adults both locally and at the Missouri State Fair.

Participants learned facts about Missouri while playing “Operation”. In 2024, the game board started off teaching and entertaining individuals at the Missouri State Fair 4-H Building, then Sterling Price Days and the Pumpkin Festival, before making its way to other places in nearby counties. This was the brainchild of Becky Bentley, YPA, and with the help of Jeff DeWeese and Peggy Rice, it came to life.

Participating in local events such as the Brunswick Pecan Festival and supporting farmers through initiatives like the MO Crunch Off also demonstrate MU Extension's commitment to community engagement. These local events not only allow opportunities to educate and promote local programs but foster connections to the communities served by MU Extension.



Chariton County



University of Missouri System

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UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

46 students

- 37 Undergraduates
- 9 Graduate and professional students
- 32 Full-time students
- 14 Part-time students
- 10 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

47 people employed by UM

- 14 Campuses
- 32 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 1 UM System

29 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$2.4 million

UM state tax revenue: \$62,231

UM federal tax revenue: \$317,455



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 6 Medicine
- 22 Nursing
- 30 Health Professions
- 1 Dentistry
- 8 Pharmacy
- 4 Veterinary Medicine
- 129 Agriculture
- 26 Engineering
- 4 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 21 teachers
- 17.9% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 50.0% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 34 students
- 322 alumni
- 14 employees

UMKC

- 2 students
- 27 alumni
- 0 employees

Missouri S&T

- 6 students
- 8 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 4 students
- 5 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Chariton County



County population: 7,417



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 1,915 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$894,306 of uncompensated care
- 1 in-state patient seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$32.18 per patient in uncompensated care
- 5 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 698 visits to 415 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 1,184 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 223 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 574 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 252 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy

Chariton County



University of Missouri System
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UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 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 FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

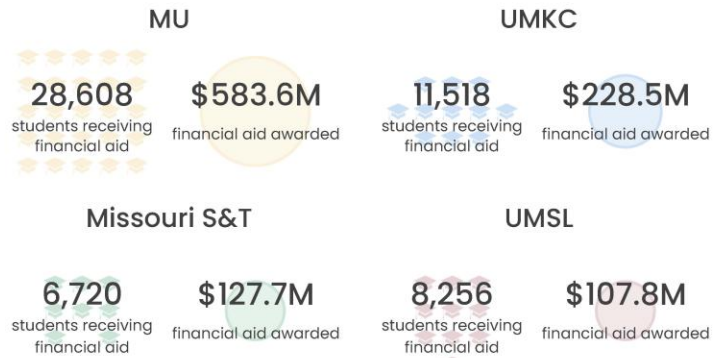


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

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

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 2024, 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

