



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Taney County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR EXTENSION AND ENGAGEMENT

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December 1, 2020

Dear county commissioners and friends of MU Extension,

Few of us have experienced a year quite like 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought each of us so many unforeseen professional and personal challenges. Yet, as difficult as the last months have been, they have also called us at University of Missouri Extension and Engagement to think about our work differently and find new ways to serve and respond to Missouri's needs.

We are working harder and more innovatively to develop local and statewide partnerships and collaborations that help us improve lives, communities and businesses across the state. Through our four UM System universities, we are working to expand our state's broadband access and support statewide efforts to prepare our workforce for 21st century opportunities. This work is key to keeping Missouri's economy competitive and helping people and communities in every part of our state thrive.

We continue to expand and develop tools like the All Things Missouri web portal (<https://allthingsmissouri.org>) that provide a wealth of data local leaders can use to pinpoint county and community needs and plan for coordinated solutions. New COVID-19 tracking tools, for instance, help county health departments accurately assess the local impact of the virus and coordinate targeted responses. A new Missouri Food Finder tool (<https://mofoodfinder.org>) matches consumers with growers and producers to create a market for locally grown foods. The UM System Community Connect web portal (<https://community.umsystem.edu>) showcases the many resources, services and faculty programs available to the community through each of the four universities in the UM System. Please explore and use these tools. Tell us how we can improve them to better serve you.

Whether online or in person, we are committed to working with you to deliver knowledge, resources and programs that best meet your communities' interests and needs. I hope you see the impact of that work in this year's county annual report — just as you see your own hand, as key stakeholders, in making this work possible.

We greatly appreciate your support of MU Extension as partners within your community. As always, I welcome your input on how the University of Missouri can better serve you as we look forward to a brighter year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Stewart".

Marshall Stewart, Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement

Who we are

Faculty and staff

Taney County Staff

Willa Williams, Ed.D, County Engagement Specialist in 4-H Youth Development

Barbara Beck, Nutrition Program Associate

Cody Cox, MSU SBDC Regional Small Business Consultant

Jody LeMaster, VITA Educational PGM Associate

Lynda LaRocque, Office Support Staff

Regional MU Extension Staff Serving Taney County

Amber Allen, Human Development Specialist

Pamela Duitsman, County Engagement Specialist in Community Economic Development

Kelsa Ferguson, Community Health Field Specialist

Theresa Fossett, Regional Family Nutrition Education Program

Sarah Havens, Natural Resource Field Specialist

Kelly McGowan, Horticulture Field Specialist

Jenni Nevatt, County Engagement Specialist in Nutrition and Health Education

Amy Patillo, Labor and Workforce Development Field Specialist

Elizabeth Picking, Livestock Field Specialist

Ted Probert, Dairy Field Specialist

C. Tim Schnakenberg, Agronomy Field Specialist

Council members

Jim Lawson, Chair

Tammy Holder, Vice-Chair

Liz Cizek, Secretary

Waunetta Howard, Treasurer

Melvin Braden

Lynn Craft

Nicole Crocker

Susan Martin

Carole Reynolds

Liza Tsahiridis

Melanie Smith, Farm Bureau Representative

Sheila Wyatt, Taney County Commission Representative

County commissioners

Mike Scofield, Presiding Commissioner

Brandon Williams, Western District Commissioner

Sheila Wyatt, Eastern District Commissioner

Budget and more

Appropriations budget

Income	
County Appropriation	45,173.75
Total Income	45,173.75
Expenses	
Salaries/Benefits	31,640.80
Travel	2,243.49
Telephone	2,779.10
Office Supplies/Service	2,584.77
Council Expenses	242.56
VITA Tax program	2,137.07
4-H	3,138.43
Repairs/Maintenance	<u>407.53</u>
Total Expenses	45,173.75

Funds Class Balances

Center Operations	10,532.57
Education & Service	34,035.91
Savings	9,399.28
Grants & Contracts	9,395.36
Council Held Funds Other Agencies	<u>6,960.17</u>
Total	70,323.29

Key outcomes and numbers

- ✓ 79 business owners received individual consulting sessions, 193 counseling hours
- ✓ 1,210 free federal and state tax returns for area tax payers through the VITA tax program
- ✓ 2,349 Youth participated in 4-H school enrichment programs and 436 in club programs
- ✓ 90 farmers attended the Livestock & Forage conference and Winter Livestock Nutrition & Feeding workshop in Forsyth
- ✓ During 2020, 1,673 youth and 1,958 adults were served through the Family Nutrition Education program in Taney county
- ✓ Master Gardeners still provided 3,566 hours of volunteer hours
- ✓ Before COVID restrictions, 164 people attended the Master Gardeners Spring Workshop in Branson.
- ✓ Due to COVID 19 Extension programs went virtual, see numerous offers listed in our specialist reports

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



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Taney 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.

Impact Update

Dr. Amy Patillo
Field Specialist in Labor and
Workforce Development
patilloa@Missouri.edu



December 2020

Driving Missouri's Workforce Forward

ENGAGEMENT WORK

This year the University of Missouri (MU) Extension Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) team pivoted towards more innovative and responsive programming. Their integrated marketing and delivery initiatives reached new audiences and delivered crucial information and resources to even more Missourians.

Workforce development was the theme for the [UM Extension & Engagement Week](#), many virtual events were held and LWD launched a new [interactive Workforce data and mapping tool](#). This new tool will help workforce stakeholders better understand their local workforce dynamics.



Connecting the
Workforce to Careers

KEY OUTCOMES

- The onset of the pandemic challenged LWD to create new opportunities for engagement.
- ✓ Over the past year, LWD offered approximately 60 webinars to business, labor, and community leaders across the state of Missouri.
- ✓ Responsive webinars brought timely information to more than 1,000 registrants.
- ✓ Along the way, LWD gained nearly 600 social media followers across the state and the nation.

Labor and Workforce Engagement: Taney County

Direct Contacts: 114
Programs: 14
Sessions: 101

Statewide: 60,000+ Digital Engagements

Innovative and integrated marketing efforts harnessed the connective power of a client email platform and virtual conferencing.

Statewide: 48,000+ Social Media Engagements

Social media and live streaming webinars further extended LWD's programmatic reach across the state and the nation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 13 – COVID-19 and Missouri's Workplace, [Labor Law Series](#)
- January 14 – [Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- February 2 – [Change is Coming to the Show-Me State, Economic Implications of Climate Change](#)
- February 11 – [Joint Council of Extension Professionals](#) Social Media Engagement presentation

ACTION ITEMS FOR COUNCIL

- Building connections and engagement with Missouri's Labor Unions
- 2021 Labor Law Series marketing and promotion
- Engaging with small businesses around Workforce Data Analytics
- Connect with MU Labor and Workforce [Workforce Updates](#), [LWD@Facebook](#), [LWD@LinkedIn](#), [Greene County@Facebook](#), [MUExtension417@YouTube](#), [LWD Newsletter](#)



Economic Opportunity

Business Development

Chrystal Irons, Director MSU SBDC
Lance Coffman, Regional Business Consultant
Sandra Smart, Technology and Commercialization Specialist
Cody Cox, Regional Business Consultant



- Taney County Residents Served**
- 79 Business owners received individual consulting sessions regarding their small businesses and how to access COVID-19 relief funds
 - 1,371 Training event attendees
 - 193 Counseling hours

- What Did They Learn?**
- Business owners learned about disaster relief programs to help their business survive during the pandemic
 - Entrepreneurs learned how to successfully start their businesses
 - Business owners learned how to manage, pivot, and grow their businesses
 - Business owners learned how to more effectively and efficiently promote their businesses using digital marketing
 - Understand how to use their financial statements to make decisions and manage cash flow

- What Action Did They Take?**
- Started 3 new businesses
 - Created and retained over 710 jobs
 - Applied for loans and disaster funds to sustain and grow their businesses
 - Integrated accounting systems and processes to better manage their businesses

- How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?**
- New and expanding businesses help create and retain jobs
 - New and existing business growth contributes to local, county, and state taxes
 - Promotes economic development through new business startups, jobs, increased sales, capital investment, and technology development and commercialization
 - Knowledge gained through training and one-on-one consulting sessions allows business owners to operate more efficiently and expand their businesses

- COVID-19 Special Services and Impact**
- Missouri SBDC planned, promoted, and hosted multiple webinars on disaster related programs
 - Missouri SBDC met with many Taney County clients to discuss disaster relief funding options and develop resiliency plans
 - Missouri SBDC Consultants attended Taney County Task Force meetings to assist in county-wide COVID-19 protocol and relief efforts
 - Developed an agreement with Taney County Partnership to focus efforts on outreach and disaster assistance to area businesses

- Client Feedback**
- From Disaster Webinar: "Going through the process of realizing 'I have some customers, but I don't have the funds coming in that I normally do, but I still have all these bills that are constant'," said Acton. "It was really nice to have the SBDC on our side basically and saying, 'this program might work for you, read about it, we're having a webinar on it, lets get some information and then see what works best for you.'"
 - From QuickBooks Online training: "Great basic overview for beginners, loved receiving a detailed binder for step by step process."



Economic Opportunity

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

- Taney County Residents Served**
- Low to moderate income working families,
 - Students,
 - Senior citizens,
 - Single parent households, and
 - Disabled residents and veterans

- What Did They Learn?**
- What credits they are eligible for,
 - How to determine the amount they should have withheld from their income sources,
 - About health insurance requirements, how their taxes will be affected and options for getting health insurance
 - About tax planning, options and future deduction possibilities.

All volunteers passed Standards of Conduct, Intake/Interview/Quality Review and Advanced Certification tests.

- What Action Did They Take?**
- Purchased necessities, thus spending and recirculating money in Taney County,
 - Paid bills,
 - Reduced or paid off debt,
 - Established or increased emergency savings,
 - Repaired or replaced their vehicles.

- How Does This Work Make Taney County and Missouri Better?**
- When you support MU Extension's MoTax Initiative program, participants save an average of \$200 (currently) in tax preparation fees per year, avoid high-cost refund anticipation loans, and learn basic financial management strategies which leads to establishment or increase of emergency savings, which benefits other community members by reducing demand for public assistance, stabilizing the county tax base and stimulating the economy, beginning in the taxpayer's community, through federal and state tax refund dollars and dollars from tax credits.
- Due to a shortened tax season VITA volunteers prepared 1,210 federal and state tax returns for taxpayers in Stone and Taney County. Families received \$795,285 in Federal Income Tax refunds including \$218,055 in Earned Income Credit. In addition, the taxpayers saved \$260,400 in tax preparation fees.



Educational Access & Excellence

Taney County 2019-2020 4-H Participation

- **59 community club members** - county 4-H clubs offer long-term educational experiences in which members learn life skills such as decision making, public speaking and working with others. Members learn by doing under the guidance of adult volunteers, who teach projects ranging from computer science and arts to animal science and healthy living. Clubs also involve youth in community service, camping and educational trips.
- **377 special interest 4-H members-** county 4-H SPIN and special-interest clubs and programs include community partnerships and events, day camps and other educational activities.
- **2,349 youth participated in school enrichment programs** - county 4-H school programs are educational experiences that supplement learning in the classroom.



The 4-H Junior Fire Service Club was formed in partnership with the Forsyth Fire Department. Four teens graduated with their basic firefighter certification and 26 youth at the Boys and Girls Club participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training through Missouri MyPI – My Preparedness Initiative.



Taney County is one of the 5 statewide pilot programs for Missouri MyPI. Forsyth Fire Department Chief Nathan Bower (seen in the pic) was one of the selected MyPI trainers along with Willa Williams, the Taney County 4-H Youth Development Specialist and Missouri 4-H Ready in the Middle statewide program coordinator.

Youth Disaster Preparedness

Missouri 4-H Ready in the Middle, for ages 10 to 19 seeks to: engage the entire household, identify and mitigate risks and hazards in and around the house, and provide solutions to enhance safety and preparedness. There is an added focus on family preparedness planning that includes escape plans, communication plans, insurance, and first aid kits.

MyPI Missouri prepares teens ages 13-19 with life-saving skills for community emergency and disaster response. Teens learn valuable leadership and teamwork skills to assist families, neighborhoods and communities in times of disaster or emergency. MyPI involves CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) core training, CPR and AED certification and a service project to assist seven families with their disaster kits/communication plans.



Educational Access & Excellence

COVID-19 Response

2020 was a unique year in 4-H programming. Many of our in-school clubs and programs had to be cancelled to ensure safety, but Taney County 4-H continued to innovate to help our youth prepare for the future.

In-person summer camp was reimaged as a virtual 4-H summer camp. The 4-H specialist created videos for the Southwest 4-H camp in plant dyes, plant collections, and soil sampling.



4-H Creates Value in Taney County

4-H members are supported by 34 youth and adult volunteers. Our volunteers are the core of the 4-H Program. They help to create, support and deliver educational programs and experiences. Missouri 4-H volunteers report contributing on average 100 hours per year to the program. Valuing their time at \$27.20 per hour (Independent Sector, 2019), the contribution of **Taney 4-H volunteers was worth more than \$150,824 in 2020.** More importantly, these individuals serve as role models and mentors for youth. The Missouri 4-H 2020 College and Career Readiness survey found that:

- 75% said 4-H helped me decide what I will do after high school.
- 96% said 4-H has given me skills that will be helpful after high school.
- 86% said I know what I want to do after high school.

Taney County 4-H led in youth preparedness programs by creating an online Canvas course for new Missouri MyPI instructors. The 4-H youth development specialist also contributed online projects in Ready in the Middle and bicycle in the Missouri 4-H Canvas course.



Taney County participated in the 4-H National Youth Science experiment by providing Mars Rover kits to 4-H members and hosting online Mars Base Camp meetings. Additional kits were created that included arts and reading components into STEM projects. These STREAM kits included rocketry, cake decorating, and wildlife identification and were checked out by youth educators and 4-H volunteers to use in their classrooms and programs.

4-H also prepares youth for the work place. Youth must be prepared to live and work in a world we cannot completely envision – competing for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented to solve problems that have yet to be identified.

4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, engineering, learning technologies and social sciences from the university system. This brings relevant science content and hands-on learning that helps youth thrive. STEM education is a priority in 4-H and in Taney County, 100% of 4-H members were engaged in science related projects and experiences. A national 4-H study has shown that 4-H'ers are twice as likely to go to college compared to their non 4-H peers and they tend to pursue careers in STEM fields (Lerner & Lerner, 2011).



Educational Access & Excellence



A highlight of Branson, Forsyth, and Reeds Spring students is the annual 7th Graders Go To Work career exploration field trip held at Ozark Technical College – Table Rock campus in Hollister. Taney County 4-H hosted the third annual program and the 7th grade students participated in hands on programs in HVAC, construction, computer programming, nursing, and EMT. Missouri State University supports the program by paying for the bus travel for each school. Past programs have included culinary science, agriculture, natural resources, entertainment, and engineering.



There are 2 longstanding 4-H clubs in Taney County. The Achievers on the west side focus on the shooting sports disciplines of archery, shotgun, rifle, and outdoor skills. Many of the youth participate in regional and state shooting sports competitions winning blue ribbons for their achievements. The Trailblazers meet on the east side of the county. Although youth participate in a wide variety of projects, many of the Trailblazers have livestock projects including horse, dairy and meat goat, beekeeping, and poultry.



In 2020, most youth participated in special interest, or SPIN, clubs. These clubs were hosted in schools, in afterschool programs, and at the Forsyth Fire Department. Four youth graduated with their Basic Firefighter training, almost 30 youth participated in the My Preparedness Initiative (MyPI) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and career exploration programs.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Spring Forage Conference

The 36th annual conference is a collaboration between University of Missouri Extension regional ag specialists, Natural Resource Conservation Service employees, and Soil & Water Districts. This conference brought in nationally recognized speakers like Temple Grandin to create a high quality conference. Attendees are also able to interact with ag businesses in the trade show. This conference had 470 producers in attendance from Southwest Missouri.

Attendees enjoyed a nice lunch before Dr. Temple Grandin delivered her keynote address. The Spring Forage Conference planning committee is made up of NRCS, Soil & Water, and MU Extension personnel including Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, Ted Probert Dairy Specialist, Tim Schnakenberg Agronomy Specialist, Reagan Bluel Dairy Specialist and Michael Dennigman Extension Intern.



Dr. Eric Bailey Speaking about Cost Effective Supplementation for Beef Cattle.



Artificial Insemination Schools

Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, Ted Probert Dairy Specialist, and Reagan Bluel Interim Superintendent of MU Southwest Research Center taught two artificial insemination schools in fall of 2020. These schools were two-day schools that combined classroom learning about estrous synchronization, reproductive anatomy, and management strategies to increase AI success with hands-on learning. Attendees were able to get hands on practice artificially inseminating cows and handling and thawing semen. These attendees became certified to artificially inseminate cattle.

PESTICIDE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY TRAINING WENT ON-LINE

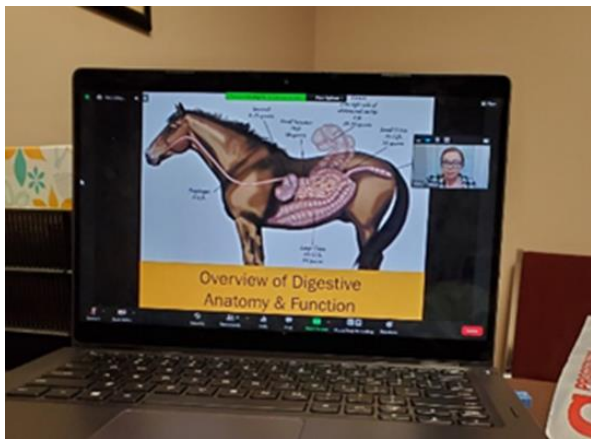
Due to COVID restrictions, the Private Applicator Training in late March was cancelled. This program is something farm pesticide applicators must be retrained on every five years in order to maintain a pesticide license to purchase and use Restricted-Use pesticides. Due to COVID19, field specialists in agronomy across the state worked on adapting our private applicator training efforts to accommodate individual training needs as they happen throughout the year. Agronomists, Sarah Kenyon, Jill Scheidt and Tim Schnakenberg collaborated on putting together a 1.5 hour prerecorded Zoom sessions for use for training individuals statewide. The other option was to have applicators take a 25-question study guide exam. Several opted for that option.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Pixels of Production

The Pearls of Production-Women in Agriculture conference is a program designed to provide a leadership and hands-on training opportunity for women involved in livestock production. The hands-on Pearls program transitioned to an online format for the 2020 Pixels of Production conference held via Zoom video conferencing over four evenings. 104 participants were connected with dynamic keynote speakers Caroline Sicht, Temple Grandin, Micah Jansen and Amberley Snyder. Informational topics on ergonomic tools, livestock identification, silvopasture, timber sales, vaccinology, Farm Service Agency programs, grants, regenerative agriculture and livestock tools and equipment were presented by experts in their field. According to survey responses, 95% of participants deemed all presentations were useful to their operation and many commented on specific practices they intend to implement. The 2020 Pixels of Production Virtual Conference was supported by funds from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Missouri's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program, Missouri AgrAbility Program and North Central Region Farm and Ranch Stress Alliance Network Program.



Horse Nutrition 101 Workshop

Pat Miller Agronomy Specialist, Elizabeth Picking Livestock Specialist, and Marci Crosby Equine Instructor and Extension Specialist collaborated to provide a virtual workshop to over 70 Missourians. Presentations focused on forage management and establishment, forage testing and selection, and grain selection for horses. This workshop offered 4-H members and families the opportunity to attend at no cost.

LIVESTOCK & FORAGE CONFERENCE HELD AT FORSYTH

In February, the annual Taney County Livestock and Forage Conference was held at the Forsyth high school with over 60 farmers in attendance. Mike Dennigmann, agronomy assistant, moderated the program. Field specialist in livestock, Elizabeth Picking discussed reproductive management for the cow herd. Taylor Young, county engagement specialist, reviewed financial considerations of hay production. Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, covered how to be successful in pasture weed control. The program was sponsored by Branson Bank, First Community Bank of the Ozarks and Southern Bank

WINTER LIVESTOCK NUTRITION AND FEEDING WORKSHOP AT FORSYTH

A nutrition and feeding workshop was offered to the community at Forsyth in January. Mike Dennigmann, agronomy assistant, discussed hay storage. Andy McCorkill, field specialist in livestock, discussed livestock nutrition, supplemental feeding and low quality hay. Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy covered the topic of hay feeding methods. There were 30 farmers along with several College of the Ozarks students who attended. Farmers came from Taney, Christian and Barry Counties to attend this event. Southern Bank sponsored the program.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

2020 Educational Programs – Tim Schnakenberg, Field Specialist in Agronomy

WEEKLY EMERGENCY TOWN HALL ZOOM MEETINGS

Weekly town hall meetings for Forages and Livestock Producers have occurred since April 8 and through mid-November. Starting in December, the programs are monthly through March. Each time, producers from many counties across Missouri participated. This effort provided a very thorough compilation of topics and speakers throughout the 2020 growing season. Much of the content was later uploaded into a YouTube channel for public access.

MU / NRCS GRASSLANDS PROJECT

Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, has served actively in a project that ties MU and NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) together to address grazing and grassland development. The project assists NRCS in their EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) efforts and the promotion of soil health and native warm season grasses. Livestock producers in Barry and Lawrence County participated in demonstrations for establishment and management of native warm season grasses. Projects are due to be planted in Stone and Christian Counties in 2021. Funding for up to five acres of grasses per farm was provided. Sites are being assessed for success of establishment, production and soil health and on-farm tours are planned for public viewing of the successes and challenges of warm season grass establishment. The concept of using native grasses is rooted in a desire to increase hay or pasture production, extend the grazing season, return land to native habitat, enhance wildlife cover and population, improve soil health, minimize the fertilizer and lime requirement to grow grass, lower endophyte exposure to cattle, and diversify the forage base of a farm.

MU EXTENSION / MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

MU Extension is locally working with a state wide project funded by a grant from Missouri Department of Conservation. The project is designed to promote native warm season grasses in Missouri. Funds are available to do educational programs and demonstrations with native grasses and their use for grazing and impact on wildlife. Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, received approval for three 5-10 acre warm season grass establishment sites for farms in Stone, Ozark and Barry Counties. The three projects are on the Emmett Dalton farm near Brown Branch, Dean Falk farm near Galena and the Bob Clark farm west of Crane. A fourth location in Christian County is being considered.

PASTURE WEED CONTROL PROJECT – HERBICIDES AND ELECTROCUTION Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, worked with Dr. Kevin Bradley, state weed specialist, and graduate student Haylee Schreier to set up a replicated pasture weed control research plot comparing DuraCor, ProClova, GrazonNext herbicides and an alternative method of weed electrocution. This project occurred in Stone County on Clint Hetherington's farm near Hurley. There are two or three other sites across Missouri. The results of this project were shared with producers and benefited Southwest Missouri pasture managers.

GREENBRIAR CONTROL RESEARCH PLOTS

Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy, worked with our state weed science specialist, Kevin Bradley, in the development and monitoring of a large research plot in Taney County on greenbriar control options. There are 28 treatments replicated five times on the Mike Combs farm near Walnut Shade. This has become a landmark study in Missouri since there has been little research done on this weed. Results were released and shared with the producers throughout Southwest Missouri.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

2020 Educational Programs – Tim Schnakenberg, Field Specialist in Agronomy

CALVING CLINIC

Livestock producers from throughout Southwest Missouri assembled at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon for a calving clinic. This program covered all aspects of the calving process including demonstrations on pulling calves and tubing them. Seventy people participated. This has been a very popular and effective program offered by MU Extension.

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH CENTER VIRTUAL FIELD DAY

In lieu of an in-person field day, the Southwest Research Center hosted an on-line virtual field day this year in September. Speakers presented a variety of topics during the field day and information was later shared on You-tube for additional public viewing.

OZARK EMPIRE FAIR HAY SHOW

Several of the livestock and agronomy field specialist were busy this season collecting hay samples for the Ozark Empire Fair hay show. This was a great opportunity to help producers better educate themselves on hay quality. A recent grand champion hay producer started out entering hay a few years ago that fell at the bottom of the class, but she quickly learned from the experience what good hay looked like and made changes in her harvesting practices. The changes she implemented from what was learned made a huge difference and her cow herd thanks her for it because they are benefiting and producing better from quality hay harvested on the farm. The champion hay producer for 2020 was Glenn and Toni Obermann of Lawrence County with their low lignin alfalfa that had a 221 Relative Feed Quality (RFQ) rating! The champion haylage producer was Grove View Dairy of Christian County with the alfalfa haylage that had a 276 RFQ rating!

SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Farmers and homeowners continue to need information for their fertilizer and lime purchasing decisions. These are based on unbiased fertility testing and research provided by University of Missouri Extension. Tim Schnakenberg, field specialist in agronomy and Patrick Byers or Robert Balak, field specialists in horticulture, signed each report and made additional remarks on them as needed.

GRAZING SCHOOLS TEACH FARMERS HOW TO BE MORE EFFICIENT GRAZIERS

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, there were only three Grazing Schools offered in Southwest Missouri this year. Two of them were at the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon in October and November. Taney County producers attended both of those events. The three-day school allowed farmers to think differently about how they manage their pastures and have become a very effective tool. There were about 85 producers who attended the sessions. Numerous presentations were offered along with two on-farm field trips to evaluate pasture grazing systems.

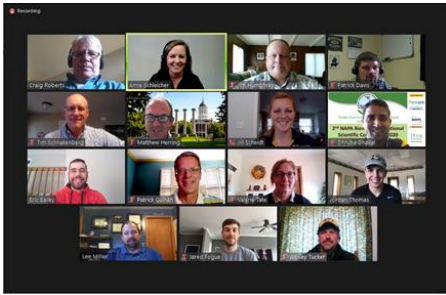
FARMERS AND RANCHERS ATTENDED THE SPRING FORAGE CONFERENCE

There were around 480 farmers and ranchers, including many from Taney County, who attended the 36th Annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference held in Springfield in February. Concurrent sessions were held throughout the day on a variety of topics of interest to most grass producers and it was accompanied by a large trade show where attendees could visit with vendors. This event is a partnership between University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State University.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

2020 Educational Programs – Tim Schnakenberg, Field Specialist in Agronomy



The committee members of the statewide Forage and Livestock Town Hall Meetings. The photo was taken on Zoom just prior to one of the weekly town hall sessions in October. Great impacts have been made with the help of numerous presenters since its inception on April 8.



Picture from the Mt. Vernon grazing school in October at the Southwest Research Center. Eight-five people participated in the October and November programs and social distancing and masking was observed.



The University of Missouri brought a tractor and “Weed Zapper” unit down to SW MO in June to test the effectiveness of weed electrocution as an alternative weed control option in pastures. Three replications and new herbicides were also compared in the research project.



Participants of the calving clinic in Mt. Vernon. Dr. Scott Pooch, state extension veterinarian, speaks to the group on how to properly pull a newborn calf.



MU greenbriar weed control test plot on the Mike Combs farm near Walnut Shade in Taney County.



Mike Dennigmann, agronomy assistant for Taney County, introduces Taylor Young who spoke on the economics of hay production at the Taney County Livestock & Forage Conference in February. Over 60 producers attended.



Livestock producers from Taney, Christian and Barry Counties, along with several College of the Ozarks students participated in the Livestock Nutrition and Feeding workshop in Forsyth. Mike Dennigmann, agronomy assistant, is speaking on ways to correctly store hay to minimize losses.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2020 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

Impact was somewhat limited for 2020 due to COVID-19 issues, but regardless, a lot still got done though in a more restricted fashion. For 2020, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks fulfilled their commitment to take on high-impact and ambitious projects. A total of 3,566 hours were reported in 2020 by fifty-nine master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. They reported making 494 contacts with persons in the community in 2020. The first-year Master Gardeners are required to provide 30 hours of service and seasoned master gardeners are only required to provide 20 hours. COVID-19 policies from the state coordinated indicated that they were not required to fulfill this requirement this year. Regardless, this year the master gardeners who did submit hours each averaged 60 hours of service. According to the latest figures from the Independent Sector organization, the hourly wage for U.S. volunteer hours currently is \$27.20. If you put a value on the education and service hours provided to the community, the value totals \$97,000 worth of volunteer time! Tim Schnakenberg served as advisor for the master gardener activities in the Stone and Taney County area. Continuing education is an important part of volunteer service. The master gardeners reported 645 hours of continued education this year (average of 11 hours per person).

Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 107 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 57 who reside in Stone County, 42 in Taney County, three in Christian County, two in Barry County, one in Howell County and two who reside in Boone County, Arkansas. The master gardeners were led this year by Chris Witherington, president, Joanne Anderson, vice-president, Gloria Cowper-Jen, secretary, and Judy Schmitt, treasurer. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter boasts 28 emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program.

Master Gardener Scholarship Offered to College Student

Education is the primary function of master gardeners and many proceeds from educational events go toward scholarships for college students majoring in horticulture or a similar field. Tonya Lewis coordinated this effort. For 2020, the recipient for a master gardener \$1,000 scholarship was Douglas Jones who was a student at Ozark Technical College.

Internal Grant Program Funded Seven Special Projects

The internal grant committee in 2020 allocated \$3,817 for six projects: Kimberling Senior Center, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden, Bonniebrook, Pregnancy Life Line, Faith Lutheran Church and Cape Fair Community Center. The committee was chaired by Penny Meador. Funds for projects originated from local educational program activities and fund-raisers.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2020 Report

Master Gardener Total Impact

Impact was somewhat limited for 2020 due to COVID-19 issues, but regardless, a lot still got done though in a more restricted fashion. For 2020, the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks fulfilled their commitment to take on high-impact and ambitious projects. A total of 3,566 hours were reported in 2020 by fifty-nine master gardeners who served the entire year and reported. They reported making 494 contacts with persons in the community in 2020. The first-year Master Gardeners are required to provide 30 hours of service and seasoned master gardeners are only required to provide 20 hours. COVID-19 policies from the state coordinated indicated that they were not required to fulfill this requirement this year. Regardless, this year the master gardeners who did submit hours each averaged 60 hours of service. According to the latest figures from the Independent Sector organization, the hourly wage for U.S. volunteer hours currently is \$27.20. If you put a value on the education and service hours provided to the community, the value totals \$97,000 worth of volunteer time! Tim Schnakenberg served as advisor for the master gardener activities in the Stone and Taney County area. Continuing education is an important part of volunteer service. The master gardeners reported 645 hours of continued education this year (average of 11 hours per person).

Membership, Organization and Structure

As of year-end, there were 107 master gardeners in the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks chapter. Of these, there are 57 who reside in Stone County, 42 in Taney County, three in Christian County, two in Barry County, one in Howell County and two who reside in Boone County, Arkansas. The master gardeners were led this year by Chris Witherington, president, Joanne Anderson, vice-president, Gloria Cowper-Jen, secretary, and Judy Schmitt, treasurer. The chapter met monthly, alternating between locations in Stone and Taney County and the executive committee met monthly between meetings. The chapter boasts 28 emeritus members who have served at least ten years in the program.

Spring Gardening Workshop Brought Out 164 Participants!

The gardening public continues to turn to the Spring Gardening Workshop for reliable advice on gardening in the Ozarks. There were 164 that attended in Branson in March, just prior to a national pandemic shutdown. Topics included this year included, “The Waste-Less Kitchen; Reducing Food Waste” with Jenni Nevatt, extension county engagement specialist—nutrition and health; “Coming to Terms with Our Natives” with Alan Gregory, an Arkansas master gardener from Harrison; “The Home/Hobby Greenhouse; Options and Alternatives; What You Need to Know” with master gardener Cathy Preator; and, “What's New for You! Fresh Flowers Will Do!” by Oscar Cross of Hilltop Farms in Ash Grove. Tom Riley; Bill Greet; Marie Ewing also provided short information snippets to the group that packed in more education on the fly.

Modified but Successful Plant Sale in Forsyth

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the master gardeners were able to safely pull off a very successful on-line plant sale in May. This was the first year an on-line ordering format was used. Purchasers were given times to come to Forsyth to pick up plants and stay in their cars. Orders were placed in cars by some very committed master gardeners chaired by Marva Ramsey. Many more master gardeners contributed by potting up plants and donating plants from their personal gardens. This was the fourth year for this project. The sale brought in a very respectable \$3,253.50 that was used to fund grant projects and the scholarship.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2020 Report

Education and Improved Landscape Emphasis in our Communities

Some of the many other ongoing projects that made a significant impact in local communities included the Bonniebrook Homestead landscaping, Corps of Engineers Project Office Landscaping, Stonebridge Heritage Garden landscaping, Shell Knob Senior Center landscaping, Kimberling Area Senior Center garden, Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden and the Stone County courthouse and library landscaping. Some of the work for these projects were curtailed due to pandemic restrictions, but with safe social distancing practices, the committees were able to continue on with some of their projects. The KKOZ Master Gardener Radio Show ran for nearly seven years and was a huge success due to the efforts of Sandra Reames, Kathryn Kufahl and scores of guests on the program. Due to changes in station format, it was decided to cancel the broadcast in late 2020. There were many more smaller projects that are too innumerable to cover, but combined they make a startling impact throughout our region.

Many Garden Programs Where Cancelled Due to the Pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was wisely decided to cancel plans for the Fall Gardening Workshop, Bohemian Rhapsody Garden Tour at Bonniebrook and most of the monthly garden programs offered in Forsyth, Kimberling City and Galena. It was unfortunate because some of the committees, such as the garden tour committee, had already invested many hours in preparation for their event

On-Line Master Gardener Course Brought in New Members

Five new master gardeners were trained through the statewide on-line master gardener course. There was no in-person training offered this year. A graduation ceremony was conducted at a Master Gardener meeting at Shepherd of the Hills in December.



Amazing landscape work was accomplished in 2020 by local volunteers. These pictures are from the Bonniebrook Homestead where a committee used chapter-derived grant funds to pay for many of the expenses for landscaping at this local non-profit.





Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks – 2020 Report



Master Gardener Emeritus members recognized in January. L to R: Bill Greet, Barbara Keys, Danny Manis, Barb Peterson and Eric Peterson. Royce Burke was unable to attend. Ten years of volunteer service for our communities is pretty grand!



Jenni Nevatt, CES, discusses how to waste less food in the kitchen at the Spring Gardening Workshop in March. Below, Cathy Preator addresses the crowd to discuss how to manage a hobby greenhouse.



The committees of community projects received funds from the Master Gardener grant program. The programs included: Children's Garden project in Kimberling City, Pregnancy Life Line project in Reeds Spring and the Faith Lutheran Church in Branson.



Health & Well-being

Family Nutrition Education Program – Barb Beck

SNAP-Ed Public Value Statement 2020

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$9,964,840.00 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 723,461 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri. There were 3,209,545 direct educational contacts. This year we had 2,817,878 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

3,631 direct and indirect contacts were made in Taney 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.

During 2020, 1,673 youth and 1,958 adults were served through schools, community groups and agencies. The following is a list of the locations where participants were served in Taney County:

Schools and Agency Partners

- Cedar Ridge Elementary, Primary and Intermediate Schools
- Boys & Girls Club of the Ozarks – Branson & Forsyth locations
- Buchanan Elementary & Intermediate Schools
- Branson Senior Center (SWMOA)
- Forsyth Elementary
- Christian Action Ministries
- Mark Twain Elementary
- Salvation Army – Branson Pantry
- Hollister Elementary
- Christian Action Ministries – Forsyth – My Neighbor's Pantry
- Forsyth Senior Center (SWMOA)

In addition to the numbers, Nutrition Program Associate, Barbara Beck, shared these success stories demonstrating local impact:

The 2nd graders at Hollister Elementary have been so excited when I enter their classrooms each week. They can't wait to share what foods they have tried at home, or a healthy snack they had at school. The week we talked about vegetables and the importance of eating a variety of colors, I challenged the kids to try to eat at least 3 different colors of vegetables a day. It's fun to have the kids say 'Let's Eat the Rainbow', and to explain that to parents and/or grandparents at home. A few weeks after that lesson, Ms. Carroll, the teacher, shared an email she received from a student's mom: "I was told last week that our dinner didn't contain enough colors. It should have the WHOLE rainbow in it. I thought I was doing pretty good for having 3 veggies in a one pot meal." What a great success story! Not only do the kids get excited about eating more veggies but, the parents are making changes too!



Health & Well-being

Family Nutrition Education Program – Barb Beck

Unprecedented times have allowed the Human Development & Family Science Specialist, Amber Allen to build unique relationships/partnerships and serve Missouri in new and innovated ways. She was able to reach over 39,000 individuals using social media posts using the hashtags #Committed2MOFamilies and #ExtendMU. She has provided 106 sessions of programming through 61 programs to a total of 1,280 participants in 2020. Some of these program impacts are mentioned below.

Alzheimer's Association

This year the Human Development and Family Science Specialist collaborated with the Greater Missouri and Heart of America Alzheimer's Association to provide programming statewide. Specialist provided presentations related to Alzheimer's and other dementia-related topics, including 10 warning signs, effective communication strategies, dementia-related behaviors, and various other subjects to educate caregivers. Through 28 classes they were able to provide education to 471 participants statewide.

Call to Care for Kids Conference

Amber Allen, Human Development and Family Science Field Specialist was asked to present to 85 child care providers at the Call the Care for Kids Conference on the benefits of using music in the child care setting. The purpose of the conference is to bring together Sunday School Teachers, Child Care Providers, VBS Teams, Children's Ministers, Foster Families and interested community members across the Southwest Region to support children and families. MU Extension also had an exhibitor table at the conference that handed out materials on MU Extension, Nutrition & Health, and Human Development to the 375 child care providers attending the conference.

Human Development and Family Science will continue to provide innovative programs to increase impact that will foster community engagement, increase community collaboration and shift community and social norms.





Health & Well-being

Amber Allen, Human Development Specialist

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Health & Well-being



Nutrition and Health Programing for 2020: A Virtual Approach

Walk With Ease (WWE) is an evidence-based program that has been proven to help people with arthritis or other related conditions reduce pain, increase balance, strength and walking pace, and improve overall health. WWE Program Leaders, help arthritis pain sufferers build confidence in their ability to be physically active, and show them how they can make physical activity part of their everyday lives. Participants learn the relationship between arthritis, exercise and pain, develop and implement a personal walking plans with realistic goals, and get tips, strategies and resources for maintaining a long-term exercise routine. WWE self-directed enhanced combines self-paced walks with information about health-related topics. Participants receive a guidebook and support from a WWE leader through videos featuring lecturettes as well as phone calls to check in on progress. Two Christian County participants pay \$0 thanks to a grant from the Southwest Regional Arthritis Foundation.



“I would recommend WWE to a friend. I am not as tired, no longer taking Aleve at night for knee pain, and I increased my walking speed.” WWE Participant



N&H Specialist, Jenni Nevatt, and her daughter, Ivy, show Facebook followers how to prepare healthy casseroles during quarantine using ingredients they already have on hand. Estimated reach: 446

Partnerships in Play

Partnering with Branson-Hollister Senior Center, Jenni Nevatt implement two Stay Strong, Stay Healthy weight training programs for 24 seniors and one A Matter of Balance, falls prevention program, for 7 seniors. She also partnered with Hollister Farmers Market to provide pressure canner testing and nutrition education in July reaching 64 people.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
FOOD SAFETY & COVID-19
 CDC AND USDA ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY REPORTS AT THIS TIME OF HUMAN ILLNESSES THAT SUGGEST COVID-19 CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY FOOD OR FOOD PACKAGING

KNOW THE SCIENCE:

- Coronaviruses cannot grow in food because they need a living host such as human or animal.
- COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets that can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby
- As always, follow good hygiene and food safety practices when handling food

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.EXTENSION.MISSOURI.EDU

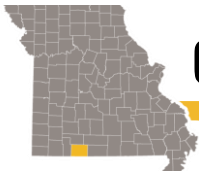
MU Extension - Nutrition & Health
 May 22 - ©
 CDC and USDA are not aware of any reports at this time of human illness that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging.
 #FoodSafety #Committed2MOFamilies #ExtendMU

Nutrition and Health (N&H) Gets Social

When the world was asked to stay socially distant, the Southwest team of N&H Specialists got social, working quickly to create reliable social media posts related to COVID-19 and reaching thousands.

Childcare Workshops

Jenni Nevatt partnered with retired HDFs, Jim Wirth, to offer a series of childcare workshops for clock hours to 11 early childhood education workers in Taney County at OTC in Hollister.



County highlights

2021 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Taney County



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

UM System Footprint in the county in 2020



FY20 county students

129 students

- 114 Undergraduates
- 15 Graduate and professional students
- 97 Full-time students
- 32 Part-time students
- 51 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2020)



County employees and retirees

10 people employed by UM

- 10 Campuses
- 15 UM retirees and beneficiaries
UM salary and retirement income: \$447,990
UM state tax revenue: \$16,702
UM federal tax revenue: \$51,524



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 27 Medicine
- 19 Nursing
- 13 Health Professions
- 19 Dentistry
- 15 Pharmacy
- 3 Optometry
- 9 Veterinary Medicine
- 39 Agriculture
- 80 Engineering
- 25 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 16 teachers
- 2.7% of all district teachers
- 3 principals and administrators
- 8.6% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 75 students
- 362 alumni
- 9 employees

UMKC

- 16 students
- 108 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 36 students
- 73 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 2 students
- 48 alumni
- 0 employees



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Taney County



County population: 54,720



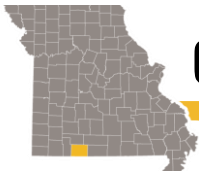
County services provided

Health care (FY20)

- 164 in-state patients seen at UM Health Care, with \$43,858 of uncompensated care
- 4 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$56.94 per patient in uncompensated care
- University of Missouri Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 60 visits to 42 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (FY19)

- 31,329 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of district counties, including:
- 228 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 30,628 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 378 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



County highlights

2021 UM Systemwide Impact Data Sheets

Taney County



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

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In 2019, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 20,283 jobs.



For every dollar invested from 2015 to 2017, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$120 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.19 billion. For a total impact of \$2.7 billion, the program has generated more than 29,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$347 million in capital investments and \$1.17 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY14 and FY19, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.09 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state but spent within the state.



In FY20, UM System was issued 42 patents and filed 41 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY20, UM System construction projects resulted in a total investment in the state of \$113.4 million.



In FY20, Missouri Telehealth Network brought the expertise of University of Missouri Health Care physicians to underserved areas—45,057 visits from 35,640 patients from all 114 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis

Education and Training Provided



72,581 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2018)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 138,921 farmers and related businesses (2019)

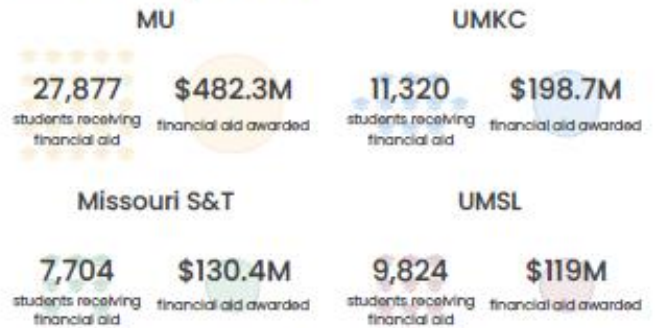


300,807 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2019)

Education Highlights

FY20 Financial Aid Awards

In FY20, 69.6% of the UM System's 81,459 students received financial aid totaling \$930.4 million



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 57 higher education institutions (255,000 students), 490 K-12 school districts (860,000 students) and 122 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2019

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,708 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2019-20.
- UM System awarded 41.1% of the 1,815 research doctorates and 27.8% of the 3,234 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2019-20.
- In 2020, UM System's \$31.5 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 88.6% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.

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 2020, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) • 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

