



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

# St. Charles County 2023

Annual Report

260 Brown Rd  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
636-970-3000

**SERVE  
MISSOURI.**

**DELIVER  
MIZZOU.**



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*

an equal opportunity/ADA institution





Office of Extension  
and Engagement  
*University of Missouri*

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

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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



**Deana Dothage**  
Extension Engagement Specialist  
in Community Development  
[dothaged@missouri.edu](mailto:dothaged@missouri.edu)



**Victoria Bernard**  
4-H Youth Development Field Specialist  
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**Brittney Bird**  
4-H Youth Program Associate  
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**Eli Isele**  
Horticulture Field Specialist  
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**Cassidy Palmer**  
Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health  
[cassidywarne@missouri.edu](mailto:cassidywarne@missouri.edu)



**Barbara Larson**  
Nutrition Program Associate  
[larsenbm@missouri.edu](mailto:larsenbm@missouri.edu)



**Brenda Doll**  
Bookkeeper, Office Support



**Brandon Yn**  
Media and Office Support

## Extension Council Elected Members

**Fay Aubuchon**, Chair  
**Matt Medina**, Vice-chair  
**Sandy Hershey**, Secretary  
**Steve Martinez**, Treasurer  
**Nancy Fulton**  
**Tom Nagle**  
**Roy Zirges**  
**Amanda Templer**  
**John Griesenauer**  
**Gary Wester**  
**John Goings**

## Appointed Members

**Fred Banks**  
**Mike Lueck**  
**Samantha Huber**  
**Dr. Gregg Sartorius**  
**Kathleen Thompson**  
**Emily Kassebaum**  
**Katie Lyons**

## Community Partners

**Laura Steimel**  
**James Cummings**  
**Joe Walker**  
**Hank Hedges**  
**Stephen Thompson**

## St. Charles Co. Government Officials

**Joann Leykam** Director of Administration  
**John Greifzu** Assistant Director of Administration  
**Bob Schnur** Assistant Director of Administration  
**Matt Swanson** Council District 1  
**Joe Brazil** Council District 2  
**Mike Elam** Council District 3  
**Dave Hammond** Council District 4  
**Terry Hollander** Council District 5  
**Nancy Schneider** Council District 6  
**Tim Baker** Council District 7

# Budget and more

## Appropriations budget

### Income

County Appropriations	100,000
One-time appropriation for maintenance and flood damage	25,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>125,000</b>

### Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	61,573
Payroll Expenses	7,170
Travel	2,304
Telephone/Postage	4,779
Office Supplies/Service	11,757
Utilities	9,861
Insurance (Est)	8,003
Capital Repairs	50,385
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>157,889</b>



We congratulate St. Charles County's 2023 Farm Family honoree, **Jones Cuivre Farms!**

The Missouri State Fair recognized them alongside other family farms from every county in Missouri for their contributions to state economy, culture, and vitality.

## 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, building maintenance, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The St. Charles County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the St. Charles County Government for their continued support of extension programs.



## Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to St. Charles 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.

Visit [extension.missouri.edu/counties/st-charles/donate](https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/st-charles/donate)



# St. Charles County



## UM System Footprint in the county in 2023



### FY23 county students

**7,229 students**

- 6,367 Undergraduates
- 862 Graduate and professional students
- 4,226 Full-time students
- 3,003 Part-time students
- 794 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2023)



### County employees and retirees

**541 people employed by UM**

- 460 Campuses
- 73 MU Health Care
- 8 UM System

166 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$23.6 million

UM state tax revenue: \$705,816

UM federal tax revenue: \$3.4 million



### County alumni

**Selected school alumni**

- 127 Medicine
- 2,000 Nursing
- 1,020 Health Professions
- 115 Dentistry
- 77 Pharmacy
- 63 Optometry
- 122 Veterinary Medicine
- 1,468 Agriculture
- 4,402 Engineering
- 220 Law

**Alumni teaching K-12**

- 1,329 teachers
- 29.9% of all district teachers
- 91 principals and administrators
- 39.6% of all district principals and administrators



### County breakdown

#### MU

- 2,741 students
- 12,064 alumni
- 130 employees

#### UMKC

- 232 students
- 726 alumni
- 7 employees

#### Missouri S&T

- 812 students
- 3,747 alumni
- 24 employees

#### UMSL

- 3,444 students
- 17,025 alumni
- 299 employees



### Construction projects

- \$508,738 remitted to 12 county vendors, for 30 projects



### County properties and offices

MU Extension in: St. Charles County



County population: 402,377



### County services provided

#### Health care (FY23)

- 1,361 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$233,126 of uncompensated care
- 207 in-state patients seen at UMSL Center for Eye Care with a statewide average of \$34.82 per patient in uncompensated care
- 23 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 273 visits to 129 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

#### Extension (2022)

- 5,859 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
- 1,306 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
- 3,108 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
- 1,369 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



# St. Charles County



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

## 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)

### 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		UMKC	
27,256	\$536.0M	11,859	\$217.3M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded
Missouri S&T		UMSL	
6,748	\$117.7M	8,489	\$102.8M
students receiving financial aid	financial aid awarded	students receiving financial aid	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](http://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.

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



ST. CHARLES COUNTY

## Knowing Missouri's Needs

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

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

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

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



### Economic opportunity

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



### Educational access and excellence

Increase participation in postsecondary education from 66% to 70%



### Health and well-being

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

## Knowing Local Challenges



### CHALLENGE 1: Economic Opportunity: Labor Market

### Average Earnings per Job

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

#### 2022 Average Earnings (\$)

**\$57,392**

Missouri \$62,528 🇺🇸

St. Charles



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

### Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate is a measure of an economy's active workforce and includes people who are employed and those seeking employment. According to the 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey, of the 319,400 persons of working age in the report area, 69.80% are included in the labor force. This rate exceeds the Missouri labor force participation rate of 62.82%.

#### Labor Force Participation Rate

**69.8%**

Missouri 62.82%

St. Charles

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





## CHALLENGE 2: Educational Access and Excellence: *Early Childhood Education*

### Access to Early Childhood Education

Head Start is an early childhood education program for at-risk children through age 5. Families utilizing Head Start have better success meeting developmental goals and achieving economic stability. In 2018, there were 6 Head Start programs in the report area, or 2.47 per 10,000 population. Access to head start is lower in this area than in the state.

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

2.47

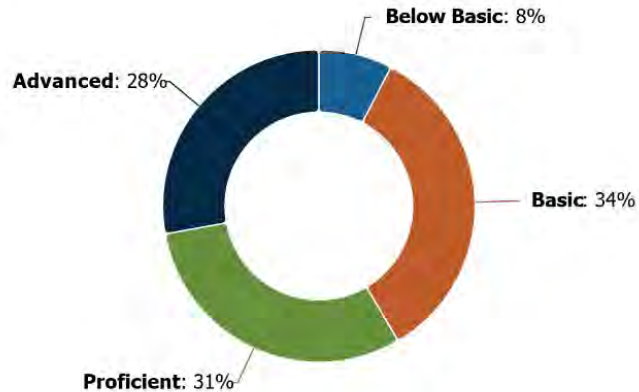
Missouri 11.76

St. Charles

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 4,156.00 fourth graders tested in 2018, the known total number of students who had a basic level of English Language Arts was 1,394.00. The number tested as below basic was 314.00, basic was 1,394.00, proficient was 1,257.00, and advanced was 1,145.00.



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



## CHALLENGE 3: Healthy Futures: *Access to Care*

### Mental Health Care Providers

Mental health is a critical public health issue worldwide. Access to mental health services is a challenge across Missouri, which ranks 46 out of 51 states in provider access. In the trio there are approximately 294 credentialed professionals providing mental health care to serve the area's 405,262 residents. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 1,378 to 1, which means there is 1 provider for every 1,378 persons. The ratio of persons to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 855:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

#### Ratio (Population to Providers)

1,378:1

Missouri 855:1

St. Charles

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [CMS - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System \(NPES\)](#), December 2023.

### Primary Care Providers

Older adults make up a historically large percentage of the U.S. population and meeting the healthcare needs of an aging population can be challenging. In the report area, there are approximately 173 primary care physicians (MDs and DOs) to serve the area's 60,779 residents over the age of 65. The patient-provider ratio in the report area is 351:1, which means there is 1 provider for every 351 older adults. The ratio of adults to providers in the report area is higher than the state average of 242:1, which means there are fewer providers per person in this area.

#### Ratio (Population to Providers)

351:1

Missouri 242:1

St. Charles

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, [HRSA - Area Health Resource File](#), December 2023.



## CHALLENGE 4: Agriculture: *Jobs Derived from Agriculture*

Missouri has a diverse agriculture industry, strong in crops and livestock, as well as food and forestry processing industries. These industries remain a significant part of Missouri's economy, supporting more than 1 in every 10 jobs, on average. In 2021, agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Missouri were estimated to contribute: 456,618 jobs, \$93.7 billion in output and \$31.8 billion in household income. [Learn more about Missouri Agriculture's Economic Impact.](#)

### Percent of Jobs Derived from Agriculture

3.90

St. Charles

Missouri

23.55

Data Source: Missouri Department of Agriculture, [Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority](#), 2021.



MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**  
 through credible programs  
**Missouri 4-H**

## About 4-H

**4-H programs are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing.** Through hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement, youth receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Youth have the opportunity to concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout their 4-H experience.

## 4-H in St. Charles County

In 2023, St. Charles County 4-H had **444** youth and **134** adult volunteers participants. Our members participated in the following project areas: **entrepreneurship, robotics, public speaking, community service, fashion, photography, shooting sports, arts and crafts, horsemanship, veterinary service, livestock management, and more!**



Victoria Bernard, 4-H Field Specialist in Youth Development, developed and implemented the Model Water Tower Competition in collaboration with the Missouri Section of the American Water Works Association (MO-AWWA). This program highlights the significance of reliable drinking water and cultivates essential skills in St. Charles County youth, such as goal setting, management, and a growth mindset.



Kaycie Hollrah, Missouri 4-H Ambassador for the Urban East Region, demonstrated her crocheting skills at the annual Fiber Festival held at the Daniel Boone Home, St. Charles County Park. Kaycie is a longtime member of the Point Prairie 4-H Club in St. Charles County.

## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being





# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU**

through credible programs

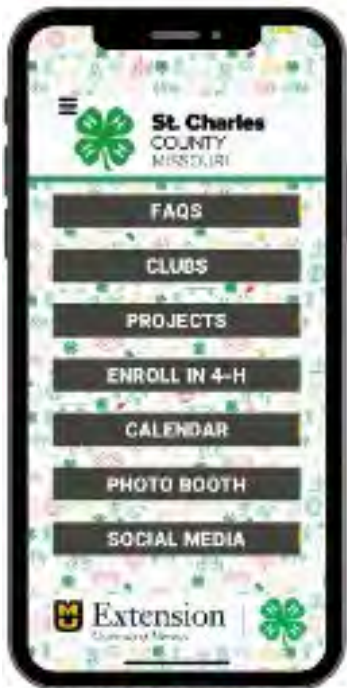
## Missouri 4-H



4-H member Josie Zeier's prize-winning Millionaire Shortbread



In the 4-H embryology project, 4-H specialists trained teachers to conduct lessons on human and chicken development. Using incubators, children took care of eggs that hatched into chicks.



**ST. CHARLES COUNTY APP**

## Missouri 4-H App

The Missouri 4-H App provides one space for Missouri 4-H youth, families, and volunteers to access information about enrollment, events and opportunities, awards and scholarships, and volunteer resources. Families can access the app using cell service or WiFi is accessible. This is important due to bandwidth issues in our state. The county-level information in the app includes a county event calendar, club pages for club-based information, and local project information. St. Charles County was selected as the first 4-H program to pilot the new Missouri 4-H App.



## Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being

# St. Charles County

## Business and Community

### Local Impact

MU Extension's community development programs help Missourians tap into collective strengths to build and maintain thriving communities. Engagement Specialist Deana Dothage is available to speak in-depth about Extension at local programs and events.

## Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA)



NLA is a hands-on leadership training program that teaches residents community building principles, management practices, and personal and organizational leadership skills. EES Deana led a cohort of **six** from the Urban East region.

Master Naturalist, Extension council member and NLA graduate Amanda Templer won a \$2500 grant to launch her 2023 NLA capstone project, *Increasing Master Naturalist Through Youth Mentorship*. Her project, based at Francis Howell North High School, aims to diversify the Missouri Master Naturalist environmental stewardship program. Ultimately, Templer hopes it engages a broader range of youth in nature conservation.

## Engaged Neighbor Program

The Engaged Neighbor Program arms people with the tools to improve relationships with their neighbors and foster a better sense of community in Missouri neighborhoods. In 2023, our EES delivered **seven** engaged neighbor presentations at organization meetings and conferences.

## Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) program from MU Extension nurtures entrepreneurship and fosters economic growth across Missouri. By cultivating collaboration between local leaders, educators, and entrepreneurs, it sparks creativity, encourages innovation, and contributes to a stronger, more prosperous Missouri. After attending the 2023 CEC Conference in Benton County, Dothage hopes to bring this conference to St. Charles County in the future. Learn more by visiting <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/creating-entrepreneurial-communities>.

Dothage is a member of the 2024 planning team.

### CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES





# St. Charles County

## Business and Community

### Local Impact

## Strategic Doing

Strategic Doing is a community focused method of helping areas capitalize on their resources, use them in a way that may be unfamiliar to them and leave the session with a plan for making changes to the status quo. The beauty of this methodology is that it can create change out of almost any topic/situation. To learn more about the SD opportunity, contact EES Deana Dothage.

## Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers an extensive range of personalized services that small businesses can consult to aid their success. In 2023, the Missouri SBDC in our region saw # unique clients for one-on-one and/or training services. Clients range from metro area startups to rural companies looking to expand.



## Labor Education Program

This program works with organization members and leaders to develop skills that will make them effective contributors to their workplace and active participants in their community.



## Missouri APEX Accelerator

Formerly the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Center, The APEX Accelerator's procurement specialists help businesses (including small, disadvantaged, veteran, and women-owned firms) with obtaining federal, state, and local government contracts.

# St. Charles County

## Health and Human Sciences

### Local Impact

## Dining with Diabetes

One aspect of our health programming is encouraging individuals to take charge over their well-being. Through a partnership with Horizon Housing Foundation, Extension provided a **Dining With Diabetes** program that reached 15 individuals. Taught by our Nutrition and Health Field Specialist Cassidy Palmer, this in-depth educational class includes a hands-on portion where participants prepare healthy, affordable, diabetes-friendly meals.



## Stay Strong, Stay Healthy

Two in-person **Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** strength training programs (along with five additional collaborative in-person and virtual programs) made a total of **738** contacts. This research-based course helps older individuals build upon their strength, flexibility and balance, thus allowing them to live independently for longer.

## Home Food Preservation



Appreciation of locally grown food has renewed an interest in home food preservation. Canning, drying and freezing are safe and effective ways to preserve food at home if done correctly. Using outdated or unsafe methods can result in serious illness so using research-based methods for home food preservation is critically important.

MU Extension in St. Charles County offered two food preservation classes in 2023. **24** people attended. Topics included water bath canning, making sweet spreads, canning tomatoes and pressure canning low acid foods. Participants noted they plan on taking the following actions after the program:

- **Preserve food as a result of the session they attended**
- **Use tested recipes from reliable sources**
- **Share food preservation information with other people**
- **Plan to buy or update their equipment.**





# MU EXTENSION **Serves MISSOURI and Delivers MIZZOU** through credible programs **Health and Human Sciences**

## Poultry Workshop



MU Extension Food Systems Network received a series of mini-grants to support a year long focus on work that creates positive economic impacts, enhances food access and increases food security for all Missourians.

Cassidy Palmer, St. Charles County's Nutrition and Health Field Specialist, helped facilitate an on-farm poultry processing workshop. It targeted small backyard chicken producers, whose numbers have increased since 2020. Many small poultry producers operate under an exemption that lets them produce, slaughter, process and sell poultry meat from the farm without inspection.

By the end of the workshop, participants learned how to **safely take a chicken through the processing steps** followed by separating the different cuts of meat. We had food safety discussions with emphasis on Salmonella and E. coli bacteria and the risks associated with handling and consuming poultry.

## SNAP-Ed and EFNEP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought **\$10,874,798** in federal funds to Missouri. During the 2023 Fiscal Year, Missouri's SNAP-Ed program reached over **78,000** Missourians through direct classroom education. A total of **346 participants** were from St. Charles County.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) brought **\$1,626,730** federal funds to Missouri. These funds were used to enroll **526** families in nutrition education and meal preparation classes, representing **1,926** family members. Additionally, **1,980** youth were enrolled in EFNEP classes. **4** of these youth and adult participants reside in St. Charles County.

Participants in SNAP-ED and EFNEP learn the importance of making healthier meal and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, trying new foods, and increasing physical activity. Those who practice healthy eating and physical activity are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life. This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant's lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

## Legend



Agricultural Growth  
& Stewardship



Economic  
Opportunity



Educational  
Access &  
Excellence



Health  
& Well-Being

# St. Charles County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

MU Extension's **horticulture** programs provide informational support and hands-on resources to budding and experienced gardeners alike

## Apple Variety Trial

In response to the Midwest's growing cider beverage industry, **43** promising cider apple genotypes were grafted in spring 2023. A trial will test how the cider apple genotypes react to Midwestern heat and humidity. Eli Isele, the St. Charles County Extension's Horticulture Field Specialist, and a co-PI attended to them year-round in nursery while collecting initial vigor data. Outplanting is expected at the farmer cooperators' site in 2024.

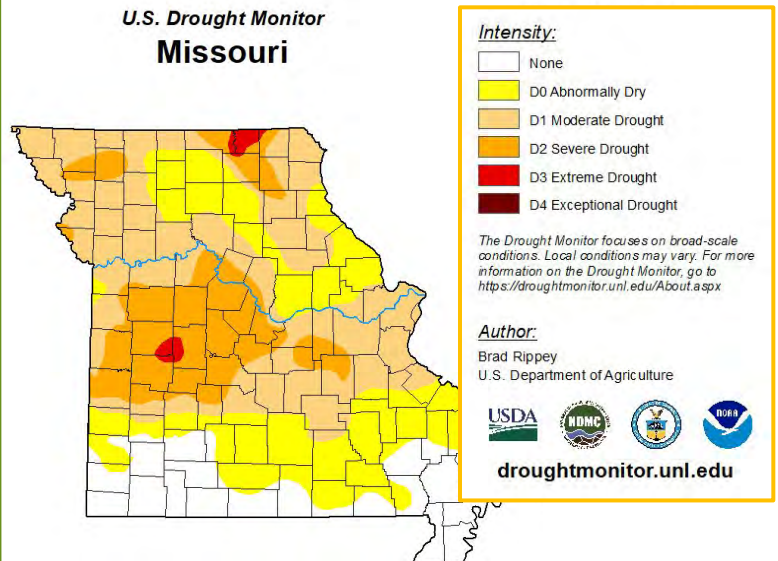
## Master Gardener Training

The St. Charles County Master Gardeners' Core Training Program spreads gardening knowledge through research-based horticulture lessons and volunteer opportunities. The 2024 in-person Core Training is scheduled from January through April 2024.



## Forage Loss Assessment

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Missouri



The 2023 drought caused a 5.43 inch drop in rainfall compared to 1901-2000 averages. As a result, St. Charles County experienced a 45% reduction in forage growth over the 2023 growing/grazing season.

## 2023 Tomato School

Isele helped facilitate the 2023 Missouri Tomato School, where experts shared techniques for growers to ensure the best possible tomato crop. **75** people enrolled in this two-day course.

## Additional Classes

Isele and other horticulture faculty held two courses that St. Charles County residents attended: a conventional vegetable series and an organic farming webinar series.



# St. Charles County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

## New Melle Co-op

At the 2023 New Melle Fall Festival, Eli Isele, Justin Keay, and Master Gardeners staffed a booth to inform the public about the New Melle Food Co-op in St. Charles County. It is the only co-op grocery store in the state of Missouri.



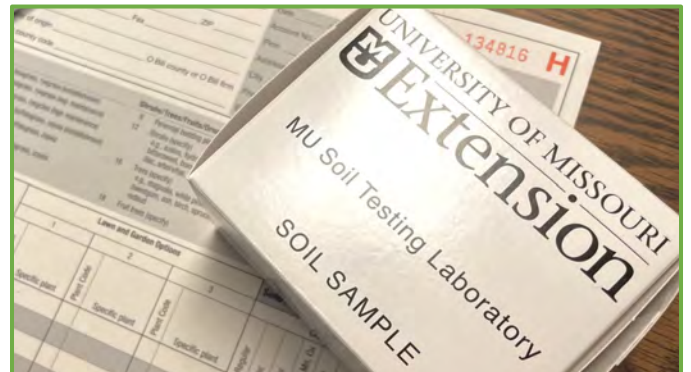
## Apple Grafting

The St. Charles County Extension Office facilitated one of three MU Extension Apple Grafting workshops, providing rootstocks, scions, supplies, and tools to teach apple tree grafting. The course had **75** participants who each took home two semi-dwarf apple trees.



## Soil Testing

Agricultural producers and home gardeners can drop off soil samples at the St. Charles County Extension office. The samples are catalogued and sent to Mizzou for testing. Clients receive detailed results about their soil's composition and how they can amend it. Horticulturist Isele assists clients with interpreting their results upon request. In 2023, our office collected **333** samples.



## Pesticide Applicator Training

In 2023, **seven** St. Charles County citizens participated in the Private Pesticide Applicator training facilitated by Rusty Lee, MU Extension Agronomy Specialist. This 2.5 hour program gave a collective learning total of **17.5** education hours. The training enables farmers to meet society's demand for lessening agriculture's environmental impact.



# St. Charles County

## Agriculture and Environment

### Local Impact

## Master Gardeners

In **2023**, St. Charles County Master Gardeners logged a total of **14,825** volunteer hours. There were **133** certified and active Master Gardeners in St. Charles County in 2023, plus **14** interns (those who have completed core classes but are not yet certified).

Master Gardeners are trained by the University of Missouri to spread research-based gardening knowledge. Through demonstration projects, workshops, and our office's HortLine, these volunteers are dedicated to **"helping others learn to grow."**

## HortLine



Our office's HortLine is the Master Gardeners' help desk. Volunteers research and answer callers' gardening questions via phone or email. In-person visits are welcomed from March through October. Master Gardener Judy Klemme is pictured above staffing the line.

## Demonstration Gardens



Our office's Demonstration Gardens are open to the public for exploration. They are also where the St. Charles County Master Gardeners learn, work, and teach. In the Demonstration Gardens, anyone can learn how to plant and grow, harvest and store, and treat and prevent pests and diseases in their home and community gardens.

## 2023 Master Gardener Milestones

- **Five** new fruit trees and a stone path were added to the arboretum
- **1755.5** lbs of produce were donated to a local food pantry
- The Bird Buffet became a certified wildlife habitat garden under the National Wildlife Federation
- Propagation courses taught milk jug seeding, transplant, and care, and the Dig and Divide program produced **1054** plants for the annual sale





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 through credible programs  
**Agriculture and Environment**



The Master Gardeners were honored for Large Chapter Project of the Year and Master Gardener of the Year (Donna Lindsey) at the **2023 Missouri Extension Master Gardener Conference.**



At their 2023 spring plant sale, Master Gardeners sold their entire stock of **7,434 plants**. They also donated **900** plants to St. Charles County Parks, plus **100** to the St. Charles County Boys & Girls Club and Hickey Elementary School in St. Louis.



Our free garden tours educate the public on our gardens' diverse plant and wildlife. **84** people attended the spring tours and **48** attended the autumn tours.



Master Gardener Phebe conducted four **Eating from the Garden** cooking classes, demonstrating full-course recipes made from fresh-picked vegetables.

**Legend**



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being





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## Missouri Master Naturalists

The Missouri Master Naturalist program engages Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service. It is sponsored by MU Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

2023 saw **31** active Missouri Master Naturalists in the Confluence Chapter which serves St. Charles County and surrounding communities. The program also recruited four new interns who are working toward Master Naturalist certification.

Certification includes **40** hours of educational training in Missouri ecosystems, plus **40** hours of service in local conservation projects.



In 2023, Master Naturalists Lloyd Alinder (left), Stephen Baldwin and Tom Nagle (right) dedicated approximately 500 volunteer hours to the design and maintenance of a greenhouse and raised garden at the St. Charles County Extension Office.

## Stormwater Seminar

Master Naturalist Amanda Templer presented at the 2023 Spring Stormwater Seminar, an event highlighting best practices in local water quality management. Her presentation *Trees in the Urban Environment* provided a range of trees and shrubs that naturally mitigate stormwater. Templer's second presentation gave an overview of soil erosion and sedimentation and was titled *Stormwater and Sedimentation: Controlling Soil Erosion in Construction Sites*.



Confluence Chapter hikers on the Matson Hill trail in February 2023.

### Legend



Agricultural Growth & Stewardship



Economic Opportunity



Educational Access & Excellence



Health & Well-Being



# St. Charles County Highlights

## Pantry Garden



The Extension Council entered the first Extension Council of the Year competition in 2023. Our entry was based on the efforts of the Master Gardeners in the Pantry Garden. Our Pantry Garden was the idea of Master Gardener Paul Hendricks, who suffered food insecurity as a child. The St. Charles County Master Gardeners, Extension Council, and the owners of the property collaborated on a project to grow and harvest fresh food donations for those who may not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

In 2023, the Pantry Garden provided **519** families and **1089** individuals with fresh produce and herbs through the Saints Joachim and Ann Care Service, distributing to these families **7272** times. The Care Service is the largest food pantry in St. Charles County.



## 2023 Annual Dinner

The St. Charles County Extension's first annual dinner since 2019 had a substantial turnout. Our community dined with us and listened to Extension's achievements and goals for the county.



**Row 1:** Joe Lear, *Consultant for Broadband Initiatives for MU Extension* / An employee of local Dean Andrews Catering

**Row 2:** Len Pagano, *Mayor of St. Peters* and wife Joyce Pagano / Judy Bateman, *St. Peters Alderwoman* / Christina Thompson and husband Stephen Thompson, *Extension Council member*

**Row 3:** Jenna Hollrah and daughter Kaycie Hollrah, *4-H Youth Ambassador* / Nick Trupiano and Rocky Reitmeyer, *St. Peters Aldermen*

# St. Charles County Highlights

## First Impact

First Impact, a program of the University of Missouri School of Medicine and ThinkFirst Missouri, is a free 60-90 minute program for parents and guardians of young drivers. It provides parents with tools to monitor, coach, and support their teens to reduce the risk of accidents. Our EES delivered **six** First Impact programs in 2023. MU Extension and ThinkFirst Missouri collaborate to deliver First Impact to all Missourians.

To find events throughout Missouri, visit <https://medicine.missouri.edu/offices-programs/first-impact/first-impact-events>



Allyn Workman, Health Educator with ThinkFirst Missouri, leads the November 14 First Impact program.

## Extension Council Day of Service 2023



Nancy Fulton and Deana Dothage represented MU Extension with a promo table at the 2023 Alzheimer's Walk. Sandy Hershey assisted behind the scenes with setting up the event.

## Extension Council Service Projects

**Towel & Blanket Drive** - Our office collected residents' old towels and blankets to benefit the local Five Acres Animal Shelter.

**Soldiers' Christmas Card Project** - We are collecting blank Christmas cards and holding card signing parties to send positive holiday messages to overseas soldiers. In 2023 we donated 3,000 signed cards. Our goal for 2024 is 5,000. Cards are mailed to soldiers serving overseas by H.E.R.O.E.S. Care.



# St. Charles County Extension Community Partners

We kindly thank these organizations for supporting our mission to

**SERVE MISSOURI.**  
**DELIVER MIZZOU.**

All municipalities of St. Charles County  
Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital  
Boys and Girls Club, St. Charles County  
Bright Star Academy - St. Charles  
College for All Kids  
Community Council of St. Charles County  
Compass Health Group  
Connection to Success  
Coverdell Elementary School  
Dardenne Elementary School  
DLC Today - Wentzville, St. Peters  
Fairmont Elementary School  
Forest ReLeaf of Missouri-St. Louis  
Frontier Middle School  
Great Southern Bank  
Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County  
Harris Elementary School  
Harvester Christian Church Food Pantry  
Just 4 Us Childcare, Old Hwy 94  
Keep Your Keys  
Kids Helping Kids  
Missouri Bluebird Society  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Monroe Elementary School  
O'Fallon Public Works  
Operation Food Search  
Orchard Farm Elementary School  
Orchard Farm SD Early Learning Center  
Orchard Farm VFW Post 4219  
Our Ladies Inn  
Salvation Army - O'Fallon  
Shaw Nature Reserve  
Show Me Dough Fundraising  
St. Charles Community College  
St. Charles County Fair Board  
St. Charles County Government  
St. Charles County Family Court, 11th Circuit  
St. Charles County Parks  
St. Charles County Veterans Museum  
St. Charles County WIC  
St. Charles Crisis Nursery  
St. Charles Parks and Recreation  
St. John's United Church of Christ  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
St. Paul Knights of Columbus  
St. Peters Stream Team Cleanup  
Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service  
The Oasis Institute  
ThinkFirst Missouri  
Three Rivers Beekeepers  
Twin Oaks at Heritage POinte  
USDA NRCS  
We Love St. Charles  
Weldon Springs Interpretive Center  
Wentzville School District  
Zion Lutheran Church  
University of Missouri Extension

# St. Charles County, Missouri

## Economic Data Update

November 2023

### November 2023 Labor Force & Unemployment Rate

Preliminary and subject to change. Not seasonally adjusted, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
St. Charles County	229,812	227,326	5,593	2.4%

### Quick County Facts

2020 U.S. Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis



Population

**413,803**

Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in MO



Gross Domestic Product

**\$22.4 Billion**

Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in MO

### November 2023 Private Sector Industry Trends

Non-farm payroll employment. NA indicates "Not Available" due to no data or withheld to protect confidentiality. Location Quotient (LQ) describes how concentrated an industry is compared to the U.S. average; an LQ of 2.0 means the industry is twice as concentrated as the U.S. average. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry	Total Establishments	Average Weekly Wage	June Employment	June Over-the-Year Net Change in Emp.	June Over-the-Year Percent Change in Emp.	June Emp. Location Quotient
10 - Total, all industries	10,195	\$1,020	140,064	3,014	0.022	1.04
101 - Goods-producing	1,413	\$1,317	26,300	1,007	0.04	1.11
1011 - Natural resources and mining	44	\$752	218	-32	-12.80%	0.11
1012 - Construction	1,090	\$1,249	9,879	345	3.60%	1.2
1013 - Manufacturing	279	\$1,366	16,203	694	4.50%	1.21
102 - Service-providing	8,782	\$952	113,764	2,007	0.018	1.02
1021 - Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,888	\$904	35,997	-359	-1.00%	1.22
1022 - Information	135	\$2,180	5,850	1,173	25.10%	1.83
1023 - Financial activities	1,105	\$1,321	9,386	-142	-1.50%	1.04
1024 - Professional and business services	1,804	\$1,193	14,915	-283	-1.90%	0.63
1025 - Education and health services	2,146	\$957	20,347	82	0.40%	0.84
1026 - Leisure and hospitality	986	\$436	22,307	1,252	5.90%	1.31
1027 - Other services	718	\$726	4,962	284	6.10%	1.07

Data Sources: Labor force, unemployment rate, and industry employment from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and MERIC Demographics from 2016-2020 5-year summary from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Gross Domestic Product from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

### MU Extension Services and Program Offerings:

- Extension Council election: vote at [tinyurl.com/ExtCouncil2024](https://tinyurl.com/ExtCouncil2024)
- Christmas card signing parties for soldiers serving overseas: Feb. 25, Mar. 24, Apr. 28, 2024
- Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Pain: Fridays from Feb. 2 – Mar. 8, 2024 online



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**Extension**  
University of Missouri



# A Note From The Chair

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“It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the MU St Charles County Extension Council. This will be my last communication as an elected member of the Extension Council. I have been on the council since 2017. It is exhilarating to see all the positive changes we have made over the years.

Through the efforts of faculty, staff and amazing volunteers, MU Extension connects citizens of St Charles County with knowledge put into action in their daily lives. Using a range of learning experiences, we reach people of all ages and backgrounds, in every corner of our county. We empower youth in the 4-H programs. Not a fan of pigs or sheep? That’s ok. 4-H offers programs in STEM and Natural Sciences and many other areas of interest.

I am so proud of our Master Gardeners! They beautify our space for all seasons. They share their knowledge to help others grow beautiful plants, gardens, and lawns. Our Master Naturalist programs and our Beekeepers also provide good information and knowledge to citizens who are looking for answers locally. We offer Nutrition and Health programs, Business programs, and social programs.

I would like to thank the University, the County, and all our partners and collaborators who make the programs and services that impact St Charles County a reality. Thank you to the donors and volunteers who are never too busy to plant a tree, dig a garden, show a young person how to sew, caravan to the state fair, take pride in the many, many ribbons our children win, share healthy recipes with their neighbors and bring equity and empowerment to our citizens.

I encourage you to join us and help strengthen the bonds of citizenship and neighborliness that we share. I hope to see you soon.”

–Fay Aubuchon



**Fay Aubuchon**  
*Council Chair 2017-2023*  
MU Extension in St. Charles County

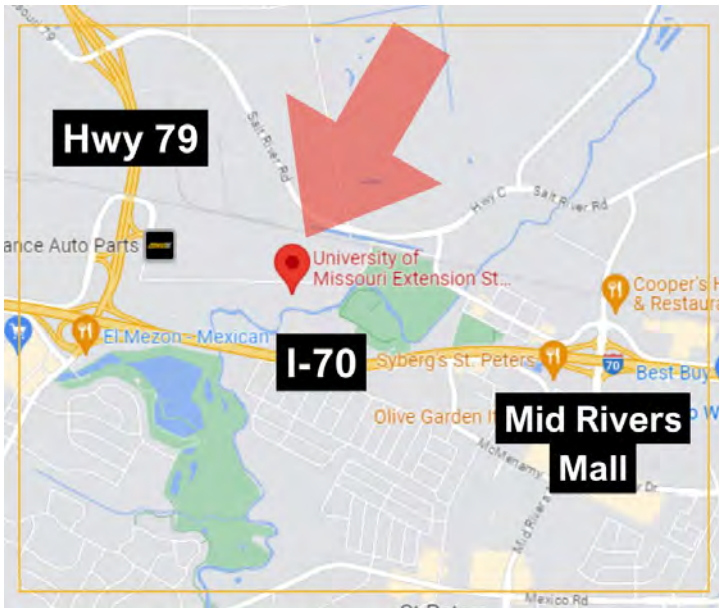


Aubuchon with Extension specialists Victoria Bernard (left) and Deana Dothage (right)

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# Contact Us

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