From farm or ranch to table, the safe production of food contributes to the health of individuals, families, and communities. Agriculture is at the center of a variety of public health efforts, including nutritional health, food policy, the prevention of food-borne diseases, sustainable crop production, water quality and international trade. Missouri is ranked as one of the top 10 agricultural producing states by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Missouri is equipped with a globally recognized plant and animal research program.

Students work collaboratively with farmers’ markets to combat food insecurity, engage in nutrition and obesity prevention activities with local health departments, and participate in internships with national and state departments of agriculture.
Active, Engaged, Interdisciplinary
Public health faculty and students at MU are actively engaged in research, service, learning and collaboration toward finding prevention-oriented, sustainable and life-enhancing solutions for the future.

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
Susan Kady describes the Opportunity Gardens as a place where she works with low-income populations to create expert, independent gardeners who would otherwise have limited access to fresh foods. She says, “When I’m not with OG, I’m working on CCUA’s Urban Farm on Smith Street, learning about urban farming, in theory and in practice!”

The Southern Boone Learning Garden in Ashland, MO
Sarah Cramer spends what she describes as “two crazy but wonderful afternoons a week teaching a total of 32 elementary students about gardening and nutrition,” at this teaching garden, which is supported by a five-year grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

Veterinary Public Health Emphasis Area
Epidemiologists estimate that over 70% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, including Avian Influenza, Lyme’s disease, West Nile virus and others. Food policy and environmental health are also central to the study of veterinary public health and One Health One Medicine, which focuses on the intersection of animal and human health. MU’s MPH Program includes faculty with research and teaching appointments in both the College of Veterinary Medicine and the MU School of Medicine. Students in the MPH program have the opportunity to pursue both a veterinary public health emphasis area and/or a dual DVM/MPH degree.

Give now to support tomorrow’s public health leaders:

Student Opportunities Fund:
Your contribution will support the travel and expenses of MPH students who have been invited to present their work at national meetings of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Unite for Sight and many other conferences. MPH students needing assistance in funding internships out-of-state or abroad may also apply to the Student Opportunities Fund for support.

Additional Opportunities:
If you are interested in exploring additional ways to support the MPH program at MU and the diverse, committed and energetic students it attracts, please contact Lise Saffran, Interim Director at (573) 884-6835.