



# Huron County

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**\$5,912,126**  
Economic Impact



**78**  
Enrolled Michigan Students



**\$111,070**  
Spending with Local Businesses



**586**  
MSU Alumni in Huron County



**\$1,833,553**  
Financial Aid Disbursed



**817**  
Youth in 4-H

### Message from the District Director

Newton's First Law of motion is often stated as an object at rest stays at rest until an outside force acts upon it. And even though an object could have abundant potential energy, it won't be realized until inertia is overcome. The arrow will not fly until the bowstring is released and the water will not flow until the spigot is opened. This is a great metaphor for the power of Extension in our community. Michigan State University is home to a wealth of knowledge obtained by and transferred through the educational and research accomplishments of the colleges comprising this world-renowned institution. From engineering to agriculture and from nutrition to finance, MSU is on the leading edge of emerging and best practices in the areas important to the residents of Michigan.



If you don't know the difference between a yellow jacket and a honeybee, there are a couple of ways to find out ..... one method is much more painful than the other and comes at the end of a stinger while the other method comes from viewing each insect behind a protective barrier under the instruction of a trained 4-H leader. And if you don't know what a lot of added sugar will do to your body, there are a couple of ways to find out ..... but one method will have you buying larger clothing in a few short months and the other will have you understanding how to read an ingredient label under the guidance of a trained nutrition instructor. In both examples, the difference is education.

MSU Extension is committed to sharing the potential energy of evidence-based knowledge to and for the benefit of our residents and their families. Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of Huron County residents.

Jerry Johnson, District Director  
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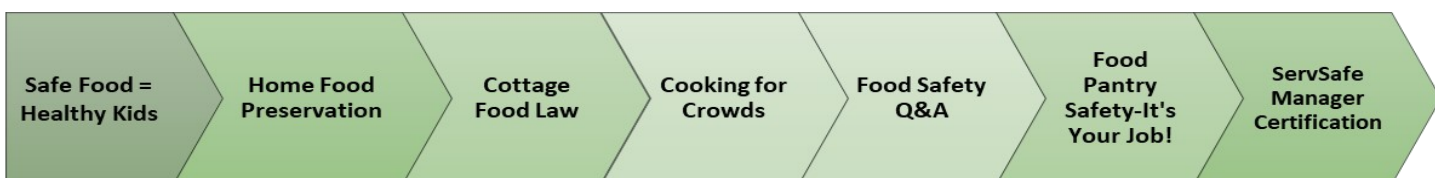
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# Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

**Food Safety** is a global issue from farm to table. Its impact on our health and well-being is significant across the life span. Foodborne illness outbreaks occur on an ongoing basis crossing all socioeconomic lines from production, consumption, and preservation of foods. Overall health is impacted by the safety of the food supply and reducing the risk of foodborne illness.

To increase knowledge and awareness on food safety best practices as well as encouraging the use of those practices to keep food safe, MSU Extension provides education in the program areas below. In 2021-22, we were back to in-person programming as well as continued virtual education sessions, providing education in all of our core food safety programs to reach a multitude of audiences including childcare providers, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and consumers.



## Program Successes

4,845+ food safety program participants

Over 203 food safety sessions offered

More than 15,000 children served by childcare providers who received food safety training

550+ hours of education provided

183 foodservice staff attended a ServSafe Manager Certification Class or Exam in the Thumb

### How Food Safety Education impacted our participants:

- 98% reported they better understood what is necessary to run a successful cottage food business.
- As a result of Preserving MI Harvest food preservation training, 95% were confident following safe preservation practices and 97% said they now have confidence in finding research-based recipes. Over 70% were new or novice home food preservers who joined our classes.
- Safe Food = Healthy Kids participants shared 81% will follow safe cooking and cooling practices.

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### From our participants:

- ◆ “Safe Food = Healthy Kids was so helpful for me because the information that I received cannot only help me at work, but also help me at home and in my future!”
- ◆ “This session covered all my questions! I wasn’t sure about cottage law and this webinar really helped clarify the whole process!”
- ◆ Preserving MI Harvest participants said:
  - “The ability to ask questions is essential. These sessions - and the food hotline - have hugely improved my preserving confidence.”
  - “Knowing that all canning recipes are not created equal and may not be safe. I learned the equipment needed and why and which foods are safe to preserve by water bath canning.”
  - “This was extremely helpful. I think as I take more courses my confidence will build. I plan to attend upcoming webinars.”

## Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued



**Think Food Safety** brings awareness to consumers on illegal food sales and the Cottage Food Law (CFL). We continue to encourage awareness of foods consumers are buying to ensure safety. Only non-potentially hazardous foods can be made and sold under the CFL, like bread, chocolate covered pretzels, cookies, and jars of fruit jelly. Unfortunately, there is confusion about what can and cannot be sold as CFL, which results in illegal and unsafe food sales.

**Follow us on Facebook!**

52,668 people reached through our profile with a total reach of 321,237 through MSU Extension's Think Food Safety Facebook page.



### MSU Extension Food Safety Hotline

Please call the hotline with any food safety questions you might have, for example, how to preserve food at home, safe food storage, cooking temperatures, etc.

Operating Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EDT

Call 877-643-9882



### Think Food Safety Podcast

Want to learn more about keeping your food safe? Listen to *Think Food Safety*, a podcast highlighting how to keep food safe & prevent foodborne illness. Each episode features food safety and industry professionals providing information & resources on hot topics and best practices to keep you safe from foodborne illness.

Visit: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/safe\\_food\\_water/think-food-safety-podcast](https://www.canr.msu.edu/safe_food_water/think-food-safety-podcast)



### Tuesday's Tip for Preserving

A weekly social media campaign promoting safe home food preservation tips for consumers. This weekly social media outreach provided tips and short educational messages to educate consumers on timely, seasonal food preservation topics and provided links for further information and upcoming classes.

Over 38,000 reached with these Facebook messages

# Keeping People Healthy

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## Disease Prevention Management and Social Emotional Health Programs

Evidence-based disease prevention and management programming helps people learn to manage their chronic health conditions through increased physical activity, knowledge of healthy eating and improved communication with their healthcare provider. Jacqui Rabine and Kris Swartzendruber provided the following in-person and online disease prevention and management programs:

**PATH (Personal Action Towards Health)**, a six-session self-management series that supports adults, and members of their support system, help manage chronic health conditions such as pain, diabetes, and other diseases, to 17 participants.

**Dining with Diabetes**, a four-session, in-person, series that helps people with type 1, 2, prediabetes and members of their support system, learn how to make healthier food choices and incorporate balanced meals into their family dining experience, to 35 adult participants.

### *In a statewide report of those surveyed:*

*73% of PATH participants increased or maintained their confidence in keeping physical discomfort or pain from interfering with the things they wanted to do.*

*89% of Dining with Diabetes participants are now eating smaller portions after taking the class.*

One in four older adults will report a fall this year. Falls and the fear of falling can negatively affect people's quality of life by causing physical, social and emotional decline. Jacqui and Kris offered the following evidence-based falls prevention classes, both online and in-person:

**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention**, an 18-session series designed to help older adults, and adults with disabilities and at risk of falling, stay active, by increasing their strength, balance and posture, as well as reducing stress and increasing relaxation through a series of slow and gentle movements, to 128 participants.

**A Matter of Balance**, an eight-session series that helps participants increase their physical activity, reduce their fear of falling, and remove fall hazards in the home environment, to 32 older adults.

### *In a statewide report of those surveyed:*

*100% of Tai Chi and Matter of Balance participants reported feeling more comfortable increasing their physical activity as a result of attending the classes.*

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Through evidence-based education, people can learn to manage the stressors in their life and improve their overall well-being. Over the past year, Jacqui and Kris provided in-person and online social-emotional health programming, including:

**Stress Less with Mindfulness**, a five-session series that focuses on using mindfulness to reduce stress related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, to 74 adult participants.

**RELAX – Alternatives to Anger**, a four-session series that helps adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger and stress, and develop the communication and problem-solving skills needed for healthy relationships, to 76 participants.

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers of Adults with Chronic Conditions and Parents of Children with Special Needs**, a six-session series designed to help participants learn tools to help them reduce stress, communicate effectively, take care of themselves, reduce feelings of guilt, anger, and/or depression, make tough decisions, to 14 adults.

### *In a statewide report of those surveyed:*

*93% reported that they were confident in having a supportive conversation with anyone about mental health or substance use challenges.*

*94% reported that they felt highly confident that they understood the benefits of mindfulness.*

# SNAP-Ed in the Community

MSU Extension and SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education) continued working with Thumb Blessing Boxes to make impactful changes in the community. Thumb Blessing Boxes is a grassroots project working with communities across the Thumb region to place mini pantries filled with food and personal hygiene products to reach those in need. There are now 14 Blessing Boxes placed around Huron County – 24 total around the Thumb. MSU Extension worked with Thumb Blessing Boxes to acquire a \$2,000 sponsorship from Blue Cross Complete of Michigan to place and sustain four Blessing Boxes on four Thumb Area Transit (TAT) buses this year. TAT has seen an increase in ridership since the start of the pandemic, particularly to and from low-income areas of the county. These “mobile mini pantries” have reached a total of 9,833 passengers so far.



# Government & Community Vitality

Serving Huron County and the State of Michigan

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- \* Sustainable Tourism Development
- \* First Impressions: Tourism Assessments
- \* Planning for Tourism
- \* Community Vitality
- \* Leadership and Facilitation
- \* Connecting Entrepreneurial Community

## Regional Meetings for ARPA Local Government Funding

In September-October 2021, member regions of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) and MSU Extension hosted local and tribal government officials to explore American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spending opportunities in a regional context.

### The 14 workshops covered:

- ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Basic Rules
- Best Practices and Early Examples of ARPA Spending
- Practical Considerations for Contracts, Accounting, and Project Management
- Group Discussions Related to Regional Collaboration
- Leveraging Other State and Federal Funding and Priorities

The workshop content was based on the U.S. Department of Treasury's May 17, 2021 Interim Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

### People Reached and Resources Created:

This statewide workshop series had over 750 participants from many of Michigan's nearly 1,900 units of government. Among participants,

- 46% were elected officials,
- 24% local government staff,
- 15% appointed officials,
- 8% representatives of nonprofit organizations, and
- 8% from other organizations including regional governments and economic development consultants.

MSU websites developed in collaboration with the ARPA workshop series include:

1. Regional Meetings for ARPA Local Government Funding Workshop Series

<https://sites.google.com/msu.edu/arpameetings>

2. MSU Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy, Local Government Federal Revenue -<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/local-government-federal-revenue>

3. MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, ARPA Funding Community Information -<https://ippsr.msu.edu/arpa-funding-community-information>

The ARPA Meetings Google Site has been shared with all participants, other local government officials, and over 100 nonprofit leaders to date.

What are the immediate needs of the municipality?



## Government & Community Vitality, continued

### Impacts and Outcomes:

Evaluation of the workshop series consisted of an immediate post-workshop survey offered digitally and as a hardcopy for those attending in-person workshops. There were 169 evaluations completed throughout the workshop series (a response rate of approximately 23%) with 78% of respondents rating the workshop as “very valuable” or “valuable.”

When asked “As a result of this workshop:”

91% responded “I have increased my knowledge about the topic”

80% responded “I have increased confidence in my ability to fulfill my role in the community”

83% responded “I feel more prepared to help my local unit of government manage ARPA funds”

57% responded “I am more likely to pursue regional collaboration efforts”

63% responded “I have new ideas on how to match local and regional priorities with state and federal funding initiatives”

When asked “Which of the following do you plan to do as a result of your participation in this program (check all that apply):”

85% selected Share information provided with others

65% selected Learn more on the topic

11% selected Practice new skills

25% selected Use techniques learned to make better decisions

46% selected Engage with local officials (ex. Write, speak at meeting)

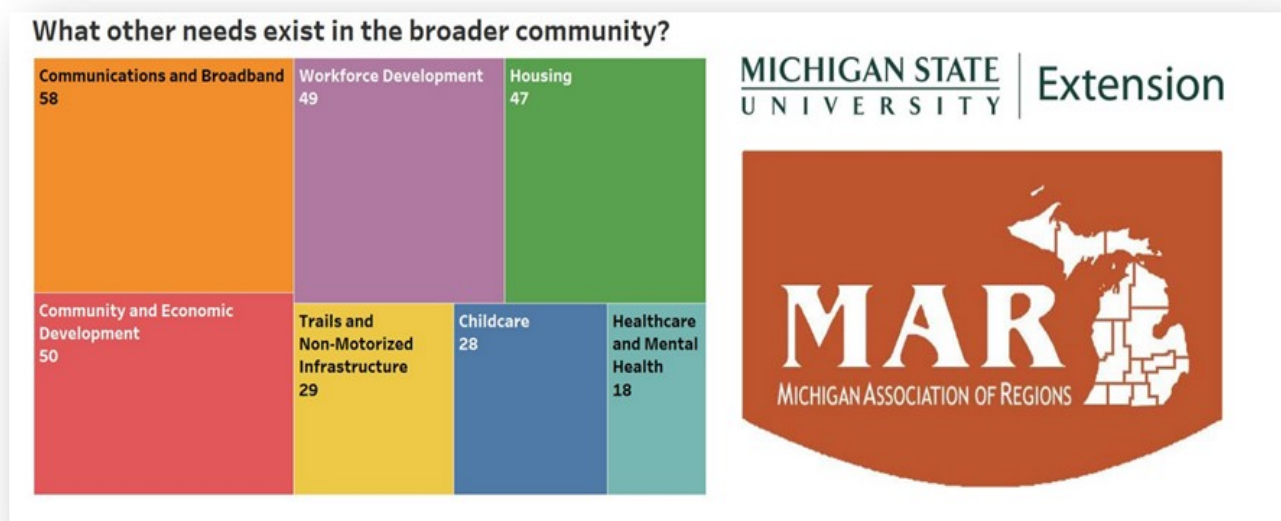
36% selected Leverage (utilize) new and/or existing community assets

41% selected Collaborate with new partner organizations

5% selected Take on new leadership roles

Participants were also asked “What do you plan to do differently as a result of this program?” Three significant themes emerged. First, it is clear from the variety of subjects mentioned and the way they were shared, that many participants' eyes were opened to new opportunities and possibilities than they were aware of before the workshops. Other themes that emerged are 1) Collaboration, and 2) Exploring more options than had been previously considered. These are fundamental methods of operation that each community can apply in ways that best serve the people in their community. This indicates that the workshops have helped participants with approaches to serve their community more so than simply handing them a list of things to do. It is our hope that these lessons continue to be applied to their work on other issues in the future.

**In summary**, the 14 workshops and subsequent sharing of the resources by participants, staff of MAR member regions, MSU and MSU Extension staff have been a timely and highly effective educational success.



# Supporting Food and Agriculture

## Huron County Agriculture Staff

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The Field Crops Team has diligently worked on and offered numerous educational opportunities over the past year that have been available to Huron County Residents both in-person and virtually.

## Thumb Ag Day

Thumb Ag Day was held virtually in December of 2021 with 121 participants. Topics covered included the 2021 Thumb Field Trial Results; Lots of heat, lots of rain, lots of cover crops....NOW What?; Michigan Wheat update; Corn silage mycotoxins; and the Market Outlook & Carbon credits. Participants who attended the three hour virtual event were also eligible for RUP and CCA credits. The event was free in part thanks to sponsorships from 20 local agribusinesses. Participants were able to ask questions of local MSU Extension Field Crops Educators as well as campus experts. The event ran from 9 a.m. until noon.

## Field Crops Webinar Series

This MSU Extension educational program is geared towards growers, consultants and agribusiness professionals who are interested in addressing field crop production and pest management. Participants learned how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems and had an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agriculture experts. The Field Crops Webinar Series spanned eight weeks and averaged 193 participants each week. Growers participated from both in and out of Michigan including several from Huron County.

## Virtual Breakfast

This free weekly series for farmers and agribusinesses focuses on a wide array of relevant field crop pest and crop management topics during the growing season (April - September). Offered every Thursday morning from 7 - 7:30 a.m., farmers were able to access the most current information available for timely, relevant in-season crop and weather information from Michigan State University (MSU) Field Crops Extension Educators and Specialists. Each 30-minute zoom session is divided into two 15-minute segments; one for crop information and the other for weather. Following the presentations, participants could have their questions answered by educators and specialists. Farmers and agribusiness professionals could also apply for RUP and CCA credits weekly. Several growers from Huron County participate in this program.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Farming in Michigan is under pressure from rapidly changing environmental, economic and regulatory forces. Growers need solutions to address challenges due to climate change, razor thin profit margins, invasive species and limited management tools. These challenges require science-based and timely integrated pest management (IPM) resources. The Michigan State University (MSU) IPM Program continues to build on its legacy of optimizing outreach tools and strategies to improve IPM awareness and knowledge. In January and February, 189 people participated in 2 regional IPM meetings with local MSU Extension Educators along side campus experts.





## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### MSU Soybean Variety Trial Field Day

In September, MSU Extension Field Crops Educators Jenna Falor and Phil Kaatz hosted a Soybean Variety Trial Field Day in Sanilac County. Growers from around the region, including Huron County, were invited to walk the field and ask questions of Randy Laurenz, MSU Soybean Trial Coordinator, Dr. Dechun Wang, MSU Soybean Breeder, as well as the Educators themselves. The plot included 127 commercial varieties from 17 companies.



### Thumb Farm Succession Planning

A farm succession planning meeting was offered in the Thumb Area in July. Local participants included 23 individuals who were interested in topics that included Overview of Succession Planning with Corey Clark, Farm Business Management Educator; Anecdotes from Succession Planning Over the Years, with Stan Moore, Extension Educator; Technical Tools, Michael Farleigh, Attorney, and What Succession Planning Looked Like for Us, a peer producer panel. Participants were able to gather information and ask questions.

### Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Core Review and Testing

In March, Huron County offered RUP Core Review and Testing in Bad Axe. The four-hour session covered every chapter of the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual. A review session took place in the morning and was followed by the MDARD Private and Commercial Core applicator exam in the afternoon. More than 60 people participated in this session.

### On the Farm

In addition to the educational meeting opportunities offered by MSU Extension, on-farm work was done over the summer. Field Crops Educator, Jenna Falor trapped European Corn Borer, Black Cutworm and Western Bean Cutworm as a part of the Great Lakes and Maritimes Pest Monitoring Network. She also helped with on-farm soybean research. Jenna continues to be available to answer any agronomic questions local growers have. She is planning more on-farm work for next summer.

### Virtual Coffee Break with MSU Extension Dairy Team Season Six is Currently Being Released

Since the being of 2020, the Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team has released six seasons of podcasts. The podcasts have covered topics related to the dairy industry and dairy farm management. The podcasts have been downloaded and played 5,169 times worldwide. Of those downloads and plays, 4.2 % of them come from the Thumb area. These podcasts have been cited and publicized in national magazines like Hoards Dairyman on multiple occasions. The series is available as a podcast on all major podcast channels such as Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and Spotify.



### Managing Your Cow's Genes for Greater Profits

This one-day program was repeated four times around the state. One of those locations was in Bad Axe. This program was about genetic advancement, incorporating desired genetic traits and the use of adequate management strategies as the key to greater profitability on dairy farms. This winter meeting talked about new genetic traits, breeding, feeding and herd management strategies to tie them together. The speaker topics were: Feed Saved trait- what is it and where did it come from; Building a Breeding Program for Genetic Progress and Profit; Feeding Efficiently: learning from farm feeding evaluations; Impact of Cow Longevity on the Overall Efficiency of the Herd; on-going new research at MSU; and a producer panel discussion on ways to build a successful reproductive program. Uniquely, MSU Extension partnered with several reproductive companies to improve the expertise available at these meetings. Speakers included: Dr. Barry Bradford, Department of Animal Science, MSU, a reproductive expert from one of the follow companies: Genex, Central Star/ Select, Genus PLC or Alta Genetics (one per meeting), Martin Mangual and Marianne Murawski, MSU Extension Dairy Educators, a MSU graduate student, and Dr. Richard Pursley, Department of Animal Science, MSU, moderating a producer panel.



## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

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### On-Farm Training and Service

The Michigan State University Dairy Team continues to provide training for farm employees and managers in the areas of: milking, calf care, maternity management, animal handling, down cow management, euthanasia, and dairy feeder development. The trainings are customized for each farm to fill the training needs required by the National FARM dairy animal care program. Trainings are offered statewide in both English and Spanish languages. In addition to on-farm training, MSU Extension offers on-farm analysis using the latest technology in areas of parlor efficiency, colostrum absorption, and heat stress monitoring.

### Youth Beef Education

Dr. Jerad Jaborek has been actively teaching Michigan youth about beef cattle in 2022. He has provided five nutritional presentations for youth discussing ruminant nutrition and feeding management practices for youth raising feeder calves and market beef projects. In addition, he has performed two ruminant digestive tract dissection workshops to provide youth with an interactive, hands-on learning opportunity about the unique digestive anatomy of ruminants. Drs. Jaborek and Jeannine Schweihofer have also led educational sessions for Project Rural Education Day (RED) to introduce 3rd grade students to beef in the Thumb Area.

### Beef Quality Assurance Certification Training

Beef Quality Assurance is a voluntary program for beef and dairy cattle producers that uses science-based research and national guidelines to teach cattle producers about the best management practices for their cattle operation. Being a BQA certified cattle operation increases consumer confidence and acceptance of the cattle producer's daily practices, which can create additional marketing opportunities for their cattle and beef. During the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022, the Michigan State University Extension Beef Team performed face to face Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification training for Michigan cattle producers. Drs. Jerad Jaborek and Jeannine Schweihofer trained and certified 116 individuals in the four meetings conducted in Huron, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties.



### Feedlot Research

Steers from dairies make up a large proportion of the cattle fed in Michigan. As a result of the increasing use of beef semen on dairy farms, a greater number of beef x dairy steers are being fed in Michigan feedlots. However, little research is available on the expected performance of these crossbred cattle. Drs. Dan Buskirk, Jerad Jaborek, Jeannine Schweihofer, and Melissa McKendree and Master's student Melanie Pimentel-Concepcion have recently completed an on-campus research project that investigates feeding beef x dairy steers. Results from the study should provide cattle feeders in the Thumb Area, as well as the entire state of Michigan, some insight into the expected growth performance, carcass characteristics, and costs of raising these beef x dairy crossbred steers.

T.A.R.E.

THUMB AG RESEARCH  
&  
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EXTENSION



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#### Thumb Ag Research & Education (TARE)

TARE is a group of Michigan State University Extension Ag Educators that are dedicated to serving the counties in the Thumb of Michigan with timely agricultural educational material.

Michigan State University Extension Educators representing TARE specialize in beef cattle production, dairy production, farm business and management, feedlot management, field crops, meat processing and safety, and vegetables.

Extension Educators: Corey Clark, Jenna Falor, Jerad Jaborek, Phil Kaatz, Marianne Murawski, Ben Phillips and Jeannine Schweihofer

# Developing Youth and Communities

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## 4-H Council Officers:

*President -*

Jeff Gillig

*Vice President -*

Kelly Hunsanger

*Secretary -*

Erica Karg

*Treasurer -*

Cynthia Puvalowski

## Huron County 4-H Program

With the return of face-to-face interactions, the Huron County 4-H program was able to provide educational programming opportunities and activities during the 2021-22 4-H programming year. Huron County had 621 participants (4-H members and non-4-H youth), 582 active 4-H members, and 127 4-H volunteers.

## Drug Prevention Education

A partnership continues between the Huron County Health Department and Huron County 4-H Program to educate area youth by implementing two research-based curriculums within the school setting to introduce drug prevention. The programs utilized are:

**Too Good for Drugs™** is designed to promote life skills, character values, resistance skills to negative peer influence, and resistance to the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco for students in 4th and 5th grades.

**Project ALERT** is a free classroom-based substance abuse prevention program for 7th and 8th graders that has proven to reduce the experimental and continued use of drugs. Through a series of comprehensive lessons, Project ALERT motivates students against drug use, cultivates new non-use attitudes and beliefs, and equips teens with the skills and strategies they'll use to resist drugs. Project ALERT is proven to:

- Motivate students against drug use
- Provide skills and strategies to resist drugs
- Establish new non-use attitudes and beliefs

## 4-H School Enrichment Program

4-H Program in the Classroom - 4-H youth develop critical life skills during 4-H school enrichment programming. The Huron Learning Center participated in 4-H club classroom activities. Twice a month programming was provided to approximately 20 special needs 4-H members in the classroom where they learned a variety of life skills.

## 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP)

4-H Proud Equestrian Program is a therapeutic horseback riding program that offered riding lessons to 11 youth with special needs. This year's event was held at the Huron County Fairgrounds during June, July, and August. Each member participated in a weekly educational lesson and riding experience.

## MiSTEM Network Career Fair

MiSTEM network of the upper Thumb Region provided a county-wide career exploration fair for 7th and 8th grade students for all school districts in Huron County. The event brings career awareness to the youth by providing hands-on career experiences, and an opportunity for businesses to showcase their trade while interacting with local schools and youth. The MSU Extension-Huron County 4-H Program is an essential partner of the MiSTEM Network by assisting in planning, preparing, and providing a career educational component during the event. The event was held in May and reached 511 students.



## ***Developing Youth and Communities, continued***

### **4-H Project Galore Workshop**

The 2022 4-H Projects Galore workshop was held in February at the Huron Area Tech Center with 40 youth and 26 adults participating. 4-H members, as well as non-4-H youth, ages 5 to 19, had many sessions to choose from at the workshop. In addition, miscellaneous crafts were available for youth to complete in between sessions and during lunch.

Much planning goes into hosting the 4-H Projects Galore workshop each year; and huge thank you goes to the volunteer Huron County 4-H Council members who assist in planning & implementing this workshop. This 4-H workshop for youth is only made possible by the assistance of our wonderful instructors and their dedication to the 4-H program. The goal is for the youth to enter and exhibit their projects in the 4-H Building during fair week.

### **4-H Clinics**

\*In January, an Ice-Skating health event was held for 45 4-H youth and 28 adults. This was an educational exercise program, where those in attendance learned the techniques and benefits of ice skating.

\*In May, a Beef Livestock Showmanship and Nutrition clinic was held for 14 youth to learn about and enhance showmanship skills. Members learned techniques to improve showmanship and proper nutrition for raising a healthy beef project.

\*In June, a Small Livestock clinic was provided for 19 youth to learn showmanship skills and proper nutrition for rabbits, chickens, and goats.

\*Also in June, an Outdoor Plant clinic was held for 11 youth to learn more about outdoor plants, how to properly plant and care for the plants.

### **4-H Educational Kits**

4-H Educational Kits were offered monthly during the year. The kits were developed for and available to Huron County youth to register for and receive. These free, hands-on kits were a great success with more than 100 4-H members participating in these educational opportunities provided by the Huron County 4-H Program.

### **4-H Camp**

A Thumb Area 4-H Camp Counselor's Teen Leadership workshop was held the first Sunday in January. Five area 4-H teens participated in the event. During the training camp, counselors learned team building skills, problem-solving skills, brainstormed ideas, and developed a plan for the 2022 camp.

A Thumb Area 4-H Camp Counselor Weekend Retreat was held in April at Camp Cavell in Lexington, Michigan. Six 4-H teen counselor's learned team building skills and made final preparations for the 2022 Thumb Area 4-H Camp.

Thumb Area 4-H Camp was held in July at Camp Cavell in Lexington with a theme of Outdoor Adventure. Fifty-nine 4-H members attended from Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola counties.

### **4-H Fall Family Social**

The Huron County 4-H Leaders' Association, in cooperation with MSU Extension, hosted their annual 4-H Fall Family Social with approximately 58 4-H adult and teen volunteers, 4-H youth members and their families, along with Friends of 4-H, gathered on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at the Pasta House in Kinde. The program began with a warm welcome from 4-H Council Member Erica Karg. 4-H youth in attendance led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, 4-H Pledge, and the invocation. A pasta and salad bar dinner along with delicious desserts provided by the 4-H Council members, was enjoyed by all who attend. An educational program on "Apples" was delivered by Darren Bagley, MSU Extension Educator with Genesee County. During the program, sponsors who supported 4-H programs were recognized and presented with "Friends of 4-H" certificates. In addition, 4-H youth were recognized for their outstanding work in project areas, competitive activities, and leadership roles in the Huron County 4-H Youth Program.



### **4-H Youth Exploration Days**

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan's largest annual 4-H event designed to help students:

- Learn new ideas and techniques
- Increase their interest in and readiness for college
- Explore career options
- Develop decision-making skills
- Develop independence as well as teamwork

One 4-H member attended sessions at Michigan State University and experienced a pre-college experience.

## Developing Youth and Communities, continued

### 4-H Virtual Programs

MSU Extension offered a variety of virtual 4-H programs to youth across the state of Michigan. Huron County 4-H members had several opportunities to participate in unique educational experiences taught by Educators or Program Coordinators from across Michigan. These virtual programs are a great way for youth to learn new program areas that may not be available in county.

### 4-H Community Service Program

Each year, 4-H members and adult 4-H volunteer leaders wrap empty two-part gift boxes for the Huron County Clothe-A-Child program. The Clothe-A-Child program organizes and delivers more than 300 complete outfits and goodies to many needy children in the county at Christmas time. In 2021, a total of 154 boxes were wrapped by six 4-H clubs, 37 4-H members, and eight adult leaders.

### Project Rural Education Day (RED)

Project Rural Education Day (RED) is a day where hundreds of 3rd grade students venture through local educational and hands-on stations outlining the role agriculture plays in their lives. This programming is provided through a partnership between Farm Bureau and other local Agricultural Businesses including the MSU Extension-Huron County 4-H Program.

## 4-H Photo Gallery



### Staff Located in Huron County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
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#### Join us on Social Media



- + MSU Extension District 10
- + Huron County 4-H
- + Family Nutrition Program
- + Thumb Ag Research & Education (TARE)
- + Think Food Safety



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#### Food Safety Hotline

Do you have questions about food expiration dates? How long leftovers will last or preserving foods at home? The MSU Extension food safety hotline can help answer food safety questions and concerns.

**Hotline: 877-643-9882.**

Operating Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Ask Extension

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as **lawns, gardening, agriculture, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming** and more!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>

#### Garden or Yard Question?

Visit the Gardening in Michigan website: [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu). View tip sheets on smart soils and other smart gardening topics or call **MSU Extension's**

**toll-free Hotline: 1-888-678-3464**

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