



Montcalm County 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



\$7,623,775 total economic impact in Montcalm County



720 youth participated in 4-H clubs, early childhood, in school, or after school programs



MSU Extension website received 10,950 page views by Montcalm County residents, the most page views were of 4-H pages



1,631 Montcalm County residents participated in 302 different MSUE programs In 2022

100

MSU Extension has served Montcalm County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Montcalm County Residents took advantage of MSU Extension programming from all four MSU Extension institutes in 2022. The following pages contain just a sample of the program highlights from the County's participation in MSU Extension's Agriculture and Agribusiness (AABI); Health and Nutrition (HNI); Community, Food and Environment (CFEI); and the Children and Youth Institute (CYI). During this period, Over 1,600 Montcalm County residents participated in 302 different in-person or online programs. In addition, 4-H youth participated in club activity and projects leading up to the 2022 Montcalm County Fair. Your local MSU Extension staff and the statewide network of Educators worked through local partners to bring the university's research and resources directly to our County residents.



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Program Highlights



Educator, Roger Betz, gives a report to the Michigan senate agricultural committee.



MSU Extension Dairy Educator, Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa offers education to dairy farm workers.



Dr. Jaime Willbur reviews research with a group at the 2022 MSU Extension Potato Field Day.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Roger Betz, Farm Business Management Educator, assists farmers, businesses, industries, families and individuals to improve lives and achieve their goals through an educational process that applies management, production and economic knowledge to critical issues. Roger meets with local farm producers enrolled in the MSUE Tel-Farm Record system to manage their taxable income. In addition, forty-three mid-Michigan farm families met individually with Roger in 2022 to develop their business's tax management strategy for the current year. On average, the tax savings was \$33,775 per family totaling \$1,452,326 benefit for the effort. Roger also assists with developing tools and resources for producers to make informed business decisions as well as to make important decisions related to the successful transfer of business skills, responsibilities, and assets to the next generation.

FARMEmployee TRAINING

Dairy farms in Michigan rely heavily on hired help. Dairy farm employees can have a wide range of backgrounds regarding experience, education, race, and culture. The MSU Extension dairy team has been supporting Michigan dairy farms for years by offering on farm training in multiple topics, including milking, maternity (cow and newborn calf care), sick cow's care, calf care, low stress animal handling, cow nutrition and feeding management. These trainings are offered on farms across the state of Michigan and are delivered in English, Spanish, or both languages. In 2022, the dairy team conducted 33 trainings on 18 farms, representing over 22,100 dairy animals, and offered education to a total of 184 dairy employees.

FIELD CROPS SERVICES

Annually we have an online program called the Field Crop Webinar Series where specialists give interactive presentations around managing risk and improving productivity on farms. The audience is typically farmers and Agriculture Advisors. The 2022 season was no different in attendance and success. In-person programming was well attended as well. The annual Potato Field Day held at the Montcalm Research Center in Edmore was well attended in 2022 providing the latest information from MSU researchers on a variety of potato subjects. The research center provides 57 acres to do research on potatoes, dry beans and a variety of field crops to benefit local and statewide producers. The center also is home to one of our weather stations.

Program Highlights

INTRODUCTION TO LAKES

Introduction to Lakes is a six-week online course offered once a year and is designed for lake users, lakefront property owners, and lake managers. Participants increase their knowledge and understanding of lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, Michigan water law, aquatic plants and community involvement. Inland lake management is complex and state agencies do not have the capacity to oversee the more than 11,000 inland lakes across Michigan. In 2022 we had our largest cohort of 524 participants. Participants from Michigan were spread out over 69 counties and included 49 local government officials. We also hosted three one-hour Ask-an-Expert webinars, allowing participants to interact with us and outside experts on topics covered in the course. Two hundred and seventy people attended the webinars live and 271 watched recordings.



Michigan is home to more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Our Montcalm County 4-H Program Coordinator develops partnerships, recruits and maintains volunteers, recruits youth for programs and clubs, manages budgets and oversees the operation of all club and 4-H council activities. Through hands-on clubs, short-term clubs, educational programs and special events, our aim is to prepare youth to be productive, creative, and enthusiastic contributors to the Montcalm County community. Many in positions of leadership today, participated in 4-H growing up. One of the special events that the 2022 4-H Program Coordinator, Rachel Sheff, organized was a fishing day at a local lake. The DNR partnered with 4-H for this event where science was practiced in a hands-on outdoor classroom. Everyone had a great time!



The Michigan DNR collaborated with 4-H youth from Montcalm and Ionia counties on a fun, family oriented, and educational day on the lake.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Montcalm County 4-H helps to prepare our future leaders by offering numerous opportunities for youth development. From the local club experience to the statewide workshops and events, all youth have the chance to participate and develop skills that last a lifetime. In 2022 a fun and educational goat show re-engaged Montcalm County 4-H members and community members interested in the goat project area. A total of 49 youth signed in and an estimated 90 adults and young adults came to spectate. 2022 4-H Program Coordinator, Rachel Sheff, introduced herself to every family that was in attendance and handed out flyers to promote upcoming events and SPIN clubs. From her observations, families, and youth were very happy to be gathering in person again and many expressed gratitude for a chance to practice showing their goats on the fairgrounds.



A 4-H youth with her goats at the Montcalm County fairgrounds. In 2022, the goat program was re-engaged with a fun and educational goat show.

Program Highlights



4-H families participate in a fun and informative line dancing class held at the fairgrounds outside of Greenville.



Extension educator, Katie Ockert, shows a student how to extract lymph nodes as part of Chronic Wasting Disease education program.



Eat Healthy, Be Active is one of the many programs that our community nutrition instructors use to help participants make better food choices

4-H FAMILY FUN

As part of a fun, re-engaging weekend in 2022, some Montcalm County 4-H families took to the dance floor. Rachel Sheff brought in a professional dance caller and teacher to work with the youth and adults teaching them a variety of fun dances. 4-H is all about hands-on learning and having fun in the process! This well attended event received great reviews and was part of a weekend that combined a number of 4-H activities including the Arts, and animal husbandry. There are many 4-H events, special programs, and other learning opportunities offered throughout the year where 4-H youth can follow their interests. In 2022, Montcalm youth participated in a variety of local and state offerings!

LOCAL CWD OUTREACH

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a neurodegenerative disease that has affected deer in our county. Outreach and education programs were held throughout the area reaching nearly 200 local hunters and students during the 2022 deer hunting season. One student who attended a program held at his school and who harvested three deer during the season determined that CWD testing was important. After participating, he was able to extract the deer lymph nodes from his harvested deer, store them properly, and send them into the MSU Lab for testing using pre-packaged testing kits provided by the Michigan DNR and made available to hunters at the Montcalm County MSU Extension office.

EAT HEALTHY BE ACTIVE

In a typical Eat Healthy, Be Active program participants will arrive with sodas and energy drinks in hand. Ironically, one of the activities for the first day uses real sugar and a measuring spoon as a visual of how many teaspoons of sugar can be found in all kinds of drinks. Each participant counts out teaspoons of sugar and dumps it on a plate and stops when they think they have guessed the amount of sugar. The results for soda and energy drinks are a bit shocking, and they often have multiple servings a day and would need to multiply the amount of sugar by the total number of drinks. Also, sugary foods would add to the amount of sugar intake. At the end of one class a participant said that she went from drinking 2-3 sodas each day to 2 sodas per week after she saw how much sugar is in one can of soda.

Program Highlights

COOKING MATTERS

Cooking Matters classes are offered to teach basic nutrition and skills in the kitchen. MSU Extension holds classes in-person and online. We try to reduce barriers as much as possible for this important information. In 2022 one class at a low-income housing complex was greatly appreciated. A group of 12 ladies participated with varying degrees of experience. After the second class one participant shared about her take-home groceries and what she was able to do with them. She was excited and shared about how she loved the Black Bean and Corn Salad Recipe so much, that when her son came over to go out to eat with her the following day, she suggested that they stay home, and she could make this new salad for him to try. He loved it and wanted the recipe too. She was excited about the opportunity she had to share a healthy and tasty dish with her son.



MSU Extension helps to equip people with the knowledge and resources to make healthy choices for themselves and their families.

BEEF EVALUATION PROGRAM

The MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Program (BEP) is the region's premier central bull appraisal program. In its 35th year, the program is a cooperative effort among the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan State University, and Plank Farm. The objectives of the program are to 1) promote performance-evaluated beef cattle and serve as an educational tool to acquaint producers with its overall value, 2) provide a common environment for evaluating young bulls for rate of gain, soundness, and body composition, and 3) aid beef producers in obtaining superior bulls that have been evaluated for growth, breeding and structural soundness, and carcass merit. A total of 65 bulls sold at the 2022 Bull Evaluation netting over \$250,000. The total impact of the sale is over 1 million annually to the Michigan beef industry as reported from the 2021 survey data.



Educator, Kevin Gould assists with bull management by formulating and adjusting rations to meet target gains. He processes and evaluates each bull upon arrival for soundness, and ultrasounds all the bulls.

HELP FOR HOME OWNERS

The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) is a \$9.961 billion federal program to help our country's most vulnerable homeowner households who are behind on their mortgages and other housing-related expenses due to the impacts of COVID-19. The purpose is to prevent mortgage delinquencies and defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. In five of the six MSU Extension district 8 counties (Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, and Montcalm) MSU Extension educator, Brenda Long, has helped 82 applicants successfully apply for \$405,507.35 (dollars). Brenda's work is another example of MSU Extension improving the lives of Michigan families. We are grateful for the impact Brenda makes!



The Finance and Home Ownership team led by Educator, Brenda Long, helped many Montcalm County residents apply for funding to get caught up on their mortgages and property tax bills..

MSU Extension staff located in Montcalm County

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Collaboration Across MSU Extension

MSU Extension is an organization comprised of individuals with broad knowledge of subject matters related to a particular discipline, such as field crops, nutrition, or youth development. Having four MSU Extension Institutes gives the ability to bring together cross-disciplinary expertise to address issues that are multifaceted and complex. For example, MSU Extension Educators and Program Instructors have worked together on physical and financial health issues, agricultural and stress issues, economic and community development and conservation issues, and issues that span generations.

Your local office is housed with experts in particular fields. Individuals may serve in the Agricultural and Agribusiness Institute, the Children and Youth Institute, the Health and Nutrition Institute or our Community, Food and Environment Institute. However, even if you do not have a local expert for the issue that you need addressed, MSU Extension has the unique functionality of drawing from a statewide pool of experts to make sure that you have the information that you need. In addition, the MSU Extension website www.msue.msu.edu is maintained and updated on a regular basis. We are always looking for ways to collaborate with each other to apply knowledge to the critical issues you face.

Through successful partnership and collaboration with Montcalm County, MSU Extension is able to continue its local presence and to provide vital educational resources and programming in such areas as community and economic development, agriculture, land use, health and nutrition, and youth development.

Thank you Montcalm County!

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MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

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Michigan State University Extension District Offices

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