



Newaygo County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

NEWAYGO COUNTY STAFF

Jennifer Bruin
Community Nutrition Instructor

Ryan Coffey-Hoag
Land Use Educator

Florencia Colella
Farm Management Educator

Erick Elgin
Water Resource Educator

Marge Manning-Peck
Office Admin

Laurie Platte- Breza
4-H Program Coordinator

CONNECT

Newaygo County MSU Extension



4747 W. 48th St
Fremont, MI 49412



231-924-0500



msue.msu.edu
newaygo@msu.edu



Newaygo MSU Extension
Newaygo County 4-H



@MSUExtension

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm excited to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Newaygo County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses, and communities.

MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational services to county residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships, and are responsive to community needs.

Again, this year, we've welcomed Newaygo County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media, and provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Newaygo County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

James Kelly,

District Director





2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MSU Extension Newaygo County

Food • Ag • Youth • Health • Environment • Community

Since 1913, the Michigan State University (MSU) Extension has helped the residents of Newaygo County improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities.

53

Programs delivered in Newaygo County

3,156

Newaygo County Residents

Participated in programs offered by MSU Extension in Newaygo County.

294

Programs Attended

By Newaygo County residents, either in county, outside of Newaygo County, or on-line.

1,356

Newaygo County Youth

Participated in programs offered by MSU Extension in Newaygo County.

7,526

Program Participants

In programs led by Newaygo staff online or statewide.

51,976

Facebook Page Reach

2,855

Soil Test Kits distributed from Newaygo.

248

Plat Books Sold

4,310

Direct Contacts

NEWAYGO COUNTY STAFF

3

Educators

2

Program Instructors

0.5

Clerical Support

42

Partnerships & coalitions

NEWAYGO COUNTY FOCUS AREAS

Agriculture

MSU Extension works to increase farmers' success while protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets and advancing agriculture through applied research. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy.

- Manure Management Summit
- Milker Training, Dairy Judging
- Beginner Grazing School
- Farm Bill and Crop Insurance Training
- Backyard Fruit, Pear Meeting
- Grass Fest
- Animal Handling Training
- Asparagus Day
- Heroes to Hives & Beekeepers Assoc.
- Pruning Workshop
- Corn and soybean conference

Environment

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations.

- Not MI Species
- Intro to Lakes & Lakes Monitoring Program
- Various Local Lake Consultations
- Newaygo County Healthy Lakes Program
- Steelhead Fishery Workshop
- Forest Management Basics
- Pesticide applicator Training
- Choices for Sustainable Living

Community

Successful and thriving communities combine knowledgeable and engaged legislators, businesses, community groups and residents. By connecting these groups with the most trusted tools, MSU Extension helps enhance the quality of life in Michigan.

- Citizen Planner
- Capital Asset and Management Training

Community (cont.)

- Budgeting for Fiscal Sustainability
- Foreclosure Triage
- Product Center Counselling
- Rethinking Local Government budgeting
- Zoning Administrator Certification
- Opening Doors to Affordable Housing

Health & Nutrition

MSU Extension's programming promotes healthy lifestyles and empowers Michigan residents to take control of their health. Participants learn how to build nutritious diets on a budget, reduce foodborne diseases and become leaders in the food industry.

- Nutrition Education at Daisy Brook, Grant Elementary, Pathfinder, Croton, Hesperia.
- Diabetes Education/Prevention
- Mindful Eating
- Cooking for Crowds.
- Mindful Moving
- Safe Food Healthy Kids
- ServSafe training
- Mental Health First Aid
- Cottage Food Law
- How to Start a food truck business
- Mental Health First Aid
- Feeding a Picky Eater

Family

Keeping Michigan families strong and successful—financially, emotionally and physically—is a big part of measuring MSU Extension's success. Programs devoted to keeping families safe include those dealing with bullying and violence prevention.

- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Adulting 101- Wealth building
- Various 4-H Events
- Mindfulness for Children
- Positive Discipline
- County Fair Activities
- Relax: Alternatives to Anger
- Exploration Days on MSU Campus
- Citizenship Washington Focus

4-H Newaygo County

*According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.*

42

Clubs

(10% Increase)

585

Members

(37% Increase)

90

Volunteers

(1% increase)

1,389

Volunteer Hours

(5% Increase)

Agriculture



Newaygo County boasts a diverse agricultural economy that produces over \$190 million annually, 40% in crop sales and 60% in livestock.

MSU Extension is helping to make a difference in Newaygo County.

Highlights of MSU Extension Agricultural support in 2023: Newaygo County has a long history of dependence on natural resources, and in particular agriculture, as a strong source of identity and economic prosperity. MSU Extension provided education and support to Newaygo County residents through a variety of targeted workshops and services.

From Manure Management to Christmas Tree Farm Management, Newaygo County residents joined Extension experts for many agricultural workshops. Integrated Pest Management continues to be a significant focus for many farm owners as continued invasive species threaten to decimate various commodities. By attending MSU Extension workshops farmers earned pesticide application license credits that allow them to meet MDARD pesticide application standards.

Newaygo County farmers took advantage of a webinar focused on creating a Farm Business plan. The business plan helps to evaluate alternatives, identify market opportunities, and communicate ideas to potential lenders and business partners. Participants explored how to understand what lenders look for in a business plan when farms are seeking loan financing.

Serving all generations on the farm, the Newaygo County 4-H program also coordinated the Youth Farm Safety Day. Seventy-three local youth spent the day at the Newaygo County Fairgrounds and enjoyed presentations ranging from hazardous materials to large farm equipment safety.



West Central Horticulture Breakfast Meetings are seasonal meetings for tree fruit growers to share timely information, weather updates, and pest and disease information about ongoing or emerging issues. The meetings were well attended by Newaygo County residents and allowed for sharing of information with growers and engagement with industry members who sponsored the breakfast each week.

Asparagus Day and Spring Horticulture Day provided opportunities for farmers to hear the latest research results and industry updates for various commodities. Coupled with one-on-one farm visits and local research plots, Extension services remain an essential piece of a thriving agricultural economy.

Additionally, in the spring of 2023 MSU Extension relaunched soil testing services for both home and commercial purposes. Both segments took advantage of the testing and accompanying analysis that MSU Extension soil testing services produces.