



Ontonagon County 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



3 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$555,554 total economic impact in Ontonagon County



562 youth involved in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment



\$4,084 spending with local business



35 alumni (bachelor and graduate degree)



MSU disbursed \$115,020 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Ontonagon County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Ontonagon County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Ontonagon County residents' lives; including helping farmers with financial management and farm stress; providing opportunities for youth's career and leadership development through 4-H; teaching families how to buy, cook and eat nutritious food; helping communities grow their tourism and community development opportunities; and providing a suite of online resources and programs.



Because of your continued support, we are able to help Ontonagon County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Ontonagon County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District 1 Director

Program Highlights

SUPPORTING SENIORS

In 2019 MSU Extension was awarded a 3-year falls prevention grant and the overall purpose of the grant are to:

- Significantly increase the number of older adults and older adults with disabilities at risk for falls who participant in evidenced-based community programs to reduce falls and falls risk
- Create partnerships with sustainable referral pathways and program
- **By the Numbers**
- 19 Ontonagon County Residents participated in a Falls Prevention series in 2019



Programs offered

- Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention
- A Matter of Balance

NUTRITION EDUCATION/ ENCOURAGING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Kathy Bauer, Community Nutrition Instructor with MSU Extension, held a class with the Copper Country Mental Health in Ontonagon at the Ontonagon Cane Court conference room.

“Healthy Eating Adds Up” is a hands-on nutrition education program that includes cooking activities in a research- based curriculum geared towards adults with cognitive impairments. It includes learning basic cooking skills, general nutrition and physical activity. Food demonstrations and samples are also a part of this educational series. When the participants came to each of classes, you could see the joy of them being there. They were excited to find out what we were making and taste testing. Participants expressed how they are more aware of portion sizes. A group of them joined “Stay Fit” class at the fitness center. They also stated that they use some of the recipes from the cookbook at their day program.



Healthy Eating Adds Up



Program Highlights

2019 U.P. BEEF HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Three sessions for beef cattle producers were held across the U.P., including one held March 21 in Bruce Crossing.

Knowledge and awareness of the most recent health issues is critical to the beef industry and is vital in remaining profitable.

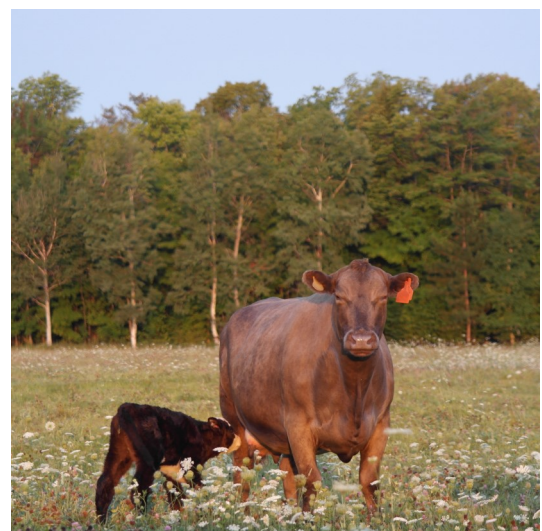
Bovine Leukosis Virus (BLV) is a very costly disease for the dairy industry. The impact on beef operations is not nearly as well known.

Management changes to minimize the infection across the cow herd are practices cattle producers should implement in day-to-day operations.

Collecting fecal egg counts (FEC) and using that information to determine need for treatment is a new and impactful integrated pest management practice that has large economic impact and allows producers to responsibly minimize the use of unnecessary pesticides in the environment.

PowerPoint presentations were shown demonstrating recent statewide projects in which Frank Wardynski was a cooperator and showed the impact of BLV on the health status of beef cow herds and the economic and environmental benefits utilizing FEC to determine if beef cattle should be treated with anthelmintics.

A post session survey indicated 60% of producers increased their knowledge about BLV a great deal and 20% increased moderately. 50% increased knowledge about FEC a great deal; and 25% increased moderately. Scale answers included stayed the same, increased slightly, increased moderately and increased a great deal.



Program Highlights

MSU EXTENSION 2019 BEGINNING FARMER WEBINAR SERIES

Michigan citizens interested in engaging in new agricultural enterprises sometimes lack knowledge, experience and technical support to get started. Extension educators and specialists receive numerous contacts from such people seeking basic, start-up information. The Michigan State University Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series was developed in response to this need.

The series continued for its eighth year in 2019. The 2019 series featured twelve evening webinars from January 16 through April 4 on topics of interest to beginning farmers. Webinar length was approximately one hour. Twelve presenters, including 9 MSU staff and three private or agency people were involved. The series was promoted through MSU Extension local channels, MSU ANR Communications and eXtension. Two hundred eighteen participants registered for 2,050 webinar views, including one hundred sixty people from fifty five Michigan counties and fifty eight people from twenty two other states and three other countries.

Results of the on-line evaluation:

- 73% of respondents indicated the webinars were a very valuable use of their time. An additional 23% indicated the webinars were a somewhat valuable use of their time.
- On a 'level of knowledge gained' scale of 0 (minimum) to 100 (maximum) respondents indicated an average knowledge gain of 63.
- The total amount of agricultural land which 70 respondents indicated is, or will be, influenced by what they learned from webinars is roughly 1,680 acres, with a median response of 10 acres and a mean response of roughly 24 acres.
- As a result of the series, 73% plan to use the MSU Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series website, 80% plan to use the MSU Extension website, 73% plan to use MSU Extension print bulletins, 58% plan to utilize MSUE educators and offices, 56% plan to use other materials mentioned.

- Respondents indicated that they have, or will, diversify or expand a farm or other ag business (22%), begin cultivating a crop in Michigan (23%), start up a new business (15%), purchase farm equipment (17%), begin a new livestock or poultry enterprise (9%), improve their standing at a current job or apply for a new job (6%), decide not to cultivate a crop in Michigan (3%), and establish new business partners (5%)
- Eight respondents indicated that the series resulted in creation of new jobs.

New and expanding farm businesses provide jobs, income, increased economic and social stability, and increased food security to rural and other communities. Providing a realistic overview of small farm realities and basic, practical information on sound production practices, business management and marketing to people interested in, or already engaging in, new and expanding farm enterprises of any size helps these small businesses succeed.



Investing in Ontonagon County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

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.



Above: Fun Day, Ewen Trout Creek. The families came to do crafts, play games and enjoyed a healthy snack.



Left: The Spooky Science event is our biggest event of the year. These youth helped with the oobleck. It was a great success!



Summer Fun Days and the leader that did tie dye with the kids. They had a blast!



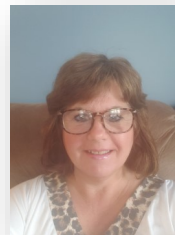
Finished results of our tie dye at Summer Fun Days...our one day camp on Lake Superior!

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

ONTONAGON COUNTY MSU EXTENSION STAFF

Kathy Bauer, Community Nutrition Instructor
Brenda Farley, Secretary
Paula Maloney, 4-H Program Coordinator
Frank Wardynski, Ruminant/Farm Business Educator

preissk@msu.edu
farleyb2@msu.edu
malone77@msu.edu
wardynsk@msu.edu



CONTACT



Ontonagon County
MSU Extension
725 Greenland Road
Ontonagon, MI 49953



906-884-4386



msue.msu.edu
msue.ontonagon@county.msu.edu



MSU Extension Upper Peninsula



@MSUExtension

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