



St. Clair County

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

100+

Over 100 years MSU Extension professionals have provided education to St. Clair County residents.



\$63,882 spending with local businesses in St. Clair County



320 St. Clair County students enrolled at MSU



6,323,359 disbursed by MSU in financial aid to St. Clair County students



2,408 MSU alumni living in and contributing to St. Clair County



2,583 youth involved in 4-H in St. Clair County youth development programs



\$22,430,508 total economic impact in St. Clair County

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 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 St. Clair County residents.

Jerry Johnson, District 10 Director

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MSU Extension St. Clair County



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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Developing Youth and Communities

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Serving
St. Clair County



4-H is America's largest youth development organization, providing an array of educational opportunities to more than 6 million youth, ages 5-19. Examples of recent local programming are featured. New members and new volunteers are warmly welcomed. Interested in joining? Please contact the St. Clair County MSU Extension office at 810-989-6935.

4-H PROGRAM NUMBERS IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY:

Total club membership—794 youth members

Total clubs—58 4-H Clubs

Total program outreach efforts—2,257 youth reached in outreach programming efforts

Total volunteers—236 adult volunteers



4-H Flower Arranging Workshop

A colorful 4-H workshop took place at Goodells County Park. Participants enjoyed learning many techniques involved in flower arranging, such as flower choice, color, flower placement and how to build a garden bouquet.

China Art Exchange Program

Five classrooms in two different St. Clair County Schools participated in the China Art Exchange Program. Our local children learned about a school day in China and some facts regarding Chinese culture. Art was viewed, which had been created by children in China, depicting their culture and activities. Artwork submitted by local children was selected by MSU Extension to be sent reciprocally to the school in China.



Embryology Education

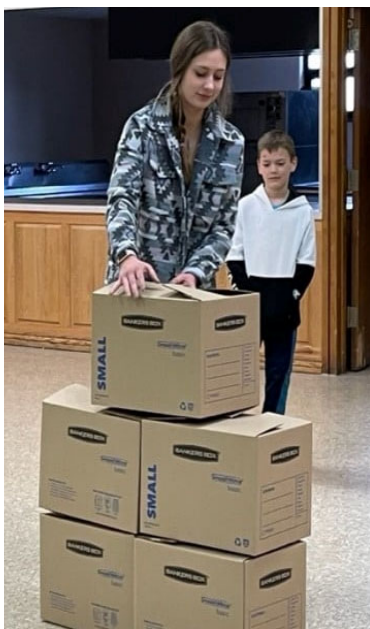
The embryology program was enthusiastically received in five schools. Each school had an incubator with eggs, in either their classroom or the library. Children from the schools were also able to watch a live feed via internet of a hen sitting on her eggs in the MSU Extension Office. We compared differences in hatch rates between the actual hen and the incubator machine. Each school was visited 2-4 times by a 4-H Instructor who taught science about poultry and demonstrated candling of the eggs in the incubator.

Developing Youth and Communities

Supporting MSU Extension 4-H programs supports the lives of youth. 4-H participants develop life skills and readiness for the workforce, especially toward rewarding jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Lake to Table

More than twenty 4-Hers and their adult person participated in the 2022 4-H Lake to Table event on Saturday, August 20, 2022. This event is a partnership between Macomb and St. Clair County 4-H programs along with Happy Days Fishing Camp in Columbus Township in St. Clair County. The weather was perfect for a day of fishing. Participants fished, cleaned their catch, and enjoyed the catch of the day for lunch over an open fire. It was a great opportunity to learn rules related to fishing and conservation. Education helps pave the way for the sport of fishing to continue for generations to come.



Swine Workshop

What do "volume", "weight" and "square footage" have to do with the 4-H swine project area? Participants at the 4-H Swine Workshop on April 9, 2022 would say "everything"! Participants learned elements of proper manure storage, manure disposal, and manure spreader calibration. Comparisons of manure weight vs. volume were calculated for project animals. Leaching related to manure storage and other subjects were introduced in this hands on learning experience. Discussion included nutrition related to the swine project and injection sites. Skill-a-thon teamwork helped make this workshop a success.

Salsa Garden

A salsa garden was placed at Eastshore Learning Academy to grow the vegetables that are used in salsa. This garden allowed a wellness group and grades 3-5 to plant the garden and be responsible for the care of the garden. In the fall, the children made salsa and learned about the nutritional value of the ingredients in salsa.



Developing Youth and Communities

4-H PROGRAMS:

- ◆ Animal Science
- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Careers
- ◆ Environmental & Outdoor Education
- ◆ Global & Cultural Education
- ◆ Healthy Youth
- ◆ Leadership, Citizenship & Service
- ◆ Life Skills
- ◆ Science & Engineering
- ◆ Volunteering & Mentoring



Ruminant Nutrition & Digestive Tract Dissection Workshop

4-H participants gained knowledge of ruminant nutrition as well as dissection of a cow digestive tract. Participants identified organs, took weights and explored functionality during this hands on experience. The informative workshop took place at Goodells County Park.

Photography Workshop

4-H participants learned photography skills at Goodells County Park. Topics included lines, space and simplicity. A brief classroom lesson was followed by outdoor photography in action! Photos were taken and evaluated afterward for quality.



Cake Decorating Workshop

Participants learned about cake decorating and enjoyed the chance to use various tips and specific types of frosting. Numerous decorating techniques were demonstrated and practiced. Youth gained confidence in doing their own projects.

All About Bees

Classes at Garfield Elementary, in Port Huron, had the opportunity to see inside a living hive. Participants were fascinated by the bee world and how hives function. The students were eager to learn about a bee keeper's tools and how the sweet honey is harvested from the hive.



Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

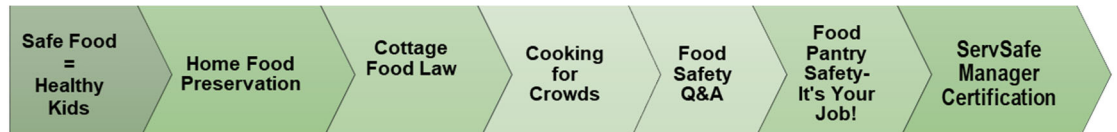
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Health & Nutrition
Institute
Serving District 10
counties:
St. Clair, Huron,
Sanilac and Tuscola

Food safety is a global issue from farm to table. It's 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.

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



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 and 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
9:00am-5:00 pm 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 and prevent foodborne illness. Each episode features food safety and industry professionals providing information and 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



Tuesday's Tip for Preserving

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

Over 38,000 reached with these Facebook messages.

Government and Community Vitality, Tourism

Andy Northrop

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Serving
the State of Michigan
and District 10 Counties:
Huron, Lapeer,
Sanilac, St. Clair,
and Tuscola

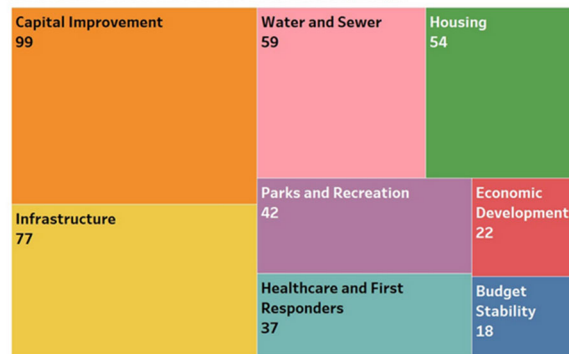
- Sustainable Tourism Development
- First Impressions Tourism Assessments
- Planning for Tourism
- Community Vitality
- Leadership and Facilitation
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Community

MSU Extension understands that building civic engagement and healthy economic structures leads to greater opportunities and stronger communities.

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.

What are the immediate needs of the municipality?



What other needs exist in the broader community?



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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.

Government and Community Vitality, Tourism

Goals of our tourism programs are to:

- Increase awareness of assets and opportunities
- Increase knowledge of best practices, trends and changes
- Develop new leadership roles, opportunities and action items
- Foster new collaborations and plans among stakeholders to advance community-driven tourism

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

- Regional Meetings for ARPA Local Government Funding Workshop Series <https://sites.google.com/msu.edu/arpameetings>
- MSU Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy, Local Government Federal Revenue -<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/local-government-federal-revenue>
- 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.

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 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.

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

Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



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Serving the Saginaw
Bay Region

Michigan Sea Grant Extension promotes research, education, and outreach to enhance the sustainable use of our Great Lakes and coastal resources. Through MSU Extension, MI Sea Grant works with residents, industries, and coastal communities to encourage use, benefit, and enjoyment of the Great Lakes that positively impacts our economy, environment and quality of life.

LAKE HURON REGIONAL FISHERIES WORKSHOPS

In the spring 2022, MI Sea Grant Extension hosted three virtual Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops – with focuses on the open water and nearshore fisheries, in Saginaw Bay and Les Cheneaux. These workshops engaged close to 200 anglers, charter captains, and others with fisheries researchers and managers from across MI – with **over 120 participants** learning about the Saginaw Bay and open water Lake Huron fishery. Participants gained better understanding of Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem changes, and connecting these stakeholders with information, research and management activities relating to Lake Huron and local communities



Michigan Sea Grant Extension also supported the Columbia Library's (Unionville) ***Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading Program***. During the *Great Lakes Literacy: Exploring our freshwater seas!* Session, 12 youth and 5 adults learned about the Great Lakes and explored ways to protect them.

THUMB AREA 4-H CAMP

Michigan Sea Grant also collaborated with 4-H for the Thumb Area 4-H Camp. Youth explored the Great Lakes and ways to protect them. Over 60 youth completed a Great Lakes basin scavenger hunt; they also learned about watershed planning and the importance of collaboration.



Keeping People Healthy

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Serving St. Clair County

Friendly and timely access to information through MSU Extension's SNAP-Ed Program helps St. Clair County residents to make affordable healthy food choices, keep their foods safe, and make food that's enjoyable to eat.

"I can't eat healthy . . ."

a lot of phrases follow that statement:

- . . . "because it's too expensive"
- . . . "because my kids won't eat it"
- . . . "because I don't know how to cook it"
- . . . "because healthy foods don't taste good".

Community Nutrition Instructors help people find their way past these shopping and eating concerns.

What is SNAP-Ed? "Michigan State University Extension partners with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), a free nutrition education program to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits."

"MSU Extension SNAP-Ed nutrition instructors teach youth, teens, adults and seniors how to make health a priority through an instructional series. The goal of the SNAP-Ed program is to increase the likelihood that those eligible for SNAP benefits will establish healthy eating habits and increase their time spent involved in physical activity, while staying within their limited food budget." https://www.canr.msu.edu/snap_ed/

In St. Clair County, Community Nutrition Instructors (CNIs) Carol Bublitz and Jennifer Evenson served St. Clair County residents by providing information and support, both in person and through virtual programs. Youth from preschool to high school enjoyed learning from a variety of evidence-based curricula, such as "Grow It, Try It, Like It" for preschools, "Show Me Nutrition" or "Jump Into Foods and Fitness" for elementary students; and "Teen Cuisine" for teens. Adults were offered "Today's Mom" for pregnant moms, "Eat Healthy, Be Active", "Cooking Matters at the Store", and "Eat Smart, Live Strong". Youth and adults were also able to attend one-time sessions on a variety of topics. Senior citizens received Senior Project FRESH education for coupons distributed through the St. Clair County Council on Aging to receive free produce from eligible farmers markets. Another way the CNIs serve the county is by supporting organizations in assessing their strengths relating to food and nutrition then helping them access information and resources to make changes they discover they want to make. This coaching and support programming strengthens community relationships and makes health and nutrition more available to individuals in our communities.

In 2022, the CNIs have partnered with 56 community organizations, such as preschools, schools, senior centers, coalitions, faith-based organizations, food pantries, healthcare organizations, farmers markets, community gardens, and local businesses. We joined community events, such as health fairs, Southside Spring Fest, Juneteenth Jubilee, Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary, NAACP Field Day and Southside Music Festival, and the 4-H and Youth Fair. Overall, we have served over 1,200 St. Clair County residents with the knowledge that they can eat healthy.



Keeping People Healthy

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Serving
the State of Michigan
and District 10
Counties:
Huron, Lapeer,
Sanilac, St. Clair,
and Tuscola

MSU Extension
provides trusted,
evidenced-based
education and expertise
in:

- Markets and Financials
- Risk Management Plans and Farm Analysis Information
- Managing Stress, Anger or Depression

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 programs:

PATH (Personal Action Towards Health), a six-session self-management series that support 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 for people with type 1, 2, prediabetes and members of their support system, learn how to make healthier food choices and incorporate balance 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.



Keeping People Healthy

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 27 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 11 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.

93% reported that they felt highly confident that they knew how to use mindful breathing to

Supporting Food and Agriculture

Phil Kaatz

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Serving
the State of Michigan and
District 10 Counties:
Huron, Lapeer,
Sanilac, St. Clair,
and Tuscola

Program Evaluation Quotes:

"This series provides much information about current topics/issues and is a great tool for farmers to gain knowledge. It generates discussions between us farmers as well outside of the series airtime. You guys do a GREAT job with this and I thank you for providing this information and discussions."

"Good series. Good topics."

"Very informative and excellent hands-on topics."

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series

Every Thursday during the growing season, farmers were able to access the most current information available for timely, relevant in-season crop and weather information from MSU Extension Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each zoom session had a 20-minute segment for crop information and 15 minutes for weather. Following the presentations, participants interacted with MSU Specialists and Educators in a question-and-answer period. This innovative approach using technology has provided growers from every region of the state the opportunity to participate in a live webinar via their computer, laptop, or cell phone. Each participant can ask questions of the specialists and educators during the live sessions. Also, live streaming on Facebook allows for online participation. Each session is close-captioned and recorded for viewing on the [MSU Extension Field Crops Team](#) website or a podcast.

Farmers and agribusiness professionals can also apply for Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits weekly.

A wide range of topics were planned according to the seasonal issues that frequently occur at specific times. However, the series is flexible, adaptable, and can change quickly and effectively when unexpected issues arise.

Each week field crop producers are invited by email to participate and a MSU Extension News article is written and published as the MSU Extension News Digest to encourage participation. Nearly 1,500 weekly subscribers receive email notifications and over 6,600 are subscribed to the MSU Extension News Digest. St. Clair County farmers had excellent participation with 220 participants in 2022.

2022 MSU Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series

Virtual Breakfast Series	Live Participants	YouTube Views	MSUE Podcasts	MSUE News Article Page Views	Total Views
Total Audience	3,869	5,122	2,448	8,357	11,439

**FIELD CROPS
VIRTUAL BREAKFAST**

Every Thursday 7:00 - 7:35 am
Q&A 7:35 - 8:00
April - September 2022

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Supporting Food and Agriculture

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Serving counties:
Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac,
St. Clair, Lapeer,
Macomb and Saginaw

MSU Extension
provides trusted,
scientific-based
education and
expertise in:

- Animal Welfare
- Dairy Management
- Virtual Coffee Breaks
- On-farm Training

Virtual Coffee Break with MSU Extension Dairy Team Season 6 is currently being released.

Since the beginning of 2020, the Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team has released 6 seasons of podcasts. The topics these podcasts have covered topics related to the dairy industry and dairy farm management. The podcasts have been downloaded and played 5,169 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 multiple times. The series is available as a podcast on all major podcast channels like Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and Spotify.

On-farm Training and Service

The Michigan State University Dairy Team has continued 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 and 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.

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 are the key to greater profitability on your dairy. 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 discussing on ways to building a successful reproductive program. Uniquely, MSU Extension partnered with several reproductive companies to improve the expertise available at these meetings. Some speakers were: Dr. Barry Bradford; reproductive experts from either Genex, Central Star/Select, Genus PLC or Alta Genetics (one per meeting); Martin Mangual; Marianne Murawski; MSU graduate student, and Dr. Richard Pursley moderating a producer panel.



Supporting Food and Agriculture

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Serving
the State of Michigan
and District 10 Counties:
Huron, Lapeer,
Sanilac, St. Clair,
and Tuscola

MSU Extension
provides trusted,
scientific-based
education and
expertise in:

- Feedlot management
- Ration formulation
- Cattle marketing
- Beef Quality Assurance

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 Schwehofer have also led educational sessions for Project Rural Education Day (RED) to introduce 4th grade students to beef in Sanilac and St. Clair counties.

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 Schwehofer 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 Schwehofer, 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 will provide cattle feeders in Michigan some insight to the expected growth performance, carcass characteristics, and costs of raising these beef x dairy crossbred steers.



Supporting Food and Agriculture

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Serving
the State of Michigan
and District 10 Counties:
Huron, Lapeer,
Sanilac, St. Clair,
and Tuscola

MSU Extension provides
trusted, scientific-based
education and
expertise in:

- Food Safety
- HACCP Plans
- Meat Cutter Training Course
- USDA Grant of Inspection



St. Clair County Project RED

There were 558 fourth graders from throughout St. Clair County that participated in the Project Rural Education Day (RED) with St. Clair County Farm Bureau at the Goodells County Park. The event is held to educate youth about agriculture, agricultural practices, and how food is raised. MSU Extension staff provided programming at this event including hands-on interactive demonstrations. Drs. Schwehofer and Jaborek provided education related to beef production. Lori Warchuck and Val Fusee provided programming related to honeybees.

Meat Processor Assistance

Food safety is a critical component to producing safe and wholesome food. Meat processors in St. Clair County regularly receive technical assistance from MSU Extension. This includes assistance with humane animal handling and stunning training, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Specialized Retail Meat Processing Variance, product labeling, and general food safety and processing. In one instance, there was a power outage and product safety needed to be assessed. Predictive computer modeling was utilized to determine a safe and wholesome outcome for approximately \$35,000 worth of meat product. Updated and new HACCP plans provided a processor the opportunity to utilize new equipment and increase the types of products processed and annual sales. A processor was supported revising their HACCP plans to meet updated regulatory requirements.

Many food processors are required to have food safety plans, including HACCP or Preventive Controls for Human Foods. These important industry trainings that provide participants with a certificate at the end of the course were hosted by MSU Extension and co-taught by Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer and team of campus specialists including Dr. Les Bourquin, Dr. Kirk Dolan, Sheena Fate and Jason Hofman.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

Workforce Development for Meat and Poultry Industry

Meat cutters are in high demand for industry processors and in meat departments of grocery stores. In the spring and fall of 2022, a hands-on certificate training included in-person sessions at the Michigan State University Meat Lab. Additional course content was conducted in online sessions. The training is interactive and applied to learning how to cut and package meat.

Online, on-demand trainings were created to assist small meat processors. The workforce development trainings created will result in small meat establishments needing the required employee training or retraining to remain current with regulatory requirements. It will also assist establishments in training new employees and reduce the demands of owner/manager time required for training new employees.

Available trainings include:

- HACCP Overview for Employees in Meat and Poultry Establishments
- Processed Meats
- Obtaining a Federal Grant of Inspection
- Humane Animal Handling and Stunning
- Meat Cutter Training



Food Label Claim Infographics

Understanding food label claims can help consumers make informed choices when making food purchasing decisions. Being able to decipher information on food labels is important to making sound purchasing decisions. A team of educators formed with the focus of creating educational resources to help clear up food label confusion. To date, the series includes infographics about: Animal Diet, Non-Dairy Beverage, Sugar, Grain, Animal Raising, Antibiotic, Dairy Milk, Food Product Dates, Hormone, Natural and Organic, Food Labels and GMO label claims.

The infographics are similar, but different and all of them are colorful, educational, reproducible and sharable and are available at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/food-label-claims>.

Several of the infographics have been translated to Spanish as well.



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A full directory of MSU Extension staff can be found online at:



canr.msu.edu/outreach/experts

MISSION:

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



**DISTRICT 10
ADVISORY BOARD**

Board Members from 5 Counties

Jessica Brown	St. Clair
Kevin Watkins	St. Clair
Phil Pavlov	St. Clair
Don Fletcher	St. Clair
Jade Edwards	Tuscola
Dave Rupprecht	Tuscola
Gene Harrington	Tuscola
Melanie McCoy	Huron
Carl Osentoski	Huron
Clark Brock	Huron
Lourdes Emke	Lapeer
Karen Aboukarroum	Lapeer
Nancy Boxey	Lapeer
Melissa Anderson	Sanilac
Bill Sarkella	Sanilac

**What is the Purpose
of the District 10 Advisory Board?**

The Michigan State University Extension District 10 Advisory Board purpose is as follows:

Advocacy:

Intentionally informing residents and elected officials about the achievements of MSU Extension as well as the educational capabilities and partnership opportunities available

Vision:

Providing MSU Extension with key insights pertaining to your geographic and socio/economic areas of residence, employment and volunteerism

Pathways:

Using your influence to open doors for potential partners/customers/ collaborators of MSU Extension for the purpose of growing influence and bettering communities

Needs Identification:

Providing insight into areas of deficiency or opportunity in which MSU Extension educational programming can address and benefit residents

Mentoring:

Providing honest, constructive feedback to the MSU Extension District Director on methods of enhancing personal and organizational engagement, involvement and effectiveness

MSU 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 needed to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower our children to succeed. It is the mission of MSU Extension to help people improve their lives through an education process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. MSU Extension meets this mission by providing Extension programs in the following subject matter areas:

- ◆ Agriculture & Agribusiness
- ◆ Children & Youth Development, including 4-H
- ◆ Health & Nutrition
- ◆ Community, Food and Environment



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