

Crawford County, MSU Extension & 4-H: Engaging Future Leaders



When 2019 Grayling High School Valedictorian Tyler Brandt was 8 years old, his dad took him to the Ogemaw County Fair. It was in the small animal barn where he first saw the rabbits and the course of his life was changed. Tyler asked his dad for a rabbit, and his dad agreed. The problem was, no one in Tyler's family had any experience with them, so he had a rough start as a rabbit owner until he learned about the Hare Raisers 4-H Club in Otsego County. Tyler joined that club and participated in the Otsego County Fair. He later began attending club meetings and participating in the Clare County 4-H program and fair.

Tyler is a two-time 4-H State Award nominee and has had tremendous success in animal showmanship, winning many ribbons including several Best in Show Championship awards for not only his rabbits, but also for cavies (guinea pigs) and his hamster. Each year, he also makes between one and two dozen art projects to submit in the Home Arts and Crafts competitions at the fair. His project areas include wood burning, string art, and tin punching. Tyler has attended many day camps in Crawford County as well as attending Exploration Days at the MSU campus as part of the Crawford County delegation for the past five years.

In recent years, Tyler has made the shift from 4-H youth participant to 4-H teen leader teaching younger youth small animal showmanship skills. When asked what life skills 4-H has taught him Tyler shared,

"Responsibility. That's the big one. It also helped me strengthen other practical skills like map reading, time management, and patience." He also added, "One thing I think people really need to know about 4-H is how limitless the possibilities and opportunities are. I've been in 4-H since I was 8, and I'm still learning about new things 4-H has to offer."

We wish Tyler continued success as he continues his studies at the University of Michigan this fall and we look forward to his return as an adult leader!

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Crawford County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

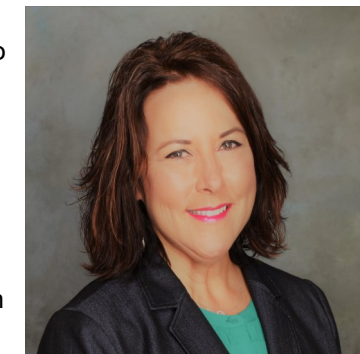
BY THE NUMBERS

-  Over 2,500 Crawford County residents received MSU Extension programming
-  53.2% Crawford youth participated in 4-H and other youth development programs
-  378 residents served through SNAP-Ed programs
-  295 adults participated in disease prevention and management programs
-  1,266 new Crawford County users on the MSU Extension webpage
-  78+ MSU Extension professionals provided programming for residents
-  MSU disbursed more than \$122,000 in financial aid to Crawford students
-  228 MSU alumni live in Crawford County
-  \$14,000 spending with local businesses

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Crawford 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's local and statewide staff provide outreach to your constituents by bringing the university's research and resources into the County. From governmental policy education to supporting the Northern Market plans to 4-H Yoga and even Cooking for Two classes at the Commission on Aging, it has been a busy year in the County. We have also been busy welcoming Crawford 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 (note: "like" our FB page- MSU Extension District 4) and we have provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website; msue.anr.msu.edu




Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Crawford County, thank you for another great year.

Michelle Warner

Mischelle Warner,
District 4 Director

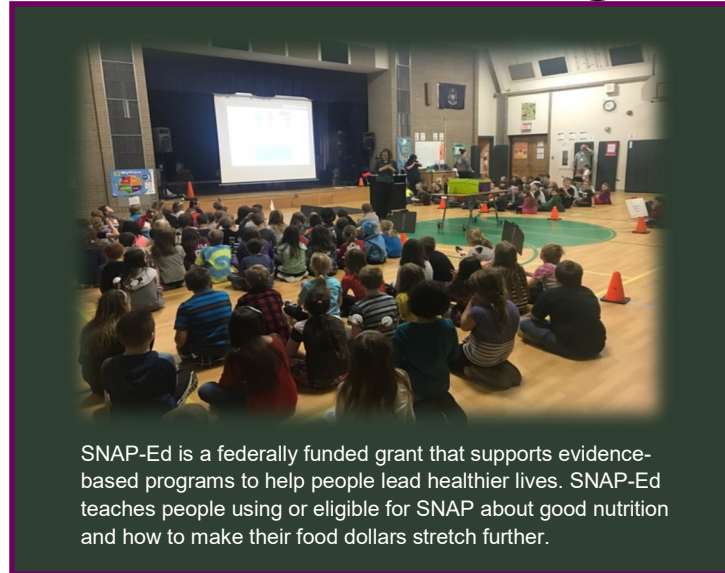
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Program Highlights



SNAP-Ed is a federally funded grant that supports evidence-based programs to help people lead healthier lives. SNAP-Ed teaches people using or eligible for SNAP about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further.

Nutrition Education

In Crawford County, Supplemental Nutrition Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works by facilitating partnerships with all types of community organizations such as the Commission on Aging, local schools, and more. In Crawford County, **378 residents received education around SNAP-Ed** either via a series of classes or one time presentations.

In addition to SNAP-Ed, food preservation, food safety and food certification programs have been successfully conducted in Crawford County.

Natural Resource Stewardship

Tree species vary in tolerance to shade. Some species grow best when exposed to full sunlight, yet others do need to be in the shade. In June of 2018, **47 local fifth graders attended a presentation** that focused on the benefits of clearcutting harvesting methods to regenerate shade intolerant tree species which provide an important food source for wildlife throughout Michigan. The program was facilitated by our local Forestry Educator, Julie Crick. She also helped **20 Crawford residents with various tree questions** and challenges throughout the year including Downtown Grayling.

Importance of Tourism

As part of an initiative with the Michigan Tourism Strategic Plan to better educate Michigan residents on the importance of the tourism industry in Michigan, MSU Extension educators offered a workshop **“Understanding Tourism for Michigan Communities” in Grayling with 41 participants.** During this program, education was provided around topics such as the magnitude and significance of the tourism industry, relevant tourism trends, travelers’ interests, active niche tourism markets and strategies to help.



This photo shows a clear-cut, oak/red maple stand, with oak seed trees. Photo credit: Bill Cook, MSU Extension



Participants learned that in 2016 visitors to Crawford County spend \$50.78 million dollars.

Program Highlights

Improving Lives in Crawford

72 Crawford residents participated in “Walk with Ease,” a six-week, evidence-based walking program that includes discussion on osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis & fibromyalgia as well as managing pain & stiffness, & stretching/strengthening exercises. Also, **50 adult residents participated in RELAX: Alternatives to Anger** that helps adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger and stress, and develop the communication and problem solving skills needed for healthy relationships.

4-H Youth Development

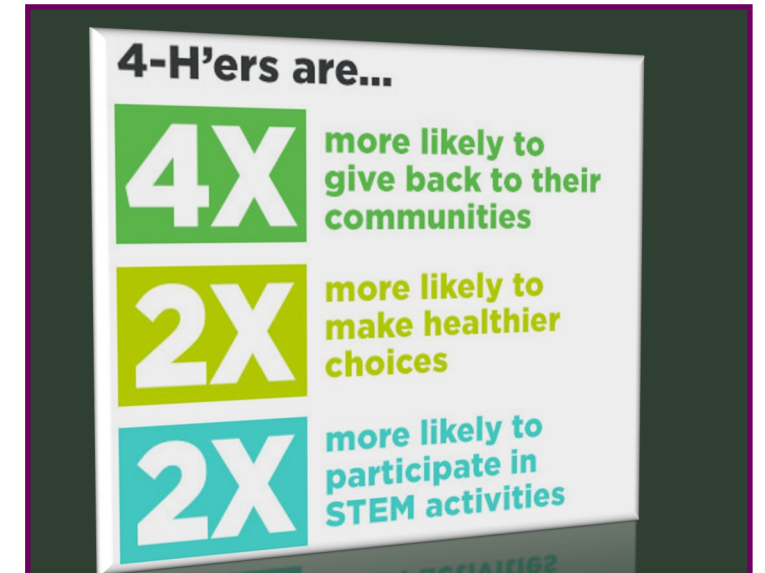
4-H is a program of Michigan State University Extension. In 2018, 203,000 Michigan young people participate in 4-H through various activities, clubs, groups, programs and events. As they engage in these learning experiences, 4-H’ers explore their passions and interests while growing confidence, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. During the transitional year of 2018, there were **785 youth reached via school enrichment, 26 youth in community clubs and 10 overnight campers.** The total number of youth served in Crawford County (across all programs) was 1,196.

Gardening & Consumer Horticulture

When Crawford residents have insect questions, soil concerns, gardening challenges or shrub questions, they count on MSU Extension to assist. **32 residents purchased soil testing kits this past year.** Many times residents bundle their bugs in a bag and walk in to the office for help. Also, MSU Extension offers a Smart Gardening hotline (7,707 calls in 2018!). Our advice is based on science performed at Michigan State University and other land grant universities.



Crawford County residents work to improve their health by participating in Walk with Ease.



The 4-H garden produced tasty vegetables thanks to the efforts of local youth. Gardening Hotline: 1-888-MSUE-4MI