

Lapeer County 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



Over 100 years MSU Extension staff have provided education to Lapeer County residents



\$56,441 spending with local businesses in Lapeer County



1,309 MSU alumni living in and contributing to Lapeer County, and 190 students currently enrolled



MSU disbursed \$3,244,461 in financial aid to Lapeer County students



MSU Extension website received 11,137 visits from Lapeer County residents; 76% were first-time visitors



2,949 youth involved in 4-H and other youth development programs



\$10,275,669 total economic impact in Lapeer County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is part of the national Cooperative Extension network, which is housed at land-grant universities across the country. MSU Extension is funded through a partnership of federal, state and county governments, and works with individuals, businesses, organizations and communities to identify and address Michigan's existing and emerging priorities.



From Great Lakes water levels and protection of our natural resources to industrial hemp farming as an emerging business enterprise, from workforce preparedness and youth education to nutritional instruction for our income challenged residents, from tourism and economic growth to training for newly elected county commissioners, MSU Extension delivers evidence-based education for the benefit of Lapeer County. This report highlights the work done last year.

We're passionate about addressing the current and emergent needs of Lapeer County. Thank you for supporting MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Jerry Johnson, District Director

CONTACT



MSU Extension Lapeer County
1800 Imlay City Rd., Ste. 1
Lapeer, MI 48446



msue.anr.msu.edu
lapeercounty@msu.edu



MSU Extension District 10



810-667-0341



@MSUExtension

Supporting Food and Agriculture



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 MSUE Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each 30-minute meal was divided into 15-minute segments for crop information and weather. 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 was able to ask questions of the specialists and educators during the live sessions.

The Virtual Breakfast Series is a result of a focus group, which included young farmers, asking for opportunities to get unbiased research information during critical times of the spring and summer. In addition, they wanted the information to be available through fast-paced video or Internet based technology.

A wide range of topics was planned according to the seasonal issues that frequently occur at specific times. However, the series needed to be flexible, adaptable, and have the ability to change quickly and effectively when unexpected issues arise.

One of the unexpected issues for 2019 were the lengthy planting delays for all crop producers. The MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute provided a “Delayed Planting” webpage due to these widespread weather delays throughout Michigan.

The Virtual Breakfast Series provided the initial discussions concerning delayed planting and responded to the need to have additional information on crop management, crop insurance, and risk management options for growers. The recorded sessions were included on the AABI webpage along with other timely topics to assist growers. In an effort to reach a wide, diverse audience, each weeks’ session was close-captioned for the hearing impaired.

This is an example of how the MSUE Field Crops Team is able to provide information at the right time with an unscheduled topic.

“It’s the first thing in the morning and there’s a lot of information I can use. It’s easy to access and easy to see and it’s relevant to the work I do every day.” Ron Beier, St. Clair County farmer

“It’s a great idea and I’ve learned a lot from the sessions.” Andrew Calcaterra, County Executive Director, Lapeer County Farm Service Agency

	Zoom participants:	YouTube video views:	Facebook posts w/ embedded video	Views	Likes/comments/shares
Totals to date:	862	1248	6108	2321	91
Average/session	50.7	73.4	359.3	136.5	5.4

Supporting Food and Agriculture



Phil Kaatz

kaatz@msu.edu

Forage Management
and Field Crops
Educator

Delayed Planting Informational Meeting

During the 2019 planting season, farmers were faced with one of the most challenging years in history. Most of the farmers in the area had either nothing or a small percentage of their crops planted by June 15, which is usually the end of the planting season.

In response to a call for help from a local St. Clair County farmer, Jim Domagalski, MSU Extension Field Crops Educator, Phil Kaatz, organized a meeting within five days to address the concerns of local farmers. The meeting was held at the Holy Family Parish in Memphis, MI. Over 200 attended and packed the fellowship hall to hear experts discuss strategies for their rain-soaked fields that included marketing and commodity prices; possible crop yields and strategies; prevented planted acres; possible aid from United States Department of Ag (USDA) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) .

Experts included elected officials Senator Dan Lauwers and representatives from US Congressman Paul Mitchell. They discussed what resources were available from our government partners.

The following agenda topics and experts discussed:

Cropping-Planting Options – Phil Kaatz, MSU Extension

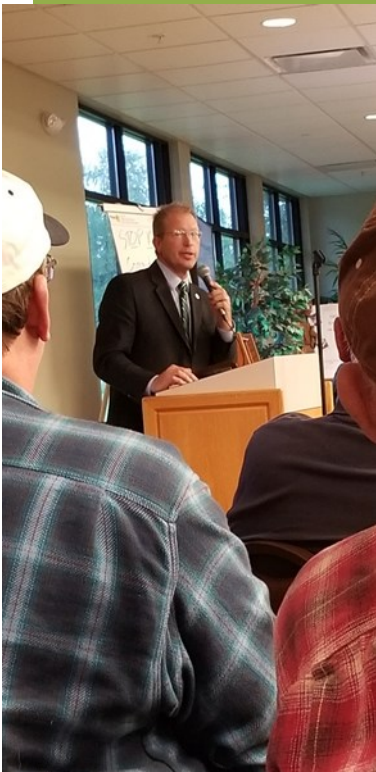
Marketing Your Crop – Dr. Jim Hilker, MSU Extension Marketing Economist

Crop Insurance Considerations – Marc Reinhardt, Farm Bureau

Finance/Banking Considerations – Greenstone Farm Credit

Farm Stress Resources – Kris Swartzendruber, MSU Extension

Farm Policy Options – Travis Fahley, Director District 6, Michigan Farm Bureau



Supporting Food and Agriculture



During the collection, 315 vehicles brought materials for disposal. The total amount of material collected equaled 14,595 lbs.

Clean Sweep/Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lapeer County Commission, Lapeer County Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and all Lapeer County municipalities have formed a unique partnership to collect unwanted pesticides and household hazardous waste products that would otherwise go into area landfills.

The Lapeer Commission and the Lapeer County municipalities (townships, cities, villages) committed \$10,000 each to pay for the disposal of the unwanted materials. MDARD supplies a grant for unwanted pesticides to Tuscola, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Huron Counties and reimburses each county for all pesticides and the corresponding labor and freight associated with the collection.

My role in this has been to procure and manage the funds necessary for this initiative. I coordinate the planning, promotional materials, and promotion of the event. One of the primary parts of this initiative is to write a local news article that provides citizens with information about how unused products that end up in our landfills contaminate our groundwater and drinking water supplies. I am also responsible for the management of the materials collection by securing pesticide disposal vendors and volunteers to assist in the collection.



Developing Youth and Communities



EMPOWERMENT GROWS HERE.



4-H Grows Confident Leaders Growth in the Community

Developing Youth through 4-H Leadership Experiences

When you support MSUE Extension Youth Programs, youth learn critical life skills to be utilized as contributing members of our community. 4-Her's are more likely to have high academic competence and to be highly engaged in school. They also have higher expectations of graduating from college.

Through the successful fundraising of local dollars to support the program, Lapeer County 4-H Youth Program offers generous scholarships to a variety of educational experiences to grow youths' leadership skills, from Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp in Presque Isle, MI to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. In addition to regional and national experiences, Lapeer County 4-H Youth Programs offer youth leadership opportunities throughout the county to sharpen their skill sets and grow confidence to be successful leaders.

True Leaders are Grown

In 2019, Ambassador Court increased from 6 to 8 youth members to increase participation and visibility at the county's various annual events, including at the Eastern Michigan State Fair, community service events and parades throughout the county. This teen leadership group raises money to not only self-fund their own skill building activities, but also to give back to the community.

Community service events are a large focus of Ambassador Court. Members support Tractor Supply Company's "Paper Clover Campaign" held bi-annually by having a presence in the store during the campaign as well as promoting 4-H to the community and encourage youth to join a club. They also spend hours helping at the Lapeer County 4-H Spring Auction, ensuring the event is successful and enjoyed by the supportive, local community. Ambassador Court members made "Living Necklaces" for children attending Lapeer's Family Fun Day held in June. They are also focused on having a presence in local parades and back to school open houses so they can share the benefits of being a 4-H'er. One of their biggest opportunities to serve as leaders is to plan, organize and execute Lapeer County 4-H's Annual Awards Ceremony. Members lead the ceremony with adults as their support, which gives them public speaking experience while also honing their leadership skills.

One of the members, Alyssa Elder, 15 years old, says this about her experience in this leadership program, "Ambassador Court helped me socialize with other people from different counties. At the meetings, we would discuss different ideas for community service, fair, etc. It was nice to get different viewpoints from differing backgrounds. Ambassador Court also helped me understand the inner workings of fair (the dance, the livestock auction, just to name a few things). I was also able to help make decisions for the Lapeer County 4-H community."



Developing Youth and Communities



Camp Counselors

Lapeer County 4-H Summer Camp Program offers about 20-25 teens every year the excellent opportunity to be camp counselors at Camp Lael, Lapeer. Teens selected for this program learn new or strengthen existing leadership skills through 20 hours of pre-camp education conducted over a 9 month period. In training, counselors learn and practice teamwork, responsibility, conflict resolution, safety and preparedness along with First Aid and CPR. Whether in a job interview, the work industry, at school or in a family setting counselors utilize skills to be productive citizens in our community, now and in the future.



A former camper said "it was such a fun experience at camp when I was young that I decided to volunteer as a camp counselor. I wanted to give back and make sure other kids had the same fun experience!"

Recruitment of teens ages 13-19 start early Fall with monthly, in-depth trainings, such as effective icebreakers, teambuilding activities and educational lessons in the stages and development of youth ages 5-12 years. Some campers, who have graduated from attending our overnight camp, anxiously await the opportunity to become a camp counselor themselves, so they can give back to kids and share the fun they had as campers, returning year after year in this leadership role. Besides the lifelong friendships gained, counselors have shared they have gained patience, learned to brainstorm and troubleshoot problems, can work better as a team member and realize that no matter how much training one gets, they cannot be prepared for everything, but now have the tools to think problems through and make the camp experience the best it can be for about 60 young campers annually.



Developing Youth and Communities

4-H has different types of clubs, depending on a volunteer's interest and time commitment.

- **Community clubs** focus on multiple projects and involve members of a variety of ages and interests. Meet every month.
- **Project clubs** focus on one primary 4-H project. Meetings may be monthly or weekly.
- **SPIN clubs** combine concepts of special interest groups with the 4-H club model. Focus on one topic for a set length of time, perhaps 6 to 8 weeks.

MSUE 4-H staff
serving
Lapeer County:

Kathy George
Program
Coordinator

Jean Kreiner 4-H
Program aide

Josie Kane

Josie has been with 4-H for 9 years and took on leadership roles with ease. She is a great role model for younger 4-H'ers in the beef project area and has also stepped into a county level role as a member of the Expansion and Review Committee, whose goal is to ensure that Lapeer County 4-H reaches all demographics of the county. Josie began her leadership experiences as a club officer and then decided to challenge herself with a county level role as an Ambassador Court member, which is a group of 4-H'ers whose responsibility it is to be the face of Lapeer County 4-H through activities at fair, as well as, attendance in parades around the county. Josie wanted to share her livestock project skills in addition to her mentoring of other 4-H'ers in the beef program. She joined the 4-H Challenged Me Club, where 4-H'ers in select animal project areas are paired up with differently-abled youth, who may have difficulty working with animals individually. They both create lasting friendships as well as learning about an animal, such as swine, goats or sheep, and practice showing the animal at the Eastern Michigan State Fair at a special show held just for them. "This special club allows our differently abled friends to gain social confidence with kids their age while learning and having a bond with an animal," said Kane. "Differently abled people form special bonds with animals on another level and being able to watch this experience and see local fairs as well as fairs all over the country use our program as an example has been such a unique experience."



Developing Youth and Communities



“I am looking forward to using the skills I have learned in 4-H leadership positions throughout the rest of my life.”

Abigail Fox

Abigail Fox

Abigail Fox has been a 4-H'er for 9 years and has just turned 16. In addition to being a 4-H club officer in A to Z Equestrians and Farm Folk, she is currently the Vice-President of the Lapeer County 4-H Poultry Committee, a teen 4-H Council member and has also been a teen superintendent. These positions

have taught Abigail leadership skills, “I took it upon myself to accept those positions and I learned many needed skills, like listening to all the information before deciding, when to take the initiative to research things for myself, and that sometimes we may not agree on how to get something done and that it is okay to disagree. I have also learned, by being Vice-President, how to be the leader and run meetings using parliamentary procedures when the President is unable to attend. As a teen superintendent, I have been able to pick a task and persuade people to follow and help participate in the task chosen. I am looking forward to using the skills I have learned in 4-H leadership positions throughout the rest of my life.”

Abigail is also one of two 4-H members, who received a full scholarship to attend “Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp” in Presque Isle, Michigan. This was made possible through funds raised at the Celebrity Autographed Items and Spring 4-H Auction held at the Lapeer Center Building every spring. In this MSU Pre-College Program, young teens have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences as they go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, wade through wetlands, explore dunes and more. 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp’s learning sessions and recreation are designed to:

- Increase teens’ appreciation and enjoyment of the outdoors, natural resources, and science.
- Increase teens’ knowledge about the Great Lakes, natural resources ecology and management issues.
- Develop strong attitudinal attachment to Michigan’s unique natural resources and bioregional features.
- Foster scientifically rooted environmental stewardship.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.
- Increase social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.



Developing Youth and Communities



Locally raised funds utilized to better our youth

The 2018 Lapeer County 4-H Spring Auction celebrated its 32^{ed} year and the Celebrity Autographed Items 4-H Auction 25 amazing years, both of which provide nearly all of the funding to run Lapeer County 4-H program. In addition to supporting local club efforts, funds raised are strategically used to provide scholarships for excellent local, state and national educational opportunities:

Citizenship Washington Focus, Washington DC- an opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn how to be citizen leaders and make a difference in their communities. Participants enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital and the chance to meet members of Congress, develop communication, leadership and citizenship skills through hands-on learning and group activities and build new and lasting friendships.

4-H Capitol Experience, Lansing, MI - an annual four-day conference that helps prepare youth for active citizenship by focusing on civic engagement and public policy.

National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, GA - Five-day event that engages high school aged 4-H members in leadership, citizenship, global awareness, and inclusion. Participants not only have the opportunity to participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops and hear from world-renowned speakers, they also have the opportunity to network with other 4-H members from across the United States.

Lapeer County 4-H Camp, Camp Lael, Lapeer 4-H offers a day camp (K-1) and an overnight (grades 2 - 6), offering campers the opportunity to have fun through swimming, crafts, songs, games and special activities. All 4-H camp activities are designed for awareness and appreciation of nature and the world around us, focusing on personal development and FUN!

Michigan 4-H Exploration Days, MSU campus - three day campus-based pre-college program that is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Youth participants stay on campus in MSU residence halls and attend action-filled classroom and field trip sessions on a wide variety of topics, including animal science, business & entrepreneurship, international language & culture, performing & visual arts, science, engineering & technology. Nearly 2,350 youth attended Exploration Days in 2018. Post-event evaluations revealed that participating youth gained important life skills like decision making, problem solving, and communication. Youth also reported feeling more prepared to attend college.



The 4-H Capitol Experience education issue group meeting with the Michigan Association of School Administrators to discuss education policy in Michigan.

Developing Youth and Communities

2019 Michigan 4-H State Group Award Recipients

Ian and Isaac Conley, Natasha Bickel and Jonah Haskins, all from North Branch Finish Line Swine 4-H Club, were awarded the 2019 Michigan 4-H State Award in the “Group Presentation” category this year, which focused on the main club educational topic of the 2018-19 4-H year, “Heifer International”. The club studied the agricultural practices in the countries Heifer International services, as pertaining to raising swine and the four members presented the club findings on the campus of Michigan State University this past summer, earning the top spot in Group Presentations.

With the guidance of the club’s leaders, they researched and presented information about swine agriculture in 6 countries: Vietnam, Nepal, Tanzania, Rwanda, Guatemala and Haiti. Overall, the four presenters learned public speaking and time management skills. Through their fundraising efforts for the club’s donation to Heifer International, they learned important life skills, such as problem solving, record keeping and planning.



From left: Natasha Bickel, Ian Conley, Isaac Conley, Jonah Haskins



Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

**Christine Venema,
Extension Educator**

Twelve volunteers participate in the pilot testing of the curriculum. Eighty-three percent of the volunteers increased their pantry food safety knowledge.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that every year, 48 million people in the United States become ill and 3,000 die from pathogens in food. Causes range from outdated home food preservation practices to unsafe sanitizing practices at public events and small businesses. Since 2013, MSU Extension food safety and preservation programs have taught almost 10,500 Michigan residents safe food handling and food preservation methods to reduce illness.

Participants include youth, nonprofit organizations that prepare food for the public and food preservers who want to create safe products for their small businesses.

In Lapeer County, Christine Venema, MSU Extension Educator for food safety, provides programming in the areas of Food Preservation, Cooking for Crowds and ServSafe manager training for adults. In 2018-19, she provided ServSafe manager education leading to certification for 38 foodservice employees in Lapeer County from local schools, restaurants and churches. This national certification program teaches about foodborne illness, how to prevent it and how to train employees on the latest food safety issues including:

- providing safe food,
- forms of contamination,
- the safe food handler,
- the flow of food,
- food safety management systems,
- safe facilities & pest management,
- cleaning & sanitizing.

Venema teaches local seniors about keeping the produce safe that they receive with their **Senior Market FRESH** coupons. When purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables at local farm markets, proper washing and storage of produce is critical; these messages are reinforced when seniors receive their coupons. In the summer of 2018, she reached 270 seniors. 87% of the Senior Market FRESH coupons were redeemed in Lapeer County at farm stands and farmers' markets. The redemption rate by the seniors was 95% of the coupons were redeemed.

As a part of her doctoral thesis, Christine developed a food safety curriculum for volunteers and staff of food banks and food pantries entitled Pantry Food Safety—It's Your Job. The curriculum is based on current food science and food regulations. Feedback from volunteers and staff was included in the development of the topics for the program. Topics covered by the curriculum were food safety at the food pantry, handwashing and personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, receiving and storage of food products, receiving and storage of fresh produce, repackaging and legal information for food banks and food pantries.

Keeping People Healthy

Jennifer McNamara

Karly Creguer

Extension Nutrition
Program Instructor

Teaching youth and adults about choosing healthy foods through hands-on education

Lapeer County Community Nutrition Instructors Jennifer McNamara and Karly Creguer continue to contribute to the Healthy Living Lapeer initiative, a workgroup of the Lapeer County Community Collaborative. This monthly class targets low-income parents of young children and gives them practical tools, education and resources on how to adopt a healthy lifestyle. All participants receive the groceries used in that month's cooking demonstration to make those healthy recipes at home. One class Jennifer and Karly lead in May 2019 took place at Kroger in Lapeer, which included a grocery store tour and a "\$10 Challenge". Participants were given \$10 to buy the ingredients for a healthy meal for a family of 4 containing all 5 groups. A couple participants were able to achieve this for under \$5! A total of 22 people attended this program.

Weston Elementary School: 71 students learned "Show Me Nutrition"

22 adults completed a healthy cooking class!

WIC Project FRESH distributes 216 coupon books and MSUE provided the education.

In the spring of 2019, Jennifer worked with Weston Elementary School in Imlay City to deliver *Show Me Nutrition* to four different preschool classrooms. She visited each class once a week for 6 weeks and reached 71 students total.

During the summer of 2019, MSU Extension once again partnered with Lapeer County WIC for the WIC Project FRESH program. This year WIC received 216 coupon books, valued at a total of \$5,400. Jennifer and Karly provided a brief presentation on what the program is, how to use the coupons, and the benefits of fruits and vegetables. Last year's redemption rate was 92%! This rate continues to grow each year, and much of this growth is attributed to moving the presentations to the Historic Farmer's Market of Downtown Lapeer. Not only does this program benefit the WIC recipients, it also stimulates business for the farmers in the area who sell them the produce.

In addition, Karly Creguer is partnering with McLaren Lapeer Region to fund and organize a Community Baby Shower in September 2019. In June 2018, Karly received a \$2,000 grant from the Lapeer County Community Foundation to offer nutrition education for pregnant mothers. Using some of those funds, she is working with McLaren to bring education, resources, and giveaways to families who are expecting, those who are planning to start a family, and those with small children.



Keeping People Healthy

The council looks forward to 2020 to create and deliver programs regarding food and agricultural literacy, development of sustained and coordinated food pantries in the Thumb and creating new educational opportunities in the communities that the council represents.



Addy Battel, Dori Battel and Royce Damske presenting the Hunger Breakfast Banquet at the food summit in Port Huron.

Thumb Food Policy Council Established

In July 2018, MSU Extension received a seed grant from the Michigan Local Food Council Network funded by the Kellogg Foundation. Although many local food councils concentrate on one county or smaller geographic area. The Thumb Council proposed to include the five Michigan Thumb counties of St. Clair, Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac.

The council spent the last quarter of 2018 organizing itself and collecting human resources in the area of food insecurity (food banks, pantries), agricultural producers, farmer market and farmers market organizers. The council focused on the development of larger food system needs and developed a mission statement:

“Identify, develop, and connect resources to support local food communities in Michigan’s Thumb”

The Thumb Food Policy Council’s purpose is two fold; A) to create meaningful educational programming through community partners on the role of the food system in Michigan’s Thumb and it’s interaction to the overall food system in Michigan from a producer and consumer point of view and, B) provide recommendations and advocate for changes related to the Thumb food system specifically that will enhance the food security and food needs in the region.

Two community food summits were conducted, one in Cass City in partnership with the Meeting the Need for Our Village in Cass City and another in Port Huron. The results of these summits identified specific action steps to undertake moving forward, some of which have been completed and others in the preliminary stages of development. Some of those specific action steps included:

- *Advocating for a grocery store in Cass City that has none
- *Develop a community garden to produce fresh vegetables for food pantries
- *Create new opportunity for food in ensure consumers to have greater access to affordable, healthy, diverse, safe food.
- *Discover successes within schools feeding kids and develop opportunities to showcase these to other schools for replication



Together We Can:
Creating a Healthy Future for our Family

Keeping People Healthy



Stress Less with Mindfulness

Kris Swartzendruber, Extension Educator for Social Emotional Health in District #10 conducted a Stress Less with Mindfulness series at Hunter's Creek Conference Center, in Lapeer, on March 13 – April 24, 2018 for 31 adult participants.

Mindfulness means paying attention to the present moment without judgement. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions such as cardiac disease and diabetes.

By offering adults alternative ways of relating to everyday life experiences, including thoughts, emotions, physical sensations and events, Stress Less with Mindfulness teaches and encourages the use of mindfulness self-care skills to help one feel better and enjoy life more.

The following are testimonials and comments from the participants that took this series:

"This class was helpful in getting me to live in the present."

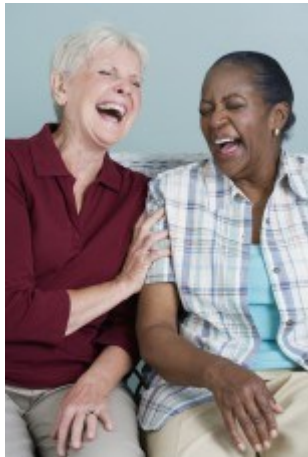
"I would recommend this class because it can positively change things in you and how you react."

"This class was enlightening!"

A participant shared that she lost 3 pounds in just one week by practicing the mindful eating techniques covered during this series.

MSU Extension

**Mindfulness for
healthy aging | MSU
Extension**



Kris Swartzendruber

swartze6@anr.msu.edu

Extension Educator

Disease Prevention and
Management and Social
and Emotional Health
Educator

Chronic Disease

Greening Michigan

Michigan State University Extension tourism educator conducts follow-up evaluations to determine what actions and impacts come from First Impressions Tourism (FIT) assessments.

Andy Northrop
northro5@anr.msu.edu
Extension Educator
Sustainable Tourism
Leadership and
Community Vitality
Greening Michigan
Institute

MSU Extension Community Vitality and Tourism Educator, Andy Northrop, after four years, still actively co-chairs Prosperity Region 6 (PR6)- a seven county partnership comprised of Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, and Tuscola Counties – tourism and quality of life subcommittee. The regional subcommittee has been responsible for facilitating a number of tourism and quality of life projects in partnership with county and various community leadership. Some of those projects include:

I-69 Thumb Region Local Crafty Agricultural/Agritourism Directory (2015, 2018) highlighting 150 breweries, wineries, farms, farmers markets and specialty stores and business, such as orchards and U-pick farms - <http://i-69thumbregion.org/agritourism-directory/>

Art in Place (2018) – A program designed to create a livelier, engaging, and interesting place using art. District 10 communities were provided the opportunity to apply for Art in Place.

Port Austin, MI (Huron County) was selected in 2018.

MSU Extension First Impression Tourism Assessment (FIT)

Launched by Community, Food, and Environment Institute's tourism team in late 2016 and offered in partnership with PR6 since 2017, FIT has proven to be widely successful assessment program for communities across District 10 in need of new concepts to make their community places people want to live, work, play, learn and return. Building from four successful FITS in 2017 (Elkton, Imlay City, Marlette and Sebawaing) MSU Extension, in partnership with PR6 tourism subcommittee, launched a second round of FIT assessments in 2018. Cass City (Tuscola County) and Marine City (St. Clair County) were selected in 2018 and underwent the FIT program to identify strengths and weaknesses through a team of first-time visitors. Like the communities that underwent FIT in 2017, both 2018 communities received \$2,000 in funding from the PR6 tourism subcommittee to spawn new developments and actions after participating in FIT. Both communities, after receiving their results earlier this year, are currently in the primary stages of new developments and actions after participating in the FIT program.



Greening Michigan - Continued

Cass City, MI received their results in March 2019. More than 50 community leaders, business owners, educators and residents attended the forum where results were shared. As of early 2019, Cass City community leadership has fostered the capacity to grow their assets and attractiveness in District 10 and across Michigan. Learn more about their results here - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/first-time-visitors-to-one-of-michigan-s-thumb-communities-provide-new-perspectives-to-drive-tourism-strengthen-community-vitality-and-spawn-local-leaders>

Marine City, MI received their results from FIT in February 2019. Approximately 60 community leaders, commissioners, business owners, and residents attended Marine City's forum to learn more from the first-time visitor assessment and share thoughts on what the destination can do better. Marine City's FIT results - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/marine-city-welcomes-first-time-visitor-perspectives-to-strengthen-community-collaboration-and-spawn-new-ideas-for-tourism>

The FIT program is now in its third and final partnership cycle with Prosperity Region tourism subcommittee and benefiting one more District 10 community. The City of St. Clair (St. Clair County) applied for FIT late 2018, which is actively planning their Community Report Forum where they too will receive the perspectives of five first-time visitors to drive new developments for the coastal community. FIT successes in District 10 continue to be a leading model for prosperous community and tourism development initiatives in other Michigan State University Extension Districts.

In addition, the FIT communities to date are regularly promoted statewide and nationally as successful examples of community collaboration and leadership when addressing placemaking, tourism, and quality of life for rural America. MSU Extension's Community Vitality and Tourism educator continue to work across District 10 building off these successes and fostering new programs as well.



New County Commissioner Training

Teaches county commissioner roles and responsibilities and the structure of county government; Explore the basics of county finance; Learn best practices for leading and participating in public meetings; Network with other elected officials.



Since 1968, MSUE and the MAC have offered an educational program for new county commissioners following the November election. That program has come to be known as the New Commissioner School. The 2018 workshop marked the 50th year of this program.

In 2017 a long term evaluation of NCS was conducted to assess long-term change in commissioners' knowledge, skills, and confidence, as well as inform program revisions. Participants responded to questions rating their change in individual competencies, board competencies, and board culture. Information from that evaluation led to changes in the 2018 workshop, including fewer topics, more depth, and a move to a 2-day workshop.

This year, a team of MSUE educators offered New County Commissioner Workshops at four locations around the state. The workshop consists of two-half day sessions on the fundamentals of county government and included time for networking with other county officials, MAC staff, and MSUE educators and directors. Overall response to the format change was positive. Attendance was down only 10 following an election that yielded 24 fewer new commissioners.

A total of 191 people attended the workshops. Based on immediate post-workshop evaluation, 70% of reporting participants were newly elected county commissioners, 20% were experienced commissioners, and the rest were administrators, other county staff, and a couple of Michigan Department of Treasury staff. Commissioners from Lapeer County attend one of these workshops.

MSU Extension's government, leadership, and community engagement programs engage participants in learning skills of good governance, how to communicate with purpose, and how to collaborate on solving complex issues in order to improve their communities. Participants leave MSU Extension educational programs with:

- a deeper understanding of their civic responsibilities and roles within their own communities;
- increased confidence to make decisions;
- skills and information to better manage community resources;
- knowledge of how to implement best practices; and

The application of knowledge and skills gained from good governance programs builds a stronger civic infrastructure.

Extension Educators Serving Lapeer County

MSU Extension Staff Serving Lapeer County

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Kathy George	4-H Program Coordinator	810-667-0343	george92@msu.edu
Sarah Graver	4-H Auction Coordinator	810-667-0343	graversa@msu.edu
Leigh Hauxwell	4-H Support Staff	810-667-0343	hauxwe10@msu.edu
Tina House	Office Manager	810-667-0341	houset@msu.edu
Jerry Johnson	District 10 Director	810-989-6935	johnjer@msu.edu
Phil Kaatz	Educator, Forages	810-667-0341	kaatz@msu.edu
Jean Kreiner	4-H Program Aide	810-667-0343	kreiner@msu.edu
Jennifer McNamara	Nutrition Program Instructor	810-667-0341	mcnam123@msu.edu
Christine Venema	Educator, Food Safety & Nutrition	810-667-0341	venema@msu.edu

Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Lapeer County

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Bob Battel	Educator, Field Crops	989-315-4221	battelro@anr.msu.edu
Marianne Buza	Educator, Dairy	989-269-9949	mbuza@anr.msu.edu
Cory Clark	Educator, Farm Management	989-758-2500	rischcor@msu.edu
Karly Creguer	Nutrition Program Supervisor	810-667-0341	oberski9@msu.edu
Andrew Northrop	Educator, Greening Michigan	810-989-6935	northro5@msu.edu
W. Garrett Owen, PH.D.	Greenhouse Outreach Specialist	248-347-0269	wgowen@msu.edu
Ben Phillips	Educator, Vegetables	989-758-2502	phill406@msu.edu
Brandon Schroeder	Educator, Michigan Sea Grant	989-354-9885	schroe45@msu.edu
Jeannine Schwehofer	Educator, Meat Quality	810-989-6935	grobbej@msu.edu
Mike Staton	Senior Educator, Soybeans	269-673-0370	staton@msu.edu
Kris Swartzendruber	Educator, Disease Prevention	989-672-3870	swartze6@msu.edu
Bob Tritten	Educator, Fruit	810-244-8555	tritten@msu.edu

MISSION:

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

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The 4-H Name and Emblem have special protections from Congress, protected by code 18 USC 707.