



# Iosco County 2021 Annual Report

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



It is once again my pleasure to provide you with a snapshot of the work that Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is doing in your community. The circumstances of the past two years have presented new and unique challenges for us and many others. However, because of your continued support, MSU Extension has been able to continue its long tradition of providing programming and educational resources that help to enhance the lives of Iosco County residents, contribute to community prosperity and address critical issues as they arise in communities.

In 2021, MSU Extension provided **11,330** points of contact to Iosco County residents through articles, virtual and online programming and in-person experiences. We worked with local audiences and community partners to deliver our services in the safest way possible and expanded our reach to new audiences through the use of technology.

Your support of:

- MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development allowed over **1,335** youth to learn lifelong skills, develop leadership abilities, explore new interests and discover the value of community service.
- MSU Extension food programs allow residents to learn about the safety, security and affordability of local fresh foods, how to use them, where to find them, or how to start a cottage food business of their own.
- MSU Extension nutrition and physical activity programs allowed over **176** county residents to improve the quality of their diets and become more active.

We hope you are as proud of this important partnership as we are. We thank you for another great year and the continued opportunity to serve this great community.

Julia (Julie) Darnton, District Director

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan and provides more than 200,000 young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passions. In 2021, **1,335** Iosco County youth participated in **56** 4-H programs delivered both virtually and in-person (as COVID-19 pre-cautions shifted).



Students at Whittemore-Prescott enjoyed making their own smoothies with the Smoothie Bike as a Field Day activity

### 4-H

- develops youth as current and future leaders by providing programs that instill young people with knowledge and skills to become positive agents of change through leadership development, civic engagement and education, global citizenship, and cultural competency programming;
- assists youth in preparing for and finding gainful employment opportunities through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, career exploration, and workforce preparation programs; and
- excites youth about future science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) careers and build critical STEM skills. These programs seek to increase aspirations and attitudes toward science, interest and engagement in science, and skills in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making.



4th-6th graders in the Cardinal Kids Club participated in an 8-week sewing program where they learned how to hand sew and operate a sewing machine. They even made some items for the Iosco County Animal Shelter!

## NATURAL RESOURCES

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



As leadership partners of the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant supported local schools in fielding place-based stewardship education projects. In 2021, **285 students and 4 teachers** from Tawas Area Schools and Oscoda Area Schools were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION



73 students participated in SNAP-Ed programming through in-person and virtual series such as Show Me Nutrition, where students learned about MyPlate and gained the skills necessary to make healthy lifestyle choices.

MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits for SNAP-Ed eligible populations. MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, individuals, and families how to make health a priority. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that SNAP-Ed eligible persons will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guidance. In 2021, **83 Iosco County residents** participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Smart, Live Strong, Understanding Food Labels, and Cooking for One.

## SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

**153** Iosco residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families' and communities' understandings of and response to mental health crises through participating in **41** social-emotional programs including Stress Less with Mindfulness & RELAX: Alternatives to Anger.

## AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

MSU Extension serves the agriculture industry by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents. In 2021, **27** Iosco County residents participated in programming related to animal agriculture, agribusiness management, beekeeping, consumer and ornamental horticulture, and field crops, fruit crops, and vegetables.



17 residents attended the 2021 Corn Silage Field Event and learned about quality differences between corn hybrids and the impact of those differences on the ration for the cows and the costs of feeding them.



Bovine Leukosis Virus is an incurable and untreatable infector of cattle which is estimated to cost a herd owner \$270 per cow annually. In 2021, MSU Extension was awarded a grant from the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture to help herd owners with low prevalence of Bovine Leukosis Virus (BLV) identify and remove cows that test positive for the virus and to develop a program that recognizes BLV-free status in Michigan. Local educator Phil Durst recruited two farms in the area as cooperators for this project.



# IMPACT AT A GLANCE



**\$3,242,586**  
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



**207**  
PROGRAMS HOSTED IN  
IOSCO COUNTY



**367**  
YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H



**83**  
RESIDENTS SERVED IN  
SNAP-ED PROGRAMMING



**352**  
ALUMNI RESIDENTS IN  
IOSCO COUNTY



**34**  
STUDENTS ENROLLED  
AT MSU



**\$714,547**  
FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED  
(2020-2021)



**\$30,656**  
SPENT WITH LOCAL  
BUSINESS



**29**  
ASK AN EXPERT CONTACTS



**9,621**  
IOSCO COUNTY EXTENSION  
WEBSITE VIEWS

## CONTACT US

### MSU Extension Iosco County

420 W. Lake Street, PO 599  
Tawas City, MI 48764

989-362-3449

[msue.iosco@msu.edu](mailto:msue.iosco@msu.edu)

Garden Hotline  
888-678-3464

[msue.msu.edu/iosco](http://msue.msu.edu/iosco)

<https://www.facebook.com/iosco4H>

**Cindy Anderson**, County Support Staff,  
989-984-1060, [ande1172@msu.edu](mailto:ande1172@msu.edu)

**Jennifer Colvin**, 4-H Program Coordinator,  
989-984-1058, [colvinj5@msu.edu](mailto:colvinj5@msu.edu)

**Karen Collins**, Program Instructor  
989-756-2502 x. 431, [colli804@msu.edu](mailto:colli804@msu.edu)

**Michelle Luttrell**, Community Nutrition Instructor  
989-984-1055, [luttre15@msu.edu](mailto:luttre15@msu.edu)

**Ian Sawyer**, District Support  
989-275-7178, [sawyeria@msu.edu](mailto:sawyeria@msu.edu)

**Julia (Julie) Darnton**, District Director  
810-922-6483, [darntonj@msu.edu](mailto:darntonj@msu.edu)

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