

LIVINGSTON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo credit: MSU Extension

The butterfly effect is an idea introduced by Edward Lorenz in the 1960s that small, seemingly insignificant singular events may ultimately lead to much larger outcomes. If taken on their own and independent from others in the community, MSU Extension workshops, programs and publications may seem to impact only those individuals who experience them first-hand. However, for over 150 years Extension has worked diligently to facilitate community partnerships and coalitions that broaden our education efforts and “Bring Knowledge to Life.” In addition to our county partners, Extension staff throughout District 12 has worked with 123 partners and coalitions in 2023 to expand the reach of our programs and education initiatives. Together, we are creating ripple effects, like the flaps of the butterfly wings, that stretch across the county and beyond. In the 2023 annual report you’ll find success stories, participant feedback, event photos, program metrics and much more about the impact that Extension is making in the lives of friends, family and neighbors in Livingston County.

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners e-newsletter.



MSU Extension Livingston
2300 East Grand River
Suite #111
Howell, MI 48843
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/livingston/county-extension-office>

Phone: 517-546-3950
Email: msue47@msu.edu

Follow us on social media https://bit.ly/Facebook_MSUELivingstonCounty





PREPARING CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

Parents and caregivers are the first to have influence on a child’s development and future academic success. To ensure the success of families across Michigan and to support children’s school readiness, MSU Extension has invested in research- and evidence-based programming for the parents, caregivers and early childhood

educators who have the first opportunity to enhance children’s skills and become their best resources and advocates.

This programming supports families while helping parents and caregivers increase early childhood science, math and

preliteracy skills, as well as enhancing the social and emotional wellness of children and youth. By increasing parents’ and caregivers’ knowledge of child and youth development, Extension is able to help caring adults build a positive foundation for learning and lifelong success.

Success!

At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 4-H Program year, Livingston County MSU Extension staff and 4-H Volunteers successfully revived the local 4-H program to it’s pre-covid enrollment numbers.

In the 2019-2020 program year, 508 youth were enrolled in the 4-H online system for Livingston County. As a result of the COVID-19 virus, by the end of the 2021-2022 program year, that number had decreased to 348 youth, and many clubs had permanently closed. 4-H staff and volunteers spent the 2022-2023 program year planning events and activities to reach prospective 4-H families, including a county-wide open house, environmental science and conservation focused SPIN (special interest) club, and Cloverbud camp. As a result, 510 members were enrolled for the 2022-2023 program year, and six new clubs were formed. All six of these clubs participated in the Fowlerville Family Fair with great success!"

- Kat VanDouser and Jenny Speyer



Photo credit: Jenny Speyer

Pollinator Habitat Outreach Project



2023 Michigan rate of \$30.15/hr x 10 hrs avg per volunteer

Many people think 4-H is just for kids who live on farms or those interested in raising and selling animals – but that’s not true! Offering a diverse range of topics and interest areas, 4-H is the largest youth development organization in

Michigan. In fact, each year thousands of young people explore what interests and excites them as they grow through Michigan 4-H. From program areas ranging from science and technology to clothing and textiles, and so much more, 4-H

provides fun, educational opportunities that empower young people with skills to lead for a lifetime and become the foundation for future success. After all, true leaders aren't born they're grown!

Success!

“Within an hour after a lesson on encouragement, I received the following from a participant:

‘I just want to share. After I got off the Zoom [my child] showed me a reward she received. All year she has been upset about not getting this or the PBIS award. So I was given a chance to use some of the descriptive praise. I said it this way as I know she really has been working hard. ‘Alice this is amazing news, I know you have been working so hard on your emotions at school. This is a great reward for your hard work!’” -Courtney Aldrich



IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION

When it comes to [nutrition](#) and [physical activity](#), MSU Extension's team of experts brings evidence-based education into communities across the state. Our staff delivers educational programming to communities and helps create lasting healthy changes, from kitchen tables to school cafeterias.

Programming is supported through the [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education \(SNAP—Ed\)](#).

Nutrition Programs include:

- [Cooking for One](#)
- [Cooking Matters](#)

- [Eat Healthy, Be Active](#)
- [My Way to Wellness](#)
- [Peak Health and Performance](#)
- [Show Me Nutrition](#)
- [Teen Cuisine](#)



Photo credit: pexels-tara-clark

Success! "This was a virtual Cooking Matters at Home class. We met weekly for five weeks, for each class they attended they received a \$10 Meijer food card, funded by the Livingston Hunger Council/United way of Livingston County.

I knew that one of my participants was really struggling with getting enough food to eat, so when the gift cards arrived I let her know they were here. She was headed to the food bank to get some food as she had run out of food for the month and really appreciated that I had called so she could get some groceries to last her." -Shelley Frazier

"I was out of food for the month and these gift cards are really going to help." - Cooking Matters at Home participant



Safe and properly prepared food can prevent foodborne illness, thus reducing healthcare costs and improving overall health and well-being. Whether for food entrepreneurs, volunteers preparing food for the community, childcare providers or consumers interested in preserving food, MSU Extension teaches a variety of classes to help everyone enjoy safe, healthy food. for keeping food safe.



MSU Extension offers high-quality, affordable programs that help Michigan residents learn the importance of safe food and water in their everyday lives. Our research-based programs help food handlers learn safe food-preservation skills and techniques.



Food Safety Programs include:

- [Cooking for Crowds.](#)
- [Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Home Food Preservation](#)
- [Safe Food = Healthy Kids](#)



Photo credit: canned-lisatreiber



Success!
 "I wish we had MyPlate class Every day!"
 - Elementary school student and Show Me Nutrition class participant



20+ consumer questions received each month, on average, on MSU Extension's Food Safety Hotline (1-877-643-9882).



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

MSU Extension educators in the field of agriculture and agribusiness work with farms of all sizes helping to positively impact individual farming operations. When those individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.

Farm Stress Management

Taking care of crops and animals is hard on farmers. Caring for personal health and wellness in this high-stress profession is often overlooked but is as critical as caring for the farm business. Agricultural professionals and their families face unique stressors and mental health challenges and often have limited access to mental health services. MSU Extension is a national leader in addressing farm stress and related mental health issues by providing farm business financial analysis to farms, connecting farmers and their families with teletherapy programs,

workshops, webinars and digital materials offering self-paced or interactive options.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/managing_farm_stress/index



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage

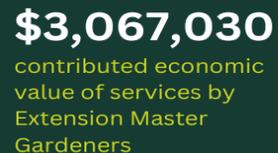
Success!

“In 2023, 225 Extension Masters gardeners from Washtenaw, Livingston, Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe Counties (District 12) dedicated 9781 hours to volunteer service and spent 2790 hours in continuing education. We hosted an in-person volunteer Onboarding for those that want to become Extension Master Gardeners and completed the Foundations of Gardening course. Eighteen FOG graduates from District 12 participated. They enjoyed meeting the other new faces as well as seasoned Extension Master Gardeners and learned about projects and activities available for volunteering throughout District 12.”

- Barbara Gregerson



2023 MSU Extension Agriculture & Agribusiness in Michigan



Data taken from Nov 2023 Extension Agriculture & Agribusiness in Michigan report



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

MSU Product Center

[MSU Extension](#) and the [MSU Product Center](#) assist entrepreneurs and businesses to develop products and services in the food and agriculture markets. Its team of experts consult with clients on a one-on-one basis, helping new entrepreneurs navigate from concept development to launch and beyond. The MSU Product Center also offers specialized services such as labeling, packaging, and nutritional analysis. If you are

Product Center in Livingston County

6 companies assisted
38 total employees
\$250,583 annual sales

interested in business counseling from the MSU Product Center, please visit the [website https://www.canr.msu.edu/productcenter/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/productcenter/)

MSU Extension Community

Successful and thriving communities combine knowledgeable and engaged legislators, businesses, community groups and residents. By

connecting these groups with the most trusted tools, MSU Extension helps enhance the quality of life in Michigan.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/community/index>



Government & Community Vitality Are you a government official or urban planner looking for guidance? We offer training on a wide range of public policy topics. We facilitate meetings and promote good governance and we offer Citizen Planner training and timely webinars. Government and Community Vitality Education provides community development expertise to local governments so they can “thrive local” by working with communities using data and tools that support efficient delivery of the critical public services that safeguard the health, safety and welfare of Michigan residents. The program also offers land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials throughout Michigan. And teaches the fundamentals on roles, responsibilities and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. More information regarding citizen planner and local government/housing education can be found under the full program list below:

- Great Lakes Leadership Academy
- Citizen Planner
- Tribal Education
- Livable Communities



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage

Livingston County Staff:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Shelley Frazier, MPH	Community Nutrition Instructor	517-552-6913	frazier60@msu.edu
Barbara Gregerson	Consumer Horticulture Educator	517-546-3950	gregers7@msu.edu
Holly Kupec	District Support/ County Admin	517-546-3950	kupechol@msu.edu
Carrie Shrier	Early Childhood Extension Educator	517-546-3950	shrier@msu.edu
Jenny Speyer	4-H Program Instructor	734-436-1362	speyerje@msu.edu
Roxanne Turner	Extension Educator	517-546-3950	turnerr@msu.edu
Kat VanDouser	4-H Program Coordinator	517-546-3950	krollkat@msu.edu

A Statewide Network of Resources to Help You

MSU Extension is the home of the latest in research, education and outreach covering a wide range of issues from agriculture & agribusiness, health and nutrition, youth education and outreach and community and economic vitality. If MSU Extension doesn't have an expert in your county to answer your questions, we can connect you to our statewide resources to connect you to the information you need.

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more!

Ask Extension: www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert



Lawn and Garden Hotline: 888-678-3464 (option 1)

Hours: M,W,F 9:00 am–12:00 pm (Year round)

Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.

Soil Mailers: MSU Extension home lawn and garden and commercial soil mailers provide access to personalized fertilizer recommendations for thousands of Michigan residents every year. The home lawn and garden mailer can be purchased in person at [MSU Extension offices](#) or online from the [MSU Extension bookstore](#). Commercial soil mailer are purchased in person at [MSU Extension offices](#). Questions about soil results can be sent to MSUsoiltest@msu.edu.

Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882 Hours M/W/F, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

MSU Extension Bookstore <https://shop.msu.edu/collections/msu-extension-bookstore>

Look for bulletins, publications and MSU Extension products at the Bookstore!