



Iosco County 2022 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support and partnership with Michigan State University Extension. MSU Extension helps to improve the lives of Michigan residents by providing educational programs for people of all ages that can address critical needs, issues, and opportunities. Our work is guided by our mission and our core values which are:

- **We will show up.** We will be engaged and serve our communities across the state.
- **We will help people thrive.** We will work to help everyone be their best and do their best.
- **We will be authentic.** We will be honest about what we can and cannot do, and we will be guided by evidence-based science.
- **We will welcome everyone.** We will be inclusive and respect everyone, while valuing differences and working to serve a wide audience.
- **We will manage resources responsibly.** We will be good stewards of our resources and funding from all sources.
- **We will take risks.** We are lifelong learners and value innovation to better serve Michigan communities.

These value statements summarize how we work to engage with communities and how we hope we are seen by the people we serve. The team we have assembled in District 4 to serve communities are outstanding professionals who care deeply and work hard to meet the needs of youth, adults, and families and for households, small businesses, and local governments. This report summarizes the numbers and some of the stories of how we have worked to connect people with one another and with information gained from research that can help improve lives.

Julia (Julie) Darnton, District Director

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. In 2022, **1,770** Iosco County youth participated in **82** programs, including 21 school enrichment and after school programs at Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools.



19 Iosco County youths ages 5-7 gained skills like teamwork and communication through hands-on activities including planting, painting, and a scavenger hunt.



LAYING STRONG FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS

4-H provides youth with hands-on opportunities to explore future careers and entrepreneurship while enhancing their financial literacy and developing important skills for the workforce. In partnership with Dean Arbour Ford and Farm Bureau, a “Reality Check” program engaged 121 Whittemore-Prescott Jr./Sr. High students. Students were assigned professions, monthly net incomes, and family sizes, then learned about budgeting, different professions, gross vs. net income, and tax responsibility.

“I can’t believe I had all this money and I couldn’t even have enough to pay for food for my family after making some bad choices!”



13 local youth participated in 4-H Camp on the Move, where campers, ages 8-12 were able to learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).



“I wish we had more of these camps, when is the next one?”
-Iosco County youth participant

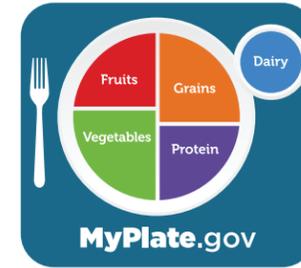
AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Michigan ranks second in the nation in crop diversity due to its unique climate, topography, and impact of the Great Lakes. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy. In 2022, **128** residents of Iosco County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs including one-on-one visits for strategic planning and financial analysis, workshops on sheep production and bovine tuberculosis, and more.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & NUTRITION

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 people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 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-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 2022, **203 Iosco County residents** participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Healthy Eating Adds Up, Eat Healthy Be Active, Teen Cuisine, Cooking for One, and more.



52 Iosco County students learned about healthy eating, cooking skills, ways to be more physically active, and preparing food safely. Pictured, Oscoda High School students are learning to make Energy Nuggets.

SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As a result of MSU Extension’s social-emotional programming, **79** Iosco residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families’ and communities’ understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **33** programs including Matter of Balance, RELAX, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, and Mindfulness X.

“I love the Tai Chi class. It has significantly improved my strength, balance, and mobility. It also greatly reduced the pain I experienced during the last 20 years due to the effects of childhood polio, a compressed lumbar disk, and arthritis.”

-Nancy, Iosco County resident

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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 2022, **402 students** from Iosco County were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.



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IMPACT AT A GLANCE

2,717

TOTAL IOSCO COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING IN 2022



160

YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H



61

PROGRAMS HOSTED IN IOSCO COUNTY



29

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



42

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



57

AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



203

RESIDENTS SERVED BY SNAP-ED



476

YOUTH SCIENCE LITERACY PARTICIPANTS



67

CONSUMER HORTICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



79

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



6,111

WEBSITE VIEWS



433

SEA GRANT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



25

CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

CONTACT US



420 Lake Street
PO Box 599
Tawas City, MI 48764

989-362-3449

msue.iosco@msu.edu

msue.msu.edu/iosco

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

Cindy Anderson, County Support Staff,
ande1172@msu.edu

Jennifer Colvin, 4-H Program Coordinator
colvinj5@msu.edu

Karen Collins, Program Instructor,
colli804@msu.edu

Michelle Luttrell, Community Nutrition Instructor
luttre15@msu.edu

Julie Darnton, District Director
810-922-6483, darntonj@msu.edu