



Delta County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



4 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$4,199,081 total economic impact in Delta County



692 youth involved in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment



4 affiliated clinical sites



\$125,817 spending with local business



37 enrolled MSU students, 413 alumni



MSU disbursed \$823,932 in financial aid to county students



1,745 acres owned by MSU (Forestry Innovation Center)

100+

MSU Extension serving Delta County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Once again I am delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Delta 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 offers a broad range of research-based educational services to County residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside County residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

Again this year, we've welcomed Delta 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, and provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Delta County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

Paul Putnam, District Director



DELTA COUNTY

Additional MSU Extension Reach

- Michigan State University Extension staff have been actively serving the residents of Delta County.
- Services from across all reaches of Extension are accessible because of the Gold Standard commitment Delta County has made with Michigan State University Extension.
- Delta County residents are able to access services in the areas of Agriculture & Agribusiness; Children and Youth; Community, Food and Environment; and Health and Nutrition.

878

Delta County Residents Served

143

of Programs Delta County Residents Attended



DELTA COUNTY

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown

143

Programs Delta County
Residents Attended

68

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

234

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

64

Children &
Youth
Programs

512

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW CONFERENCE

The annual MSU Extension Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference, targeting farmers of all sizes and types from across the Upper Peninsula, was held on March 11, 2020 at Bay College in Escanaba. Registration increased over the previous two years to 135 participants in 2020. The planning committee identified topics for 16 breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, and commercial, non-profit and public organization exhibitors. The 2020 Ag for Tomorrow Planning Committee members were Jim Isleib, Frank Wardynski, James DeDecker, Kathryn Jacques, Parker Jones and Rebecca Krans.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING, CORE MANUAL REVIEW

This was a review of the National Pesticide Applicator Training core manual to prepare people for state pesticide applicator certification exams. Exams were offered following the 4-hour review by MDARD U.P. regional pesticide and plant pest management inspector Diane Bomer, who also attended the review session and contributed valuable insights. Six people completed forms for MDARD pesticide applicator recertification credits. This session was held on January 7 in Escanaba.

WHAT'S U.P. @ UPREC

This is a series of short videos capturing farm activities at the Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC). Videos can be found on YouTube by clicking [here](#) or by searching for Jim Isleib.



2020 Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference: Indigenous Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Panel

Program Highlights

Great Lakes Water Levels with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This program was titled: "Great Lakes Water Levels: Record Highs in 2019 and the Outlook for 2020".

It was advertised across the entire state as a public lecture that may be accessed in person in Marquette or online via Facebook Live or as a Zoom webinar.

The primary speakers were Lauren Fry, Ph.D. and Chris Warren, P.E. of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District.

Approximately 100 people attended in person and about 40 people attended online.

The [video recording](#) of the event is closed captioned and available publicly on [Michigan Sea Grant's YouTube](#) channel.

PRESENTATION TO BAY DE NOC BEEKEEPING CLUB

Adam Ingrao, Extension Specialist: MSU Extension Veterans' Liaison / Agricultural Entomologist, housed in Luce County, was invited to present at the Bay de Noc Beekeeping Club's monthly meeting in February. He presented on "Early Spring Management" in which he covered how beekeepers should be managing overwintered hives in the early spring. There were 30 participants.

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Founded in 1894, the Institute of Agricultural Technology delivers innovative, educational programs that develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in agricultural, environmental, and applied technologies.

This program is available in the Upper Peninsula at [Bay College](#) in Escanaba, as well as other [locations](#) throughout Michigan.



PUBLIC LECTURE	
<i>In partnership with the NMU Biology Department, Michigan Sea Grant presents</i>	
Speakers: Lauren Fry, Ph.D. Chris Warren, P.E.	"GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS: RECORD HIGHS IN 2019 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR 2020"
Office of Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District	
Presentation + Q&A Session Wednesday, February 19 6 - 8 pm	ALL ARE WELCOME!
Jamrich Hall Room 1322 Northern Michigan University 1401 Presque Isle Ave Marquette, MI 49855	
 NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	<i>Coastal storm on Lake Michigan Justin Selden, Michigan Sea Grant</i>

Program Highlights

SERVSAFE AND PRESERVING FOOD SAFELY

One ServSafe class was held in Delta County in February 2020, prior to quarantine, for 11 participants. Two of the 11 participants took the instructor exam and passed with scores of 95 and 98. Seven of the remaining nine participants passed the ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification exam held at the end of the class with an average passing score of 87.32 (75% needed to pass).

While working remotely, an example of one of our online classes was a collaboration with a food safety colleague to offer a virtual blanching and freezing workshop in April 2020 for 71 participants (see pictures). While at home, we captured photos and videos of the blanching and freezing process including safely dicing the carrots, blanching the diced pieces for two minutes, and then packaging them in a freezer safe bag or container with ½ inch headspace. The photos and videos were then shared during the online workshop.

Overall in 2020, my reach was over 2900 participants in 27 different events or classes- primarily food preservation workshops. Of the 2900 participants and besides those in ServSafe, 17 participants in eight programs (7 online programs) were from Delta County. Since we were working remotely for most of the year, participants attended online food safety classes from across the state and across the country.



Top to Bottom: Chopping carrots safely; blanching carrots; carrots packaged with appropriate headspace.

Program Highlights

MSU FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTER ESTABLISHED 1986



AgBioResearch
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The 1,745-acre MSU Forestry Innovation Center in Escanaba is undergoing a transformation. It is beginning the process of partnership building with members of the forest industry, USFS, MI DNR, and others to broaden the research focus of the station, offer more insight and assistance with non-timber forest products, and reengage the local community. It is working to develop stronger links to campus faculty and act as a conduit for Applied Forestry research and outreach between local partners and campus. The station has a rich history in forest research having lead a number of initiatives to increase the sustainable use of wood in Michigan's bioeconomy. This work focused on increasing yields, decreasing costs, reducing greenhouse gas and energy losses, retaining rural jobs, and improving supply chain efficiencies. Past research at the center also focused on forest genetics, silviculture and forested wetland management.

In December 2020, the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center (FBIC) was renamed the MSU Forestry Innovation Center to emphasize the evolving focus of MSU AgBioResearch research activities.



Jesse Randall
[U.P. Forestry Innovation Center](#)
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Yooper forestry



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Yooperforestry

Program Highlights

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Success Stories on this page submitted by Steph Meck, Community Nutrition Instructor, *retired October 2020*

Former school nutrition education student remembers what she learned, Escanaba Head Start.

After my introductory first visit into Miss Tara's Head Start classroom, one of the teacher assistant's approached me in the hallway and said she remembered me from my lessons in her elementary school. When I had mentioned to this class about how their taste buds change to learn to like new foods, she shared with me some of the taste testing I had brought to their classroom over the years, and how even though she was a picky eater, how much she learned and enjoyed the taste testing from the various food groups.

She is using that experience now to share her story with these young students and encouraging them to try the foods that I have brought in.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"I remember when you came into our classroom with all the different foods to try and how much fun it was. I tried lots of foods I didn't think I would like and found out that they were really good!"



EVEN THE TEACHERS CAN LEARN, LEMMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Show Me Nutrition series, food safety topic of discussion;

During the presentation of food safety and how bacteria grow over time when left in opportune conditions, the adult translator for the deaf student asked about pizza that sits out on the counter overnight, and why it would be unsafe to eat. She did not realize the potential danger of that practice and was surprised at the risk involved, something that she has done in the past. "I learned something today, and how much of a risk I have been taking!" was her comment and she shared with the class what she had been doing and how she will change her behavior now to stay safe. In our classrooms presentations, it is often that the teachers and other adults in the room learn from us as well.

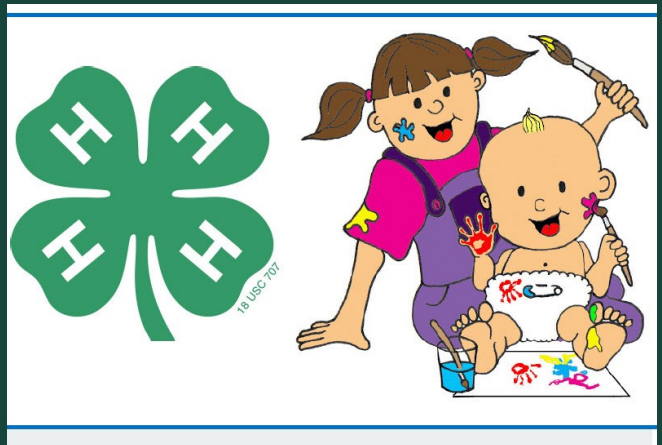
FAVORITE QUOTE

"I learned something today, and how much of a risk I have been taking!"



Investing in Delta County Youth with 4-H

*According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.*



U.P. Babysitting SPIN Club

Two series of virtual Babysitting SPIN Club have been offered to Upper Peninsula youth. The series is an 8-session virtual babysitting SPIN Club. The goals of the SPIN club included:

- Learning about the responsibilities of babysitting and becoming a capable, caring, trustworthy and responsible sitter.
- Developing the confidence needed to handle situations that could happen while caring for children.
- Discussing safety and first aid to create a safe environment.
- Discovering marketing techniques and explore the business of babysitting.
- Exploring fun and nutritious snacks & age appropriate activities.

Sixteen youth from 5 U.P. counties (Delta, Gogebic, Marquette, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft) attended the first virtual babysitting SPIN Club. Thirteen youth from 7 U.P. counties (Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Houghton, Luce, Marquette, and Schoolcraft) attended the second virtual babysitting SPIN Club.

Participant responses regarding their favorite part of class included:

Developing a marketing plan, doing Kahoot quizzes, the interactive activities via zoom.

The different activities that we did were really fun. I also liked the different questions.

Creating the "magic bag" to bring along and assist me in making a good babysitting experience.

Participant quotes:

"This class taught me so much about babysitting I am so much more comfortable babysitting now. My favorite part was how much it helped me to understand what to do while babysitting. I loved the instructors they were so helpful to help me better understand what we were learning about."

"This class helped me become a safer and better babysitter and person."

Participant responses regarding the three most important things they learned included:

How to market their babysitting business; the dangers of choking; how to do the Heimlich maneuver; how to make a boo boo bunny; the needs of different age groups; making the children's safety the number one thing; to always be prepared for the different situations; to always know information that will help in any situation that you will need help in; a bunch of first aid tips

Many of the participants indicated they plan to use what they have learned to develop a babysitting business over the summer.

Program facilitated by U.P. 4-H Staff members, Liana Pepin, Dave Radloff, Maggie Merchberger, and Susan Kirkman.

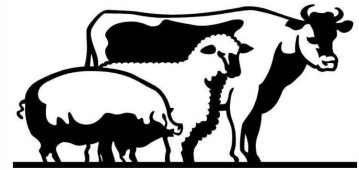
Investing in Delta County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

Upper Peninsula Livestock Series

With the onset of COVID-19, many 4-H members with livestock projects were unsure of the future of their project and unable to meet face to face in a club setting. Local traditional club leaders felt uncomfortable engaging youth virtually. 4-H Program Coordinators, Ashley Dennis (Gogebic County), Liana Pepin (Marquette County), and Dave Radloff (Delta County) stepped up to the plate to fill that void and re-engaged market livestock youth by offering two series of six session of virtual programming focusing on market livestock topics. Sessions included:

- Selecting Your Animal
- Focus on Market Swine Project
- Animal Care & Well-Being
- Focus on Market Beef Project
- Feed & Nutrition
- Focus on Market Sheep Project
- Tips & Tricks for Completing Your U.P. State Fair Market Livestock Record Book
- Beef Showmanship
- Sheep Showmanship
- Swine Showmanship
- Biosecurity
- Marketing Your Livestock Project on Social Media

Take part in this 6-session 4-H Series focusing on strengthening your knowledge and skills about your livestock project(s). Topics will include animal health and welfare, species specific animal science, and livestock skillathon type questions through Kahoot!



Numerous experts were recruited to assist including Nick Babcock, Michigan Livestock and Veterinary Science Program Educator, Melissa Elischer, 4-H Dairy Cattle Extension Educator, Frank Wardynski, Ruminant Nutrition Educator-Ontonagon County, Tyler Labadie-Delta County 4-H volunteer, Karen & Nat Scoville, Shiawassee County 4-H volunteers, and Katie Ockert, Extension Educator-Ionia County.

Goals of the series provided participants the opportunity to:

- strengthen their knowledge and skills about their livestock project(s).
- learn and expand skills in areas of practical livestock production and management specific to beef, sheep, and swine.
- access resources available to them in the areas of animal and vet science for reference into the future.
- gain skills for participation in Skill-A-Thons.
- have opportunities to share their own tips and tricks as well as learn from others how they have raised their livestock in the U.P.

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.


DELTA COUNTY MSU EXTENSION STAFF


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FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTER


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 MSU Extension Upper Peninsula

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