



Delta County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

100 MSU Extension has served Delta County over 100 years

\$ \$4,199,082 total economic impact in Delta County

4 1,098 youth in 4-H and other youth development programs

55 Extension professionals providing education, 4 based in the county

295 adults and youth in health and nutrition programs

11,251 MSU Extension website received 11,251 visits, 80% first-time visitors

1,745 acres owned by the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center

\$1,001,058 MSU disbursed \$1,001,058 in financial aid to county students; 38 students enrolled

\$100,630 spending with local businesses

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm 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.

This year, we've also 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

CONTACT

MSU Extension Delta Co
2840 College Ave.
Escanaba, MI 49829

906-786-3032

msue.anr.msu.edu
deltacounty@msu.edu

f MSU Extension Upper Peninsula

@MSUExtension

Program Highlights



Henry Knoch, Extension Master Gardener assists show goers with Smart Gardening resources. Photo credit: Rebecca Krans, MSU Extension



Opening day of the Escanaba Community Garden showcases draft horse tillage.



A member of the Rapid River Generation E Entrepreneurship Program makes the first sale at the TV6 Craft Show. Youth in the Gen E Program take an idea for a product, develop the product, create a business plan, engage in creating a business through marketing and sales and “pitch” their products at the Youth Entrepreneur Showcase.

Consumer Horticulture

Extension Master Gardeners from Delta County contributed over **820** volunteer hours in 2018. Along with miles driven, this amounts to over \$21,000 provided to the community via their volunteer service with educating the public about proper gardening techniques. Volunteer projects include youth gardening, beautification, and community gardening. Extension Master Gardeners also assist with Smart Gardening outreach which focuses on earth-friendly, sustainable practices. Outreach takes place at various events including the Bay de Noc Gardening Conference, farmer’s market, Escanaba Kiwanis Noon Home & Garden Show, and the UP State Fair. Extension Master Gardeners from across the Upper Peninsula assisted at the Escanaba Kiwanis Noon Home & Garden Show and the U.P. State Fair. In 2018, we reached **251** people directly and **1,431** people indirectly at these two events.

Community Garden

The Escanaba community garden provides 49 plots to locals who primarily grow vegetable gardens. Smart Gardening education was provided to **31 community gardeners** in 2018. Ninety percent of respondents who participated in the program reported that they learned methods and techniques that will help them improve the efficiency and/or production of their vegetable crops. The opening day of the garden showcases draft horse tillage (pictured at left) and MSU Extension smart gardening programming. This event is open to the public and attracted over **60** participants last year.

Agriculture

In Delta County **236** people participated in agriculture related program pertaining to field crops, business management, dairy production, social and emotional well-being, and youth. One example of research and education being done to improve local agriculture production is a potato variety trial at Verbrigghe Potato Farm in Rock, MI.

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

In 2017-18 there were **twenty-one operational 4-H Clubs** in Delta County with **260** individual youth actively engaged in organized community clubs, including **42** youth who participated in 4-H SPIN Clubs: Culinary Club, After School Archery Program (ASAP), Sewing Up A Storm and Bonifas Paper Mache Club. Delta County 4-H Clubs engaged **145** adult volunteers.



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.

Youth Entrepreneurship-Rapid River Generation E Program

Dave Radloff, 4-H Educator, provided Generation E Youth Entrepreneurship Programming at Rapid River High School to a classroom of **17** youth. Through this program, the class developed **five businesses**. Students sold their products at the TV6 Craft show March 16-18 in Escanaba. Seven youth from the program attended the Generation E Youth Business Showcase in Battle Creek, MI, representing four of the five businesses developed.

Youth from the program were successful at the competition and received the following awards:

- **Best Product Based Business: Lucky Ladies (\$125)**
The luck of a horseshoe incorporated into a creative, decorative design. Each individually produced configuration shows your love for country design in a tasteful, quality arrangement of horseshoes.
- **Best Business Plan: Measuring Life’s Moments (\$250)**
A creative, decorative, personalized way to capture all of a child’s memories and development. The growth chart measures their constantly changing height and the attachable tags record name, date, and any special life details.
- **Outstanding Regional Business: Coaster Crew (\$125)**
Creatively decorated coasters that everyone would be proud to display in their home. Each coaster is embellished with a quality picture ranging from your favorite sports teams, nature’s beauty, variety of animals, or maps of the world.

Youth Entrepreneurship Success Story- Charming Corks

One of the youth businesses developed during the 2017 Rapid River Generation E Program has successfully placed their product in a retail store. Charming Corks, hand crafted wine cork key chains with a wooden Upper Peninsula, are now available at the 906 Hunting Company in Naubinway, MI. The 906 Hunting Club has received three shipments of the product. While the original business developers have graduated, the product continues to be produced by other youth participating in the Generation E (with profits going back to support future businesses developed in the program).

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Program Highlights

Food Safety in Delta County

In 2018, we reached **58** food safety participants in Delta County. This included one ServSafe class with 14 participants that was co-taught with food safety educator Beth Waitrovich.

Stephanie Ostrenga held three food preservation classes with **17** participants at the Salvation Army in Escanaba.

We also had a hands-on freezing demonstration and food preservation workshop in February 2018 as part of the Kids Culinary 4-H Spin Club at the Bonifas Arts Center in Escanaba. Participants learned to make their own freezer apple butter and the importance of food preservation.

Aside from food safety workshops, there were also five one time presentations with **36** participants in Delta County. This included three presentations at the Escanaba Public Library that were part of a Preserving the Harvest series: Favorite Fruit Spreads, Salsa with Spirit, The Art of Pickling. The other two presentations were held during the Kiwanis Home and Garden Show in Escanaba on the topic of safe food preservation.

Delta County 4-H Livestock Projects

Youth enrollment in specific livestock projects in 2018:

- Beef: **26** members
- Horse: **38** members
- Sheep: **9** members
- Swine: **93** members



4-H SPIN Club members peeling apples for making freezer apple butter.



Pictured left and below: Delta County 4-H Livestock Projects



Program Highlights

Agriculture continued

The August field day (pictured right) attracted **52** participants who gained knowledge in variety selection, insect and cover crop management.

Supporting Family Health and Nutrition

Several Delta County residents participated in nutrition education opportunities provided through collaboration with local agencies and MSU Extension's Community Nutrition Instructor.

Approximately **140** WIC mom's and children were provided tips for feeding young children, information about fresh fruits and vegetables and their importance to grow healthy bodies with their WIC Farm Market coupons. Recipes for one or two, nutrition facts for fresh produce and food safety information was shared through presentations for the Senior Project Fresh program reaching over **100** Seniors through the Escanaba, Gladstone and Rock Senior Centers

Discover Michigan Fresh and Michigan Fresh information was provided during the summer at both Escanaba and Gladstone Farm Markets to encourage market visitors to purchase and enjoy the fresh produce provided by local famers. Recipes, food safety information and nutrition facts were offered and well received.

The educational curriculum "Show Me Nutrition" was shared with students at Webster Elementary in the Head Start, 1st and 3rd grade classrooms, reaching approximately **110** youth. The students learned about My Plate, each of the food groups and the importance of being physically active and making healthy choices in their meals and snacks. Newsletters for each student shared that information with parents and often a recipe to prepare was included.

MSU Extension also participated in the Project Connect Health Fair and the Home and Garden Show with an informational table.



August 2018 Field Day at Verbrigghe Potato Farm in Rock, MI.



Lucky Ladies, one of five youth businesses developed as part of the 4-H Entrepreneurship Program in Delta County.



The Coaster Crew, one of five youth businesses developed as part of the 4-H Entrepreneurship Program in Delta County.