

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 2021–2022 ANNUAL REPORT



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Grand Traverse 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 outreach 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. We continue to innovate post-pandemic by providing our outreach online, asynchronous, hybrid as well as in-person formats. These options have increased accessibility to Michigan State University resources by your residents. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Grand Traverse County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs. ~ Jennifer Berkey, District 3 Director

Helping people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.





SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Fruit Crop Research



Profitable & Efficient Business & Production Practices

Over **650** contacts with Michigan grape growers to assist with production challenges and establish approximately **200** acres of new vineyards across the state



62 Year Partnership

Northwest MI Orchard & Vineyard Show



Orchards & Vineyards

- The staff at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC) has been partnering with the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council for over 62 years, to host the annual Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show. This show is northwest region of Michigan's premiere educational event and trade show for tree fruit and wine grape growers. Each year, these partners convene at the Grand Traverse Resort in mid-January for a two-day outreach program that provides cutting-edge information and research about tree fruit and wine grapes to Michigan fruit producers. These topics vary yearly based on grower need and seasonal challenges.

With the commitment of the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council and other regional horticultural societies, these funds will be matched with other partners including the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission and MSU to complete this lab in time for the 2022 field season.

- The outreach for our growing community by the NWMHRC staff included the tree fruit webinar series, Integrated Pest Management updates for our northwest Michigan growers as well as weekly email communications on scheduled updates and other key growing considerations.
- In order to strengthen connections and partnerships with the Michigan grape and wine industry, as well as other higher education institutions, MSU Extension collaborated in 19 industry meetings and events, as well as 15 nationwide extension meetings hosted by other higher education institutions such as Cornell and Penn State Universities. MSU Extension's grape and wine Educator also manages the vineyards at the NWMHRC during the growing season to support timely research for the northwest MI grape and wine industry.

Orchard & Vineyard Show Attendees:
2021 Online: **425**
2022 In-Person: **263**
96% said sessions improved their knowledge on their farm.

- These past two years' proceeds from the Orchard and Vineyard Show were dedicated to the NWMHRC in support of a laboratory expansion. We broke ground on this new lab in February 2022.



SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Michigan's Great Beer State Conference & Tradeshow: Over **400** speakers, representatives, and attendees from across the U.S., contributing more than **\$150,000** directly to the local economy



MSU Hop Chat

Tuesdays
May 4-Sept 7
noon

Online Hop Resources

**Master Gardener Volunteer
Joanne Johnsen**

Master Gardeners volunteered **897** hours valued at **\$28,600**

335 citizen scientists counted **1,350** pollinators on flower planters in Downtown TC

Hops

- **MSU Annual Spring Hop Kickoff Meeting:** MSU Extension hosts the annual online meeting with hop growers, researchers, specialists, and other stakeholders. The meeting includes important updates to the MSU Hop Management Guide, pest control options and recommendations, irrigation and fertility best practices, and updates from the Hop Growers of Michigan.
- **MSU Hop Bine and Dine Webinar Series:** MSU Extension hosts a bi-weekly online meeting that brings together hop producers, educators, scientists, and more to discuss current growing conditions, and best management practices.
- **Michigan's Great Beer State Conference & Tradeshow:** This premier Midwest brewer-grower event was held at the Grand Traverse Resort and hosted by the Michigan Brewers Guild, MSU Extension, and the Master Brewers Association of the Americas-District Michigan.

Home Horticulture

- A Master Gardener Training class was held in 2021, certifying 15 new Grand Traverse County Extension Master Gardeners. Other horticulture

education programs included Composting and Biochar, Organic Pest Management for Vegetables, and Tree Fruits for Northern Michigan.

MSU Product Center

- The MSU Product Center conducts educational programs in addition to one-on-one business counseling. In August 2021, the Product Center collaborated with Crosshatch and Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts to host a "Hazelnuts in Agroforestry Twilight Tour" in Mud Lake. 32 attendees from across Northwest Michigan attended to learn of the ecological and business potential of hazelnuts.

2021 Product Center Impacts in Grand Traverse County

~ **22** Clients
~ **188** Counseling Sessions
~ **2** New Business Starts
~ **\$3.5 Million** Combined Annual Sales

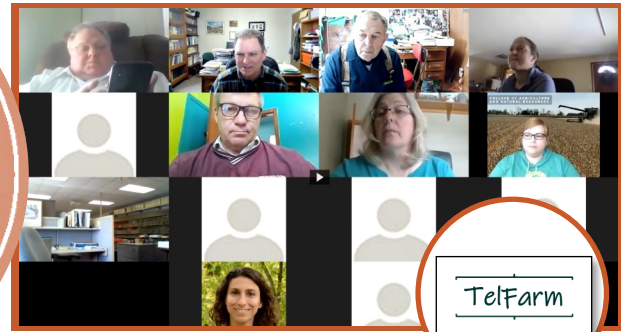


SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS



Business of Cheese Making

MSU Extension helped **14** area farms representing over **70** jobs and **\$11.5 million** in sales in 2021 complete analysis of their farm's financial records to improve their financial standing.



TelFarm



Agriculture Labor Sessions

Agriculture Awareness & Farm Animal Care

Year-end tax estimate meetings provided farmers with the opportunity to save over **\$95,000**, resulting in more resources being available for purchases by these farmers in their communities.



Farm Business Management

- MSU Extension Educator Stan Moore worked with multiple northern Michigan farmers to ensure a successful farm transfer to the next generation. Many of these farmers are using resources through the "Legacy of the Land" farm stress project, funded by both MDARD (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) and federal grant dollars.
- 12 individuals completed the Artisan Cheese class in 2021, including several northern Michigan farms. Stan provided education on the "business of cheese making." Individuals who have completed this class are moving forward with new cheese-making enterprises on their farms.
- Stan Moore served as one of the educators for MSU's Hay Production 101 on-line program. 46 out of 60 respondents indicated that they improved their knowledge as part of this program, and 50 out of 60 indicated that they intended to make changes based on their involvement in the course.
- Over 190 individuals attended one of two Agriculture Labor sessions, coordinated by Stan Moore, at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and

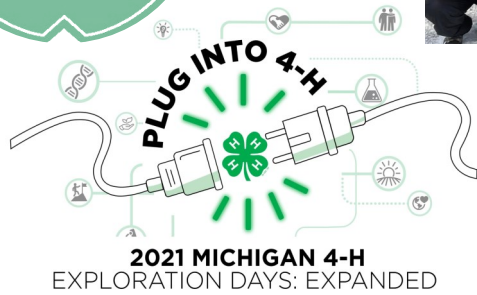
Farm Market Expo held December 2021. Stan also provided multiple labor education meetings to farmers, including two virtual presentations, and two out of state programs for dairy farmers and fruit/vegetable farmers. These out of state meetings attracted over 700 farmers including some from northern Michigan.

- Over 100 elementary school students attended an agriculture awareness session provided by Stan Moore through a summer program provided by Traverse City Heights Elementary School in July of 2021. Students learned about the importance of agriculture in northern Michigan and how farmers care for their farm animals.
- Stan Moore hosts a monthly "TelFarm User's Group" during the winter months. In 2021, five sessions were held with an average of six-seven MSU TelFarm program farmers. These sessions provide an opportunity for farmers to build the agenda, hear from the experts, and learn from one another. Although this is offered statewide, most participants have been from northern Michigan.



DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES

539 Youth Enrolled
127 Adult Volunteers



Outdoor Adventures
4-H Club
Winter
Camping



Michigan Butterfly & Squirrel Trackers
Registration is now open for a new Virtual 4-H SPIN Club!

Do you love Science? Do you love to explore? Join friends from Grand Traverse County to learn behaviors and patterns of butterflies and squirrels all while helping Scientists! The first part we will track and observe different Butterfly species in our area and the second half we will track squirrels. Our findings will be reported to help Michigan Scientists understand the changing population status of our state's butterfly species and evaluate the quality of Michigan ecosystems.

We will meet Thursdays June 24, July 1 & 8, Aug 5 & 12 online via zoom. Participants must register and enroll in 4-H Online prior to receiving the zoom link.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3qJnTCQ> or scan the QR code

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Virtual 4-H Programs

2021 State Champion – Novice Division



Lillian Wasson

- Grand Traverse County
- 126 / 150 Correct
- Overall Highest Percentage

Michigan 4-H Skillathon



Ever woke up thinking, 'that was a weird dream'?

Exploring Dreams through Michigan Tribes

Join friends from Grand Traverse, Luce, and Mackinac counties to explore the world of dreams through the eyes of Michigan Native American Tribes. Learn the history, significance, and traditions around the dreamcatcher, the meaning of dreams, as well as other Michigan Native American traditions. Discover pieces of Native American Culture by making a traditional dreamcatcher, yummy fry bread, and other fun activities!

This fun SPIN Club is open to ages 9 to 12 and will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from June 15th - July 1st from 5-6 pm EST online via zoom. Participants must register and enroll in 4-H Online prior to receiving the zoom link.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/Y4mnyzVH7mBkV4ocWA>

For questions please contact Jessica Luckey at luckeyj@msu.edu or Ashley Freed at freedash@msu.edu



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Grand Traverse County 4-H Highlights

- 4-H Exploration Days: Expanded!** GT County had a group of 12 participants. New virtual format offered multiple options for learning sessions, options for break time that included a virtual escape room, and keynote speakers who spoke on discovering healing and happiness. Youth also had the opportunity to participate in two community service projects to build collective impact for good in our communities. One was writing a thank you card and the other was sewing a mask, with the idea of sharing both with someone in their life.
- Michigan 4-H Livestock Skillathon:** GT youth member Lillian Wasson was awarded 2021 State Champ-Novice Division.
- GT County SPIN Clubs led by AmeriCorps:**
 - ~ Michigan Butterfly & Squirrel Trackers. Co-hosted by the Traverse Area District Library.

Youth learned behaviors and patterns of butterflies and squirrels to assist with a citizen science project.

- ~ Exploring Dreams Through Michigan Tribes. Youth learned the history, significance and traditions of dreams and other aspect of Native American culture. GT, Luce and Mackinac counties participated.
- ~ Virtual Book Club.
- ~ Cupcake Creations. Professional baker, teaching several icing techniques.
- ~ Lego Challenge Club, 1 & 2.

- Over 40 GTC 4-H youth participated in other statewide SPIN clubs, such as:** Clover Chasers, American Sign Language Basics, Backyard Bees, Junior Master Gardener, Minecraft, Pippin's Pantry, 4-H Ninja Training Club, Among Us Part 2, Graphic Novels 101, Trail Cameras 101, Connections through Signing Part 2, 4-H Coding Weekend, and Virtual Photography.



DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES



2021 NW Michigan Fair



- **Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual showcase:** This statewide showcase provided a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships.
- The Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council held its **49th Annual 4-H Livestock Auction** in August, 2021, in person again. Youth and volunteers were thrilled to be back in person and showcasing their skills and animal projects.

Northwest Michigan Fair 49th Annual 4-H Livestock Auction

551 local 4-H youth participated in the 2021 4-H Livestock Council Program

278 local 4-H youth (ages 8-19) participated in the auction for 2021

3 Swine, **2** Goats, and **1** Large Beef were donated to local food pantries/charities (total live weight of animals donated was **2,130** pounds)

Gross sales from the auction totaled:

\$892,490.55

16 Junior Beef projects were purchased by 4-H supporters and donated to 4-H youth to raise as market large beef projects for 2022



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD



Interactive Nutrition Education

"I told my mom about red peppers on my pizza in class... we went to the store and bought some peppers... I was surprised how much I liked them"



New Partnerships Expand Reach



Breakfast Muffins

Ingredients:
 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
 1/2 cup onion (diced)
 1 1/2 cups vegetables (frozen fresh, or leftovers)
 4 Eggs
 1 cup 1% or fat free milk
 3/4 cup baking mix
 1/4 tsp salt and pepper
 3/4 cup cheese

Directions:
 1. Heat oil in skillet on medium high heat. Add onion and cook until translucent. Add vegetables and cook until fork tender.
 2. Place spoonful of cooked vegetables in bottom of each muffin tin to cool.
 3. Blend eggs, milk, baking mix, salt, and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Stir to mix, getting lumps out of mix.
 4. Top waffles in tins with cheese (divide 3/4 cup in half).
 5. Top cheese with egg mixture to fill 3/4 full (Use 1/4 cup with spoon to pour egg mixture).
 6. Bake for about 25 minutes, until a safe internal temperature of 165 degrees has been reached and a knife inserted into the middle comes out clean.

"Many families had never eaten or prepared (fresh broccoli) before."



1,960 meal boxes provided to 140 families at 6 early childcare sites

- **Connecting Early Childcare to Nutritious Food:** MSU Extension established a partnership with the Father Fred Foundation to create an innovative program designed to connect families in need to nutritious food boxes. Meal boxes are provided to targeted childcare settings twice per month and include food to create a nutritious and family friendly meal and visual recipes. Children at the participating sites also receive nutrition education and garden support.

where participants will learn how to plan and budget for healthy, affordable, and delicious meals. The program consists of six lessons, lasting approximately two hours each. Each week, participants receive take-home groceries to practice their new cooking skills with a recipe learned in class.

- **New Partner Allows for Expanded Reach:** Through the development of a new partnership with Interlochen Public Library, MSU Extension has offered education designed to increase knowledge and confidence in the area of shopping and preparing for healthy and safe food choices on a budget. The Cooking Matters curriculum allows participants to practice cooking skills by taking home groceries following classes. Cooking Matters for Adults is a hands-on nutrition program

- **Healthy Eating Adds Up** is an interactive nutrition program geared toward adults with cognitive impairments and/or developmental disabilities. Eight 6-class series were taught virtually to Northwest Education Services students aged 16-26 in the Adult Community Experience (ACE) program and at the Life Skills Center. Through the series, students learned general nutrition focused on MyPlate, the benefits of vegetables, food safety, and hands-on cooking skills.



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD

SNAP-Ed Works!

"Thanks to the classes I am learning a lot of new ways to eat veggies and I am getting a larger variety in my diet!"

"This program has helped me with my diabetes. I am eating better and eating more fresh food."



Name _____
Class _____

Healthy 12 Days of Christmas Activity
December 2021
Blair Elementary School

CHRISTMAS YOGA



December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Day 1: Tree Pose	4 Day 2: Dance
5 Day 3: Reindeer Squats	6 Day 4: Snowflake Pose	7 Day 5: Present Picket	8 Day 6: Check the Chimney	9 Day 7: Log Fire Pose	10 Day 8: Snowman walk	11 Day 9: Moon Pose
12 Day 10: Candy Cane twist	13 Day 11: Light the candle	14 Day 12: Popcorn Garland	15	16	17 Last day to turn in forms	



82 Adult Participants



Over \$73,000 in grants received through partnership with United Dairy Industry of MI to 6 participating TCAPS schools, reaching 1,860 students

- **A Prescription for Good Health:** The Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program is designed to help patients with chronic disease create healthy eating habits and increase access to fresh produce. In 2021, virtual education was provided to enrolled participants who received up to \$100 in tokens to redeem fresh produce and/or seedings at the Sara Hardy Farmers Market. MSU Extension partners with Munson Healthcare to deliver the program locally.
- **Fuel Up to Play 60 - Student Health and Wellness:** MSU Extension partners with Grand Traverse County schools to facilitate the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. This free, in-school nutrition and physical activity program allows teams of students to make PSE changes that encourage other students, staff members, and administrators to lead healthier, active lives. The changes within our schools cause a ripple effect of positively impacting our communities as students

incorporate their leadership skills to motivate and encourage family and community members to properly fuel their body so they can be active every day. This partnership has resulted in increased access to healthy food options in schools, with student leaders playing a key role in making changes in the building and creating school wide healthy challenges.

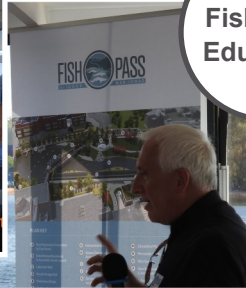
- **Helping Kids Stay Active through Play:** Another component of Fuel Up to Play 60 is to promote being active for 60 minutes a day for our youth. The Fuel Up to Play 60 program in Grand Traverse County schools resulted in a partnership with Playworks, a national organization that helps schools and youth organizations create recess and play environments where every child can join in.



Helping kids stay active & build valuable life skills through play



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES



Fish Pass Education



ARPA workshop series: Over **750** participants from many of Michigan's nearly **1,900** units of government.



Freshwater Summit



Northern MI Counties Assoc.

Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan's Great Lakes coasts are not just beautiful, they are dynamic ecosystems home to many species of fish, birds, plants, and other wildlife in a wide variety of habitat types. A large boating community, commercial and recreational fisheries, and rapid development along Michigan's coasts all present opportunities and challenges for the ecosystem. Michigan Sea Grant works to keep balance in the Great Lakes by supporting research, education, and outreach. Topics this year included:

- ~ Working with City of Traverse City on Great Lakes high water issues and marinas.
- ~ Presentation of "Rise & Fall of the Great Lakes" to 175 people at Freshwater Summit in October 2021 held at NMC Great Lakes Campus.
- ~ Responds to homeowner questions on erosion on Old Mission Peninsula.

Government & Public Policy

County delegates to Northern Michigan Counties Association celebrated their return to in-person meetings in 2021 with great participation and decided to try hybrid meetings for 2022. Participants share lessons learned in their counties, learn about topics currently impacting county government, and discuss the impacts of pending legislation on county government.

• A series of meetings from late 2021 through early 2022, explored both House and Senate bills aimed at solving problems with provision of Community Mental Health services. The goal of these discussions is to learn more about what is in the bills and to propose improvements to ensure higher quality services with less negative impact on counties.

• In September-October 2021, member regions of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) and MSU Extension hosted local and tribal government officials to explore American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spending opportunities in a regional context. The workshop content was based on the U.S. Department of Treasury's May 17, 2021 Interim Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The 14 workshops, including an in-person in Traverse City, covered:

- ~ ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Basic Rules
- ~ Best Practices & Early Examples of ARPA Spending
- ~ Practical Considerations for Contracts, Accounting, and Project Management
- ~ Group Discussions Related to Regional Collaboration
- ~ Leveraging Other State & Federal Funding and Priorities

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