



# Menominee County 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS



4 Extension professional based in the county



\$1,720,944 total economic impact in Menominee County



942 youth in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment programs



472 adults and youth in SNAP-Ed programs



MSU Extension website received 6,913 visits from Menominee County, 76% first-time visitors



MSU disbursed \$388,620 in financial aid to county students



\$27,039 spending with local businesses



17 enrolled MSU students and 195 alumni

**100+**

MSU Extension has served Menominee County over 100 years

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Menominee County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Menominee County residents' lives; including helping farmers with financial management and farm stress; providing opportunities for youth's career and leadership development through 4-H; teaching families how to buy, cook and eat nutritious food; helping communities grow their tourism and community development opportunities; and providing a suite of online resources and programs.



Because of your continued support, we are able to help Menominee County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Menominee County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District 1 Director

# Program Highlights

## **NUTRITION EDUCATION/ PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN MENOMINEE COUNTY**

This past year the residents of Menominee County were included in many nutrition education opportunities reaching a wide age-range. This past summer over 300 seniors through the Mid County, Hermansville, Menominee senior Centers and Elder Center in Hannahville, received free Senior Project Fresh coupons, allowing them to choose \$20 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables at local Farm Markets throughout the county. With the distribution each participant received nutrition education, recipes and helpful tips to use their fresh produce. This program encourages healthy eating to keep our senior community members healthy.

WIC clients receiving their Project Fresh coupons also received educational information on encouraging their families to eat more fruits and vegetables with recipes and suggestions on getting children to get involved in testing their taste buds on new foods.

MSUE's Michigan Fresh provided recipes and food preservation handouts at Hannahville's Farm Market and others throughout the county, encouraging market visitors to purchase and enjoy the seasonal produce available.

This school year, nutrition education was shared with the Head Start and Great Start pre-school classrooms, reaching approximately 100 youth. Children learned about the five food groups through visuals and taste testing, and participated in physical activity with each lesson.

A new curriculum, "Cooking For One" had 15 participants at the Menominee Senior Center, where they received helpful information on healthy eating, menu planning and budgeting, food safety, and easy, nutritious recipes for one. This program will be offered at other locations later this year.



# Program Highlights

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## **FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT PRODUCE SAFETY RULE**

On April 9, 2019, Extension Educator Parker Jones co-taught the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule curriculum at the MSU Extension office in Stephenson. The curriculum covers how producers can address biological food safety concerns with content specific to, for example, soil amendments, worker health and hygiene, production water and postharvest handling and sanitation. This program enables farmers direct access to content-area specialists for questions on how to best keep food products safe for Michigan families and communities. Five trainers from MSU Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and County Conservation Districts delivered this holistic, 7-hour training for free to 19 participants.

## **MSU PRODUCT CENTER WORKS WITH MENOMINEE COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Parker's primary role, however, is as a business counselor with the MSU Product Center. In 2019, MSU Product Center staff spent time in direct contact with Menominee county food, agriculture and natural resource businesses. In May, the Associate Director of the MSU Product Center, Tina Conklin, traveled to meet with clients in Stephenson and Menominee as part of broader engagement with U.P. businesses.





# Investing in Menominee County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

*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.*

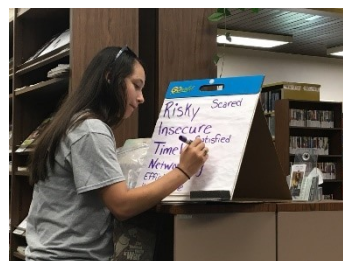


Michigan 4-H is one of only 15 states that received funds in 2019 through a partnership between the National 4-H Council and Microsoft to implement the 4-H Tech Changemakers program that aims to help close the rural broadband internet gap. Michigan's \$56,800 grant award is empowering teens to bring technology and digital skills access to their communities in Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron, and Menominee Counties in the Upper Peninsula.

The 4-H Tech Changemakers program puts teens at the forefront of creating change in their communities, empowering them to serve as digital ambassadors by equipping them with the tools, resources, and technical partners to help them be successful. In the Upper Peninsula, 4-H youth are teaching community workshops that increase adults' comfort level in utilizing digital technology and introduce the opportunities that broadband internet can provide.

In 2019, 4-H adult volunteers and youth from the Upper Peninsula attended national (Washington, D.C.) and regional (Chicago, IL) digital skills trainings hosted by the National 4-H Council and Microsoft that were funded above the grant award amount. 4-H digital ambassadors also receive mentoring by national and local experts.

The skills gained by these experiences are assisting local U.P. county 4-H programs to elevate teens as teachers. 4-H teens are building their leadership and communication skills, identifying and addressing local digital needs, and building digital skills for their future careers.



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.

**MENOMINEE COUNTY MSU EXTENSION STAFF**

Kris Havelka, 4-H Program Coordinator

mortonk@msu.edu

Steph Meck, Community Nutrition Instructor

Parker Jones, Extension Educator/Innovation Counselor

jonesp28@msu.edu

Kris Havelka



Parker Jones



**CONTACT**



Menominee County  
MSU Extension  
S. 904 Highway 41  
Stephenson, MI 49887



906-753-2209



msue.msu.edu  
msue.menominee@county.msu.e



MSU Extension Upper Peninsula



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