



# Missaukee County 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS



Almost 1,000 Missaukee County adults and youth participated in MSU Extension programs



Nearly 570 Missaukee County youth participated in 4-H and other youth enrichment programs



Almost 300 Missaukee County residents participated in health, wellness, family development and nutrition programs



More than 290 Missaukee County residents participated in agricultural and gardening services and programs



Nearly 100 youth from Missaukee County participated in career preparation programs



More than \$39,400 was spent with local businesses in Missaukee County



MSU disbursed nearly \$460,000 in financial aid for Missaukee County students

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Shari Spoelman

Greetings! I am pleased to bring to you another report of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension's work in Missaukee County. We are pleased to continue to serve the residents here and help strengthen our communities. MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, bring the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in Missaukee County.

Under the leadership of MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer, we continue to grow as an organization and are challenged to continue to address the many issues facing Michigan residents. We do this by staying true to our many traditions and mission while stretching our reach through untraditional channels and new technologies.

We're passionate about serving Missaukee County and are looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

### MSU Extension District 6 Advisory Council

Ken Brown	Leonard Strouse	Rick Grove	Christine Hammond
Dick Metz	Jerry Jaloszynski	Bob Wachowski	Frank VanderWal
Chris Gentry	Jack Nehmer	Russ Nehmer	Marilynn Bradstrom
David Eggle	Mike Solomon	Judy Nichols	

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MSU Extension Missaukee County



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# Program Highlights

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Two quail chicks were hatched at the Missaukee Agricultural Youth Show.

## 4-H EXHIBITOR EDUCATION

MSU Extension's 4-H program offered 8 classes to youth so they could meet the two hour education credits requirement to show in the Missaukee Agricultural Youth Show. Classes ranged from Swine Nutrition and Biosecurity to Animals and the Public. Two Incubation Station classes were held so youth could learn about embryology. Participants then helped monitor and care for eggs in an incubator on the show grounds. The group successfully hatched two quail during the show.



MSU Extension encourages physical activity while participating in nutrition education.

## SNAP NUTRITION EDUCATION

SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) through MSU Extension encompasses a broad scope of interests. Both physical activity and healthy nutrition are highlighted in classes and presentations which include cooking classes, making healthy shopping and eating choices, and disease prevention. Participants can control or even reverse illness through healthy dietary and exercise habits.

## FARM STRESS

Taking care of crops and animals can be hard. Selfcare and wellness in this high-stress profession are often overlooked but are critical for effective farm operations. MSU Extension helps farmers adapt to the changing agricultural environment and address related stress. Outreach efforts including television, radio, newsletters, journals, social media, podcasts, and expanded farm stress staff have been implemented to help the at-risk population. Two programs, "Communicating with Farmers Under Stress" and "Weathering the Storm" provide further support to farming communities. We're working together to promote awareness, reduce the stigma of mental illness, and save lives.



# Program Highlights

## YOUTH CAREER PREP

In response to expressed community needs, a program was developed to help prepare youth for the workforce. In 2019, nearly 300 students from six area high schools (including Lake City and McBain Public) attended the Mock It Then Rock It: Mock Interview Day. Hosted at Baker College, this event is organized in collaboration with community organizations, including Baker College, Cadillac Industrial Fund, Michigan Works!, YMCA, and area schools. Over 100 community volunteers help make this a success for students on our area.



100 Volunteers from local businesses practice interview and resume skills with youth.

## NEW NUTRITION EDUCATION

A grant entitled “Prescription For Health “ has been approved for 2020 for both Missaukee and Wexford Counties through Munson Hospital. Local doctors will prescribe healthy suggestions to patients who will then attend classes with MSU Extension to further their efforts in the quest for improved health. Participants will receive vouchers to spend at local farmers’ markets and participating grocery stores after attending cooking and nutrition classes through MSU Extension.



Basic cooking skills are a fundamental need in making healthy changes in our diets.

## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Missaukee County’s 4-H program continues to grow and diversify to provide outstanding leadership and character building opportunities for youth. Six year-round clubs and a Special Interest club offered a variety of educational opportunities in 2019. In addition, Missaukee County youth attended camps including Exploration Days on the MSU campus in East Lansing. The 4-H Blazing Arrows archery club competed in the state archery tournament earning 1st place in target archery: unsighted and 5th place in target archery: open.



Youth learned about different scents and benefits of essential oils in a short-term club.

# Dairy: Facing tough challenges



Former MSU Extension Dairy Educator Kathy Lee, providing information on “cost of production” at an educational session in April 2019.

## AGRICULTURE

During the past year in Missaukee County, MSU Extension provided farm support and education through individual consultations, workshops, field tours, and research opportunities. Topics included beef production, quality assurance, animal health and well-being, forages, cover crops, soil health, farm financial management, breeding readiness, and farm stress. With the implementation of the new field crop commodity section of the Farm Bill, MSU Extension partnered with FSA to provide educational sessions to help farmers navigate the best plan for their farm.



MSU Extension provides education and support to farmers and producers.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Over the approximately seven years it takes to grow a Christmas tree, weeds, insects, diseases and nutrient problems can reduce a tree's value and salability. When tree problems occur, local growers turn to MSU Extension. MSU Extension educators and campus specialists are key partners working with local growers to identify tree issues and develop management programs, helping growers remain profitable. Almost every year, new pests and diseases appear and MSU assists growers with research based recommendations to combat potential issues and the potential for economic loss.



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### MISSION:

**Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.**

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