



# Missaukee County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS



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



Over 640 youth participated in 4-H and other youth enrichment programs



Over 100 residents participated in programs on disease prevention & management, food safety, behavioral health, nutrition, and physical activity



Over 250 residents participated in agriculture and gardening programs and services



Almost 100 high school students learned employment skills



MSU spent more than \$68,850 with local businesses

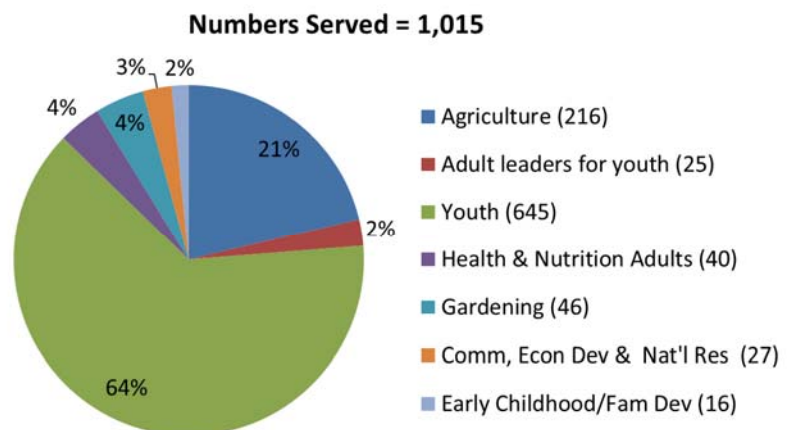
## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partners with Missaukee County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education where Missaukee County residents need it most.



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.

Shari Spoelman, District Director



# Program Highlights

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Early needle loss caused by brown spot needle blight shows up on infected Scotch pine in the fall before harvest making Christmas trees unsalable.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

“What’s wrong with my tree?” is the most common question MSU Extension receives from Christmas tree growers. With the value of Christmas trees being determined by tree appearance, anything that affects foliage quality and tree form can reduce the salability of the tree. MSU Extension is able to help diagnose tree problems and provides the most current information on soil nutrition, pest management and other production concerns through on farm consultations, educational programs and research.



A series of community classes offered at the Falmouth Youth Show to increase knowledge and showmanship skills included the “4-H Incubation Station.”

## 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. In addition to offering the typical club-format, Missaukee 4-H offered a series of free community classes for fair exhibitors. Hands-on sessions helped increase knowledge, showmanship skills and profitability of market projects while focusing on entrepreneurial skills and practices to keep youth and animals safe and healthy. In 2018 Missaukee County had 15 4-H clubs with 25 adult volunteers. The total number of youth served in Missaukee county was 645. Four new clubs were formed, featuring sewing, arts & crafts, leadership/community service and shooting sports project areas.



One of the many plant disease samples brought into the Extension office for identification.

## GARDENING & CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

Homeowners often have insect infestations or plant diseases that they are unfamiliar with and need help addressing. MSU Extension provides soil testing, plant and insect identification, disease identification and treatment, Smart Gardening resources, and a toll-free Lawn and Garden hotline. Missaukee County MSU Extension office assists many customers with basic home gardening concerns.

# Program Highlights

## DAIRY

The MSU Extension dairy team provides educational programs that enhance dairy farm management. One program held in 2018 focused on making more money from the milking parlor. Participants learned about the importance of training employees to follow a consistent milking routine, low-stress handling of cows and overall efficiency in the milking parlor. Based on knowledge gained at the meeting, farm managers and employees planned to make changes that would improve milk quality, cow health and profitability.



Following a consistent milking routine enhances efficient parlor management and milk quality.

## NUTRITION EDUCATION

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides basic nutrition education and hands-on activities for all ages. "Jump Into Foods and Fitness" includes physical activity and nutrition for elementary children. Teens participated in "Teen Cuisine", a hands-on cooking class that teaches basic skills, safety and confidence for managing their own kitchens. It is estimated that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term health costs.



Taste testing fruits and vegetables during a "My Plate" presentation at the library was an enjoyable experience.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Parents and caregivers are the very first to have influence on a child's development. Early childhood education equips parents and caregivers with the tools and knowledge necessary to become their child's best advocate. Educational workshops are available in a variety of formats and include hands-on activities. Training hours are available for licensed childcare providers and topics include positive discipline, play, school readiness, literacy, and resilience.



Many trainings are held to spread new ideas and knowledge including the Power of Puppets.

# Engaging Future Leaders



Preparing youth for the workforce and leadership opportunities is an important economic development tool for any community.

MSU Extension is helping to make a difference in Missaukee County by helping shape our future workforce.

## Highlights of MSU Extension actions taken in 2018:

Mock It, Then Rock It was a new program for Wexford and Missaukee counties in 2018. MSU Extension, together with Baker College, Chamber of Commerce, United Way, YMCA, Michigan Works!, area school representatives and community volunteers, provided an opportunity for area youth to practice their interviewing skills and have resumes critiqued. This job preparation event is an excellent way for the students of Wexford and Missaukee county high schools to prepare for employment and practice their interview skills.



**Mock It Then Rock It** offers students the opportunity to practice interview skills and network with the business community. Students are expected to bring a completed resume, job application or portfolio, and dress appropriately for an interview. Students receive individual feedback from volunteers. This helps them become more prepared for job-

seeking as a result of this experience. In addition, students select from several breakout sessions to learn more about applying for colleges, seeking financial aid, developing effective resumes, dressing for success, and more. In 2018 three hundred youth participated in this event at Baker College.

### 2018 Mock Interview Day

# Mock It Then Rock It

February 23, 2018

**BAKER COLLEGE OF CADILLAC**  
9600 E 13th St, Cadillac, MI 49601

**Be Prepared To:**

- Participate in a professional interview
- Be professionally dressed
- Bring a resume & cover letter
- Take part in mini-workshops
- Tour the Baker College Campus

**Event Time 8AM TO 12PM**

**All 11th & 12th Grade Students Are Welcome**

For more information see your school counselor or principal

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**

### 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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