

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

149 E. Corunna Ave., Corunna MI 48817 | 989-743-2251

- Nola Auernhamer, District 9 HNI Supervisor
- Joe Hammontree, HNI CNI and Volunteer Engagement Liaison
- Tara Hovis, Food Safety Educator
- Betty Jo Krosnicki, 4-H Supervising Educator
- Mark Rankin, District 9 Director
- Candis Thick, HNI CNI
- Martina Valdez, Support Staff, Office Manager
- Alexis Wheeler, 4-H Program Coordinator



Message from the District Director, Mark Rankin

Our mission is to help people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge and resources of Michigan State University directly to individual communities and businesses. We offer a variety of programs and services to make a positive impact with the residents we serve. On behalf of MSU Extension staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

MI Spartan Impact



\$31,212,591 total economic impact



230 MSU Students enrolled from Shiawassee County



\$1,393,800 spending with local businesses



426 MSU Staff/Faculty from Shiawassee County



\$4,365,432 financial aid disbursed



2,393 MSU Alumni (bachelor and graduate degree) from Shiawassee County

Overall Impact



9,342 direct connections with county residents through programming. **1,013** residents participating in health and nutrition programs alone.



9 Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites received PSE education, resulting in **10** program changes within the county and **582** people impacted.



334 participants in community, food, and environment programs from the county



288 participants in agriculture and agribusiness programs from the county



470 virtual programs related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses.



10 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members of.



1,814 of youth participants in 4-H programs, **387** 4-H club members in **45** clubs.



333 total 4-H volunteers, **7,992** total of volunteer hours, a total value of **\$199,800**.



In 2024, this county had **13** customers with **48** employees served by the product center. This created an additional **\$1,845,430.00** in annual sales brought to the county. **3** of these business were female owned.



251,284 contacts through social media, e-newsletters, web activity, and handouts in the county.



In 2024, our office fielded **10,950** emails, **2,500** phone calls, **1,250** walk in customers, **39** Ask Extension referrals, and **991** customer sales including, soil tests, pesticide manuals, ServSafe® tests and books.

Agriculture and Agribusiness in Shiawassee County

Pesticide Core Review presentations and MDARD Testing

In 2024, in-person Pesticide Core Review Educational sessions returned with MDARD Testing. Our District 9 agriculture educators Teresa Crook and Salta Mambetova provided review and training for **150** producers, agribusinesses, mosquito abatement and others needing a restricted use pesticide (RUP) license. Participants need the base test and continuing education credits to renew their license every three years. Much of our educational programs have RUP continuing education credits. We were pleased to have the Caledonia Township Hall back as an education sight.

Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardner Programs

Our District 9 Consumer Horticulture Educator/Master Gardener Coordinator Barslund Judd held some great programs with local partners working on a variety of gardening projects at DeVries Nature Conservancy, I-69W Woodbury Rest Area and St. Isadore Church Gardens. Volunteers also provided an outreach effort at the Michigan Honey Festival at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds. In addition, Barslund had Extension Master Gardeners from Shiawassee County attend the Diagnostic Responder training in Lansing.

Community Collaborative Highlight

The Shiawassee County SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education program has partnered with local agencies to form the Shiawassee County Food Access Committee, aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting healthier food access. The initiative focuses on three key goals that are making a positive impact on the community. First, the committee works to educate the public about food accessibility, the proper use of food benefits, and reducing the stigma around food insecurity. This creates a more supportive environment for those in need. Second, the committee is building a coordinated food distribution and access network, including regionally produced commodities, healthy food options and the ability for participants to choose their food. This network ensures affordable, culturally appropriate food and emergency access 24/7, 365 days a year. Lastly, the committee promotes healthy eating by expanding household and community gardening and offering education on cooking nutritious meals. These efforts empower individuals to make healthier choices.

Meeting monthly, the committee has formed partnerships with food pantries, police departments, transportation services and other agencies supporting those experiencing food insecurity. The Shiawassee County Food Access Committee is working together to ensure everyone in the community has access to the resources they need for a healthier future.



New 4-H Program Coordinator

Alexis Wheeler is the new 4-H program coordinator in Shiawassee County. Starting in late September, she's had the opportunity to meet with many of our dedicated volunteers and welcome even more to the program. Wheeler has attended various club and committee meetings and is excited to help grow and support our 4-H community. Looking ahead, she's working on launching some exciting programs and is eager to build partnerships within the community to expand opportunities for our youth.

New Food Safety Educator

Tara Hovis is our new food safety educator covering Shiawassee, Genesee, Saginaw, Bay and Midland Counties.



Tara works with local partners to provide educational sessions to the community on a variety of topics regarding foodborne illness prevention, including food preservation, cottage food law, ServSafe®, safe food pantries, emergency preparedness and more.

In 2024, over **15 programs** focusing on food preservation were offered in the Great Lakes Bay region, including three 3-class series on Back to Basics of Food Preservation. Over **60 participants** were hosted at local libraries and farmers markets. This series is an introduction to water bath and pressure canning, freezing and dehydrating.

ServSafe® Manager Certification Training was offered in multiple locations throughout the region. ServSafe® is a nationally recognized program that teaches food services workers how to prevent foodborne illnesses through topics such as cleaning and sanitizing, proper cooking temperatures, pest control and hygiene. Over **35 people were certified in eight trainings in 2024.**

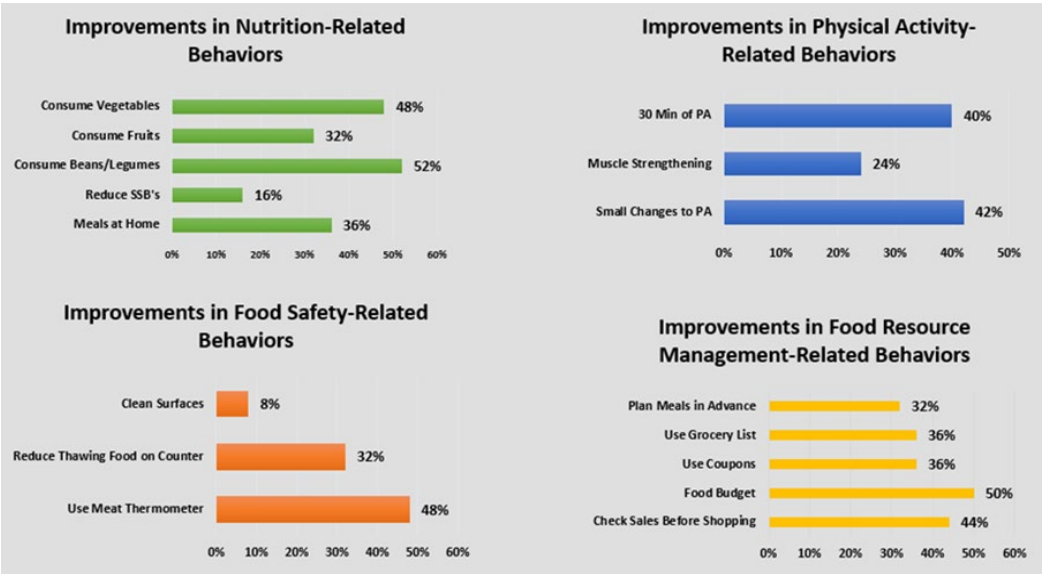
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education in Shiawassee County (2024)

In 2024, the Shiawassee County SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education program made a lasting impact on the community, reaching a total of **868 participants**, including **233 adults and 635 youth**. Through a variety of educational methods—ranging from one-time presentations to in-depth program series and policy, systems and environmental coaching—the program empowered individuals to make healthier choices and adopt life-changing habits.

The program’s success was measured through pre- and post-test surveys and teacher observation forms, providing valuable insights into participants’ progress. These evaluations highlighted the significant positive changes in both adults and youth, as many embraced new, healthy behaviors and transformed their lifestyles.

Thanks to the SNAP-Ed program, individuals in Shiawassee County are not only learning about nutrition and physical activity but actively applying their knowledge to improve their well-being. This is a testament to the program's ability to inspire lasting change, creating healthier communities for today and the future.

Adult Programming Key Outcomes:



Youth Programming Key Outcomes:

- 100% of teachers observed students identifying healthy foods and trying new foods
- 86% of teachers observed increased physical activity
- 81% of teachers observed students eating more fruits and vegetables

Policy, Systems & Environmental Program Outcomes:

- 582 youth and adults influenced by 10 nutrition and physical activity changes
- Changes included strategies to decrease screen time, professional development for physical activity, and access to local garden produce



Figure 1

Figure 4



Figure 1: Shiawassee Staff at the Shiawassee Counsel On Aging Senior Picnic

Figure 2: Health and Nutrition staff member Joe Hammontree demonstrating the 4-H Blow Up Archery Activity to seniors.



Figure 2

Figure 5



Figure 3: Health and Nutrition staff member Candy Thick, with Bryant Elementary students displaying their pizza garden project.

Figure 4: Youth Campers and Counselors working on crafts at the 4-H Overnight Camp

Figure 5: 4-H Adult Volunteers on a golf cart used for getting around camp



Figure 3

Figure 6

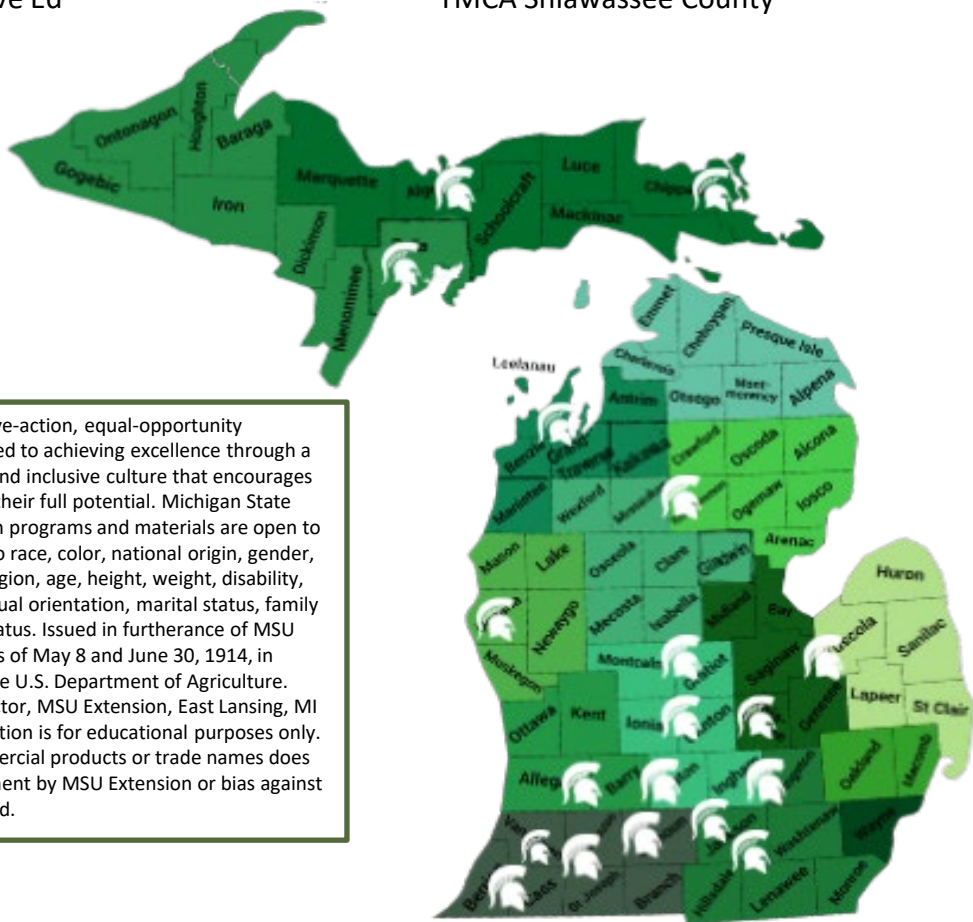


Figure 6: Camp counselor and youth patiently waiting for their turn at the archery station at Camp Neyati.

Shiawassee-MSU Extension is thankful for the opportunity to work with all of our local partners:

ARC Mid-Michigan
Bancroft Community District Library
Bertha Neal Elementary School
Bryant Elementary School
Capital Area Community Service
Central Elementary school
Corunna Community District Library
Coram Deo Homeschool Program
Cross Pointe Day Care
DeVries Nature Conservancy
Durand High School
Durand Senior Center
Leonard Elementary School
Lincoln Alternative Ed

Memorial Healthcare
Morrice Elementary School
Morrice Senior Center
New Directions Drop-In Center
Owosso Senior Center
Perry Community District Library
Roosevelt Elementary School
Shiawassee County Ag Society
Shiawassee County Fair
Shiawassee County Health Department
Shiawassee Health and Wellness
Shiawassee RESD Student Learning Center West
St. Isadore Church
YMCA Shiawassee County



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