



Gladwin County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



Over 1,500 Gladwin County adults and youth participated in MSU Extension programs



Over 800 youth participated in 4-H and other youth enrichment programs



More than 580 residents participated in health, wellness and nutrition programs



Master Gardeners received almost 500 education hours and they contributed 872 volunteer hours



Over 300 residents participated in agriculture and gardening programs and services



5 Extension professionals based in Gladwin County



MSU disbursed more than \$180,300 in financial aid for Gladwin County students



MSU spent more than \$33,700 with local businesses

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

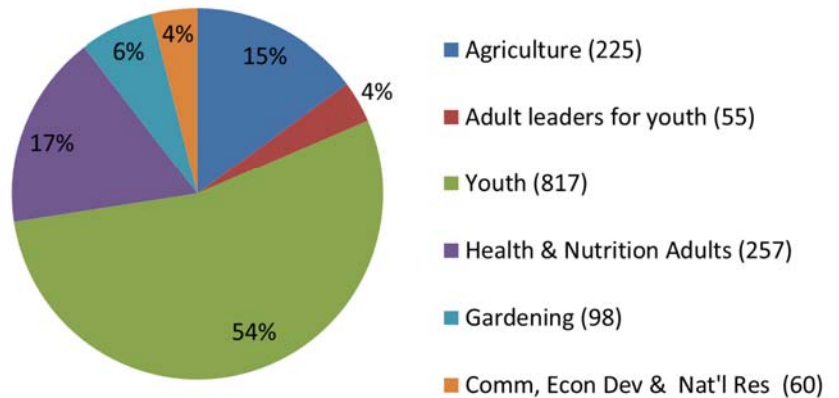
Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partners with Gladwin County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education where Gladwin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



We're passionate about serving Gladwin 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

Numbers Served = 1,512



Program Highlights



Budgeting classes help residents understand their limited resources and provide skills to help plan for homeownership.



Katie Breault shows Emily Heyer how to shear in the 4-H Teen Leader "Sheep Shearing" Workshop



Indian Pipe



Red Velvet Mite

Two of the many plants and insects that were brought in to the office for identification.

FINANCE & HOMEOWNERSHIP

MSU Extension's team of knowledgeable financial pros demystify common money and homeownership best practices with university-backed, research-based programs and resources to help Michigan residents navigate through whatever fiscal challenges life throws their way. In 2018, the team provided money management education, foreclosure triage, education counseling and Step-Forward Michigan assistance in Gladwin County.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. Connected at the national level, MSU's program promotes the traditional 4-H clubs and fair projects, as well as many other leadership and life-skills development opportunities for youth. 4-H provides experiential learning opportunities that allow youth to explore new interests and discover their passion. In 2018 there were 11 4-H clubs in Gladwin County serving 228 youth with 55 adult volunteers. The total number of youth served in Gladwin county was 817.

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. The Gladwin County MSU Extension office is fortunate to have a Master Gardener on staff that assists many customers with basic home gardening concerns.

Program Highlights

AGRICULTURE

During the past year in Gladwin County, MSU Extension provided farm support and education through individual consultations, workshops, field tours, and research opportunities. Topics included beef production, quality assurance, forages, cover crops, soil health, farm financial management, bull breeding readiness, and farm stress. MSU Extension staff members also provide support for the annual Mid Michigan Farm and Garden Show in the spring. This popular event is always well attended and adds to the economy of the region.



Extension Educator Kable Thurlow speaking to a crowd about grass-fed beef.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides basic nutrition education and hands-on activities for all ages. Core curricula are designed to help low-income families stretch their food dollars while maintaining good nutrition. Some instruction includes physical activity and cooking techniques that help instill life-long skills. It is estimated that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term health costs.



Beaverton preschoolers trying new foods in the "Show Me Nutrition" series.

FOOD SAFETY & HOME FOOD PRESERVATION

Providing assistance to help residents and businesses keep food safe is a hallmark of cooperative extension services across the country. In Gladwin County we provided ServSafe education for restaurant staff, home food preservation (canning, freezing and drying,) teen "chopped" cooking challenge, and pressure canner gauge testing.



Learning to can using up-to-date safe methods reduces the risk of food-borne illnesses.

Engaging Future Leaders



Youth Leadership Members learning about the Judicial System

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 Gladwin County.

Mock Interview Day

In March each year, MSU Extension and community partners provide a “Mock Interview Day” for students 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 on their resume and interview. They become more prepared for job-seeking as a result of this experience. Gladwin and Beaverton high school seniors attended the 2018 Mock Interview Day at Mid Michigan College in Mt. Pleasant. Over 350 students participated from 3 counties, with over 75 volunteer community business representatives. There were sessions available for students to learn more about dress attire, budgeting and additional interview skills.



Professional volunteers ask questions of high school students as part of Mock Interview Day

Gladwin County Youth Leadership

The Gladwin County youth leadership program finished its 7th year, reaching 69 high school students from both Beaverton and Gladwin High Schools. The 5 month program begins in January each year where students learn about each other and participate in a Real Colors personality profile and educational session by MSU Extension. In Real Colors, youth learn about their prominent personality traits and how they can best work with others in committees, advisory boards, and leadership opportunities. Throughout the leadership program, youth learn about law enforcement and the courts. The prosecuting attorney and the district judge give a presentation. The former circuit court Judge Kurt Hansen does role playing with the youth in the courtroom with a mock trial. The youth get a tour of the jail and the 911 center. Additional events include a county tour with stops in the business sector, a farm stop, a visit with a township board and the historical museum. The youth attend the Beaverton National Honor Society leadership day and complete a leadership assignment. In May, the youth have the chance to go to CMU and visit with their Leadership Institute, view campus and try out the challenge wall in Finch Fieldhouse. Counselors from both schools help with the selection of students.

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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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