

KALKASKA COUNTY 2021–2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credit: James Walsh



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Kalkaska County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses, and communities.

MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational outreach to county residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. We continue to innovate post-pandemic by providing our outreach online, asynchronous, hybrid as well as in-person formats. These options have increased accessibility to Michigan State University resources by your residents. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Kalkaska County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs. - Jennifer Berkey, District 3 Director

Helping people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.





DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES

2022 Kalkaska County Fair



2022 Kalkaska County Fair impacts:
59 Youth
65 Animals
\$94,449.01 Auction Sales
\$1,913.10 Donated back to our 4-H program

2022 Kalkaska County 4-H Archery



4-H Enrolled youth
134
Adult Volunteers
19



• **4-H Archery Club:** Kalkaska County youth participated in a 4-H Archery program at the Evergreen Baptist Church with our lead instructor Ray Farrier and volunteers. 30 youth participated in this at-capacity event this past fall. Youth learned how to handle bow/arrows, how to follow range rules and safe archery practices. Additional thanks to Farrier Surveying and Dean and Connie Farrier for their help. Without their help, this program would not be possible.

• 2022 Kalkaska County Fair:

Kalkaska County Fair 2022 was a team effort with 4-H leaders, council members, staff, and parents all working hard to provide a supportive and learning environment for our Kalkaska 4-H youth. Youth worked hard on their livestock projects and their efforts paid off. They learned valuable business skills to on how to market and sell their livestock projects all during an inflationary market. A MDARD regulatory veterinarian inspected the Fair and shared that all the animals were well taken care of! Thanks to the Kalkaska County Sheriff's

office for providing donuts to the youth at this year's Cops and Donuts event. Meeting our local law enforcement and enjoying a donut treat is something that all our 4-H'ers look forward to!

• Livestock Learning All-Year Round:

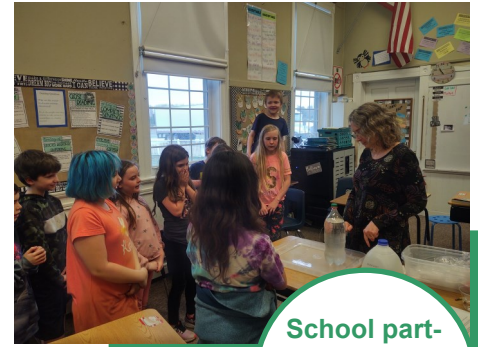
Kalkaska County 4-Her's were able to participate in many different learning opportunities to improve their knowledge and proficiency with their livestock projects. These educational sessions satisfied their annual learning requirements as well as set them up for success at Fair. Youth had a chance to participate in a fitting clinic, goat showmanship clinic and an animal record book workshop.



DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES



**2021 4-H
Fall Soccer
Season**



**School part-
nerships-
Crawford
Schools**



**Welcome
Joe Kreider!
Kalkaska County 4-H
Program Coordinator**

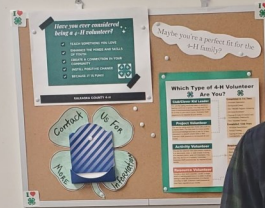
• Fall 2021 Soccer

This fall, MSU Extension worked with Kalkaska Area Youth Soccer Association (KAYSO) to provide a youth soccer program for Kalkaska County. 30 youth participated with three age groups. The children learned basic soccer skills, sportsmanship and had a lot of fun! Looking forward to offering this again in Fall of 2022.

• New 4-H Program Coordinator– Joe Kreider!

Joe comes to us with a background in special education and having previously served as the site coordinator for SEEDS Ecology and Education Centers. He brings experience in diverse, creative programming for youth like maple syrup education. He is quite familiar with the hands-on education approach, and we are excited for him to be a part of MSU Extension and Kalkaska County 4-H.

KALKASKA COUNTY 4-H





KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD

246

2nd, 4th, and 5th graders attended six weeks of nutrition classes!



Cooking Matters Cookoff!

SNAP-Ed Works!



- **Show Me Nutrition at Cherry Street Intermediate and Birch Street Elementary:** Youth learned about the five food groups, food's function for the body, digestion and the importance of movement. Youth became master food tasters at the end of each lesson by sampling foods related to the lesson of the day. Some of these foods may have been familiar but many of them were new to students. They used their senses to identify textures, unique flavors, likes and dislikes in a nonjudgmental environment to build a healthy, adventurous relationship with food!

- **Cooking for One– Kalkaska Commission on Aging:** Eight Kalkaska seniors returned to the Commission on Aging Building for a fan favorite: Cooking for One. People in all stages of life love coming to this class because it is so much fun and it teaches how to cook for just one or two people. In this six-week series, participants learn how to plan, shop, and cook for a smaller household. They learn tips and tricks for grocery shopping that help them prevent food waste and save money.

- **Teen Cuisine– Kalkaska High School Health Class:** Over the course of six weeks and 12 lessons, students learned how to identify foods that fit their needs and taste preferences, keep food safe, follow and adjust recipes, and how to prepare nutritious, low-cost meals for themselves. By the end of the series, students will have had exposure to knife skills, stove-top use, and oven use.

Community in Schools of Northwest Michigan: Community in Schools of Northwest Michigan (CISNWM) has become a great partner over the last few years. Community Nutrition Instructor Lanae Bump taught the six-week Cooking Matters series at Kalkaska Middle School for CISNWM's afterschool programs. 10 students learned knife skills, had exposure to different methods of cooking and recipes, tasted foods that they were able to make for themselves, then took home ingredients needed to make the same recipes for their families. As a part of the SNAP-Ed grant, nutrition instructors strive to make lasting changes through policy, systems, and or environmental changes in addition to direct education so that healthy choices are feasible options for all



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD

Cooking Matters Classes

“This class was so popular that we were able to extend these classes to parents in the evening!”

Kalkaska Public Schools as of August 2022, received \$21,173 in funding due to MSU Extension partnerships



CHOCOLATE MILK

Nature's Sports Drink Grant



37 athletes were impacted by Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink program

MILK MEANS MORE

United Dairy Industry of Michigan

community members. Through work with the school and outside contractors, we were able to change the environment of a preschool room that is housed in Kalkaska Middle School by fixing sinks for running water! We also were able to get equipment like hot plates and toaster ovens, so students were able to try multiple methods of cooking. 18 preschoolers, multiple teachers and our cooking group all benefited from this change! That means over 30 people were directly impacted by this change! Because of these efforts, we were even able to hold a Cooking Matters Cookoff this year with a judging panel and a pier audience. Students made Fruit Tarts and were judged for creativity, taste, and presentation. The results were memorable, and the competition increased awareness and interest in the program.

Pantry Improvements with MSU Extension

Guidance :This year, CISNWM consulted with Community Nutrition Instructor Lanae Bump to evaluate the food quality of food purchased in the student pantry at the Middle School. The pantry offers shelf stable items only. The request was to create a list of shelf stable items for the pantry that were nutritious and

affordable. It was a small ask that created big change. This pantry is open to the entire school of over 300 students plus staff!

The Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink Program:

Provided by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, encourages athletes to choose chocolate milk after grueling practices and games as it contains nine essential nutrients needed for overall health. MSU Extension works closely with Kalkaska Public School's athletic teams to help student athletes reach peak performance by staying hydrated with chocolate milk. By partnering with MSU Extension, sports teams receive funding to purchase chocolate milk for their student athletes. Over the last year, Kalkaska Public School teams who have received this grant include boys' soccer and boys' varsity basketball.



SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Partnerships & Outreach

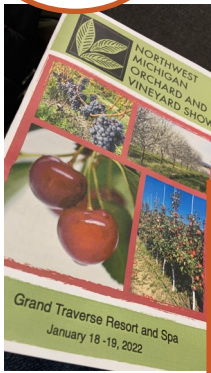
Fruit Crop Research

Profitable & Efficient Business & Production Practices



2021 Product Center Impacts in Kalkaska County

1 Client
3 Counseling Sessions
1 New Business Start Up



GRAND TRAVERSE FRUIT GROWERS COUNCIL
Traverse City, Michigan

Northwest MI Orchard & Vineyard Show

Orchards & Vineyards

• The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC) has been partnering with the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council for over 62 years to host the annual Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show. This show is the northwest region of Michigan's premiere educational event and trade show for tree fruit and wine grape growers. Each year, these partners convene at the Grand Traverse Resort in mid-January for a two-day outreach program that provides cutting-edge information and research about tree fruit and wine grapes to Michigan fruit producers. Topics vary yearly based on grower need and seasonal challenges. Educators rely on Fruit Council membership to communicate with regional growers and share experiences on their own farms to best develop and organize a relevant and timely educational program. The Fruit Council membership solicits statewide agribusiness vendors to populate the biggest agricultural trade show in the region. These business partners support the annual Orchard and Vineyard Show but also provide the latest information on equipment, supplies, materials, and regulatory updates that growers rely on to manage their farms efficiently and effectively.

• The Fruit Council has sponsored many research projects throughout the years, many of which would not have been possible without this local support. Proceeds from the last two Orchard and Vineyard Shows were dedicated to the NWMHRC in support of a laboratory expansion. Although this project was put on hold during the pandemic, we broke ground on this new lab in February 2022. With the commitment of the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council and other regional horticultural societies, these funds will be matched with other partners including the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission and MSU to complete this lab.

Home Horticulture

• A Master Gardener Training class was held in 2021, certifying 15 new Grand Traverse County Extension Master Gardeners. Other horticulture education programs included Composting and Biochar, Organic Pest Management for Vegetables, and Tree Fruits for Northern Michigan.



SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS



Business of Cheese Making



TelFarm

MSU Extension helped **14** area farms representing over **70** jobs and **\$11.5 million** in sales in 2021 complete analysis of their farm's financial records to improve their financial standing.

Year-end tax estimate meetings provided farmers with the opportunity to save over **\$95,000**, resulting in more resources being available for purchases by these farmers in their communities.

Agriculture Awareness & Farm Animal Care

Agriculture Labor Sessions



Farm Business Management

- MSU Extension Educator Stan Moore worked with multiple northern Michigan farmers to ensure a successful farm transfer to the next generation. Many of these farmers are using resources through the "Legacy of the Land" farm stress project, funded by both MDARD (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) and federal grant dollars.
- 12 individuals completed the Artisan Cheese class in 2021, including several northern Michigan farms. Stan provided education on the business of cheese making. Individuals who have completed this class are moving forward with new cheese-making enterprises on their farms.
- Stan Moore served as one of the educators for MSU's Hay Production 101 on-line program. 46 out of 60 respondents indicated that they improved their knowledge as part of this program, and 50 out of 60 indicated that they intended to make changes based on their involvement in the course.
- Over 190 individuals attended one of two Agriculture Labor sessions, coordinated by Stan Moore, at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo held December 2021. Stan also provided multiple labor education meetings to

farmers, including two virtual presentations, and two out of state programs for dairy farmers and fruit/vegetable farmers. These out of state meetings attracted over 700 farmers including some from northern Michigan.

- Over 100 elementary school students attended an agriculture awareness session provided by Stan Moore through a summer program provided by Traverse City Heights Elementary School in July of 2021. Students learned about the importance of agriculture in northern Michigan and how farmers care for their farm animals.
- Stan Moore hosts a monthly "TelFarm User's Group" during the winter months. In 2021, five sessions were held with an average of six-seven MSU TelFarm program farmers. These sessions provide an opportunity for farmers to build the agenda, hear from the experts, and learn from one another. Although this is offered statewide, most participants have been from northern Michigan.



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

ARPA workshop series: Over **750** participants from many of Michigan's nearly **1,900** units of government.



Northern MI Counties Association



Government & Public Policy

- County delegates to Northern Michigan Counties Association celebrated their return to in-person meetings in 2021 with great participation and decided to try hybrid meetings for 2022. Participants share lessons learned in their counties, learn about topics currently impacting county government, and discuss the impacts of pending legislation on county government.
- A series of meetings from late 2021 through early 2022 explored both House and Senate bills aimed at solving problems with provision of Community Mental Health services. The goal of these discussions is to learn more about what is in the bills and to propose improvements to ensure higher quality services with less negative impact on counties.
- In September-October 2021, member regions of the Michigan Association of Regions (MAR) and MSU Extension hosted local and tribal government officials to explore American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spending opportunities in a regional context. The workshop content was based on the U.S. Department of Treasury's May 17, 2021 Interim Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The 14 workshops, including an in-person in Traverse

City, covered:

- ~ ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Basic Rules
- ~ Best Practices & Early Examples of ARPA Spending
- ~ Practical Considerations for Contracts, Accounting, and Project Management
- ~ Group Discussions Related to Regional Collaboration
- ~ Leveraging Other State & Federal Funding and Priorities

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