

LENAWEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Message from the District Director

Thank you for another great programming year of partnership between Lenawee 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. Our programs reach all audiences and age groups. From youth learning essential life skills and farmers exploring ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness, to older adults being able to access healthier foods and local communities discovering ways to increase economic impact.

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. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

The following pages highlight just some of the programming that staff delivered to Lenawee County residents in 2024. We continue to provide our programs in a variety of spaces and delivery methods that are convenient for our participants to engage in and access. Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving the 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.



1,126 of 4-H enrolled youth



318 Volunteers



4,804 participants from Lenawee attending MSU Extension programs

Overall Impact



16 community coalitions within the county with member who are MSU Extension employees



6 Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the county



4,804 participants from Lenawee attending MSU Extension programs



7 policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites



473 programs (across the state) attended by participants from this county



2,775 Children and Youth Institute Program Participants



155 client consultations in the county.



402,757 county contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts



4,330 MI Stronger Family Online Participants Statewide



1,542 Health & Nutrition Program participants



38 Ask Extension questions answered in county

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



67,320 participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan



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



175 Programs hosted in the county



\$246.5 Billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy



338,074 E-Newsletter and handouts passed out county wide



305 participants in county agriculture programs

MSU Extension Product Center

The Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Product Center helps Michigan entrepreneurs start food and beverage businesses.

Services offered:

- **Business planning:** Writing business plans, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and developing marketing and pricing strategies
- **Product development:** Helping with packaging, labeling, and nutritional analysis
- **Marketing:** Helping with branding, distribution, and access to retailers
- **Licensing and regulation:** Helping with licensing and regulatory requirements
- **Product testing:** Working with the MSU Food Science and Packaging departments

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/productcenter/index>



10 Lenawee County companies assisted



Capitol Experience

I never knew how big of an impact “us” as young kids made in the capitol. Something that changed my thinking was going around and speaking with proper legislators and senators with experience. I can teach people about government and have effective conversations.

I will use the communication skills, research and speaking I learned here to continue to network and push for what I believe in while understanding where others are coming from and to advocate for other youth to use their voice.

Cooking Matters for Parents

MSUE strives to make accommodations for all, including visually impaired, "it was very helpful with my disability. You gave me a job each week that I was able to do and felt like I was a full participant in the class, often times I'm just sitting while everyone else does the work in group settings like these. Sending the recipes out before class so she could review them at home with her technology assistance prior to class and allowing the friend to join was a big help".





1136 youth 4-H enrollments



4,436 total youth participants



11,239 hours of 4-H volunteer time



318 total volunteers



1,406 nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county.



134 people participating in Food Safety programs including ServSafe

Fair Accommodations

Although we have always made accommodations for individuals while exhibiting, this year we hired a judge that specialized in interviewing individuals that would need or want accommodation while interviewing with their static projects. This allowed self-identified youth a relaxing area and time to share their learning and pride in their projects. In addition, we had parents request assistance for their youth showing livestock. Comments from parents: “As an advocate for children with special needs community, I am so pleased to hear of your addition of judging accommodations. Thank you very much, you calmed my worries as a parent as well.”



Three's Not a Crowd in Lenawee Co Project Red

In 2024, the partnership of LISD, MSU Extension and Farm Bureau successfully reached every 4th-grade classroom in Lenawee County, engaging 1,045 students. Over two days, students attended four hands-on educational stations, each lasting 1.5 hours.

Sessions Offered:

R Group: Small Animals, Horse Care, Horticulture, Hearing Protection.

E Group: Fire Safety, Ag Commodities, Bees & Pollinators, Beef, Sheep & Swine.

D Group: Sheep Shearing, Dairy Production, Drones, Watershed/Wetlands.

Health and Nutrition School Program

There was something special going on in room 9 at Michener Elementary School this fall. Every Monday and Friday, classrooms of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students would file into the room where only tables were arranged with pencils and workbooks.

"Welcome friends! Quickly find your spot, please, and get ready for our high-speed handwashing. We have much to do today!" exclaimed the Michigan State University Extension Community Nutrition Instructor. After all hands were scrubbed, the next instruction came. "Table A - I invite you to practice MISE EN PLACE. Please come to the supply table and collect the supplies and ingredients for today's recipe." It was at this point that a quiet 3rd grade girl asked to share something. "I told my family all about *mise en place*. Now my grandma says I am to help her with our Thanksgiving meal." When asked how she felt about that, she explained, "I feel really excited! I never get to cook at home, but now they say I know more about cooking, and they are proud of me." It is a special opportunity to witness another's growth and achievement in building life skills. It is even more remarkable to witness the development of another's self esteem and place of value in a family. We can only hope that this student's journey with food continues to create a healthy and fulfilled life for her and her family.



Senior
Project FRESH
Market Fresh Food

Senior participants receive \$25 in coupons to use at participating farmers markets and vendors. One participant remarked that he usually runs out of grocery money by the middle of the month and thanks to this program he would now be able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for the entire month.

County Partnerships



- Adrian City Market
- Adrian Head Start
- Adrian Senior Center
- Alexander Schools
- Britton-Deerfield Schools
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program
- Community Mental Health
- Countryside Veterinary Service
- Goodwill
- Grow Jackson
- Horticultural Advisory Board
- Hudson Schools
- Kapnick Orchards
- Lenawee Comm. Foundation
- Lenawee County Fair
- Lenawee County Farm Bureau
- Lenawee County Library
- Lenawee Great Start
- Lenawee Great Start Collaborative
- Lenawee Voice
- LISD Tech Center
- MI Assoc, of Fairs
- Michener School
- Morenci Schools
- ProMedica
- Tecumseh Library

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners newsletter.



Lenawee County Staff

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MSU Extension Resources

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more! **Ask Extension:** www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert

Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882 Hours M/W/F, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

Lawn and Garden Hotline: 888-678-3464 Hours: M,W,F 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Year-round)

Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.

MSU Extension Bookstore <https://shop.msu.edu/collections/msu-extension-bookstore>

Look for bulletins, publications and MSU Extension products at the Bookstore!

Hidden Lake Gardens <https://ipf.msu.edu/hidden-lake-gardens>



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