

LUCE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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- Brianna Beaulieu, Community Nutrition Instructor
- Ashley Freed, 4-H Program Coordinator
- Anna Jewell, HealthCorps



Message from the District Director



MSU Extension continues to make a lasting impact across Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette and Schoolcraft Counties. In 2024, we provided critical support to farmers, engaged over 1,500 youth in 4-H, and delivered nutrition education to more than 1,000 residents. We expanded leadership training for local officials, helped small businesses thrive, and partnered on conservation efforts to protect our natural resources.

This year, we also secured new office space in Mackinac County, strengthening our ability to serve the region. Our success is made possible through dedicated staff, volunteers and community partnerships. Thank you for your support—we look forward to another year of growth and impact!

Erin Daines
District 2 Director

Impact



6 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members



6 answered Ask Extension questions



650 participants from the county attended programs.



70 volunteers serving in the county, with 66 of those being 4-H volunteers



187 youth enrolled in 4-H

Overall Impact



6 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members



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



650 participants from the county attending programs.



14 client consultations



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



29,264,562 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts. (STATEWIDE)

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.



8 participants in county agriculture programs, 2 commercial soil tests processed.



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

Overall Community Impact



17 community partnerships within the county which MSU Extension employees are members.



8 participants in Agriculture Agri-Business Institute programs from the county.



22 programs hosted in the county, 547 participants attending these programs.



447 participants in Children and Youth Institute programs from the county.



36 participants in community, food and environmental programs from the county.



160 participants in health and nutrition programs from the county.



425 youth participants and 66 volunteers in 4-H programs from the county.



42,524 E-newsletters, handouts and social media

Tahquamenon Area School 10th and 11th Grade – Teen Mental First Aid



MSU Extension Educator Brian Wibby, along with 4-H Program Coordinator Ashley Freed, taught **six sessions of Teen Mental Health First Aid to Tahquamenon Area School 10th and 11th-graders. Just over 30 students participated** in the program and were awarded certificates for the same. MSU Extension was able to provide our local school community with this training and resources to help youth dealing with issues of anger, depression, substance use and other mental health challenges, thanks to the support of the STOP Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.



Luce County's Community Nutrition Instructor Brianna Beaulieu, assisted by Chippewa County's Cody McLaren, managed her first Senior Project Fresh dispersal utilizing the Luce County MSU Extension classroom and its technology. In this single session, 27 seniors were in attendance. Each attendee was given \$25 in vouchers for fresh Michigan-grown produce, lists of markets in the Upper Peninsula, lists of eligible items and a variety of food safety resources. These takeaways, coupled with the presentation, help the participants improve their overall health through proper nutrition on a budget.



Luce County was given 60 Senior Project Fresh coupon booklets in 2024. The goal for the educators was to distribute them all and have qualifying seniors who live in the county use them at Michigan Farmers Markets. With a lot of planning and teamwork, the educators ended up planning three distributions, with the first being in the classroom at Luce County MSU Extension. The planning paid off. Participants were actively involved in the discussion during the presentation. Cody assisted with paperwork completion and Brianna presented.

Public Health, Nutrition, and Youth Programming



187 members



142 nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county.



\$2,084.94 4-H volunteer hour value



160 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs.



133,306 total youth participants STATEWIDE



9,808 of people participating in Food Safety programs, including ServSafe®, STATEWIDE



12,861 of total volunteers STATEWIDE

Luce County Student Award:

After sitting through the 4-H State Awards ceremony at 2023 Expo Days event, Taliesan Cox, a Luce County youth, asked what it would take to apply. The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement.



4-H Program Coordinator Ashley Freed found more information about the application process to help Tali. The pair met to go over the process and talk about whether this was feasible for him to complete. He thought it over and made the decision that he was going to apply for the 2024 year.

Together they met several times to work on the packet. Ashley helped to brainstorm ideas and proofread. Tali would write. Ashley was also able to connect Tali with 4-H Program Coordinator, Kris, who has vast experience with the State Awards. Kris had a monthly Zoom check-in with her county youth who were applying and graciously let Ashley and Tali join them. She was able to provide valuable feedback to Tali on all areas of his application packet.



Tali then shared his packet with his English teacher and two 4-H leaders, who read through and gave advice on his work. Once his final edits were made, he submitted the packet. After much anticipation, waiting for the results – HE WON!

MSU Extension Exploration Days at MSU's campus:

In 2024, Ashley Freed had a recruitment initiative goal to increase the number of Luce County youth who attended 4-H Exploration Days to 29. Three more attendees than the year prior. This means more youth from the county who are learning about career and college opportunities after high school.

Freed started recruitment earlier than usual in hopes of reaching more youth and get the word out. First, she contacted former participants via email. Then she reached out to teachers at Tahquamenon Area Schools, focusing on Mrs Rathje's classrooms. She is a high school English teacher who teaches students in grades ninth-twelfth. The teacher was engaged and invited Ashley to speak to all of her grade levels. She followed up by reaching out to the 7th and 8th-grade teachers, which also resulted in a presentation.

Former participants who were in the class started speaking up and sharing their favorite parts of the event. Students gave an impromptu presentation about the program just by sitting in the class and offering testimony. They were excited about the program, so much so that they had to ask if Freed was there for Expo Days before she even began her talk.

43 youth were interested in attending, as a result of Freed's efforts. 20 of them joined the Expo Planning Club to help prep and plan for the event. As the event came closer, a handful of the youth had to cancel for a variety of reasons. Even with those who had to drop, Luce County still attended the event with 31 youth delegates. This was a record for Luce County. **Luce had the largest delegation in the U.P., and one of the top five largest delegations in the state!**





Teen Cooking Club



Outdoor Cooking Club



Consolidated Community School Services Programming



4-H Junior Bakers Club



4th Grade Art – Apple Community Education Initiative



3rd grade art – Apple Community Education Initiative

County Partnerships and Coalitions

Tahquamenon Area Schools
Newberry Area Ministerial Association
Tahquamenon Area Library
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Newberry Consolidated Community School Services
LMAS Health Department
Newberry Farmers Market
Community Action Agency Newberry
Sault Tribe Elders
Barker's Tiny Tots
Tahqua Journey Drop-In Center
Luce County Communities That Care
Luce County 4-H Leaders Council
Luce County Human Services Collaborative Board
Luce-West Mackinac Fair Board
Yoopers Youth



Anna Ellis
Extension Educator
Forestry & Natural Resources

Foraging for Wild Edibles

Anna Ellis delivered a class on foraging wild edible plants at the Tahquamenon Area Library. She gave in-depth descriptions of four different edible species, explained how to correctly identify them, and shared ground rules for how to forage safely and sustainably. She stayed after to answer questions. It was a well-received program, and they requested that she come back with more classes related to foraging. This class helps people protect their health, safety while making use of our natural resources in a sustainable way.



Left ostrich
fern

Right orange
daylily



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