



MACOMB COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Message from the District Director



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At MSU Extension, we turn research into practical solutions that strengthen individuals, families, and communities. In 2025, we helped residents build financial stability, improved community health outcomes, and expanded youth development opportunities through 4-H and other trusted programs.

None of this work would be possible without Macomb County’s leadership and investment. As a county-supported organization, MSU Extension leverages county funding alongside state and federal resources to deliver responsive, locally driven programs aligned with county priorities.

With a legacy of public service that predates the Cooperative Extension System, MSU Extension is proud to serve Macomb County. Together, we are building a stronger Michigan and a stronger Macomb County.

Impact



8,102 people reached through community events & fairs



243 answered Ask Extension questions



9,122 participants from Macomb County attended **904** programs



4,079 participants in health and nutrition classes



355 volunteers in Macomb County



\$1,192,688 volunteer hour value



4,163 youth reached through programming



358 Financial Education clients



4-H STEAM camp builds confidence, skills and career interest

Macomb County's three-day, 12-hour 4-H STEAM camp provided youth with engaging, hands-on experiences in photography, design, videography, music, coding, and robotics. Youth built friendships while collaborating on creative projects and solving real-world challenges together. This camp experience successfully fostered creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and enthusiasm for learning in a supportive, fun environment.

"I learned a lot about using different techniques on a device, and especially a lot about photography."

Christmas trees are real trees

This in-school program brought engaging, hands-on learning about Christmas trees to elementary classrooms across Macomb County just before winter break. Through community outreach on Facebook, visits were scheduled with seven schools, reaching 18 classrooms from kindergarten through fifth grade. Students enthusiastically learned about real Christmas trees, sparking curiosity about trees, nature, and holiday traditions—especially among children who had only experienced artificial trees. The program successfully inspired interest in agriculture and the natural world while building strong connections with local schools.



Growing healthy habits: 5th graders make healthy choices



Following nutrition education focused on MyPlate, 5th graders at Academy of Warren and Peck Elementary increased their ability to identify a wider variety of fruits and vegetables and apply this knowledge to everyday choices. Students demonstrated behavior change by selecting healthier snacks and consistently building balanced meals that included all food groups. The program also increased students' willingness to try new foods and strengthened their understanding of how healthy eating supports energy, focus, and overall well-being.



3,877 4-H youth participants



423 enrolled 4-H members



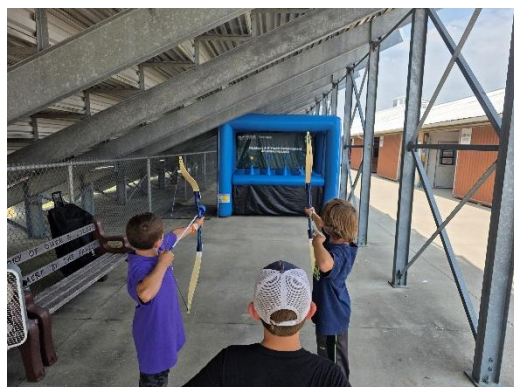
213 4-H adult volunteers



47 active clubs in Macomb County

4-H Archery sparks interest at the Armada Fair

The Armada Fair was the perfect venue for MSU Extension to host an archery class, giving youth a hands-on introduction to the sport and drawing curiosity from fairgoers of all ages. Set beneath the grandstand, the unique practice location added to the fair experience as youth focused on form, safety, and skill while learning how to shoot an arrow for the first time.



4-H Rebels Club host a fundraiser table at Tractor Supply Store

Paper Clover, a biannual national fundraiser, not only raises vital funds for Macomb County 4-H but also increases awareness of the program while building important life skills for youth. Club members prepared by creating a promotional poster, making rubber band bracelets, and practicing their greetings to customers, gaining confidence as the day progressed. The experience served as a fun and meaningful team-building opportunity.

“I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking, my **HEART** to greater loyalty, my **HANDS** to larger service, and my **HEALTH** to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.”

4-H Pledge

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention

MSU Extension's *Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention* program continues to make a meaningful impact on participants' physical and mental well-being. Participants shared improvements in balance, posture, flexibility, core strength, focus, stress management, and blood pressure, while also valuing the calming, enjoyable nature of the classes. Many expressed appreciation for the welcoming environment, strong sense of community, and the supportive and engaging instructional style. Feedback consistently highlights a desire for the program to continue, underscoring its importance to overall health and quality of life.



Key benefits noted by participants in 2025 included:

- Improved balance, flexibility, posture, and core strength
- Reduced stress and increased focus and relaxation
- Social connection and motivation through group participation

"I want to thank the MSU Extension programs for offering the Tai Chi classes for Arthritis and Falls Prevention. I love the classes and look forward to going each week! They have been so beneficial to me!"



"Thank you for this class, it reminded me of the power of family."

Adult Sibling Relationships During the Caregiving Journey

This program helps caregivers gain new insights into how sibling dynamics, birth order, and relationship types influence communication and shared decision-making during the caregiving journey. Additionally, the class fosters reflection, empathy, and practical tools to help siblings feel heard, valued, and connected when navigating complex family responsibilities.

Participant feedback includes increased understanding, reduced conflict, and renewed commitment to strengthening family relationships by applying strategies learned in this program.

In 2025, **161** Extension Master Gardener volunteers contributed over **9,000** hours to beautification projects in Macomb County.

Diagnostic Academy draws new volunteers

Through two grant-funded, hands-on trainings, Diagnostic Academy participants built practical skills to diagnose plant, insect, and disease concerns. Participants reported an increased confidence in identifying plant problems, using research-based resources, and applying integrated pest management practices. The most meaningful outcome? Many class participants went on to become Ask Extension volunteers and now help answer thousands of gardening questions each year through MSU Extension's statewide *Lawn and Garden Hotline* and the *Ask Extension* online forum.



Ask Extension

www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert/

Lawn and Garden Hotline

1-888-678-3464
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
9:00 am to Noon



Bulletins Live! Two: Hands-on training

Bulletins Live! Two training helps pesticide applicators navigate new EPA pesticide labeling requirements. These in-person classes guide attendees through Pesticide Use Limitation Areas and teach attendees how to locate required bulletins in real time.

Through this program, MSU Extension is working to strengthen relationships with Macomb County's applicators and growers.

Project R.E.D. Connects Students to Local Agriculture

Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Day) was held at the Armada Fairgrounds, welcoming 390 third-grade students from five Macomb County school districts for a hands-on introduction to Michigan agriculture. Students rotated through eight interactive stations—from livestock to crops and equipment—gaining real-world insights into food and farming in their community.



"I had no idea Macomb County has so many acres of hay."



Inclusive Great Lakes programming brought to youth and young adults

Macomb's Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator delivered four weeks of Great Lakes-focused programming to 32 campers participating in the St. Clair Shores Adaptive Playground Program, a summer camp serving youth and young adults ages 6–26 with varying learning and physical abilities. Through engaging, hands-on lessons in Great Lakes biology, campers explored local ecosystems, fishing, aquatic life, and the importance of the Great Lakes in a fun and inclusive environment.

Citizen Planner courses help officials stay current

In 2025, MSU Extension offered both in-person and online *Citizen Planner* courses in Macomb County. The online option is a recent expansion to provide greater availability access to Macomb's communities. Participants demonstrated clear knowledge gains, with many reporting increased understanding of planning and zoning concepts compared to their pre-session ratings. This program reinforces MSU Extension's role as a trusted provider of accessible, engaging, and impactful education for planning officials and Macomb community leaders.

"I think it was a great course."

"The content was engaging."

"Presenters did a great job."



Summer Discovery Cruises

In partnership with the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, *Summer Discovery Cruises* returned for a third season, offering 17 themed cruises over five weekends. 434 participants engaged in immersive learning experiences focused on the rich history of Lake St. Clair, including onboard lectures on notable shipwrecks, early trade routes, and the lake's maritime heritage. Special offerings—such as twilight cruises and cruises along the south channel lighthouses—expanded the variety of themes and enhanced participant experience. Notably, several attendees were return participants from previous seasons, reflecting a continued interest and satisfaction with the program.

Meet your MSU Extension staff serving Macomb County



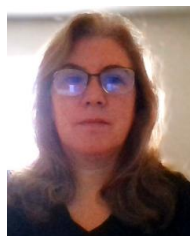
Amy Safaoui



Ana Pena



Angela Scapini



Cecilia Jaime Gutierrez



David Lowenstein

A special thank you to Macomb County and their continued support!



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Lawn and Garden Hotline

1-888-678-3464

Food Safety Hotline

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Ask Extension
www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert/



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Sophia Zollner



Tiffany Stevens

Watch us on YouTube



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Thank you to all our 2025 partners who share our mission of helping people improve lives through education!

37th District Court
Alzheimer's Association-Michigan Great Lakes Chapter
Cairns Community Center
Chaldean Community Foundation
City of Eastpointe
City of Sandusky
Connect Chiropractic and Wellness Center
Detroit Tank Arsenal
East Macomb Association of Retired School Personnel
Elizabeth Lee Doles Manor Apartments
Elms Family & Community Services
Extra Credit Union
Fraser Woods Senior Apartments
Gianna House
Hope Care and Beyond
Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Huron Pointe Sportsman's Association
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
Junior Leadership Macomb
Live Right Recovery Resource Center
Macomb County Government

- Macomb Community Action-Head Start
- Planning and Economic Development
- Women, Infants and Children

Macomb County Community Mental Health
Macomb County Farm Bureau
Macomb Township Parks and Recreation
Macomb Township Senior Center
My Care Health Center
Recreational Authority of Roseville and Eastpointe

Saint Clair Shores Senior Center
Shelby Township Senior Center
Shelby Township Shadbrush-Burgess Nature Center
St. Clair River Festival
Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation
Village of Peace Manor
Warren Consolidated Schools Food Service
Warren Drug Court
Warren Garden Club
Warren Public Library
Wolcott Farm (a Huron Clinton Metropark)
Women's Progressive Coalition

Schools, Academies, and Learning Centers

- Academy of Warren
- Center Line Public Schools
- Chippewa Valley Schools
- Clintondale Community Schools
- Eisenhower High School LCCE
- Flynn Educational Center
- L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
- Life Enrichment Academies
- Lutz School for Work Experience
- Macomb Intermediate School District
- Mount Clemens Community Schools
- Rising Stars Academy
- Romeo Community Schools
- Roseville Community Schools
- Shining Star Preschool
- Utica Community Schools
- Van Dyke Public Schools
- Warren Consolidated Schools

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