

Otsego County 2022-2023 Annual Report



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Otsego 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 provide outreach online, hybrid, as well as in-person formats. These options have increased accessibility to Michigan State University resources for your residents. Our staff live and work alongside county residents and are rooted in community relationships and responsive to community needs.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Otsego 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.

- Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director





4-H



The results of the **2023 Spring Tractor Supply 4-H Paper Clover** fundraiser show the Gaylord store staffed by volunteers and members of Otsego County 4-H was the top earning store in the state of Michigan for total money raised! With only one store within its borders, Otsego County managed to finish as the 8th place county for total monies raised in the state!

The Paper Clover contributions fund educational programs & provide scholarships to active 4-H members.

Otsego 4-H Youth Making an Impact Away from Home

Our members can be found everywhere. This past year Otsego County 4-H has been represented across the state participating in 4-H programs & camps like: Capitol Experience (Lansing), Exploration Days (MSU Campus), 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (MSU Campus), Great Lakes & Natural Resource Camp (Presque Isle), Animal & Veterinary Science Camp (MSU Campus), Animal Science Skillathon Championship (virtual), & the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program.

Otsego County 4-H



Spring Break Extravaganza



The **2023 Spring Break Extravaganza** was another great success. Presented with seven community partners, over 100 children and their families participated this year. Programs included: First Aid/CPR certification, bowling, origami, cake and cookie decorating, knot tying, sewing, animal shelter & fire station tours, family movie matinees, decoupage, & free Call of the Wild museum tours.



Did You Know?

Otsego County 4-H's **Junior Master Gardener Club (JMG)** is the largest club of its kind in the state!

32 members & volunteers are actively involved. Youth from pre-K to high school are actively learning about art, agriculture, entomology, farm-to-table principles, citizenship, leadership, & exploring the natural world around us.



Food & Health

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) helps participants make positive lifestyle changes by improving healthy eating habits and increasing physical activity.

In Otsego County in 2023, Community Nutrition Instructor, Jane Sherry, taught:

- 11 educational series at schools
- 2 series at senior living apartments
- 1 series at Patriot Place
- 7 one-time presentations at senior centers and elementary schools

Photo at right: Corn and Cucumber Salad served to participants at Senior Project Fresh presentations



Spotlight: Growing Healthy Eaters Project

Jane also worked with two home daycare providers in Gaylord as part of a farm to early child care (ECE) education program. This program connects daycare providers with fresh fruits and veggies, garden and kitchen supplies and educational opportunities.



Success Stories: *"The kids are enjoying foods like cauliflower for the first time!" "They are also having fun cutting up cucumbers from the garden!"* -Sheri P, day-

As part of the program, daycare providers are also connected with a local farmer to receive weekly produce boxes. This produce is then used in the daycare menus, giving kids access to more fresh fruits & vegetables during snacks & mealtimes.



Supporting Agriculture

MSU Extension works to improve farm personnel well-being and income, expand agriculture-related businesses and increase employment opportunities, making agriculture one of the strongest industries within Michigan. Supporting agriculture and helping to improve financial stability and competitiveness has a significant economic impact on Michigan and local communities.

\$104.7 BILLION

annual contribution from Michigan's food and agriculture industry

\$5.13 BILLION

economic impact of the animal agriculture industry in Michigan

805,000

jobs related to the food and animal agriculture industry in Michigan

Partnering with Growers for Timely Research to Address Local Issues

Farm Management
Over \$1.57 million in tax savings

Smart Gardening
32,711 article views in 2022

Field Crop Programs
508,000 indirect
11,565 direct

Beginner Farmer
772 participants
6,071 accessed resources

Helping Farm Families Transition Farm Businesses

- 168 Attended Educational Programs
- Over 100 Private Sessions
- 35,272 Accessed Written Articles

"I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate the help you have given us in the farm transition. Thank you for the hope you have given me (personally). I haven't had any for the farm in a long time."

Industry Collaborations Focus on Preparedness for

ERAIL: Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock

- Training of first responders, animal haulers and others on how to properly respond when animals are involved in a traffic accident
- The ERAIL program currently has three trailers fully stocked and deployed in Branch, Jackson and Otsego counties
- 42 counties, 7 other states sent trainees to ERAIL

MSU Extension Fruit Team Continues Fight Against Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

Daily contact with fruit industry, 20 presentations to 500+ growers representing majority of 60,000 acres of susceptible crops has reduced SWD economic impact

- 83% based management decisions on local/regional SWD trap reports and MSU Extension articles
- 69% pruned cherry orchards to open canopies to minimize SWD pressure
- 65% monitored for SWD adults using traps on-farm

Otsego OFFICE

This past year Otsego County

MSU Extension has helped community members through phone, email, Facebook and office walk-ins.

As MSU Extension continues to bring research and education to citizens across the state, three wonderful resources help reach every community member in our counties:

- **Ask Extension** offers one-on-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more! Visit Ask Extension at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>
- **The MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline** is made up of Extension Master Gardeners with the knowledge and resources to help community members with questions from “What plant is this?” to “What’s eating my flowers?” Call the hotline at: (888) 678-3464
- **Soil Test** to learn what vital nutrient your soil is missing for healthy growth in gardens, lawns, and crops. Learn more at: <https://homesoiltest.msu.edu/>

Resources at your Fingertips

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MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical needs and issues and opportunities.

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OTSEGO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

NONPROFIT EXCHANGE LEARNING SERIES

Beginning Grant Writing



OCTOBER 11TH, 2023
8 AM - VIA ZOOM

OBJECTIVES

- Explain the importance of grant writing to nonprofits
- List types of funders and examples of grant projects
- Define the components of a grant
- Outline the grant writing process

This special NPX will last 1.5 hours.

Coming Soon!

Zoom Link will be emailed after you RSVP



*The only thing you will need for the training is one blank piece of paper.



Lead by:

ERIN MOORE

Michigan State University Extension