

# Roscommon County 2023 Annual Report

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- 177** PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY ROSCOMMON COUNTY RESIDENTS
- 15** SOIL SAMPLES FROM ROSCOMMON COUNTY PROCESSED
- 50** HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
- 18** RESIDENTS ATTENDED FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS
- 162** RESIDENTS SERVED BY SNAP-ED
- 183** NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
- 69** AGRICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
- 78** YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H

**708**  
TOTAL ROSCOMMON COUNTY  
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN  
MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING  
IN 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

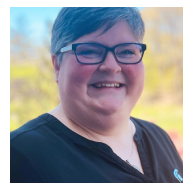
This annual report is a summary of the work that MSU Extension has done in Roscommon County to help people improve their lives through an educational process that brings the vast knowledge and resources of Michigan State University to local communities in northeast Michigan.

In the following pages, you will discover the stories of progress, resilience, and empowerment that have defined our engagement with individuals, families, and organizations across District 4. From cultivating sustainable agriculture practices to nurturing the potential of our youth through 4-H programs, each achievement is a testament to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our communities.

We could not do this work without local partners in community government, local volunteers and supporters, or people who turn to us for the information and education that we provide. Please continue to use us as a resource for information and ask us questions.

Thank you for your support in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,



**Julie Darnton**  
District 4 Director



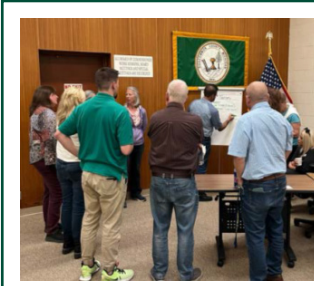
More than 322,000 people in Michigan visited our website last year. You may want to look here too!

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY, FOOD & ENVIRONMENT

### STRENGTHENING ROSCOMMON TOURISM

In 2023, MSU Extension and the Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation teamed up to launch a year-long multi-phase, and county-wide initiative designed to strengthen the county's tourism industry by capitalizing on stakeholder knowledge, input, and first-time visitor perspectives. The anticipated end date of the final phase is April 2024.



Nearly **30** community leaders from Prudenville, St. Helen, and the Village of Roscommon participated in phase one: identifying assets.

### STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. In 2023, **183** Roscommon County residents participated in natural resources programs including MI Paddle Stewards, Teaching Great Lakes Literacy workshops, Michigan Conservation Stewards, Michigan Birding 101, nature walks, and more.



### SUPPORTING CLEAN WATERS

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and is a partnership between MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The program grants supply up to \$3,000 to organizations communicating aquatic invasive species prevention information through outreach materials and in-person educational events to boaters. In 2023, The Houghton Lake Improvement Board was awarded a grant to install three Clean Boats, Clean Waters Decontamination Stations at Michigan Department of Natural Resources managed boat launches on Houghton Lake.

## AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

The agriculture industry is developing and growing, contributing more than \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy. MSU Extension works to increase farm success through workforce development opportunities, protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets, and advancing agriculture through applied research. In 2023, **69** residents from Roscommon County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs.



In partnership with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory team of research-based scientists, **23 Roscommon County** members of the Kirtland Garden Club learned about Mason bees.



**13** Roscommon County youths participated in 4-H Forestry Camp where they learned about forest forensics, future career opportunities, got to explore an active sawmill and visit the longest continuous particleboard press in the world at ARAUCO.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

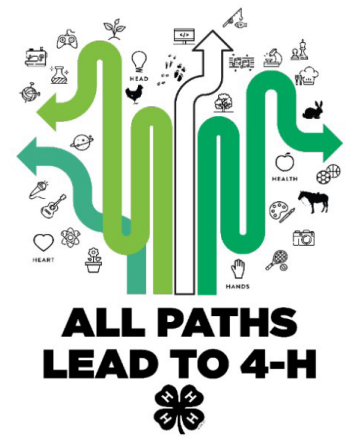
## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. While learning about the world around them, youth gain valuable life skills such as responsibility, citizenship, teamwork, and problem solving. In 2023, **452** Roscommon County youth participated in **15** programs.

### HELPING YOUTH FIND BELONGING

4-H Exploration Days is a pre-college program for youth ages 12-19 from across the state of Michigan designed to allow youths to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friendships that can last a lifetime. The 2023 4-H Exploration Days theme was around belonging and all the ways that youth can and do belong. **18** Roscommon County youths attended 4-H Exploration Days in 2023.



The 4-H Ski Olympics held in partnership with the Cross Country Ski Headquarters had a record participation year of **36** youths.

### 2023 CHAMPIONS

#### Eagles (advanced level)



1st- Aaron G  
2nd- Dellah M  
3rd- Emma H

#### Bucks (intermediate level)



1st- Noah S  
2nd- Hayden R  
3rd- Dale M

#### Raccoons (beginner level)



1st- Hunter B  
2nd- Boden W  
3rd- River F



MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION

Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families, and children gain crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increase their daily activity, and improve their food security. In 2023, **67** Roscommon County residents participated in **38** health and nutrition programs.

## SUPPORTING WELLNESS

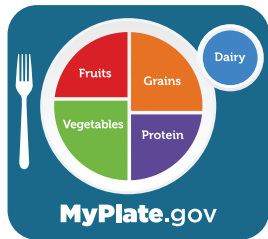
As a result of MSU Extension's social-emotional programming, **50** Roscommon County residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families' and communities' understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **25** programs including Matter of Balance, Begin with a Breath, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention.

## Senior Project FRESH

Market Fresh Food

Senior Project FRESH, created to benefit the restricted income senior and as a secondary benefit to the Michigan farmer, provides participants free nutrition counseling and \$20 in coupons that can be exchanged for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy snacks sold at local farmers markets and roadside stands.

**100** Roscommon County residents participated in Senior Project FRESH classes in 2023.



MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits for people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, individuals, and families how to make health a priority. The goal of

SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that SNAP-eligible persons will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guidance. In 2023, **162** Roscommon County residents participated in **13** SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Healthy Be Active, Teen Cuisine, Cooking Matters and Cooking for One.

## CONTACT US



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