



Crawford County 2022 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support and partnership with Michigan State University Extension. MSU Extension helps to improve the lives of Michigan residents by providing educational programs for people of all ages that can address critical needs, issues, and opportunities. Our work is guided by our mission and our core values which are:

- **We will show up.** We will be engaged and serve our communities across the state.
- **We will help people thrive.** We will work to help everyone be their best and do their best.
- **We will be authentic.** We will be honest about what we can and cannot do, and we will be guided by evidence-based science.
- **We will welcome everyone.** We will be inclusive and respect everyone, while valuing differences and working to serve a wide audience.
- **We will manage resources responsibly.** We will be good stewards of our resources and funding from all sources.
- **We will take risks.** We are lifelong learners and value innovation to better serve Michigan communities.

These value statements summarize how we work to engage with communities and how we hope we are seen by the people we serve. The team we have assembled in District 4 to serve communities are outstanding professionals who care deeply and work hard to meet the needs of youth, adults, and families and for households, small businesses, and local governments. This report summarizes the numbers and some of the stories of how we have worked to connect people with one another and with information gained from research that can help improve lives.

Julia (Julie) Darnton, District Director

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.

In 2022, **302** Crawford County youth participated in **39** programs.



15 third graders learned about the life cycle and science behind digestion through owl pellet dissection.



The goal of 4-H is that every youth possess the necessary life skills to be successful. 8 Crawford County youths learned how to grow their own food in the Rad Gardeners 4-H SPIN Club.



28 Crawford County youth ventured outdoors in the Learn to Ski program at Hanson Hills. Outdoor education opportunities in 4-H teach youth about natural resources, physical activity, and builds their self-confidence.

AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Michigan ranks second in the nation in crop diversity due to its unique climate, topography, and impact of the Great Lakes. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy.

In 2022, **56** residents of Crawford County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs such as Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101, where participants learn everything they need to know about gardening including planning and preparation, garden maintenance, harvest and storage, pollinators, and more; pesticide core testing and review; sheep production; and Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock training, tailored to animal control officers and first responders in working with large animals.



4-H provides opportunities for youth to learn about animal and veterinary science. 8 youth from Crawford County participated in the Horsin' Around 4-H SPIN Club.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & NUTRITION

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 2022, **203 Crawford County residents** participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Cooking Matters and Cooking for One.

SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As a result of MSU Extension's social-emotional programming, **83** Crawford 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 **21** programs including Matter of Balance, RELAX, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, and Mindful Mondays.

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 2022, **39** Crawford County residents participated in natural resources programs including presentations on spongy moth, a hands-on wreath making workshop, and hikes to learn about forests and the creatures that live in them.



As leadership partners of the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant supported local schools in fielding place-based stewardship education projects. In 2022, **125 students and 1 teacher** from Crawford County were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.



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IMPACT AT A GLANCE

901

TOTAL CRAWFORD COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING IN 2022



158

YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H



26

PROGRAMS HOSTED IN CRAWFORD COUNTY



39

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



19

CAREER EXPLORATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



14

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



203

RESIDENTS SERVED BY SNAP-ED



136

YOUTH SCIENCE LITERACY PARTICIPANTS



42

CONSUMER HORTICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



194

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



14

GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY VITALITY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



131

SEA GRANT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



23

CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

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