

# Ogemaw County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS



Over 500 youth involved in 4-H and other youth development programs



180 Ogemaw County 7th graders received education about macroinvertebrates



\$24,994 MSU spent with local businesses



95 residents who received education around food, food safety and food preservation



600+ residents participated in programs, farm visits or education around ag and agribusiness



58+ MSU Extension professionals provided programs to residents



1,563 visits from Ogemaw residents on MSU Extension's website for educational info, 72 % first-time visitors



\$208,007 total animal sales at the 2018 Ogemaw County Fair



MSU disbursed more than \$528,000 in financial aid to Ogemaw County students

#### MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

2018 was a special year in that the MSU Extension / 4-H millage proposal passed in Ogemaw County. We couldn't be more excited and eager to continue and grow outreach with the support of county leadership and local residents. We will continue to provide resources and education to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and our local community.

MSU Extension's local and statewide staff provide outreach to your constituents by bringing the university's research and resources into the county. From governmental policy education to 4-H Cloverbuds and nutrition classes at the Commission on Aging, it has been a busy year.

We have also been busy welcoming Ogemaw County residents into our online community; we've offered online courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media and we have provided a library of research-based resources that they've browsed on our website: *msue.msu.edu* 

Ask any program participant about direct application of their learning, like a 4-H'er sharing his stories with Senator Peters during an official

Motorcycle Tour stop at a sheep farm in West Branch, and you'll find that your support of MSU Extension continues to be important to our mission: improving lives.



Michell Worner

District 4 Director



# **Program Highlights**



#### **Nutrition Education**

Our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works by utilizing a federal grant to facilitate partnerships with community organizations like Commission on Aging, All Ages Summer Recreation Program, Michigan Works, Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative and more. Locally, **212 residents** received education around SNAP-Ed.

"...I have learned new recipes, and fruits and vegetables that I would never have tried before!..." - SNAP-Ed participant



# **Agriculture and Agribusiness**

Over the past year, 602 people participated in Extension agricultural programs in Ogemaw County.

The Dairy Team measured heat stress in cows on dairies. Farmers locally responded to an MSU survey about the antibiotic rule changes to improve understanding of the effects on animal health, economics, and management.

Extension programming worked to help farmers with the labor shortage through a project of training potential employees in Puerto Rico. We also showed residents the economic impact of agriculture in Ogemaw County through tours to local farms and agribusinesses.



# **Community Engagement**

From Communicating through Conflict to a sixweek leadership series and Parliamentary
Procedure training for the City of West Branch, a
Real Colors personality program, plus tourism
development, approximately 100 Ogemaw
County residents have received educational
programming in these topics and more to help
them improve their lives and the communities we
work and play in. We worked with partners like
the DNR, AuSable Valley Community Health,
schools, business owners and others.

# **Program Highlights**

# **Improving Lives**

19 residents participated in Farm Stress, a program to help farmers manage stress and improve mental health. 15 residents participated in Walk with Ease, a six-week, evidence-based walking program that includes osteoarthritis discussion, rheumatoid arthritis & fibromyalgia and managing pain & stiffness, plus stretching/strengthening exercises. Disease Prevention and Management workshops reached 122 participants to help improve health outcomes. An additional 33 people participated in Stress Less with Mindfulness, a program to help manage stress and improve social-emotional well-being.



## **4-H Youth Development**

4-H is a program of MSU Extension. In 2018, 203,000 Michigan young people participated in 4-H through various activities, clubs, groups, programs and events. As they engage in these learning experiences, 4-H'ers explore their passions and interests while growing confidence, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. During the academic year of 2017/2018, there were 704 Ogemaw County youth who participated in 4-H programming via school enrichment, clubs, camps, etc. 196 youth were registered 4-H members.



### **Food and Horticulture**

MSU Extension offers a gardening hotline (7,707 calls in 2018!) and advice is based on science performed at Michigan State University and other land-grant universities. In 2018, over 46 Ogemaw County residents received education in this area via the hotline, webinars, workshops, etc.

Ogemaw residents also received education around food safety, food preservation, growing herbs, grilling and more. Over 85 Ogemaw County residents received face-to-face education on these topics.



# Ogemaw County, MSU Extension & 4-H: Inspiring Youth Confidence

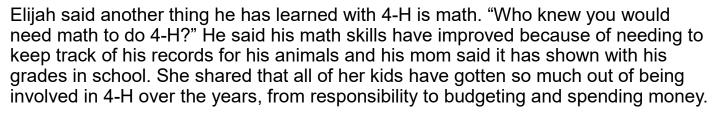


The 2017-18 4-H year started a life-changing experience for Ogemaw County's Elijah Marsh. When Elijah moved to Ogemaw County and joined 4-H, he joined the poultry and swine clubs and started an amazing journey that he gets excited talking about. Elijah had no experience with farm animals before moving to West Branch. He dove head first into the unknown. His mom said it was a family effort that first year, but this past year he was able to work more independently.

Elijah said he quickly learned that 4-H is fun. He learned patience and responsibility, which has already helped him a lot in life.

"A lot of kids should join 4-H because it is not hard and you get to raise cool animals from babies on up to market," Elijah said. He said he has experienced some pretty amazing things like how to train his pig and control its movements.

"In 4-H, you experience a lot of feelings during the bonding with your animal and then the sadness when you know you will not be bringing it home after the fair, but it all helps to make you a better person," said Elijah. This year's pig was pretty special to Elijah — when he went to the farm he kneeled down in the pen with all the pigs and "his" piglet came right up to him. "I knew right then that he was the pig for me."



"If it were not for great leaders, the members would not have the great experiences they do. The leaders hold the members accountable for what they do and that helps them to be successful with their projects," she said.

