



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.

Michelle Wornu

District 4 Director



MSU Extension District 4




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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




Some of MSU Extension's Health and Nutrition programs include curriculum geared toward teenagers, such as Teen Cuisine.

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.



Local residents joined First Friday Farm Tours to learn on-site about farming and agribusiness.

Community Engagement

From Communicating through Conflict to a six-week 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.



2018 graduates of the Ogemaw County Leadership Series, facilitated by MSU Extension Educator, Bonnie Zoia (retired).

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.



Since 2013, MSU Extension social-emotional health programming has reached more than 11,000 Michigan residents.

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.**



Ogemaw County 4-H is proud to offer area youth club activities and training on subjects they are interested in. Adult volunteers make it happen!

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.**



To reach the MSU Extension Gardening Hotline, call 888-678-3464.

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."



Elijah said another thing he has learned with 4-H is math. "Who knew you would need math to do 4-H?" He said his math skills have improved because of needing to keep track of his records for his animals and his mom said it has shown with his grades in school. She shared that all of her kids have gotten so much out of being involved in 4-H over the years, from responsibility to budgeting and spending money.

"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.

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