



Arenac County

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



1,163 Arenac youth reached by all MSU Extension programming in 2019



860 youth 4-H program participants in Arenac County



35 organized 4-H youth clubs and volunteers



370 youth and adult participants in nutrition education programs



\$1,358,137 Total Economic Impact in Arenac County



156 Alumni (bachelor and graduate degree)



\$251,704 Financial Aid Disbursed to Arenac County students in 2019



8.2 million MSU Extension website visitors in 2019



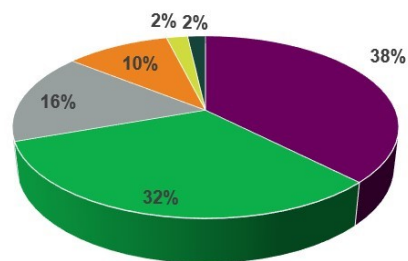
6,500 gardening hotline calls statewide in 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Arenac County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Arenac County residents' lives, including helping farmers with financial management and farm stress; providing opportunities for youth's career and leadership development through 4-H; teaching families how to buy, cook and eat nutritious food; helping communities grow their tourism and community development opportunities; and providing a suite of online resources and programs.

Because of your continued support, we are able to help Arenac County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Arenac County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

How MSU Extension is Funded



- Grants
- State appropriations
- County investments
- Federal Cooperative Extension
- Federal special projects
- MSU general fund



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Program Highlights



Au– Gres Sims 7th graders learned how to prepare whole grain pancakes and banana pockets as part of a lesson on grain.

Nutrition Education

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partners with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), a free nutrition education program to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits. MSU Extension SNAP-Ed nutrition instructors teach youth, teens, adults and seniors how to make health a priority through an instructional series. In Arenac County during 2019, our Community Nutrition Instructor **reached 370 youth and adults** in presentations and series.



MI Sea Grant also supported teacher professional development opportunities like the Dow Innovation Teacher Fellowship and the Center for Great Lake Literacy Mentor Program. Luke Freeman, Au Gres-Sims High School Teacher participated in these opportunities, where he learned more about place-based education and received funding to support these efforts.

Education to Promote Freshwater Stewardship

MSU Extension/MI Sea Grant partner(s) with and supports Au Gres-Sims School District's place-based education efforts through the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative. **124 students participated in these projects**, which include building a rain garden for filtering pollutants in stormwater, studying biodiversity on Big Charity Island, investigating the Au Gres River and more! **175 Standish-Sterling High School students** explored macroinvertebrates and how they serve as live water quality indicators in a freshwater ecology program supported by MSUE/MI Sea Grant. They compared macroinvertebrates in Saginaw Bay with an inland lake to compare biodiversity and evaluate the water quality.



Eight Arenac County adults participated in a grand-funded, evidence-based Walk with Ease Program with the Arenac/Ogemaw Senior Group.

Supporting Healthy Communities

Arenac County residents participated in a wide-array of health and wellness programs such as Mindful Breathing, RELAX: Alternatives to Anger, and Walk with Ease.

We also partnered with Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District to pilot the new two-part Mindful Educators program. The beginning of the program introduced mindfulness, self-care and stress management for teachers, followed by implementation techniques and curricular options for preschool through secondary classrooms.

Program Highlights

Agriculture & Agribusiness

MSU Extension works to increase Arenac County farmers' success while protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets and advancing agriculture through applied research.

In 2019, MSU Extension provided education to over 800 farmers on topics such as Beef Quality Assurance, Alternative Energy Development, Controlling Pests and Disease in Soybeans and vegetables grown on vines including cucumber pickles, squashes and pumpkins. This research is helping farmers maintain profitability and marketability. More than 30 participants came from Arenac County for these educational sessions.



MSU Extension hosted Dr. Michael Wunsch from North Dakota to talk about impacts on dry bean crops at the MSU Saginaw Valley Research Farm in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

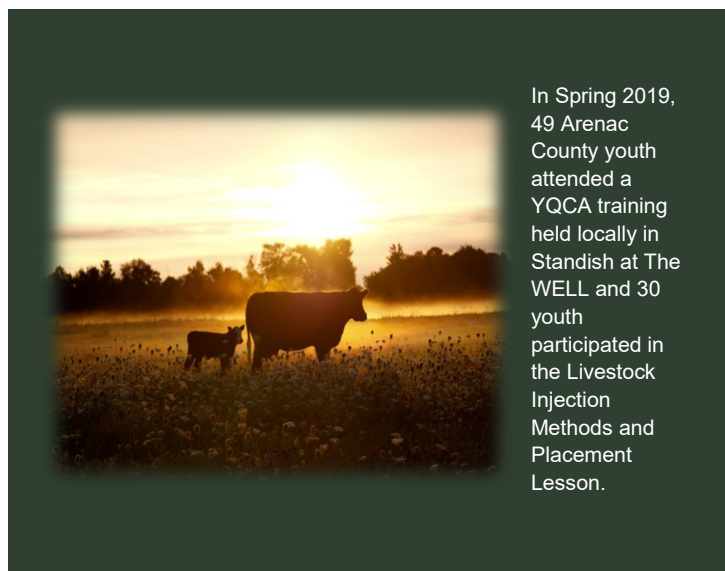
4-H Youth Development

This year, members of the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council issued a special challenge to their fellow Michigan 4-H members, as well as volunteers, alumni and staff. They created the Michigan 4-H Dare to Serve Challenge which had the goal of inspiring everyone in Michigan 4-H to do at least one thing to serve their community during the month of April. Their goal: have at least one 4-H led community service project completed in each of Michigan's 83 counties during the month of April! **Over 100 youth from Arenac County participated.**



Developing Youth Leadership to Ensure Safe Food

Two trainings, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) and 4-H Large Livestock Projects, provided youth the lessons about maintaining the safety and well-being of animals for showing and market. Those who complete the YQCA program receive certification that can be shared with buyers and in livestock shows. Topics include biosecurity, nutrition, veterinary care, record keeping, withdrawal times, and emergency action plans. Youth in the Livestock program learned how to properly give injections to large animals in a practical, hands-on workshop.



In Spring 2019, 49 Arenac County youth attended a YQCA training held locally in Standish at The WELL and 30 youth participated in the Livestock Injection Methods and Placement Lesson.

ARENAC COUNTY, MSU EXTENSION & SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH



Josh Kroczaleski, a 16-year-old member of Arenac County 4-H, decided to raise and market a hog as an educational project in the 4-H Swine Club. In July, Josh took his hog to the Arenac County Fair to exhibit, show and sell. His hog weighed in at the required weight range, he showed his hog in both showmanship class and market class, kept his pen neat and clean and did his barn duty. The evening of the 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction, Josh walked his hog into the sale ring hoping for a good price. He smiled and displayed his hog to the best of his ability. Josh left the sale ring with a smile on his face as he did OK! Through raising his hog, marketing his hog by seeking out buyers and showing his hog, Josh was satisfied with how things had gone. After the auction was over, Josh approached the buyer to thank him for purchasing his hog and much to Josh's surprise, the buyer gave the hog back to him on one condition, if Josh were to resell the hog, half of the proceeds from the second sale must be donated to an organization of Josh's choice. Now, Josh had a decision to make... which organization would Josh donate to?



Josh Kroczaleski, age 16

The first week of October 2019, Arenac County 4-H received a call from the parent of a youth that wanted to donate to the organization that has given so much to him. Josh Kroczaleski wished to donate half the proceeds from the resale of his hog to the Arenac County 4-H Program to “pay it forward” for all that 4-H has done for him throughout the years. In return, Arenac County 4-H decided to use these same funds and “pay it forward” again. The funds were used or supplies in the 4-H Community Service SPIN club, “4-H Community Superheroes,” where youth donated Birthday Bags to a local food pantry. Families in need then could receive a bag filled with cake mix and paper party supplies for birthday celebrations. They also purchased material to make cat beds for the local animal shelter, and they made cards for those in an extended care facility and to send to veterans that have served our country.

Many were impacted by the simple acts of kindness of a few and the good continues to be paid forward.

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