



Arenac County

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



98 Arenac County youth received robotics education



677 youth in 4-H, school enrichment, clubs and other programs



41 Arenac residents received agriculture or agribusiness education



10,583 visits made by Arenac County residents to MSU Extension website



200 youth engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources programs



23 commercial or residential soil kits processed for residents



156 MSU alumni living in Arenac County



35 residents participated in early childhood education



70 anglers, charter captains and others attended the Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshop in the county

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Arenac County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and communities.

MSU Extension's local and statewide staff provide outreach to your constituents by bringing the university's research and resources into the county. From soybean education to supporting the Arenac Community Center plans to 4-H to tourism programs and food preservation education, it has been a busy year in the county. We have also been busy welcoming Arenac County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media (note: "like" our Facebook page - MSU Extension District 4), and we have provided a library of research-based resources that they have browsed on our website: msue.msu.edu.

Our partnership with you makes all of this possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Arenac County, thank you for another great year.

Michelle Wornu

District 4 Director

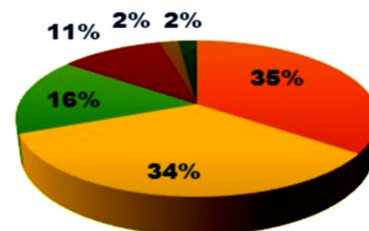


MSU Extension District 4



msue.msu.edu
arenacounty@msu.edu

Finance & Operations



■ Grants
 ■ State appropriations
 ■ County investments
 ■ Federal Cooperative Extension
 ■ Federal special projects
 ■ MSU General Fund

MSU Extension Arenac County
120 N Grove Street
Arenac, MI 48658
(989) 846-4111

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | **Extension**

Program Highlights

Nutrition Education

In Arenac County, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works by utilizing partnerships with all types of community organizations such as Head Start, Arenac Opportunities, schools, and more. In Arenac County, **121 residents** received education through SNAP-Ed either via a series of classes or one-time presentations.

In addition to SNAP-Ed, food preservation classes such as canning, pickling, etc., along with food safety have been successfully conducted in Arenac County.



Youth from Omer Head Start completed the Show Me Nutrition series, received a MyPlate and Certificate of Completion. Pictured, they are sorting their snacks by food group, without being asked!

Youth Place-based Education

In 2018, MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant continued to support place-based education efforts with Au Gres-Sims School District through the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative. These efforts include river investigations and water quality monitoring, biodiversity studies at Big Charity Island, and rain gardens to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Through place-based education, students apply their learning to benefit their community and protect the Great Lakes. They also explore careers while working with community partners. This learning strategy is hands-on and fun!



Au Gres-Sims Elementary students collected water quality data on the Au Gres river.

Watershed Action Plan

In 2018, MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant and Huron Pines collaborated with Purdue University Extension and the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant to host a Tipping Point Planner Workshop for the Au Gres Watershed. This workshop focused on land use, nutrients, water quality, outdoor recreation and the Saginaw Bay food web in the Au Gres River Watershed (and East Branch). Participants received a report, which was generated as a result of the workshop, to help support future planning efforts in the Au Gres River Watershed.



Workshop participants worked together to create an action plan in support of conservation and community engagement in the watersheds.

Program Highlights

Agriculture and Agri-Business

In 2018, many Arenac County residents participated in agriculture and agribusiness education programs. These programs are often in-person workshops, consultations, seminars or one-time presentations. Examples from the past year include Beef Quality Assurance, Heat Stress in Dairy Cattle, Crop & Pest Management, Organic Farming and more.

In October of 2018, **27 people attended the Cover Crop Field Event** held at Schwab Farms in Standish, Michigan.



Arenac County residents count on MSU Extension to bring resources & knowledge from MSU to their farms.

4-H Youth Development

4-H is a program of Michigan State University Extension. In 2018, 203,000 Michigan youth 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. Throughout 2018, there were 277 youth reached via school enrichment, 242 youth in project clubs, 328 reached by Short Term/Special Interest programs and 19 overnight campers. With duplicates removed, **the total number of youth served in Arenac County (across all programs) was 677.**



Arenac County youth learn about agriculture and the value, risks, and selling of commodities.

Gardening & Consumer Horticulture

When residents have insect questions, soil concerns, gardening challenges or shrub questions, they count on MSU Extension to assist. **23 Arenac County residents** purchased soil test kits this past year. Residents have often bundled bugs in a bag and walked in to the office for help. MSU Extension also offers a Smart Gardening hotline (7,707 calls in 2018!) at 1-888-MSUE-4MI. Our advice is based on science performed at Michigan State University or other land grant universities.



In 2018, four Arenac County residents were recertified Master Gardeners. Each participant is required to perform 20 hours per year of volunteer work in the community.

Arenac County, MSU Extension & 4-H: Inspiring Youth



Arenac County 4-H member Rachel LeFever reflects on her experience in the excerpt below.

"4-H has been one of the two greatest experiences in my life. I have raised and shown pigs and rabbits for the past nine years, but the organization offers so much more. I have been lucky enough to be a camper and counselor at our local 4-H camp, a camper at Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp, a county delegate to 4-H Exploration Days and North Region representative on the 4-H Youth Conservation Council.

The experience that has made the biggest impact on me has been 4-H Capital Experience. This is where I discovered my passion for the Michigan legislation process and our great state's Congress. At 4-H Capital Experience, youth pick a research group such as law enforcement, agriculture, technology, or healthcare, then choose a bill topic related to the research group chosen. Youth then go talk to a lobbyist, two experts in the research field, and a Congressman or Congresswoman who also focuses on the chosen research topic to learn as much as possible. This group of youth then do their own research and write a bill on the selected topic which is then put through a mock Senate and House of Representatives and put to a vote. We even have a mock Governor to sign the bills. Youth at 4-H Capital Experience learn not only about government at the state level but also about local and tribal systems as well.

This life changing experience available to youth by 4-H has shown me what my life's greatest passion is and has helped me decide not only my chosen major but also my dream job. Without 4-H, I would not have known that I wanted to be a Michigan Senator or that I had such a great passion for politics and Michigan agriculture and environment."



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension