

Michigan Sea Grant Extension: Investing in Arenac County Youth



Michigan Sea Grant Extension provides targeted support focusing on marinas and other businesses and restoring coastal habitats and related industries such as commercial and recreational fishing. In partnership with state and federal agencies, Extension educators are responsive and proactive in addressing local, regional and national issues relevant to Michigan. One such partnership is the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI) which is a regional network of education and community partners working to promote quality place-based or community-based education opportunities in Northeast Michigan for the benefit of our youth, our community, and the environment. MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant serve as leadership partners to this network. The initiative operates and supports programming through three primary areas including schools and educator support, quality professional development and strong community-school partnerships.

MSU Sea Grant Extension enhanced 30 schools across nine counties in Northeast Michigan who participated in programming and activities during 2017. Schools received support through teacher professional development opportunities, network facilitated funding or resources, and/or educational or technical assistance for student place-based stewardship education projects through the NEMIGLSI network.

MSU Sea Grant Extension directly supported 87 teachers (2016-17 school year) through professional development activities and support toward implementing place-based stewardship education efforts with their students.

In 2017, **more than 260 Arenac County youth** were engaged in hands-on learning through a variety of Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects supported through the NEMIGLSI partnership. The goal is to promote research, education and outreach to enhance responsible and sustainable use of our diverse Great Lakes resources.

AuGres-Sims school students are involved in watershed projects like river investigations and vernal pool monitoring. The students also partner to conserve and monitor biodiversity on Big Charity Island, part of Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Students map Pitcher's Thistle plant, a federally threatened dunal plant. They also plot the density of invasive Phragmites over time as treatment measures are used.



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Arenac County 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

- 100+** years of serving Arenac County
- 260 Arenac youth engaged in Great Lakes & natural resource projects
- 40+ Extension professionals providing education in Arenac County
- \$10,841 spending with local businesses
- 522+ youth in 4-H, early childhood, or school enrichment programs
- 295+ Arenac adults and youth in SNAP-Ed programs
- MSU disbursed \$295,823 in financial aid to Arenac students
- 17 After-school 4-H clubs
- MSU Extension website received 13,609 visits from Arenac County; 78.4% first-time visitors
- \$1,271,435 total economic impact in Arenac County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Arenac County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Arenac County residents need it most.



From agriculture to 4-H to personal finance programs and from youth to senior audiences, MSU Extension provides education to help Arenac County residents improve their lives. This report highlights just some of the work done last year.

We're passionate about serving Arenac County and are looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension, your leadership and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Mischelle Warner, District Coordinator

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Program Highlights



Women Infants and Children Market FRESH classes held in conjunction with the Health Department reached 65 Arenac county mothers/families who received \$30 to use for fresh produce at local markets totaling \$1,950.00 in local impact.



Local Arenac county youth Cassidy Kraatz and Makayla Mahon-West successfully competed in the 2017 4-H State Horse Show bringing home many awards!



Arenac County is home to 421 farms that produce a total of \$51m in farm sales annually according to the USDA Census of 2012. Local residents, as well as those statewide, count on MSU Extension for education and guidance.

Family Health & Nutrition

Health outcomes in the County Health Rankings represent measures of how long people live and how healthy people feel. According to the 2018 County Health Rankings Report, Arenac County ranks 80 of 83. MSU Extension offers programs to help improve this statistic such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). **295 Arenac residents participated** in SNAP-Ed in 2017. Also offered are programs like Healthy Harvest, coaching & education for eligible child care providers, Cooking Matters, and Food Preservation & Safety classes.

Empowering Arenac Youth

From 4-H to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) Programs to livestock auctions and mock interviews, MSU Extension provides learning opportunities that help prepare youth for work, especially for jobs in STEAM.

"...when I was involved in 4-H clubs several years ago, I had no idea the impact this would have on my life. I grew as a leader, communicator, citizen and person..." - 4-H Alumna

Sixty-three percent of Arenac County 4-H seniors graduating between 2012 and 2017 enrolled in college after high school, while 57.1 percent of 18-24 year olds in the region did so.

Agriculture & Agribusiness

During the past year in Arenac County, MSU Extension provided farm support and agricultural education through individual consultation, workshops, research opportunities, evaluation of practices, articles and training for employees. Topics included field crop & pest management, basic Extension Master Gardener training, organic soybean and farm education, northern Michigan Small Farms Conference, hop and barley education and training on Bovine leukemia virus in cattle. **Over 40 Arenac County residents** attended, participated or consulted in these programs.

Program Highlights

Regional Fisheries Workshops

Four Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops took place in 2017. In the Saginaw Bay region, more than 250 anglers, charter captains and others came together with fisheries researchers and managers from across Michigan. Participants gained better understanding of Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem changes, how people are interacting with and affect these resources including fishing trends, management issues and more. Through this workshop, Arenac County residents are able to connect with the research and management activities related to Lake Huron and the local community.



Through MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant works with Arenac County citizens to encourage their use, benefits and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources (Photo: Great Lakes Fishery Comm.)

Engaging Youth in Science

Research demonstrates that young people who participate in positive youth development programs are significantly more likely to exhibit academic competence. In September of 2017, in partnership with the Arenac Conservation District, **157 Arenac County fifth graders** attended a nine-station educational event at Goodroe Farms. MSU Extension hosted a station and presented education on Zoonotic diseases and the importance of using good biosecurity practices. This was done by providing two Animal Science Anywhere activities: Biosecurity Basics-pathogen bags and Diseases That Humans and Animals Share- Words You Need to Know cards.



Melissa Prohaska, MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator provides education to Arenac County students at Goodroe Farms in Sterling, Michigan.

Community Development

MSU Extension offers community engagement education such as Citizen Planner, Parliamentary Procedure, Public Policy, Local Current Government Issues and more. In 2017, many of these programs were available to and attended by Arenac residents via workshops, seminars, webinars, etc. These programs are open to everyone and often serve as a great resource for elected county and township officials.



MSU Extension works to teach citizens how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged.