



Baraga County 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



2 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$423,021 total economic impact in Baraga County



319 youth involved in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment



1 MSU partner hospital



\$53,994 spending with local business



49 alumni (bachelor and graduate degree)



MSU disbursed \$154,642 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Baraga County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Baraga County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Baraga 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 Baraga County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Baraga County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District Director

Program Highlights

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) engaged MSU Extension to facilitate a Constitutional Convention process. A team of MSU Extension staff led by Baraga County Educator Will Cronin responded to this request and at short notice prepared the first session in a series to address the issue.

In the December 2019 Tribal election, members voted to amend the Tribal Constitution to implement term limits for all Tribal Council members. To carry this out, a Constitutional Convention must be convened. The Tribe turned to MSU Extension to develop the process that would be used to educate the delegates on term limits in Tribal communities and plan for the successful implementation of term limits for KBIC. Will Cronin facilitated the session in person which included a historical scan of KBIC's constitution. Emily Proctor presented remotely about the use of term limits in other Michigan tribes.

After being put on-hold over the summer due to COVID-19, the Constitutional Convention process resumed in a virtual format in the fall. Delegates evaluated the issues related to term limits and worked cooperatively to draft proposed language for the Amendment. This was approved by the Convention Delegates and submitted to Tribal Council for approval.

UPPER PENINSULA TOURISM COFFEE HOUR

Due to Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 stay-home orders, leaders in tourism and hospitality had few venues to stay in contact and discuss the situation and the industry response. Baraga County Educator Will Cronin created the Upper Peninsula Tourism Coffee Hour to provide an open, safe environment for informal discussion and planning for the industry response to COVID-19 and share current tourism industry data and guide discussions of UP industry planning and response.

The program has been held weekly since April 15th with average attendance of fifteen leaders in tourism and related fields from across the U.P.

The program has had participation at some point from every county in the UP and regular attendance from Baraga County stakeholders including the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and regional partners including the Western UP Planning and Development Region, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and UP Travel and Recreation Association.

When asked if coffee hour should continue weekly, group consensus was yes. This is the only venue they have to freely discuss the COVID-19 situation as it develops with their peers and share knowledge and solutions. Due to a need to aggregate resources being shared, Coffee Hour led directly to the creation of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Tourism Website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tourism/COVID-19-pandemic-and-tourism>. Also, as a result the group decided to take on a UP-wide response to COVID-19: The UP Cares Pledge, but ultimately after the draft was developed, the group decided to join forthcoming pledge from Pure Michigan.

Participants commented: "This information is helping me to communicate with the entire organization to help them understand the dynamics across the UP in their respective areas." And "A lot of what we have discussed validates my strategy and the ability to change the strategy to comply and have protocols in place. It is also giving me the ability to give our members more information to help them through this time."

BARAGA COUNTY MARKETING AND BRANDING

The countywide branding and marketing program is ongoing, and despite being slowed by the COVID-19 Pandemic over the summer continues. Baraga County Educator Will Cronin is working with county stakeholders and the consulting firm to arrive at a consensus county image and implement new marketing materials including a website and social media presence.

Program Highlights

HEALTHY LIVING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS FOR YOUTH IN BARAGA COUNTY

Two hundred seventy-one youth ages 5-19 in the L'Anse Area Schools and the Baraga Area Schools received nutrition education from Gwen Apper, 4-H Program Coordinator/Community Nutrition Instructor for Baraga County. Classrooms receiving instruction included three each of the following grades: kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, and fourth grade classrooms in Baraga County.

Gwen Apper visited 15 classrooms once per month to teach a nutrition educational series to community youth, recruit schools & teachers

These classroom visits took place regularly from January through June 2019 in L'Anse and Baraga.

Gwen Apper presented to 15 classrooms in the L'Anse and Baraga Area School Districts with a lesson on Vegetable Food Group. She shopped for and prepared taste tests for 198 youth, carrot sticks and Italian Salad Dressing for dipping. We read the book "I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato". We talked about using our imaginations like the kids in the book, to make up fun names for the food we are hesitant to try. Foods like carrots can be orange twiglets from Jupiter. We also danced with scarfs to freeze dance music.

Lessons included My Plate, each of the 5 food groups, digestive systems and food safety.



Kids learn to make healthy snacks during MSU Extension programming.



Investing in Baraga County Youth with 4-H

According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.



WINTER FUN

Baraga County 4-H has been busy playing in the snow. On February 23, 2020, 4-H had its annual sledding day. The weather was perfect, sunshine and 45 degrees. A potluck meal was enjoyed. We had lots of new faces enjoying the warm day. Many of the youth enjoyed shooting hoops in the gym.



Baraga County 4-H Craft Club made Valentine's for clients that receive Meals on Wheels. Seventy-five valentines were made.

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

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