



Baraga County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



1 Extension professional based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$423,021 total economic impact in Baraga County



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



1 affiliated clinical site



\$3,619 spending with local business



48 alumni (bachelor and graduate degree)



MSU disbursed \$104,130 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Baraga County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2020, 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



BARAGA COUNTY

Additional MSU Extension Reach

- Michigan State University Extension staff have been actively serving the residents of Baraga County.
- Services from across all reaches of Extension are accessible because of the Gold Standard commitment Baraga County has made with Michigan State University Extension.
- Baraga County residents are able to access services in the areas of Agriculture and Agribusiness; Children and Youth; Community, Food and Environment; and Health and Nutrition.

287

Baraga County Residents Served

107

of Programs Baraga County Residents Attended



BARAGA COUNTY

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown **107**

Programs Baraga County
Residents Attended

5

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

61

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

69

Children &
Youth
Programs

152

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) has engaged MSU Extension to facilitate a Constitutional Convention process. A team of MSU Extension staff including Will Cronin, Emily Proctor, and Brad Neumann, responded to a request and at short notice to prepare 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 accomplish this, a Tribal Constitutional Convention must be convened. The Tribe requested that MSU Extension 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.

A follow-up session had been scheduled but was put on hold due to Covid-19.

As the pandemic dragged on however, KBIC decided to move ahead with the program virtually and sessions were held monthly from August through November. Cronin and Proctor facilitated these meetings remotely sharing information about term limits in other tribes as well as other units of government in Michigan. Tribal participants considered many issues including the number of terms itself, grandfathering, and the distinction if any in treatment between appointed and elected terms.



The Convention submitted language successfully to the Tribal Council for consideration, however, the Council failed to pass it. MSUE's role in the Convention process was considered successful by key stakeholders.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Thank you both for all that you have done in working with the constitution convention. You both were very helpful." - Sarah Smith, KBIC CEO

"The Committee met on 3/10, 8/25, 9/8, 9/22 and 10/6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss various aspects of term limits and what would best serve the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Throughout, Michigan State University Extension facilitated meaningful discussions that helped participants fully explore and voice their views on the various issues and considerations. For context and illustration purposes Will Cronin and Emily Proctor of MSU Extension also provided a great deal of research and helpful information by surveying how other tribes used term limits." - Kevin Carlisle, KBIC Tribal Attorney

Program Highlights

TOURISM COFFEE HOUR

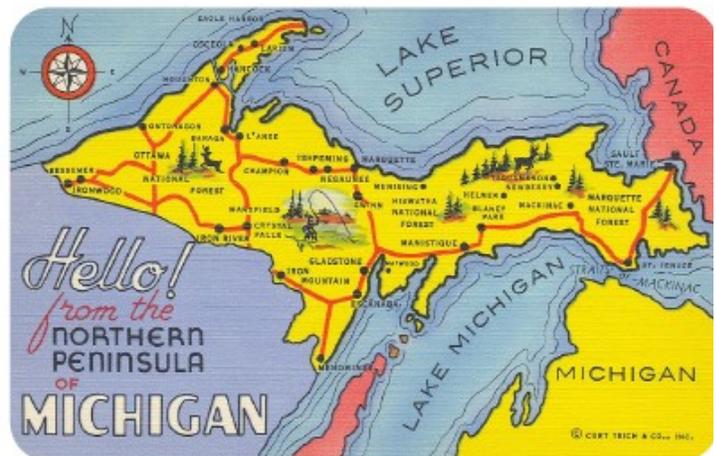
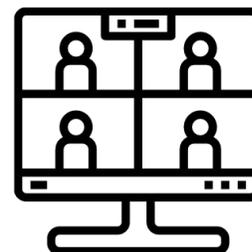
Due to Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 stay-home orders, leaders in tourism and hospitality had few venues to stay in contact and discuss the situation and the industry response.

Objectives: 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 U.P. industry planning and response.

The “Virtual Coffee Hour” was held weekly beginning in mid-April. Average participation was 20. At some point, there was participation from every county in the Upper Peninsula. We had regular attendance from the following areas:

Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Munising/Alger County, Marquette/Marquette County, Keweenaw Peninsula/Copper Country, Baraga County, Gogebic County, Newberry Area, Ontonagon Area, Regional Partner Organizations, Regional Planning, SBDC, UPTRA, InvestUP and MEDC

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](#).



Program Highlights

TEEN CUISINE, L'ANSE AREA SCHOOLS

The Community Nutrition Instructor was in the L'Anse Area Schools facilitating Teen Cuisine with at-risk youth. They made the Orange, Banana Frosty recipe. Each youth practiced knife safety skills cutting bananas. They practiced measuring liquid ingredients. They talked about how much of each ingredient you would need if you were making this recipe for two people, practicing math fractions.

The teens enjoyed the simple recipe and making their own smoothie. Each teen said they felt like they have the ability to prepare this recipe at home. In speaking with the teacher weeks later, he stated that he has been making the smoothies at home. His son plays on the football team. It was Mr. J.'s turn to provide dinner for the team. He made spaghetti and smoothies. All of the football players enjoyed the smoothies and said 'keep them coming'. He sent the recipe to the player's parents via email.

Mr. J. stated on a personal note he has been making smoothies on a daily basis. He also noted he appreciated that the class was informed to use this as a base recipe and they can change it up to their liking, by switching or adding ingredients, like strawberries, spinach, etc. He has made the recipe with spinach for his son that does not pay attention to what he eats. Now Mr. J. Jr. makes his own smoothie every day and adds a ton of spinach and fruits. His favorite is strawberry and peanut butter.

FAVORITE QUOTE.

“My son is a picky eater and he liked it.”



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.*



VIRTUAL SLUMBER PARTY

Baraga County 4-H held a virtual slumber party on October 9. 3 families participated. Youth made ghoulish paper bag puppets, ghost slime, and decorated pumpkins. This was the first time the youth had ever met and they left friends.



FAVORITE QUOTE

"This slumber party is more fun than a real slumber party and now I have a new best friend."

I LOVE SCIENCE

The 4-H Program Coordinator led a 4-H Science SPIN club with an after school program at Baraga Schools. The lesson was "Can you build a boat with aluminum foil?" from the "Teaching Science When you know Diddle Squat Series".

The 4-H PC had worked with this group of youth for several years and the coordinator requested a change from the usual crafts. "We do crafts all the time." This is how we ending up with SCIENCE!

The session consisted of 8 youth in grades 3 through 5. They were so excited about making boats and were over the top when one of the boats held 219 pennies.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Yes! I made a boat that held the most pennies!"

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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