



Barry County 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Barry 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 Barry County residents need it most.



In this report, we’re excited to share about the people and programs that are improving the lives of Barry County residents in many ways, including helping grow Michigan’s agriculture economy, encouraging sustainable use of our natural resources, controlling health care costs by giving individuals the information they need to manage chronic illness and preparing tomorrow’s leaders. From an in-person workshop to online education, MSU Extension professionals work every day to provide the most current information when people need it to ensure their success – in the workplace, at home and in the community.

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

Eun Moore

District 7 Coordinator

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MISSION:

Michigan State University helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

2017 4-H CONNECTIONS

Barry County 4-H Clubs.....	45
4-H members (traditional club enrollment)	1,119
Special Interest program participation	761
Teen volunteers	86
Adult volunteers	312

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MSU Extension’s Expanded Digital Reach



More than 3.7 million people viewed more than 7.2 million pages on MSUE website



~1.3 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were distributed to about 16,900 email addresses



More than 3,500 Facebook followers and more than 2,800 Twitter followers.

Based on data for 2015-16 program year.

4-H Youth Development



Teen leader teaching 4-H members about goat educational projects.

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

4-H Entrepreneurship

MSU Extension's 4-H Entrepreneurship group had five businesses start in 2017. Of those five, three of them attended the Generation E Showcase, and each came home with an award. MSUE has been running a formal entrepreneurship program for the past 10 years and each year we have had award winning businesses, some of which are still running today! In fact, one 4-H entrepreneur recently gave up his job to run his business full time from his basement. In addition to orders he receives, he currently has products for sale at the General Store and is working on another location in Grand Rapids. We have three businesses headed for the Generation E Showcase on May 9th at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. One of our former participants attended a Teen Entrepreneur Camp at GVSU and her team took second place in the competition.

Winner of "Outstanding Business Plan"



Animal Science in Action

Last year MSUE's 4-H Developmental Committees planned several animal science training events. We held several events including an Egg to Chick embryo development workshop taught by a 4-H alumni who is an MSU Poultry Science graduate and currently a poultry farm quality control manager. We held a rabbit housing, care and notebook training for the Rabbit club as well as a Pork Quality Assurance training for our pig project members. Additional activities that support our animal clubs are the weekly dog club training meetings, horse shows, skill-a-thons, showmanship clinics, mock shows, work out meetings so kids and their animals can be familiar with the fair grounds before fair and so much more.

Understanding Disease Transmission and Biosecurity Training

Anytime animals are brought together from different areas there is a risk of illness. In an effort to help our volunteers teach youth what's normal and what is not and to better prepare families in the event that an illness were to happen, we provided each club with a training. MSU Animal Science specialist Katie Ockert provided a hands on training utilizing Veterinary Science materials from UC Davis. Upon completion each club received a copy of the curriculum to use with their club. Some of those in attendance indicated they were going to use the materials at their next meeting.

4-H and the Culinary Arts



4-H Program Coordinators

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Barry County Culinary Arts Program

MSU Extension's 4-H Culinary Arts program continues to grow, thrive and evolve. A few years ago, we started a live cooking competition at fair, which, due to its success, continues today. The Culinary Arts competition engages youth ages 5—19. Last year, one of the award winning entries was Sheppard's Waffle Cone filled with bacon mac & cheese, which then became a lunch feature at Kloosterman's. The program has grown to include a mystery basket competition. Participants are given access to a pantry of goods and a mystery basket containing items to be incorporated into their dish. They then have 30 minutes to create, plate and serve their dish to our judges. Using the skills that they develop in this program, they are able to come up with very creative and tasty dishes!

We continue to have our summer Culinary Arts program in partnership with Chef Justin and Seasonal Grille. This hands-on class included several 10-11 year old boys. The class culminates with a four-course meal that the students plan, prepare and serve to our guests. The kids exemplified their newly learned skill-set while they serve their guests, introduced themselves and answered questions about the food and the experience.



Barry County 4-H and United Way Partnership

With the support from Barry County, MSU Extension was able to start a partnership with Barry County United Way to almost double the youth engagement in the county, and bring on an additional part-time 4-H Program Coordinator. In 2017, Barry County United Way contributes just over \$58,000 to support the county 4-H program.



4-H Partnerships



Barry County 4-H and Sunny Crest Youth Ranch

Sunny Crest Youth Ranch's mission is "to provide a safe, loving environment that positively influences the social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of young men and their communities." MSU Extension's 4-H program is happy to have had the opportunity to partner with Sunny Crest to bring development opportunities to the Ranchers.

Boys from Sunny Crest Youth Ranch enrolled in MSU Extension's 4-H program in the Bridles and Bits 4-H Club a few years ago and have had some excellent mentoring from 4-H volunteers. They have been active in the rabbit, sheep, goats, horse and non-livestock projects. MSUE 4-H volunteers have interaction with the Sunny Crest staff and the boys. In addition to the animal science they are learning they also have the experiences of interacting with other 4-H members in their club and at fair. They have both experienced winning and losing at the fair. Our goat committee secures donations of buckets and awards them as prizes for showmanship. One year, one of the boys received a bright shiny new bucket. He had never won anything before and carried his bucket around throughout the week hugging it as a child would a stuffed animal. He was so proud!



In addition to the "normal" 4-H project lessons the boys receive, 4-H volunteers have helped secure animals for them and in some cases housing for the animals. This year one of the staff from the Ranch became a 4-H volunteer in our horse project.

The partnership with Sunny Crest Youth Ranch has also been a good learning experience for our 4-H members as it offered a bit of diversity. It has also helped members look through a different lens and have a better appreciation for what they have and are able to do. We have amazing volunteers who make extraordinary things happen to help our members and serve their community.

Dairy Production



Barry County ranks 8th in Michigan milk production according to the 2012 USDA Ag Census.

Martin Mangual
MSU Extension Dairy Educator
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Animal Handling Workshop

New Extension Educator, Martin Carrasquillo-Mangual, hosted an Animal Handling Workshop at the Sand Creek Dairy Farm in Hastings. Martin covered how to safely move downed cows, understand balance points, flight zones and sort cows with minimal stress. This training was provided to help farm owners, managers, and employees learn how to safely handle animals in a low-stress environment. This training met the requirement for the FARM program annual training requirement and was offered in both Spanish and English. The Workshop was attended by 21 Barry County residents (9 attended the English session, 15 attended the Spanish session).



Dairy Animal Handling Workshop

**Do you work with dairy cows?
Then this meeting is for you!**

Where: Sand Creek Dairy, 1045 Solomon Rd, Hastings, MI, 49058

When: Thursday October 12, 2017

English	11am	Low Stress Handling
English	12pm	Safely Handling the Down Cow
Spanish	1pm	Safely Handling the Down Cow
Spanish	2pm	Low Stress Handling

Participants will learn how to safely move down cows, understand balance points, flight zone and sort cows with minimal stress

- Spanish version taught by native Spanish speakers
- Down Cow Movement taught by Jeremy Boge, DVM
- Meets FARM program annual stockmanship training requirement
- No registration fee
- To RSVP call Martin at 616-994-4581 or carrasq1@anr.msu.edu
- Please wear boots and clothing free of manure
- Para información en español: 616-994-4581 ó carrasq1@anr.msu.edu

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equal opportunity employer.

Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you support food, agriculture, natural resources and the bio economy in your community.

Barley Research and Demonstration Field Day

As the craft brewing industry is expanding in Michigan, so is the desire to source locally grown barley for malting. Spring and winter barley variety trials, as well as management trials, were performed at the Michigan State University (MSU) W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS). This research and demonstration field day was used to educate farmers and representatives from the malting and brewing industry about growing, managing, sourcing and supplying barley as a specialty crop to the craft malting and brewing industries.

The MSU Extension malting barley research program hosted a demonstration field day at KBS in response to the growing demand for locally sourced ingredients for the craft beer market and farmers exploring this re-emerging crop. At the station, 25 spring and 33 winter varieties are being trialed, along with various management strategies, including fertility. The research is funded through grants from the Brewers Association, MSU Project GREEN and the American Malting Barley Association, which provide support for the statewide research. Five residents of Barry County attended the demonstration field day.

Malting Barley Field Day

W.K. Kellogg Biological Station – Hickory Corners, MI
Wednesday, June 29th



Agenda

- 8:00 Registration with refreshments
- 8:30 Welcome, MSU Research Updates
Ashley McFarland (MSU)
- 9:00 Malting Barley Production Panel, moderated by Ashley McFarland
Christian Kapp (MSU UPREC)
Dr. Brook Wilke (MSU KBS)
Nate Schramski (Farmer)
Dr. Paul Schwarz (North Dakota State University)
- 9:30 Malting Industry Panel, moderated by Ryan Hamilton (Michigan Barley Association)
Jeff Makiewicz (Great Lakes Malting Company)
Megan Goldenberg (Macon Creek Malt)
- 10:00 Brewing and Distilling Panel, moderated by Scott Graham (Michigan Brewers Guild)
Andy Farrell (Bell's Brewery)
Steve Berthel (Brewer and Ambassador of Michigan Ingredients)
Duncan Williams (Grizzly Peak Brewing Co.)
Kyle Shutz (Long Road Distillers)
- 10:30 Barley research plot tours
- Noon Lunch
- 1:30 Barley management plot tours (optional)

Location Directions:

From the North: Entrance to the site is 1.5 miles south of Hickory Corners, MI on Kellogg School Road then 0.2 mile east on Baseline Rd.
From the South: Entrance to the site is 3.25 miles North of M-89 on 40th Street then 0.2 mile east on Baseline Rd.

Michigan State University
AgBioResearch

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Arts and Eats

ARTS
AND EATS



MSU Extension supports tourism, agriculture and the arts in Barry County through coordination and sponsorship of the Arts and Eats event each fall.

**Arts and Eats Program
Coordinator:
Garrett Ziegler
zieglerg@msu.edu**

Arts and Eats Tour

The seventh annual Arts and Eats tour took place on October 21-22, 2017 across Barry, Allegan and small pieces of the surrounding counties. This year's tour featured amazing fall colors, sunny weather in the 70's both days, and increased sales and visitors over the previous year's tour. Arts and Eats is a backroads food, farm and art tour which provides an opportunity for visitors to southwest Michigan to visit local eateries, artists' studios and galleries, and local farms. It began seven years ago as a collaboration of several community organizations in Barry County, including Michigan State University Extension, and has since expanded to cover Allegan County and portions of Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The tour has a specific focus on rural and regional tourism promotion and has been viewed by participating sites as an economic development tool for their county and region.

Specific to Barry County, there were two eateries, five artists, and three participating farms. Each of these sites were included in the annual map and guide, which is printed and distributed across the region/state and serves as a travel companion for visitors.



Carriage Shed

Artist: Winnie Haines, Woven Placemats, Rugs, Table Runners
3600 Pifer Rd, Delton, MI
269-623-2182



The Cracked Pot

Artist: Kris Campbell, Pottery
9845 S Banfield Rd, Dowling, MI
269-721-8227
kriscampbellpottery.com



Creative Kicks Studio

Artist: Michelle Dunkleburger: Stained Glass
232 N Main St, Nashville, MI
231-638-0905
facebook.com/creativekickstudio



Historic Charlton Park

Artist: Various artists from the Barry County Artist Exhibition
2545 S Charlton Park Rd, Hastings, MI
269-945-3775
charltonpark.org

While specific visitor counts and sales numbers for sites are still being compiled, initial feedback from planning committee members who made stops during the tour showed increases in overall visitation and sales throughout the weekend.

The Arts and Eats tour has been supported by local organizations such as the Barry Community Foundation, Hastings Mutual Insurance Company and Downtown Hastings on the Thornapple. MSU Extension and other Arts and Eats planning partners are looking to build upon the success of this regional tour effort by expanding the brand and marketing materials to other areas of the state and help regions organize their own Arts and Eats tours. This has the potential to raise awareness of the Arts and Eats brand to new areas of the state and elevate visitation and participation in Barry County as a result.

Keeping People Healthy



Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.



Improving nutrition and increasing physical activities in Michigan communities

MSU Extension delivers relevant, evidence-based education to help people in Michigan stay healthy throughout their lifespans. Programs teach participants how to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods and increase physical activity.

From October 2016—September 2017, MSU Extension SNAP-Ed nutrition education programs reached 57 adults and 292 youth from Barry County. These programs are supported with funds from the USDA grant for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed).

Cooking Matters for Child Care Providers

Using the evidenced-based curriculum, Cooking Matters, SNAP-Ed Extension Educator, Lisa Thatcher, reached six child care providers. This 10 hour series teaches child care professionals cooking, food safety, and food budgeting. Topics include: Creating Positive Mealtime Attitudes, Safe Cooking with Confidence, Choosing Healthy Foods for Kids, Meals that Appeal to Kids and Menu Management on a Budget.

Statewide Nutrition Programming

Results from a statewide evaluation of all MSU Extension nutrition programs showed that:

- 79% of youth participants improved their abilities or gained knowledge about how to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Guidelines.
- 79% of adult participants made a positive change in at least one nutrition practice, such as preparing foods without adding salt, or using labels to make food choices.
- 73% of adult participants made a positive change in at least one food resource management practice, such as planning meals in advance or comparing prices.

Professional Development
CDA #1

Great Start to Quality
Michigan's Quality Early Childhood Education

Cooking Matters for Child Care Providers

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

This 10 hour series teaches child care professionals cooking, food safety, and food budgeting. Topics include: Creating Positive Mealtime Attitudes, Safe Cooking with Confidence, Choosing Healthy Foods for Kids, Meals that Appeal to Kids and Menu Management on a Budget.

Trainer: Lisa Thatcher

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM
Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25
Class Fee= FREE

Thornapple Valley Church
2750 South M-43, Hastings

For more information
Please contact:
Child Care Resources
1-800-343-3470 x 224
pam@ccr4kids.org

[Sign Up Now](#)

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Keeping People Healthy



Master of Balance class participants (pictured above)

Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce health care costs by providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

In 2017, MSUE worked with the coalition to create and complete a healthy choices table tent for restaurants to place on their tables. There are currently 11 restaurants in Barry County that display the table tents.



"Our mission is to foster an active, healthy community by creating policy and environmental changes that make the healthy choice the easy choice for all Barry County residents."

Matter of Balance is an eight-week evidence-based program. Participants gain the tools needed to reduce fear of falling and be more active. This includes sharing strategies within the group, setting realistic goals to increase activity, strength and balance, and changing their environment to reduce fall risk factors. Two programs were offered in Hastings at the Commission on Aging and in Middleville at the Methodist Church in July 2017. There were 10 participants in Hastings and 13 participants in Middleville that attended and completed the program. Co-facilitators include Diana Hassan from MSUE District 13 and Jill Sambaer from the Barry-Eaton Health Department.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an evidence-based program designed to equip caregivers with a range of self-care tools to help them reduce personal stress and communicate effectively with family members and healthcare providers. This is a program to help the caregiver take care of themselves. A program was offered in Hastings at the Commission on Aging in November 2017. There were 6 participants that attended and completed the program.

The National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) is an evidence-based program for adults 18 years and older who have been diagnosed with prediabetes or who have risk factors for type 2 diabetes. Participants learn to incorporate structured, healthy lifestyle habits that will help them reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Sessions focus on nutrition, physical activity and environmental changes and are held on a regular basis for one year. Barry County had one program that had 5 participants the attended and completed the program.

The **B. Healthy Coalition** was formed in April of 2012 as a result of the Community Health Needs Assessment, which found obesity prevention as one of the community health needs in Barry County. This coalition is a partnership among Spectrum Health Pennock and the Barry-Eaton District Health Department and involves community participation from a variety of supporters. The overarching goal of the B. Healthy Coalition is to *reduce the obesity rate among Barry County residents to be at or lower than State of Michigan average according to the County Health rankings*. Through a focus on policy and environmental change the B. Healthy coalition has an aim to make the "healthy choice the easy choice," and to increase awareness of a healthy lifestyle and how that helps to support and promote overall physical and mental health.

Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



Michigan Sea Grant helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach.

A collaborative effort of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs.

District Council Invited Lawmakers to Learn on the Water

On September 8, 2017, members of MSU Extension's District 7 Council headed out on the *D.J. Angus*, a vessel owned and operated by GVSU for the purpose of educating people about the Great Lakes and inland waters. Also in attendance were State Representatives Roger Victory, Rob Verheulen, and Jim Lilly as well as Matt Kooiman, Public Policy Manager for Congressman Huizenga.

Council members and leaders participated in water quality sampling in Spring Lake and Lake Michigan led by GVSU staff. In addition to learning about how invasive species have dramatically affected our lakes, the group heard from MSU Extension's District Sea Grant Educator Dr. Dan O'Keefe on connections between our waterways and coastal economies.

The group learned about Michigan Sea Grant's work with the Lake Michigan salmon and trout fishery, a cornerstone of the \$7.1 billion Great Lakes sport fishery. Sea Grant has been instrumental in helping anglers understand their fishery and share data with biologists through the *Salmon Ambassadors* and *Great Lakes Angler Diary* programs. Last year many anglers were caught off guard by the Chinook stocking cut proposal. MSU Extension News articles helped people better understand the issue by addressing some common misconceptions.

- **Most Chinook salmon caught in Lake Michigan are wild, not stocked.** According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Mass Marking Program, wild-spawned Chinook salmon made up 71 percent of the Chinook catch for Michigan anglers in 2014-2015.
- **Even ports that are not near spawning rivers rely mostly on wild fish.** Grand Haven is a good example of a port that does not support natural reproduction. Volunteers with the *Salmon Ambassadors* program found that 74 percent of Chinook salmon caught in the Grand Haven area in 2015 were wild.
- **Alewife are at a historic low.** The USGS Great Lakes Science Center's bottom trawl survey found that yearling and older alewife biomass density dropped to the lowest levels since monitoring began in 1973.
- **Natural reproduction is a huge factor.** In 2017, Lake Michigan stocking is being reduced from 1.80 to 1.35 million Chinook salmon. If wild reproduction returns to normal, we could see an increase of over 3 million young Chinook salmon entering Lake Michigan in 2017. This could completely overwhelm the effect of the stocking cut in terms of the total number of Chinook salmon available in Lake Michigan. In other words, there is a good chance that people will not notice any decrease in the quality of fishing over the next few years. The bad news is that Lake Michigan still appears to have too many mouths to feed and too little food.

The District 7 Extension Council will be headed out again on September 12, 2018.

Local Government Finance and Policy



MSU's Center for Local Government Finance and Policy works to provide the best research and teaching to help local government officials make informed decisions.

Only with healthy, vibrant communities can Michigan residents be expected to thrive. To help Michigan prosper in a sensible, sustainable fiscally responsible way, MSU Extension launched the [Center for Local Government Finance and Policy](#) in late 2015. MSU Extension has been engaged in the education and training of local government officials in Michigan for over 50 years. The Center will build upon this work and will institutionalize research and outreach on state and local governments at MSU for years to come.

The mission of the Center is to be a leader in the production and dissemination of the best research and teaching on issues of local government finance and related policy issues. The Center will work through a broad and diverse network of affiliates from within and outside of MSU. The Center is supported by many key partners, including the Mott Foundation, Pew Charitable Trust and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Recent research reports from the Center:

- Legacy costs
- Fiscal distress indicators
- The ability of local governments to deliver services
- County revenue sources in other states
- County revenue sharing
- The impact of the Headlee millage rollback provision on county property tax revenues

The Center is led by Dr. Eric Scorsone, who is on temporary leave from MSU to serve as the Senior Deputy Treasurer for the State of Michigan. Robert Kleine is serving as interim director in Dr. Scorsone's absence.

Safe Food Personal Finance



MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), is the most sweeping reform of our food safety laws in more than 70 years. It aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it.

Reducing foodborne illness through education

The National Institutes of Health estimates that every year, 48 million people in the United States become ill and 3,000 die from pathogens in food. Causes range from outdated home food preservation practices to unsafe sanitizing practices at public events and small businesses. MSU Extension food safety training workshops include: 16-hour ServSafe trainings, 8-hour ServSafe trainings, food preservation, Cottage Food Law, and Cooking for Crowds.

On-farm food safety

MSU Extension has been working with several partners around the state to ensure Michigan farmers are informed on the [Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\)](#) and its potential impacts on their businesses. FSMA is the most sweeping reform of our food safety laws in more than 70 years. This is a significant impact to fresh produce growers because it calls for new standards and training programs.

In addition, MSUE is partnering with Cherry Capital Foods to build the first statewide USDA Certified Group GAP program in the nation. MSUE is providing compliance education through a robust suite of resources, events, and trainings, which will assist growers in obtaining GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification.

Personal finance

MSU Extension held a workshop on techniques for passing on non-titled personal property (family heirlooms for example) to the next generation. MSU Extension also offers classes on money management and best practices for purchasing a home both in-person and online. For more information about MSU Extension finance and housing programs, please contact Jinnifer Ortquist at ortquisj@anr.msu.edu.

MSU Extension Staff Located in Barry County

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- Mark DeYoung (Allegan)
- Carrie Jo Anderson (Kent)
- Dick Bethel (Kent)
- Harold Mast (Kent)
- Jerry Miller (Kent)
- Mary Jane Belter (Ottawa)
- Mick Kokx (Barry)
- Mike Bronkema (Ottawa)
- Greg DeJong (Ottawa)
- Matt Fenske (Ottawa)
- Audra Fuentes (Ottawa)
- Yumiko Jakobcic (Ottawa)
- Michelle Morrow (Ottawa)
- Matt Schmid (Ottawa)
- Heather Wing (Barry)



Thank you to the Barry County Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the educational and outreach programs of Barry County MSU Extension.

Howard Gibson, District 1

Dan Parker, District 2

David Jackson, District 3

John Smelker, District 4

Ben Geiger, District 5

Vivian Conner, District 6

Heather Wing, District 7