

Cheboygan County

2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

CONTACT US

Hello from Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) District 14, which serves Alpena, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle Counties. We want to thank Cheboygan County for another year of partnership. Together we bring dynamic and diverse educational events and programming to people right here in our communities.



Michigan State University Extension
Cheboygan County

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Find our website: <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/cheboygan>

MSUE is the outreach and engagement arm of Michigan State University and brings the latest research from campus directly to you. We believe education and innovative solutions can help address many of today's complex issues. We look forward to our continued service to Cheboygan County and the State.

We hope you enjoy reading through the Cheboygan County MSUE annual report for 2015-2016.

Lisa Anderson

District Coordinator, District 14



ISSUE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

In 2015-16, MSUE conducted focus group sessions throughout the state to determine where the people we serve felt our efforts should be focused. In January of this year, District 14 conducted two such focus groups; one in Alpena and one in Gaylord. The top ten issues identified are summarized below. These areas of focus will be combined with our statewide focus group results and will be used to prioritize our future direction and long-term planning. We are currently conducting additional focus groups and surveys to ensure Michigan's diversity is represented. These results will also be combined with the statewide efforts. Thank you to those who participated in this process—your time is appreciated and your perspectives are important to us.

Top Ten Issues Identified in District 14

Youth Development/Education (4H)

Agriculture

Community Development

Citizenship

Water Quality Issues

Life Skills

Farm to School

Nutrition

Race Relations

Bovine Tuberculosis Research



DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES—4H

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). Extension programs help children develop early literacy skills that support school readiness. They learn leadership and decision-making skills in 4-H that increase their likelihood of becoming civically active. 4-H'ers also demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors such as drug use, and learn to complete tasks, solve problems and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H involvement also helps participants avoid or reduce involvement with the court system. This helps ensure more young people succeed in school, attend college and contribute to their communities. More successful young people in communities results in greater tax revenues and consumer spending and increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

Supporting school and student success

March Reading Across America Month

4-H partnered with Wolverine Elementary School in choosing an agriculture theme for their Reading Awareness month. The teachers decorated their classrooms focusing on different aspects of agriculture. To launch the reading campaign, 4-H youth read agriculturally accurate stories to the students each day during the first week of March. Each day of the week had a theme. On goat day, a 4-H youth read a goat themed story and brought her baby goat for the students to meet. Patti Spinella, MSU Extension's Snap-Ed Instructor, joined in by reading a story about an apple orchard. She brought three variety of apples for the students to sample and learn more about healthy eating. Students also learned about farming and how it connects to the food they eat. 4-H youth members had the opportunity to stretch out of their comfort zones and read a story, out loud, in front of 125 other youth and share about their 4-H experiences raising an animal.

Wolverine 10th Grade Career Exploration Class

4-H Program taught the 4-H Build Your Future: Choices, Connections, Careers curriculum in a 10 week series to Wolverine School's 10th grade students. Students identified careers that interested them, conducted research and learned the educational requirements of these careers. One of the ways students learned about their career interest was by interviewing someone currently working in that career. Instead of asking the students to do this on their own, the 4-H Program Coordinator brought professionals

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).



Reading Across America- Caitlin Williams reads to Wolverine Elementary youth.



From once-a-month family workshops and in-school science lessons to after-school technology training and classroom gardening, MSU Extension supplies Michigan schools and the families they serve with the support they need to be successful.

Left: Wolverine 10th Grade Career Exploration Class

In the U.S. today, many job openings for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) -related positions go unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

to the school either face to face or over the phone. Nine professional adults in the following careers participated: judge/lawyer, army officer, video game designer, law enforcement, musician, journalist, marine biologist, sports coach, and professional photographer. Students also developed their resumes, learned about how to dress for success and participated in a mock interview experience. Two youth connected their experience in this class with summer opportunities. One will be attending a marine biology camp in Florida and the other one has been hired by a law enforcement sting operation to see if stores will sell cigarettes to minors.

Supporting STEM careers through youth programming

After School STEM Clubs

“STEM” stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In this 6 week club experience, youth were taught the science thought process through a variety of hands on tasks. Youth were asked to solve a problem without any specific instructions. To find a solution, youth used science, technology, engineering and mathematical skills. Each challenge was completed as a team so that youth could learn and practice teamwork and communication. Each club meeting was another opportunity for youth to practice these important skills. This club was held three times at Wolverine Secondary School with 6 youth participants; Inland Lakes Middle School with 12 youth participants; and at Inland Lakes Elementary School with 10 youth participants.

Family Engineering Night

The After School STEM Clubs planned and hosted a Family Engineering Night. The club members chose ten “openers” to begin the evening. Openers are interactive engineering challenge activities that take only a few minutes to complete. Families self-selected which activities they wanted to try. The club members also shared one of the challenges they completed in the club as the main event. For Inland Lakes Family Engineering night, the 23 adults and 31 youth, completed the Eco-Bot challenge where they built an autonomous robot to clean up a simulated toxic spill. At Wolverine, the families (13 adults and 25 youth) created an artistic robot. These events were great moments for families to learn, problem-solve and create together.



Family Engineering Night



Inland Lakes STEM Club.



Developing Youth and Communities, continued

4-H Camp Rein or Shine

4-H Camp Rein or Shine was held in June. This 22 year old therapeutic horseback riding day camp for disabled youth is planned by the 4-H Proud Equestrian Program Committee. This year's camp had a huge response and was beyond maximum capacity with 18 riders participating. Three of the riders were completely wheel chair bound. The riders spent time learning about horses and horsemanship, riding, doing arts and crafts and learning about gardening. The committee hired a riding instructor and recruited many new volunteers to assist with this camp. For 18 riders, we had 42 adult volunteers to assist with side walking, leading the horse, being a group leader, helping with arts and crafts and the garden project. It was a great success!

Pork Quality Assurance Training and Certification

This training and certification became a new requirement for all youth participating in the 4-H Swine Project. At the training, youth learn about how to produce a quality meat product that is safe for the general public to consume. For example, they learned about medicated feeds and antibiotics and the timeline for when these need to be discontinued if they plan to sell the swine at an auction. Older youth had the opportunity to take a test and become certified. Some buyers look for the PQA certification to ensure that they are buying a quality swine product.

Zoonotics Training

Zoonotics are highly infectious diseases that are shared between animals and humans, like swine influenza and avian influenza. It is important for youth (and adults), who are raising and exhibiting animals to understand these diseases and what steps they can take to minimize the risk of infection themselves, their animals and the general public. At the Cheboygan County Fair, 4-H offered a free training that was open to the public. The 8 adults and 7 youth who attended now have a much better understanding of how to prevent the spread of a zoonotics disease.

Cheboygan County Fair 2016:

4-H youth brought 23 horses, 3 steers, 6 sheep, 18 swine, 5 goats, 37 rabbits, 2 chickens and 9 turkeys for a total of 103 animals to the 2016 Cheboygan County Fair. The youth also entered approximately 372 exhibit projects that included items such as, arts and crafts, woodworking, educational posters, sewing, vegetables, club displays, animal record books, etc.



Thomas Tafoya at Fair with his Pig

It was a huge step of faith when Ali's therapist and parents signed her up for 4-H's Camp Rein or Shine. Ali has autism. She is physically capable of riding a horse. Her challenge would be to socially interact with other riders, volunteers and her horse.

The first obstacles would be getting her to wear a riding helmet, long pants, covered shoes, and allow someone to touch her. For years, Ali has only worn flip flops and shorts. Also, if anyone came close to her she perceived that they might breath on her or touch her long hair, she would become extremely anxious. The therapist worked on these challenges for weeks before camp. The fact that Ali even stepped foot into the horse barn dressed appropriately to ride was a huge success.

The volunteers walking alongside her would also occasionally touch her to help her balance in the saddle. She didn't even seem to notice. She was riding a horse named Rocky! On the final day of camp, the riders wear camp t-shirts. *Continued below:*

Ali did not. Another parent questioned Ali's therapist regarding this. The therapist only smiled and said, "If you could only see how far she has come in the last few weeks, you would know that she has conquered mountains. Riding a horse has made a huge difference. Maybe by next year, she will be ready to try wearing a different shirt than the one she wears every single day."

Picture: (right) Ali and Rocky



DEVELOPING YOUTH—EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood

There is no more important time in a person's life than those formative years between the ages of birth and 5. Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) supports early childhood development through programs that help prepare Michigan's children from birth to 8 years old succeed in school and in life.

MSUE improves school readiness by teaching parents and caregiver's methods that increase early childhood science and reading literacy, and ways to prepare children socially and emotionally for school.

Michigan State University Sustainable Communities Project (MSUSCP)

Michigan State University Sustainable Communities Project (MSUSCP) is a pilot program consisting of a partnership between MSU Extension and MSU faculty. The program is funded by a grant through Children, Youth, and Families At Risk (CYFAR) a division of the USDA. As a result of this funding, the class is offered to parents and primary caregivers of children aged 0-3 at no charge to families.

- This grant project won a first place national Human Development and Family Relationships award from the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Building Early Emotional Skills (BEES) is a parenting workshop to develop the skills needed to help parents learn to support the social and emotional development of children. It is an eight-week class where parents come together to work towards enhancing their parenting skills, decreasing parenting stress, and learning helpful information about early childhood development.
- The third Cheboygan series was completed in March with 5 participants, and the fourth series was completed in May with 3 completing. Another session held in Cheboygan is scheduled for November and December of this year. There is one more year of programming left on the grant, so series will continue into 2017.

Early Childhood Education for Parents and Caregivers

Early childhood education was provided targeting adults caring for children birth through age 8 including biological parents, foster parents, child care providers, preschool staff, etc. With the goal of increasing knowledge of basic concepts of early child development including how to keep children socially, emotionally and physically safe as well as techniques that support school readiness and academic success for young children. Programming was conducted with parents and caregivers in Cheboygan County and surrounding areas on topics like early literacy development, positive discipline, and social emotional health and wellbeing and what children need to know to start school. In District 14 (Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena and Presque

Quote from a parent about the BEES workshop:

"[I learned] how to help my child to find what feelings she was having and to teach her about feelings. It helped me a lot the past two months."



Kylie Rymanowicz and the BEES Team with their award winning project.

Developing Youth—Early Childhood Development,

Isle) 68 adults had been reached so far in 2016.

Child Care Provider Trainings

- Presentations given at local early childhood conferences (Alpena/Montmorency/Alcona, Crawford/Oscoda/Ogemaw/Roscommon),
- Partnered with Great Start Northeast Resource Center to provide trainings for child care providers throughout the Northeast region.
- Webinars taught monthly to reach teachers and other early providers locally and statewide.

Parenting classes

In response to an identified community need, twice monthly parenting classes were offered April through August. Due to low participation, classes were reformatted and new strategies of reaching local parents are being tested. Once monthly classes will be offered from September through December 2016.

Outreach and Awareness of MSUE Early Childhood Education

- Family Fun Day at the Fair – Literacy activities were provided for children and families to participate in during Family Fun Day at the Cheboygan County Fair. Seventy three families attended.
- Animal Tales – Monday through Friday during the fair, we hosted Animal Tales, a story time for young children and families. A new animal was highlighted each day. Stories were read about that animal and then a 4-H youth would bring in one of their animals for children to engage with and ask questions. Twenty nine youth attended.
- Babysitting SPIN Club in Wolverine – A six week 4-H Special Interest Club was completed at Wolverine Schools focused on learning how to be a good babysitter. Participating youth learned about child development, positive discipline, caring for children, the business of babysitting, and safety. Eight youth fully completed the series and received certificates. (A Cheboygan class was scheduled this summer but was cancelled due to low enrollment.)

Curriculum and Resource Development

- Two new modules were created to provide training and education for adults and caregivers of young children including: “Young at Art: Art for Academic Success” which teaches parents and caregivers how art experiences are educational and gives them tools to promote learning and exploration through art. “The Resilience Toolbox: Building foundational skills for resilience in early childhood” which teaches parents and caregivers about resilience, the negative impacts of stress on children and how they can support the development of resilience in young children.
- A new babysitting curriculum is being created in partnership with other Michigan State University Extension staff, a new babysitting curriculum is being designed for youth to experience throughout the state.

“This has been really helpful. It makes you think about things differently. It makes you think about how you really parent.”
-Parent

“I learned how important it is to build strong, supportive relationships with children. How that can have an impact on their whole life.”
- Caregiver



Family Fun Day
Literacy Demonstration

Babysitting Club participants learned all aspects of babysitting, safety, positive discipline, etc.



KEEPING BUSINESS STRONG

MSU Extension and the MSU Product Center help Michigan entrepreneurs develop and commercialize products and businesses in the food, agriculture, natural resources and bio economy sectors. It also helps young people develop business skills that will help them succeed as adults and help communities capitalize on their ecological, social and cultural assets. This fuels the economy by creating and retaining jobs, and helps ensure a healthy tax base.

Cheboygan is Business Strong

- 9 Cheboygan county residents attended the Cheboygan Cottage Food Law class that Michelle Jarvie and Wendy Wieland taught on April 30, 2016.
- 14 Cheboygan residents attended the 2015 Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference; 12 in 2016.
- We had a meeting with the Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan, whose Chair is Craig Waldron of Cheboygan County. The MSU Product Center and Wendy Wieland as an Innovation Counselor, has worked extensively on behalf of this initiative and of this group.
- The Local Food Alliance of Northern Michigan (LFA) is comprised of residents of Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and surrounding counties. The LFA has met for 4 years to discuss and strategize how to create a more local and regionally focused food system.

Mark your calendars! The 2017 Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference is set for January 28, 2017 with the Farm School taking place the day before.

Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference

For the past 15 years, growers, food enthusiasts, community members and organizational partners have been braving what is typically a long and snowy drive in late January to attend the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference. What the original MSU Extension organizers likely didn't foresee at the time was how incredibly popular this annual event would become. With over 1000 attendees annually, it has become the pre-eminent small farm conference in Michigan providing education and resources for small and mid-scale growers in the post-20th century world of Agriculture.

While the Conference has moved from Otsego County to Crawford County to its current home at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan it truly represents a statewide, multi-organization and constituency collaborative program. It is now led by a community partner, ISLAND. The Antrim County based non-profit is the planning and fiduciary home of the Conference. MSUE staff have been involved in all aspects of the Small Farm Conference, from planning speakers to conducting youth programming

Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference demonstrates a hoop house at last years event..



KEEPING BUSINESS STRONG

to working with local chefs, farmers and food distributors to assure that 80% of the food served on the day of the Conference comes from local and/or Michigan growers.

From Joel Salatin, the Conference's first keynote speaker and self-proclaimed 'environmentalist, capitalist and lunatic farmer' to Jeff Moyer, Elliot Coleman, Percy Schmeiser, Fred Kirschenmann, and Winona LaDuke, the Conference has featured the Country's leading growers, researchers and engaged citizen/eaters that have questioned the long-term sustainability of the industrial food system and are providing promising alternatives. The Conference planning team, which is now comprised of a collaboration of growers, university, and community partners, continues its pursuit of cutting edge practices and practitioners. By focusing on the ecological, economic and social aspects of more community based food-systems, scores of viable, triple-bottom line businesses have been started and thousands more report the changes that they have or will make as a result of something learned at the Conference. Visit their website at: www.smallfarmconference.com



Michigan Maple Syrup



MSU Product Center staff is also supporting Michigan's maple syrup industry, which is experiencing an exciting upswing in both products and producers. This initiative has been led by the new Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan Association, which was spearheaded by Craig Waldron of Far Hills Maple Syrup, of Cheboygan County, and some of the other largest maple syrup producers in the State. *The Business of Maple* Conference was hosted by the new Commercial Maple Syrup Producers of Michigan Association. This was

the group's first trade-show and educational conference, held in late August of 2015. MSU Staff presented a workshop session to growers and was also available to offer counseling services to the many northern Michigan businesses present.

For a season that generally lasts only four to six weeks, Michigan can produce a sizable amount of syrup. In 2012, it was estimated that Michigan produced 65,000 gallons of maple syrup, 3 percent of the national total.



Wendy Wieland of MSU Product Center facilitates the Local Food Alliance Around the Table mini conference at North Central Michigan College.

KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. About 48% of all SNAP Participants are in working families (USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 2011).

Snap Education (SNAP-Ed) is a federal-state-partnership that supports nutrition education for SNAP eligible persons. State agencies that choose to conduct nutrition education through SNAP are reimbursed for up to one half of their costs. MSU Extension's SNAP-Ed programs teach adults and children how to make the most of their food dollars by developing skills such as menu planning, understanding recipes, food preparation and keeping food safe.

SNAPshot

Since September 2015, MSU Extension SNAP-Ed programs were presented to 861 adults and youth in Cheboygan County! MSU Extension's Cheboygan County programs including Cooking Matters for Teens, Project Fresh, Senior Project Fresh, and Show Me Nutrition.

- 465 youth and adults participated in a six-week series of nutrition lessons.
- 396 youth and adults participated in a one-time lesson on healthy lifestyle choices.
- 2852 contacts were made with adults and youth in 2015.
- Two Nutrition articles / newsletters reached over 9200 Cheboygan adults each month.

As a result of programming, Michigan adults demonstrated adoption of healthy eating in 2015 through participation in SNAP-Ed programming:

The percentage of adults eating fruits and vegetables as snacks increased...
by 6.7% across the state of Michigan
by 10.0% within District 14 (Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Presque Isle)

***Success Story:** At the end of a Cooking Matter for Teens class a few comments were shared: One stated that “this class taught him how to cook” and another said that it “taught me how to eat and make food healthier.”*

More than 75% of healthcare spending (in Michigan and the U.S.) is for people with chronic diseases including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, and dementia. Leading a healthy lifestyle can greatly reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases (Michigan 4 by 4 Wellness Plan).



Cooking Matters for Teens was held at Straits Area Youth Promotion Academy (SAYPA) where the teens not only learned about cooking and healthy eating but also competed in two groups to prepare a complete meal for guests.

Keeping People Healthy, continued

Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills needed to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; and stretch their food dollars.

Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills

MSU Extension is serving 544 children and families weekly in the Tip of the Mitt area through a partnership with Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. As part of the backpack programs of food distributed for the weekends, children and families receive recipes, resources and information to make a healthier choice an easier choice.

Alpena County: 6 schools, 268 children

Otsego County: 1 school, 120 children

Montmorency County: 2 schools, 72 children

Presque Isle County: 1 school, 48 children

Cheboygan County: 2 schools, 96 children

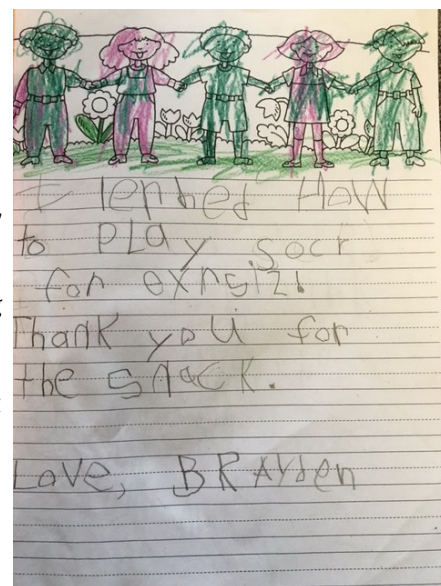


Show Me Nutrition

Show Me Nutrition is a six-week program for youth from Pre-K through eighth grade. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in age appropriate, interactive, hands-on activities that promote good eating habits, positive body image, physical activity and food safety. Through each interesting and fun nutrition class, students will gain the skills necessary to make healthy lifestyle choices. This six series program covers eight different lessons throughout the school year. Cheboygan County Kindergarten, 2nd grade, 3rd grade and 5th grade participated in this six week series.

Show Me Nutrition success stories:

- "Dear Ms. S, Thank you for teaching about the six nutrients like I never knew there were carbohydrates and I didn't know fats were healthy for you. I learned a lot about the digestive system even though it was gross, I still liked it. I loved having you as a healthy teacher. Sincerely, Warren, 3rd grade"
- "I lerned eting fruts r good for me! Thank you for teching us a song. Love, Alexis."
- "I lerned about exrsiing? Thank you for the snacks! Lucas"
- "I lerned to wash my hands. Love you. Owen"
- "I played with my mom on my bike. I ride to get xsre."



Cheboygan Middle School students joined in an activity to see how well they washed their hands. Using a black light and glow lotion they were surprised to see what they missed.



Keeping People Healthy, continued

Reducing anger, bullying and stress

Through MSU Extension's Be SAFE: Safe, Affirming and Fair Environments initiative, young people and adults learn ways to reduce and prevent bullying and harassment behaviors. As a result of the education:

- 98% gained understanding about different types of bullying behaviors and how they can affect those involved.
- 98% developed new skills for interrupting behavior.

In an effort to promote prevention of child abuse and neglect, MSU Extension Educators have offered Nurturing Parenting series throughout the state. As a result of the 10 workshops involved in this program:

- 53% improved their adaptive skills and strategies to use in times of crisis.
- 41% of Nurturing Parenting participants improved their perceived informal support that helps provide for emotional needs.

RELAX

MSU Extension's RELAX: Alternatives to Anger program offers techniques for calming down and de-stressing, problem solving, communicating and letting go of the past. The program reaches low-income and racially/ethnically diverse audiences. As a result of the program:

- 70% now work hard to be calm and talk things through and 66% try to end on positive note when they get upset.
- 68% reduced their frequency in yelling and screaming which is an indicator of improved strategies to address aggression and violence.
- 66% now take time to understand how others feel.

Project Fresh and Senior Project Fresh

This series provides information on how to choose, store and prepare fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. Seniors and WIC-eligible individuals receive coupons to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables from local farmers' markets. Funding support is available to all SNAP, EFNEP, and WIC-eligible individuals.

Qualified adults 60 years and up receive coupons that are used to purchase Michigan-grown produce at registered roadside stands and farmers markets. Eligible items include: berries, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, beans, honey, and more. Participants gain access to fresh produce that help provide essential nutrients for healthy aging.

Project and Senior Project Fresh Success story: "This is a great program (Senior Project Fresh) because we wouldn't be able to purchase fruits and veggies if we didn't have these coupons!"

"I learned some different ways to model self-control. I intend to take what we learned and apply it in my home." -RELAX Parent/Caregiver workshop participant



Senior Project Fresh/Market FRESH

MSU Extension staff and volunteers hand out Sr. Project Fresh coupons at the Cheboygan Senior Center.



MAKING THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ASSETS

Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about income-generating opportunities, ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs can lead to increased income for families that retain their natural resource assets, help landowners become better stewards of their land, and protect land management opportunities for future generations. Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

Sea Grant Extension

The MSU Extension Greening Institute supports efforts to carry out Sea Grant programs throughout Michigan. Michigan Sea Grant Extension helps apply research, conducts educational activities and is connected to more than 40 coastal counties. Extension educators provide technology transfer by interpreting scientific knowledge for decision-makers, public officials, community leaders, businesses and industries. MSU Extension facilitates events, including workshops, training and educational programs.

Michigan Sea Grant Extension provides targeted support focusing on marinas and other businesses, 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.

In collaboration with scientists, communication specialists and others, Extension educators help implement Michigan Sea Grant's strategic focus areas.

Helping Michigan residents become better stewards of our inland lakes

Collectively, our Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI) network, NOAA B-WET (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Bay Watershed Education and Training) water education partnerships, and Center for Great Lakes Literacy trainings have invested in promoting Great Lakes Literacy and supporting a growing place-based education network and culture among our Northeast Michigan schools and communities. During 2015, over 350 Cheboygan County youth were engaged – through their learning – in Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects supported through this NEMIGLSI partnership. Eight teachers from Cheboygan County were supported in professional development or fielding place-based stewardship education projects with their students.

To marshal all of the passion and energy so many people and organizations have regarding Michigan's lakes, MSU Extension helped organize the first Michigan Inland Lakes Convention.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets, continued

Enhancing, expanding and empowering youth and educators

The NEMIGLSI network engages youth in Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects, provides support for schools and educators, and facilitates school-community partnerships. Place Based Education (PBSE) brings students into closer contact with their communities, empowering youth-led stewardship projects that enhance their environment and community. This education strategy allows schools to enrich the learning and lives of their students; and when schools and communities work together, they produce powerful partnerships that are beneficial to all. This PBSE strategy also fosters Great Lakes literacy learning and environmental science, technology, engineering, and math (E-STEM) opportunities applied by youth in their stewardship service. With funding through the statewide Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Northeast Michigan GLSI (NEMIGLSI) is facilitated by Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant, 4-H Youth Programs, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and several other regional partners.

NEMIGLSI

During the 2015-2016 school year, the NEMIGLSI supported 94 educators in 32 schools across eight northern Lake Huron counties, involving more than 4,100 youth (more than 20% of the region's total student population) in stewardship projects. Since 2009, more than 19,000 students have engaged as Great Lakes stewards, E-STEM learners and valued community leaders through the NEMIGLSI. Recently this network was honored with a national Environmental-STEM innovation award from the North American Association for Environmental Education and UL Innovation for empowering youth through E-STEM experiences applied to accomplish place-based education stewardship projects. This award includes \$25,000 contributed to the NEMIGLSI network, through the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, which will be reinvested in supporting Environmental-STEM learning and place-based stewardship education opportunities among area schools and youth.

Michigan water trails

The Inland Waterway is a 40-mile long historic water route that begins north of Petoskey and with a series of rivers and lakes connects Conway, Oden, Alanson, Indian River, and Cheboygan to Lake Huron. A coastal route, part of the **Huron Shores Blueways**, connects the City of Cheboygan to Mackinaw City and the Straits of Mackinac. Interested in learning more? Visit www.michiganwatertrails.org. See the paddle route tips, weather safety, paddle safety, interactive maps and much more.

Water trails supply residents and visitors adventures along urban waterfronts or remote Great Lakes coastline as well as provide communities with economic development opportunities.



Michigan Sea Grant Extension offers expertise to coastal communities and partners interested in developing and enhancing water trails.

SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Pesticide Applicator

Pesticide Applicator Training

MSU Extension pesticide training and recertification programs improve pesticide use practices in Michigan by ensuring that certified applicators receive up-to-date information on pesticide regulation, handling and application. On February 26th, 2015, MSU Extension trained 14 private and commercial pesticide applicators at the Central Lake Public Library, including two Cheboygan County residents. The four hour review covered material from the National Pesticide Applicator Core Manual. Many of the participants used this training to earn educational credits toward keeping their certification valid. Others used the course as a review prior to taking Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) pesticide applicator exams. That afternoon, an MDARD representative offered an open pesticide applicator exam session. Thirteen pesticide applicators completed 15 core and category exams. Aided by an opportunity to review key information, all applicators that participated in the morning training session offered by MSUE passed their core exams.

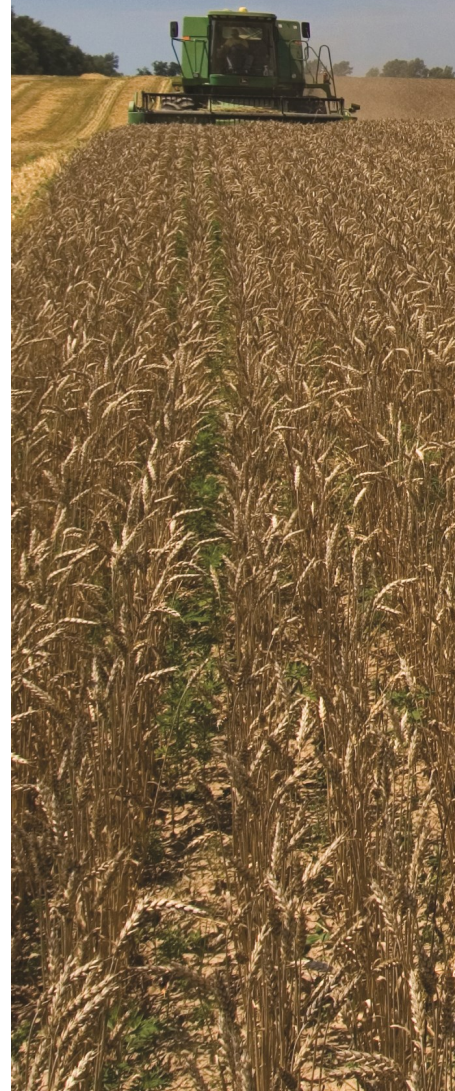
Fighting back against emerging pests

Pest and Crop Management Update for Field Crops

Pest populations and crop management recommendations are constantly changing so producers must stay ahead of the curve to remain profitable. This requires current information based on quality research that will be delivered locally. On February 2, 2016 MSU Extension hosted producers, agribusiness representatives and governmental agency staff from across Northeast Michigan at Alpena Community College for the day-long 2016 MSU Extension Pest and Crop Management Update for Field Crops. The seminar, one in a series of six held throughout the state, was an opportunity for participants to prepare for the 2016 growing season by receiving the latest research results and recommendations for field crop production and pest management from MSU specialists. Presenters included five MSU faculty members specializing in field crop production and pest management, as well as Jody Pollok-Newsom, Executive Director of the Michigan Wheat Program. Participating growers estimated that the information they received would result in \$7.50 of savings or added revenue per acre in 2016 across 2,525 acres, or \$18,937.50 in total. Participants were also eligible for five MDARD Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits.



When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



Pest and Crop Management update class for northeast Michigan drew a crowd.

Extension Educators Serving Cheboygan County

Staff Located in Cheboygan County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
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