



Chippewa County

2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT

msue.msu.edu



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Our mission at Michigan State University Extension is to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. Over the past 12 months, our staff has worked with residents throughout Chippewa County to address local needs by connecting people to the resources of the university and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading the latest Michigan State University Extension Chippewa County 2016 annual report. It is a snapshot of the highlights of the important work done with county funds that supports the MSU Extension staff in Chippewa County. Thank you for your continuing and strong support every year, it remains true that without you, we would not be here doing this important work with the residents of Chippewa County.

Jim Lucas
District 2 Coordinator



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MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H Programs.....	1198
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TOTAL IMPACT.....	2,199

MSU EXTENSION'S EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH

Through combined face-to-face trainings, online webinars, social media, website interaction and electronic newsletters, MSU Extension has made more than 8.8 million connections. More than 149,000 adults* and 203,000 youth† participated in MSU Extension programming in the 2015-16 programming year.

More than 3.7 million people viewed more than 7.2 million pages on the MSU Extension website.‡ Of those, more than 760,000 were Michigan residents. MSU Extension remains one of the most visited Cooperative Extension System education websites in the country.

MSU Extension also distributes a series of electronic newsletters that cater to residents' unique interests. Last year, nearly 1.3 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were distributed to

DISTRICT 2 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, 14,016 visitors from our six-county district viewed 42,231 pages of rich, science-based content on the MSU Extension website (msue.msu.edu). Search engine rankings make msue.msu.edu one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

about 16,900 email addresses.‡ You can sign up for these informative newsletters by visiting msue.msu.edu and clicking on "Newsletter Sign Up" texting MSUE to 22828.

MSU Extension uses social media channels to reach people with educational content. Currently, Extension reaches more than 3,500 Facebook followers and more than 2,800 Twitter followers.‡ In addition, Michigan 4-H families and volunteers stay informed about activities through social media channels, including on Michigan 4-H Facebook with more than 4,000 likes and on Twitter with more than 1,300 followers.

*From ES237 Federal Report – Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015

†From Michigan Extension Planning and Reporting System – Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015

‡From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016

Developing Youth and Communities



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).

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 Junior Master Gardner Workshop

With much thanks to Dixie Sandorn, hosted the Chippewa County Junior Master Gardener Program. We had 12 attend the first night, and 5 the second. This was a fantastic training. Dixie's work definitely "planted seeds of growth" in Chippewa County.

The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) curriculum engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. Learn more about the resources available through the JMG program.

Water Rediscover

Four Chippewa County 4-H Youth, with thanks to volunteer Emily Grasch and Lake Superior State University professor, Dr. Megan Kelly, had an incredible international science experience with youth from Nagaon Town in North-east Indian State of Assam. Dr. Achintya Bezbaruah of North Dakota State University developed a program called Water Rediscover in 2012. The purpose of the program is to have youth start thinking about local water quality issues and, using the scientific method, research and try to solve the problems.

Chippewa County youth identified specific pollutants in our area and they hypothesized that if they filtered the polluted water through a water filtration system that they designed using natural materials, the turbidity cloudiness helps determine water quality. Their results showed the water system did not work; however, they are already theorizing new water filter system designs. The youth from India (Nagoan Bengali Girls School and Nagoan Bengali Boys School) The Nagoan team observed that the students in the school have frequent diarrhea and upset stomach and hypothesized that the drinking water specifically the water they carry in their water bottles may be contaminated. They tested for bacteria counts in different sources of water and storage units including their water bottles and found water bottles indeed harbor pathogenic bacteria if not cleaned and kept properly. Our students presented at 8:00 am on Friday, Jan 29th, the students from India where it was 6:30 pm in the evening. It was an amazing scientific and cultural experience for all youth involved!



4-H/LSSU Partnerships

Night at Crawford Hall – March 2015

After the successful partnership with nursing Professors Beckham and Kellan and their students, 4-H and the nursing program planned a new program called Night at Crawford Hall. This new program not only helped the LSSU students earn their community clinical hours, but also provided a new opportunity for youth. This event was designed for 4-H youth to experience hands on learning associated with both science and health care. All youth ages 5 - 12 participated in a Crawford Hall "Zoo Tour" to view the collection of wildlife, fisheries, and geological artifacts. In addition, they got to work with "Hal," a pediatric demonstration simulator unit. Younger youth (age 5 - 8) were able to bring their favorite teddy or doll for a very special "Teddy Bear Clinic" while the older youth (age 9 - 12) participated in a heart saver demonstration. Forty-nine local youth participated.



Kinross Alternative Tour of LSSU – Spring

For three years, MSU Extension has been working with the Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities to provide programming to the Kinross Alternative School. MSU Extension helped organize a tour of LSSU, where 2 year programs were highlighted. Ten youth participated.

4-H Summer Camp – July 2015

Each year, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Counties host a 4-H Summer Camp, where 48, 8-12 year olds attend. This past summer, LSSU Nursing Professor Adrienne Beckham served as the day time nurse, and brought with her one of her senior nursing students so that the student could work on her completion of clinical assignment hours.

Aquaponics – April 2015– 2016

Dr. Barbara Evans, a biology professor at LSSU, asked MSU Extension in the spring last year if 4-H would partner in an aquaponics project that she wanted to write a grant. The grant would provide different teams of youth with the necessary equipment to build their own aquaponics system. The teams would compete against each other and be judged, including, but limited to, overall design and successful output of the system. The project was kicked off with an aquaponics open house at the college showing off their systems and research to date to hopefully entice local youth to work on the project. The grant was awarded, and a fall 2015 start date was hoped for, but the start date of this project was pushed back until after January.



WaterRediscover – August - 2016

MSU Extension received an email from Rebecca Shewe, a graduate student at North Dakota State University (NDSU) and a graduate of LSSU. Ms. Shewe asked if 4-H would participate in a WaterRediscover, a NSDU program. **WaterRediscover** is a program aimed at stimulating research in water and wastewater. The program developers believe in training the younger generation with the skills necessary to carry out scientific research to purify water and make it available to mankind and others in our environment. Within this program, youth learned how to work in a group environment; learned how to carry out scientific research; learned data collection, analysis, and interpretation; learned how to maintain a research notebook; designed a treatment system to treat wastewater; and learn that failures teach us lessons too.

During this process, they work with college professors, community volunteers, and peers.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Whether it is written, spoken or visually represented, the way we express ourselves makes a big impact on our daily lives at home, work and play.



They put together the results, and presented them in a video conference in December where teams from around the world also presented their research. Teams from different past countries have included Kenya, China and Hungary.

The program was guided by Dr. Megan Kelly, a chemistry professor at LSSU. This was an exceptionally neat opportunity for the five local youth that participated, because in addition to the cognitive hands-on learning that took place, they met in an LSSU auditorium type classroom, had access to the classroom's laptops for research, and had been able to utilize LSSU's Chemistry lab for the experiments.

The link is for an article on the program - http://www.lssu.edu/whats_new/articles.php?articleid=3262.

Constitution Day- September 17 2015

On Thursday, September 17, 2015 Chippewa County 4-H, League of Women Voters of the EUP (LWVEUP), the EUP ISD, and Lake Superior State University hosted the 2nd Annual Constitution Day Celebration with guest speaker Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. Also playing key roles in this program were 50th Circuit Court Chief Judge James Lambros, 91st District Court and Chippewa County Probate Court Judge Elizabeth Church, Judge Jocelyn Fabry (Sault Tribe Judge), Eric Blubaugh (50th Circuit Court Magistrate and Juvenile Referee), Elizabeth Chambers (Chippewa County Friend of the Court/Family Division), Dave Nyberg (Associate Legal Counsel, Tribal Liaison, and Northern Michigan Office Director for Governor Rick Snyder), Dennis McShane (Chippewa County Prosecutor), Rob Stratton (Chippewa County Public Defender's office), Jennifer France (Chippewa County Public Defender's office), Linda Stoetzer (League of Women Voters), Prof. Carol Andary (LSSU), Dr. Melissa Shaffer-O'Connell (LSSU), and local attorneys David Bulson, Wm. Dyke Justin, Leanne Deuman, Charles Palmer, Elizabeth A. Eggert and Steven J. Cannello.

Last year, the sponsors coordinated a tremendously successful and groundbreaking Constitution Day Celebration that brought over 110 children, parents, and government officials together to discuss the U.S. Constitution and specific Supreme Court cases relevant to students' rights.

This year's celebration was in two parts, the first of which was a school-day program at the Chippewa County Courthouse where Justice McCormack addressed local students about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students were then divided into seven discussion groups, each group with its own legal case; two legal professionals led each discussion group, assisted by LSSU law students.

The second portion of the celebration was at the Arts Center at LSSU starting at 7:00 pm. Participants heard Justice Bridget Mary McCormack speak on the importance of youth being civically engaged. The speech was live-streamed on LSSU's website, and there was a screen on stage so that people could tweet in questions. The League of Women voters had information available on the importance of voting, and 4-H had information available on its State and National Capital Experience Programs and International Exchange Program. The link to the evening program is <http://livestream.com/lakestate/BridgetMacCormack2015>.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

4-H National Youth Science Day – Motion in Commotion - November 2015

LSSU again was great partners with 4-H in hosting this year's NYSD event, Motion in Commotion. They provided all the same amenities they did last year, plus a whole class of remarkable nursing students to volunteer!



Lake Superior State University junior level pediatric BSN nursing students, with LSSU nursing professors Kellan and Beckham, spent their morning learning what they need to know to volunteer for Tuesday's 4-H National Youth Science Day event, Motion in Commotion!! The event will be held at LSSU, Tuesday, Nov 10 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. This is a free science activity for local 4-Hers in 3rd-6th grade. For more information on the event, or to see how to sign up for 4-H, call Jan or Melanie at 635-6368.

John Shibley– 2016

John Shibley, photographer/writer, public relations office for LSSU, has agreed to work with 4-H to create adult leader recruitment material. John is going to visit different clubs to take the pictures to be used. Sam Carter, a LSSU creative writing graduate, will write the stories and help to organize the different brochures.



Northsong 4-H Writing Club

Northsong 4-H Writing Club is collaborating with LSSU to write and perform a play that will take place on March 18, 2016 in the LSSU Arts Center as a fundraiser for the Chippewa County 4-H endowment fund. The club is working closely with Spencer Christensen, assistant professor of theatre, and Susan Kirkman, services coordinator for Upward Bound. We began partnering in August when I reached out to Janice Repka, assistant professor of English, asking if she thought any English or Theatre students would be interested in helping us write and perform a play. She suggested that Spencer get involved, so we met on September 23 to plan how we would approach the project. Since then, Spencer and Susan have attended every club meeting. Their knowledge of theatre and their ease in interacting with the kids has been invaluable. The play the kids are writing (A 4-H Fractured Fairytale) is incredible, and what an experience for them to see a play develop from idea, to paper, to production. The play will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:30 pm at the Arts Center.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



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.

When you support MSU Extension's efforts to enhance residents' access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food, program participants will focus on food safety measures in the field and at harvest, learn proper food preparation and food preservation techniques, and bring community partners together to strengthen access to healthy food supplies. This leads to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

Chippewa FoodCorps/Farm to School

During the 2015/16 school year the FoodCorps program in Chippewa County served 366 students primarily at JKL Bahweting Charter School. Bahweting was the primary school we worked with for the year. FoodCorps Service Member Jeannette Cushway worked with the school doing in class programs, assisting in planning the school garden and doing taste testing in the cafeteria. This culminated in a school garden build the first week of June 2016. Assistance was also provided to Whitefish Township School, Malcolm alternative High School and Pickford Schools through the program. A presentation was also conducted to the Detour art and science academy regarding what farm to school could look like.



Cottage Food Law

MSU Extension Food Safety Team and MSU Product Center presented a Workshop for Michigan Entrepreneurs. The Cottage Food Law allows residents to prepare and store certain foods in a home kitchen. The two hour workshop combined the business and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully. Participants in the workshop received a certificate of completion. There were 11 participants.

Vegetable Skill Building Workshop

Healthy food is an essential building block to a healthy community. This vegetable skill building workshop will help you grow more healthy food while caring for the resources that care for you. Some of the topics covered in this workshop included Preparing New Sites, Soil Fertility/Soil Test, Composting, Intro to Plasticulture, Diagnosing, Understanding and Controlling Insects, Helping Pollinators do Their Job, Season Extension, and Diagnosing, Understanding and Controlling Diseases. There were 36 participants.



Ensuring Strong Communities



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.

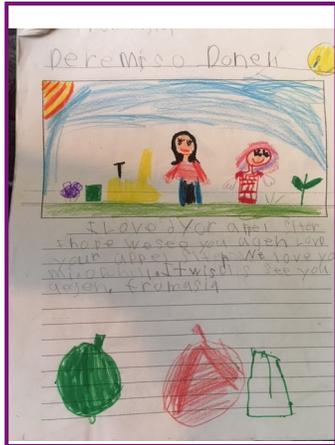
When you support MSU Extension, participants learn how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged; learn effective conflict management skills that help leaders and residents work collaboratively on complex issues; and engage youth leaders in decision-making. In the personal finance area, MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults. All of these outcomes help lower the cost of governmental services and lead to personal and community stability, strong neighborhoods and safe communities.

Constitution Day Celebration

The 3rd annual Constitution Day Celebration was another tremendous success with 320 local high school students participating in two identical day time programs, one morning and one afternoon. The event was held at the Chippewa County Courthouse. This year's event featured five-year Vietnam POW Captain Guy Gruters. Captain Gruters spoke on "Freedom: It Is our Right." He spoke about what he witnessed and experienced in a communistic country, his living conditions as a POW, and encouraged the youth that they need to appreciate their freedoms and be involved to make sure their rights and the Constitution are always protected.

Then, the youth were split into seven discussion groups. Each discussing group was led by two local legal professionals, and many had an accompanying Lake Superior State University (LSSU) political science student assisting. Each discussion group was centered on a Supreme Court case decision centered on students' rights. After the discussion groups, the youth were brought back together in the courtroom where they could ask Captain Gruters questions, and presentations were made about 4-H civic opportunities and voter registration with the League of Women Voters.

Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program

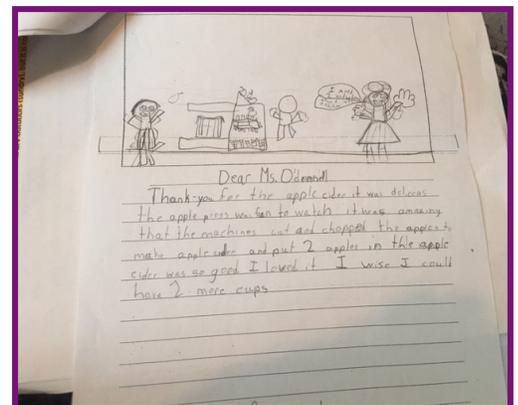
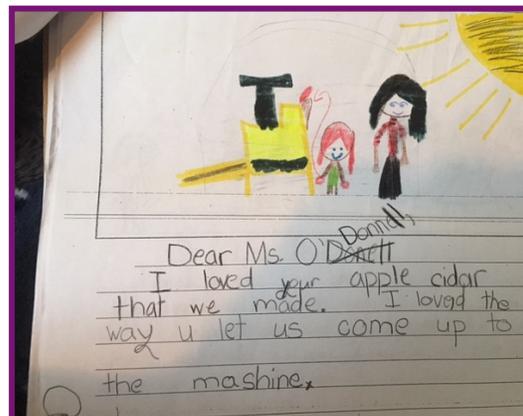


Cider Press Science Activities

This fall the MSU Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) lead hands on cider pressing with over 175 youth at JKL Bahweting and Ojibwe Charter School. Student participants ranging from kindergarten to middle school explored the simple machines and other science concepts involved in producing apple cider. Youth made and taste tested fresh cider made from Michigan apples. Miigwetch (thank you) to Bay Mills Community College's Waishkey Bay Farm for loaning out their wooden cider press equipment to make these activities possible.

Production Workshops in Partnership with Bay Mills Community College

Quarterly agricultural production workshops held at Bay Mills Community College's Waishkey Farm. Planned in partnership with the Bay Mills Community College's Waishkey Bay Farm team and Bay Mills Health Center's Bemidji Area Leaders Acting for Change BALAC Program. Workshops included seed starting and garden planning, an elders garden talking circle, strawberry information and plant giveaway at a monthly Wiisinidaa Mno Miijim (Let's Eat Good Food) meeting to celebrate the strawberry moon and a garlic planting workshop combined with the annual community cider pressing event. Production workshops are open to all participants.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Keeping Businesses Strong



When you support MSU Extension, you help participants understand the economic, environmental and social benefits of purchasing local and regional foods.

MSU Extension and the MSU Product Center help Michigan entrepreneurs develop and commercialize high-value, consumer-responsive products and businesses in the food, agriculture, natural resources and bio economy sectors. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants understand the economic, environmental and social benefits of purchasing local and regional foods. You also help 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.

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Bootcamp

The CEC “Bootcamp” was held over a two day period in June of 2016 at the Lockview Restaurant in Sault Sainte Marie. With a total of 48 participants. The first day sessions included:

Forming an active local entrepreneurial support team.

Forming a local e-Team does not have to mean establishing yet another 501-c-whatever... What it does mean is recognizing all the various organizations that your community has and establishing a method whereas those organizations communicate, share information and resources and work together towards the common goal... helping entrepreneurs succeed in your town. Learn how to establish such an e-Team in your community.

How to Kill an Entrepreneur.

Learn ways that your community can really make it difficult for entrepreneurs to succeed. In fact, by following some basic steps, you can kill existing entrepreneurs and make sure no others will establish or grow. This interactive presentation will share common approaches that kill entrepreneurs, and discuss how to change your community into one that celebrates and supports entrepreneurial growth.

Basic tools & resources to assist local development.

Whether it's an entrepreneur trying to develop their product and reach market, or a community striving to develop a unique sense of place, an extra set of hands is oftentimes needed to take those next steps. Learn the wide range of help available in the EUP—from business counseling to accessing capital, and from planning tools to community development programs.

LSSU Prototype Development Center – a great resource for your local entrepreneurs.

The PDC is a not-for-profit activity of the Lake Superior State University School of Engineering and Technology that provides fee based engineering services to businesses, entrepreneurs and inventors. Whether a prototype device or process is needed or making an existing idea ready for market the PDC can help with engineering in the areas of Mechanical, Electrical, Software, Manufacturing and Robotic/Automation, Statistical Analysis, Technical Writing and Documentation. If a project needs additional support in the business or sciences areas, the PDC can manage the project and collaborate with various departments of the university. For example, projects may benefit from the involvement of the LSSU School of Business in developing a marketing or business plan.

Keeping Businesses Strong, continued

Can Small Towns be Cool?

Let's face it. Most people want to live in a cool city. Of course the definition of "cool" varies and it does not have to mean "big city glitz". Regardless of the definition, to attract and retain people of all ages to your community... it needs to be a place they consider "cool". Following the release of Richard Florida's book "The Rise of the Creative Class", cool cities became a buzzword and unfortunately the impression was that only urban centers really had a chance. Knowing that small towns are the backbone of our country, Dave Ivan set out to answer the burning question... "Can small towns be cool?" What he found was a resounding "YES" and there are some pretty cool things happening in small towns all over the United States that make these small towns the type of place that people want to live.

Entrepreneurship Benchmarking – is your community entrepreneurial friendly?

You may know what you are doing well, but do you know where the gaps are?

Entrepreneurial success is greatly determined by community support. The center for Rural Entrepreneurship has developed six readiness indicators which can help establish the likelihood a community might have in building an entrepreneurship program. This fast-paced interactive presentation will briefly explore your community's entrepreneur supportive environment.

Second day Sessions included:

LSSU Campus Resources

Take a walking tour of various labs on campus and learn how they can assist entrepreneurs in your community. Tour includes Robotics Lab, Prototype Development Center and Environmental Lab. Tour led by Eric Becks, LSSU Director of Intellectual Property and Economic Development - Engineering Projects Manager, Prototype Development Center

Case studies of well-functioning community teams

Learn from two communities that have "been there, done that".

- Mike Wilson and Phyllis Youga will share success stories from "*Generate Sturgis*" (a local e-Team that has been in existence 10 years) as well as other local community volunteer teams, and the secret sauce of working with local teams
- Mary Faculak will share the exciting "*East Jordan, MI Green Light*" program. Their version of "Shark Tank" which has resulted in several new business launches. East Jordan is a community with a population of 2,400 people. Yes... even small towns can have successful "pitch nights" if done correctly.

New Staff



New Staff Stationed in Chippewa County



MSUE Welcomes it's newest regional extension educator Elliot Nelson. Elliot will be working under the MI Sea Grant program, which is dedicated to fostering economic growth and protecting Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach.

Elliot Nelson is originally from the Upper Peninsula having grown up and graduated high school in Cedarville Michigan, located on the northern shoreline of Lake Huron. As a child he developed a love for the outdoors spending much of his time along the shoreline, in the woods, or in a boat.

Elliot attended Michigan State University for his Bachelors degree and afterwards taught High School science for 4 years . During that time he was also involved in a number of outdoor and environmental education programs and worked to develop an ecotourism program in the eastern UP.

Most recently Elliot obtained his Master of Science in Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Michigan. During that time he worked on a number of projects helping to develop the MI Water Collaboration Network, the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Management Plan, and the North Huron Birding Trail.

Elliot feels very privileged and blessed to be able to return to his home region of the EUP and is very excited to begin work with the MSU Extension team in the area. Elliot will be focusing on a number of topics including fisheries, aquaculture, natural resource education, coastal tourism, community development and coastal restoration . Over the next few months Elliot will be developing his work plan and is looking forward to connecting with regional partners and learning more about how MI Sea Grant and MSUE can create opportunities in the EUP.

To contact Elliot call 906-635-2845 or email elliotne@msu.edu

Supporting Food and Agriculture



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



Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. The production of commercial food and nonfood agricultural operations is growing rapidly. The number of households raising a portion of their own food and raising livestock or gardening for pleasure or relaxation continues to increase. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices. Participants also learn how to optimize and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and how to conserve and protect water resources. This education leads to better use of time, money and human capital, and helps retain and create agricultural jobs. These measures strengthen Michigan's economy while connecting farmers to local food opportunities and global markets. In this way you help MSU Extension encourage growth in a sustainable and prosperous Michigan food and agriculture system.

Chippewa County Forage Field Day

In July of 2015 MSU Extension held an outdoor forage educational event that included 3 Rudyard area farm visits focusing on annual forage selection/utilization and economical use of lime and fertilizer to improve hay production. U.P. MSU Extension educators and host farmers lead the discussions. Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU Forage Extension Specialist was also on-site to answer questions on selecting and utilizing annual forages, and economical methods to improve hay production.

The first stop was at Foelkersma Dairy Farm . The discussions there included Small grain/field pea annual forage, including triticale/pea, oat/pea and barley/pea combinations, and Field-scale triticale/pea planting + strip plots of oat/pea and barley/pea. The second stop was at Berkompas Farm where the discussion included the use of lime and fertilizer for economical improvements to hay production and ¼ acre demonstrations of low and high fertilizer and lime application rates. The third and final stop was at the Love Farm. There was 1-acre demonstration strips of 14 different annual forages/cover crops . There was a total of 22 participants.

Getting Ready for Market

Vendors came together to learn more about marketing and food safety considerations in planning for market season. Topics included food safety in growing, harvesting and selling at market. They also talked about marketing considerations while at the market - how to treat your market booth as your storefront.

Education on the Farm

Waishkey Bay Farm hosted along with Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Conservation District on the farm. There were small farm and large farm sessions. Some of the topics included bee keeping, pasture poultry, seasonal extension skill building, manure management, beef cattle management, rotational grazing and fencing demonstration and more.

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

Providing basic, practical information to people interested in, or already engaging in, new farm enterprises helps these small businesses develop sound production and marketing plans. New farm businesses provide jobs, income and increased economic and social stability, and increased food security to rural and other communities.

Beginning Farmer On-line Webinar Series

Michigan citizens interested in engaging in new agriculture enterprises sometimes lack knowledge, experience and technical support to get started. Extension educators and specialists receive numerous contacts from such people seeking basic, start-up information. The Michigan State University Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series was developed in response to this need.

The 2015 series based in Alger County included twenty webinars offered from January 26 through April 20, 2015. Twenty three MSUE educators, faculty and staff presented webinar topics, with 198 people from fifty-four Michigan counties, twelve other states, and three other countries registering for a total of 1,845 webinar views.

Michelle Walk, Community Food Systems Educator in Chippewa County, instructed two of these webinars. One was Getting started with farm food safety. Food safety begins on the farm, from the minute a fruit or vegetable is picked right on up until it is consumed. Every little decision you make from harvest on will either ensure a safe product or reduce its safety for the consumer. Michelle's talk introduced another way of looking at the things you do from the perspective of food safety. It also provided some inexpensive, practical changes that could improve your food safety and tighten up your production without a lot of cost.

The second webinar Michelle did was on Getting started with direct marketing. New farmers who plan to sell products directly to consumers should become as familiar as possible with the various approaches available. On-farm sales, CSA, local farmers markets and other techniques were presented, with pros and cons of each. The session provided a valuable overview of direct marketing and helped you determine which strategies will best fit your operation. The session also briefly touched on the applicable regulations for which products need to be licensed to be sold direct to consumer.

A majority of participants indicated that they plan to utilize additional MSU Extension resources based on the series. They also indicated that the series contributed to creation or updates of business and marketing plans, new crop production, and expansion of farms and marketing strategies on many farms. A small number of participants indicated that they were beginning new livestock and poultry enterprises, purchasing farm equipment, establishing new business relationships and improving job prospects. Six participants said that the series helped them decide not to begin cultivating a crop in Michigan due to increased understanding of costs and risks.

Participants were appreciative for the program especially the convenience of on-line participation. MSU Extension received many compliments on the webinar series.

Below is a link to the MSUE Beginning Farmer Webinar Series website .

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/beginning_farmer_webinar_series

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center



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

In the center of Michigan's Upper Peninsula sits the 118 year old Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC). The purpose of UPREC is to serve as a hub for integrated crop and livestock research. Applied research on pasture-based cattle management practices and cropping rotations is conducted in the unique environment of the U.P. Grass-based beef finishing, utilization of cover crops, hoop-house farming, season extension and soil health studies are keystone research elements on the farm. The North Farm is an incubator farm specializing in diversified local food production, research, education, and outreach for northern latitude climates. Our focus is healthy soils, food, people, and communities. Please go the UPREC North Farm Facebook site for details and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/northfarmatuprec>

Complementary agronomic studies at the 1,262-acre site focus on forages and small grains. The center also coordinates field trials on potato varieties and corn varieties throughout the Upper Peninsula region.

Research Goals

1. Improvement of soil quality to enhance the productivity of U.P. agricultural lands in a manner that emphasizes health linkages associated with soil, crop, livestock and people.
2. Development of research that demonstrates the costs and benefits of integrated crop livestock systems, including grass-based livestock production. Closer collaboration between UPREC and Lake City Research Center (LCRC) in Lake City to foster complementary research endeavors and to increase the quality and quantity of research results.
3. Development of research tied to the educational needs of regional food systems in the Upper Peninsula that contributes to community sustainability while linking to objectives 1 and 2.

MSU UPREC has been working over the last three years conducting research to support the growth of malting barley acres in Michigan, especially in the Upper Peninsula. In addition to variety trials, management practices such as fertility recommendations and fungicide use have been studied. In order for the malting barley industry to thrive in Michigan, suitable processing is also necessary. UPREC staff has been working with start-up malt-houses throughout the state and are confident that there will be a major increase in available processing by the end of 2015 – from 2 malt-houses to 6, including one in the Upper Peninsula.



Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued



The following deliverables have been produced in 2014 to support this emerging industry:

- MSU UPREC Malting Barley website to house research, resources, and contact information http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/malting_barley
- Malting Barley Production in Michigan guide http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/uploads/396/36753/Research_Files/Malting_Barley_Production_in_Michigan_-_GMI035.pdf
- Malthouse feasibility study produced by the MSU Product Center http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/uploads/396/36753/Research_Files/Malt_House_Feasibility_Study_JFW_-_FINAL.pdf
- Four location malting barley variety trial held in Alger, Schoolcraft, Leelanau, and Presque Isle Counties http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/uploads/396/61579/2014_MSU_Malting_Barley_Trial_Results_UPREC-Posen.pdf
- 2015 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan – April 10th – 11th <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=hopandbarley15>

Download the entire 2015 Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, annual report: http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/uploads/396/36753/UPREC_Center_Report_2015_Final.pdf

For more information about UPREC and updates on current projects, please visit their website at: <http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc> or call Director, Ashley McFarland at 906-439-5114 or email: ashleymc@anr.msu.edu



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Extension Educators Serving Chippewa County, Continued

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