

Clinton County MSU Extension Report, update, 2021

During the Covid-19 crisis, Michigan State University Extension has continued to help people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge and resources of MSU directly to individuals, families and communities. Though it looked different in 2020 and heading into 2021, MSU Extension has still helped grow Michigan's economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower their children to dream of successful futures.

In 2020, Michiganders heeded the calls to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. People across the state stocked up and stayed home and entered a period of uncertainty. New questions were on everyone's minds: Would the pandemic last long? Would the supply chains hold up? Was it safe to grocery shop? How would we continue to educate our children? MSU Extension already had a vast amount of information on its website and programming experts who have a vast amount of knowledge and experience. Early on, some of the most viewed articles from our District 8 food safety educator, [Joyce McGarry](#), were [Safe food handling when shopping in stores or using grocery delivery](#) (March 30, 2020); [How to handle takeout and drive-thru foods safely](#) (April 2, 2020) and [Does washing foods make them safer?](#) (April 20, 2020). As more and more information and education opportunities were developed, MSU Extension created a web page just for [Remote Learning & Resources for Those at Home During COVID-19 Pandemic](#). **The number of MSU Extension website users soared to over 1.7 million**, who made **over 3 million visits** to the website and viewed **over 7 million web pages**. **From Clinton County alone, over 22,567 users made over 45,753 visits and viewed over 124,569 pages!** Not everyone in Clinton County limited themselves to finding information on our website. **During 2020 and into 2021 over 700 County residents and over 1,500 others took advantage of over 500 different MSU Extension educational programs through remote and in-person classes and meetings offered by or in cooperation with Clinton County MSU Extension programing staff.** As farmers, business owners, families and communities adapted to restrictions and a different way of life, so did our educators and instructors. Working remote, using travel waivers, or in the office we continued to serve the public processing over 130 soil sample requests, connecting residents with experts and helping residents find answers to their pressing questions.

Some popular programs offered so far this year

- **Health and Nutrition favorites** including Cooking Matters, Show Me Nutrition, Safe Food=Healthy Kids, Food Safety and Preservation, Tai Chi for Arthritis & Falls Prevention, Stress Less with Mindfulness Mindful Eating, Mental Health First Aid training;
- **Many 4-H SPIN clubs** including, What's all the buzz? 4-H Bee Programs, 4-H Winter Birding SPIN Club, Wild and Crazy 4-H Careers;

- **Other Children and Youth programming** including 4-H Dairy Management, Adulting 101 Winter Series, The Parent Talk System, Positive Discipline, Understand a Toddler's World, Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting, RELAX – Alternatives to Anger for Parents and Caregivers;
- **4-H clubs and fair participation** whether it was virtual or in-person;
- **From Agriculture and Agribusiness** including 2021 Field Crops Webinar Series, Virtual Cover Crop Field Day, Milker Training, Parlor Performance Evaluation, 2021 Michigan Manure Management Summit, Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference, Beekeeping Webinar, Farm transitions, Loan Preparation for New and Beginning Farmers;
- **From Community, Food and Environment** including 2021 Invasive Species Summit, Michigan Birding 101, Michigan Farmers Market Association Market Management;
- **Pandemic inspired** Cabin Fever Conversations, MI Ag ideas to Grow With
- **Help for local government** including Fiscally Ready Communities: Financial Best Practices; Current Issues Affecting Michigan Local Government;
- **Popular always** Extension Master Gardener Training, Home Buyer Education, Product Center Consultations, Student :Loan Repayment Workshop, Your Money Your Goals.



Aquatic education at the 2021 event for Park Lake in Bath Township.

Through successful partnership and collaboration with Clinton County, MSU Extension is able to continue its local presence and to provide vital educational resources and programming in such areas as community and economic development, agriculture, land use, health and nutrition, and youth development.

MISSION:

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

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