



Menominee County 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



2 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$1,720,944 total economic impact in Menominee County



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



\$8,169 spending with local business



17 enrolled MSU students, 186 alumni



MSU disbursed \$410,877 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Menominee County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2020, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Menominee County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Menominee County residents' lives; including helping farmers with financial management and farm stress; providing opportunities for youth's career and leadership development through 4-H; teaching families how to buy, cook and eat nutritious food; helping communities grow their tourism and community development opportunities; and providing a suite of online resources and programs.



Because of your continued support, we are able to help Menominee County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Menominee County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District 1 Director



MENOMINEE COUNTY

Additional MSU Extension Reach

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

412

Menominee County Residents Served

79

of Programs Menominee County Residents Attended



MENOMINEE COUNTY

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown 79

Programs Menominee County
Residents Attended

15

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

31

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

212

Children &
Youth
Programs

154

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

NUTRITION EDUCATION IN MENOMINEE COUNTY

In 2020, face to face program was put on hold, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Senior Project Fresh coupons were able to be distributed in Menominee County thanks to the help of Senior Center Directors as well as the Hannahville Health Department. Eligible seniors receive \$20 worth of coupons to be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at their local farmer's markets.

Printed materials included handouts on the following subjects: Food shopping and resource management, fruits and vegetables, food preparation/cooking and food safety.

Seniors in the following communities received Project Fresh coupons:

- Daggett, 45 coupon books distributed
- Hannahville, 40 coupon books distributed
- Hermansville, 64 coupon books distributed
- Menominee, 42 coupon books distributed



QUARTERLY COMMODITY NEWSLETTER

A set of healthy, easy recipes for using foods included with the quarterly commodity foods distribution was compiled and distributed at each of the three senior meal sites. Menominee County reach of 180 newsletters.

A digital version of the newsletter was sent to the other U.P. Community Nutrition Instructors, as well as to the Delta County Community Action Agency to be shared at their distribution sites.



Program Highlights

FOOD BUSINESS COUNSELING

The spring of 2020 was a challenging time for food entrepreneurs. It was unclear if farmers markets could open. Agricultural sales to food service were hindered by closed restaurants. This all occurred at the same time that grocery stores were experiencing unprecedented stock outs. Food businesses had to consider large market pivots with little information and little time.

Parker mobilized industry expertise to aid food producers in these critical decisions through the Food and Farm Business Sales Channel Deep Dive webinar series. Webinars highlighting the key considerations, opportunities and challenges for various food sales channels were led by industry experts. The Michigan Farmers Market Association, Meijer, Kroger, the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, the Blue Shamrock restaurant and experts from across MSU Extension participated as collaborators. The webinar series reached 942 registrants.

Parker collaborated with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to offer a [UP Pitch Competition](#) for food entrepreneurs. Out of 23 applicants, 11 were chosen to give a live business pitch to a panel of experts. These 11 entrepreneurs received tens of thousands of dollars worth of support services. Michele Wildman, Senior Vice President of Community Development at the MEDC describes that, "These businesses are a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit thriving in the Upper Peninsula today, and it's exciting to see what the future holds for each of them, and how their growth will create new opportunities in their communities." Link: [Spotlight: Small Business Support Across the Upper Peninsula | Michigan Business](#)

Parker increased his hours of direct contact with food business entrepreneurs by 56.25% this year, compared to 2019.

FOOD SYSTEM PROGRAMMING

Consumer behavior was rapidly shifting in response to Covid-19 and supply chain shortages in spring 2020. Parker led a coalition of 5 organizations at the UP Food Exchange to highlight direct food purchasing options in county guides. These guides stated the value proposition of local food during Covid-19 and listed local purchasing options. These guides will be continued annually in an effort to support a local food economy. (See attached).

Parker partnered with the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems to win a \$746,480 grant award from the [USDA Regional Food System Partnerships](#) (RFSP) program. The program will directly support UP food entrepreneurs with no cost programs and services, while targeting food infrastructure development in the Upper Peninsula. Over 22 partners from the Upper Peninsula and Battle Creek are involved in this 3-year initiative. Link: [MSU Center for Regional Food Systems awarded grant to strengthen local food partnerships in Battle Creek and the Upper Peninsula - Center for Regional Food Systems](#)

Meat Processing Collaborations:

Parker was a presenter at the Ag for Tomorrow conference, held in-person at Bay College on March 11th. He co-presented with a regional meat processor on the viability of a custom-exempt or USDA certified mobile meat processing unit in the UP. There were 28 attendees to this session. Parker connected operational expertise from Byron Center Meats who operate the only USDA mobile slaughter unit east of Mississippi. Byron Center Meats is an MSU Product Center client. Parker has continued collaboration with regional meat processors and the Growing UP Agriculture Association.



DICKINSON & MENOMINEE COUNTY

FARM FRESH FOOD GUIDE

A listing of farms with direct purchasing options.

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted life for many of us and our families. Luckily, we still have access to locally produced food. Buying locally can shorten the contact chain with your food and many farmers are offering new pick-up options.

Times like these remind us of the importance of a strong regional food system: local producers have thriving businesses, consumers have access to safe, healthy, delicious food, and these relationships sustain our communities. The more we support our local food system, the more resilient we are in times of crisis!

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DICKINSON COUNTY

PILOT'S PASTURES

W9402 Peterson Drive, Iron Mountain
906-221-0308

Learn More

[facebook.com/upperpeninsulagrassfedbeef](https://www.facebook.com/upperpeninsulagrassfedbeef)

- Farm pick-up available
- 25 mile delivery radius
- Meat, Veggies

SLAGLE'S FAMILY FARM

N7705 Metropolitan Rd, Felch
906 221-5937

Learn More

[slaglesfamilyfarm.com](https://www.slaglesfamilyfarm.com)

- Farm pick-up available
- 25 mile delivery radius
- Meat, Veggies

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MENOMINEE COUNTY

BLUEBERRY PIER

N724 S P-3 Lane, Menominee
906-863-8718

CSA

- Farm pick-up available
- 15 mile delivery radius
- Fruits, Veggies

ELMCREST ACRES

W2244 Number 29 Rd, Daggett
906-424-0688

Learn More

[elmcrestacres.com](https://www.elmcrestacres.com)

- Farm pick-up available
- 25 mile delivery radius
- Meat, Veggies

FOLICK FARM

Carney
906-399-3935

- Farm pick-up available
- 25 mile delivery radius
- Meats

WILSON CREEK GARDENS

N16071 Hansen Lane F-4, Wilson
906-221-0319

Learn More

[facebook.com/Wilson-Creek-Gardens-163987557002549](https://www.facebook.com/Wilson-Creek-Gardens-163987557002549)

- Farm pick up available
- 50 mile delivery radius
- Meat, Veggies

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**U.P. FOOD
EXCHANGE**
growing local food systems
[upfoodexchange.com](https://www.upfoodexchange.com)

info@upfoodexchange.com

906-225-0671 x711

Program Highlights

MENOMINEE COUNTY MASKS AND EXTENDERS PROJECT

On March 20 I had a leader text me and ask if we could do masks for healthcare workers. I immediately contacted people at our local hospital to see if this was something they could use. I then reached out to JoAnn fabrics in our area to ask if they would be interested in donating elastic. I soon received a call back that said they could not donate elastic but would be willing to sell at a reduced rate for us. Within two hours of receiving the first call about the reduced rate, I received a call from our local JoAnn's manager that said corporate decided to go one better and donate material and elastic. Even better was they were going to put the kits together for us. All we had to do was pick up the kits and return the finished product. We started out with 17 kits containing 5 masks each. We delivered masks in no contact drop-offs to 10 different 4-H members to be sewn. Menominee County ended up sewing 269 masks before we were unable to secure elastic to continue making masks. The masks were donated to the Aurora Bay Area Medical facility, area first responders, and individuals that were immunocompromised. The continual travel restrictions made it difficult to deliver/pickup masks. We have several individuals that have continued to sew but our numbers have significantly dropped off.

Menominee County was on the forefront of sewing homemade masks in the UP. We are actively participating in MSU's 4-H mask making project. To date Menominee County has sewn 828 masks and donated them throughout the state. We started giving them to Menominee County organizations and recently we expanded our shipments to Detroit to help their cause. We have submitted over 14% of all masks made in the state. Menominee County has individually made the most mask of any county in Michigan. We will continue this effort until there is no need.

Our second effort was an issue with constantly wearing the masks and the elastic rubbing on the tops and backs of people's ears. I found on Facebook that an 8-inch piece of elastic with buttons sewn on either end could take the stress off wearer's ears. So, off to the basement I went for supplies. We were able to make 100 ribbon extensions to donate to the hospital just using scraps from other projects.

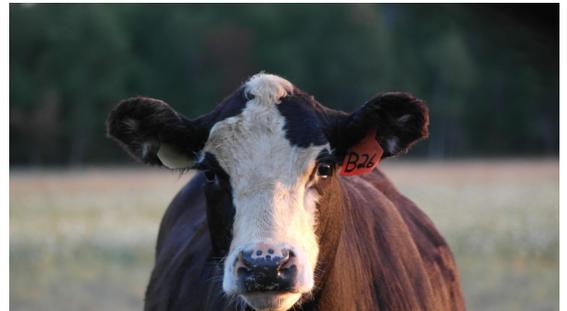


Investing in Menominee County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

*According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.*



U.P. 4-H Virtual Showcase—The U.P. 4-H Virtual Showcase opened up registration on August 1, 2020. Menominee County members were updated with Facebook posts and emails on different classes and registration reminders. I helped and assisted Menominee County youth in registering their projects. I also had the opportunity to judge some of the exhibits. While the number of Menominee County youth that took advantage of this showcase was less than the Menominee County showcase itself, this still gave youth another opportunity to participate with the cancellation of local fairs. Total showcase exhibitors- 33 Total showcase entries- 267 Total Best in shows given- 36 Menominee County showcase exhibitors- 7 21% of total exhibitors Menominee County showcase entries- 98 37% of total entries Menominee County Best in shows won- 20 56% of total Best in Shows. As you can see while our numbers were lower, we sent some very competitive youth to represent Menominee County in the U.P. 4-H Virtual showcase. While I found it difficult to work on two fairs at once. It was nice working in conjunction with other U.P. staff to allow the youth another place to display their exhibits.



Menominee County Virtual Showcase—Menominee County 4-H partnered with Menominee County Fair to be able to offer a virtual fair experience using the software from MSU. This was an open event and offered to all counties within Michigan. I set up the online system with fair entry using the previous years' registration book. The fair hired the judges and they also used their money for premiums. We used the all the fair rules and regulations as long as they were compliant with 4-H. All of the online and updating of the computer system fell to 4-H since the fair board members were working during business hours. The final reports were printed and submitted to the fair. The fair wrote premium checks and gathered ribbons and awards. 37 youth participated in the showcase -- 27 females and 10 males 4 youth were not enrolled in 4-H 5 youth were from Houghton County 261 Exhibits were entered.

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

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MSU Extension Upper Peninsula



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