



Ogemaw County 2022 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support and partnership with Michigan State University Extension. MSU Extension helps to improve the lives of Michigan residents by providing educational programs for people of all ages that can address critical needs, issues, and opportunities. Our work is guided by our mission and our core values which are:

- **We will show up.** We will be engaged and serve our communities across the state.
- **We will help people thrive.** We will work to help everyone be their best and do their best.
- **We will be authentic.** We will be honest about what we can and cannot do, and we will be guided by evidence-based science.
- **We will welcome everyone.** We will be inclusive and respect everyone, while valuing differences and working to serve a wide audience.
- **We will manage resources responsibly.** We will be good stewards of our resources and funding from all sources.
- **We will take risks.** We are lifelong learners and value innovation to better serve Michigan communities.

These value statements summarize how we work to engage with communities and how we hope we are seen by the people we serve. The team we have assembled in District 4 to serve communities are outstanding professionals who care deeply and work hard to meet the needs of youth, adults, and families and for households, small businesses, and local governments. This report summarizes the numbers and some of the stories of how we have worked to connect people with one another and with information gained from research that can help improve lives.

Julia (Julie) Darnton, District Director

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. While learning about the world around them, youth gain valuable life skills such as responsibility, citizenship, teamwork, and problem solving. In 2022, **1,704** Ogemaw County youth participated in **73** programs.



21 Ogemaw County youths learned about the life cycle and science behind digestion through owl pellet dissection.

AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

Michigan ranks second in the nation in crop diversity due to its unique climate, topography, and impact of the Great Lakes. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy. In 2022, **187** residents of Ogemaw County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs including one-on-one visits for strategic planning and financial analysis, workshops on sheep production and bovine tuberculosis, and more.

LAYING STRONG FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS

4-H provides youth with hands-on opportunities to explore future careers and entrepreneurship while enhancing their financial literacy and developing important skills for the workforce. In partnership with Dean Arbour Ford and Farm Bureau, a “Reality Check” program engaged 121 Whittemore-Prescott Jr./Sr. High students. Students were assigned professions, monthly net incomes, and family sizes, then learned about budgeting, different professions, gross vs. net income, and tax responsibility.

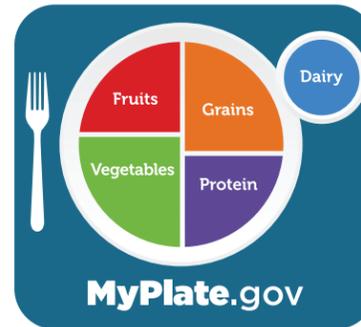
“I can’t believe I had all this money and I couldn’t even have enough to pay for food for my family after making some bad choices!”

In the Adopt-a-Forest program, youths learned about forestry, forest safety, sustainability and teamwork.

3 Ogemaw County residents attended an in-person sheep production workshop to learn how to be successful as a shepherd, including sheep health and business models.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & NUTRITION



MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits for people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, individuals, and families how to make health a priority. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that SNAP-eligible persons will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guidance. In 2022, **245 Ogemaw County residents** participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Healthy Be Active, Peak Health Performance, Teen Cuisine, and Cooking for One.



Healthy Eating Adds Up participants from ROOC, Inc. learned how to make smoothies using Michigan cherries.

SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As a result of MSU Extension’s social-emotional programming, **49** Ogemaw residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families’ and communities’ understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **22** programs including Matter of Balance, RELAX, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, and Mindful Mondays.

HELPING COMMUNITIES THRIVE FINANCIALLY

MSU Extension’s goal is that every Michigan resident has the opportunity to participate in personal finance and homeownership education. In 2022, **17** Ogemaw County residents participated in programming related to money management, foreclosure prevention, buying your own home, retirement planning, and one-on-one consultations with Extension educators.

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. In 2022, **10** Ogemaw County residents participated in natural resources programs including Birding 101, MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, and presentations on invasive species.



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IMPACT AT A GLANCE

2,253

TOTAL OGEMAW COUNTY RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING IN 2022



172

YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H



212

PROGRAMS HOSTED IN OGEMAW COUNTY



16

AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



17

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



80

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



245

RESIDENTS SERVED BY SNAP-ED



73

YOUTH SCIENCE LITERACY PARTICIPANTS



63

CONSUMER HORTICULTURE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



49

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

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