

Sanilac County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

100+ Over 100 years MSU Extension professionals have provided education to Sanilac County residents

 * \$102,739 spending with local businesses in Sanilac County

 44 Sanilac County students enrolled at MSU

 MSU disbursed \$1,166,348 in financial aid to Sanilac County students

 572 MSU alumni living in and contributing to Sanilac County

 730 youth involved in 4-H in Sanilac County youth development programs

 * \$4,888,135 total economic impact in Sanilac County

* 2019 Numbers

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

To say 2020 was an unprecedented year does not do it justice. Our nation, indeed the entire world, was thrust into the uncertainty and fear of battling an invisible enemy called COVID19. And everything changed – our normal activities, so long taken for granted, seemed forever altered. From grocery shopping to youth sports, from local schools to factories, from fairs to health clubs, from mass transportation to worship, nothing was left untouched by the threat posed by this virus. We had no choice but to reinvent methods of collaboration, education and community. We had to find new ways to deliver products, services and compassion to our families, our co-workers and our community.



I am proud to say that Michigan State University Extension was up to this challenge. We were prepared to move into the environment of virtual education and collaboration. Moreover, we ensured that our customers – the residents of Sanilac County – were well served with the high quality, evidence-based curricula to which they have become accustomed. From stress management to disease prevention, from tourism to food insecurity, from nutrition to food safety, from livestock to field crops, MSU Extension hit the ground running – actually increasing our reach in the midst of this pandemic.

Thank you for supporting MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Jerry Johnson, District Director

CONTACT

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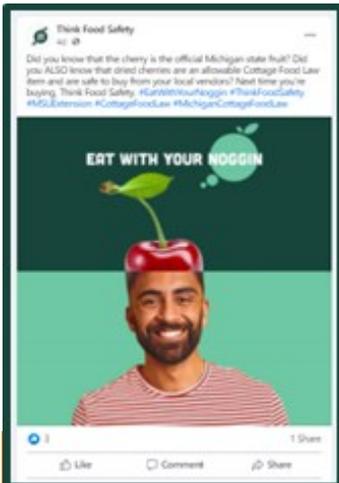
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 MSU Extension District 10

 @MSUEExtension

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.

Serving the State of Michigan

Laurie Messing
Extension Educator

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Reducing Foodborne Illness Through Education

Food Safety is a global issue from farm to table. Its impact on our health and well-being is significant across our life span. Foodborne illness outbreaks occur on an ongoing basis crossing all socioeconomic lines from production, to consumption and preservation. Overall health is impacted by the safety of the food supply and foodborne illness. To educate consumers about keeping their food safe, MSU Extension provides multiple food safety educational programs as well as food safety campaigns to increase the consumer's awareness and knowledge.



SERVSAFE EDUCATION

ServSafe manager certification and education was provided for 40 foodservice employees. This course provides education for the ServSafe Food Protection Manager course and proctoring of the Certification exam. Through ServSafe participants learn how to help prevent foodborne illness throughout the flow of food and set up food safety management systems.

Safe Food = Healthy Kids

Safe Food = Healthy Kids focuses on providing food safety education for childcare providers. The goal of the program is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in young children. In Sanilac County, 50 childcare providers attended this innovative training which incorporates hands-on learning with an educational texting campaign to enhance learning after attending the program

Cooking for Crowds

Cooking for Crowds is designed for non-profit groups that run food fundraisers and events such as meals, bake sales, sub sales and dinners. Classes were held for 20 volunteers to provide this food safety education. There are a range of food safety risks that develop when cooking large volumes of food, and participants learn to reduce those risks and help prevent the conditions that may lead to a foodborne illness.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



Michigan State University Extension Food Safety Hotline

Do you have questions about food expiration dates? How long leftovers will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension Food Safety hotline can help answer food safety questions and concerns.

Operating Monday through Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EDT

Call 877-643-9882

EDUCATIONAL TEXTING CAMPAIGN

Receive weekly educational text messages which provide important information to keep you and your family food safe. TEXT: “Safefood” to 797979 to sign up and receive text messages.

VIRTUAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS- March to July 2020

Our efforts shifted in March to move most of our in-person group education classes to online options for Michigan residents. We also created some new education online opportunities.

Online Food Safety Education Programs offered included:

- Home Food Preservation—16 sessions
- Cottage Food Law—7 sessions
- Safe Food=Healthy Kids –11 sessions
- Food Safety Q and A—14 sessions
- Emergency Preparedness—4 sessions
- Food Pantry Safety-It’s Your Job—5 sessions

During the months of March-July 2020:

- Approximately 20,000 people have registered for the above online classes
- Over 6,000 have attended the food safety program sessions

FOOD SAFETY HOTLINE

If you have food safety questions on preserving foods at home, expirations dates, are foods safe after a power outage, etc. please call the MSU Extension Food Safety Hotline at 877-643-9882, operating Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm EDT

“THINK FOOD SAFETY” SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

An MDARD grant funded campaign is bringing awareness to consumers on illegal food sales as well as food sold legally under the Cottage Food Law. This slogan & tag line are being used to encourage people to be informed and be aware of the food they are buying to ensure their safety. Michigan adopted the Cottage Food Law (CFL) in 2010, which describes the guidelines for individuals to prepare non-potentially hazardous foods in a home kitchen. Only non-potentially hazardous foods can be made and, with proper labeling, sold directly to the consumer without a license under this law. Examples of approved food items under CFL include bread, chocolate covered pretzels, cookies and jars of jelly.

PRESERVING YOUR HARVEST

Join us online at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. EDT for free classes to learn to safely preserve your harvest.

- Aug. 13 - Safe Home Food Preservation- Traditions and Trends
- Aug. 20 - Preserving What’s Left in Your Garden
- Aug. 27 - Peaches-Can or Freeze?
- Sept. 3 - Too Many Tomatoes
- Sept. 10 - Salsa 101
- Sept. 17 - Know Your Canners
- Sept. 24 - Basics of Sauerkraut
- Oct. 8 - Preparing Soups for Winter
- Oct. 15 - Making Applesauce
- Oct. 22 - Preserving Food for Gifts
- Oct. 29 - Preserving Venison

To register visit:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/PreserveHarvest/>
To listen by phone: call to register, 877-643-9882

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Keeping People Healthy

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Extension Educator

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Healthier Childcare Environments



Kids learning about germs using Germ Glow

At the beginning of the 2020 year prior to Covid, Erica Krawczyk taught Show Me Nutrition in several of the local Head Start Classrooms and Daycare Centers totaling around 60 youth. They learned all sorts of things over this 6-week nutrition education series, including MyPlate and the 5 food groups, germs and proper handwashing, and the importance of physical activity. The children were able to try a new different healthy food based on the food group that was covered that week. With each visit the children also enjoyed participating in physical activities including yoga, which was a favorite to many of the children. On Dairy week they made beaded bracelets, each bead representing one of the many things a cow needs to stay healthy and produce milk for us.

Dining with Diabetes

New partnerships with the local Diabetic Center have taken place, to provide online classes to participate, that will include staying active and eating healthy while staying within your budget. Another partnership is with the local Early Head Start to offer online classes to parents to show the importance of letting children help in the kitchen. Erica is also working with a team of other HNI staff to provide ongoing series of 6-week series for pregnant mothers and their support person. This class will discuss the importance of eating a healthy diet and staying active while pregnant. **Since this county does not have a local OBGYN office for pregnant women to turn too, this online program will help keep pregnant mother healthy during their pregnancy and help to insure a healthy delivery of their infants.**



Using MyPlate as a guide to prepare healthy, balanced meals and helping kids learn about the food groups on a daily basis

Senior Market FRESH

Many of Sanilac County Senior residents rely on receiving their Senior Project Fresh Coupons every summer to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from their local farmers markets. Most of these participants were concerned they would not be able to rely on these coupons this year. Due to Covid they were not being able to join the face to face educational classes that were always necessary to receive their coupons. With some creative thinking and teamwork with other HNI staff, Erica Krawczyk was able to host online and telephone educational classes with Sanilac County Senior Citizens to distribute over 200 Senior Project Fresh Coupon booklets to Sanilac county residents.

Ensuring Strong Communities



Colleen Wallace,
Extension Educator,
Children and Youth
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4-H Enrollment and 4-H Volunteers We had 639 youth and 306 volunteers enrolled in 4-H during the 2019-2020 program. We implemented a new National Background Check system for all volunteers on a yearly basis. We were able to successfully get our volunteers through with a little effort and patience from everyone.

Educational Clubs We started the year with some great programs and learning opportunities for the youth. Embryology Spin Club where the youth learned about the life cycle, development and hatching of a chicken egg. Our Vet Science Club put on by the wonderful vets and leaders out at Thumb Veterinary Services was very well attended and the kids were learning a lot. We were hosting quarterly New Volunteer Trainings and the volunteers were signing up and coming in record numbers.

Kits / Camp-in-a Box In March, the difficult decision was made to suspend all face to face 4-H activities. We had to change all of our plans and modify our programming. We polled all of our families and volunteers and they let us know what projects they would like to try in take home kits. We did rockets and kites with 146 kids participating. We did a gardening kit with 208 people participating. We partnered with Sanilac Child Advocacy to do an Empowerment Camp in a Box. We had 119 youth from the county participate in that. We continue to offer different take home projects each month and Cloverbud Camps in a Box every other month.

Virtual Fair This year with 4-H not being face to face the kids were offered a virtual fair in place of in person. Sanilac County had 65 exhibitors and 130 entries in the county's first virtual fair. Projects entered ranged from crafts, art, legos, food, woodworking, cows, rabbits, alpacas, chickens, cats, goats, pigs, beef calves, sheep and horses.

Future Opportunities We have begun a new program year with two new systems for our volunteers and our youth to enroll in 4-H. We are working through those hiccups daily. We do have the privilege of offering our 4-H program for no cost this year. It is a great opportunity for more of our underserved youth to be able to enjoy all of the wonderful opportunities that our 4-H programs have to offer.

The Sanilac County 4-H program was the lucky recipient of the Sanilac Women Who Cares charity event and we tied for first place. We will be receiving \$5000 for a mobile trailer and supplies that we can take to all of the areas of the county to offer our programs.

We anxiously await the day when we are given permission to go back to face to face programming. In the meantime we are making the most of what we can and offering as much as we can to the youth of Sanilac County.



Ensuring Strong Communities

Joseph Bixler

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- Fiscal Sustainability for Michigan Municipalities – Statewide
- New County Commissioner Training – Statewide
- Non-Profit Community Grocery Store Model – St. Clair County

FEEDBACK FROM FOOD SUMMIT:

“Discussing THE food system is difficult because it’s very large and diverse. I appreciated being able to focus on the food insecurity side and tailoring discussions to meet those needs” St. Clair County Food Summit participant

Food Policy Council in Michigan’s Thumb Area

The Thumb Food Policy Council, created in 2018, covers the geographic area of all five Thumb counties (Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair). Representatives from all five counties provide community input and strategic planning on behalf of those communities and the Council.

The 2019-20 year was marked with marketing efforts to local community organization with presentations, development of a formal plan of work, consultations regarding food insecurity best practices, development of communication and marketing strategies, and delivery of food to communities experiencing hardships due to the COVID 19 virus pandemic.

A summary of the Council’s priorities through 2022 include:

- A. Food to people: The transportation and distribution of food in both directions. That’s is general distribution of food to people and/or people to food.
- B. Ongoing assessments of food pantry capacity in all five counties
- C. Greater access to affordable, safe, and diverse food
- D. Agriculture and food literacy

Two programs, central to these priorities, were kicked off during the 2019-20 year. A Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) BASICS presentation was developed and presented to 163 individuals in group settings from January 2020 to June 2020. The second program offered was due to a significant pivot of our work as a result of COVID 19 and food insecurity efforts. In partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, the Council began to assist in the recruitment and coordination of volunteers and procurement of sponsors for community mobile food pantry giveaways. The total number of pounds distributed as of this writing is in excess of 1.5 million pounds. These efforts are considered paramount to our first priority of FOOD TO PEOPLE.

Although the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic altered our work significantly, it is conclusive that we were properly positioned with our fundamental priorities to impact all five Thumb counties with food in a time when it was, and still is, most need. It is likely that the Council’s FOOD TO PEOPLE priority will continue for the remainder of 2020 as well as agriculture and food literacy.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

MSU Extension provides trusted, scientific-based education and expertise

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Annual Thumb Ag Day

MSU Extension hosted the annual Thumb Ag Day on Wednesday, December 11 at the Ugly Heights Country Club. One-hundred visitors from met with seventy-six vendors at the event.

Participants also had the chance to see educational sessions, including:

2018 Farm Bill Commodity Title—helping you make decisions, presented by Dr. Jim Hilker, Professor, Department of Ag, Food and Resource Economics, MSU, and Dr. Corey Clark, MSU Extension Farm Management Educator

Commodity market update, presented by Dr. Jim Hilker, Professor, Department of Ag, Food and Resource Economics, MSU

In the afternoon, MSU Extension Field Crops Educators Phil Kaatz, and Bob Battel presented a local agricultural review.

In addition to the Farm Bill meeting at Thumb Ag Day, MSU Extension also hosted a series of informational meetings for farmers on the 2018 Farm Bill. Educational materials were presented by Drs. Jim Hilker, and Corey Clark. The meetings were held in partnership with local USDA Farm Service Agency personnel. Farm Bill meetings were offered on the following dates at the following locations:



Wednesday, December 4, Sanilac Careers Center, Peck
Monday, December 16, Brentwood Restaurant, Caro
Thursday, January 23, Farm Bureau Building, Bad Axe
Thursday, January 23, Tuscola Skill Center, Caro
Monday, January 27, West Park Inn, Sandusky

Supporting Food and Agriculture

MSU Extension provides trusted, scientific-based education and expertise in:

- Food Safety
- HACCP Plans
- Product Quality
- Beef Quality Assurance
- Meat Cutter Training Course
- Chronic Wasting Disease resources for meat processors
- USDA Grant of Inspection

Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer
Senior Extension Educator

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Educational opportunities for Sanilac County beef producers

Michigan State University Extension provided educational opportunities for Sanilac County beef producers. From July 2019 to March 2020, four programs related to beef feedlots were held in Huron County and 96 participants attended those programs. Topics included industry trends and hot topic roundtable sharing, Enogen corn and the impact of feeding it, and manure management with an update on permit changes and other opportunities to manage manure.

Cattle feeders and producers from throughout the Thumb

attended a summer picnic hosted at a Tuscola County beef feedlot. The event was held to allow cattle producers to network, tour the host farm, learn about managing Holstein cattle, and share MSU Extension research and updates. It occurred on August 14, 2019 at Ruggles Beef Farm, Kingston, Michigan, in Tuscola County. An industry speaker spoke on end point management in Holstein feedlots. Dr. Schwehofer organized the event, gave an update with various Extension programs, promoted upcoming educational opportunities.



Meat Processor Assistance

Many food processors are required to have food safety plans, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) or Preventive Controls for Human Foods. These important industry trainings that provide participants with a certificate at the end of the course were hosted by MSU Extension and co-taught by Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer and team of Campus specialists including Dr. Les Bourquin, Mr. Gary Smith, Dr. Kirk Dolan and Mr. Jason Hofman. One participant in 2019 was from Sanilac County.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

Beef Quality Assurance provides consumers with assurance that beef producers are properly caring for animals and providing a safe and wholesome product. BQA certification provides producers with more market outlets and greater profitability.

**Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer
Senior Extension
Educator**

Agriculture and
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BQA meetings are well
attended

Beef Quality Assurance Certification

Beginning January 1, 2020, some beef packers began requiring that cattle coming to their plants would be delivered by truckers that are certified in the Beef Quality Assurance – Transportation (BQA-T) program. The BQA-T program emphasizes practices that truckers should take to ensure the cattle are loaded, moved, and unloaded with efforts to minimize stress, injury, and carcass defects while keeping animal comfort and end-product quality as a top priority.

Michigan State University Extension Educators conducted one BQA-T certification program in 2019 for 43 truckers in Bad Axe, MI. Many feedlot owners transport their own cattle to harvest facilities either themselves or their employees. The certification session consisted of a two-hour presentation using PowerPoint and followed with a 20-question test. Truckers needed to obtain 80% correct to achieve certification. Truckers passing the test received a certification card and dashboard reference guide. The certification card will be required to be shown at harvest facilities as cattle are delivered.

Feedlot owners can continue to transport their own cattle to harvest with this certification. Participants obtained certification to verify their understanding of cattle care during transport.



Supporting Food and Agriculture

Serving the State of Michigan.

Marianne Buza,
Extension Dairy Educator
Agriculture and
Agribusiness Institute

The MSU Extension Dairy Team created a YouTube channel in February for live webinars, educational videos, and podcast recordings. The channel has just over 200 subscribers, 21 videos and over 3,000 video views. The topics of the videos are designed for those who work on farms, own farms or work with farms.



Virtual Coffee Break and
MSU Ext. Dairy Team

Gaining Efficiency is a Work in Process

Michigan State University Extension's winter dairy program for 2020 focused on gaining efficiency in a profitable way. Inefficiencies and waste can plague a farm's bottom line creating a drag on a farm's performance. Efficiency does not always mean cheaper, but rather getting more value from the dollars invested in each area of a farm.

This program helped identify low-cost solutions to improve productivity. It was designed for dairy farm owners and managers, and others who work in the dairy industry. The program discussed strategies based on research to improve efficiency. Topics included: when is treating cows profitable, how to tell if you are maximizing your forage usage and consistency, using manure profitably, measuring and managing labor efficiencies, and milk efficiency to make more milk.

This event was held in February and March in McBain, West Olive, St. Johns, and Bad Axe. The presenters at these meetings were MSU Extension Dairy Educators and Specialists: Paola Bacigalupo, Marianne Buza, Phil Durst, Dr. Ron Erskine, Martin Mangual, Stan Moore, Erica Rogers and Sarah Fronznack.

The Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team created a podcast and video series for dairy farmers and ag professionals for virtual "coffee breaks". These coffee breaks with the MSU Dairy Team is a new series of virtual meetings that occurred each Wednesday morning in March and April at 10:00 a.m. They were designed as conversations lasting less than a half hour that can be listened to live, or listened to as posted recordings any time after. The recorded podcasts are perfect for busy farmers who can catch the coffee break meeting at their convenience. Episodes will later be available on YouTube in the MSU Extension Dairy Team YouTube channel. The series is also available as a podcast on all major podcast channels like Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and Spotify.

Season one covered a variety of guests that included farmers, researchers, and industry experts. Topics discussed included how to promote the dairy industry, methods to improve milk quality, introduction to LEAN management, antibiotic usage, corn silage recommendations, and other interesting information to improve dairy farms.

After a very successful first season, the virtual coffee break podcast returned with season two. Season two began on July 8, 2020, featuring 10 new episodes representing multiple areas of dairy management. Fields included animal health, feed management, and calf management among other interesting areas. New for this season, we created three episodes focusing on the financial side of dairy farming. We had special guests from Michigan State University, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Penn State University, and Clemson University all hosted by MSU Extension Educators. The last episode of season two aired on September 16, 2020. So far the virtual coffee break podcasts have reached 1,148 people.

Supporting Food and Agriculture



“It’s the first thing in the morning and there’s a lot of information I can use. It’s easy to access and easy to see and it’s relevant to the work I do every day.”

Ron Beier, St. Clair County farmer

“It’s a great idea and I’ve learned a lot from the sessions.”

Andrew Calcaterra, County Executive Director, Lapeer County Farm Service Agency

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series

Every Thursday during the growing season, farmers were able to access the most current information available for timely, relevant in-season crop and weather information from MSUE Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each 30-minute zoom session is divided into 15-minute segments for crop information and weather. [Following the presentations, participants have the opportunity to participate with MSU Specialists and Educators in a half-hour question and answer period.](#) This innovative approach using technology has provided growers from every region of the state the opportunity to participate in a live webinar via their computer, laptop, or cell phone. Each participant was able to ask questions of the specialists and educators during the live sessions.



The Virtual Breakfast Series is a result of a focus group that included young farmers asking for opportunities to have fast-paced, video or Internet based, and unbiased research information during critical times of the spring and summer.

A wide range of topics was planned according to the seasonal issues that frequently occur at specific times. However, the series was flexible, adaptable, and had the ability to change quickly and effectively when unexpected issues arose.

One of the unexpected issues for 2019 [2020](#) was the lengthy planting delays for all crop producers. The MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute provided a “Delayed Planting” webpage due to these widespread weather delays throughout Michigan. [flooding that occurred in the Mid-Michigan area. Due to the flooding, a special session focusing on nutrient losses for field crops was inserted into the lineup.](#)

The Virtual Breakfast Series provided the initial discussions concerning delayed planting and responded to the need to have additional crop management, crop insurance, and risk management options for growers. Each week field crop producers are invited by email to participate and a MSU Extension News article is written to encourage participation.

This was an example of how the MSUE Field Crops Team was able to provide information at the right time with an unscheduled topic.

Virtual Breakfast Series	Live participants	YouTude Views	Facebook Views	Social Media	Article Page Views	Total Participants and Views
Total Audience	2,134	2,045	10,619	1,290	2,170	18,258
#/week	97	89	483	59	99	794

Extension Professionals Serving Sanilac County

Staff Located in Sanilac County Office:

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Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Sanilac County:

Full listing of Extension Staff at canr.msu.edu/outreach/experts

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MSU Extension toll free line is 1-888-678-3464

**DISTRICT 10 ADVISORY BOARD for Counties
Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola**

Melanie McCoy	Huron	Kevin Watkins	St. Clair
Carl Osentoski	Huron	Phil Pavlov	St. Clair
Clark Brock	Huron	Don Fletcher	St. Clair
Lourdes Emke	Lapeer	Jade Edwards	Tuscola
Karen Aboukarroum	Lapeer	Dave Rupperecht	Tuscola
Nancy Boxey	Lapeer	Gene Harrington	Tuscola
Melissa Anderson	Sanilac		
Holly Tatman	Sanilac		
Bill Sarkella	Sanilac		

What is the Purpose of the Advisory Board?

The Michigan State University Extension District 10 Advisory Board purpose is as follows:

Advocacy: Intentionally informing residents and elected officials about the achievements of MSU Extension as well as the educational capabilities and partnership opportunities available

Vision: Providing MSU Extension with key insights pertaining to your geographic and socio/economic areas of residence, employment and volunteerism

Pathways: Using your influence to open doors for potential partners/customers/collaborators of MSU Extension for the purpose of growing influence and bettering communities

Needs Identification: Providing insight into areas of deficiency or opportunity in which MSU Extension educational programing can address and benefit residents

Mentoring: Providing honest, constructive feedback to the MSU Extension District Director on methods of enhancing personal and organizational engagement, involvement and effectiveness

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MSU 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 needed to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower our children to succeed. It is the mission of MSU Extension to help people improve their lives through an education process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. MSU Extension meets this mission by providing Extension programs in the following subject matter areas:

- ◆ Agriculture & Agribusiness
- ◆ Children & Youth Development, including 4-H
- ◆ Health & Nutrition
- ◆ Community, Food and Environment

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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