



Delta County

2016–2017 ANNUAL REPORT

msue.msu.edu



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

A mission statement communicates the purpose of an organization, this includes ours: “Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses.” Over the past 12 months, our staff have worked with residents throughout Delta 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 Delta County 2016 –2017 annual report. It is a snapshot of the highlights of the important work done with County general funds that support the MSU Extension staff in Delta County. These highlights give a sense of our work in 2016-2017 and where we are guided in the future. 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 Delta County.

Jim Lucas
District Coordinator, District 2

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MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H Club Membership.....	290
4-H Special Interest/Short Term Programs	723
School Enrichment Programs	186
TOTAL YOUTH IMPACT.....	1199

DISTRICT 2 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, 20,769 visitors from the six-county district viewed more than 56,844 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.

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

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'ers also demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors such as drug use, and learn to complete tasks, solve problems and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H involvement also helps participants avoid or reduce involvement with the court system. This helps ensure more young people succeed in school, attend college and contribute to their communities. More successful young people in communities results in greater tax revenues and consumer spending and increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

Delta County 4-H SPIN Clubs

A 4-H SPIN Club is a special interest club where five or more young people learn about a specific topic of interest (project area) led by volunteers. Participants in 4-H SPIN Clubs are considered 4-H members. All 4-H SPIN Club members are encouraged to enter their final projects in the U. P. State Fair Youth Exhibits. Parent involvement in 4-H SPIN clubs is encouraged but not mandatory.

Since 2016, Delta county 4-H programs have been offering SPIN Clubs in various locations and venues to reach new audiences. 96 youth participated in 4-H SPIN clubs with 64 new 4-H members being recruited through these program. SPIN Club Programs included:

Woodworking at William Bonifas Art Center (Winter 2016): seven 2hr sessions, 9 participants,

China Art at William Bonifas Art Center (Spring 2016) : four 2 hour sessions, 4 participants

Paper Mache at Bonifas Art Center : (Spring 2016) eight 1/1/2 hour sessions, 5 participants



Developing Youth and Communities, continued



Sewing Up a Storm- Introductory Course (Spring 2016): seven 1/1/2 hour sessions, 6 participants

After School Archery Program (ASAP) at the Escanaba Civic Center: eleven 1/1/2 hour sessions Fall Sessions (2016), 13 participants
Winter Session (2017), 15 participants

Sewing Up a Storm-Introductory Course (Fall 2016): four 1 1/2 hour sessions, 9 participants

Sewing Up a Storm Step II (Fall 2016): six 1 1/2 hour sessions, 10 participants

Sewing Up a Storm- Introductory Course (Winter 2016): four 1 1/2 hour sessions, 6 participants/

Sewing Up a Storm Step III (Spring Break 2017)- March 27th- one 7 hour session, 6 participants

Body Products at the William Bonifas Art Center (Winter 2017): four 1 1/2 hour sessions, 7 participants

Paper Mache at Bonifas Art Center (Winter 2017): five 1 1/2 hour sessions, 12 participants



Big Brothers Big Sisters Programming: A Taste of 4-H

Delta County 4-H Programs have been providing 4-H project based programming for Bigs and Littles to do together. Programs are scheduled from 6 to 8 PM the 3rd Thursday of each month. Thirty-three youth and thirty adults (non-duplicated) participated in the Taste of 4-H Program. Activities included:

- * October- Archery: 9 youth/8 adults
- * November-Sewing: 4 youth/3 adults
- * December- Holiday Crafts: 6 youth/7 adults
- * January- Woodworking: 9 youth/10 adults
- * February- Body Products: 6 youth/5 adults
- * March-4-H Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Activity: Rockets to the Rescue: 9 youth/7 adults
- * April- Financial Literacy: 7 youth/7 adults
- * May- BB Guns: 7 youth/6 adults
- * June- Stepping Stones/ Birdfeeders: 15 youth/8 adults



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.

Delta County 4-H Youth Programs are Growing Young Entrepreneurs

Students from Rapid River High school had the opportunity to get a taste of owning and operating their own business through Michigan State University Extension 4-H Programs. Through the Generation E Program provided by Extension Educator, Dave Radloff and classroom teacher, Michelle Hadel, youth have been exploring the world of entrepreneurship. The program has students create, develop, and sell a product. Each business started with an idea for a product or service, and developed a prototype while figuring out the cost to produce the product. The students then developed a pricing strategy and marketing plan. The businesses then went into production and sales of their products through various venues including the TV6 Spring Craft Show. Students then completed their business plans by working through their financials to determine their profits.

The program culminated with youth representing their businesses at the Generation E Youth Business Showcase at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Over fifty businesses created through the high school program and over 30 in the middle school category from around the state competed in the event. Seven youth from Rapid River representing four businesses pitched their business plans to judges.

Dip Stix- Hand dipped, salted pretzel rods covered in delicious milk or white chocolate and finished with colorful rainbow sprinkles. Business representatives were Nathan Olson and Jarrett LaCasse.

Buddy Bling- Handmade ID tags with designs or sayings that fit your (or your pet's) personal interests. Business representatives was PJ Monticello.

Fishing Fix Lures- Handcrafted fishing lures created from bottle caps and imagination. Business representatives were Audrey Naeyaert and Cole Gustafson.



Dave Radloff, Extension Educator 4-H



Dip Stix - Nathan Olson and Jarrett LaCasse



Fixing Fish Lures- Cole Gustafson and Audrey Naeyaert share their sales figures with a judge at the 2017 Generation E Youth Business

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Charming Corks- One of a kind and specially crafted recycled wine cork keychains. Business representatives were Emily Johnson and Aleece Paulin.

The months of hard work and knowledge showed with the collection of awards these young entrepreneurs took home.

Outstanding Marketing Plan- Dip Stix (\$125 prize)
Outstanding Achievement- Charming Corks (\$200 prize)
Best Business Plan, Runner Up- Buddy Bling (\$150 prize)
Best Business Plan- Charming Corks (\$350 prize)
Outstanding Regional Business Plan- Fishing Fix Lures (\$125 prize)

Youth business owners received a portion of the prize money. The remaining prize money is reinvested to support the program. All the businesses operate as a cooperative with overall profits being invested to support the next generation of student run businesses. A portion of the profits earned was also donated to the Rapid River Schools Incentives Program.

While at the showcase, students also had the opportunity to hear from the key note speaker, Sara Marie. Sara Marie is the Founder and CEO of Shefit, Inc. who shared her experiences pitching her business ideas on the popular TV Show, Shark Tank. She also provided insight into what it takes to get your business up and running.

Funding for the trip was supported by the Michigan 4-H Career Exploration and Work Force Preparation Team.



Growing Young Entrepreneurs (L to R) Aleece Paulin, Emily Johnson, Jarrett LaCasse, PJ Monticello, Nathan Olson, Cole Gustafson, Audrey Naeyaert

Developing Youth and Communities, continued



Charming Corks Aleece Paulin and Emily Johnson pitch their products and business plan to judges at the 2017 Generation E Youth Business Showcase.



4-H Livestock Projects

One Hundred seventy-eight youth participated in livestock based project areas in 2016.

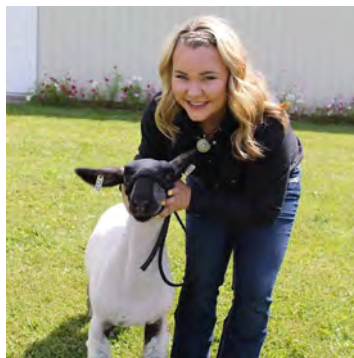
Club Membership in Specific Livestock Projects:

Beef: 35 members (6 clubs- Big Bay De Noc Beef, Isabella Beef, Mid Delta Beef, Rapid River Livestock, Upper Hand 4-H, West Delta Beef)

Swine: 84 members (8 clubs- Cornell Country Kids, County Line Swine, Ensigners 4-H, Isabella 4-H, Perpetual Pigs, Rapid River Livestock, Silver Bits 4-H, West Delta Swine)

Horse: 43 members (3 clubs- Horse Crazy, Giddy Up and Go Gang, Silver Bits 4-H)

Sheep: 16 members (2 clubs- County Line Lamb, Silver Bits 4-H)



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.

ServSafe

ServSafe is a one-day training for staff working in restaurants, schools, nursing homes, and at public events that will be serving food. The class covers different forms of contamination, keeping food safe in the flow of food, safe facilities, pest management, and cleaning and sanitizing. There were two 8-hour ServSafe classes held in Delta County this year, one in March 2017 and one in May 2017. The classes were co-taught by Food Safety Educators Beth Waitrovich of Dickinson County and Stephanie Ostrenga of Delta County. The March 2017 class had 27 participants and the majority of them were from Delta County. Others worked at food service establishments in Schoolcraft, Alger, Chippewa, Gogebic, and Marquette Counties. The May 2017 class was smaller with 12 participants from Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft counties.

Cooking Matters for Adults

Cooking Matters is a 6-week series of classes that helps families to shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget. Classes are team-taught by a chef and a nutrition instructor and cover meal planning, grocery shopping, food budgeting, and nutrition. Recipes from the participant book are made in class each week and ingredients to make the recipes at home are provided to participants after each session. Delta County held a Cooking Matters series, in partnership with the Delta County WISEWOMAN program, from February-April 2017. This class was co-taught by Supervising Educator Stephanie Ostrenga and Program Instructor Stephanie Bruno from Menominee County. The class started with 13 participants and 9 graduated, 6 of which are pictured below. Funding for take home groceries was provided by Walmart and the Delta County WISEWOMAN program.



Stephanie Ostrenga,
Extension Educator



Delta Cooking Matters: WISEWOMAN Peer Counselor Donna Ritchie with 6 Cooking Matters graduates.

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.

Gladstone Sustainable Built Environmental Initiative

Brad Neumann, MSU Senior Extension Educator, Land Use, Community and Economic Development

The MSU Sustainable Built Environmental Initiative (SBEI) engages communities in a collaborative design process for a site in the community that is underperforming from a placemaking or sustainability standpoint.

What is SBEI?

The Sustainable Built Environment Initiative (SBEI) (formerly Small Town Design Initiative) began as a pilot in 2013 as a means of assisting communities to address physical planning, design and land use issues. It offers a graphic visioning process that provides citizens with a set of images and recommendations to guide improvements in their community with a sustainability theme. The SBEI builds on the success of the Small Town Design Initiative by providing a “go-to” source for Michigan’s communities for physical sustainable design assistance in community development and land use.

MSU Extension (MSUE) and the School of Planning, Design and Construction (SPDC) have jointly developed SBEI to address sustainability challenges and improve the quality of life in Michigan’s communities. The partnership allows for an integrated approach to solving complex community problems through the diverse expertise found within SPDC, including Construction Management, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning, along with MSUE’s institutes and Extension educators.

The first of three meetings occurred on February 20, 2017 in the City of Gladstone with 29 in attendance. Brad Neumann, MSU Senior Extension Educator, worked with Warren Rauhe from the Michigan State University College of Agriculture & Natural Resources School of Planning, Design and Construction to facilitate a visioning session with City of Gladstone residents as well as local officials.

With input gathered as to the positive as well as negative or challenging aspects of the site, plus visioning of what residents would like to see 20 years from now, MSU planners and designers got to work putting the residents’ words into pictures and physical designs.



Brad Neumann, Extension Educator

Ensuring Strong Communities, continued

A second meeting was held on June 5, 2017, with 33 in attendance, in the City of Gladstone to present the preliminary design concept for the 50A north shore site. Again, feedback was requested from residents as to what they liked about the design and what could be improved. Neumann, Rauhe, and Wayne Beyea, Senior Extension Specialist with MSU CANR School of Planning, Design and Construction facilitated this meeting and gathered substantial feedback. Thereafter, MSU planners and designers went back to the drawing board to further hone the design.

The final public meeting held September 11, 2017, with 25 in attendance, at Gladstone City Hall consisted of presentation of the final design concept for the north shore site. The final design incorporates public space and use of the waterfront, pedestrian and bicycle access throughout, five types of housing products including apartments, duplexes, townhomes, lofts, and single-family cottages, plus mixed use and employment centers on either end of the project site. The final concept plan is displayed here and available to view at the Gladstone City Hall.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about income-generating opportunities, ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs can lead to increased income for families that retain their natural resource assets, help landowners become better stewards of their land, and protect land management opportunities for future generations. Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

Elliot Nelson brings enthusiasm to the eastern Upper Peninsula

Michigan Sea Grant's Elliot Nelson wears many hats. He's a new dad, a dedicated birder, an Extension educator, and — without a doubt — an Upper Peninsula cheerleader.

“No matter what season it is, you find something fun to do up here. Whether it's skiing, snowmobiling, fly fishing in our streams, salmon fishing, or birding — there is always a new adventure to pursue,” says Elliot. And since joining Michigan Sea Grant (MISG) in May 2016, he hasn't wasted any time jumping into those adventures.

Elliot has been working to build connections with stakeholders throughout the community. He sees a strong role for MISG in continuing to engage people with local natural resources and help them connect with the world around them.

Sharing his love of birds

Elliot has already been hard at work and was key in helping to create an interactive online winter birding trail map (northhuronbirding.com) that highlights opportunities in the eastern Upper Peninsula to enjoy great birding, even in winter

Elliot has lent his expertise to several birding tour groups and has also worked with Michigan Audubon and other organizations to host a bird-trail networking conference. He hopes the conference will encourage Michigan groups to coordinate activities and develop a statewide plan to promote Michigan birding.

According to a U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Service report, in 2011, there were 47 million birders, 16 years of age and older, in the United States — about 20 percent of the population. That's a lot of potential tourists.



Elliot Nelson, Extension Educator, Michigan Sea Grant

Getting students outside

A former high school science teacher, Elliot also plans to work with partners to offer public programs that introduce upper elementary and middle school students to paddling, fishing, water quality, and watershed restoration activities.

In addition, he plans to encourage place-based K-12 stewardship education in the St. Marys watershed. Through these projects he will support teachers in their efforts to get students outside and engaged in hands-on stewardship and science learning opportunities.

Aquaculture initiatives

“There is a large and growing sector interested in aquaponics and recirculating systems for food production,” Elliot says. He believes that hosting community workshops and supporting research and development surrounding sound operations and effective business models will allow communities to determine how they want to harness these possibilities for food security and economic growth.

Elliot has been involved in organizing the Aquaculture Challenge Program for high school classes from around Michigan. The one-day workshop at Lake Superior State University (LSSU) in Sault Ste. Marie explores the potential, as well as the impact, of aquaculture on the food system. The integrative learning curriculum, which meets Michigan science standards, includes building an aquaponics system that functions biologically and cycles efficiently, developing a water quality monitoring protocol and programming water sensors, and creating a business plan.

Elliot is working with LSSU and area community colleges to develop and implement an aquaculture technician certification program. The two-year certification program is slated for Fall 2017, allowing a new generation to explore low-impact, sustainable aquaculture opportunities.

In a complementary effort, Elliot is working with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Michigan Aquaculture Association to develop a GAAMP, or Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practice, for siting aquaculture operations. GAAMPs are written by the state to provide guidance and standards based on sound science for effective agricultural practices with low environmental impacts. This new GAAMP will provide guidance and standards for appropriate locations of aquaculture operations, taking into account environmental, social, and economic factors.

Sharing the latest research

One of Michigan Sea Grant's signature event series is the Great Lakes Fisheries Workshops, held throughout the state each year, including the Upper Peninsula. The workshops bring communities together with fisheries research and management partners to discuss research findings, management updates, and fishing trends. Attendees have an opportunity to weigh in on important management issues.

Adventure also can be found in any of the Upper Peninsula's roughly 30 major watersheds, but Elliot notes that "few watersheds have a management plan in place, and even fewer have watershed councils to guide and promote conservation and management." Operating on a watershed basis allows for the consideration of all activities and all land areas that affect the health and function of a particular river or lake as a whole. Elliot is taking an active role in helping to get these councils up and running.

"Developing partnerships and working together for the good of our communities and our natural resources is one of my main goals," says Elliot. "I think the Upper Peninsula is one of the most beautiful places in the world and I am very passionate about helping the communities in this area thrive economically, but at the same time, ensuring we are being good stewards of this wonderful resource."

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.

Harvesting Potato Trial



Potato Variety Trial and Field Day

Potato Field Day



The purpose of the potato variety trial and field day is to educate Upper Peninsula potato growers on new varieties, variety trial results and new techniques including cover crops use. The event was held in Cornell, MI at TJJ Farms in late August. Chris Long, MSU

Potato Specialist, talked about the variety trial results on a nearby farm (TJJ Farm) and new varieties in the potato market. Jeff Axford, Executive Director of the Michigan Seed Potato Association, informed farmers on current disease condition in Michigan and management tools. Mike Wenkel, Executive Director of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, gave an industry update. Erin Hill, MSU Cover Crop Specialist, went over cover crop use in potatoes and current research projects in Michigan. Jesse Cousineau, from Cousineau Potato Farm, talked about the MSU cover crop trial on his farm and displayed pearl millet varieties. This event will be held again in 2017 with an emphasis on root rot diseases and new agriculture technologies.



Monica Jean, Extension Educator—Field Crops

U.P. Dry Bean Growers Meeting

Dry bean meeting was held at the Delta county MSUE office in February to update local farmers on dry bean breeding, disease, variety research and current industry trends. Integrated pest management protocol was also reviewed, including diagnosing problem fields and trapping for pests. 45% of farms in attendance said they would adopt practice tools or technologies to increase yield, improve quality or decrease inputs. 55% improved their knowledge and intend to change their practices related to increase economic activity. 67% improved their knowledge and intend to change their practices related to improving production efficiency. This program will be offered again in February of 2018.



Escanaba Community Garden

After being without a local garden coordinator for a few years, Monica Jean took on the role of coordinator in 2017. Last fall the garden was soil tested and results revealed high levels of phosphorus. To increase awareness of the high phosphorus issue and ensure review of the garden policies, a spring orientation meeting was organized. A total of 31 attended. The agenda for the meeting included Monica providing them with the results from the soil test and the implications of too much phosphorus, review of the garden rules, and garden calendar, i.e. tilling by draft horses and anticipated first planting date. Rebecca Krans, MSUE Consumer Horticulture Educator, then presented 'Common Garden Problems with Smart Gardening Solutions' to introduce smart gardening practices that will help participants use more earth friendly and sustainable efforts to help build soil health, reduce pest, and conserve water. All of the available garden plots were filled for the 2017 gardening season with 44% being new participants.



Following the presentation participants were asked to rate their knowledge on the following smart gardening topics: importance of soil test, practices to improve soil health, practices to help pollinators, and practices to reduce inputs of water, pesticides, and fertilizers. All of the topics reported a high understanding: 96% for importance of soil test, 96% for practices to improve soil health, 92% for practices to help pollinators, and 92% for practices to reduce inputs of water, pesticides, and fertilizers. 90% of respondents reported that this presentation provided methods/techniques that will help them improve the efficiency and/or production of their fruit or vegetable crops. 80% responded that they will implement or continue practices to reduce use of fertilizer, 53% will implement or continue practices to reduce use of water, and 73% will use practices to reduce use of pesticides.



Community Garden being tilled



Site of Cover Crop Research

Cover Crop Research

Cover crops research is currently being conducted out on Brock Dairy farm in Carney, MI. 2016 research highlighted grass cover crops yields such as annual rye, cereal rye and triticale. A field day was held late-May allowing local farmers to tour the plots, hear other local farmers speak about their use of cover crops and provide information on locally available cover crop varieties. After the field day those in attendance were asked to voluntarily complete an evaluation. 96% would adopt cover crop practices, tools or technologies to increase yield, improve quality or decrease inputs. 50% improved their knowledge and intend to change their practices related to increase economic activity. 96% improved their knowledge and intend to change their practices related to improving production efficiency. Research is continuing in 2017 with variety selection of cover crops for corn production.



Cover Crop Field Day

Local Services

Farmers who intend on applying pesticides commercially or privately must become a certified pesticide applicator. This is achieved by taking a standardized test administered by the state. In order to help aspiring applicators with their test preparations MSU Extension provides a review of the National Pesticide Applicator Corn Manual before the state exam. In the winter of 2016 three pesticide trainings were offered at Chatham, Escanaba and Stephenson with 17 people in attendance. In addition to holding educational events, Monica Jean will also make farm calls and help farmers with nutrient management planning and soil test interpretation.

Agriculture for Tomorrow Conference

MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute staff in the Upper Peninsula organized and offered the 11th annual 'Agriculture for Tomorrow' conference on March 7, 2017 at Bay College in Escanaba, MI, providing a venue for farmers and others involved in the local agriculture industry to meet for learning and networking. Four class sessions were offered during the conference, with a choice of three topics during each class session for twelve separate class options. Three tracks were offered emphasizing crop production, animal production and money management and marketing. Presenters included MSUE educators, state and local agency representatives, agribusiness professionals and farmer/operators.

Upper Peninsula farmers, agricultural professionals and others who attend the conference were asked to complete a survey evaluating the program. 8% felt the conference contributed to adding jobs on your farming operation. 45% felt the conference contributed to decreasing production costs on your farming operation. 60% of respondents felt the conference contributed to increased income on their farming operation. 50% felt the conference contributed to the development of a new business. 72% felt the conference contributed to implementing new "best management practices" on their farm. The agricultural community in the Upper Peninsula is strengthened because of the MSU Extension 'Agriculture for Tomorrow' conference. Attendance at the conference has contributed to addition of new jobs on existing farms, decreased farm production costs, increased farm income, development of new farm businesses, and implementation of new 'best management practices' on U.P. farms. These improvements in farm operation, farm business stability and profitability benefit local communities.





The [North Farm](#) continues to grow – creating jobs, offering local food to more people, supporting farm businesses through the [Apprentice Farmer Program](#), and providing educational opportunities about farming for kids and adults. From July 2016 through June 2017, the North Farm reached 6,239 people.

- ⇒ 18 school visits reaching 814 students with hands-on activities that put their everyday food decision in real-world food system context
- ⇒ Hosted on-farm [Short Courses](#) on topics like Whole Farm Health, Seed Saving, Soil Health, and Perennial Fruit Crops, reaching 156 beginning farmers and home gardeners looking to scale up and deepen their knowledge
- ⇒ Hosted the Apprentice Farmer Program, a [farm business incubator](#) supporting 4 farm businesses
- ⇒ Walked the farm with 319 people so they could see [season extension and Organic practices](#) in action
- ⇒ Offered 22 presentations to 1,036 people across the state on special topics in agriculture and technical assistance to 39 organizations and individuals with specific questions about food and farming
- ⇒ “Took the show on the road” to reach 3,875 people in the upper Midwest at conferences like Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and the Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference in Traverse City, Michigan
- ⇒ Secured more than \$265,000 in grant funding to support [Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources education](#) at the middle and high school level in the Upper Peninsula



Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued



Cover crops have become a very targeted focus for agronomy research in the U.P. – leading to greater on-farm sustainability, productivity and potential for improvements to soil health

- ⇒ Researchers from the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center have helped establish various [cover crop research trials with on-farm cooperators in Menominee County](#)
- ⇒ Technical guidance and has been offered to farmers and increased acreage in cover crops has been witnessed throughout the service area
- ⇒ Two field days have been hosted to demonstrate cover crop use and to share resources with local stakeholders with 75 in attendance over the two events
- ⇒ MSU research and Extension staff secured a seed grant from the MSU Project GREEN program to assemble data and build partnerships in preparation for submission of a much larger cover crop research effort to the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant program in 2018



Extension Educators Serving Delta County

Staff Located in Delta County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	E-mail
Dave Radloff	Extension Educator/4-H	906-786-3032	radloff@anr.msu.edu
Monica Jean	Extension Educator/Field Crops	906-786-3032	atkinmon@anr.msu.edu
Stephanie Ostrenga	Extension Educator/D1 SNAP -Ed Supervisor	906-786-3032	ostrenga@anr.msu.edu
Bill Cook	U.P. Forester/Biologist	906-786-1576	cookwi@anr.msu.edu
Home Garden, Lawn & Landscape Questions?		Call the MSU Extension Garden Hotline at 1-888-678-3464	

Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Delta County:

Name	Role	Phone	E-mail
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Bree Carlson	Extension Educator, Health & Nutrition	715-330-9399	bree@msu.edu
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Jim Isleib	Crop Production	906-387-2530	isleibj@anr.msu.edu
Kathryn Jacques	FRTEP (Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program) Program Instructor	9-06-280-1786	odonne94@anr.msu.edu
Michelle Jarvie	Food Safety & Education/D2 SNAP-Ed Supervision	906-643-7307	jarviem1@anr.msu.edu
Ron Kinnunen	Senior Extension Educator/MI Sea Grant	906-226-3687	kinnune1@anr.msu.edu
Rebecca Krans	Extension Educator/Consumer Horticulture	906-875-0606	kransr@anr.msu.edu
Ashley McFarland	Extension Educator/MSU Upper Peninsula Research & Extension Center Coordinator	906-439-5176	ashleymc@anr.msu.edu

Extension Educators Serving Delta County, Continued

Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Delta County

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