



Gladwin County

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



Over 1,900 Gladwin County adults and youth participated in MSU Extension programs



Over 950 youth participated in 4-H and other youth enrichment programs



Over 250 residents participated in agriculture programs



Over 140 residents received gardening services and programs



Master Gardeners received almost 400 education hours and they contributed 1,542 volunteer hours



Almost 400 residents participated in health, wellness and nutrition programs



124 residents participated in community and economic development, natural resources and financial management programs



5 Extension professionals based in Gladwin County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Shari Spoelman

I am pleased to bring to you another report of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension's work in Gladwin County. We are pleased to continue to serve the residents here and help strengthen our communities. MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, bring the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in Gladwin County.

Under the leadership of MSU Extension Director Jeff Dwyer, we continue to grow as an organization and are challenged to continue to address the many issues facing Michigan residents. We do this by staying true to our many traditions and mission while stretching our reach through untraditional channels and new technologies.

We're passionate about serving Gladwin County and are looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

MSU Extension District 6 Advisory Council

Ken Brown	Leonard Strouse	Rick Grove	Christine Hammond
Dick Metz	Jerry Jaloszynski	Bob Wachowski	Frank VanderWal
Chris Gentry	Jack Nehmer	Russ Nehmer	Marilynn Bradstrom
David Eggle	Mike Solomon	Judy Nichols	

CONTACT US



Gladwin County
MSU Extension
555 W. Cedar Ave. Ste. A
Gladwin, MI 48624



989-426-7741



msue.anr.msu.edu
ccounty@msu.edu



MSU Extension District 4



@MSUExtension

Program Highlights



MSU Extension provides education and services to help residents become homeowners

FINANCE & HOMEOWNERSHIP

MSU Extension offers financial and homeownership education to community members. Financial capability education offers families and individuals tools and support to manage their personal finances and achieve financial goals. They learn to utilize a spending plan, pay their bills on-time, build a savings, as well as manage their debt and achieve their own financial goals. MSU Extension also provides educational programs regarding housing: rental education, home-buyer education, and foreclosure prevention. These opportunities are offered in a group setting, or individuals may meet with a housing counselor staff member on a one-to-one basis.

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

In Gladwin County our community nutrition instructor helped preschoolers explore several fruits and vegetables by touch, smell, and taste. Elementary students in Beaverton SPARKS programs participated in physical activities while learning about healthy eating. Junior and Senior High students at Beaverton and Gladwin improved basic food preparation skills with the “Teen Cuisine” program. Adults participated in “Cooking for One” classes, a curriculum aimed toward small household nutrition and food preparation challenges. MSU Extension partnered with the Central Michigan District Health Department and Council on Aging, offering many Project FRESH and Senior Project FRESH classes to increase local produce use.



Community Nutrition Instructor, Coral Beth Rowley, discusses using the hand to determine portion sizes with “Cooking for One” class at MSU Extension

MASTER GARDENERS

Gladwin County Master Gardeners were busy in 2019, with over 1,500 volunteer hours and 370 continued education hours. The GCMG’s were awarded the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association “Plant Green” Community Beautification Award for their hard work in the Cedar Avenue Courtyard.

GCMG collaborated with the Arnold Center to educate their Consumers on proper gardening practices. This collaboration was funded by a “Growing Together in Michigan” Grant.



GCMG members accepting the Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Award.

Program Highlights

AGRICULTURE

In 2019 MSU Extension provided support and education to the Gladwin County agricultural industry through individual consultations, workshops, field tours, and research opportunities. Topics included beef quality assurance, silvopasture, bull breeding soundness clinic, beef herd health, delayed planting resources, and farm bill decision making tools.

MSU Extension provides support for the annual Mid-Michigan Farm and Garden Show in the spring. This popular event is always well attended and adds to the economy of the region.



Attendees listen to Matt McKimmy at a tour of McKimmy Ag Services.

WEATHERING THE STORM:

Farm Stress

Taking care of crops and animals can be hard. Selfcare and wellness in this high-stress profession are often overlooked but are critical for effective farm operations. MSU Extension helps farmers adapt to the changing agricultural environment and address related stress. Outreach efforts including television, radio, newsletters, journals, social media, podcasts, and expanded farm stress staff have been implemented to help the at-risk population. Two programs, “Communicating with Farmers Under Stress” and “Weathering the Storm” provide further support to farming communities. We’re working together to promote awareness, reduce the stigma of mental illness, and save lives.



There are many challenges farmers face that add to farm stress.

YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

MSU Extension helps youth develop skills to thrive in life and the work force. Gladwin High School seniors learned about resume writing and interview skills to help prepare them for the Mock Interview Day. Beaverton and Gladwin high school seniors attended this event held in Mt. Pleasant.

“Build Your Future” curriculum focused on career building with youth at the Beaverton afterschool SPARKS program. Gladwin Intermediate SPARKS learned a variety of financial literacy skills.

The 3rd grade conservation tour held at the Gladwin City park provided learning opportunities about outdoor education, soil conservation, food, nutrition and forestry.



Gladwin 3rd grade Conservation Tour held at the Gladwin City Park.

Tales for Tails



Elizabeth Mickler, Evan Crowley, Aiden Crowley and Elaina Tenwalde read to cats and dogs at the Gladwin County Animal Shelter.

Gladwin County youth are struggling when it comes to reading and writing. M-Step statistics show us that 62% of Gladwin County 3rd grade youth are not proficient in language arts. This trend also continues in 4th grade with 53% of 4th grade youth not proficient in language arts. Statistics show that youth who struggle in reading often fall behind as curricula in school gets more advanced. Low reading proficiency can limit youths' earning potential when they enter the work force. Many of these students who struggle with reading choose not to continue on with education after high school.

"Tales for Tails" started as a way to get kids reading by providing them with a fun environment to engage not only in reading but in confidence building. Through a partnership with the Gladwin County Animal Shelter we were able to provide youth ages 5-12 with a twice monthly reading program. By reading out loud to an animal the youth is not only gaining proficiency, they are also gaining confidence in their skills, and the animal itself is gaining much needed socialization while they wait for their forever home. Parents were surveyed after the program and 75% said they felt their child was more confident in reading, while 66% indicated that because of the program their child was reading more often.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. MSU's program promotes the traditional 4-H clubs and fair projects, as well as many other leadership and life-skills development opportunities for youth. 4-H provides experiential learning opportunities that allow youth to explore new interests and discover their passion. In 2019 there were 8 4-H clubs in Gladwin County serving 202 youth with 63 adult volunteers. The total number of youth served in Gladwin county was 964.



Gladwin county 4-H members at "Camp Clover" after the 1st annual T-shirt paint war

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