



Houghton-Keweenaw County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



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



\$3,714,929 total economic impact
in Houghton & Keweenaw
Counties



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



3 affiliated clinical sites



\$64,821 spending with
local business



32 enrolled MSU students,
357 alumni



MSU disbursed \$875,611 in
financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving
Houghton & Keweenaw
Counties over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Houghton and Keweenaw Counties to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Houghton and Keweenaw 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 Houghton and Keweenaw County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Houghton and Keweenaw Counties and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District 1 Director



HOUGHTON & KEWEENAW COUNTIES

Additional MSU Extension Reach

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

611

Houghton & Keweenaw County Residents Served

183

of Programs Houghton & Keweenaw County
Residents Attended



HOUGHTON & KEWEENAW COUNTIES

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown **183**

Programs Houghton & Keweenaw
County Residents Attended

48

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

56

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

84

Children &
Youth
Programs

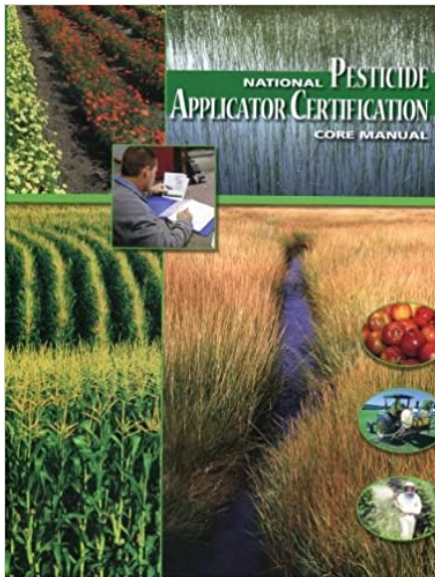
423

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

SMART GARDENING “COMPOSTING”

The Copper Country Recycling Initiative is considering promoting composting to promote a reduced need for landfill. They asked if MSU Extension has some resources and/or would like to partner with them. Extension Educator, Rebecca Krans, responded that she would like to partner with them. She provided a 45-minute presentation on the technique of backyard composting and provided the online Smart Gardening 'composting' [tip sheet](#). 28 participants were reached through this presentation on August 12, 2020.



PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING - CORE MANUAL REVIEW

Jim Isleib offered a review of the National Pesticide Applicator Training core manual to prepare participants for the state pesticide applicator certification exams. This review session was requested by Diane Bomer, MDARD U.P. Regional Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Inspector. Exams followed the 4-hour review, administered by Diane Bomer, who also attended the session and contributed valuable insights. Three MDARD pesticide applicator recertification credits were available. Three participants were reached at this program on January 27, 2021.

WILD SPARTANS PROGRAM

With a purpose of introducing new audiences to 4-H and inspiring youth to explore pathways to STEM careers in fisheries and wildlife, a team including the Houghton-Keweenaw 4-H Program Coordinator created the 4-H Wild Spartans program which began in October 2020.

Each monthly virtual session introduced youth to a scientist, their research and field work, and the education and career path they followed. The series included a live Q & A session with each scientist where youth were encouraged to ask questions. Asynchronous recordings were closed captioned and linked to the Remote Learning and Resources database, as a readily searchable resource for educators and home school audiences. A website houses all 8 recordings, each recording includes links for continued STEM learning & 4-H Career Preparation resources.

Wild Spartans synchronous series had 143 families enrolled from 7 different states and Canada. The series has gone beyond Michigan state lines, delivering a high quality program to a larger audience than what would have been reached before the pandemic. The program reached 51 families that were new to 4-H.

Scientific professionals from outside of 4-H provided expertise and various perspectives with 7 of the 8 scientists new to working with 4-H members. The series provided an ideal opportunity for the speakers to gain professional development in the area of educating youth in a virtual setting.

Program Highlights

HOUGHTON-KEWEENAW COUNTY 4-H CLUBS PUTTING THEIR HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE

This holiday season, the Houghton Service 4-H Club organized a county-wide community service project with 5 local 4-H Clubs participating. Recognizing how tough this year was, local 4-H members wanted to help the elderly in the area feel less isolated due to Covid-19. At the same time, the club was looking for a way to stay active through volunteering while maintaining social distancing. With the support of the Houghton-Keweenaw 4-H Council, they encouraged other clubs to join them in creating holiday items for local elderly.

Each club put their hands to larger service, picking a few specific items to create, such as ornaments, wreaths, or cards. The clubs each chose a different nursing home, organization, or senior group to benefit from their donation efforts, carefully working together to serve as many as possible.

Through the efforts of this service project, 5 clubs participated. The Houghton 4-H Service club made ornaments for residents at the Bluffs. Trap Rock 4-H Club made over 150 cards for residents of the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. They also partnered with the Keweenaw Explorers 4-H Club who made 41 holiday magnets to include in holiday treat bags for Lake Linden seniors. Country Clovers 4-H Club made door hangings for seniors living in Toivola.

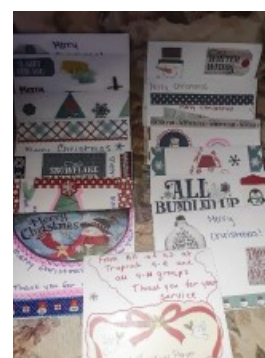
Member families of the Country Living 4-H Club of Chassell combined their talents to provide each of 54 residents at Portage Pointe a mini-wreath, handmade cards, and socks. "A huge thank you to the club members' parents who purchased or contributed supplies and helped guide their kids in completing this project.



Country Living 4-H Club of Chassell combined their talents to provide each of 54 residents at Portage Pointe a mini-wreath and handmade card.



Keweenaw Explorers 4-H Club made holiday magnets for seniors in the Lake Linden area.



Trap Rock 4-H Club provided handmade cards to the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette.

Program Highlights

HOUGHTON-KEWEENAW COUNTY LOCAL YOUTH WINS PRESTIGIOUS 4-H STATE AWARD

Over 70 outstanding Michigan 4-H members from 30+ counties state-wide gathered in a virtual awards ceremony hosted by Michigan State University (MSU) in June to celebrate their accomplishments through the Michigan 4-H State Awards Recognition Program. During the event, 31 youth received Michigan 4-H State Awards in 20 award categories that showcase the diverse array of 4-H knowledge, skills, and experience. State Awards are the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members.

Logan Sandell, a member of the local Houghton County Service 4-H Club was chosen as the awardee in the 2020 Senior Gardening and Horticulture Science category of the 4-H State Awards. Through 4-H, Logan has expanded his leadership and service qualities and skills. He is vice-president of the Houghton County Service 4-H Club, whose members strive to have a positive impact on the community and world. The club participates in service projects and volunteer days in the area, many of which involve gardening and horticulture.

Logan's mastery of horticulture and gardening skills have improved the aesthetics of the community through maintenance and improvement of public spaces, parks such as Kestner Waterfront Park, and school gardens and flower beds. Under Logan's leadership, the club has also organized invasive species removals, native plant restorations, park trash cleanups, and Father's Day flood cleanups.

The club's emphasis on service and gardening has enabled members to donate vegetables grown in the school garden and greenhouse



GARDENING &
HORTICULTURE SCIENCE
SENIOR AWARD WINNER

Logan Sandell
Houghton

to the Houghton Elementary School after-school program for use in healthy snacks. The club also hosts an annual plant sale fundraiser, selling transplants that they have grown from seed in the greenhouse.

Logan joins other 4-H State Award winners to become a part of an elite group of 4-H youth who have demonstrated the highest level of excellence. Youth competing for awards were 13-19 years old with 3 or more years of 4-H experience who submitted an application showcasing the learning experiences, knowledge, and skills they've acquired through their participation in 4-H, as well as their contributions to their local 4-H programs, clubs, and communities. Submissions were reviewed by a selection committee who determine which members are selected as award delegates. Delegates were invited to participate in one of two additional phases: an interview process for seniors (ages 16-19), in which their skills and experience were further evaluated, or a vigorous leadership program for junior delegates (ages 13-15.) Awards were made possible by the generous donations of the Michigan 4-H State Award Recognition program sponsors.



In January and February, 2020 4-H members attended workshops to learn about lifelong outdoor skills including ice fishing and snowshoeing.

Program Highlights

Many circumstances during 2020 affected Michigan's commercial fishing industry

Pandemic and restaurant closures, fishing regulations and legislation among challenges faced.

Eating whitefish at a local restaurant while traveling through northern Michigan is an iconic and cultural Great Lakes experience. Whitefish contributes to 85% of total harvests from Michigan commercial fish producers. Imagine a fishing family that has gone out on the water for generations, supplying Great Lakes whitefish to the Midwest, and even reaching to cities like Chicago and New York. These entrepreneurs do it all: they run fishing vessels safely, they navigate a plethora of fishing and food safety laws, develop innovative, value-added products, navigate markets, and their customer base.

Many [commercial fish producers are concerned](#) their businesses are at risk and that their industry, [one of Michigan's oldest](#), may disappear altogether.

Commercial Fishing in Michigan

Michigan became a state in 1837, and the first commercial fishery was licensed in 1865. Michigan enacted its first commercial fishing law in 1929. Currently, there are 51 state-issued licenses owned (not including tribal fishers), but most are not actively being used, which leaves the current commercial fishing industry represented by 16 businesses. Most state-licensed businesses are multi-generational, small businesses who have a family legacy. Many fishers and allies to Michigan's commercial fishing industry are members of the [Michigan Fish Producers Association \(MFPA\)](#) whose mission is to promote, support, and develop the commercial fishing industry. Lake whitefish is the main fish species harvested through commercial fishing in Michigan.

Many fish producers are also their own processors and offer local, value-added products such as smoked fish and fish dip.

This highly regulated industry provides locally sourced seafood for restaurants, grocery stores, farmers markets, and sometimes even community events and festivals like those at [Fishtown Preservation](#) and the [Bay Port Fish Sandwich Festival](#).

Many circumstances during 2020 have affected the Michigan commercial fishing industry including the coronavirus pandemic, fishing legislation and fishing regulations. The following is a timeline of some of those challenges:

Effort to Update Michigan Commercial Fishing Regulations

The [Michigan Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#) is tasked with administering and enforcing state commercial fishing regulations. The last legislative update for commercial fishing happened in the 1960s with modifications in [PA 451 of 1994](#).

Managing a commercial industry with outdated statutes is complicated and the Michigan DNR officials and others have sought to update the commercial fishing regulations.

In absence of the legislation being updated, each DNR director exercised their authority (provided by Michigan Legislature in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Section [324 part 467](#)) to manage the fishery and administrative roles by issuing [fisheries orders](#). These fisheries orders allow regulators to respond to changes in conditions within the fisheries in a timely manner. Approximately 4 years ago, the DNR began working with elected officials to update the legislation.

Program Highlights

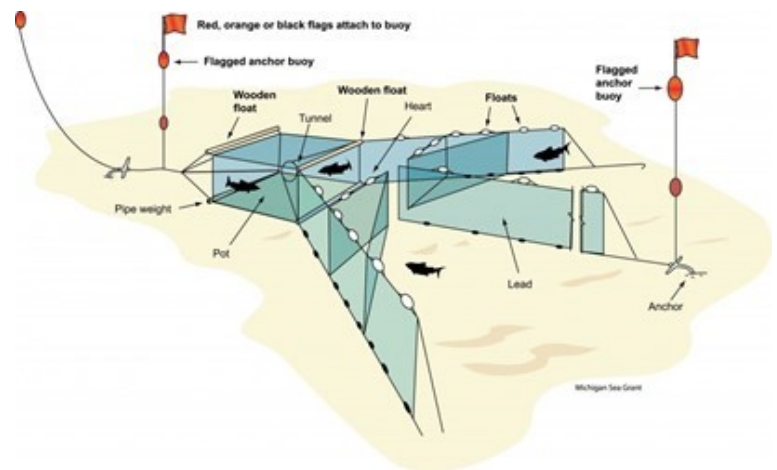
House Bills 4567, 4568, and 4569

As of Feb. 6, 2020, [Michigan House of Representatives](#) passed House Bills (HB) [4567](#), [4568](#), and [4569](#) during the 2019 to 2020 legislative session. These three HBs are tie-bar bills, meaning one HB cannot go into effect without the others. The

HBs [summarized](#) testimonial support by the Michigan DNR, Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association, Michigan Trout Unlimited, and Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and testimonial opposition by the Michigan Fish Producers Association.

On Feb. 11, 2020, the HBs were referred to the [Michigan Senate](#) Committee on Natural Resources. The committee held hearings including presentations and testimony from interested parties in June and July of 2020. Testimonies were received by the DNR, the commercial fishing industry, sportfishing organizations, and Tribal Nations. From July through September 2020, Sen. Ed McBroom, Chair of the [Michigan Senate Natural Resource Committee](#), held discussions to better understand the issues and concerns raised by stakeholder groups. The [Commercial Fishing Workgroup Report he issued](#) provides information on prominent contentious issues pertaining to the HBs, the value of the stakeholder groups, and the evidence-based data as they relate to each issue. Suggested amendments were provided for each HB 4567, 4568, and 4569.

On Dec. 3, 2020, the Senate Natural Resources Committee held a [meeting](#) in which the DNR opposed Senate amendments to the tie-bar HBs, citing the need for more time to review and understand the implications of the amendments. The Committee did not meet again; thus, the HBs did not move for action during last year's legislative season. Bills cannot be carried over from one legislative session to the next, and now [new bills will need to be introduced](#) during the 2021-2022 legislative session.



An illustration of a commercial fishing trap net. This gear is used to catch Lake whitefish alive and is the only gear state-licensed fishermen may use. Nets must be deployed with 16 feet or more water above the top of the net. Nets are typically 40-45 feet in height; thus, nets will only be found in deeper than 56 feet of water.

Program Highlights

2020 Fisheries Order

Fisheries Order 243 modifies conditions of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act Section [324 part 473](#) as recommended by the DNR director. The order is used to “address issues impacting management of the state-licensed commercial fishery for the better protection, preservation, maintenance, and harvesting of the fish.” Fisheries Order 243 has been renewed annually and has had little to no changes for the past four years.

As of Nov. 12, 2020, DNR Director Daniel Eichinger signed [Fisheries Order 243.21](#) which required renewal for 2020 which states: *“Despite the intensive efforts of many in recent years, updates to the commercial fishing statute have not occurred and the Department no longer intends to annually renew certain provisions within Fisheries Order 243. This decision is based on perceived gaps in authority as described by prosecutors in previous law enforcement efforts. These complexities stem from the confusion with conflicting regulations described within statute, administrative rules, and orders. Therefore, the Department has amended FO 243.21 so that only provisions that the Department feels confident in their authority to enforce will be retained. The amendments within this order highlight just how essential it is for our legislature to promptly pass the commercial fish bills that have been introduced and supported in the House and that are now being considered by the Senate.”*

Effective on Jan. 8, 2021, Fisheries Orders 243.21 included changes such as restricting fishing from water in 150 feet to 80 feet or less, ending Lake Erie fishing for rough fish (e.g., whitefish), and closing Lake Huron and Lake Michigan whitefish season for October (in addition to November).

Moving into 2021

Commercial fisheries, along with many other industries, were negatively impacted in 2020 due to the coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19. Uncertainty and State of Michigan orders which included restrictions for restaurants and other food service establishments disrupted food supply chains. [Michigan State University Extension](#) and [Michigan Sea Grant](#) held [listening sessions and webinars](#) to help industry partners try to navigate through those difficult times.

The 2021 MFPA annual conference will be held virtually this year due to COVID-19.

Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Sea Grant will facilitate the educational program at this conference and will be live from 10am-5pm ET on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021. [Registration is required](#), but the event is free to attend. Sessions include research, regulations, fish tales from commercial fishermen, and networking opportunities. This program will offer educational opportunities for those all interested in commercial fishing in Michigan. [Michigan Sea Grant](#) helps to foster economic growth and protect Michigan’s coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research, and outreach. A collaborative effort of the [University of Michigan](#) and [Michigan State University](#) and its [MSU Extension](#), Michigan Sea Grant is part of the [NOAA-National Sea Grant](#) network of 34 university-based programs.

Investing in Houghton -Keweenaw County Youth with 4-H

*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.*



Micaela Geborkoff, Chassell

HOUGHTON COUNTY TEEN AWARDED \$2,000 MSU PRE-COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Micaela Geborkoff, a Houghton area student, was awarded a \$2,000 Michigan State University Pre-College Achievement Scholarship. Students in 8th to 10th grades for 2019-20 who attended an MSU summer pre-college program during the prior year were eligible to apply for this award. Micaela Geborkoff participated in 4-H Exploration Days, one of six pre-college programs offered by MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development.

MSU pre-college programs are great for helping youth explore possible career interests. They are fun, educational, and help connect young people with university faculty and other resources. MSU pre-college programs also help youth envision their future so they can wisely choose their high school classes and prepare for college.

Selection for the scholarship is based on academic ability/potential, demonstration of extra-curricular and community service experience, demonstration of leadership and teamwork skills, ability to overcome obstacles, teacher and program director nominations and strength of student essay. The scholarship is applied to the student's 1st year at MSU as a degree-seeking student.

HOUGHTON COUNTY 4-H'ER RECIEVES GROW & LEAD COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT'S 2020 U.P. YOUTH SERVICE AWARD

Micaela Geborkoff, of Chassell received the 2020 Upper Peninsula Youth Service Award from the Grow & Lead Community Youth Development organization in recognition of her commitment to serving her community. She serves on the granting committee of the Keweenaw Community Foundation's Student Leadership and Advisory Council of the Keweenaw (SLACK) and participates in numerous service projects with the group. As president of the Houghton County Service 4-H Club she organizes and leads community service projects such as the Houghton County Father's Day Flood restoration. She recently winterized homes in partnership between the Houghton Energy Efficiency Team, SLACK and 4-H.

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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