



# Iosco County

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

### BY THE NUMBERS



58+ MSU Extension professionals served Iosco County over the past year



66% of Iosco County youth involved in 4-H and other youth development programs



\$25,586 MSU spent with local businesses



93 total youth and adult 4-H volunteers



MSU Extension website received 4,570 visits from Iosco County; 80.5% were first-time visitors



35 Iosco County students enrolled at MSU



MSU disbursed \$800,000 in financial aid to Iosco students



18 Iosco residents are certified Extension Master Gardeners



32 residential/commercial soil kits processed for Iosco County residents



### MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Iosco County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of the county's continued support and the support of local residents, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and our local community.

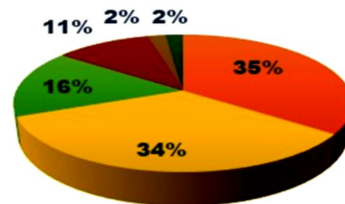
MSU Extension's local and statewide staff provide outreach to your constituents by bringing the university's research and resources into the county. From consumer horticulture education to supporting Project F.I.S.H., to 4-H embryology lessons and local farm family support, it has been a busy year in the county. We have also been busy welcoming Iosco County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from tree and insect questions to food safety, raised program awareness through social media and we have provided a library of research-based resources that they've browsed on our website: [msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu)

Your support of MSU Extension continues to be important to our mission: improving lives. Thank you.

*Mitchell Womau*  
District 4 Director

 MSU Extension District 4  
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[ioscocounty@msu.edu](mailto:ioscocounty@msu.edu)

#### Finance & Operations



Grants  
County investments  
Federal special projects  
State appropriations  
Federal Cooperative Extension  
MSU General Fund

MSU Extension Iosco County  
420 W Lake St  
Tawas City, MI 48764  
(989) 362-0449

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# Program Highlights



Cooking classes teach participants more than just cooking. Here, Oscoda residents Samantha Kerth (center), and Bev Kerth (right) learn a new recipe and the costs associated with making it. Photo credit: Iosco News

## Nutrition Education

Our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) works by utilizing a federal grant to facilitate partnerships with community organizations like Commission on Aging, Michigan Works, Michigan Youth Opportunity and more. In Iosco County, **297 Iosco residents received education around SNAP-Ed.**

In addition to SNAP-Ed, MSU Extension held food preservation, food safety and food certification programs for Iosco County residents.



Tawas Middle School students help to manage invasive Phragmites by measuring the density of Phragmites in a targeted area in their community. Photo credit: Brandon Schroeder

## Place-based Education + NEMIGLSI

With the help of local MSU Extension Michigan Sea Grant Educator Brandon Schroeder, Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI), and others, 2,911 Michigan youth, **601 from Iosco County, engaged in Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects** during the 2017/18 school year. **21 Iosco County teachers received professional development** on programs such as Fisheries 101 and Our Fisheries, Our Future, and workshops on rain gardens, greenhouses and more.



Dr. Mani Singh, MSU Assistant Professor of Cropping Systems Agronomy, spoke to local farmers at a corn silage field day in Whittemore.

## Agriculture and Agri-Business

MSU Extension provides resources to help farmers and their families. In 2018, an Iosco County farm participated in an MSU Extension heat stress project in which body temperature of cows was tracked over a five-day period to relate temperatures to farm practices to mitigate heat stress.

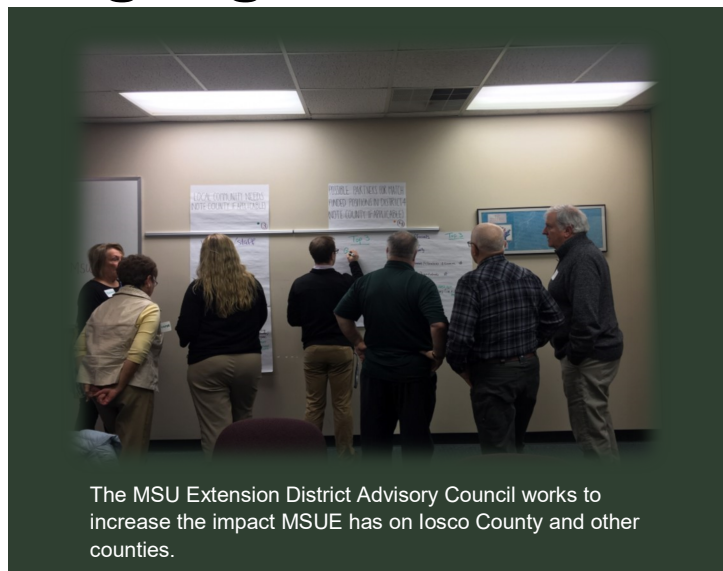
Additional efforts included individual farm consultations, certification programs for beef quality assurance, bull soundness exams and crop management education that **reached more than 50 Iosco County residents.**



# Program Highlights

## Community Resourcefulness

In 2018, Iosco County residents were offered many educational programs around natural resources. A few examples include: youth forestry camp, an inland lake seminar, a Great Lakes citizen science monitoring program, and workshops that taught residents and decision makers best practices to empower intentional actions that will help the community mitigate the impacts of severe weather events and fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes through planning, policy, and regulatory solutions. Over **50 local residents participated in programming** around these topics this past year.



The MSU Extension District Advisory Council works to increase the impact MSUE has on Iosco County and other counties.

## 4-H Youth Development

4-H is a program of MSU Extension. In 2018, 203,000 Michigan young people participated in 4-H through various activities, clubs, groups, programs and events. As they engage in these learning experiences, 4-H'ers explore their passions and interests while growing confidence, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. During the academic year of 2017/2018, there were **2,374 Iosco County youth who participated in 4-H programming via school enrichment, clubs, camps, etc.** **352 youth were registered 4-H members.**



Participation in 4-H helps youth build important life skills & the assets they need to live healthy & productive lives. This photo shows the Iosco Oinkers 4-H swine club touring Holsteins Butcher Block to learn how animals are processed once they are sold to their buyers at the fair.

## Consumer Horticulture

In Iosco County, residents enjoy horticulture educational programs such as Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101 and Dealing with Drought. Our local Horticulture Educator, Sarah Rautio, also provides in-person gardening advice, insect identification, community garden guidance and she leads our area MSU Extension Master Gardener Program.

This past year, **18 Iosco residents completed 360 volunteer hours giving back to the community** as part of their Master Gardener recertification requirements.



In 2018, over 7,700 calls were made to the MSU Extension Gardening Hotline. To reach the hotline, call 888-678-3464.

# Iosco County, MSU Extension & 4-H: Inspiring Youth Confidence



When Stephanie Hauff, 19, was just 5 years old, her parents signed her up for 4-H since her brother was a member. She started her 4-H experience in the Sunrise Side Livestock Club as a Cloverbud. Over the next 14 years, she joined clubs such as the BB Gun Club, the Desperados Horse Club, Kids 'n' Cakes Cake Decorating Club, the Lamb Club and the Totes My Goats Club. In 2009/10 she won a blue ribbon in the BB Gun Club. Over the next two years, she received blue ribbons for achievement and citizenship. She became a Teen Leader in 2012 and from there earned blue ribbons in Arts and Crafts, Food and Nutrition, and county medals in Community Service and Horse and Pony.

When asked what 4-H has taught her, Stephanie said, “I have learned to be humble, to always work harder than before, and to always be proud of my work.” She would go on to receive many more awards as a teen. From additional medals in Achievement, Personal Development and Leadership to blue ribbons in Sheep, Stephanie experienced personal growth and success in her experiences with 4-H.

“I was never the kid that had the most expensive animals, tack or clothes,” Stephanie said. “I was the kid that worked with what I had, and never expected to win because I rarely got a first place ribbon. However, I was always just happy to be a part of the 4-H Horse program. I went to all the shows just hoping to improve. I improved my skills. I had a goal at the beginning of the year to win the Versatility trophy at the Iosco County Fair. I am not going to lie, I thought it was a far-fetched and unachievable goal. To my surprise, I won the award! I was shocked! I felt empowered! I learned that the judges are looking for the people who work hard and do the best they can with what they have. I think this is the most important thing I have learned in my 14 years of 4-H.”

Stephanie recommends 4-H for all youth because of the personal growth she experienced firsthand.

**“In 4-H I have learned to be humble, to always work harder than before, and to always be proud of my work.”**

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