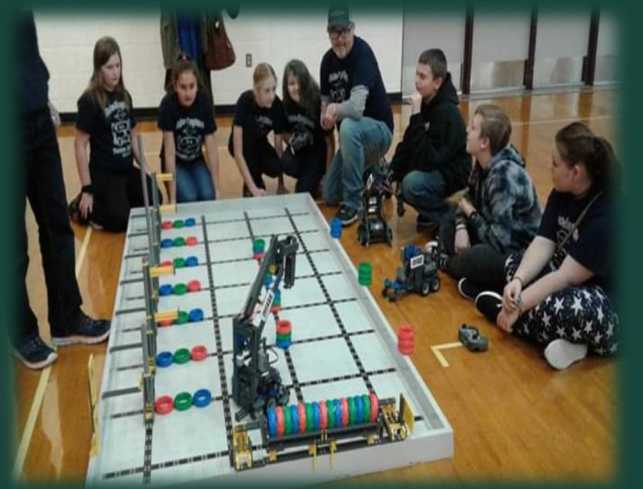


# Investing in Iosco County Youth with 4-H

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



In Iosco County 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. By providing opportunities to learn and lead, 4-H helps youth become informed and engaged community members. While exploring new topics and activities in an experiential way, youth build the skills they need for life.

In 2017, Iosco County 4-H had a total of **72 screened adult volunteers, 26 youth volunteers and 350 youth enrolled in 4-H project clubs.** In addition, **2,162 children or 71% of Iosco County youth aged 5 to 19** took part in learning opportunities with MSU Extension. Essential skills youth develop while participating in 4-H include problem solving, decision making, leadership, resiliency and communication.

4-H is unique in that it offers experiences to young people who live in cities or rural areas by providing the opportunity to participate in community 4-H clubs, learning experiences in school classrooms, day and overnight camps and other special interest events. One example includes the 4-H Embryology Program, a school enrichment project that engages students over the course of 21 days as they observe fertilized eggs develop, grow, and hatch in their classrooms. MSU staff and volunteers provide weekly hands-on educational lessons to students to teach youth about embryonic development and the chicken lifecycle. In 2017, **293 youth from Iosco County** participated in the 4-H Embryology School Enrichment project.

*"The 4-H Embryology project is my students' favorite program all year. It engages all of my students, even those that traditionally don't enjoy Science class. - Whittemore-Prescott Science Teacher*

Beyond the excitement of learning something new through a project, youth have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences, travel the world, become involved in their community through service, and meet new friends in a safe and comfortable setting. A young person's experiences in 4-H makes a difference for a lifetime by allowing them to grow and appreciate the importance of being a good citizen, strong leader and person of character.

Leaders also help youth achieve their personal goals and provide encouragement and a support system. According to a five year study by Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada, children with mentors were more confident and had fewer behavioral problems. Girls in the study were four times less likely to become bullies than those without a mentor and boys were two times less likely. In general, young people showed increased belief in their abilities to succeed in school and felt less anxiety related to peer pressure.









**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The 4-H Name and Emblem have special protections from Congress, protected by code 18 USC 707.



# Iosco County 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 100+** Over 100 years of serving Iosco County
-  2,162 youth involved in 4-H and other youth development programs
-  5 Extension professionals housed in Iosco County, 50+ provide support
-  528+ Iosco adults and youth in SNAP-Ed programs
-  1,129+ Volunteer hours from Iosco County Master Gardeners
-  338 MSU alumni currently living in Iosco County
-  MSU Extension website received 8,513 Iosco visitors; 80.9% were first-time visitors
-  MSU disbursed \$477,827 in financial aid to Iosco students
-  \$3,344,378 total economic impact in Iosco County

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Iosco County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Iosco County residents need it most.








From agriculture to 4-H to lake ecology programs and from youth to senior audiences, MSU Extension provides education to help Iosco County residents improve their lives. This report highlights just some of the work done last year.

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

Mischelle Warner, District Director

## CONTACT

-  MSU Extension Iosco County  
420 W Lake St  
Tawas City, MI 48764
-  [msue.anr.msu.edu](http://msue.anr.msu.edu)  
[ioscocoounty@msu.edu](mailto:ioscocoounty@msu.edu)
-  989-362-3449
-  MSU Extension District 4
-  @MSUEExtension

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**



# Program Highlights



ServSafe teaches about foodborne illness, how to prevent it, how to train employees about the latest food safety issues, provides new Food and Drug Administration food code rules & other content related to the food industry. **Twenty-seven losco residents** participated in this training during the past year.



Fifty-four youth participated in 4-H National and State Events in 2017, ranging from 4-H State Dairy Days to National 4-H Congress.



Iosco County is home to 283 farms that produce a total of \$17m in farm sales annually. Local residents, as well as those statewide, count on MSU Extension for education and guidance.

## Supporting Family Health and Nutrition

Health outcomes in the County Health Rankings represent measures of how long people live and how healthy people feel. According to the 2018 County Health Rankings Report, Iosco County ranks 73 of 83. MSU Extension offers programs to help improve this statistic such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education. **Over 520 Iosco residents participated** in 2017. Other programs include Personal Action Toward Health for diabetics, Eat Healthy Be Active, Cooking Matters, Chronic Pain and Mindfulness, Food Preservation, and Food Safety.

## Empowering Iosco Youth

MSU Extension provides young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. From 4-H to STEAM programs and county fair auctions to mock interviews, youth gain life skills to prepare them for the workforce, especially for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

*"...going to 4-H Capitol Experience helped me to discover a passion for government. Because of 4-H, I am studying Political Science at MSU..." - Iosco 4-H Member*

**Fifty-two percent of Iosco County** 4-H seniors graduating between 2012 and 2017 enrolled in college after high school, while 42.9 percent of 18-24 year olds in the region did so.

## Agriculture and Agribusiness

During the past year in Iosco County, MSU Extension provided farm support and education through individual consultation, workshops, research opportunities, evaluation of practices, articles and training for farm employees. Topics included the impact of milking procedures on cows, disease control, finance management, breeding readiness, employee management and dealing with farm stress. **Hundreds of Iosco County residents** attended, participated or consulted in these programs.

# Program Highlights

## Iosco County Master Gardeners

Iosco Master Gardeners know that horticulture lends value to property, brings greenery into urban and suburban spaces, reduces greenhouse gases, and provides habitat to declining pollinators and other beneficial animal species. During 2017, **15 Iosco County** Master Gardeners each met or exceeded a 15 hour per year volunteer requirement and 5 hours of continuing education, which totaled 1,129 + volunteer hours! Also, **six new Iosco County residents** completed the Master Gardener Volunteer Class in 2017.

## MSU Extension and Place-Based Stewardship Education

Over 34 Place-Based Stewardship Education (PBSE) Project Teams across eight counties including Iosco were active, supported through the regional Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative network. This initiative directly engaged students in PBSE activities with community partners. PBSE efforts provide opportunities for teachers and students, through their learning, to engage in and lead environmental stewardship projects in partnership with their communities.

## Lake Huron Education

Michigan Sea Grant and MSU Extension, in partnership with the DNR Fisheries Division, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, and local fishery organizations, hosted four regional workshops across Lake Huron's coastline including Oscoda. **Twenty-four Iosco** residents attended. Experts presented information and status updates on topics such as fish populations and angler catch data, forage or prey fish surveys, offshore fisheries from native Lake Trout recovery and success with Atlantic Salmon program, status of Saginaw Bay Yellow Perch and Walleye, updates on fisheries management activities, citizen science opportunities for anglers and more.



MSU Extension offers your community education opportunities around topics such as invasive plants, insect management, fertilizer recommendations, soil testing and more!



4,483 youth in NE Michigan directly engaged, through their learning, with community partners in fielding place-based stewardship education projects during the school year—this includes **672 Iosco County** youth.



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 Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs.