

Jackson County Annual Report 2024



Photo credit: Madelyn Celonsky

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A Message from the District Director



Thank you for another great programming year of partnership between Jackson County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension! Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and communities. MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational outreach to county residents. Our programs reach all audiences and age groups. From youth learning essential life skills and farmers exploring ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness, to older adults being able to access healthier foods and local communities discovering ways to increase economic impact.

Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

The following pages highlight just some of the programming that staff delivered to Jackson County residents in 2024. We continue to provide our programs in a variety of spaces and delivery methods that are convenient for our participants to engage in and access. Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving the county, thank you for another great year! We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.



1,561 participants from the county attending programs.



511 4-H enrolled youth



228 total of volunteers

Overall Impact



7 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members of



202 participants in SNAP-ED Programs within the county



158 client consultations from the county



2,624 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts



16 partnerships in the county



777 participants attending programs hosted in the county



202 youth participants attending programs hosted in the county



Photo credit: MSU Extension ERAIL Team



Photo credit: MSU Extension Webpage

Healthy Gardens for Healthy Communities



Photo credit: YPOP



Photo credit: YPOP

Healthy Gardens for Healthy Communities is a new local program offered by the Young People of Purpose (YPOP) Garden. This initiative is designed for anyone in Jackson who is interested in learning the basics of growing their own food. In 2024, fifteen residents of Jackson participated in the course, and it was very well received. Food insecurity is a significant concern in Jackson, as more than 10% of residents lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Teaching participants how to establish vegetable gardens at home is one small way to help alleviate this dilemma.

Overall Impact

Cooking For One



Photo credit: Laurie Mead

The Crouch Senior Center partnered with the Jackson County MSU Extension Office to offer a Cooking for One class. One participant shared that it was her first time trying mango, and she loved it. She found the recipe easy to follow and delicious, and she can't wait to share it with her friends.



405 programs (across the state) attended by participants from this county



7 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members of



101 Ask Extension questions answered



Photo credit: Laurie Mead

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



67,320 participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan



470 virtual programs offered related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses.



281,068 acres protected, enhanced, restored, or managed sustainably with MSU Extension assistance in Southeast Michigan

Pesticide Applicator Training



286 participants in county agriculture programs



Photo credit: Madelyn Celonsky

"I'm pleased that the Pesticide Applicator training and tests have resumed in person in Jackson. The chance to connect with other farmers, hear from experts in the field, and ask questions face-to-face is incredibly valuable and greatly appreciated."
-Training Attendee



\$246.5 billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy

Product Center

The MSU Product Center supports innovation and growth for business, industry and entrepreneurs in food, agriculture and natural resource sectors.



• \$4,000,000 in Annual Sales



• 12 Companies assisted

Services offered:

- Business planning: Writing business plans, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and developing marketing and pricing strategies
- Product development: Helping with packaging, labeling, and nutritional analysis
- Marketing: Helping with branding, distribution, and access to retailers
- Licensing and regulation: Helping with licensing and regulatory requirements
- Product testing: Working with the MSU Food Science and Packaging departments

ERAIL Ribbon Cutting



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage

Between August and November 2024, Michigan State University Extension hosted a series of ribbon-cutting ceremonies to unveil 5 ERAIL trailers across the state, enhancing local emergency response for livestock incidents. The fleet of ERAIL response trailers, each equipped with state-of-the-art livestock handling equipment, has grown to 8 trailers in the state, with the original three in Jackson, Branch, and Otsego counties. These events, held in Monroe, Gratiot, Berrien, Midland, and Lapeer counties, brought together Michigan State University Extension, MDARD, local officials, and community leaders to showcase the growing collaboration to improve preparedness and infrastructure for agricultural emergencies statewide.

No-Till Field Day

The 2024 Southwest No-till Field Day was held on July 19, on Stuck Farms in Marcellus, Michigan was co-led by our Jackson County Conservation Agronomist. There was a total of 40 attendees from 23 counties and 2 out of state attendees. Attending farmers represented a range in farm size. Attendees had a day packed full of education surrounding no-till and received a range of resources, including a free “Soil Your Undies” demonstration and a “No-Till and Cover Crops” practical guidebook.

Respondents to evaluation surveys indicated that they increased their knowledge a great deal. This event made an estimated impact on the management of 5453 acres from the respondents of this survey and may lead to a total of \$75,486 in savings or earnings across those acres.



Photo credit: Madelyn Celorsky

Youth Programming

Parents and caregivers are the first to have influence on a child's development and future academic success. To ensure the success of families across Michigan and to support children's school readiness, MSU Extension has invested in research- and evidence-based programming for the parents, caregivers and early childhood Success! educators who have the first opportunity to enhance children's skills and become their best resources and advocates.

This programming supports families while helping parents and caregivers increase early childhood science, math and preliteracy skills, as well as enhancing the social and emotional wellness of children and youth. By increasing parents' and caregivers' knowledge of child and youth development, Extension can help caring adults build a positive foundation for learning and lifelong success.



511 4-H youth enrollments in the county



133,306 total youth participants statewide



163 total 4-H volunteers in the county



12,861 total volunteers statewide

4-H Welding Workshop



Photo credit: Jessica Waldron

"4-H has given me so much. There are things that I have had the opportunity to experience and learn that I never would have if I was not in the program. Both leaders and members have helped to shape my life into what it is today and I am forever grateful."

-MICHIGAN 4-H YOUTH PARTICIPANT

Public Health and Nutrition

When it comes to nutrition and physical activity, MSU Extension's team of experts brings evidence-based education into communities across the state. Our staff delivers educational programming to communities and helps create lasting healthy changes, from kitchen tables to school cafeterias.

MSU Extension offers high-quality, affordable programs that help Michigan residents learn the importance of safe food and water in their everyday lives. Our research-based programs help food handlers learn safe food preservation skills and techniques.

Community Gardens



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage

MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed throughout Michigan. SNAP-Ed focuses on good nutrition, stretching food dollars, living physically active lifestyles and engaging partners to build healthier communities. MSU Extension continues to offer local coaching in support of healthier childcare environments, including farm to early care and education.



350 nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county



555 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs



9,808 people participating in Food Safety programs, including ServSafe® statewide

Partnerships

- Jackson County Youth Center
- David's Promise
- Jackson Interfaith Shelter
- Townsend Elementary Reaching Higher
- Jackson County Department on Aging
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- JCISD Central Campus
- Jackson County Head Start
- Michigan Sheep Producers Association
- Jackson County Parks & Rec - Fair Board
- Jackson Area Career Center
- Young People of Purpose (YPOP Explorers)
- Jackson Great Start Collaborative
- Jackson County Public Schools
- Liberty Township Fire Department
- Jackson County Conservation District

AgBio Research Centers

MacCreedy Nature Reserve



Photo credit: Jessica Waldron

Rogers Reserve



Photo credit: MSU Extension Webpage



A Statewide Network of Resources to Help

MSU Extension is the home of the latest in research, education and outreach covering a wide range of issues from agriculture & agribusiness, health and nutrition, youth education and outreach and community and economic vitality. If MSU Extension doesn't have an expert in your county to answer your questions, we can connect you to our statewide resources to connect you to the information you need.

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more!

Ask Extension: www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert

Soil Mailers: MSU Extension home lawn and garden and commercial soil mailers provide access to personalized fertilizer recommendations for thousands of Michigan residents every year. The home lawn and garden mailer can be purchased in person at MSU [Extension](#) offices or online from the [MSU Extension bookstore](#). Commercial soil mailer are purchased in person at MSU [Extension](#) offices. Questions about soil results can be sent to MSUsoiltest@msu.edu.

Lawn and Garden Hotline: 888-678-3464 Hours: M,W,F 9:00 am–12:00 pm
(Year-round)

Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.

Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882 Hours M/W/F,
9:00 am-5:00 pm

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home?

The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

MSU Extension Bookstore

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts?



Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners e-newsletter

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Photo credit: MSU Extension Webpage



Photo credit: Unsplash

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