

JACKSON COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo credit: MSU Extension

The butterfly effect is an idea introduced by Edward Lorenz in the 1960s that small, seemingly insignificant singular events may ultimately lead to much larger outcomes. If taken on their own and independent from others in the community, MSU Extension workshops, programs, and publications may seem to impact only those individuals who experience them first-hand.

However, for more than 150 years Extension has worked diligently to facilitate community partnerships and coalitions that broaden our education efforts and “Bring Knowledge to Life.” In addition to our county partners, Extension staff throughout District 12 worked with 123 partners and coalitions in 2023 to expand the reach of our programs and education initiatives.

Together, we are creating ripple effects, like the flaps of the butterfly wings, that stretch across the county and beyond. In the 2023 annual report, you’ll find success stories, participant feedback, event photos, program metrics, and much more about the impact that MSU Extension is making in the lives of friends, family, and neighbors in Jackson County.

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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PREPARING CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

Parents and caregivers are the first to influence 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 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 strengthen the social and emotional wellness of children and youth. By increasing parents' and caregivers' knowledge of child and youth development, MSU Extension can help caring adults build a positive foundation for learning and lifelong success.



Photo credit: Jackson Cloverbud 4-H Program

430
4-H PROGRAM
ENROLLMENTS

\$37,989
4-H VOLUNTEER
HOUR VALUE*

164
YOUTH
PROGRAMS
ACCESSED BY
RESIDENTS

4,225
MI STRONGER
FAMILY TOTAL
ONLINE
PARTICIPANTS

"Not only did the kids learn about starting a garden from start to finish, but they also learned how to work as a team. Taking care of a living plant is hard work and dedication, and to be flexible because things in life happen that we can't control. None of which scared them from wanting to do this again. The Sharp Park 4-H Garden Club is excited to get out in their garden again this year to see what they can grow next! "

-Teacher of students who attend the Sharp Park Academy's Jackson 4-H Garden Club



Photo credit: Jackson Sharp Park Academy's 4-H Garden Club

Many people think 4-H is just for kids who live on farms or those interested in raising and selling animals – but that's not true! Offering a diverse range of topics and interest areas, 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. Each year thousands of young people explore what interests and excites them as

they grow through Michigan 4-H. From program areas ranging from science and technology to clothing and textiles, and so much more, 4-H provides fun, educational opportunities that empower young people with skills to lead for a lifetime and become the foundation for future success. After all, true leaders aren't born they're grown!

*10 hr/ vol at 2023 Michigan rate of \$30.15



IMPROVING HEALTH & 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. Programming is supported through the [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program— Education \(SNAP-Ed\)](#).

Nutrition Programs include:

- [Cooking Matters](#)
- [Eat Healthy, Be Active](#)
- [My Way to Wellness](#)
- [Peak Health and Performance](#)
- [Show Me Nutrition](#)
- [Teen Cuisine](#)

"Students who normally choose peanut butter and jelly for lunch are giving the new recipes a try, and trying more foods than they normally do. I also noticed that students requested and prefer more fresh fruits & vegetables."

— Elementary school

183
SNAP-ED PARTICIPANTS HOSTED IN COUNTY

595
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN HEALTH & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

433
FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS OFFERED

34
SERVSAFE PARTICIPANTS

Safe and properly prepared food can prevent foodborne illness, thus reducing healthcare costs and improving overall health and well-being. Whether for food entrepreneurs, volunteers preparing food for the community, childcare providers, or consumers interested in preserving food, MSU Extension teaches a variety of classes to help everyone enjoy safe, healthy food. for keeping food safe.

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.

Food Safety Programs include:

- [Cooking for Crowds](#)
- [Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Home Food Preservation](#)
- [Safe Food = Healthy Kids](#)
- [ServSafe](#)



A young participant at a Cooking Matters for Teens class at a tribal community center learns how to chop tomatoes. Photo: MSU Extension/Caitlin Lorenc.



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

MSU Extension educators in agriculture and agribusiness work with farms of all sizes helping to positively impact individual farming operations. When those individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.

Farm Stress Management

Taking care of crops and animals is hard on farmers. Caring for personal health and wellness in this high-stress profession is often overlooked but is as critical as caring for the farm business. Agricultural professionals and their families face unique stressors and mental health challenges and often have limited access to mental health services. MSU Extension is a national leader in addressing farm stress and related mental health issues by providing farm business financial analysis to farms and connecting farmers

and their families with teletherapy programs, workshops, webinars, and digital materials offering self-paced or interactive options.

that will aid in the accident response and create a network of trained responders throughout the state.

MSU Extension's Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (EMAIL)

Programs focus on the safety of first responders and the public traveling Michigan roads and highways. ERAIL trains first responders, animal haulers, and others how to properly respond when animals are involved in a traffic accident, provides access to equipment



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage



2023 MSU Extension Agriculture & Agribusiness in Michigan

\$104.7 billion
annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy

300 commodities
Michigan ranks second in the nation for crop diversity due to its unique climate, topography and impact of the Great Lakes

\$1.57 million
in tax saving benefits to participating farms

\$3,067,030
contributed economic value of services by Extension Master Gardeners

Data taken from Nov 2023 Extension Agriculture & Agribusiness in Michigan report

Michigan is agriculturally diverse both in what we produce and who produces it. Through our efforts to reach farmers at every level and size of production wherever they may be, MSU Extension has gone beyond traditional methods of working with farmers. We understand that some farmers may not be able to meet in person either due to distance or timing of an educational offering, so we have incorporated a vast array of online learning and digital informational opportunities to meet people where they are and when they have the time to consume information integral to their success.



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

MSU Product Center

[MSU Extension](#) and the [MSU Product Center](#) assist entrepreneurs and businesses in developing products and services in the food and agriculture markets. Its team of experts consults with clients on a one-on-one basis, helping new entrepreneurs navigate from concept development to launch and beyond. The MSU Product Center

also offers specialized services such as labeling, packaging, and nutritional analysis. If you are interested in business counseling from the MSU Product Center, please visit the [website](#).

Product Center in Jackson County

8 companies assisted
28 total employees
\$172,815 annual profit
\$45,625 export sales



Government & Community Vitality



Photo credit: MSU Ext webpage

Are you a government official or urban planner looking for guidance? We offer training on a wide range of public policy topics. We facilitate meetings and promote good governance and we offer *Citizen Planner* trainings and timely webinars. Government and Community Vitality Education provides community development expertise to municipal and county governments to “thrive locally” by working with communities using data and tools that support the efficient delivery of critical public services that safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan residents.

Land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials throughout Michigan. Teaches the fundamentals of roles, responsibilities, and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. More information regarding citizen planning and local government/housing education can be found under the full program list below.

[Great Lakes Leadership Academy](#)

[Citizen Planner](#)

[Tribal Education](#)

[Livable Communities](#)



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A Statewide Network of Resources to Help You

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, 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 accurate 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 mailers 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 <https://shop.msu.edu/collections/msu-extension-bookstore>
Look for bulletins, publications, and MSU Extension products at the Bookstore!