

LAPEER COUNTY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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- Karly Creguer, District 10 Director
- Sarah Griffin, 4-H Program Coordinator
- Cheryl Hall, Secretary
- Becky Henne, Associate Program Leader, SNAP-Ed
- Phil Kaatz, Educator – Field Crops & Forages
- Julia Simon – Community Nutrition Instructor
- Christine Venema, Educator – Food Safety & Nutrition



Message from the District Director



Karly Creguer
District 10 Director
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Even before the creation of the cooperative extension system in the U.S. in 1914, Michigan State University (then Michigan State College) was at the forefront of community education and outreach. The first livestock agent was hired in 1907. Now, in 2025, there are over 600 MSU Extension staff bringing evidence- and research-based information to Michigan residents. They are embedded in the communities they serve, lending them first-hand knowledge of the local needs and opportunities. From non-biased seed trials and youth development to health education and economic development, MSU Extension is at the ready to respond to emerging needs. We can do this through our many partnerships with volunteers, coalitions, local groups and businesses, and county governments. Thank you for your continued support as we evolve to the demands of today’s world while staying true to the extension mission established over 100 years ago.

Impact



3,217 participants from the county attending **366** programs



2,310 participants attending **75** programs hosted in Lapeer County



595 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs



899 participants in county agriculture programs



277 youth enrolled in 4-H



146 volunteers serving Lapeer County



59 Ask Extension questions answered



54,059 handouts and e-newsletters distributed

Lapeer to Host CEC Conference



The City of Lapeer’s participation in MSU Extension’s First Impressions Tourism (FIT) program played a key role in securing its spot as the host for the award-winning Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) conference in Spring 2025. Throughout 2024, Lapeer’s DDA worked closely with Extension Educator Andy Northrop to plan the event, further solidifying the city’s reputation as a prime location for visitors, investors, and future residents.

CEC is a unique “small town conference for small towns in a small town,” designed to strengthen Michigan communities by supporting local businesses, entrepreneurs and community ecosystems. The conference offers over 20 breakout sessions, keynote speakers, networking opportunities and resources for economic development.

Andy Northrop continues to make a statewide impact in small-town tourism, government and community vitality. As the leader of MSU Extension’s FIT program and the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities team, he played a pivotal role in preparing Lapeer to host this prestigious event.



Use the QR code to register for the Conference from now until the end of May.



2024 Virtual Breakfast Series

This 26-week webinar served farmers, agribusiness personnel and others interested in agriculture. The series was conducted during the growing season with a focus on field crop and pest management, soil health, soil management, cover crops and financial management. In production agriculture, things change fast during the growing season and the Virtual Breakfast Series is a convenient and valuable way to provide and assist producers and agribusiness professionals with solutions that address possible management options associated with emerging issues and concerns.

The results:

- **5,465** live participants
- **5,414** YouTube video views
- **7,365** MSU Extension page views of Virtual Breakfast
- **1,493** podcast participants
- **2,620** Facebook live participants
- **218** live participants from Lapeer County



Emergency Response for Accidents Involving Livestock (ERAIL)

The MSU ERAIL team conducted two, in-person comprehensive trainings for emergency first responders in 2024, focusing on animal handling and behavior of different livestock species, emergency preparedness and euthanasia. The first training in Imlay City had **52** participants in May, while the second on MSU’s campus had **32** participants in October. Survey results showed significant increases in participants’ knowledge, skills and comfort levels in handling livestock. Additionally, the team placed **five new** fully equipped emergency response trailers across Michigan, totaling **eight** in the state, one of them placed in Lapeer County. Local emergency responders received in-depth training on using the trailers and their equipment for accident situations.

ERAIL training participants maneuvering pigs (photo credit: Morgan Cook, MP Branded)

Food Safety Programs in Lapeer County

MSU Extension Food Safety Educator Christine Venema provides food safety education programs in Lapeer County. These programs include Serving Up Food Safety, Preserving MI Harvest, Pantry Food Safety It's Your Job! and Michigan Cottage Food Law. These programs are taught via Zoom reaching participants beyond Lapeer County as well.

Christine also answered questions through the MSU Extension food safety hotline. In four months, she answered **97** questions from across Michigan and the United States.

MSU Extension also provides ServSafe® for Food Service Managers courses and exams in a face-to-face format. During 2024, **75** people participated in ServSafe®. **89% of the participants passed the national exam.**



Community Nutrition Programs

Lapeer County's Community Nutrition Instructors work to educate community members from preschool-aged to older adults.

188 adults attended programs that included Senior Project Fresh, Start Simple with MyPlate, Feeding a Picky Eater and Healthy Holidays.

111 students from Dryden and Weston Elementary Schools participated in a 6-week Show Me Nutrition program.

83 students from Dryden Elementary School participated in the MyPlate presentation.

50 students from Ruth Fox Middle School participated in the MyPlate and label reading presentation.



MSU Extension Health Team Programs Promote Overall Well-Being

The Arthritis Foundation *Walk with Ease* program helps individuals manage arthritis pain and improve overall health. With a focus on enhancing balance, increasing confidence in walking, and reducing arthritis-related limitations, this self-paced program supports participants in gradually building up to 30-minute walks at least three times a week.

The *Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention* program continues to be a highly sought out program with classes being held locally as well as online. Participants increase their knowledge of ways to prevent falls, increase their strength and help manage chronic pain.

Social and Emotional Health programs include *Stress Less with Mindfulness*, *RELAX Alternatives to Anger*, *ACES and Positive Childhood Experiences* and *Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)*.

Diabetes self-management programs include *Diabetes PATH* (Personal Action Towards Health) and *Dining with Diabetes*. The aim is to educate those who have this disease on ways to manage their chronic condition through increased physical activity, knowledge of healthy eating and improved communication with healthcare providers.



For more information about MSU Extension Health programs please scan the QR code



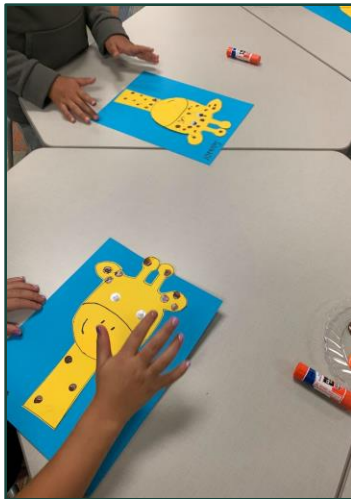


4-H Embryology Program Cultivates Life Skills and Agricultural Literacy

Youth who do not have the opportunity to engage directly in agriculture often have a disconnect from the origins of their food, their appreciation for the environment and their role in sustaining it. MSU Extension's 4-H embryology program bridges these gaps by immersing students in a four-week embryology program at schools in Lapeer County each spring.

The program provides classrooms with incubators, fertilized eggs and instructional materials. Students learn about the parts of an egg, the conditions required for incubation and the stages of chick development. Activities such as candling eggs to monitor developing embryos engage students and teach them observation, prediction and record-keeping skills. Youth also learn how to care for newly hatched chicks, ensuring proper handling and biosecurity to prevent zoonotic diseases. This program blends hands-on education with life skills development, making it an enriching experience for students.

In 2024, **339** students from **13** classrooms across **five** Lapeer County Schools participated in the program.



4-H - "Learn By Doing"

Summer Migrant Education Program

For the third consecutive year, Lapeer County 4-H partnered with Imlay City Community Schools to bring hands on learning experiences to nearly **50** youth (grades pre-kindergarten through eighth) during the Summer Migrant Education Program. Youth learned about the rainforest, desert, grassland and ocean ecosystems, the animals that live there and their adaptations to survive their environment. Youth participated in games, stories, crafts and other activities to help familiarize them with common science terminology.

Summer Day Camp

Lapeer County 4-H Day Camp offers youth (campers ages 5-12 and teen counselors ages 13-19) the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and connect with the outdoors. In 2024, more than **70** youth participated in the five-day camp held at Camp Lael in Lapeer. Camp activities included swimming, crafts, science, nature, special guest speakers and a scavenger hunt.

Overall Impact



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



133,306 total youth participants in Michigan



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



29,264,562 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters and handouts statewide



12,861 total volunteers in the state of Michigan



Check out MSU Extension's Strategic Directions Report!

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