



Lenawee County

2017–2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

103

years of serving
Lenawee County



Lenawee County residents
participated in more than
1,475 programs



8 Extension professionals
based in Lenawee County
and 53 serving based in
nearby counties



3280 youth participants in
4-H and educational
enrichment programs



1,375 residents benefited
from health and nutrition
programs



316 farmers helped with
technical production
information



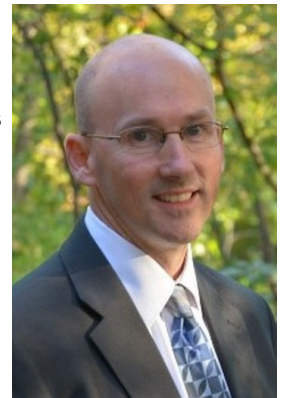
100 home gardeners
assisted through the Lawn
and Garden Hotline



\$11,546,970 total economic
impact in Lenawee County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Lenawee 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 Lenawee County residents need it most.



Be sure to check out the feature story to learn about our unique BLOOM where you are planted program.

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

Matt Shane

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Lenawee County 4-H



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Program Highlights



Exploration Days is considered a MSU Pre College Scholarship Program. Youth in grades 7th through 10th are eligible to apply for a scholarship to attend MSU as a college student.



Ricardo Costa, Extension Field Crops Educator, discusses soybean production with a group of producers at the Center for Excellence Field Day.

Doug Lewis has been a District 12 Advisory Council member for many years. Doug was a 2018 recipient of the MSU Extension Key Partner Award.



Lenawee County 4-H

4-H Exploration Days is a signature MSU precollege program that brings approximately 2500 youth ages 11-19 to the MSU campus to live like a college student for three days and build critical life skills for the transition to college and adulthood.

The Lenawee County 4-H program reached 3286 youth with direct programming opportunities. Of those, 927 were enrolled in traditional 4-H clubs and an additional 1432 were involved in short-term Special Interest (SPIN) clubs. The program would not be nearly as successful without the 342 adult volunteers who devote thousands of volunteer hours to the youth of Lenawee County.

Field Crops Programming

Ricardo Costa, Extension Field Crops Educator, in his first year with MSU Extension, provided programming to 80 Lenawee County producers. Ricardo has provided support for a variety of questions such as number of questions ranging from fungi identification and control in ornamentals and trees, apple tree varieties, insect traps, fusarium head scab in wheat, hairy vetch for hay, soil analysis interpretation, land prices, use of clethodim to control grasses on CRP, prostrate spurge in turf, corn and soybean management. Ricardo has also incorporated drone technology in his field work.

District Advisory Council

Washtenaw Council member Doug Lewis was asked why he is on Council. Here is his response: "I suppose the simple answer is, "because I was asked to". I find it hard to say no when someone asks for some of my time in an endeavor that has the potential to impact others in a positive fashion. Even more so when the people who may be impacted are the youth of my county and state.

I also like being here for the information that is provided. In my mind the more you know the better off you are. Where else would I get the chance to learn so many different things? I might never have seen the inside of the garden where we held a recent meeting. The council is a great place to meet new people with different views of the world. I find it helpful in my many different roles that support extension."

Program Highlights

Nutrition and Physical Activity

MSU Extension Nutrition Instructors provided nutrition education to 458 Lenawee County youth and 130 adults through educational series (6-8 sessions). In addition, 788 participants received information through one-time presentations.

A recent Cooking Matters class in Lenawee County had a “Shopping Smart” lesson at our local Aldi Store. We put our nutrition knowledge and food budgeting skills into action, and our \$10 challenge was a huge success! Our Cooking Matters teams shopped for a meal including healthy ingredients from all 5 food groups, and our total bill was \$72.72 – that’s an \$8.08 meal for 9 households!



Cooking Matters participants celebrate the completion of their “Shopping Smart” challenge.

Vegetable Production

Marissa Schuh, Extension Vegetable Educator provided programming and direct consultation to 80 Lenawee County producers. Additionally, she provided weekly scouting reports for SE Michigan. She also continued her support of the Produce Safety Alliance training program by conducting producer trainings to aid with compliance of the new regulations. The first week of December, Marissa helped organize and run the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, Farm Market, and Greenhouse Growers EXPO in Grand Rapids. There are 3750 participants from around the world at this prestigious event.



Marissa Schuh, Extension Vegetable Educator, checks insect traps at her sweet corn variety trial plot.

MSU Product Center

The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and the bio economy. Extension educators are specially trained as innovation counselors. Twenty-two business counseling sessions took place to assist 11 Lenawee County clients. These represented small food processors and specialty food retailers. One processor received assistance with licensing of their new meat product. Three ventures were newly launched in Lenawee County that began sales of their products.



The MSU Product Center assists clients with venture development for a wide variety of food products.

BLOOM where you are planted



The BLOOM program has been building relationships and changing lives for over 20 years. One surveyed participant wrote, “It showed me that even though some of the kids can’t communicate with words, they have other ways of communicating. I realized how much they can communicate even if they don’t have verbal skills.”

Excerpt of an article from MSU News, June 2018 by Janelle Stewart

The program, called “BLOOM Where You’re Planted” (BLOOM) is a youth education project designed to integrate typically-developing youth with youth with special needs through hands-on horticultural activities and environmental education programs taking place at Hidden Lake Gardens. The mentors work one-on-one to help their mentees complete projects.

MSU Extension Lenawee 4-H program surveyed the teen mentors who have been involved in the BLOOM program in order to determine the impact of youth mentors establishing relationships with youth who have special needs during their formative years.

The survey results showed that 84 percent of survey respondents volunteered in the program for two or more years. This would suggest a very high rate of return for youth volunteers in the programs. One respondent said, “BLOOM was my favorite thing I ever did in 4-H.”

After volunteering with BLOOM programs, 97 percent of the respondents said they were comfortable or very comfortable interacting with individuals with disabilities. This reflects a 33 percent increase from the participants stating they were originally uncomfortable interacting with individuals with disabilities. All respondents agreed that volunteering in these programs increased their awareness of people with special needs, their sensitivity toward them, their understanding of challenges faced by individuals with special needs and their empathy towards them.

With a majority of the respondents volunteering in the program for two or more years, the survey also showed that more than half of the respondents have continued to work or interact with individuals with special needs; 35 percent have maintained relationships with individuals in the program.

Plants need strong roots, good soil, water, sunshine and a lot of tender loving care in order to grow, blossom and to be beautiful from the inside out. These same ingredients are needed by each and every individual, with or without special needs. The BLOOM Where You’re Planted program offers these essential ingredients.



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