

Investing in Menominee 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 choices.



In Menominee 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.

One of our premier 4-H events is Super Saturday. This event is held in March at our local school. Menominee County leaders and teen leaders share talents and lead sessions throughout the day. There are four sessions that youth can register for. Examples of previous sessions include: climbing the rock wall, glass etching, robotics, where does pizza come from, ice cream and butter making, sewing a pillow case, mask making, clay creatures and mason jar aquariums. We typically have approximately 150 youth attending classes during this event every year.

Forestry

On March 1, 2018, 48 adults attended a presentation in Stephenson by Bill Cook, MSUE Forester, on the subject of oak wilt and how to report exotic species. This session was part of a larger Forest Health meeting held by the Menominee County Conservation District.

On September 19, 2018, the Michigan Technological University forest health class attended a presentation in Menominee County about oak wilt and wildland treatments. Presenters included Bill Cook, MSU Extension, Simeon Wright and Scott Lind, MI Department of Natural Resources and Tara Bal, MTU.












A potential spore producing tree marked for special handling. Photo by Bill Cook, MSU Extension.



Menominee County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

-  4 Extension professional based in the county, 59 providing educational opportunities
-  \$1,720,944 total economic impact in Menominee County
-  169 youth in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment programs
-  914 adults and youth in SNAP-Ed programs
-  MSU Extension website received 6,677 visits from Menominee County, 79% first-time visitors
-  MSU disbursed \$572,290 in financial aid to county students
-  \$15,019 spending with local businesses
-  20 enrolled MSU students and 172 alumni
-  MSU Extension has served Menominee County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Menominee 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 services to county residents. 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.




This year, we've also welcomed Menominee County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media and provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Menominee County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

Paul Putnam, District Director

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Program Highlights



Over 250 Project Fresh coupon books were distributed to seniors in Menominee County in 2018.



Super Saturday 2018 Menominee County 4-H



MSUE staff at Breakfast on the Farm, located at the Brock Dairy Farm. L to R - Parker Jones, Kris Havelka, Paul Putnam, Monica Jean, Steph Meck

Supporting Family Health & Nutrition

Steph Meck, Community Nutrition Instructor in Menominee County has continued to reach out to community members through nutrition education series conducted in Stephenson, Carney and North Central Elementary schools, sharing information about healthy choices students can make for snacks and meals. The six session program reaches approximately 500 youth and discusses the USDA My Plate, the five food groups and the importance of physical activity and keeping food safe to eat. Taste testing is shared with students sampling healthy snack alternatives to perhaps not so healthy treats.

Nutrition education is also provided with the summer distribution of the Senior Project Fresh coupons that are redeemed at any Michigan Farm Market. Recipes, nutrition facts for fruits and vegetables and food safety and storage tips are provided as well. This program provides over 250 coupon books valued at \$20 to eligible seniors to purchase fresh produce and the health benefits that offers. This program is also provided for Tribal members in Hannahville, where MSU Extension has a presence almost every farm market day throughout the summer.

Other areas where MSUE nutrition education is provided are at Farm Markets, WIC nutrition education with their Farm market coupons, Family Fun events at the elementary schools and Healthy Kids Day in collaboration with the Great Start Collaborative and they YMCA.

Program Highlights

Agriculture & Agribusiness

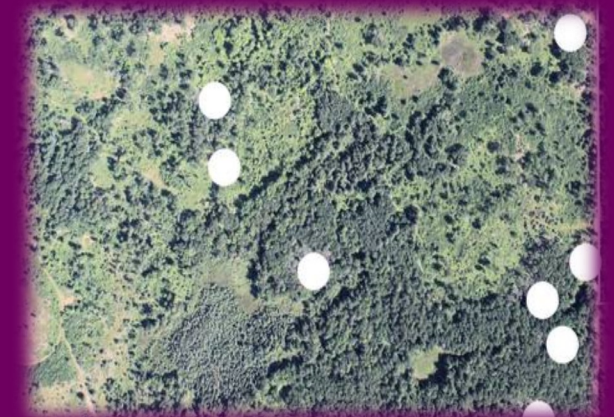
In Menominee county 178 people participated in agriculture related program pertaining to field crops, business management, dairy production, social and emotional well-being, and youth. An example of research and education being done to improve local agricultural production is a Corn Hybrid Variety Trial at Pleasant View Dairy Farm in Stephenson, MI. The August field day attracted 36 participants who gained knowledge in variety selection, corn development and disease management. Staff at the Menominee County office also participated in Breakfast on the Farm located at Brock Dairy Farm with over 1000 attendees.

Community Development

Parker Jones started work as an Innovation Counselor in May 2018. In this role, he acts as a business counselor to help entrepreneurs launch products in the sectors of food, agriculture, natural resources and forestry. He has been active in building clients across these sectors and across the UP. Some projects with clients include – for example – assistance in accessing funding, understanding regulatory requirements, selling through new sales channels and lowering packaging costs. Parker was also trained in the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule, a set of federally mandated minimum standards for safe produce production and harvesting. He is available to help you understand how this law will impact your operation. A mandated training for covered produce growers will take place at the Stephenson Annex on April 11th.



MSU Extension corn field day, Pleasant View Dairy Farm, Stephenson.



Identification of potential oak wilt sites using aerial photography. Photo by Bill Cook, MSU Extension.



Breakfast on the Farm, Brock Dairy Farm.