



Montcalm County 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Michigan State University Extension serves the residents of Montcalm County through the educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. In 2017, MSU Extension Educators, Program Coordinators, Program Instructors and support staff have all played a role in delivering information to help our farmers, school children, teachers, caregivers, consumers, homeowners, business owners, visitors, workers, parents, government officials, home gardeners, entrepreneurs, those battling chronic disease and those seeking better health, improve their lives and the lives of those they serve, lead and follow. As you read through this annual report, you will see examples of many of the programs and participants from our communities. MSU Extension's four institutes: Agricultural and Agricultural Business, Children and Youth, Health and Nutrition, and Greening Michigan all played a role in this year's programming.



Bill Hendrian, District Coordinator
Serving District 8 (Montcalm, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham and Ionia counties)

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MISSION:

Michigan State University helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

Health & Nutrition Participants.....	1,036
4-H Program Participants.....	1,058
4-H Clubs Members.....	664
4-H Special Interest/Enrichment Participants.....	173
4-H Volunteers	221
Foreclosure, Housing & Financial Counseling Participants.....	124
TOTAL IMPACT.....	2,218

MSU EXTENSION'S EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH

Through combined face-to-face trainings, online webinars, social media, website interaction and electronic newsletters, MSU Extension has made more than 12.1 million connections. More than 149,000 adults* and 212,000 youth† participated in MSU Extension programming in the 2016-17 programming year.

More than 5.3 million people viewed more than 9.8 million pages on the MSU Extension website.‡ Of those, more than 1 million were Michigan residents. MSU Extension remains one of the most visited Cooperative Extension System education websites in the country.

MSU Extension also distributes a series of electronic newsletters that cater to residents' unique interests. Last year, nearly 1.9 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were distributed to

DISTRICT 8 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, the MSU Extension website (msue.msu.edu) received 13,471 visits from Montcalm county. Of those, 76 percent were first-time visitors. The easily accessible and searchable science-based content make the MSU Extension website one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

about 53,000 email addresses.§ You can sign up for these informative newsletters by visiting msue.msu.edu and clicking on "Newsletter Sign Up" or texting MSUE to 22828.

MSU Extension uses social media channels to reach people with educational content. Currently, Extension reaches more than 4,300 Facebook followers and more than 3,200 Twitter followers.‡ In addition, Michigan 4-H families and volunteers stay informed about activities through social media channels, including on Michigan 4-H Facebook with more than 4,700 likes and on Twitter with more than 1,456 followers.

*From ES237 Federal Report – Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2016

†From Michigan Extension Planning and Reporting System – Jan. 1, 2016, to Dec. 31, 2016

‡From July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

Developing Youth and Communities



When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Developing youth and communities

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, providing educational opportunities to over 6 million youth. The 4-H program offers a vast selection of project area topics—science, healthy living, arts, and civic engagement to name a few, all with hands-on experiential learning for youth. 4-H programs are available for all youth ages 5-19, and are made possible by the service of our dedicated volunteers. We always welcome new members and new volunteers; if you are interested in joining 4-H, please contact the Montcalm County/MSU Extension office at 989-831-7502 or email the Montcalm County 4-H Program Coordinator, Kadren Grawburg, at hubbertk@anr.msu.edu. We would be happy to help you enroll today!

4-H develops leaders

Members of the Michigan State 4-H Youth Leadership Council met weekly throughout 2017 to give Michigan 4-H youth a voice and to develop 4-H youth promoters and spokespeople. The youth meets virtually and works on developing planning, goal setting, public speaking, communication, facilitation and networking skills. Two of the 26 youth serving on the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council in 2017 were from Montcalm County. Through MSU Extension the Michigan 4-H program is helping to develop youth as current and future leaders by providing programs such as the Youth Leadership Council, that instill young people with the knowledge and skills to become positive agents of change.



Members of the 2017 Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council



Developing Civic Engagement



When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, you are giving local youth a voice and helping to provide opportunities that create socially responsible and civic minded citizens.

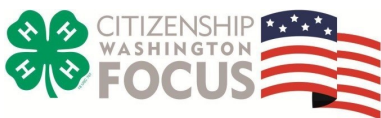
4-H develops socially responsible citizens

Each spring, the most prestigious 4-H Michigan youth are selected to attend the National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C. In 2017, four members of the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council were selected to join over 300 youth, all representing their respective land grant universities.

One of our Montcalm county youth, Anne Thompson also a member of the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council, had the privilege of being selected to attend this national conference to share the 4-H stories from back home with federal-level decision makers. It is noteworthy that only four 4-H youth from Michigan made the trip last year.

The attendees of the conference were split into roundtable groups. Each group was assigned a federal agency and an issue that the agency is currently working on. The task before the group was through peer collaboration, to present a response, solution or proposed agency. Topics ranged from social equity to wind energy to youth careers in agriculture.

The experience offered Anne the opportunity to attend a real working conference but also provided time to tour monuments and to attend a full day on Capitol Hill meeting with congressmen and their staff.



"The most powerful
leadership
tool you have is
your own personal
example."

-John Wooden



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Developing Youth Skills



Whether it is written, spoken or visually represented, the way we express ourselves makes a big impact on our daily lives at home, work and play.



4-H develops innovators

In order to feed the nine billion people expected to populate the earth by the year 2050, innovations in agriculture must be made. Some of the Montcalm county 4-H youth attended the “Healthy Soils CSI Challenge” to explore the importance of soil in our food system. Science-based activities such as these promote career exploration in the areas of STEM and agriculture while teaching youth life skills. This project is part of a national 4-H grant and encourages leadership by providing teens the opportunity to be the teachers.

4-H develops skills while having fun

4-H Youth have opportunities throughout the year to engage in activities that are both fun and educational. Montcalm youth develop relationships and build memories that last a lifetime. One such event was held at Camp Tuhsmaheta in Greenville, Michigan. This event brought together 4-H Youth, volunteers and their animal companions to learn practical training techniques, caregiving and leadership skills that the youth could bring back to their local 4-H clubs. Throughout the year Montcalm County 4-H youth have many opportunities to interact with youth from across the state while always being given the opportunity and encouraged to bring back new skills and information to their local clubs.



Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



Montcalm County—A Strong Agricultural Producer

Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing sector of the state's economy. Although Michigan may be best known for its specialty fruit, vegetable, and floriculture industries, field crops comprise the largest cropping sector in Michigan in terms of acreage, farms, farmers, and income. Field crops grown in Michigan include soybeans, corn, alfalfa/ hay, wheat and small grains, as well as important specialty row crops like potatoes and dry beans. Michigan's diverse livestock industry is also a significant component of the state's agricultural industry. The economic impact of livestock and dairy products accounts for 37% of the total economic impact of Michigan's agricultural products.

Addressing agriculture pests and disease

Educating growers on the presence of Potato Late Blight and its impact to their business and discussing the latest strategies to fight against and prevent it, getting the word out in regard to the new disease Dickeya black leg were some of the topics that came up at numerous Consultants breakfasts hosted by MSU Extension Educator, Fred Springborn. Fred also held four pest management and pesticide review sessions in 2017. Of the attendees surveyed, Fred found that over 80% reported learning something that would reduce their risk in the coming season and 62% indicated that they learned something that would increase profitability. As pests such as the Brown Marmorated stink bug get closer to the dry bean area, up-to-date information and research is critical. The MSU Extension Field Crops Team provides research-based knowledge to address the needs of field crop producers including strategies for managing production risks and advancement of efficient farming practices that enhance profitability while protecting soil and water resources. Participants learn how to optimize and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and how to conserve and protect water resources. This education leads to better use of time, money and human capital, and helps retain and create agricultural jobs.

Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you help ensure that agricultural assistance is provided through educational programming and individual contacts.



Providing up-to-date evidence-based research

- The Western Bean Cutworm continues to be a pest that Fred Springborn focuses on due to the damage to grain corn, sweet corn, seed corn and dry beans in Central Michigan. Fred is testing a new type of monitoring device that will continue in the 2018 growing season. It is work like this that may lower the cost of monitoring such pest populations, which will greatly benefit Montcalm county growers.
- Dry Beans and soybeans were impacted by drought and floods in 2017. This combination can cause significant damage to crop yields. Fred's work with the Montcalm Disaster committee brought critical information to support a disaster recommendation. It is experience and data that lead the group to make some careful decisions.
- Increasing yields is at the bottom line. Work with soybean and corn growers through yield contests provides a valuable service to the agricultural community and gives an opportunity to discuss inputs and practices with Extension Educators.



Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you help to provide resources that growers and producers rely on.

Enviroweather - MSU Research Center, Montcalm, County

Enviroweather Weather Data and Pest Modeling aims to help users make pest, plant production and natural resource management decisions in Michigan by providing a sustainable weather-based information system. Pictured left, is not a lunar landing craft but is a high-tech information gathering device that feeds an online resource for Montcalm and surrounding farmers. This online resource provides 'local' weather information and weather-based tools. There are currently 78 weather stations throughout Michigan, the one pictured is based north of Stanton at the MSU Research Center.

Each station provides readings every 30 minutes on air temperature, soil temperature, soil moisture, relative humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, precipitation, and leaf wetness. There are different components of Enviroweather that deal specifically with field crops, fruit, vegetables, trees, turfgrass, and landscape/nursery.

Weather influences crop and pest development and management decisions. For example, wind speed and direction for drift management, temperature to prevent phytotoxicity that may result from applications on hot days, insect and pathogen development are all influenced by weather.

Model predictions allow growers to prepare to take management action if necessary. Enviroweather tools are intended to assist, not dictate, management decisions. The decision to take management action should be influenced by several factors including: a history of problematic pests, the current season pest pressure, susceptible crops, and past and predicted weather events.

Enviroweather is a collaborative project of: Michigan Climatological Resources Program & the MSU Integrated Pest Management Program. It is supported by: Project GREEN, MSU AgBio Research, MSU Extension, private donors, and the MSU departments of Crop and Soil Sciences, Entomology, Forestry, Geography, Horticulture, and Plant Pathology.

Information in this article was taken from "Using Enviroweather to assist pest management decisions", a presentation at the 2014 Integrated Pest Management Academy by Emily Pochubay, Fruit Integrated Pest Management educator for MSU Extension.

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AgBioResearch


Project GREEN

Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you help support research that inform growers and producers.

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Michigan State University
AgBioResearch

MSU Research Center, Montcalm, County

The research center located in Montcalm County provides local growers and producers valuable information to improve practices and outcomes. In addition to a potato specialist, the research center is utilized by soil, forage and fertility specialists, field crop, potato and sugar beet pathologists, soy bean, potato and dry bean breeders, soil biologists, soil ecologists, vegetable entomologists, weed scientists and cropping systems agronomists. The potato, dry bean, soy bean and corn industries all benefit from the work conducted at the center. The field research activities include potato variety evaluation, cultural practices, fertility and weed, insect and disease control. Michigan ranks ninth in the nation in potato production and is the No.1 producer of chipping potatoes in the country. The center is also home to the Burt Cargill Potato Demonstration Storage facility which consists of two buildings that, combined, house nine 575 cwt. Bulk potato storages. Although the primary focus of the research center is potatoes, the center has become the second-most important home of university dry bean research behind the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth.



Supporting Dairy Farmers



When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



On-site training, farm visits and general education

MSU Extension Dairy Educator, Faith Cullens, and her colleagues provided education and consultation throughout 2017 to help improve the lives of local dairy farmers. There were educational opportunities for employers, employees and the general public to learn about the important issues facing Michigan's Dairy Industry and the parts played by both producer and consumer. 2017 included:

- **Spanish for Dairy Farmers** - This program included 6 weeks of instruction for a limited class size. The classes were taught by a Spanish speaker to help participants learn common phrases used on the farm, as well as help with pronunciation and sentence structures.
- **Dairy Nutrition Roundtables** - Roundtable discussions were held for new information as well as common experience to be shared.
- **Animal Handling** - Presentations in regard to the importance of passive transfer on calves.
- **Antibiotic Use** - Presentations and discussion on the prudent use of antibiotics for dairy animals.
- **Farm Visits** - Visits to local farms to assess feeding systems or in some cases to include out farm business management colleagues to assess the financial strength of local operations.



Keeping People Healthy



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) teaches participants how to establish healthy eating habits and increase their time spent being physically active, while staying within a limited food budget.

Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills

More than 1.3 million Michigan residents receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) programs including Cooking Matters, Project Fresh, Healthy Harvest and Show Me Nutrition teach adults how to make the most of their food dollars, by developing skills such as menu planning, understanding recipes and keeping food safe. Participants learned about the nutrition and health benefits of foods to feed their families in healthy ways. In 2017 Montcalm MSU Extension nutrition programs was able to:

- » Graduate 87 Montcalm County adults and 490 youth from a six week evidence based class on eating healthy and increasing physical activity.
- » Provide one time nutrition and physical activity sessions and workshop presentations to 238 Montcalm County adults and 165 youth.
- » Secure grant funding for Central Montcalm Upper Elementary School, Central Montcalm Middle School, Carson City Elementary and Carson City Middle/High School to implement changes to promote healthy eating.
- » Provide information and referral processes for evidence based nutrition programs to over 50 partner agency contacts.



Keeping People Healthy



Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH originates from U.S. Department of Agriculture funding. It is part of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program in the Farm Bill.



Improving nutrition for Michigan seniors

Senior Market FRESH/Project FRESH in Michigan provides seniors who qualify with unprocessed, fresh Michigan-grown produce from registered Farmers Markets and roadside stands throughout Michigan. In Michigan, Senior Project FRESH is managed by the Office of Services to the Aging. MSU Extension provides nutrition classes and distributes coupons. To qualify, a senior must be 60-years of age or older, have total household income of 185 percent of poverty or less, and live in the county where the coupons are issued.

Vegetables and fruits offer important vitamins and minerals to keep us healthy. Most of these foods have little fat and no cholesterol, and are a good source of fiber. Eating more fiber may help with digestion and constipation, and help to lower cholesterol and blood sugar.

Senior Market FRESH is free for seniors and for participating farm markets. It allows seniors to benefit from eating more fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer and helps boost Michigan's local economy. The coupons can only be used at Farm markets and not at grocery stores or supermarkets. Eligible items that can be purchased include any Michigan-grown fruit or vegetables such as strawberries, lettuce, cabbage, blueberries, cucumbers, peppers, carrots, squash, tomatoes, watermelon, apples, potatoes, onions, beans, etc., as well as honey and some herbs.

Through the partnership with the Montcalm County Commission on Aging and Michigan State University Extension, Montcalm County seniors were provided with the \$20 coupon books. These coupons provided extra dollars to local seniors for fresh fruits and vegetables, and meant additional income for our local Farmers Markets and growers. Bonnie Havlicek, SNAP-Ed Program Instructor with MSU Extension was in charge of providing the educational component and coupon distribution at senior centers throughout the county. The eligible seniors were very happy and grateful to receive the coupons.



Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



Food safety and preservation programs provided to Montcalm County residents, help to stimulate the local economy by encouraging locally grown and purchased foods.



Michigan
Fresh

Reducing foodborne illness through education of individuals and small businesses

The National Institutes of Health estimates that every year, 48 million people in the United States become ill and 3,000 die from pathogens in food. Causes range from outdated home food preservation practices to unsafe sanitizing practices at public events and small businesses. Since 2013, MSU Extension food safety and preservation programs have taught almost 10,500 Michigan residents safe food handling, food preservation and methods to reduce foodborne illness.

Participants include youth, nonprofit organizations that prepare food for the public and food preservers who want to create safe products for their small businesses.

Through face-to-face programming provided by Extension Educator, Joyce McGarry, and online learning, Montcalm County participants receive high-quality, research-based education using U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for safe food preservation.

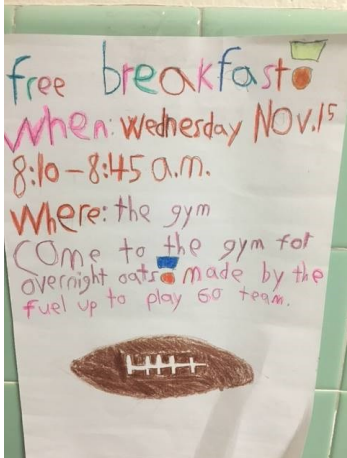
Food preservation online course

It is important for individuals to stay up to date on the latest research for home food preservation, recipes and processing times, as they are constantly under review and being updated. MSU Extension's Online Home Food Preservation course is a self-paced program that instructs science based recommended methods for safe home food preservation, regardless of a person's experience with preserving foods.

This course will help people avoid dangerous, life-threatening contamination of foods. Individuals will feel confident in processing their produce and feeding their families safe, healthy foods. Home food preservation stimulates the local economy by encouraging locally grown and purchased foods and for individuals and families to grow their own gardens.

This course includes a variety of preservation methods and skills from drying foods, using a dehydrator, freezing and blanching which requires little time or equipment, to a more advanced pressure canning. Each of the seven segments discusses the equipment and tools needed to safely process food.

Establishing Healthy Habits



Using the Fuel Up to Play 60 tools, themes and funding, over 1,800 Carson City and Central Montcalm students are seeing the benefits of making



United Dairy Industry of Michigan



Making healthy choices the easy choices

Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) change focuses on making healthy choices the EASY choice. Of the many influences on our young people, the social and physical environment play a substantial role in the choices they make and their health outcomes.

Each year schools are offered the opportunity to apply for a grant to help make their environment healthier. The Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP60) is a national program that is funded by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This collaboration helps support schools nutritionally and physically. Research shows that by having healthier eating choices and being encouraged to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day the students reach higher levels of school achievement. Michigan State University Extension has partnered with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan in order to provide more support and guidance to the teachers, staff and students in the FUTP60 schools.

In 2017 MSU Extension Health & Nutrition Program Instructor, Bonnie Havlicek, worked with school staff on implementing small changes to the school environment so that healthy choices are the easiest choices for students and staff. As a result, Carson City students used grant money to purchase a new space saving, easy access milk cooler and to continue a school garden. Central Montcalm students are now focusing on initiatives promoting healthy breakfast and encouraging activity.



Educating for Financial Capability



MSU Extension understands that healthy economic structures lead to greater opportunities and stronger communities.

When you support MSU Extension, participants learn personal finance skills and the communities benefit from homeownership education and foreclosure prevention. MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults. All of these outcomes help lower the cost of governmental services and lead to personal and community stability, strong neighborhoods and safe communities.

Financial Education

Whether it's handling credit card debt, investing for retirement or college funds, purchasing a new home, avoiding foreclosure, or simply wishing to have more control over personal finances, MSU Extension's Senior Educator, Brenda Long, helps Michigan residents in all aspects of money management. She and her team assist individuals, households, organizations and communities to become more sustainable spenders through education focused on financial capability. MI Money Health is a website that provides Michigan residents with access to noncommercial, easily accessible, and reliable personal financial information.

In Montcalm County, Financial & Housing Senior Educator, Brenda Long, provided group and one-on-one Education. Brenda also provided training to front-line social workers who work directly with clients that encounter numerous financial problems. In addition to face-to-face classes, we offered numerous homeownership, foreclosure and financial education programs online. We continue to provide the highest quality, unbiased financial and homeownership education to any Michigander who desires to participate.



Collaboration to meet needs



Your local office is housed with experts in particular fields. One of the advantages of having four MSU Extension Institutes is the ability to bring together deep and broad knowledge to address issues that are multifaceted and complex.

Collaboration across MSU Extension

One of the advantages of specialization is a deep and broad knowledge of subject matters related a particular discipline, such as field crops. One of the advantages of having four MSU Extension Institutes is the ability to bring together deep and broad knowledge to address issues that are multifaceted and complex. For example, MSU Extension Educators and Program Instructors have worked together on physical and financial health issues, agricultural and stress issues, economic and community development and conservation issues, and issues that face young and old.

Your local office is housed with experts in particular fields. Individuals may serve in the Agricultural and Agribusiness Institute, the Children and Youth Institute, the Health and Nutrition Institute or our community and natural resource sustainability institute—the Greening Michigan Institute. However, even if you do not have a local expert for the Extension issue that you need addressed, we draw from a statewide pool of experts to make sure that you have the information that you need. In addition, the MSU Extension website www.msue.msu.edu is maintained and updated on a regular basis. In addition, we are always looking for ways to collaborate with each other to apply knowledge to the critical issues you face.



Extension Professionals Serving Montcalm County

Staff Located in Montcalm County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Kadren Grawburg	4-H Program Coordinator	989-831-7514	hubbertk@msu.edu
Bonnie Havlicek	Health & Nutrition Instructor	989-831-7506	havlice2@msu.edu
Vicki Newcomb	County Office Manager	989-831-7502	newcombv@msu.edu
Fred Springborn	Field Crops Educator	989-831-7509	springb2@msu.edu



Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Montcalm County:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
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Roger Betz	Farm Management Educator	269-781-0784	betz@msu.edu
Diane Brown-Rytlewski	Horticulture Educator	517-676-7292	rytlewsl@msu.edu
Faith Cullens	Dairy Educator	989-224-5249	cullensf@msu.edu
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