

## Montmorency County 2021-2022 Annual Report

PROGRAMS  
ACCESSED BY  
RESIDENTS

65

SOCIAL MEDIA  
REACH

7,680

ONLINE  
REACH

2,502

PROGRAMMING  
REACH

566



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Montmorency 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 outreach 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. We continue to innovate post-pandemic by providing our outreach online, hybrid, as well as in-person formats. These options have increased accessibility to Michigan State University resources by your residents. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, and are rooted in community relationships and responsive to community needs.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Montmorency County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs. - Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director







## A Message from 4-H Program Coordinator Bonnie Hardies

This year 83 youth and 20 adult volunteers participated in Montmorency County 4-H programs. 124 non 4-H youth participated in 4-H activities.

Montmorency County held their annual Mock Interview/ Resume Workshop at Hillman High School and Atlanta Community Schools. At the Atlanta Community Schools Bonnie worked with the 11th and 12th graders. Last year Atlanta did not get the chance to participate in the mock interviews due to the pandemic. The teaching day looked a little different than years past. I was in the school helping the teacher and handing out the paperwork while the educator zoomed in and did the educational part of the program. On Interview day Bonnie went back into the school with 7 volunteers and participated in the actual mock interview day. 3 out of 7 of my volunteers had never participated in Mock Interviews before. The volunteers were extremely impressed with the youth that participated in the Mock Interview at the Atlanta School. At the Hillman High School Bonnie worked with the 12th graders. The teacher at the Hillman High School wants to have more youth participate in this program next year.

Embryology is a six week program that teaches youth about the life cycle of a chicken. This program was finally able to happen in Montmorency County! Third graders from Hillman Elementary School got the chance to learn all about what happens to a chick when it is developing inside the egg. Each youth was assigned an egg that they could candle through out the incubation process. 24 eggs were put into the incubator and 18 chicks hatched! The teachers that I worked with this year have already asked me to come back and run the program again next year.



This year a new program was started at Hillman Elementary school called 4-H in the classroom. Kindergarten students got the chance to do some fun activities with Bonnie and some guest. Some activities that the students got to participate in was the magic milk experiment, grow their own egg carton garden, grow a chia pet, learned about germs and got a chance to try new foods. The goal for next school year is to go into the classroom at least once a month. Bonnie is working to get this program into the Atlanta Community School as well.

One of the biggest programs in Montmorency County 4-H is summer camp. Summer camp takes place every year at Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. Fifteen youth from 4 counties come together to have a once in a lifetime experience. This year was the first year that Montmorency County has filled all their spots in a long





# 4-H



time. Youth between the ages of 8-12 spend 3 days and 2 nights at camp. At camp this year youth got the chance to participate in archery, kayaking, fishing, candle making, learning how to cook over a camp fire and many other science educational sessions.

The biggest event/program in Montmorency County 4-H is the Montmorency County 4-H Fair. This year youth brought 43 pigs, 11 big beef and 6 baby beef, 7 dairy heifers, 13 sheep, 7 horses, numerous small animals. We even had alpacas this year. 4-H youth spend 6 months to a year getting their animals depending on the animal. The Livestock Auction did amazing this year the buyers that come out and supported our youth.

A new program that happened this year is Fun Saturdays at Canada Creek Ranch. Canada Creek Ranch reached out to MSU Extension wanting to know if we would like to participate once a month at these events. Karen Fifield and Bonnie Hardies participated in 2 events. We did fun science experiments and crafts. The youth also got the chance to make homemade ice cream, freezer jam and fridge pickles.





# Supporting Food and Agriculture

## Alpena County farm hosts the 41<sup>st</sup> Michigan State University Extension Breakfast on the Farm event

1,000 adults and youth visited Risky Endeavor Dairy in Ossineke to see first-hand how:

- Farmers care for their animals
- Protect the environment
- Produce safe wholesome nutritious food

Michigan State University Extension teamed up with the Tolan family (Russ, Janet and kids) to sponsor the 41<sup>st</sup> Breakfast on the Farm event on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. During the event, visitors were treated to a delicious, farm-cooked breakfast and an educational self-guided tour of the modern dairy farm.



After enjoying pancakes with local maple syrup, sausage, yogurt, cheese sticks, milk & coffee, participants embarked on a self-guided tour.

While on the farm, participants interacted with the family and with 70 volunteers staged throughout the farm. Visitors toured the old milking parlor and then viewed the farm's five, new robotic milkers up close. Those two experiences allowed the public to see how technology has advanced over the years and how it benefits both the farm family and the dairy industry.

After seeing the robots and learning about milking cows, participants

took a short wagon ride through a beautiful corn field to the other area of the farm. Here they learned about calves and heifers and enjoyed time with commodity representatives, the farm's nutritionist and MSU Extension staff. Before leaving the farm, all were welcome to enjoy an ice cream treat before returning to their vehicles.

### What did the visitors say about Breakfast on the Farm?

95% of participants surveyed said they have a better understanding of agriculture and modern dairy production

95% also said that their **TRUST** in dairy farmers as a source of information about food production increased as a result of the Breakfast on the Farm experience!

"What an opportunity to see a working farm—thank you!"

"So cool to see robotic milkers—loved it!!"

"Very interesting and informative"

"AMAZING"

"This event has such importance and value to our community and the future of farming!"

Survey comment:  
"I feel these should be required in school curriculum—  
Extremely informative & educational!"



Facebook post shortly after the event—Kids at Breakfast on the Farm

MSU Extension works to increase farmers' success while protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets and advancing agriculture through applied research. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy.

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



Otsego County E-RAIL Response trailer Deployment and Training – Gaylord 10-27-21

MSU Extension's E-RAIL Team Deploys Emergency Response Equipment Trailers to Assist First Responders with Managing Accidents Involving Animals.

The Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (E-RAIL) program is a comprehensive training and response program spearheaded by Michigan State University Extension. This program is aimed at serving Michigan's animal agriculture industry by providing resources to assist in the response to an accident that involves livestock. The E-RAIL Program consists of different aspects including, training of first responders (often volunteer firemen and law enforcement officers), animal haulers and other local stakeholders on how to properly respond when animals are involved in a traffic accident, providing access to equipment that will

aid in the accident response and creating a network of trained responders throughout the state.

A key goal of the E-RAIL project is to provide first responders across the state with access to the tools and equipment needed to properly respond to an accident involving livestock. E-RAIL Response Trailers are cargo trailers fully stocked with equipment and supplies that may be needed when responding to an accident involving livestock. Accidents of this type typically require specialized equipment not normally carried in first responder vehicles. By locating these trailers in areas of the state that typically see high levels of animal movement and are close to major highways, those responding to accidents will be better able to access the type of equipment needed to make an effective and efficient response. Along with providing accessibility to these needed resources, the E-RAIL team provides training for these audiences on forming local teams, proper use of equipment included in the trailers, and safety tips for first responders including information on animal behavior and animal handling.

While the E-RAIL Response Trailers have been designed primarily to aid in the response to traffic accidents, these resources are suitable for many different situations involving animals. First responders, law enforcement officials and animal control officers are encouraged to access these tools so that a proper response can be implemented, no matter what type of animal-related event requires their help.

The E-RAIL Program currently has 3 trailers fully stocked and deployed in Michigan with trailers located in Otsego, Jackson and Branch Counties. It is the intent of the E-RAIL program to help deploy at least 6 to 7 E-RAIL Response Trailers across Michigan providing access to specialized tools and equipment needed during these unfortunate events. The goal of this effort is to allow for multiple counties, through mutual aid agreements, to have access to a nearby E-RAIL Response Trailer. The MSU Extension E-RAIL team has determined that trailers should be located strategically so that response times should be no more than 30-45 min after contact. Efforts are made to build partnership agreements between counties located adjacent to the trailer location, allowing for counties to work together using this shared resource to provide an effective and efficient response.

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# Creating an Entrepreneurial Sprit in Michigan

*Helping consumers  
every day*



## Cottage Food Law Education Helps Entrepreneurs

Starting your own food business can be tough. That's why MSU Extension's Cottage Food Law training provides valuable food safety information to Michigan entrepreneurs. The programming is made possible through a partnership with the MSU Product Center and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development . (MDARD)

More home-based businesses are being created everyday.

Karen Fifield and the food safety team have been able to share their knowledge to encourage the growth of local businesses. Montmorency citizens have participated in these programs and created several new small businesses. Participants are encouraged to join our local farmers markets using safe food practices.

There have been 391 programs delivered, increasing our economic base in our communities.



MSU Extension Food Safety team and the MSU Product Center— Provide entrepreneurs the tools to create and provide Cottage Foods to communities and Farmers Markets.

# Safe Food is for Everyone



## Food Preservation includes many methods

Participants experienced dehydrating foods as a form of preservation this year.

## Food Safety

- Encourage safe food practices.
- Reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
  - Teach vendors, handlers and consumers about food safety.
  - Educate consumers on safe, research-based home food preservation methods.
  - Create safer practices at food pantries with proper storage methods for bulk food distribution.

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. As a result of participating in an MSU Extension food safety or food preservation program:

86%

of consumers who attended Home Food Preservation classes reported feeling confident or very confident in their ability to find research-based recipes.

10,000

people registered for MSU Extension online food preservation classes

Participant Quote: *"It has helped me get through this pandemic by being able to connect with others who love canning."*

The Food Safety Hot Line has provided information to consumers throughout, Montmorency County and beyond.

# Community Nutrition



Hello! My name is Danielle Jirasek and I am the new Community Nutrition Instructor through MSU Extension for both Montmorency and Alpena Counties. Before coming on board with MSUE I was an elementary teacher for five years. I live in Oscoda with my husband, two cats and a dog. This role is a great fit for me because it combines two of my passions; teaching and health/wellness. I am a very active person and completed my second half marathon this summer. I look forward to being involved in the schools and community throughout the upcoming years!



## ADULT Physical Activity Improvements



**44%** increased moderate physical activity participation



**38%** increased strength training activities



## YOUTH K-2nd Grade Impact

**79%** Washed their hands more before handling food.

**43%** Bring more fruits and veggies as snacks.

**95%** Can identify healthy food choices.

**83%** Increased physical activity.

**77%** Are now eating more fruits and vegetables.



Keeping Michigan families strong and successful—financially, emotionally and physically—is a big part of measuring MSU Extension’s success. Programs devoted to keeping families safe include those dealing with bullying and violence prevention.



# FAMILY and HEALTH



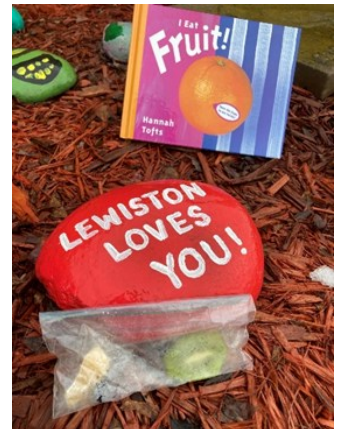
Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) teaches participants how to establish healthy eating habits and increase their time spent being physically active, while staying within a limited food budget.

Pictured at the left, Sandra & Karen helping at the Montmorency County Project Connect in August. The **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan** serves as a common solicitor, storehouse and distributor of food to member non-profit and charitable organizations in **22 counties**.

Once food arrives at the Food Bank, it is sorted, inspected and made available to partner agencies such as churches, soup kitchens, and food pantries to distribute to those in need. All Food Bank partner agencies are required to distribute food, without charges or fees, to clients in need.

To see when the Mobile Pantry will be in your area check the calendar here: <https://www.fbem.org/programs/mobile-pantry-distributions/>

NEMSCA Head Start Otsego and Montmorency Counties students are learning about the 5 food groups on MyPlate. Today at Lewiston Head Start we learned about the fruit group and why it's important. We talked about tasting a rainbow! Fruits and vegetables of all different colors. Our community nutrition instructor Sandra Westover brought kiwi, navel oranges, and blueberries to try.



**SNAP-ED  
PROGRAMMING  
THROUGHOUT  
THE STATE**



Overall MSU Extension **REACHED**

**338,938**

individuals through **NUTRITION** and **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROMOTION, EDUCATION, and PSE** (policy, system, and environmental change) coaching.

**4,779** DIRECT EDUCATION  
CLASSES OFFERED



**528**

Face to Face



**93**

Hybrid



**4118**

Virtual



**40**

Phone

MSU Extension's programming promotes healthy lifestyles and empowers Michigan residents to take control of their health. Participants learn how to build nutritious diets on a budget, reduce foodborne diseases and become leaders in the food industry.

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**MISSION:**

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

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