



Newaygo County 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



Almost 6,000 Newaygo County adults and youth participated in MSU Extension programs



4,464 youth participated in 4-H and school enrichment programs



3,375 youth and adults participated in health and nutrition programs



MSU Extension helped 270 community members with economic development, natural resources and local government education



3,333 Newaygo County residents participated in SNAP education programs



283 Newaygo County residents participated in agricultural and gardening services



More than \$34,636 was spent with local businesses



\$4,740,648 total economic impact in Newaygo County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Once again I am delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Newaygo 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.

Again this year, we've welcomed Newaygo 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 Newaygo 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.

James Kelly, District Director

Program Highlights

FARM CONSULTATIONS

Providing support to dairy and beef farms in Newaygo County resulted in improved quality of livestock, savings on investment in feed, and time-saving efficiencies, all of which result in better financial performance. Other farm visits in Newaygo County focused on succession planning with farm financial analysis, Farm Bill education sessions, and Farm Stress consultations.



Beef and dairy farms benefitted from consultation visits from MSU Extension educators

SUPPORTING SENIORS

MSU Extension recognizes the importance of strong support to seniors in Newaygo County. 624 seniors received nutrition education as part of the Project Fresh initiative. Powerful Tools for Caregivers provided training designed to help caregivers take care of themselves, learning a range of self-care tools to help reduce personal stress and communicate effectively with family members and healthcare providers. Dining with Diabetes and Chronic Pain management sessions were also provided in Newaygo County.



Seniors in Newaygo County Participate in Project Fresh nutrition education.

WATER RESOURCE EDUCATION

MSU Extension's focus on lakes, streams, and watersheds brings together educators and researchers with local, state, regional, and federal agencies and stakeholder organizations to protect and promote the sustainable use of the state's distinctive aquatic resources. In 2019 in Newaygo County, projects included invasive species identification, herbicide research, shoreline preservation, and more.



Research on inland lakes in Newaygo County provides data for statewide reports.

Program Highlights



Development of the Dragon Trail will further establish Newaygo County as a destination spot for eco-tourism.



One of the many plant disease samples brought into the Extension office for identification.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Strong counties recognize and promote their natural assets. Providing education and technical support to help create successful commissions and teams is the foundation of the work of MSU Extension's Government and Public Policy Educators. Together, we have assisted in the development of a regional economic development effort that will provide a truly unique hiking and mountain biking experience in North America with nearly 50 miles of looping trail on undeveloped lands along Hardy Dam. The Dragon Trail is expected to provide an estimated \$3.2M direct economic impact, 100K+ annual visitors, and 60+ new jobs into our local communities.

GARDENING & CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

Homeowners often have insect infestations or plant diseases that they are unfamiliar with and need help addressing. MSU Extension provides soil testing, plant and insect identification, disease identification and treatment, Smart Gardening resources, and a toll-free Lawn and Garden hotline. The Newaygo County MSU Extension office provides assistance to many customers with basic home gardening concerns. Additionally, 65 soil tests were completed for Newaygo County residents in 2019.

FARM BILL EDUCATION

Multiple Newaygo County farmers participated in various workshops designed to provide farmers with information to navigate 2018 Farm Bill programs. To help farmers navigate the best plan for their farm, Michigan State University Extension and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) teamed up to offer meetings throughout Michigan.

Program Highlights

PROMOTING SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

From delivery of the evidence based Mental Health First Aid to Newaygo County public school staff to promoting RELAX: Alternatives to Anger and mindfulness programs, MSU Extension promotes social and emotional well-being. Providing training and education to Early Childhood educators and new parents in Newaygo County is helping raise the chances of success for local youth.



Mental Health First Aid is evidence-based training that teaches participants how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis .

NUTRITION EDUCATION

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-ED) provides basic nutrition education and hands-on activities for all ages. Core curricula are designed to help low-income families stretch their food dollars while maintaining good nutrition. Some instruction includes physical activity and cooking techniques that help instill life-long skills. It is estimated that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term health costs. In Newaygo County over 1,200 residents participated in this programming.



Kids learn to make healthy snacks during

YOUTH CAREER & MENTORING

MSU Extension believes that all youth need positive, caring, nurturing adults to reach their optimum potential. Beyond 4-H programming, MSU Extension also provided financial literacy training for youth in White Cloud, at the Fremont Alternative Education program, and to a group of youth in foster care within Newaygo County. Youth participated in the Spartan Dollars and Cents budgeting activity in which they received a monthly salary and then had to buy groceries, pay bills, etc.



Investing in Newaygo 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 Newaygo County, 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.

In 2019, Newaygo County 4-H had a total of 120 screened adult volunteers and 500 youth enrolled as 4-H club members. In addition, 3,912 youth aged 5 to 19 took part in learning opportunities with MSU Extension. Essential skills youth develop while participating in 4-H include problem solving, decision making, leadership, resiliency, and communication.

4-H is unique in that it offers experiences to young people who live in cities or rural areas by providing the opportunity to participate in community 4-H clubs, learning experiences in school classrooms, day and overnight camps, and other special interest events. One example includes MSU 4-H Exploration Days, a pre-college program where over 2,500 youth stay in MSU residence halls, take a variety of action packed classes and experience other aspects of a major university. In 2019, 30 youth from Newaygo County attended MSU 4-H Exploration Days.



Newaygo County Youth gather for Exploration Days.

Beyond the excitement of learning something new through a project, youth have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences, travel the world, become involved in their community through service, and meet new friends in a safe and comfortable setting. A young person's experience in 4-H makes a difference for a lifetime by allowing them to grow and appreciate the importance of being a good citizen, strong leader, and person of character.

In Newaygo County, local programming included coordination of Arbor Day programming to 700 2nd graders, Ag Adventure Day at the County Fair Ground for 450 4th graders, special interest clubs, Christmas craft events, market livestock and presentation at the Newaygo County Fair, just to name a few.

Our 4-H volunteer leaders are the key to success in Newaygo County as they help youth achieve their personal goals and provide encouragement and a support system. The relationships built among adult volunteer leaders and youth also have lasting effects. From 4-H experiences, youth gain important leadership and life skills that can be applied to daily living, future jobs, or when they continue their education. Although it may be years before a youth realizes and truly appreciates the influence of the 4-H leader that served as a positive role model, one can be certain that volunteer leaders are truly making a difference.

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

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Newaygo County 4-H



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