



# Oakland County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Oakland 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 Oakland 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 to be browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Oakland 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.

**Edward Scott**

**District Director**

**MSU Extension-Oakland County**

## MEASURING IMPACT

4-H Youth Development .....	15,444
Volunteers .....	1,513
Natural Resources .....	2,393
Health, Nutrition & Food Safety .....	6,697
Community Food Systems .....	1,740
MSU Product Center .....	121
Consumer Horticulture .....	13,136
Master Gardener Volunteers .....	531
Garden Hotline & Diagnostics .....	2,150
<b>TOTAL IMPACT .....</b>	<b>43,725</b>

## CONTACT US

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## OAKLAND COUNTY EXTENSION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A.C. Alrey, Council Chair

Hannah Bechinski, Youth Member

Felicia Cross

Cary Junior, Vice-Chair

James Lloyd

Commissioner Tom Middleton

Kiara Noble

Commissioner Angela Powell

Allen Sorgenfrei

# Program Highlights



8<sup>th</sup> grade class at Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac assist in the clean up of a developing community garden.



MSU Extension staff attend the 2018 Lipari Food Show in support of MSU Product Center clients.



Blue Grill in Milford was the recipient of the 2018 Barrier Buster award at the Making it in Michigan conference.

## COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

Community Food Systems staff work to improve the local food system in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. Specifically, staff works to improve the local school food system by facilitating and supporting school gardens for improved agriculture literacy, exposure of students to more fresh vegetable food choices, and experiential learning.

A total of 1,740 citizens were reached by Community Food Systems direct programming and written products. Highlights of this programming include the Starting and Sustaining a School Garden Conference held at the Tollgate Education Center and Farm in Novi, MI. Fifty-seven teachers, parents and volunteers participated in hands-on activities to improve their school garden programming throughout the Metro Detroit area.

This year, students from Notre Dame Prep in Pontiac assisted in the clean up of a local community garden. They helped clear brush and prepare beds for the Spring season.

## MSU PRODUCT CENTER

The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the areas of food and agriculture. Extension educators are specially trained as innovation counselors to deliver these services to local residents. Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-one basis. Services include developing a business plan, navigating the regulatory procedures of state and local food licensing, the supply chain or seeking funding options. The innovation counselor also assists clients in accessing specialized services offered through the university such as feasibility studies, nutritional labeling, food science, and packaging assistance.

Two hundred forty-one counseling sessions took place in Oakland County to assist 121 entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. Twenty-seven new jobs were created by these businesses in 2018.

The Blue Grill Restaurant in Milford, an MSU Product Center client, received the Barrier Buster Award at the 2018 Making it in Michigan conference. Owner, Dimitri Mansour and his wife Marianne launched a line of salad dressings that were previously available only in their restaurant. Due to the support provided by the MSU Product Center, these salad dressings are available in almost 30 stores through-out Michigan.

# Program Highlights

## CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

According to the National Gardening Association (NGA), three out of four of households in the United States report engaging in some type of gardening, and the MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture staff in Oakland County seek to help the gardening public make smart gardening decisions. We do this by holding public events, producing literature, providing content and training for the lawn and garden hotline staff and volunteers, and by training and supervising the community projects of Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers.

The EMG program is a volunteer organization that provides horticulture education to the public. Volunteers are trained during a 14-week course taught by MSU Extension. After hiring a new educator, EMG volunteer training resumed in Oakland County in the fall of 2018. The new class of 48 volunteer trainees are part of a group of 531 volunteers who contributed 26,690 volunteer hours and made over 20,000 public contacts in 2018.

Oakland County Extension Master Gardeners work on projects in schools, parks and other public spaces. Focus areas include gardening to support pollinators and protect water quality and contributing expertise to community and food donation gardens. Extension Master Gardener volunteers can be found at Ask a Master Gardener booths at eight Oakland County Farmer's markets on a weekly basis during the spring, summer and fall. At the markets, volunteers provide MSU Extension Smart Gardening literature and are available to answer basic gardening questions.

There were 376 soil test kits completed for Oakland County residents in 2018 and feedback indicates that people change practices based on their soil test results from MSU Extension. Oakland County Consumer Horticulture and Natural Resources staff led a day long training for staff and EMG volunteers that assist the public with interpretation of home soil testing results.

Oakland County Consumer Horticulture staff held their first free bulb event in Oakland county inviting members of the public to Tollgate Farms to hear a talk on planting fall bulbs that attract spring pollinators. There was an associated bulb sale that allowed us to donate bulbs to our community partners Tollgate Farms, Bowers Farm, the WIC Garden at Wayne County MSU Extension, and Habitat for Humanity.



Extension Master Gardener volunteers teach children about plant identification with a leaf learning outreach booth at the 2018 MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest.



Extension Master Gardener volunteers and Consumer Horticulture staff from Southeast Michigan maintained a Smart Gardening outreach booth at the Michigan State Fair in Novi, MI.



Extension Master Gardeners answer lawn and garden questions from the public.

# Program Highlights



Students spent time in Chief Circuit Court Judge Shalina Kumar's courtroom.



Youth learned about the judicial system, the importance of jury duty, and even witnessed a mock plea agreement.



Youth delegates from Oakland County who attended the 4-H Capitol Experience. A very special thanks to the Oakland County Farm Bureau for providing scholarships to attend this event.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Michigan State University Extension staff and volunteers worked with 15,444 youth during 2018 with specialized programs in 4-H Youth Development, animal science, career exploration, mentoring and many other exciting options.

### Youth in Government Day

On May 23rd, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners showcased county government in action to area high school students during their annual Youth in Government Day. Civic engagement was the priority for the day as students engaged in critical thinking exercises and learned about the different departments in county government and how they support the community.

The event, which drew more than 100 high school students from across the county, featured speakers, mock debates, a courtroom visit, and engaging demonstrations centered on Oakland County's role in the lives of its citizens.

Commissioner Shelley Goodman Taub opened the event with a warm welcome for the students and a brief presentation on the three branches of government. Students then heard from representatives and officials with experience across the branches of government, including Deputy County Executive/CIO Phil Bertolini, Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds Lisa Brown, Treasurer Andy Meisner, Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, and a Panel of Commissioners.

### 4-H Capitol Experience

In April, 63 high-school-aged youth from across Michigan, including nine youth from Oakland County descended upon Michigan's capitol in order to learn about state government and the importance of their voice in state policy.

Youth spent four days learning with their peers in topic-focused issue groups including: agriculture, natural resources, technology, law enforcement, education, civil rights, health, and jobs and the economy. Youth worked in groups to develop mock bills related to their issue that they followed through all stages of state government using a legislative simulation.

Simultaneously, youth met with staff representing state/local/community agencies, lobbyists, and legislative aides that work in areas related to their issue groups. Participants also had a chance to observe the house and senate in session and meet in person with their local senators and representatives during a legislative reception.

# Program Highlights

## 4-H Livestock Mentor Program

The Oakland County 4-H Livestock Novice Mentor Program matched 19 Cloverbuds (age 5 to 7) and 1st and 2nd year project members with 16 experienced livestock project members. These novice/mentor teams worked together throughout the spring learning livestock care and handling, preparing them to show at the Oakland County Fair in July. The program emphasis is on education, participation and the development of the youth.

## 4-H Horse Protégé Program

A similar program to the Livestock Novice Mentor Program is the Oakland County 4-H Horse Protégé Program.

Older and more experienced youth and their horses are matched with Cloverbuds early in the year. Starting in early spring, 14 Mentor/Protégé teams began work on basic horsemanship including grooming, health care, showmanship, equitation, nutrition, and safety under the guidance of adult instructors.

At monthly activities, they practiced their newly acquired skills to prepare for the Oakland County Fair and the Protégé Program Showcase class at the Grand Finale Show in August.

## 4-H Discovery Day

Discovery Day is a family event that is open to the public and provides educational hands-on experiences in a friendly atmosphere.

The purpose of the event is to introduce children and their families to the wide variety of 4-H experiences available in Oakland County. Club representatives are on hand to discuss joining 4-H and exhibiting at the Oakland County Fair.

Every year almost 600 youth and their parents attend *4-H Discovery Day* and participate in experiential learning activities. 4-H Discovery Days is one of the most popular youth-focused events of the year.

## 4-H Large Animal Program

4-H provides unique programs in the suburbs of Oakland County offering hands-on experience to youth who have very limited access to livestock and horses.

Animal leasing programs at Bowers School Farm in Bloomfield Hills and MSU Tollgate Farm in Novi allow 4-H youth who do not have the resources to raise or own an animal, the opportunity to have a project animal through leasing.

Approximately 30 youth members of Bowers and Tollgate 4-H clubs leased animals such as goats, sheep, pigs, and cattle for a very small fee with the expectations of care and participation in educational workshops and activities throughout the lease period beginning in spring and ending mid-summer at the Oakland County Fair. These youth gained firsthand experience in the management and showing of 4-H project animals.



Experienced youth mentor on basic horsemanship.



Discovery Day is a popular 4-H family event.



4-H partnerships allow many youth to have experiences with large animals.

# Program Highlights

## MSU Tollgate Farm 4-H Club

The accomplishments of the youth members of Tollgate Farm 4-H Club are a reflection of the hands-on opportunities available at MSU Tollgate Farm, through 4-H. With a membership of 45 youth, Tollgate Farm 4-H Club reflects the growing presence of 4-H at Tollgate Farm. The club members participate in project areas such as Plant Science, Animal Science, Entrepreneurship, Agri-Business and more. In addition to the many life skills the youth are acquiring in their project work, these activities provide products for farm stand sales, funding further activities of the club. Tollgate Farm 4-H Club sells vegetables grown at the farm and produces items such as goat milk soap, granola, eggs and fruit leather to support club activities. All of these club activities provide experience, increase knowledge, build team work, leadership skills, problem solving, goal setting and so much more!

## CAREER EXPLORATION WORKFORCE PREPARATION

In 2018, more than 180 youth were involved in workforce preparation and money management skill building in Oakland County. Locations for 2018 youth programming include Farmington libraries, West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, Novi Suburban Showcase, MSU Tollgate Camp Stewards program, 4-H Cruising Money Curriculum and through statewide 4-H events such as Teen Spokesperson Training, Sharpen Your Skills and Exploration Days sessions with Oakland County participants.

Youth practiced interview skills, communication techniques, networking, team building, and discussed professionalism in the workplace. Financial literacy education covered savings, credit and debt, investing and budgeting. With funding from Chemical Bank, there was a strong focus on financial literacy education.

MSU Extension staff also provided programs geared towards adults designed to increase their skills and knowledge in facilitating workforce prep and money management activities with youth. These programs engaged Michigan Credit Union League staff, 4-H volunteers, parents, library staff, teachers, and youth development professionals.



4-H Youth sell vegetables grown at MSU Tollgate Farm.



Livestock projects are shown at the Michigan State Fair.



Students practice a business handshake during Teen Spokesperson Training held in July 2018.



# Program Highlights

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Michigan State University Extension Health and Nutrition staff worked with 6,697 Oakland County residents in 2018. Residents received education and resources related to food safety, nutrition, physical activity and building healthier lifestyles.

### Healthy Food Healthy Families and Empower Entrepreneurship

Healthy Food Healthy Families and Empower Entrepreneurship is a cross institute program offered to the Arab and refugee populations in Southeast MI. Participants in this series use the Eat Healthy Be Active community workshops to learn about healthy food choices.

This curriculum emphasizes the importance of physical activities and introduces participants to healthier options for preparing culturally relevant cuisine.

In addition, participants receive educational content related to cottage food law and the process of starting small businesses.

### Community Network Services

This year, MSU Extension partnered with Community Network Services offering five sessions of Cooking Matters for Adults. This partnership was intended to serve adults struggling with mental illness and/ or an addiction .

Evaluations of the program indicate that participants paid more attention to food label, drank less soda and reduced their sugar intake.

This partnership provided a tremendous opportunity for MSU Extension to expand it's scope of programming with this particular target audience.

### Policy Systems and Environments in Schools

Anderson Middle School in Berkley hosted a Policy Systems and Environment focused program called Smarter Lunchroom Detectives.

Students learned what environmental changes were most effective in influencing their peers to select and consume more fruits and vegetables. Students then used their new-found knowledge to implement several changes in the arrangement of food choices available in the cafeteria.

Apples and other fruits were strategically placed in more prominent positions along the length of the lunch-line buffet.

The Smarter Lunchroom Detectives also developed a series of posters and displays encouraging the consumption of fruits and vegetables. These were rotated to various locations throughout the cafeteria and lunch buffet area.



Proud graduates from the bundled Healthy Food Healthy Families and Empower Entrepreneurship December 2018.



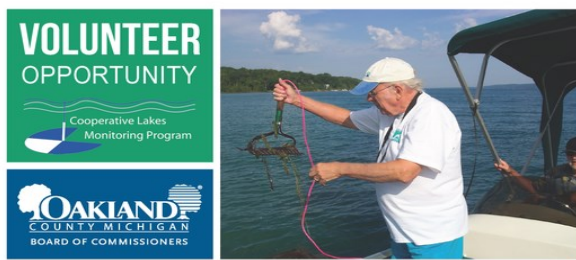
Debbie Studebaker, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Educator, preps food for Cooking Matters for Adults.



Seventh grade students who were part of the "Smarter Lunchroom Detectives" at Anderson Middle School in Berkley, MI.

# Program Highlights

## NATURAL RESOURCES



### CONDUCT LAKE WATER QUALITY & PLANT MONITORING THIS SUMMER ON YOUR LAKE!

Monitoring your lake's water quality is part of what's needed to keep it clean for the enjoyment of generations to come! Oakland County residents can volunteer to conduct lake water quality and invasive plant monitoring this summer. This free program includes registration, training, and equipment. Volunteers will need to have access to a boat.

#### FREE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Tuesday, February 6 • 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Commissioners Auditorium  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Bldg. 14E, Pontiac

Saturday, February 24 • 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Commissioners Auditorium  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Bldg. 14E, Pontiac

#### REQUIRED TRAINING SESSION

Saturday, May 5 • 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Commissioners Auditorium  
1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Bldg. 14E, Pontiac

Register at [psteen@hrwc.org](mailto:psteen@hrwc.org)

Training is free. Lunch provided.

INFORMATION | [micorps.net/lake-monitoring](http://micorps.net/lake-monitoring) • (989) 257-3715

When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs help land owners become better stewards of their land and protect land management opportunities for future generations. This year, 2,393 Oakland County residents participated or benefitted from MSU Extension natural resource programming and education.

### Oakland County Healthy Lakes Initiative

To address concerns about Oakland County lakes and the lack of a long-term dataset to help more effectively manage lake health, Oakland County Commissioners, the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC), and MSU Extension partnered to pass a resolution in late 2017 in which Oakland County committed \$50,000 toward enrolling inland lakes in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. Funding was to cover registration fees associated with enrolling new lakes in three basic parameters:

1) Secchi water transparency, 2) total phosphorus, and 3) Score the Shore, as well as offering reduced fees for already enrolled lakes who wished to add advanced parameters to their existing monitoring efforts.

In 2018, as part of this effort, two informational sessions were held on the Oakland County government campus. Extensive training was held on May 5, 2018, attended by almost 100 residents representing 77 Oakland County lakes. The training focused on how to collect data from their lake to contribute to the statewide Michigan Clean Water Corps. Basic Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program training was provided by Paul Steen, Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) and Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorp) Program Manager. The Secchi water transparency, total phosphorus, and Score the Shore training was provided by Jo Latimore and Erick Elgin. Bindu Bhakta also provided support and MSU Extension educational resources. One-on-one technical assistance with volunteers from 48 different enrolled lakes was provided by HRWC's Nik Krantz and occurred throughout Summer 2018.

As a result of this initiative, a total of 77 lakes in Oakland County were enrolled in the program, of which 62 were newly enrolled lakes and 15 were re-enrolled in the program from the previous year. In addition, the aquatic invasive species, stary stonewort, was detected in 21 Oakland County lakes that were also enrolled in the monitoring program's Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch, providing critical data to better manage and protect the health of each lake.



Invasive Stary Stonewort detected in Oakland County lakes. Photo by Progressive AE



Volunteers surveying aquatic plants. Photo by Huron River Watershed Council.

# Program Highlights

## Introduction to Lakes-Back to the Classroom

Lakes are complex ecosystems that are often negatively impacted by the people that use or live near them. Frequently, local communities struggle to protect and manage inland lakes in a way that incorporates the best available knowledge and resources. Concerned citizens, local leaders, resource professionals and lakefront property owners learn about inland lake management and protection by enrolling in MSU Extension's Introduction to Lakes course. Introduction to Lakes is a six-week, online course designed for citizens and professionals interested in learning about inland lakes. From the comfort of home or office, participants have 24/7 access to six online units featuring close-captioned video lectures, interactive activities, resource lists, discussion forums, quizzes and webinars with classmates and MSU Extension educators and other lake experts. Through this convenient format, participants increase their knowledge and understanding of lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, law, aquatic plants and citizen involvement. This course is offered each year and runs January-March.

The 2018 course was offered from January 23-March 9, 2018. Over 180 individuals enrolled in the course, including 25 from Oakland County and 93% completed the course requirements to earn a Certificate of Completion. Participants were from 13 states. Forty-six counties were represented in MI. The course evaluation revealed that as a result of participating in this course:

- 99% indicated they were most likely or definitely planning to use the information in the course in local lake management efforts.
- 96% indicated their awareness of issues involved in supporting healthy lake ecosystems somewhat or significantly increased.
- 98% reported their level of awareness of techniques that can be used to manage inland lakes somewhat or significantly increased.
- 91% of respondents reported the course somewhat or significantly increased their comfort level working with others to actively manage local inland lakes.

**Introduction to Lakes  
6 Week Online Course**

**NOW ENROLLING!**

LEARN ABOUT:  
LAKE ECOLOGY  
SHORELINES  
WATERSHEDS  
AQUATIC PLANTS  
AND MORE!

Photo Credit: Paige Filice

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | Extension

Search "Introduction to Lakes" at [www.msue.anr.msu.edu](http://www.msue.anr.msu.edu)

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### Lake Ecology Part 3

This lecture will focus on four factors that influence lake ecology: light penetration, trophic status, thermal stratification, and human activities.

\*\*This video is NOT available for download

**LIMITING NUTRIENTS**

**Limiting nutrient:** a nutrient is limiting when, in low supply, it is considered responsible for restricting growth, even though all other requirements are present.

common limiting nutrient in freshwater systems, however, at times nitrogen and silica can also become the limiting factor to algae

Narrated and captioned lake ecology video



Developing natural shorelines help protect inland lakes.

**Agriculture and Horticulture**

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**Community Development: Community Food Systems, Financial Stability, Public Policy & Land Use**

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Iteria Finley	Community Nutrition Instructor	248-858-5199
Sandria Graham	Community Nutrition Instructor	248-381-3101
Cecilia Jaime Gutierrez	Community Nutrition Instructor	248-858-0499
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