

# Investing in Ogemaw County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

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 Ogemaw 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.

In 2017, Ogemaw County 4-H had a total of **31 screened adult volunteers**, **305 youth enrolled as 4-H club members** and **73 youth who attended summer camps** from around the county. In addition, **924 children or 24% of Ogemaw County 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 2500 youth stay in MSU residence halls, take a variety of action packed classes (underwater robotics pictured above) and experience other aspects of a major university. In 2017, **40 youth from Ogemaw County** attended MSU 4-H Exploration Days.

*"Exploration days was fun because I got to see a university and what it is like to stay there and attend classes. It makes me want to go to college." - 4-H youth member*

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 experiences 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.

Leaders also 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, citizenship and life skills that can be applied to daily living, used in their community, in 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 positive adult role models, one can be certain that volunteer leaders are truly making a difference for life.

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# Ogemaw County 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS

**100+** years of serving Ogemaw County



7 Extension professionals based in Ogemaw County



46+ Extension professionals providing education in Ogemaw County

**92**

percent increase in Master Gardener volunteer hours



\$35,358 spending with local businesses



1000+ youth in 4-H, early childhood, or after school enrichment programs



250 Ogemaw adults and youth in SNAP-ED programs



MSU disbursed \$446,775 in financial aid to county residents



MSU Extension website received 3,929 visits from Ogemaw County; 74.6% first-time visitors



\$2,120,950 total economic impact in Ogemaw County

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Ogemaw County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Ogemaw County residents need it most.



From agriculture to 4-H to personal finance programs and from youth to senior audiences, MSU Extension provides education to help Ogemaw County residents improve their lives. This report highlights just some of the work done last year.

We're passionate about serving Ogemaw County and are looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension, your leadership and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Mischelle Warner, District Coordinator

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# Program Highlights



Teen Cuisine classes held in Ogemaw County teach students important skills for eating smart which will stay with them as they grow into adults.



The 2017 Livestock Auction allowed 4-H youth to earn \$221,291.50 in animal sales with 127 animals and 120 buyers.



Ogemaw County is home to 280 farms that produce a total of \$46m in farm sales annually. Local residents, as well as those statewide, count on MSU Extension for education and guidance.

## Supporting Family Health & Nutrition

Health outcomes in the County Health Rankings represent measures of how long people live and how healthy people feel. According to the 2018 County Health Rankings Report, Ogemaw County ranks 76 of 83. MSU Extension offers programs to help improve this statistic such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Education. **250 Ogemaw residents participated** in 2017. Also offered are programs like PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) Diabetes, Eat Healthy Be Active, Cooking Matters, Chronic Pain & Mindfulness and Food Preservation & Safety classes.

## Empowering Ogemaw Youth

From 4-H to STEAM Programs to county fair auctions and mock interviews, MSU Extension provides learning opportunities that help prepare youth for work, especially for jobs in science, technology, engineering and math.

*"...when I was involved in 4-H clubs several years ago, I had no idea the impact this would have on my life. I grew as a leader, communicator, citizen and person..." - 4-H Alumna*

**Sixty-two percent of Ogemaw County** 4-H seniors graduating between 2012 and 2017 enrolled in college after high school, while 49.4 percent of 18-24 year olds in the region did so.

## Agriculture & Agribusiness

During the past year in Ogemaw County, MSU Extension provided farm support and education through individual consultation, workshops, research opportunities, evaluation of practices, articles and training for employees. Topics included the impact of milking procedures on cows, disease control, finance management, breeding readiness, employee management and dealing with farm stress. **Hundreds of Ogemaw County residents** attended, participated or consulted in these programs.

# Program Highlights

## Ogemaw Master Gardeners

Ogemaw Master Gardeners know that horticulture lends value to property; brings greenery into urban and suburban spaces; increases oxygen in the vicinity of the planting; and provides habitat to bird, insect, and other beneficial animal species. In the fall of 2017, **thirty participants** attended a 14 week class from numerous MSU Extension Horticulture Experts. New trained volunteers will assist current volunteers on the rain garden at Ogemaw Heights High School and two community gardens in Ogemaw County. Overall Master Gardener volunteer hours almost doubled from 353 in 2016 to 678 in 2017.



Ogemaw Master Gardeners and Friends welcome new members to their Club following a successful class held at the MSU Extension Office in West Branch last Aug-Nov, 2017

## Engaging Future Leaders

Research demonstrates that young people who participate in positive youth development programs are significantly more likely to exhibit academic competence. In November of 2017, a workshop titled The Future We Want was held at Whittemore-Prescott Schools to introduce youth to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and at the same time provided an opportunity for youth to develop leadership competencies of active and engaged global citizens. MSU Extension staff led this program to over **300 youth** from grades 7-12.



MSU Extension children and youth programming prepares the state's youth for the future.

## Community Development

Michigan Citizen Planner offers land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials. The Citizen Planner program is a seven-session series leading to a certificate of completion awarded by MSUE. The course is intended for local appointed and elected officials, zoning administrators and interested citizens. In August and September of 2017 thirty people including **twelve from Ogemaw County** attended this program.



MSU Extension works to teach citizens how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged.