



Oscoda County 2022 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Thank you for your support and partnership with Michigan State University Extension. MSU Extension helps to improve the lives of Michigan residents by providing educational programs for people of all ages that can address critical needs, issues, and opportunities. Our work is guided by our mission and our core values which are:

- **We will show up.** We will be engaged and serve our communities across the state.
- **We will help people thrive.** We will work to help everyone be their best and do their best.
- **We will be authentic.** We will be honest about what we can and cannot do, and we will be guided by evidence-based science.
- **We will welcome everyone.** We will be inclusive and respect everyone, while valuing differences and working to serve a wide audience.
- **We will manage resources responsibly.** We will be good stewards of our resources and funding from all sources.
- **We will take risks.** We are lifelong learners and value innovation to better serve Michigan communities.

These value statements summarize how we work to engage with communities and how we hope we are seen by the people we serve. The team we have assembled in District 4 to serve communities are outstanding professionals who care deeply and work hard to meet the needs of youth, adults, and families and for households, small businesses, and local governments. This report summarizes the numbers and some of the stories of how we have worked to connect people with one another and with information gained from research that can help improve lives.

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SUPPORTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Phil Durst, Senior Beef & Dairy Educator



Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy. In 2022, 44 residents of Oscoda County participated in 17 agriculture and agribusiness programs including one-on-one visits for strategic planning and financial analysis, workshops on sheep production and bovine tuberculosis, and more.

Oscoda County sheep farmers attended a workshop on raising sheep at Elmer Township Hall followed up by a meeting and demonstrations at a local farm. Participants, who come from all over the state, learned about production opportunities and methods, sheep health, body condition management, vaccination programs, and preventing and handling basic health problems.

SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Nicole Wethington, Health Educator



MSU Extension focuses on multiple facets of health including social-emotional health, chronic disease management, sleep education, Tai Chi for Falls Prevention and Arthritis, resources for caregivers and much more. **26** residents of Oscoda County participated in 11 health programs such as Mindfulness X, Stress Less with Mindfulness, and Matter of Balance.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY LIVING

Lyndsay Dalke, Community Nutrition Instructor



MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition program designed to reduce hunger and food security and promote healthy eating habits for people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, adults, and families how to make health a priority. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that SNAP-eligible persons will make healthy food choices.

Starting at the end of November 2022, Lyndsay delivered educational programs to **10** Oscoda County residents including Eat Healthy, Be Active and Teen Cuisine while initiating relationships with more partners in the county.



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