

# Oscoda County

## 2021 Annual Report

### MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to share a snapshot of the work that Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is doing in Oscoda County. The circumstances of the past two years have presented new and unique challenges for us and many others. MSU Extension has been able to continue a tradition of providing programming and educational resources that help to enhance the lives of Michigan residents and people who live, work, and play in Oscoda County.



In 2021, MSU Extension supported 4-H youth, farmers, and community members through virtual and online programming and in-person experiences. We have learned to deliver our services in the safest way possible and expanded our reach to new audiences using technology which reduces the cost and time of travel. We have at least one 4-H club with an approved volunteer active in Oscoda County with the help of staff from neighboring counties. Our health education programs reach people across the lifespan. We will soon be posting a position to serve the residents of Oscoda County with nutrition and physical activity information through our SNAP Education program. We are seeking new avenues to connect with the community through local agencies and with the inclusion of representatives from Oscoda County on our district Advisory Council.

We have sought and will continue to seek additional resources to build capacity for our programs in Oscoda County – specifically to add value to school environments and with youth. We are excited about the future of this important partnership. We thank you for another great year and the continued opportunity to serve this great community.

Julia (Julie) Darnton  
District Director

### IMPACT AT A GLANCE



**\$488,609**

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$72,855**

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED  
(2020-2021)



**92**

ALUMNI RESIDENTS IN  
OSCODA COUNTY



**10**

ASK AN EXPERT CONTACTS



**\$660**

SPENT WITH LOCAL  
BUSINESS



**3,869**

OSCODA COUNTY  
EXTENSION WEBSITE VIEWS

# SUPPORTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE



MSU Extension Senior Educator Phil Durst continues his work with beef and dairy farms in the area. Phil and colleagues provided Breeding Soundness Exams for bulls prior to breeding season. These tests, which include assessing the animals' anatomy and mechanics, as well as laboratory assessments, provide assurance that bulls will competently inseminate the herd. Making sure that insemination is done efficiently can help producers shorten the calving season in the spring which then allows producers to plan their year and have efficient processes.



As part of the MSU Extension Animal Agriculture Team, Phil also delivered the Beef Quality Assurance education training for producers - this training delivers information about animal and welfare health at all levels and in all areas, how to ensure quality meat production, and efficiency in production. In addition to all of this, Phil and his colleague, Senior Educator Stan Moore, met with a multigenerational farm business in Oscoda County to discuss marketing strategies for their beef. These processes will help the producer to find the marketplace or market niche for their product to ensure profitability and sustain their operation.



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