



# Roscommon County 2021 Annual Report

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



It is once again my pleasure to provide you with a snapshot of the work that Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is doing in your community. The circumstances of the past two years have presented new and unique challenges for us and many others. However, because of your continued support, MSU Extension has been able to continue its long tradition of providing programming and educational resources that help to enhance the lives of Roscommon County residents, contribute to community prosperity and address critical issues as they arise in communities.

In 2021, MSU Extension provided **4,626** points of contact to Roscommon County residents through articles, virtual and online programming and in person experiences. We worked with local audiences and community partners to deliver our services in the safest way possible and expanded our reach to new audiences through the use of technology.

Your support of:

- MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development allowed over **110** youth to learn lifelong skills, develop leadership abilities, explore new interests and discover the value of community service.
- MSU Extension food programs allow residents to learn about the safety, security and affordability of local fresh foods, how to use them, where to find them, or how to start a cottage food business of their own.
- MSU Extension nutrition and physical activity programs allowed over **133** county residents to improve the quality of their diets and become more active.

We hope you are as proud of this important partnership as we are. We thank you for another great year and the continued opportunity to serve this great community.

Julia (Julie) Darnton, District Director

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Extension**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan and provides more than 200,000 young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passions. In 2021, **110** Roscommon County youth participated in **51** 4-H programs delivered both virtually and in-person (as COVID-19 precautions shifted).

4-H:

- develops youth as current and future leaders by providing programs that instill young people with knowledge and skills to become positive agents of change through leadership development, civic engagement and education, global citizenship, and cultural competency programming;
- assists youth in preparing for and finding gainful employment opportunities through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, career exploration, and workforce preparation programs; and
- excites youth about future science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) careers and build critical STEM skills. These programs seek to increase aspirations and attitudes toward science, interest and engagement in science, and skills in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making.



The Roscommon County 4-H Council was recently established with a small, but active group of very dedicated adults and teens. The executive board of the 4-H Council is made up entirely of teens.

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. In 2021, **158** Roscommon residents participated in natural resource programs including Introduction to Lakes, Forest Forensics, Michigan Birding 101, and Introduction to Orienteering.

### SPONGY MOTH (FORMERLY KNOWN AS GYPSY MOTH)



In 2021, the number one question received by the MSU Extension Lawn & Garden Hotline was "What do I do about all of these caterpillars?"

**109** Roscommon residents participated in programming to learn about the 2021 *Lymantria dispar* outbreak and other invasive species. Participants learned the history of Spongy Moths and tips for homeowners to take actions to protect the health of their trees.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION



The Roscommon County Food Pantry was awarded a dairy cooler as part of a United Dairy Industry of Michigan cooler

grant program. The program provides local food pantries with a refrigeration unit to help store milk and dairy foods at proper temperatures and build capacity to distribute more dairy.

Dairy farmer Carla Wardin nominated the Roscommon County Food Pantry to receive the milk cooler, along with funds for the food pantry to fill the cooler with milk at delivery. Wardin found out about the need from Community Nutrition Instructor Elaine Palm.

**“It will make such an impact. We serve about 500-600 people a month, and many of them are senior citizens who don’t qualify for assistance. You don’t know how helpful this is ... our old one was dying, and now we have a place for our dairy products.”**

**-Lynda Hogaboom, Roscommon County Food Pantry**

MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity 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, individuals, 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 within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guidance. In 2021, **133 Roscommon County residents** participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Smart, Live Strong; Today’s Mom; and Cooking for One.

## SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As a result of MSU Extension’s social-emotional programming, **70** Roscommon residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families’ and communities’ understanding of and response to mental health crises.

Residents participated in **112** programs including Stress Less with Mindfulness, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, and Mindful Mondays.

## SENIOR PROJECT FRESH

Senior Project FRESH, which is part of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Bill, is a program aimed at older adults, helping them incorporate more fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. The program was created to benefit the restricted income senior and as a secondary benefit to the Michigan farmer. **64** Roscommon residents participated in Senior Project FRESH classes in 2021. In total, all 150 coupon books were distributed to **130** residents for a total of \$3,000 potential farmers market spending, and the county had a 72% redemption rate.



## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



**\$3,270,201**  
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



**159**  
PROGRAMS HOSTED IN  
ROSCOMMON COUNTY



**101**  
YOUTHS ENROLLED IN 4-H



**133**  
RESIDENTS SERVED IN  
SNAP-ED PROGRAMMING



**343**  
ALUMNI RESIDENTS IN  
ROSCOMMON COUNTY



**21**  
STUDENTS ENROLLED AT  
MSU



**\$500,336**  
FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED  
(2020-2021)



**\$2,973**  
SPENT WITH LOCAL  
BUSINESS



**33**  
ASK AN EXPERT CONTACTS



**6,011**  
ROSCOMMON COUNTY  
EXTENSION WEBSITE VIEWS

## CONTACT US

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