



# Saginaw County 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**\$35,047,588**  
economic impact



**387**  
enrolled students at MSU



**\$2,072,685**  
spending with local businesses



**3,599**  
MSU alumni in Saginaw County



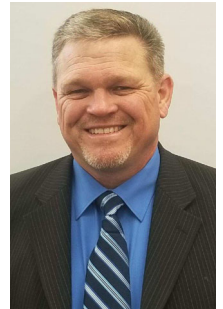
**\$7,618,088**  
financial aid disbursed



**966**  
youth in 4-H

## Message from the District Director

To say 2020 was an unprecedented year does not do it justice. Our nation, indeed the entire world, was thrust into the uncertainty and fear of battling an invisible enemy called COVID19. And everything changed – our normal activities, so long taken for granted, seemed forever altered. From grocery shopping to youth sports, from local schools to factories, from fairs to health clubs, from mass transportation to worship; nothing was left untouched by the threat posed by this virus. We had no choice but to reinvent methods of collaboration, education and community. We had to find new ways to deliver products, services and compassion to our families, our co-workers and our community.



I am proud to say that Michigan State University Extension was up to this challenge. We were prepared to move into the environment of virtual education and collaboration. Moreover, we ensured that our customers – the residents of Saginaw County – were well served with the high quality, evidence-based curricula to which they have become accustomed. From stress management to disease prevention, from tourism to food insecurity, from nutrition to food safety, from livestock to field crops, MSU Extension hit the ground running – actually increasing our reach in the midst of this pandemic.

Thank you for supporting MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Mark J. Rankin, District 9 Director

Serving Bay, Genesee, Midland, Saginaw, & Shiawassee Counties



# Farm Management

Over the course of 2020, Farm Business Management Extension programming in Saginaw County provided farmers with relevant and timely educational resources in the areas of financial management and business planning. We used the transition to virtual programming to expand the reach of our programs to a broader audience.

Key programming focused on accurate and up-to-date information about coronavirus impacts on agriculture and associated relief programs. We provided real-time updates through articles, webinars, and social media. One of our most popular webinars, "Coronavirus Relief Programs for Nontraditional Commodities", targeted agricultural growers not frequently served by federal and state programs. We also provided custom programming for central Michigan and the Saginaw Valley in our weekly Lunch Break program on Facebook Live.

We also continued our programming on core financial management topics. Our "Prepare Your Farm for Tax Season Now" webinar provided guidance on the fundamentals of farm recordkeeping. We were able to expand access to our more advanced farm management programs through a virtual Thumb Ag Day program. We also published podcasts that discussed topics of interest to dairy and field crop producers. In addition, we provided virtual consultations to farmers to support accounting, financial analysis, and business planning.

# Food Safety

Only two months of face-to-face programming took place in 2020 in that time just a few face-to-face sessions took place, **3** ServSafe classes, reaching **17** participants, and **1** Cooking for Crowds, reaching **47** participants. March 13, 2020 began the requirement to work remotely and adapt our classroom programs to online programs.

**18** Safe Food = Healthy Kids online programs were taught to childcare providers, reaching **902** participants in 2020. This program also provided continuing education credit through MiRegistry for those who are eligible and need these training hours for their home based and child center businesses.

**Ninety-nine** online food preservation classes were offered starting in April 2020. The sessions were offered every Thursday at 1 PM and 6 PM by MSUE, with local libraries and as part of a local college's life-long learning series. The Food Safety Team quickly found themselves flooded with questions from consumers who were preserving for the first time ever, had seen something on the internet, and by people who wanted to refresh their knowledge. Each week our team put together slide shows with detailed pictures, videos and more to help the consumer get a better idea of how to safely preserve food, using pressure canning, water bath canning, atmospheric steam canning, blanching and freezing and dehydrating. The number of participants from these online classes was **8,649**.

Other programs that have gone online and are continuing to grow in interest include Emergency Preparedness, Cottage Food Law, a weekly Food Safety Q & A, and an afterschool program introducing food safety and kitchen science. The team also covers a Food Safety Hotline (Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST) designed to answer consumer's food safety questions. The team fielded just under **200** calls in 2020.

A grant secured by the team from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development enabled the team to create food safety messages related to selling food at farmers markets on our Think Food Safety Facebook page and Instagram sight. The goal of this project was to create awareness about what can and cannot be sold at farmers markets without a food license while educating the consumer in the process to "Think Food Safety".

## Cooking for Crowds before Emergency Preparedness

Other programs that have gone online and are continuing to grow in interest include Emergency Preparedness, Cottage Food Law, a weekly Food Safety Q & A, and an afterschool program introducing food safety and kitchen science. The team also covers a Food Safety Hotline (Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST) designed to answer consumer's food safety questions. The team fielded just under **200** calls in 2020.

# Veteran SNAP Benefit Outreach

## Veteran Outreach

MSU Extension is committed to providing veterans with programs and services that support their personal and financial wellness. In 2020, over **2,700** veteran-tailored outreach brochures were shared with over **200** veterans and veteran service providers in Saginaw County. The brochures address food insecurity by promoting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit and other resources to the veteran community.

Social media was used to further share resources with the Saginaw area veteran community. A region-specific [Veteran Resource video](#) (viewed over **100 times**) was created and posted on YouTube. In addition, MSU Extension conducted veteran outreach on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/msueveterans>) where pertinent resources were shared. Numerous veteran-focused articles were published in 2020 by veteran outreach staff, including four by Kai Gritter, the Saginaw-based program coordinator of the SNAP Outreach for Veterans program. The articles share resources that address food insecurity, mental health, chronic pain management and diabetes prevention. They can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/veterans/in-the-news>.



## Health Programs



MSU Extension works to promote the health and wellbeing of Michiganders through a variety of health programs. In 2020, Educators facilitated **15** presentations to Saginaw County residents, reaching a total of **188** adults through in-person and online programming. Topics and programs included: Chronic Pain PATH (Personal Action Towards Health), RELAX: Alternatives to Anger, Stress Less with Mindfulness, Mindful Eating, and Mindful Parents and Kids. Special 'Mindfulness for Better Living' presentations were created for Veteran communities, serving **15** veteran family members within Saginaw County.

Presentations were also shared with parent groups, caregiver support groups and interested community members. MSU Extension partnered with the following local organizations to provide the free health programs: Saginaw YMCA, Ascension St. Mary's Hospital Center of Hope, CAN Council, Winter Village Retirement Community, First Ward Community Center, Saginaw Commission on Aging, Pulse 3 Foundation, Public Libraries of Saginaw, Saginaw Intermediate School District, and SVSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).



# Nutrition and Physical Activity



**Michigan State University (MSU) Extension** delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to help adults, young people, and families in urban and rural communities be healthy. Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills they need to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies; and stretch their food dollars.



Throughout the state, community nutrition instructors (CNI's) deliver comprehensive, evidence-based programming to **SNAP-Ed** and **EFNEP**-eligible participants in their communities. These programs include face-to-face classroom instruction, one-time health presentations or demonstrations, and initiatives that improve the policy, system, or environmental factors of an organization, worksite, or school.



## PROGRAM OUTREACH

**512** SNAP-ED Youth and adult participants; **139** Sessions offered through Direct Education channels. **25%** of participants improved their physical activity participation, **50%** of participants did more muscle strengthening activities, **36%** of participants plan meals in advance more often, **31%** of participants compare prices when shopping for groceries more often, **23%** of participants use a shopping list more often when grocery shopping (n=61).

## EFNEP: Youth Grades 3-12

Summary of EFNEP nutrition education programming in **Saginaw County** during **FY20** (Oct 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020). Participants in series-based programming were asked to complete a pre- and posttest survey before and after the program, respectively.

**30%** of youth were more physically active, **24%** of youth reduced their screen time, **44%** improved their ability to identify dairy foods, **69%** improved their ability to identify physical activities, **34%** improved their ability to identify fruits, **38%** improved their ability to identify healthy snacks, **66%** improved their ability to identify when to wash hands, **44%** improved their ability to identify vegetables.



**#SNAPEdWorks** Funded by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—SNAP. Delivered by MSU Extension.

# Child and Family Development

Through the Child and Family Development priority area, MSU Extension offers programs and services that support families with young children while helping parents and caregivers increase early childhood science, math and pre-literacy skills, and enhance children's social and emotional development. As a result, Michigan's families are stronger and young children are better prepared to enter and excel in school.

Delivered through webinars, face-to-face workshops and other mechanisms, MSU Extension offers a variety of training, curricula and materials to support child and family development. Available for parents, caregivers, childcare professionals, leaders, and youth. Certificates for child care provider training hours are typically available upon request.

## At-A-Glance

- **8,655** adults were reached through child and family development programming
- **181** participants resided in Saginaw county
- **280** educational events were held with 438 sessions
- Over **538** hours of education were provided
- Programs were provided in partnership with family resource centers, faith-based centers/places of worship, early care and education facilities, group living arrangements, schools and libraries

## One-Time Programs for Parents, Professionals and Caregivers

One-time presentations range from 1-3 hour classes on a variety of topics including math, literacy, science, resilience, positive discipline, social emotional health and technology.

In 2020, **232** one-time presentation sessions were taught reaching **8,862** participants.

### Data

37% of participants gained knowledge in understanding how the topic connects to healthy development (97% agreed or strongly agreed at pretest and 99% agreed or strongly agreed at posttest),

37% of participants gained preparation in being able to support learning and growth in the topic area (95% agreed or strongly agreed at pretest and 99% agreed or strongly agreed at posttest),

44% indicated increased techniques to help young children learn (93% agreed or strongly agreed at pretest and 99% agreed or strongly agreed at posttest).

### Impact

"Working with the kids to stop a tantrum before it starts and figure out why they are biting or hitting."

"I will think about what I say and do before I am about to approach a situation in disciplining children."

"Learning about stress and healthy coping skills I can add to my new tool box of things and ways to do, also open my eyes to how my stress impacts my daughter."



### Impact Story

Each year the Saginaw Leaders' Advisory Council recognizes youth in the community for outstanding efforts in a variety of 4-H project areas. As the 2020 4-H Year encompassed many "first ever" events across 4-H, Michigan, and our Nation, the Saginaw Leaders Advisory Board offered a new, First Ever Award. This award highlights youth(s) efforts in their Club and community. Samantha H. was recognized for her helping her community by sewing face-masks and sharing them with the local Veteran's hospital for the residents.

### From award application-Samantha H:

*"My life and the lives of family, friends and strangers changed in march of this year with the COVID-19 shut-down. Facemasks were hard to come by at the beginning so my Nanna and I made masks for Mom and Dad and for ourselves. My goal was always to give masks to people who needed them. At first, only made about twenty or thirty. Then my 4-H Leader said that the Veteran's hospital was in desperate need of masks for their residents. My mom and my brother helped cut out a lot of material. I made over 200 masks from the beginning to the end of this project. "*



**69** 4-H volunteer leaders  
**271** enrolled in organized clubs  
**12** enrolled in short term/special interest clubs  
**629** enrolled in school enrichment programs  
**31** participating in after-school programs using 4-H curriculum/training  
**20** organized clubs  
**28** first graders from Zilwaukee Elementary School learned about Michigan, 4-H and a variety of life skills

### Impact Story

At Club's across Saginaw County, youth pledge their "hands to larger service". Since 1991 the Frankenmuth Pacesetters 4-H Club has participated in Adopt-A-Highway and 2020 was no different. 4-H members joined several volunteers in picking up trash along M-83 as a way to give back to their community. Since 1986, the Club has partnered with the Frankenmuth Historical Association to help clean the nature trail along the historical Log House that is a landmark in the community. Alongside local volunteers, youth worked to plant wildflowers and maintained trails after flooding and landscape changes that happened over the years. Service learning helps 4-H members learn the value of helping others, teaches how to cooperate with one another and work as a team with diverse groups of people, develops problem-solving and decision-making skills, and builds self-esteem.





# Sugarbeet Advancement



A Sugarbeet Advancement variety trial, used to compare different types of sugarbeets.



Dr. Linda Hanson, USDA-ARS, MSU, presenting at the Symposium.



Harvesting a sugarbeet research trial in mid-Michigan

Sugarbeet Advancement (SBA) has two primary responsibilities for the sugarbeet growers of Michigan, which are to conduct agronomic research and provide extension education. In spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19, SBA was very successful at accomplishing both of these goals in 2020.

A major component of SBA's work is to conduct on-farm agricultural research aimed at improving sugarbeet production. In all, Sugarbeet Advancement completed 30 research trials, which include **8** variety trials, **5** fertilizer additive trials, **8** disease and pest management studies, **7** fertilizer trials, a cover crop study, and a high-speed planter trial. These research trials were conducted throughout the sugarbeet growing area, and generated valuable research data for sugarbeet growers throughout Michigan to enable them to improve their farming practices.

Extension education is the other primary goal of SBA. This year, many of the meetings SBA is in charge of hosting had to be moved to a virtual platform. A few events took place prior to the COVID-19 restrictions being put in place. The first was the Bean and Beet Symposium, which was held in Saginaw on January 21, 2020. This event included a trade show as well as three hours of presentations by sugarbeet researchers. An estimated **500** people attended this event. The other in-person event held in 2020 was Michigan Sugar's winter agronomy meeting series. This event included meetings at six different locations throughout the sugarbeet growing area, taking place February 5th through 13th. Approximately **480** growers attended these meetings. The rest of the educational events SBA participated in this year were held online. In June, SBA participated in MSU Extension's virtual breakfast seminar series by giving a presentation on Cercospora leaf spot which had **397** views. In August, the SBA team helped to organize and participated in a virtual dry bean and sugarbeet field day which had roughly **242** views. The final educational event SBA participated in during 2020 was the Seed Week meeting. This is the most important event SBA participates in, as it helps the growers make an informed decision when selecting which varieties of sugarbeets to plant. Approximately **555** people watched this event.

Even though 2020 brought with it a few challenges, the SBA team persevered and had a very successful year. Hopefully next year will be just as successful as we continue to serve the sugarbeet growers of Michigan.

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**

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