

MSU Extension programs are open to all



MSU Extension & Services

NRCS Civil Rights Diversity Day Training 'Small Diversified Farms and Local Food'

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This presentation was delivered as part of an in-service civil rights training for Upper Peninsula USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service and other public agencies on September 18, 2012.



The MSU Extension Mission Statement provides a clear idea of what MSU Extension is all about.

We try to help people improve their lives.

We do this by offering an educational process.

The educational process applies science-based <u>knowledge</u> to issues, needs and opportunities that are important to people.



MSU Extension programs are available to farms of all types and sizes throughout the U.P. We offer programs and information through a variety of avenues.



One-on-one visits to consult with farmers and others involved in agriculture are available. However, finances limit the amount of travel and time educators can spend with individuals.

Phone and internet communications are encouraged and free of charge.

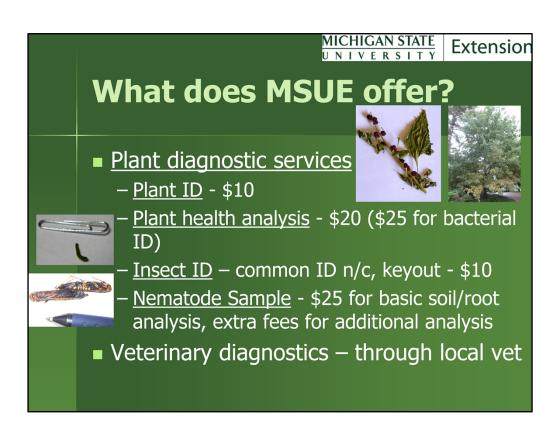
In the past, 'county agents' made more frequent drop-in visits on farmers. There are a couple reasons why this has changed. 1) There are a lot fewer 'county agents' (agricultural educators now cover multiple counties and have specific areas of expertise) and 2) funding for MSU Extension limits the amount of travel by educators

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

What does MSUE offer?

- Local, regional & state-wide
 educational meetings and programs
 - U.P. Agriculture for Tomorrow conference, Escanaba, March
 - U.P. Beginning Farmer webinar series
 - Local pasturewalks and field days
 - Northern MI Small Farmers conference,
 January, Grayling
 - Ag Expo, MSU, July
 - ANR Week, MSU, March

MSU Extension offers a variety of educational meetings and programs at the local, regional and state-wide level. A few examples are shown here. These are opportunities to learn in a group setting.



MSU Extension also offers, or can direct farmers of all types and sizes to services offered by MSU.

These include:

Soil testing Plant diagnostic services Veterinary diagnostics (through you local vet) Business planning and marketing assistance

MICHIGAN STATE Extension

What does MSUE offer?

- MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Innovation counselors statewide –
 Michelle Walk serving U.P.
 - Business planning
 - MI Market Maker
 - Multi-level assistance first level to assess basic idea is n/c

The MSU Product Center offers different levels of assistance to people exploring new and innovative ag businesses. These range from free initial consultation to in-depth market analysis and business planning, which involve a fee.



The staff above conduct agriculture and community food system programs in the Upper Peninsula. Their contact information is included in the factsheet handout.



Another good information source for U.P. famers of all types is the monthly U.P. Ag Connections newsletter published by MSU Extension in Ontonagon County. You can receive the newsletter free of charge, though the mail or via internet.



In addition to local staff and services, MSU Extension offers a toll-free phone number to reach your county MSU Extension office. There is also a toll-free 'gardening hotline', staffed by Master Gardener volunteers. The hotline is used most frequently during the growing season, and may not be staffed in the off-season.

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What does MSUE offer?

- Many useful websites (examples):
 - MSU Extension http://msue.anr.msu.edu
 - Several ag categories with RSS feed avaiable
 - Gardening in Michigan http://migarden.msu.edu/
 - MSU Hoophouse http://hoophouse.msu.edu
 - MSU Organic Farming Exchange www.michiganorganic.msu.edu
 - MSU Center for Regional Food Systems http://www.foodsystems.msu.edu
 - National Sustainable Agricultural Information Service (ATTRA) – not MSU, but very good
 - https://attra.ncat.org/index.php

Above are several useful websites. More are listed on the factsheet handout.



Thank you.