

Alpena

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the District Coordinator

I wish I could share effectively in this report the smiles on the faces as the light bulbs go off with youth and adults who participate in MSUE programs. We have tried to give you a brief overview of the diversity of programs being offered in the county and surrounding areas that your citizens participate in. I would like to thank the Alpena Board of Commissioners for their continued support that allows MSUE to provide valuable knowledge to your residents--knowledge that assists them in achieving the goals of their families, business and community.

MSUE is organized into 4 programmatic areas called Institutes.

- Greening Michigan: Leveraging Natural and Human Assets for Prosperity
- Enhancing Michigan's First Green Industry: Agriculture and Agribusiness
- Preparing Michigan's Children & Youth for the Future
- Improving Health and Nutrition for Michigan residents

Our report is organized around each of the institutes. I hope that you share my pride in the quality and diversity of programming occurring in Alpena County

Our goal is to reaffirm our commitment to providing educational programming that enhances and improves the overall quality of lives in Northeast Michigan. We connect the cutting edge knowledge being developed at the University to the local citizens of Alpena County.

Sincerely,

Kelley Hiemstra, District Coordinator

Mission

Michigan State University helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

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"At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems - the answer for all the problems of the world - come to a single word. That word is "education."

Lyndon B. Johnson

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Children & Youth Institute

Counties in Michigan that were reduced from 1.0 4-H coordinator staff to .5 FTE, saw up to a 62% reduction in promotional, educational programs.

Counties where staffing was returned to full time, saw an increase in some programs, by as much as 271%, and a dramatic increase in volunteers.



4-H Educators from across the state are available to provide research-based educational programs and curriculum to the youth of Alpena County. These opportunities include:

- Entrepreneurship
- Financial Literacy
- Workforce Preparation
- Career Exploration
- Science Literacy
- Life Skills
- Bullying Prevention
- Leadership
- Civic Engagement
- Social-Media Safety

According to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, conducted by Tufts University's Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development, young people involved in 4-H:

- have significantly lower drug, alcohol and cigarette use
- report better grades, and higher levels of academic competence
- are 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active
- are 41% less likely to drink, smoke or do drugs
- are 40% more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering or computer technology
- are better able to complete tasks, solve problems, make decisions and seek out assistance than their non-4-H peers.

The Tufts study also finds that girls in 4-H are more than twice as likely to participate in science, engineering or computer technology programs than their peers, and are 1.6 times more likely to plan to pursue a career in science than girls not in 4-H. According to Michigan's K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Ed Report Card for 2011, overall U.S. demand for scientists and engineers is expected to increase at four times the rate of all other occupations. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology estimates that American businesses will need one million graduates with STEM degrees in the next decade to remain competitive internationally. In Michigan alone, an estimated 274,000 STEM-related jobs will need to be filled by 2018 (www.temcon-nector.org).



4-H Exploration Days at MSU 2012 (43rd year)

This program is for youth ages 11-19. The 2012 attendance totaled 2,466 youth, from 82 Michigan counties. Alpena had a delegation of six youth the county.

More than 200 action filled classroom & field trip sessions are offered including: Aerospace, Animal & Veterinary Science, Careers, Communications, Environmental Education, Money Management, Shooting Sports and Visual Arts to name a few with the overall goal being: Increase youths' responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.

- *Increase youths' communication, team work, citizenship, and leadership skills.*
- *Foster participants' ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.*
- *Develop and expand career and personal interests.*
- *Increase college exploration and access to the MSU campus and its resources.*
- *Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.*

Children & Youth Institute 2012

4-H Partners to Protect Area Bats

In the spring of 2012, 4-H formed a partnership with Alpena Public School's (APS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) department that resulted in the establishment of a 4-H welding club. As a partner, APS offered the use of their welding laboratory during out-of-school time to the 4-H club. APS welding instructor, Scott MacKenzie, was intrigued by the club idea and goals that 4-H staff presented for such a club. MacKenzie agreed to volunteer his time as a 4-H leader for the group. To assist MacKenzie, 4-H staff recruited two additional volunteers who, like MacKenzie, are certified welders.

The 4-H Wildcat Welding Club began meeting weekly once school resumed in the fall of 2012. A few weeks later, MSU Extension learned that the MI Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Division in conjunction with researcher Dr. Allen Kurta of Eastern Michigan University had discovered bats hibernating at Rockport Park in an old quarry tunnel. To have bats hibernating in NE Michigan is rare and specialists agreed they wanted to keep them there and protect their winter home. The tunnels the bats chose were open-ended and needed to be protected with a grate designed for easy entrance and exit by bats. Through a mutual colleague, MSU Extension connected the DNR with the 4-H Welding Club & AHS Welding program.

Youth and adults are working side by side on the hibernacula project, scheduled for completion in June 2013. Having the youth involved in the project from start to finish builds their sense of ownership and stewardship in their community and provides them with real life experiences and career connections.



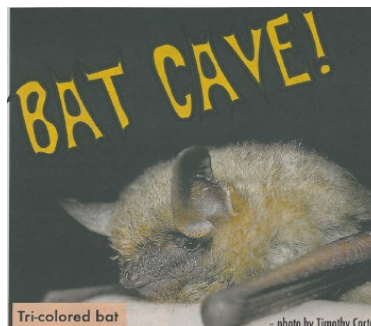
As the Rockport Recreation Area develops, signage will be constructed showcasing the hibernacula project to provide education about the ecological importance of bats and their habitat. As one AHS youth said, "I like Batman and welding. This is the best project I've ever heard of!"

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Alpena County 4-H Youth State and International Recognition



Poultry Presenter Katie VanDerkolk, presents to Brandon Borke

Teens who have spent several years in 4-H know that to earn a State Award is indeed a coveted achievement. Alpena County 4-Her, Brandon Borke, would probably say it isn't easy and might take several tries, but when victory comes, it is sweet. Brandon felt that sense of accomplishment for all he has learned and experienced when he brought home the 2012 4-H State Poultry Award.

The Michigan State 4-H Awards program includes county, regional and state-level competition. If their portfolio is selected to compete at the state level, they attend Exploration Days as a State Award delegate, interview with the awards committee and present their portfolio for a critical review. The entire experience is designed to simulate completion of a scholarship or job application process. Brandon received a \$100 cash award and plaque from the State Poultry Award sponsor.

It's a Horse, of course, Camp!



Thirty-seven young equestrians took part in a 4-H horse camp May 4-6, 2012 at the Alpena County Fairgrounds. Youth checked in on Friday evening and during the camp participated in a variety of educational and fun activities led by staff from Grace Adventures out of Silver Lake, Michigan. Sessions included the interactive study of parts of a horse using a live demonstration model; skills and safety

horses; roping skills and more. The camp was sponsored by Alpena's 4-H Horse Developmental Committee with support from The Alpena County Horsemen's Club.



Alpena County Fair 2012



4-H has many goals and purposes. The main purpose is to teach youth life skills. The County Fair provides another opportunity to teach life skills. Through a wide variety of showmanship and skills contests, approximately 105 youth participated at the Alpena County Fair. At the fair, youth are testing their knowledge, practicing sportsmanship, learning about fairness, caring about themselves, others and animals. The youth are building social skills in an organized and safe environment with adult mentors that are engaged with them. Within the structured area of the county fairgrounds, youth learn to interact with other youth, adults, the public, and learn to win and lose graciously, congratulate others that have placed higher than themselves, and teach younger 4-H youth the skills in raising animals, showing animals, and presenting oneself to a judge to not only show off the project they raised but also share the knowledge they gained through their project.

During the 2013 Alpena County Fair, 4-H youth with an animal science project will be participating in a Michigan State University Survey. The survey will provide evidence on how the animal science projects directly teach youth life skills, benefiting the children of our community.

2012Ag & Agribusiness Institute

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Quick Facts

- *Michigan has 54,700 farms
- *The economic impact of agriculture in Michigan exceeds \$91 billion dollars
- *1 out of 4 jobs in Michigan is agriculture related
- *Michigan ranks 1st in the nation for the production of blueberries, tart cherries, pickling cucumbers, three varieties of dry beans and 12 floriculture crops (such as geraniums, begonias, Easter lilies)
- *Michigan ranks 2nd in the nation for the production of fresh market carrots and celery
- *Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation for asparagus production

2012 Horse Science Short Course

For nearly 20 years, Alpena County MSU Extension has been partnering with the Alpena County Horseman's Club to provide an educational series for area horse enthusiasts. This year's six-week program was attended by 53 individuals. Topics included: Cutting Edge Treatments; The Senior Horse; Horse Nutrition; Chiropractic, Acupuncture and other Alternative Practices and Antibiotic Resistance. The following quote from one participant sums up the experience: "Thank you for all of the knowledge! The series was very well planned and helpful! Would love to have this type of program every year!"

Breakfast On The Farm

Breakfast on the Farm is a program of Michigan State University Extension that began in 2009 in Clinton County. Four years later at the conclusion of the 2012 season, 40,865 individuals had attended one of the 21 events that were held on Michigan farms. For 46 % of the visitors, this was their first visit to a modern farm in the past 20 years. The program is designed to give consumers a first-hand look at modern agriculture and to help them increase their knowledge of how farmers care for the environment, care for their animals and produce safe, wholesome and nutritious food. Post-event survey data shows that 89.5% of the visitors indicated an



increase in their confidence of Michigan dairy products and 89% said that they will purchase more Michigan dairy products as a result of their visit. The program depends on state and local sponsors, donations, willing farm hosts and volunteers. In 2012, 1,609 volunteers dedicated time and expertise to ensure the success and continuation of the program. To learn more about the program, visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com.



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Let's Get Growing Garden Show

This MSU Extension show has become a tradition for garden enthusiasts in Northern Michigan. The 9th annual garden show offered something for everyone. Sixteen exhibits provided visitors with ideas and answers to their garden questions such as how to eliminate grubs in the lawn and how to extend the vegetable growing season. Approximately 700 people attended the April 14th show at the APlex in Alpena. The show has become a spring staple that continues to deliver knowledge, ideas and hope for each new gardening season.

Bugs, “dirt”, weeds and more

Residents continue to rely on the local Extension office for technical assistance with insect and weed identification, pest and disease trouble shooting and soil testing. In 2012, a new self-mailer for homeowner soil testing became available. The kit is easy to use and clients receive results and recommendations in a timely manner. Soil testing is a win-win as it saves money and time and it helps to protect the environment.

Farming For You

The goal of “Farming for You” is to connect consumers directly to farmers at the point of purchase in the grocery store. To celebrate national dairy month, Neiman’s Family Market, a local grocery store, invited area dairy farmers into the store to interact with shoppers in the dairy department. The producers shared their passion for farming, the dairy industry and Michigan agriculture. They engaged with shoppers and fielded questions which were mostly related to antibiotics, growth hormones, the difference between conventional and organic milk and what it is like to be a farmer. According to Katie Deller, a local farmer, “Participating in events like this is important because it puts a face with our product. Consumers deserve to know who is providing food for their families.”



Ag Awareness Day

MSU Extension is only one of several public organizations that served the agriculture industry in Northeast Michigan. When multiple agencies work together we can more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of producers. On September 22nd MSUE joined USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) to offer Ag Awareness Day 2012 at Alpena Community College. This day long event attracted twenty eight participants with sessions on a wide variety of topics including crop and livestock management, resource stewardship, and farm biosecurity. MSUE Educators Christina Curell and James DeDecker collaborated on a session highlighting cover crop options for Northeast Michigan. Participants in this event were eligible for Phase I credit toward MAEAP verification of their farm operation.

Rogers City Farmers' Breakfasts

In November MSU Extension reinstated the monthly farmers' breakfast at Karsten's Restaurant in Rogers City. These informal meetings provide opportunities for local producers to network with MSU Extension and one another around key issues in a collegial environment. The kick-off breakfast on November 8th focused on needs assessment with eight participants offering their perspective on current challenges facing the agricultural community in Northeast MI. The second meeting on December 5th was attended by fourteen local producers, including one Alpena County resident. James DeDecker shared information on proposed changes to the federal farm bill and the group discussed how the new policies might impact their operations. The farmers' breakfast meetings continued through March of 2013 offering information, resources and discussion on a wide variety of agricultural topics including sulfur fertilization, rental rates & lease agreements, and pesticide resistance. Eight Alpena County producers participated in breakfast meetings during the first few months of 2013.



Pesticide Applicators Recertification Training and Exam

MSU pesticide training and recertification programs improve pesticide use practices in Michigan by ensuring that certified applicators receive up-to-date information on pesticide regulation, handling and application. On December 6th, 2012 John Stone of the MSU Pesticide Education and Safety Program trained fifteen private and commercial pesticide applicators at the Rogers City Library. Many of the participants used John's course to earn recertification credits toward keeping their certification valid. Others used the course as a review prior to taking the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Pesticide Exam the next day.



On December 7th, MDARD's Eric McCumber administered seventeen certification examinations to twelve individuals. Participants sought certification in several categories including field crops, vegetables, turf, and ornamentals. Aided by the previous day's training session, all participants passed their examinations and achieved certification, including two Alpena County residents. In April, Eric offered the certification exam in Alpena to 23 individuals.

Oil and Gas Leasing Education

MSUE assisted in organizing a regional oil and gas leasing meeting at Hillman held January 29, 2013 with an attendance of 223, including many from Alpena county. That meeting initiated the formation of a regional landowner group titled the Northern Michigan Mineral Owners Coalition (NMMOC.) The coalition, comprised of private landowners and mineral owners represents 10,000 acres from nine counties, including Alpena County and continues to grow. One of the goals of the group is to educate their members about the oil and gas leasing process. They feel that the petroleum industry is highly skilled in leasing, and individual owners are at an extreme disadvantage. Leveling the playing field is their basic goal, along with minimizing the impact oil and gas development will have on the communities involved.

Farm Management Technical Assistance

MSUE worked one on one with agricultural producers and families providing information on the new Michigan Cash Cropland Lease.

TB Forage

Study – MSU is conducting research on the survivability of *Mycobacterium bovis*, the bacteria that causes bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) on forage that is ensiled. Samples of forages are collected at harvest, spiked with *M. bovis*, and ensiled in special containers. Then those containers are being sampled at intervals and cultured to determine if the bacteria is still viable. The study is led by Dr. Dan Grooms in the College of Veterinary Medicine and involves Extension Educator Phil Durst and Alpena County dairy producer, Corby Werth on the advisory committee. The results will be made known following the completion of the study.

Investigation and Education – Extension Educator Phil Durst is a member of the Epidemiological Investigation Team that goes to farms that have been diagnosed with bTB. In 2012-2013, five farm infections have been investigated. The role of the Team is to determine the risk factors that potentially enabled the herd to become infected. The Team examines management practices and wildlife issues. From these we learn more about TB infection and hopefully how to reduce the risk of herd infections.

Dairy Producers

Developing young dairy producers – Two groups of young people involved in dairy have been formed in NE Michigan by Extension Educator Phil Durst. The purpose is to help these young dairy people develop their knowledge and skills in the management of cows, employees and the dairy business. They do this through farm meetings, speakers and peer interaction. For the third year, they have cooperated to put together a group order for Ag plastic that is bid out as one purchase. This year's order totaled more than \$12,000 and members bought Ag plastic at prices less than what a producer with more than 1000 cows was able to get. As young people become involved in dairy and learn to be successful in that business, it ensures that dairy will continue to be an important economic driver in this county.

Reducing mastitis and reducing antibiotic use – Mastitis continues to be the most costly disease for dairy producers and the primary reason for antibiotic use on farms. Extension Educator Phil Durst is involved in a research project determining what factors are critical for better mastitis control on farms. Those factors will be taught to other producers and implemented on their farms with the goal of improved udder health and less antibiotic use. This benefits the dairy producer with less disease and also benefits the consumer with improved milk quality and safety.

Improving dairy employee management – Extension Educator Phil Durst is leading a project to help dairy owners and managers improve their management of employees by using feedback from employees. The goal is to have employees who are engaged in the business, that is, employee who are actively working to improve it and make it successful. How employees are managed impacts the level of employee engagement. The project is being expanded this year into several other states.

Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea Grant promotes research, education, and outreach to enhance the responsible and sustainable use of the Great Lakes' diverse natural resources. In conjunction with MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant works with Michigan citizens, industries, and coastal communities to encourage their use, benefits, and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources that positively influences the state's economy, environment and quality of life. For over 30 years, Michigan Sea Grant Extension has served northeast Michigan through onsite presence and programming of an Extension Educator.

Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI)

Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (www.nemiglsi.org) is a supported strong, vibrant place-based education program. In facilitating, supporting, and delivering regional GLSI/4-H20 place-based stewardship education program activities, we accomplished – through our partnerships -- the following:

- **Schools enhanced:** 10 schools from Alpena County participated in programming and activities during 2012, receiving access to teacher professional development participation and direct funding support for student activities through program funding leveraged by the regional GLSI/4-H20 programming efforts in 2012.
- **Teachers Supported:** 39 Alpena County educators were supported through sustained professional development activities and received support in planning and implementing place-based stewardship education programs and projects with their students.
- **Students Learning Provided Environmental Leadership:** 1,394 Alpena County youth were engaged, through their learning, with community partners in fielding place-based stewardship education projects at some point during the 2012/2013 calendar year. Of that total, 592 are supported by 4-H20/BWET water specific projects.
- **Place-based education project teams** (teachers and students) were supported through regional GLSI/4-H20 programming and directly engaged their students in fielding place-based stewardship education activities with community partners during 2012. Place-based education projects reflect quality examples of teachers and students, through their learning, engaging in environmental stewardship project leadership in partnership with their community.

NOAA B-WET and 4-H20: Growing watershed education and opportunities

4-H20 is a regional water stewardship education initiative co-led by Michigan Sea Grant and 4-H Youth staff in northeast Michigan for the past five years. MSUE has supported schools and offered scholarships to Alpena youth annually to participate in statewide 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp.

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MI Sea Grant

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Sea Grant Focus Areas:

- Healthy coastal ecosystems
- Sustainable coastal development
- Safe and sustainable Seafood supply
- Hazard resilience in coastal communities

Stewardship Projects, Community Development Impacts: The number of projects and types of projects with which students are involved, range across the 29-participating place-based education project teams. In general, projects can be grouped, as learning communities, by similarities in interests and stewardship projects, including the following summary of projects by group types:

◇ **Watershed Sciences, Monitoring, and Management**

Alpena High School/Thunder Bay Jr. High - Bagley Creek Restoration, Wildlife Sanctuary Water Quality, and Stream Bank Erosion monitoring
Sanborn Elementary, Alpena Public -The Thunder Bay Watershed Study
Besser Elementary, Alpena Public -The Thunder Bay Watershed Study at Duck Park
Bingham Arts Academy -The Thunder Bay Watershed Study at Island Mill Park
Lincoln Elementary, Alpena Public -The Thunder Bay Watershed Study
Thunder Bay Jr. High – Lake Huron Adopt-A-Beach



Feature Story:

Thunder Bay Jr. High youth Adopt-a-Beach; Enhancing their coastal Lake Huron shoreline and community (10/15/12):

Kicking off their school year, more than 150 youth from Thunder Bay Jr. High take their class work to the shorelines of coastal Lake Huron, adopting local beaches to explore and enhance Great Lakes habitats and their local community.

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/thunder_bay_jr_high_youth_adopt-abeach_enhancing_their_coastal_lake_huron)



◇ **Schoolyard Habitats and Sustainable GREEN Schools**

Wilson Elementary School- Schoolyard Habitats: Lessons Learned From Nature, Expanding Environmental Awareness in Northeast Michigan

Bingham Arts Academy - Community Native Plant, Rain Garden and Outdoor Classroom

Feature Story:

Bingham Arts Academy completes rain garden project; Learning while benefiting Lake Huron watershed (8/22/12):

Teachers and students engage in establishing a schoolyard rain garden, creating an outdoor classroom for themselves and promoting water resource awareness and stewardship education with their community!

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/bingham_arts_academy_youth_complete_rain_garden_project_learning_while_bene)



◇ **Schools as Community, Economic, and Ecotourism Development Partners**

Alpena High School – Shipwreck Alley Research and Promoting Michigan Great Lakes Fisheries History Project

Alpena High School - Cool Ocean Fossils in Alpena's Backyard (a geology interpretation/tourism project)

Feature Story:

Cool fossils! Students bring geology to life (2/3/12)

Digging Rocks! Students from Alpena Public Schools help to create a community

Geology exhibit promoting school and community learning and tourism development opportunities through the “cool fossils” of northeast Michigan.

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/cool_fossils_students_bring_geology_to_life/)

To learn more about these NEMIGLSI projects, go on line where full NE MI GLSI Project Team and Project profiles are available: www.nemiglsi.org;

Leveraging Lake Huron Fisheries

FISHERIES WORKSHOPS –Alpena Workshop

Conducted four Lake Huron fisheries workshops engaging 214 local fisheries stakeholders with fisheries research and management agencies. Of that count, a fishery workshop was held in Alpena on April 24, 2012 gathering 83 participants. Workshops provided valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals and other community members. Attendees heard about status updates on Lake Huron fish populations and angler catch data, resurgence of native species such as Lake Huron walleye, forage fish surveys and results from the ongoing Lake Huron predator diet study, as well as updates of fisheries management activities and other Lake Huron related topics of local interest. These workshops serve as a valuable networking and educational opportunity for all involved. The effectiveness of fisheries research and management, and community values gained from the Lake Huron fishery are enhanced through these collaborations.



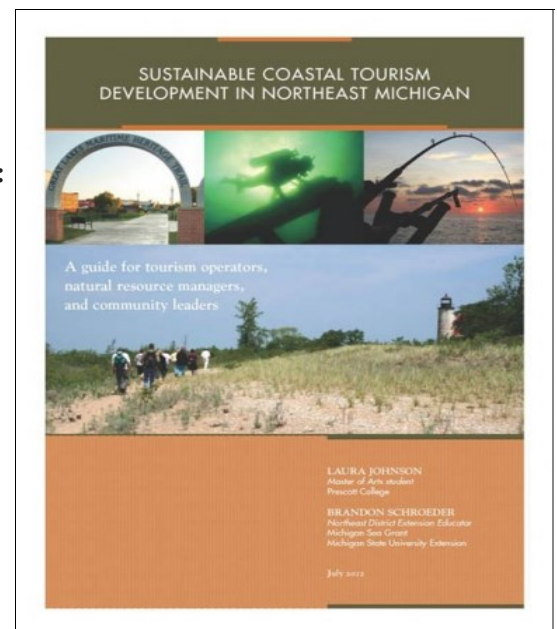
Supporting Coastal Tourism Development Initiatives and Business Entrepreneurs

Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development in Northeast Michigan: “A Guide for tourism operators, natural resource managers, and community leaders”

Northeast Michigan communities value their natural resources and recognize the economic potential of coastal tourism development. Residents worry about the destruction of natural landscapes and culture that could accompany an influx of visitors. In response to the region’s interest in both promoting and protecting their local assets, [Michigan Sea Grant](#) has now released [Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development in Northeast Michigan](#), a guide designed to help tourism operators, resource managers, and community leaders work together to balance preservation of cultural and natural resources with tourism industry expansion and economic prosperity. The guide provides basic information about the coastal tourism industry, stakeholder profiles,

recommendations for building a sustainable approach to tourism development, and “best practice” case studies of Northeast Michigan partners who already enjoy the economic environmental, and social benefits of working together. 2012 efforts to promote and deliver this product among stakeholders included: Presentation to U.S. 23 Heritage Route, during NEMCOG Regional Marketing Workshop, and scheduled to present summary of this product to Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee (1/14/13). Publication is also available online currently at Michigan Sea Grant, NEMCOG, and Discover Northeast Michigan websites; and we featured a launch of the final product by way of the following MSUE News Article:

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/guide_for_sustainable_coastal_tourism_development_in_northeast_michigan_now

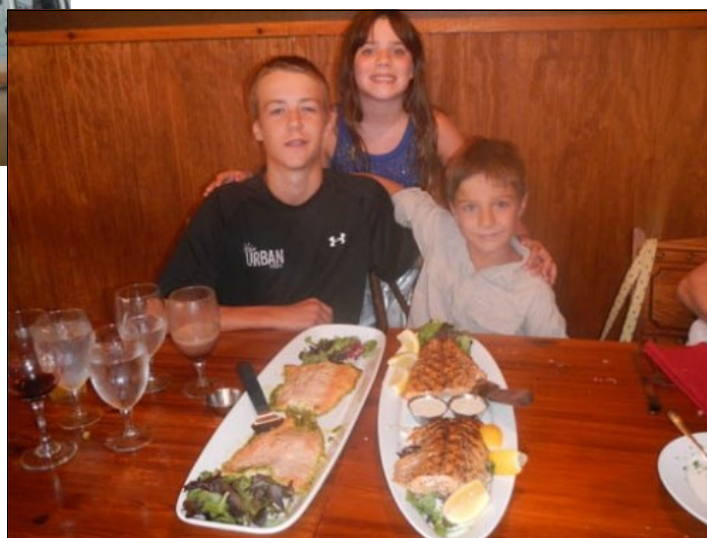


Michigan Catch & Cook Program:
(<http://www.micatchandcook.com/>)

This program facilitates opportunities for participation among northeast Michigan and Lake Huron communities. This effort was also coordinated with local (e.g. Alpena CVB) and regional tourism partners (e.g. U.S. 23 Heritage Route) in making the fisheries “addedvalue” connection with broader community tourism efforts, in this case connecting charter fishing with the local restaurant industry. In 2012, Sea Grant-supported MichiganCatch & Cook initiative, directly supporting two new Lake Huron communities in registeringand actively participating with this program, including Alpena, registering 2 captains and 3 restaurants. Activities in these two ports generated significant media visibility and increased local awareness and understanding about northeast Michigan’s Lake Huron fishery, and fostered relationships and opportunities connecting Charter fishing businesses with local restaurants and tourism marketing efforts. These two newly participating northern Lake Huron Catch & Cook partnerships are featured in several print and television features, including taping of an episode for the nationally viewed cable “Cooking Channel.” Media stories include:

“Two Hearted Charter (Alpena) Catch & Cook Feature” (WBKB TV News Story, Alpena CBS News)

“New catch for food industry” (Alpena News, 8/11 & 12/12)



Greening Michigan Institute

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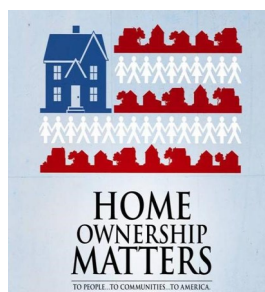
Housing Education Programs *Stable housing ownership is a foundation for a healthy community and strong county tax base in Michigan.*

In Michigan, home ownership dropped from 71.7% in 2000 to 69.2% in 2010 for householders under age 65. That is a decrease of 3.5 percent and it reflects difficulties purchasing or keeping a home under recent economic conditions. A recent 2011 RealtyTrac report on foreclosures ranks Michigan seventh on a list of the top state foreclosure rates. The filings include default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions. The effects of foreclosure threaten the dream of homeownership, ruin credit, and push families into crisis very quickly. MSUE housing education programs also provide certification for Michigan residents seeking state housing authority down payment assistance.

During 2012, MSU Extension served 4,212 people in Michigan through 416 educational series and workshops. Thirty-eight Michigan counties had residents attend a program in 2012. Alpena County had 25 participants attend one or more of these programs.

Michigan residents that completed MSUE housing education programs reported, as a result of the program, saving money to prepare for homeownership, improved credit score, setting aside funds for home maintenance, shopping around periodically for the best home insurance coverage.

Other program outcomes show residents were able to identify the best mortgage type for their situation and gained new skills to calculate reasonable monthly housing costs based on household budgets. Housing education participants also reported greater confidence to make informed decisions including reviewing fees and rights related to homeownership and foreclosure processes.



Financial Literacy Programs:

Only about 5% of consumers believe they know “everything” they need to know to make good investment decisions. Two out of three households in America will likely fail to realize one or more of their major life goals because they’ve failed to develop a comprehensive financial plan. More than half—55 percent—of American workers have never even tried to figure out how much they need to save and accumulate for retirement. The misuse and mismanagement of credit cards are a source of serious personal debt problems to many individuals and families.

During 2012, MSU Extension served 4,212 people in Michigan through 416 educational series and workshops. Thirty-eight Michigan counties had residents attend a program in 2012. Alpena County had 25 participants attend one or more of these programs. The most common curriculums used in Financial Literacy education was Dollar Works. Eighty-seven percent participants of the MSU Extension financial education programs reported writing spending plans, keeping track of spending and income, saving money regularly, reviewing credit card bills for accuracy paying off new credit card charges monthly. Other outcomes shown in the evaluation results include participants reporting the ability to pay down their debt, obtain a housing payment that fits within their budget, and making choices today that will make retirement a reality.



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Supporting participation in MSU Extension housing educational courses can reduce mortgage defaults and increase the likelihood of asset preservation among Michigan homeowners. Foreclosure has dire social and economic side effects on communities, including increased crime, abandoned housing, declines in neighborhood property values, and an increase in the cost of city services.

Financial literacy programs help support MSU Extension inform consumer's decision-making. Providing unbiased information in financial educational programs helps reduce fraud in the marketplace, rewards quality businesses, and helps families provide capital for our economy by saving and spending. Consumer spending provides fuel for Michigan's sale tax revenues.

Health & Nutrition Institute

The Health and Nutrition Institute reaches individuals and families with education focused in four areas: Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity, Food Safety, Social/Emotional Wellbeing, and Disease Prevention and Management.

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Youth who participated in MSUE Nutrition Education classes were more likely to:

Read the nutrition information on food labels.

Chose a healthy snack when they have the choice.

Increase in choosing foods from all five food groups.

Consume fruits or vegetables.

Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), formerly known as the Family Nutrition Program, provides nutrition education to Bridge card eligible adults and children in group settings either as series or one time presentations. This program aims to create behavior change around dietary quality and increasing physical activity while stretching food dollars. Our program is accountable to the United States Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Human Services with the ultimate goal of promoting healthy weight management and obesity prevention.

401 adults and 286 youth in Alpena County received nutrition education in a variety of venues through partnership with schools, the health department, senior centers from January 2012 to December 2012. There were a total of 1,229 direct educational contacts with SNAP-Ed recipients in Alpena.

Partners in Programming for Alpena County for **adult series** included: Sunrise Centre, Light of Hope Clubhouse, Bay View Drop in Center, and Luther Manor.

Youth Series were completed with Wilson Elementary School, Bingham Arts Preschool and Alpena High School's GSRP Preschool.

Barbara Mowbray, Preschool Teacher at Bingham Arts Academy, stated "Beth had a lot of patience with the younger children and had developmental age appropriate activities with lots of hands on material. We enjoyed every week!"

One-time Adult Presentations were completed with the Alpena Senior Center, District Health Department #4, Michigan Works, CSFP Commodities, and the Golden Agers.

One-Time Youth Presentations included: Earth Day at the NOAH Center, NEMSCA Head Start, Stone Soup Garden, Salvation Army Youth Summer Camp and Great Start Family Day.

MSUE provided nutrition education to recipients of Women, Infant and Children (WIC) benefits, (through the Health Department) and low income seniors to improve the quality of their diet by purchasing locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables from Alpena County farmer's markets through Project FRESH. These coupons were redeemed at the farmer's market for over \$4500 in funds for produce grown by local farmers.

Evaluations are done through pre and post surveys to analyze behavior change resulting from our classes. Results are compiled statewide showing the following:

Adult Impacts

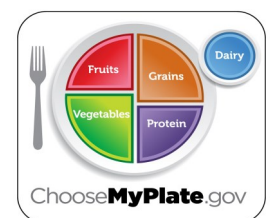
90% of adults who participated in the nutrition education classes improved the dietary quality of their daily food consumption.

54% of adults followed safe food handling practices.

79% of adults reported an improvement in their food resource practices.

90% of adults learned new ways to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their meals and snacks

92% of adults reported that they will eat more fresh fruits and vegetables each day.



Staff Support

Working only part time at the Extension office in 2012, without a 4-H coordinator for half of the year increased the duties of the Staff Support Position. The 4-H Supervisor and I helped keep the 4-H Coordinator position active. Preparing for the 2012 Alpena County Fair entails a lot of work, but with hard work all went well.

In 2012, Staff Support helped with the fair, maintained the 4-H database to track members and leaders, which is instrumental in keeping a 4-H program in our county. Helping with fundraising through our office, with the sale of plat books, keeps the program running.



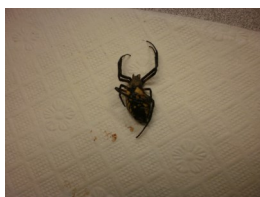
The Staff Support existence in this office is a benefit to the public by providing the following services:

Soil testing for lawn, gardens and field crops: Materials are provided to the public to get their samples to MSU Campus for testing so they can receive recommendations to keep their lawns, gardens and crops growing properly.

Insect and Plant Identification – Specimens are brought in, pictures are taken and electronically submitted to the “Ask An Expert” department on campus and a result is sent back to the customer within 48 hours. <https://ask.extension.org/ask>

Soil and Erosion permits, Michigan Township Association and Planning Commission meetings are handled through our office as a service to the County.

General office duties include banking, ordering office supplies, responsible for servicing of all office equipment, customer walk-ins and phone calls, and registrations for all 4-H members.



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**Staff Serving
Alpena County**

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