

WASHTENAW COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Washtenaw County Since 1918

The butterfly effect is an idea introduced by Edward Lorenz in the 1960s that small, seemingly insignificant singular events may ultimately lead to much larger outcomes. If taken on their own and independent from others in the community, MSU Extension workshops, programs and publications may seem to impact only those individuals who experience them first-hand. However, over the last 150+ years, MSU Extension has worked diligently to facilitate community partnerships and coalitions that broaden our education efforts and "Bring Knowledge to Life". In addition to our county partners, MSUE staff throughout District 12, worked with 123 partners and coalitions in 2023 to expand the reach of our programs and education initiatives. Together, we are creating ripple effects, like the flaps of the butterfly wings, that stretch across the county and beyond. Inside you'll find 2023 success stories, participant feedback, event photos, program metrics and much more about the impact that MSU Extension is making in the lives of friends, family and neighbors in Washtenaw County.

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners e-newsletter.

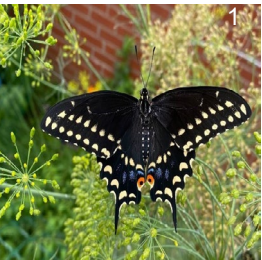


Photo 1: MSUE. Photo Credit for image 2 and 3: Pexels.com



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# PREPARING CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE



## 4-H Youth Program

Many people think 4-H is just for kids who live on farms or those interested in raising and selling animals – but that's not true! Offering a diverse range of topics and interest areas, 4-H is the Largest youth development organization in Michigan. Each year thousands of young people explore what interests and excites them as they grow through Michigan 4-H. From program areas ranging from science and technology to

clothing and textiles, and so much more, 4-H provides fun, educational opportunities that empower young people with skills to lead for a lifetime and become the foundation for future success. After all, true leaders aren't born: they're grown!

To Learn more about participating in Washtenaw County 4-H please visit the link here: [Washtenaw 4-H](#)



Photo Credit: Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show in July 2023



Photo Credit: Including All of Us programing with Vivian Washington and Courtney Aldrich.



## Child & Family Development Program

Parents and caregivers are the first to have influence on a child's development and future academic

success. To ensure the success of families across Michigan and to support children's school readiness, MSU Extension has invested in research- and evidence-based programming for the parents, caregivers and early childhood educators who have the first opportunity to enhance children's skills and become their best advocates.

This programming supports families while helping parents and caregivers

increase early childhood science, math and preliteracy skills, as well as enhancing the social and emotional wellness of children and youth. By increasing parents' and caregivers' knowledge of child and youth development, MSU Extension is able to help caring adults build a positive foundation for learning and lifelong success.

To Learn more about how to attend a class or event please visit the link here: [Child & Family Development](#)





**Community Nutrition**

When it comes to [nutrition](#) and [physical activity](#), MSU Extension's team of experts brings evidence-based education into communities across the state. Our staff delivers educational programming to communities and helps create lasting healthy changes, from kitchen tables to school cafeterias. Programming is supported through the [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education \(SNAP—Ed\)](#).

Photo Credit— Vanessa Armstrong Community Nutrition instructor from the Washtenaw County Early Childhood Conference 2023

**Nutrition Programs Offered:**

- [Cooking Matters](#)
- [Eat Healthy, Be Active](#)
- [My Way to Wellness](#)
- [Peak Health and Performance](#)
- [Show Me Nutrition](#)
- [Teen Cuisine](#)



“Amber absolutely loved being part of the CSA at Blue Spring Farms! She was able to introduce many new types of fruits & vegetables to her children. For example, the kids tried different varieties of tomatoes: green, yellow, red, striped; white Asian melon; colorful bell peppers; multi color carrots; shishito peppers; kale; basil & cilantro. They received nutritional benefits from trying all the different colors of fruits& veggie and the provider was inspired to make dishes she would not have otherwise made, such as kale & caprese salads!”

-Janelle Kantola nutrition instructor from “Growing Healthy Eaters” Program



**Food Safety**

Safe and properly prepared food can prevent foodborne illness, thus reducing healthcare costs and improving overall health and well-being. Whether for food entrepreneurs, volunteers preparing food for the community, childcare providers or consumers interested in preserving food, MSU Extension teaches a variety of classes to help everyone enjoy safe, healthy food. for keeping food safe.

MSU Extension offers high-quality,

affordable programs that help Michigan residents learn the importance of safe food and water in their everyday lives. Our research-based programs help food handlers learn safe food-preservation skills and techniques.

**Food Safety Programs Offered:**

- [Cooking for Crowds](#).
- [Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Home Food Preservation](#)
- [Safe Food = Healthy Kids](#)
- [ServSafe](#)
- Check out other [Safe Food & Water](#) Events!



Photo Credit: Mary Morris-Donaldson Food Safety event for holiday cookie raw dough consumption and kids.





**MSU Extension educators in the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute work with farms of all sizes helping to positively impact individual farming operations. When those individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.**

**Farm Stress Management**

Taking care of crops and animals is hard on farmers. Caring for personal health and wellness in this high-stress profession is often overlooked but is as critical as caring for the farm business. Agricultural professionals and their families face unique stressors and mental health challenges and often have limited access to mental health services. MSU Extension is a national leader in addressing farm stress and related mental health issues by providing farm business financial analysis to farms, connecting farmers

and their families with teletherapy programs, workshops, webinars and digital materials offering self-paced or interactive options.

Click the link here for: [Farm Stress](#)

**MSU Extension's Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (ERAIL)**

Programs focus on the safety of first responders and the public traveling Michigan roads and highways. ERAIL trains first responders, animal haulers and others how to properly respond when animals are involved in a traffic

accident, provides access to equipment that will aid in the accident response and creates a network of trained responders throughout the state.

Click the link here for: [ERAIL](#)



Photo credit: Pexels.com



**Washtenaw MSU Extension Master Gardener Program**

The [MSU Extension](#) Master Gardener Program is a horticulture education and volunteer leader training program. Volunteers are committed to improving the quality of life in Michigan through horticulture-based volunteerism and beautifying communities throughout the state.

The MSU Extension Master Gardener Program serves two major and equal functions:

To provide instruction in basic, research-based horticulture science to motivated and active gardeners through an adult (18 years or older) educational program

offered through MSU Extension.

To provide MSU Extension with trained gardeners who will educate others in the community about environmentally and economically sound practices through horticulture-based volunteer activities.

To Learn about the Washtenaw MSU Extension Master Gardener Program see the link here: [MSU Extension Program overview](#)

Photo Credit: MSU Extension. Master Gardener 2023 Event



**MSU Product Center** [MSU Extension](#) and the [MSU Product Center](#) assist entrepreneurs and businesses to develop products and services in the food and agriculture markets. Its team of experts consult with clients on a one-on-one basis, helping new entrepreneurs navigate from concept development to launch and beyond. The MSU Product Center also offers specialized services such as

labeling, packaging, and nutritional analysis. If you are interested in business counseling from the MSU Product Center, please visit the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page!



Photo Credit: MSUE. Making it in Michigan convention in Lansing, MI 2023

**Product Center in Washtenaw County**

88 total companies assisted

247 hours one-on-one contact provided

\$1,228,746 in sales growth of business for 2023



**Government & Community Vitality**

Are you a government official or urban planner looking for guidance? We offer trainings on a wide range of public policy topics. We facilitate meetings and promote good governance and we offer *Citizen Planner* trainings and timely webinars. Government and Community Vitality Education providing community development expertise to local governments to “thrive local” by working with communities using data and tools that support efficient delivery of the critical public services that safeguard the health, safety and welfare of Michigan residents.

Land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning

officials throughout Michigan. Teaches the fundamentals on roles, responsibilities and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. More information regarding citizen planner and local government/housing education can be found under the full program list below.

**Full Program List below:**

[Great Lakes Leadership Academy](#)

[Citizen Planner](#)

[Tribal Education](#)

[Livable Communities](#)

[Financial & Homeownership Education](#)

“The program was attended by fourteen local officials and planning staff from across the county, including planning commissioners, zoning board of appeal members and planning staff from cities in Washtenaw County. Session and Series evaluations completed by attendees showed many positive trends such as an increase in the understanding of the legal authority and limits to local planning and zoning and a general increase in attendees’ understanding of their own bylaws and ordinances.” Harmony Fierke-Gmazel– Government & Community Vitality Educator



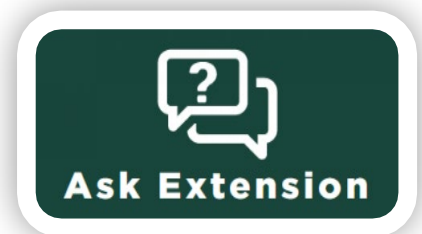
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**Statewide Network of Resources to Help You**

MSU Extension is the home of the latest in research, education and outreach covering a wide range of issues from agriculture & agribusiness, health and nutrition, youth education and outreach and community and economic vitality. If MSU Extension doesn't have an expert in your county to answer your questions, we can connect you to our statewide resources to connect you to the information you need.

**Ask Extension** offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more! **Ask Extension:** [www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert](http://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert)



**Soil Mailers:** MSU Extension home lawn and garden and commercial soil mailers provide access to personalized fertilizer recommendations for thousands of Michigan residents every year. The home lawn and garden mailer can be purchased in person at MSU Extension offices or online from the [MSU Extension bookstore](#). Commercial soil mailer are purchased in person at MSU Extension offices. Questions about soil results can be sent to [MSUsoiltest@msu.edu](mailto:MSUsoiltest@msu.edu).

**Lawn and Garden Hotline:** 888-678-3464 Hours: M,W,F 9:00 am–12:00 pm (Year round)  
Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.

**Food Safety Hotline:** 877-643-9882 Hours M-F, 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

**MSU Extension Bookstore**

Look for bulletins, publications and MSU Extension products at the [Bookstore!](#)



\*10 hr/ vol at 2023 Michigan rate of \$30.15