



Genesee County

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the District Director

I am proud of the MSU Extension staff that serves your county and residents. 2021 was another challenging year, however, the staff adjusted to provide virtual, hybrid, and face to face programming throughout the year depending on the needs, requests, and restrictions that were in place. We were able to provide hundreds of programs that were focused on youth development, mental health, nutrition and physical activity. Mindfulness, business, agriculture, veterans outreach, Saginaw Bay watershed, invasive species, farmers market, food safety, etc. We focused on the needs of youth, families, farmers, seniors, veterans, economically disadvantaged, and our partners in the communities that we serve. With all of our programs and classes, we keep our mission and values at the core of our efforts to improve lives and make a difference in the communities that we serve.



Michigan State University (MSU) Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan's economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower their children to dream successful futures.

Our Mission:

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

Our Values:

We will show up. Whether in person or digitally, MSU Extension professionals will remain engaged by being a part of community conversations, directing appropriate programming and research for community needs and never forgetting who we serve.

We will help people thrive. We will create and maintain positive environments that allow everyone to do their best and be their best. We will work with our communities to highlight their assets while fostering partnerships to discover new possibilities together.

We will be authentic. We know that we cannot be all things to all people. We will live our truth, do what we do best, and connect audiences to colleagues and partners when we cannot personally meet their needs. We will do this all while staying rooted in evidence-based science.

We will welcome everyone. We will foster inclusivity across our organization, in our programming, through our community partnerships and in our hearts. We will nurture an environment that respects and values human differences as we continuously work to expand our reach to diverse audiences.

We will manage resources responsibly. We will be good fiscal stewards of the funds that are supplied to us from federal, state, local and university resources, as well as those that are garnered through community partnerships and philanthropy.

We will take risks. We are lifelong learners who look for innovative and new ideas that will help us better serve Michigan residents

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



Program Highlights



Testimonial #1 (National Diabetes Prevention Program): A regular attendee, and senior male participant voiced frustrations as to how challenging it is to eat healthy, especially in his senior years. He would reminisce of his younger days when he could eat whatever he wanted, recalling that there was no public direction of how people should eat and exercise then like there is today. While he attended all the sessions regularly, he always complained, jokingly that this new way of eating is much easier for younger people today, like his son who is used to hearing and practicing all the healthy promotions of diet and exercise. And questioned whether this program could accomplish its intended goal of weight loss and the prevention of Diabetes.

However, he lost weight slowly and steadily by following the recommendations of the program, the coaching and the support of his wife who attended regularly with him - and tattled on his indiscretion at times. When his weight loss plateaued, he was concerned that the program wasn't working. With gentle coaxing from the coaches, he forged ahead for nearly six months.

Suddenly at one of the sessions his demeanor and attitude had changed: he was happy, light-hearted and pleasant. That's when he informed us that as a result of his weight loss, his doctor approved him for a surgery that he needed but could not get because he was formerly overweight.



Testimonial #2 (Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention): Testimony from an instructor: This was my first-time teaching Tai Chi in person, and it was such a great success! I had 20 participants register and over 17 of them graduated from the program. Each week they were getting more and more confident with the forms and movements and seeing the progression of the class was amazing. They immediately asked when we could start our next class. In particular, there was one gentleman who has Parkinson's disease in my class. He came up to me after class and told me he has seen a change in his balance from taking the program. He said, "I may not have my feet facing the same way but I have seen a change in my balance from taking this class!"

Health Team

MSU Extension Health Team programming aims to promote health and wellbeing, including understanding important connections between physical, mental, social and emotional health. In 2021, MSU Extension returned to live programming in the community while also working to build on the success of online class offerings using Zoom. Statewide, 702 programs were held with 24,427 participants attended either a one-time presentation or a series. Of these, 455 programs were held online with 20,633 attendees.

MSU Extension Educators continued to re-format our traditional educational materials to increase engagement in an online setting. Classes such as Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Personal Action Towards Health (PATH), Diabetes Prevention Program, RELAX: Alternatives to Anger, WISE-Wellness Initiative for Senior Education, and Stress Less with Mindfulness all went through reviews and updates to allow for improved facilitation of these classes. MSU Extension also launched *Dining with Diabetes* as an online, self-paced program available free to the public.

MiSUPER is a two-year collaborative project from Michigan State University Extension, the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine's Department of Family Medicine (MSU-CHM) and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW). The MiSUPER project aims to increase awareness of opioid misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery support so community members and healthcare professionals can recognize signs of misuse, offer professional treatment, and support those in recovery. MiSUPER collaborates with a variety of entities across Michigan to offer community and healthcare provider education opportunities.

In 2021, the MiSUPER team delivered 16 one-time presentations reaching community members and substance use disorder health professionals throughout the state. The MiSUPER project team also delivered a one presentation for healthcare professionals and providers reaching 159 people.

The Healthier Black Elders program continued to build upon its expansion into Flint. [The Healthier Black Elders program \(HBE\)](#) is affiliated with the [Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research \(MCUAAAR\)](#) (<https://mcuaaar.org>), and this work is funded by the National Institute on Aging.

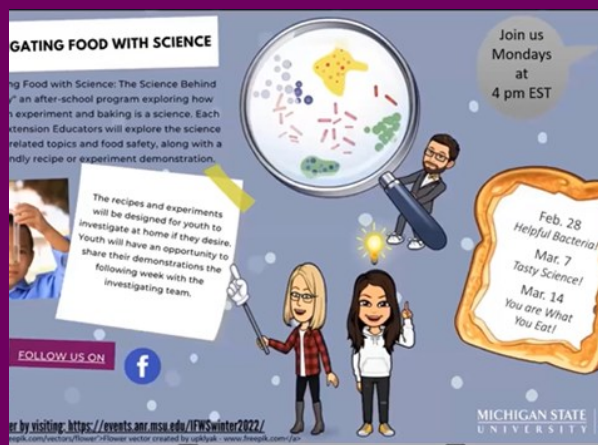
MSU Extension Educators have assisted in the creation and delivery of free community educational programming ("Lunch and Learns") and worked to connect with other community organizations that serve older adults. In 2021, we produced ten Healthier Black Elders lunch and learn webinars on health topics such as podiatry, financial empowerment, glaucoma, and brain health and memory.

The Stories of Hope video series was created. MiSUPER project collected video testimonials from rural Michigan residents sharing their pathways to recovery. Seven stories were produced during 2021 and are on the project website www.canr.msu.edu/misuper and on the Michigan State University YouTube channel for further circulation.

Program Highlights



One hundred forty-eight food preservation programs were held, reaching 3,136 participants. Some of these were part of our weekly series Preserving MI Harvest, some were done with local libraries and lifelong learning series with colleges. Others were done in person.



The Food Safety Team held an online Monday Food Safety Q & A, Investigating Food with Science – for youth. This program was offered weekly after school during late winter.

Michigan State University Extension

Food Safety Hotline

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long leftovers will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

Operating Monday through Friday, 9-5 p.m.

Call 877-643-9882.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

MSU Extension's Food Safety Work Team also continued answering calls on the Food Safety Hotline. Consumer questions ranged from food preservation to food storage, helping 149 people.

Food Safety in Genesee County

MSU Extension Food Safety Team programming works to provide educational programs for food workers, cottage food entrepreneurs, childcare providers, food pantry volunteers, and consumers, providing information about the five risk factors that contribute most to foodborne illness – personal hygiene and health, cooking temperatures, holding temperatures and cleaning of food contact surfaces. In 2021 the Food Safety team continued to reach multi-counties in Michigan and out of state with virtual programming and the return to live programming as well. Three hundred and ninety-five programs were held, reaching 7,531 participants with food safety trainings.

Food safety for childcare providers provides food safety education for staff who care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The curriculum used is Safe Food = Healthy Kids, developed by MSU Extension educators. In 2021, 22 virtual 3-hour sessions were held, reaching 670 participants who can count this encounter towards their requirements needed with MiRegistry and Great Start Collaborative.

Cooking for Crowds is a three-hour food safety training for volunteers working in a non-profit venue. This program aligns with the 2009 Michigan Food Code.

Cottage Food Law classes were held online using a 2-hour format, 16 sessions were offered, reaching 708 entrepreneurs. The unique feature with this session is a combination of presentations offered in this program with the Food Safety Team, teaching safe food handling concepts and the MSU Product Center sharing tips on building a solid business and marketing plan to sell the Cottage Food items. The program ends with a Q & A session featuring an inspector from Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to answer questions pertaining to food products.

Pantry Food Safety – It's Your Job! is another three-hour training offered for volunteers working in food pantries and food banks.

Several other online programs were offered statewide, Emergency Preparedness Series, Food Safety for Food Service Workers (a D2L self-study course). Combined these programs totaled 183 sessions, reaching 2,813 participants.

Late in the summer ServSafe classes began, these are held in person around the state.

The grant with MDARD is in its second year. The Think Food Safety Campaign (TFS) continues to grow. Consumers have seen messages online, on our TFS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thinkfoodsafetyymi> and will see promotional materials at many of their local farmers markets this coming summer. We have new podcasts that are available on the Facebook page and an educational video that will also be promoted explaining what the Cottage Food Law is. 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".

Program Highlights



Impressive garden by Keith Mamola (Veteran)



Travis Peters (Veteran) using SNAP seeds for a community garden.



Dini Notti (Veteran) and family shared their bountiful harvest with neighbors.

Veterans Outreach

MSU Extension is committed to providing veterans with programs and services that support their overall wellbeing. One way MSU Extension staff do so is by addressing food insecurity within the Veteran community through the *SNAP Outreach for Veterans* program. Here, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit is explained and promoted using veteran-tailored SNAP Outreach materials (brochures, seeds, etc.). The program is delivered in partnership with the Food Bank Council of Michigan whose Food & Other Resources Helpline number (1-888-544-8773) is listed in all outreach materials. Individuals can call for benefit enrollment assistance or to be connected to local food resources.

In 2021, over 550 veteran-tailored SNAP Outreach brochures and **824** vegetable seeds were shared with multiple veterans and veteran service providers within Genesee County. This was accomplished by sharing the SNAP Outreach materials with local organizations and by using social media for program promotion. Facebook posts linking individuals to the SNAP Outreach materials [request form](#) reached over 29,000 individuals, thousands of whom received SNAP outreach brochures and vegetable seeds statewide. This was later documented in a [Veterans show their seeds in action](#) news article. Many veterans shared that they loved growing produce from seed, enjoyed working together on gardening projects, and have relished the opportunity to share their harvest with their communities.

Veterans outreach staff created a [Veterans Resource Fact sheet](#) that provided information about pertinent MSU Extension programs for veteran community members such as Heroes to Hives, Military 4-H clubs, and evidence-based health, family, and agriculture programs. The team also offered online Chronic Pain PATH (Personal Action Towards Health) and *Mindful March* classes to the veteran community and authored veteran-focused health articles and tip-sheets that shared information related to mental health, chronic pain, and diabetes management. These resources can be accessed at www.canr.msu.edu/veterans/resources.



Michigan Veterans showing their seeds in action

Program Highlights



The MSU Extension Master Gardener Program is an adult horticulture education and volunteer leader training program committed to improving science based horticulture information in communities throughout the state of Michigan.



Being in the Extension Master Gardener Program requires only an enthusiasm for gardening and a willingness and commitment to volunteer, sharing science-based education.



A homeownership seminar from MSU Extension will equip you with valuable information about the home-buying process that will help you navigate the technicalities and avoid costly mistakes.

Consumer Horticulture/ Master Gardener Program

The Consumer Horticulture team serves Michigan through its educational lawn and garden programming. We provide research-based information and training to our communities in addition to answering questions through [Ask Extension](#) and our MSUE Lawn and Garden Hotline (1-888-678-3464). Ask Extension allows the public to submit questions along with photos of issues they are experiencing in their garden or lawn. Our team also maintains a “**Gardening in Michigan**” [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) where educational handouts and tools can be found.

In 2021, Genesee County residents participated in MSUE Consumer Horticulture programs ranging from courses covering home vegetable gardening to native plant selection for pollinators. This included virtual programming such as Cabin Fever Conversations, a lighthearted and fun program that introduces the public to horticulture and organizations with whom we partner. The Consumer Horticulture team works alongside organizations such as Edible Flint to improve access to gardening education in the community. We have also continued to work with local schools such as Goodrich High School to help educate youth and support their horticultural programming.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are trained and supervised by the Consumer Horticulture team. These passionate volunteers work with partners across Genesee County, focusing on public education while also helping maintain educational pollinator gardens in local parks such as Rust Park in Grand Blanc and Crossroads Village. This is in addition to working with organizations such as St Luke’s New Life Center, Edible Flint, and the Genesee County Conservation District to provide fresh vegetables to those in need through donation gardens.

Homeownership Education

MSU Extension Genesee County offers an online [Homebuyer Education Class](#) that is MSHDA and HUD certified.

You will learn:

- The advantages of homeownership,
- The steps in the home-buying process
- The costs of home ownership
- The importance of good credit
- How to determine how much house you can afford
- Mortgage loan basics
- How to maintain your investment.

Program Highlights

Edible Flint

Edible Flint Background

The mission of Edible Flint is to support community residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land and each other. Edible Flint grew out of efforts in Flint to address issues of food insecurity and challenged access to healthy food, increasing rates of health problems resulting from inadequate nutrition, and increasing amounts of abandoned property and vacant land. Early partners like the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Genesee County Land Bank, Michigan State University Extension, Genesee Conservation District, and countless others began collaborating and built a network that was called Edible Flint. MSU Extension has played a key role in the organization providing a point of contact, office space, and other collaborations.

Edible Flint's 2021 Programs

Garden Kits

413 Garden Kits and 309 Bags of Compost Distributed

63 kits purchased with SNAP Benefits

In 2021, Edible Flint partnered with the Latinx Technology and Community Center to offer the Pepper Pack PLUS garden kit. This kit included four varieties of peppers, as well as epazote. This was in an effort to be sure that Garden Kit offerings are culturally appropriate and meeting the needs of Genesee County's diverse gardeners. 116 Pepper Packs were sold in 2021, and the kit will be offered again in 2022.

Access and Education

Garden Educator Training

June 23, 2021

Edible Flint's Access and Education Work Group organized a Garden Educator Training for Flint-area educators interested in incorporating garden based education into their work. 15 attendees participated in this interactive workshop at the Edible Flint Educational Farm.

Soil Health Workshop

Oct 16, 2021

In partnership with Genesee Conservation District, Edible Flint hosted 18 participants at the Educational Farm to learn more about soil health, cover crops, and composting.

Event

Fall Harvest Festival

Edible Flint welcomed fall with a free community festival in October. This event had 150 community attendees, 20 volunteers, and 7 community partner vendors.



Edible Flint Educational Farm

The Educational Farm's mission is to inspire and support healthy food production for the Flint community by sharing ideas and information in a "learn and do" environment



Edible Flint Garden Kits Distribution Day - May 15, 2021



Neighborhood Block Party Event

In partnership with Uptown Reinvestment Corporation and Genesee Health System, Edible Flint hosted a neighborhood block party on Saturday, July 24 2021. 100 community members attended to celebrate summer with music, food, dancing, farm tours, and more. This outdoor event was a COVID-safe way to share information about the Educational Farm with our neighbors and partners and celebrate healthy, local food in Flint!

Program



Genesee County has an important Enviroweather station housed at Applewood Estate in Flint, Michigan that collects weather data to help growers throughout the growing season.



In 2021 Genesee County MSU Extension provided services to 15 farmers for consultations regarding the production of vegetables.



Farm Business Management programs provide critical information to assist farmers in profitably managing their farm. From financial recordkeeping to succession planning to business planning, the Farm Business Management team makes webinars, bulletins, online classes, and on-farm consultation services available to Genesee County farmers. These resources empower farmers to take control of their farm businesses to find success in today's agricultural economy.

Highlights

Commercial Agriculture

MSU Extension provides services to commercial field and greenhouse vegetable growers who target the fresh, wholesale and processing markets in the Genesee County area. Services provided entail crop scouting, pest identification, crop management and food safety consultation, resource development, educational programming and facilitation of research projects with MSU's main faculty researchers and grower collaborators.

MSU Extension helped to organize and run the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, Farm Marketers, and [Greenhouse Growers EXPO \(GLEXPO\)](#) in Grand Rapids, and there were 41 attendees from Genesee County. MSU Extension developed modules for a self-paced online Integrated Pest Management Course that was made available to growers in Genesee County.

Farm Business Management

Genesee County farmers have access to a wide variety of financial planning consultations to assist them in successfully managing their farms. The MSU TelFarm program provides accounting support, tax planning and reporting, and financial analysis to participating farms. Legacy of the Land programs provide consultations and services for farm stress and financial management.

Our Beginning Farmer program provides a wide range of critical resources for residents working to start or expand their farms. Extension bulletins offer a range of topics from marketing to zoning, and videos available on the website provide an even wider range of topics. In addition, we conducted live webinars with experts on many management issues, including farm recordkeeping, preparing financial statements, and handling farm income taxes.

The Farm Business Management Team provided webinars that made valuable information available to Genesee County farmers. The Ag Ideas to Grow With Conference provided sessions on many farm business management topics, including succession, labor management, and financing strategies.

Additional farm business management programs made additional education available throughout the year. Our weekly Lunch Break program on Facebook Live provided up-to-the minute updates on crop production, farm business resources, farm stress, and other hot issues. Our In the Weeds weekly podcasts offered expert analysis of topics such as marketing strategies and conservation opportunities.

Program Highlights

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series

Every Thursday during the growing season, farmers were able to access the most current information available for timely, relevant in-season crop and weather information from MSUE Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each 30-minute zoom session is divided into 15-minute segments for crop information and weather. This innovative approach using technology has provided growers from every region of the state the opportunity to participate in a live webinar via their computer, laptop, or cell phone. Each participant was able to ask questions of the specialists and educators during the live sessions.

The Virtual Breakfast Series is a result of a focus group that included young farmers asking for opportunities to have fast-paced, video or Internet based, and unbiased research information during critical times of the spring and summer.

A wide range of topics were planned according to the seasonal issues that frequently occur at specific times. However, the series was flexible, adaptable, and had the ability to change quickly and effectively when unexpected issues arose.

Each week field crop producers are invited by email to participate and a MSU Extension News article is written and published in the MSUE News Digest to encourage participation.

Participant Quotes:

"The virtual breakfast series is a valuable tool for the field crops industry to stay informed of the latest crop production challenges in real time. The on line format and time of day allow minimal disruption to a busy day of tasks. Thanks for the continued effort to offer these sessions." Mark Seamon, Michigan Soybean Committee

"I like the way they are simple and to the point and relevant for the time of year and that you can go back and water later. Thank you." Matt Munsell

A farmer-friendly way to keep up to date on what is happening currently." Gail Roggenbuck

"It gives me timely information when it is needed the most." Ross Voelker



Following the presentations, participants have the opportunity to participate with MSU Specialists and Educators in a half-hour question and answer period.



Farmers and agribusiness professionals can also apply for Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits weekly.

2020 MSU Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series

Virtual Breakfast Series	Live participants	YouTube Views	Facebook/Instagram Views	MSUE Podcasts	MSUE Article Page Views	Total Participants and Views
Total Audience	3,180	2,399	14,165	1,610	2,514	23,868

Program Highlights

Early Childhood

MSU Extension offers a variety of training, curricula and materials to support early childhood development in Genesee County. Resources in this area focus on preparing for School Success in Early Childhood, Social and Emotional Health in Young Children and Family Education and Support.

The future of Michigan depends on the success of its children; the knowledge and skills they develop today will have an impact on their ability to lead later in life. Research shows that the possession of skills such as verbal and nonverbal communication, the ability to work cooperatively, a sense of responsibility and respect, community involvement, decision making and problem solving are all predictors of not only academic success but also of success in the community and workforce.

During the 2021 year, Early Childhood programming made consistent and significant impacts while being presented in virtual settings. Parenting Series, and one-time presentations were presented to families and caregivers throughout Genesee County. Over the course of the year, 22 Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting series were provided to 125 participants. 12 One-Time presentations including Positive Discipline, How Children Develop, Learning to Talk, and Promoting Social-Emotional Health in Young Children occurred with over 400 participants. Staff from the Child and Family Development and Healthy Nutrition teams combined programming to create the Family Enrichment Series, which included the topics of Parenting and Cooking Matters at Home. The Family Enrichment Series was conducted 12 times and saw over 50 families attend. Families and caregivers also had access to weekly Parenting Extension Extras, which were provided statewide by Child and Family Development Team members. Along with Parenting, Extension staff also provided Professional Development webinars twice a month for those working directly with young children.

In 2021, MSU Extension continued to provide early childhood programming series, trainings and one-time presentations online to residents of Genesee County. As educators, we continue to promote the importance and understanding of early childhood development to those in the lives of children.



MSU Extension is focusing their early childhood development services in three dynamic areas. We provide tools to help parents and caregivers get children ready for school and offer programs that promote social and emotional health in young children.



Guest Readers in the Classroom

Genesee County MSU Extension employees, Lynette Kaiser, HNI Community Nutrition Instructor and Anne O'Rourke-Bean, Early Childhood Education Instructor, read to Flint Community Schools Potter and Doyle Ryder Elementary as Mrs. Claus and Poppy, the Elf.



Program Highlights

4-H Youth Development

4-H is Michigan's largest youth development organization. 4-H livestock and horse projects provide a great opportunity for youth to learn about animal and veterinary science, as well as animal production practices while gaining valuable life skills like responsibility, record-keeping and budgeting.

4-H isn't just about working and raising livestock. Youth can also work with dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, poultry, snakes, turtles and more. Youth get the experience of working with companion animals, during their experience they get to learn about what to feed them, how to train them and how to enhance their environment.

Another great program offered to Genesee County Youth is the Junior Master Gardener Program. The first class was held in 1998. Youth get the opportunity to learn about plant science, composting, houseplants, fruits and vegetables and share the knowledge by volunteering in the community.

Urban 4-H in the City of Flint

The Genesee County 4-H Youth Development Program aims to create an all-inclusive learning environment that fosters a positive, safe shared experience for youth ages 5-19. Youth participants learn a variety of life skills that prepare them to be active citizens in today's world. Genesee County 4-H continues to serve underrepresented youth through sustained community partnerships/coalitions and the implementation of relevant programming. These partnerships include Flint Community Schools, Flint Cultural Center Academy, YMCA Safe Places, Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, Berston Field House, Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative and Flint Youth Justice League. In 2021, due to the pandemic, we changed the way we approached educational programs but not their quality.

Children and Youth

MSUE Genesee County has a long-standing partnership of over 20 years with the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Youth from across the watershed test the Flint River and its tributaries. In 2021, the program involved 16 school buildings, 49 teachers, and over 1300 students. This program pairs environmental professionals as classroom mentors. Many adaptations had to be made because of the pandemic. Mentors collected water samples to be tested in the classroom, and some worked with students virtually. The student summit, where students share their data and attend breakout sessions, occurred virtually.

MSUE has also partnered with the Flint River Watershed Coalition and Genesee County Parks to involve both youth and adults in monitoring of the Flint River and its tributaries. Participants collected "water bugs" and by the types of critters found in the water, we can determine how healthy the water is.



Genesee County 4-H supports several traditional livestock and horse clubs. Members range in ages 5-19 years old and are supported in their adventure in learning by adult volunteers.



Genesee County 4-H was pleased to deliver our urban youth programs in the following topic areas:

STEM (Science, Technology, Education, Math) Education; Music Appreciation; Literacy; African-American Culture; Creative Arts; Youth First Aid Mental Health; Nutrition.

These program efforts will continue in 2022 with additional virtual and in-person program offerings.

MSU Extension

4H Leadership, Citizenship & Service



Through citizenship, leadership and community service learning activities, young people learn how their actions (such as voting, participating in community service activities, writing letters to their legislators and taking action on an issue important to them) can help them understand how to make a difference. In the process, they learn life skills, understand themselves, learn to learn, communicate better, make positive decisions and learn to get along and work well with both youth and adults



Genesee County 4-H is proud to be a leader in citizenship, leadership & service!

In typical K-12 education, students learn mostly about federal government, and almost nothing about local government. To address that concern, Genesee County 4-H Youth Development partnered with the Board of Commissioners and the Flint & Genesee Group to educate students about county government. We brought students to the county for a day. Students were able to interact with commissioners, county department heads, the sheriff, prosecutor, and a local judge. Participants increased their knowledge of county government and improved their attitudes toward government.

A more in-depth program, the Genesee Youth Commission, took a small group of youth to investigate more deeply into how government works. These youth, which are spread across the county, have selected two issues that are important to teens, and will hopefully be presenting to the Board of Commissioners in 2022.



Through the following goals, young people experience citizenship, leadership and service in the context of positive community youth development. 4-H citizenship, leadership and community service learning programs:

- Meet the needs of youth by developing fun and relevant experiences designed by youth and adults.
- Use a variety of research-based learning processes and resources to engage youth in a variety of hands-on activities.
- Involve youth and adults as partners existing at all levels of program design, implementation and evaluation and through shared knowledge and activities have reciprocal leading, teaching and mentoring roles.

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