



Barry County 2021 Annual Report

Message From District Director

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) brings the science, programs and resources of Michigan's land grant university to organizations, communities and individuals throughout the state. Our out-reach and engagement is built on a local basis, thanks to our county partnerships and more than 600 faculty and staff in offices across all 83 counties. Historically, most of our relationships have been maintained through in-person meetings and programs. Over the last few years, we have built up the breadth and quality of our website at extension.msu.edu, which now averages 1.25 million visitors per month. In 2021, we expanded our capacity to provide high-quality virtual education.



Working from home with the tools and support needed to help them succeed in a remote environment, MSUE program staff have continued to assist farmers through the growing season, elected officials and decision makers, parents, families and youth by meeting with them on virtual platforms through online meetings and webinars. With the work they have accomplished over the last months, staff have reported that they have learned that:

- Programs that are produced for a live audience and recorded allow more people to view the meetings in a time convenient for them;
- We are reaching audiences that would not be able to attend our programs in the past because of time, travel and disability;
- We are reaching local, regional, state, national and global audiences
- We are able to share our expertise, ideas and best practices more efficiently across the state;
- A digital divide still exists, not all programs work in an on-line format, and nothing will replace our local, face to face, relationship-based work.

In the end, I believe the experience in on-line program development and investment in capacity will not only augment but strengthen our face-to-face work. Our programs will have greater reach than ever before and MSUE will be a leader in virtual education. Please contact me for more information and thank you for your continued support!

Erin Moore, District Director

BY THE NUMBERS:

558 Barry County residents participated in MSUE programming.

Barry County MSUE hosted 16 programs.

Statewide, 938 Michiganders participated in Barry County based programming.

MSUE Experts answered 63 questions submitted to our Ask An Expert from Barry County residents.

Just over 700 Barry County youth are members of at least one of the 38 MSUE 4-H youth clubs.

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Health and Nutrition

Be Kind to Your Mind

The “Be Kind to Your Mind” curriculum explores techniques to learn to be a detached observer of your thoughts using the power of acceptance and gratitude. Health Educator, Holly Tiret, hosted a class with the Hastings Public Library with brought in 30 people. This direct connection was a result of a county wide promotion effort to engage new audiences with MSU Extension programs.

Stress Less with Mindfulness & RELAX Series

As we all continued to adjust and manage our mental health over the last year, Barry County residents found resources that incorporated weekly Stress Less with Mindfulness and Stress Less Coffee Hour. In addition, our RELAX Series focused on Alternatives to Anger with a weekly series. With participation from community members, there is certain to be a ripple effect into our community that ensures a positive impact. MSU Extension is very proud to have offered mindfulness and anger management training as COVID-19 continues to put a strain on people's lives and mental health wellbeing. These virtual experiences provided strategies for maintaining health during challenging times. In 2021, Barry County Residents attended 27 different program (38 participants).



Food Safety

In 2021, 78 Barry County residents took classes and accessed resources from MSU Extension’s Food Safety team. These classes covered a variety of topics that helped residents gain the knowledge and training to prevent food borne illnesses. Some examples of the classes attended are below:

- Pantry Food Safety
- Winter Food Preservation
- Food Safety Q & A
- Michigan Cottage Food Law
- Investigating Food With Science
- Food Safety for Food Service Workers
- Knives 101
- Spring Food Preservation
- Pressure Canning
- Shopping & Storing MI Fresh Produce
- Safe Food = Healthy Kids
- Food Security - GVSU

Grow it, Try it, Like it

Sydney Miller, MSU Extension’s Community Nutrition Instructor, partnered with Delton Kellogg Community Garden to offer the curriculum “Grow it, Try it, Like it” to a class with 17 participants. The class is garden-themed nutrition that focus on produce that can be grown right here in Michigan. Sydney used recipes involving strawberries, squash cantaloupe, peaches and spinach. This effort will continue into 2022 and will be part of a collaboration with the Barry County Blue Zones Activate Project

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TelFarm - Farm Financial Analysis

Farm Business Educator, Jon LaPorte, worked with producers in Barry County to analyze their farm business. These “Whole Farm” and “Enterprise” analysis reports outline the farm’s financial situation and cost of production. It requires an updated year-end balance sheet and farm records for all cash transactions in the year. The analysis reconciles their cash transactions with balance sheet information to provide a “production year” viewpoint to make management decisions for their farm business. Once complete, the analysis is reviewed with the producer for points of concern or emphasis on strategies to maintain in the upcoming year. Participating producers also provide MSU Extension with a copy of this analysis for benchmarking information from which create and/or emphasize existing or new educational initiatives. In Barry County, 21 farm operations took advantage of this MSU Extension service/

2021 Farm Bill Program & Crop Insurance Decisions

For the 2021 production year, producers needed to select which Farm Bill program will work best for their farms. However, the choice between Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Loss Coverage (ARC) now focuses on one production year and may be a different decision than the one made for 2019/2020. Making the decision more complex for producers is the importance of considering crop insurance options that tie-in to these Farm Bill programs. The Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and the new Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) are key factors in determining which program may be best. These “county-based” revenue insurance additions would be on top of what producers have selected for individual coverage on their farms (up to 86% for SCO and from 86% up to 95% with ECO). The “2021 Farm Bill Program & Crop Insurance Decisions – What Fits Your Farm?” series was a joint effort by MSU Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau to help guide producers through these considerations and make the best choice for their farms.

TelFarm

Accounting and Financial Analysis

Taking farm records to the next level

Cultivate
Your
Success





Barry County 2021

Consumer Horticulture

In 2021, 115 Barry residents took classes and accessed resources from the MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture team. These classes help equip residents with knowledge and training they need to implement environmentally responsible gardening practices. Through continued education, knowledge sharing and creation of more livable communities, the MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture program continues to make the Great Lakes State one of the most diversely beautiful states in the country. Below are examples of classes accessed by Barry residents:

- Basic Home Hydroponics
- Smart Gardening with Vegetables
- Interactive Pruning Workshops
- Tree Fruit Pruning
- Backyard Fruit 101
- Let's Learn about Invasive Plants
- Adding Flair to Your Garden with Ground Cover
- Unravelling Pesticide Use in the Home Garden
- Controlling Invasive Plants in Landscaping
- Integrated Wildlife Damage Management

Dig in for Community Growth

"Dig In for Community Growth" was the title of a visioning session planned by District Director, Erin Moore and Consumer Horticulture Educator, Rebecca Finneran. The session was designed to convene Barry County community leaders, including partners from Spectrum Health-Pennock in Hastings, MI to create a vision for new community space. Ideas were formulated initially from the MSU Extension Grand Ideas Garden and Moore/ Finneran provided a cadre of visual ideas, thoughts and descriptions to fuel brainstorming and facilitate an outcome. The group finalized their "vision" by determining priorities for the physical attributes, people who might engage with this space. Moore and Finneran also had a follow up meeting with leaders from this group to determine next steps and offer help. Moore reported that the group had positive feedback and the session generated a volume of support to move forward.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Dig In for Community Growth

April 22, 8am - 10am
To register, please contact Janine Dalman
at
Janine.Dalman@spectrumhealth.org



JOIN SPECTRUM HEALTH AND MSU EXTENSION TO DISCUSS AND BRAINSTORM IDEAS TO CREATE AN OUTDOOR SPACE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

 Spectrum Health Pennock



Barry County 2021

Fair is Back! Reflections from Kathy Pennington

After the one-year hiatus from Fair in Barry County, 4-hers and the community were ready to go in 2021 – and fair week was sure a success for sure!! Although the barns were emptier than we like, it felt like the 4-H members that were there took it all in. Everyone was just genuinely happy to be there and grateful for the opportunity. Volunteers were very supportive, and I don't think the kids stopped smiling all week. It was like coming home. Barry County is so fortunate to have so many 4-H volunteers and a fair board that are truly in it for the kids. Everyone pitched in to pull everything together in our very short six-week planning window and for the most part everything went off without a hitch. I can't really pick out a particular highlight for the week. The observation of volunteers working together as a team to problem solve when necessary was wonderful. To see clubs together that hadn't been able to be together for most of the year and have kids ready for show with everyone smiling was very rewarding. It was just a very smooth week of fun.

The theme for fair this year was "Our roots run deep" and community support was over the top! The grandstand and midway were packed nightly, nice traffic through the barns. Our sales totaled more with less animals than in 2019. The community came out to support the kids! It's not about the money however the livestock sale totaled \$755,885, Small Animal Sale \$41,275 milk and dairy feeders over \$50,000. From my perspective this speaks volumes about the community support for 4-H – and we are so grateful!!





Barry County 2021

Water Programs

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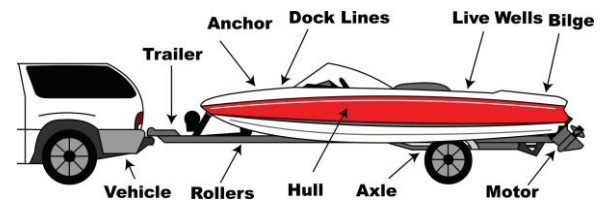
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Ahoy Boaters! That title sure caught the eye of some Barry Residents. In February 2021, MSU Extension partnered with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to provide a NotMiSpecies Webinar. Paige Filice and Mary Bohling, Extension Educators, were invited by EGLE to give a presentation on boater and paddler aquatic invasive species outreach activities highlighting the Clean Boats, Clean Waters and MI Paddle Stewards programs. The Webinar included a PowerPoint presentation and Q&A with attendees. Webinar was recorded and distributed by the Michigan Invasive Species Program.

A big part of the MSU Extension is to collaborate with other cooperative partners that can help bring great resources to Barry residents. One of those programs was brought in by the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). On May 1, 2021, a Citizen Science Program was provided to Barry residents, both online and in-person. In Michigan, we rely upon citizen scientists to extend our lake monitoring network through the MiCorps CLMP. Barry residents received helpful information about how this monitoring prevents water quality problems in the future, so they can continue to enjoy the fun and recreation of all our beautiful lakes.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute offered the perfect setting for a MSU Extension natural resource presentation. On September 13, 2021, 25 Barry residents and members of Barry County lake associations attended, Tour of Aquatic Plants, with MSU Extension Water Resources Educator, Erick Elgin. Invited by the Barry County Conservation District, Erick spoke to the group about the importance of aquatic plants to lake health.



Inspection points on boats, trailers, and vehicles for aquatic invasive species decontamination.

