



CLARE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

225 W. Main St., Harrison, MI 48625

Message from the District Director

It's a privilege to once again highlight the impact of our ongoing collaboration between Clare County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Thanks to your continued partnership, our team has been able to deliver meaningful, research-backed programs that benefit youth, families, entrepreneurs, and the broader community across Clare County.



Throughout 2024, MSU Extension staff have worked diligently to promote healthier lifestyles, support local and emerging businesses, foster youth leadership and career readiness, and assist farmers with business planning, pest management, crop production, and mental health resources. Our team members are deeply embedded in the community! We live here, work here, and are committed to responding to the evolving needs of our neighbors.

This progress wouldn't be possible without your support. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Clare County, thank you for helping us make a difference. We're excited about the year ahead and hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs or events.

Impact



1,095 participants from the county attended programs.



98 Volunteers in the county



8,847 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts



29 programs hosted in the county

Clare County Office Staff:



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Impact by Institute:



70 participants in community, food and environmental programs from Clare



181 participants in health and nutrition programs from Clare



21 participants in agriculture and agribusiness programs from Clare



823 participants in children and youth programs from Clare



262 4-H youth enrollments



113 of nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county.



1,071 of total youth participants



9,808 people participating in Food Safety programs including ServSafe® – Statewide



92 total volunteers in the Clare County 4-H Program

4-H Program – Career Exploration

Career exploration and hands-on learning are integral to youth development, providing opportunities to discover new skills and ignite passions. For members of the Denim and Dust 4-H group, exploring the world of welding offered a unique chance to engage with a practical and creative skill that is in demand in various industries.

"I would like to thank Seth Sharp for showing us how to weld and Erika Schunk for planning this event for our 4-H group. When I got home, I got out my dad's welder and created several projects using scraps in our barn and now I am hooked!"

- Denim and Dust 4-H Member



Clare County MSU Extension Highlights:



Butterflies In Bloom 4-H:

Educational experiences like the Butterflies In Bloom exhibit help foster a lifelong appreciation for nature among youth. By exposing 4-H members to the beauty and complexity of wildlife, this initiative supports the mission of

4-H to empower young people with knowledge and skills that benefit their communities and the environment.

"Seeing the butterflies up close and learning about their delicate lives was incredible. It reminded us how important it is to protect and appreciate nature's beauty."

– Mikayla Dunkle, Hill Top 4-H Club Member

Michigan 4-H Youth Program – Exploration Days

[Michigan 4-H Youth Programs](#) continued the tradition of offering high quality, youth development programs throughout the summer at Michigan State University. 4-H Exploration Days brings 900 youth and adults from across Michigan to MSU campus. This experience gives youth and adults the opportunity to explore careers and hands on learning sessions while networking with MSU faculty and staff. In addition, this program helps youth develop life skills that can be taken with into adulthood.

"Having the opportunity to use my creativity as a Graphic Artist for all to see is an absolute dream. Attending the Michigan State University Extension's 4-H Exploration Days program gave me a great opportunity to preview a career choice I now see as a possibility." - Youth Participant

"4-H Exploration Days have helped me increase skills such as communication and learning, along with gaining new information not taught in schools. Overcoming obstacles while trying new things like ice skating and meeting new people has made my time at Exploration Days more exciting and memorable." - Youth Participant



**Beyond
Ready**

Master Gardener Program Updates:

The MSU Extension Master Gardener Program offers adults in Clare County science-based training in gardening and horticulture. Participants gain practical knowledge and become certified Master Gardeners, helping to lead local gardening projects and share research-backed practices with the community.



SNAP- ED Program Participant:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) teaches participants how to establish healthy eating habits and increase their time spent being physically active, while staying within a limited food budget.

"Thank you for teaching us how to keep us healthy through food. I started to drink more water and get a healthier diet. Better grains, more fruits & vegetables, and ate more dairy. Please come back and teach the high school SPARKS because I'm going to high school next year. Thank you for taking your time and teaching us about our health."

- Program Participant



Financial & Homeownership Education—

As a HUD certified counseling agency, MSU Extension helps potential, current and future home buyers/renters to understand the complex home buyer/renter process and learn the true costs of responsible homeownership.

"It was a privilege to partner with MSU Extension for this life-enriching learning opportunity."

Community Partner

"I appreciate your help and the class last Wednesday. We had the inspection done on a house today. It is very exciting and your class has already helped us."

- Program Participant



Overall Impact



161 programs (across the state) attended by participants from this county.



29,264,562 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts. (STATEWIDE)



470 virtual programs offered related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses. - STATEWIDE



104 client consultations

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



67,320 of participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan



13 participants in county agriculture programs.



470 virtual programs related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses.



\$246.5 Billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy



Clare County Bull Soundness Exam 2024

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