

CLINTON COUNTY MSU EXTENSION ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Message from the District Director

Clinton County MSU Extension provides people with access to resources and expertise in areas of agriculture, agribusiness, health, nutrition, community, food, environment, and children and youth development. Staff located in Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia and Montcalm Counties all serve this area as a part of a statewide team of Extension professionals. Anyone is welcome to visit our office and meet with local professionals or get connected to the appropriate regional expert, purchase soil test kits for their fields or gardens, find pesticide manuals critical for certification, have their pressure canner lid tested or ask questions. People contacted us via telephone, email, in person, or online. In fact, 29,264,562 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts were made with MSU Extension statewide in 2024.

Impact



2,015 people from the county attended MSU Extension programs.



People from the county attended **407** MSU Extension programs (across the state).



532 people from the county participated in agricultural and agribusiness programs.



899 youth and adults from the county participated in children and youth programs.



255 people from the county participated in community, food and environmental programs.



403 people from the county participated in health and nutrition programs.

Overall Impact



MSU Extension employees are members of **6** community coalitions within the county.



There were **8** Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the county.



There were **94** answers provided to “Ask Extension” questions asked by people from the county.



There were **22** policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites. **1,720** people were impacted.



1,077 people attended programs that were hosted in the county.



There were **6,959** contacts through e-newsletters and handouts.



345 people from the county volunteered with MSU Extension



There were **219** direct client consultations.

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



There were **67,320** participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan.



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



There were **52** commercial and farm soil test samples processed.



There is a **\$246.5 billion** annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy.



There were **33** homeowner soil tests samples processed.



There were **61** participants in county agriculture programs.

Michigan State University Product Center is serving Clinton County entrepreneurs

- 20 clients served, including 3 women-owned small businesses
- 83 total employees serve the businesses represented
- 44 counseling hours were logged with the clients
- The client's businesses generated \$663,939.00 in annual sales
- There was \$20,000 in capital formation from a loan received of \$20,000.

The MSU Product Center helps Michigan entrepreneurs and businesses to develop and launch new product and service ideas into the food, beverage and agriculture markets. Whether a budding entrepreneur or already a well-established company, the Product Center plays a key role as the front door of MSU's vast and varied technical expertise, research and outreach services.

Community Collaboration – From Frogs to Finances



Extension Natural Resources Educator Paige Filice and MSU Assistant Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Alexa Warwick partnered with the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy in Bath to host a "Spring Frog Walk." Forty-six participants joined in for an evening filled with croaks, trills, and splashes of frogs on the Wildlife Conservancy's property. The evening began with a brief introduction to frog calls, followed by a hike to various frog habitats, including vernal ponds and wetlands. The hike included multiple stations spread over approximately one mile. Participants received resources on frogs, including a book, fact sheets and a frog resources document.



In 2024, **632 individuals** participated in 25 financial education sessions across Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. An additional 83 participants joined statewide financial education virtual classes. Examples of program offerings include making a spending plan, credit basics, navigating financial challenges, informed renter and thriving on a fixed income. Additionally, **76 human service professionals** attended eight train-the-trainer sessions, enhancing their ability to support limited-resource clients. Staff have built relationships with **19 tri-county community partners**, including those serving vulnerable populations such as individuals seeking mental health services, refugees and seniors. Outreach to rural communities remains a challenge and key focus. These collective efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to community-based financial education reaching diverse populations.

Public Health, Nutrition, and Youth Programming



There were **526** members in **23** clubs through the county 4-H program.



There were **317** volunteers through 4-H.



The 4-H volunteer hour value was **\$10,014.03**.



899 youth and adults from the county participated in children and youth programs.



225 nutrition and physical activity participants were hosted in-county.



403 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs.



Statewide, **9,808** people participated in food safety programs.

Tackling Food Insecurity

In 2024, Community Nutrition Instructor Roxanne White was discussing programming and a PSE for the grant year with a senior citizen from the community. This individual brought up the Good News Kitchen (soup kitchen) that she had contacted several times but was unable to make a direct connection. Roxanne let her know that the kitchen is run by volunteers, so it may be difficult to get a call back, and suggested that she visit that day, Tuesday, when the kitchen is open. Roxanne suggested driving over to the site to see if they would allow her to have a sign-up sheet for all seniors and just bring back a box of food for those who would like to participate from week to week. It is now a Tuesday activity at Suntree, helping provide food access to seniors by bring the food right to them. This helps with food insecurity by addressing the critical issue of transportation when it comes to food access in vulnerable populations.



Showcasing 4-H

Clinton County 4-H participated in the DeWitt Community/Touch-a-truck event at the DeWitt Showcase, which is held at the DeWitt High School. 2,000 people were anticipated to attend this event. Clinton County 4-H had a presence there to build awareness around 4-H programs and opportunities available in the community. This was a fantastic local event that included 4-H Program Coordinator Corissa Harris, as well as the president of the 4-H Council, Juli Chant.





Inspiring healthy eaters

Kim's Kiddy Corner participated in the Growing Healthy Eaters pilot to help day care providers increase access to fresh local fruits and vegetables in the early childcare setting. Growing Healthy Eaters inspired the childcare provider to think outside of the norm of what they incorporated in their menus and to embrace local fresh produce through a community-supported agriculture (CSA) subscription. The provider was motivated to introduce the gardening component to the children and explore where their food comes from. They lined up field trips to a farm to pick fresh peaches when they were in season and took the children to the local farmers market. At the farmers market, they were provided a small amount of money to “shop with” and they were encouraged to talk with the vendors about the foods and production. After the selection, they brought the food back and looked for ways to incorporate it in the menus for the upcoming week.



4-H youth helping the community

While working with a local partner on a Policy, System, Environment (PSE) change, Community Nutrition Instructor Roxanne White discovered a need to revamp garden beds that have not been used for a few years. The gardens had become overgrown, and the soil was depleted of nutrients. She spoke with 4-H Program Coordinator Corissa Harris and asked her if this could be an opportunity for a 4-H community service project. The 4-H youth cleaned the beds, removed old soil, supplied compost, and worked in the nutrient-rich organic matter to bring the beds back to a healthy state. Over the summer and fall, the gardens supplied an abundance of vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes, beans and peppers for the community. Produce was cared for, harvested and brought into the community room and divided amongst the residents. This project had not only expanded food access but also built relationships that spanned generations!

One resident stated, "The garden brought the community together."

Partnerships and Coalitions

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

Kids Early Education Zone

Beacon of Hope Family Care Center

DeWitt District Library

DeWitt Area Recreation Authority – DeWitt Community Center

Bath Senior Center

Frog Walk Programming at Bengel Wildlife Center

Briggs Library – St. Johns

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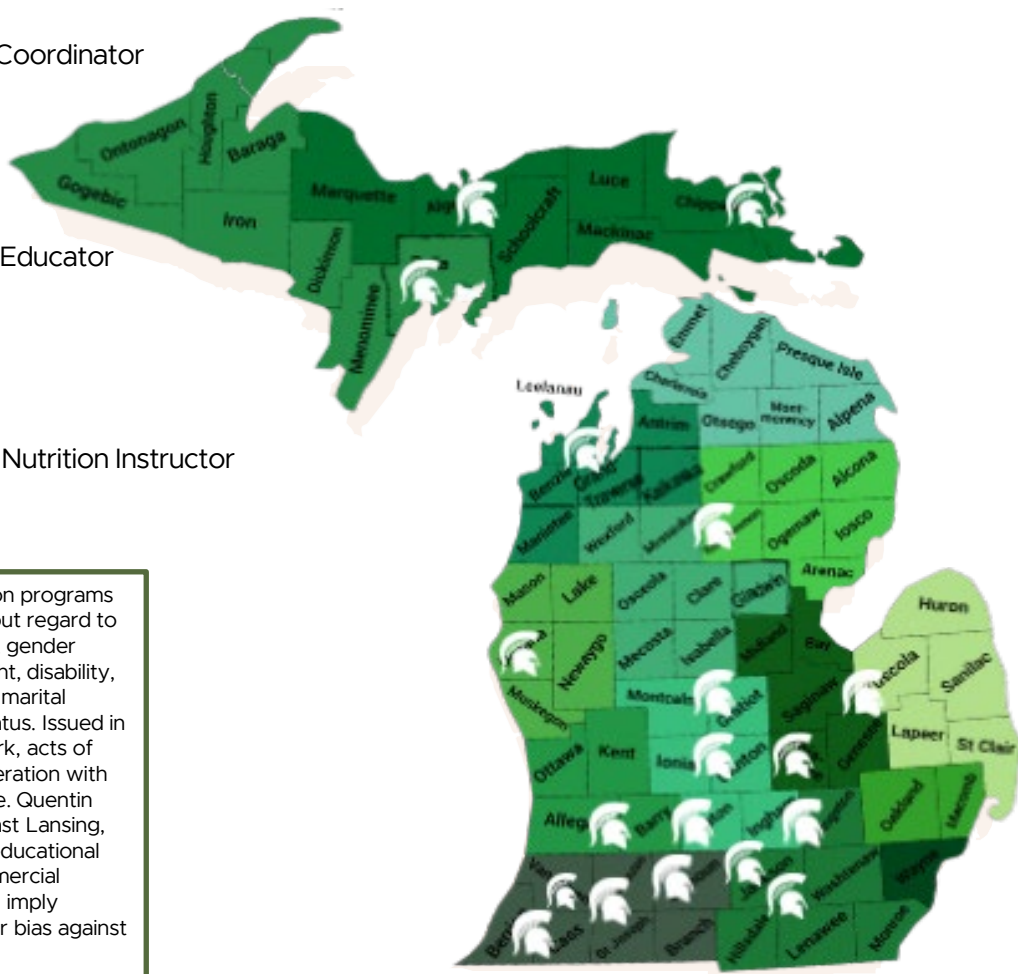
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MSU AgBio research centers are located throughout the state including the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center that shares a border with Clinton and Shiawassee counties and is dedicated to important research related to wetland ecosystems.