

CLINTON COUNTY MSU EXTENSION ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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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, 206,346,096 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts were made with MSU Extension statewide in 2025.

Impact



2639 people from Clinton County attended MSU Extension programs.



People from Clinton County attended **461** MSU Extension programs (across the state).



653 people from Clinton County participated in agricultural and agribusiness programs.



1565 youth and adults from Clinton County participated in children and youth programs.



304 people from Clinton County participated in community, food and environmental programs.



203 people from Clinton County participated in health and nutrition programs.

Overall Impact



MSU Extension employees are members of **13** community coalitions within the County.



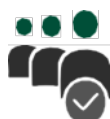
There were **3** Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the County.



There were **97** answers provided to “Ask Extension” questions asked by people from the County.



There were **6** policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites. **286** people were impacted.



1,736 people attended programs that were hosted in the County.



There were **206,346,096** statewide contacts through e-newsletters and handouts.



348 people from the County volunteered with MSU Extension



There were **1428** direct client consultations.

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



There were **72,517** participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan.



There were **476** virtual programs related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses.



There were **67** commercial and farm soil test samples processed.



There is a **\$244.2 billion** annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan’s economy.



There were **19** homeowner soil tests samples processed.



There were **113** participants in County agriculture programs.

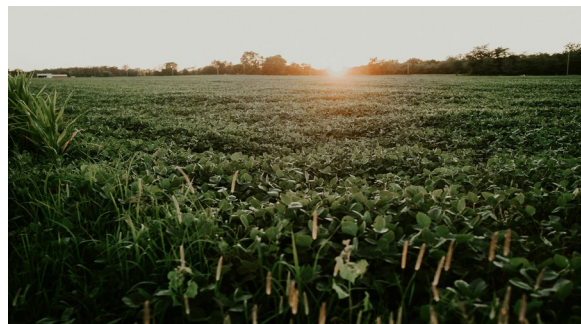
Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity

In 2025, **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.



2025 Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Update

In January 2025, Eric Anderson, MSU Extension Soybean Educator, hosted 82 participants to the *Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Update* at AgroLiquid in St. Johns. Results from the 2024 soybean on-farm research projects were presented, providing participants with current findings to support informed production decisions. The program also explored historical climate trends affecting Michigan's growing season and offered attendees an opportunity to contribute input toward soybean research projects planned for 2025. The event concluded with time for questions and discussion.



MSU Extension Field Crop Virtual Breakfast

The ***Field Crops Virtual Breakfast*** series reached more than 5,500 live participants statewide in 2025, and of those participants, **230** were Clinton County growers. The Virtual Breakfast Series offers free weekly online programs, providing timely, research-based information on emerging agriculture issues. By offering expert-led education in a convenient virtual format, the program enabled growers to access high-value information without leaving their farms, resulting in an average estimated savings of \$7.63 per acre from management changes informed by the series, and supporting improved crop health, pest management, and overall productivity.



PFAS Contamination in Michigan Agriculture

In 2025, Michigan State University Extension began work with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Environment (MDARD), Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on a PFAS Farmer Assistance Interim Strategy. MSUE is actively working with farmers to provide education on PFAS contamination, assess risk of contamination, provide no cost sampling of soil and water thanks to a grant provided by MDARD, and is actively working with farmers on mitigation options in situations where contamination is discovered. Additionally, MSUE is involved in research to reduce PFAS impacts on soils, plants and livestock.



2025 MSU Extension Master Gardener Program – Mid-Michigan

In 2025, the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program in Mid-Michigan engaged **131 Master Gardener volunteers** across **54 projects** in **Clinton, Ingham, Eaton, and Montcalm counties**, contributing a total of **6,695 volunteer hours**.

Volunteer efforts supported six primary focus areas:

- Improving Community: 3,240 hours**
- Increasing Food Security: 1,119 hours**
- Outreach Events: 987 hours**
- Environmental Stewardship: 506.5 hours**
- Developing Youth Through Gardening: 449 hours**
- Supporting MSU Extension: 345 hours**



Outreach efforts expanded the distribution of **MSU Extension Smart Gardening tip sheets** to three new locations through events held on the **Michigan State University campus**, the **South Lansing Farmers Market**, and the **St. Johns Farmers Market**. Outreach at the St. Johns Farmers Market reached approximately **400 individuals**, increasing awareness of Smart Gardening practices.

Environmental Stewardship saw increased volunteer engagement, with Master Gardeners receiving training and participating in the identification and reporting of **lesser celandine** in parks and public riverfront areas in **Ingham and Eaton counties**. Training on the identification and removal of **garlic mustard** was also emphasized. Expanded training has positioned more volunteers to educate the public and lead invasive species reporting and removal efforts in **2026**.

Increasing Food Security remained a priority area, supported by a strong partnership with the **Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project**. 2025 also saw **23 Master Gardeners contribute more than 600 volunteer hours** assisting with free plant and seed distributions, supporting community gardens, and educating the public on Smart Gardening practices to help individuals and families grow their own food.

Public Health, Nutrition, and Youth Programming



There were **482** members in the county 4-H program.



There were **335** volunteers through 4-H.



The 4-H volunteer hour value was **\$99,103.05**.



1565 youth and adults from the county participated in children and youth programs.



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



203 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs.



Statewide, **11,944** people participated in food safety programs.

Clinton County Poultry Clinic



On July 15, 2025, 30 Clinton County youth participated in a **Poultry Clinic** held at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. The clinic focused on educating youth on proper poultry handling and preparation for exhibition. Hands-on instruction covered grooming, bathing, and nail trimming techniques, along with best practices for nutrition and feed management for both laying and market poultry. The program provided participants with practical skills to support animal care, show readiness, and long-term poultry project success

Music and Movement Class at Briggs Library



Fall 2025, MSU Extension Program Instructor, Patricia Marrs, hosted a four-week Music and Movement class to the Briggs Library Parent/Child playgroup. Parents and children were invited to this free, one-hour class and participated in singing, dancing and playing instruments. Early Childhood play experiences are very important for optimal growth and development. Music and movement are part of their healthy appreciation for sound identification, rhythm/rhyme, physical coordination, and much more. Skills gained during a structured class help gross and fine motor physical development, with later developmental increases in math and reading success.

During fall 2025, the **Health Rocks!** curriculum was delivered through six lessons per school to approximately 230 youth across DeWitt, Ovid-Elsie, and Olivet schools.

Ovid-Elsie and Olivet schools continued as returning partners, reflecting established relationships and the demonstrated value of *Health Rocks!* programming. Educators reported positive feedback on the interactive, hands-on lessons, and programming will continue at both schools in the coming year.

DeWitt Schools participated as a new partner during this grant cycle. Following the fall lessons, educators requested continued programming for the two trimesters in 2026, with plans for ongoing implementation. Continued and expanded engagement across all three districts illustrates the program's effectiveness and sustainability in supporting youth health and wellness.

Participant quote: "I remember you from last year. I'm glad your back and excited to learn new things."



World Food Prize

Forty-nine high school students from Clinton County participated in The World Food Prize.

The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFPMIYI) is a one-day event where youth present research-based solutions to global food security challenges and engage in discussions with MSU and MSU Extension faculty, students, and subject-matter experts. Participants connect with student leaders from across Michigan, interact with professionals in science, agriculture, industry, and policy, and take part in educational sessions exploring current issues in food systems, agriculture, and international development. WFPMIYI exposes youth to academic and career pathways while fostering leadership, critical thinking, and collaboration skills aimed at addressing hunger, poverty, and food insecurity in Michigan and around the world.



Partnerships and Coalitions

Ovid-Elsie School District a Schools
Kids Early Education Zone
Beacon of Hope Family Care Center
DeWitt District Library
DeWitt Area Recreation Authority – DeWitt Community Center
DeWitt Middle School
DeWitt Millennium Garden Cub
Clinton County Regional Educational Service Center
Bath Senior Center
Frog Walk Programming at Bengel Wildlife Center
Briggs Library – St. Johns
Thorny Acres Sportsman Club
Sleepy Hollow Conservation Club
St. Johns Farmers Market
USDA
Clinton County Board o Commissioners
Clinton County Conservation District
St Francis Retreat Center

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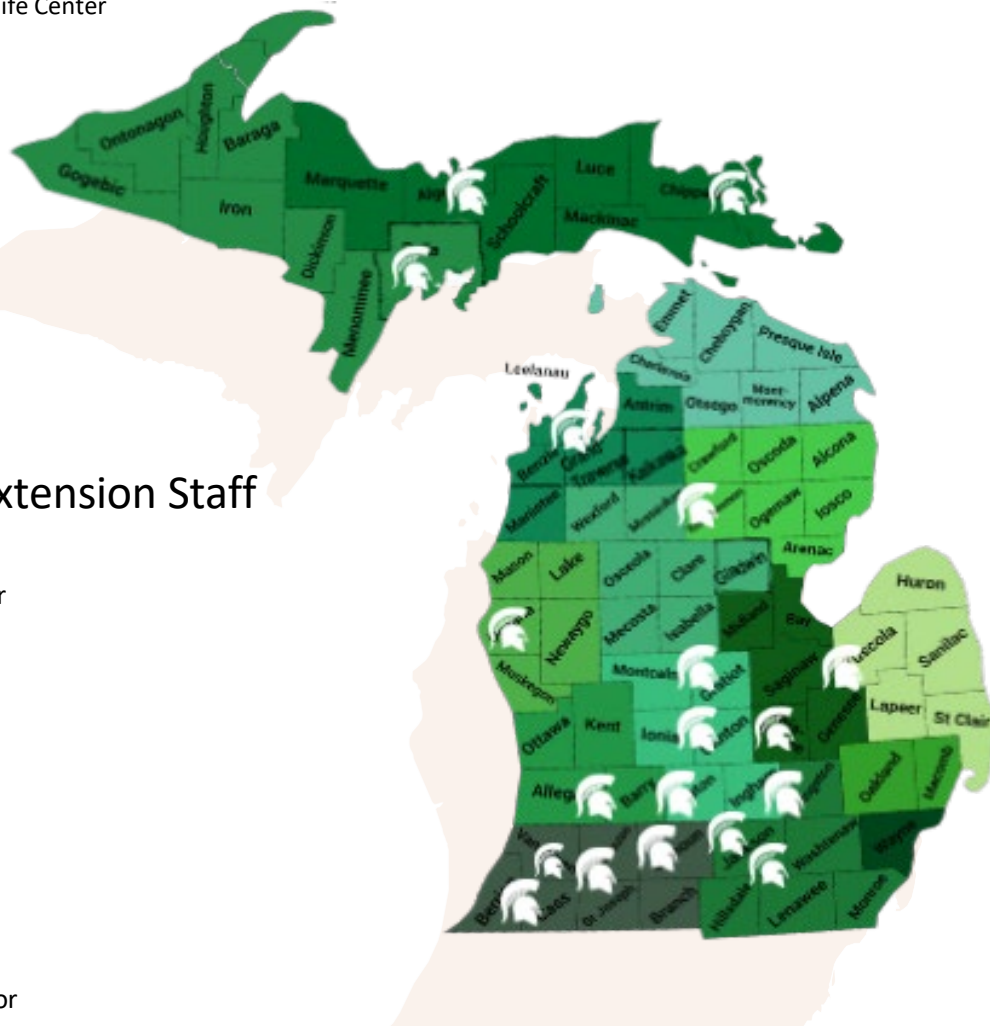
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MSU AgBio research centers are located throughout the state including the Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center that shares a border with Clinton and Shiawassee counties and is dedicated to important research related to wetland ecosystems.



District Directors

MSU Extension is structured into 14 districts. Programming and staffing occurs across district lines as dictated by community needs. The districts simply provide a mechanism for organizing and reporting on our relationships with community-based partners.

