

# DICKINSON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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- Jessica Ice, 4-H Program Coordinator
- Libby Hansen, Community Nutrition Instructor



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## Message from District Director



I am delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Dickinson County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and communities.

We've welcomed Dickinson County residents into our in-person and online communities: we've offered educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media, and provided a library of research-based resources that have been browsed on our website. Our partnership with you makes this all possible.

On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Dickinson County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

## Impact



**5** community coalitions within Dickinson County in which MSU Extension employees are members



**16** answered Ask Extension questions



**749** participants from Dickinson County are attending programs.



**32** volunteers



**82** youth enrolled in 4-H



**\$1,010.88** county volunteer hour value

## Overall Impact



482 participants attending programs hosted in Dickinson County



1 policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites.



88 MSU Extension programs (across the state) attended by residents from Dickinson County.



30 client consultations including 2 customers and 16 counseling hours with MSU Product Center (Small Business support)



17 MSU Extension programs hosted in Dickinson County



15,039 e-newsletters and handouts in the county



1 Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the county.

## Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



185 participants in community, food and environment programs from Dickinson County



116 participants in agriculture and agribusiness programs from the county.



15 commercial/farm soil samples and 4 homeowner soil samples were processed for Dickinson County



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

Brad Neumann, Senior Extension Educator, presented training on compliance with the **Open Meetings Act (OMA)** to **17 participants** at the **Breiting Township Hall** on October 28, 2024. The Open Meetings Act applies to all public bodies when deliberating towards and making decisions. The Michigan law was enacted in 1976 with the goals of government accountability and openness in government to enhance responsible decision making. Participants in the training reported greater confidence in their understanding of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act as a result of the training (94%; n=16). One participant commented, *"[I will] be aware of possible OMA violations no matter whether they seem trivial or not."*



## Partner Shoutout!

**Andrew Finkel**, from the **Dickinson Conservation District**, reached out to our local MSU Extension office, interested in a class on how to produce maple syrup. Additionally, he was interested in locally sourced food production/hobbies that could be brought to our community.

**Jessica Ice**, 4-H program coordinator, was able to connect him with **MSU Forestry Innovation Center** and SFI Director **Jesse Randall** and help coordinate a maple syrup education class in Dickinson County. While coordinating and planning for the workshop, Jessica had multiple conversations with the Conservation District. That made him comfortable to reach out when he heard details on the radio.



**Jesse Randall** Director  
MSU Forestry Innovation Center

## From 4-H to Food Pantry

One of Dickinson County's dental offices (The John Fornetti Dental Center) purchased two pigs, raised by 4-H'ers, during the livestock auction at the Dickinson County Fair. Oftentimes, after an animal is purchased, we don't know what becomes of the animal. Thanks to a social media post, this time was different. The John Fornetti Dental Center posted on social media that the meat from that pig was donated to the Salvation Army and given to low-income community members to feed their families.

***"It brings such joy to know there are individuals and families in our community who will benefit from what two local boys raised for their 4-H projects this year."***

***[From the social media post of John Fornetti Dental Center]***





82 youth enrolled in 4-H



164 nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in Dickinson County.



364 total youth participants in Dickinson County



182 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs.



24, 4-H volunteers



\$177,625.50 was sold during the youth small animal & livestock auction for 4-H Participants at the Dickinson County Fair



7 Dickinson County residents participated in ServSafe®

## MSU Extension supports the Dickinson County Fair

*The youth small animal and market livestock auction drew \$40,000 more than last year's projects. The best previous auction brought in \$167,000.* There were 82 entries total. Steer, goats, hogs and lambs were sold per pound at the market. Small animals, including rabbits, turkeys, chickens, as well as eggs, were sold by lot.

**Favorite Quote** from John Degenauer, Dickinson County Commissioner: "It was a successful market show. Every year, participation increases. It's great to see the community's support for the 4-H kids."



## Senior Project Fresh

Senior Project Fresh, which is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill, is a program designed to help older adults incorporate more fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. Senior Project FRESH was created to assist older adults living on a limited income with a secondary benefit of supporting Michigan farmers. This program runs May 1 – October 31. **Libby Hansen**, a community nutrition instructor, visited various senior centers and sites around the county in 2024.

In Dickinson County, **126** seniors received education as well as \$25 in senior project fresh vouchers to be used at local farmers markets.



## 4-H Trunk or Treat

On October 27, Dickinson County 4-H Program Coordinator Jessica Ice, along with a handful of 4-H volunteers, hosted a **Trunk or Treat** at the Dickinson County Fairgrounds in conjunction with their annual haunted barn event. Community partners - Friends of the Fair, Salvation Army, U.P. State Credit Union and Communities that Care - also joined us to hand out candy and host fun, life skill development activities for community youth to enjoy. Jessica planned, organized and helped implement the event. She also provided 4-H'ers with candy, activities and decorations. Additionally, she handed out and provided those in attendance with information about our local 4-H program. There were approximately **200** in attendance at this event.



## 4-H Labor Day Fun Show

This is a competitive horse show that takes place annually on Labor Day at the Dickinson County Fairgrounds during the county fair. It is put on by Jessica, 4-H volunteers and some 4-H youth. Both the general public and 4-H'ers can participate in the show. The show is made up of nine classes and four age divisions. The classes are designed to be non-traditional and fun (i.e. egg and spoon, apples & crackers, ribbon race, stick pony, etc.) Ribbons and prizes are awarded to participants. Participants in the show learn or can improve sportsmanship, riding and safety skills. Additionally, it requires a high level of self-discipline and responsibility. There were **40** participants at this event.



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