

Iosco County 2023 Annual Report

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

235 PROGRAMS
ATTENDED BY IOSCO
COUNTY RESIDENTS

16 SOIL SAMPLES FROM
IOSCO COUNTY
PROCESSED

61 HEALTH & WELLNESS
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

55 RESIDENTS ATTENDED
FOOD SAFETY
PROGRAMS

209 RESIDENTS SERVED
BY SNAP-ED

446 NATURAL RESOURCES
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

135 AGRICULTURE
PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS

556 YOUTHS ENROLLED IN
4-H

2,228
TOTAL IOSCO COUNTY
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN
MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING
IN 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

This annual report is a summary of the work that MSU Extension has done in Iosco County to help people improve their lives through an educational process that brings the vast knowledge and resources of Michigan State University to local communities in northeast Michigan.

In the following pages, you will discover the stories of progress, resilience, and empowerment that have defined our engagement with individuals, families, and organizations across District 4. From cultivating sustainable agriculture practices to nurturing the potential of our youth through 4-H programs, each achievement is a testament to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our communities.

We could not do this work without local partners in community government, local volunteers and supporters, or people who turn to us for the information and education that we provide. Please continue to use us as a resource for information and ask us questions.

Thank you for your support in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Julie Darnton
District 4 Director



More than 322,000 people in Michigan visited our website last year. You may want to look here too!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

The agriculture industry is developing and growing, contributing more than \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy. MSU Extension works to increase farm success through workforce development opportunities, protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets, and advancing agriculture through applied research. In 2023, **135** residents from Iosco County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs.

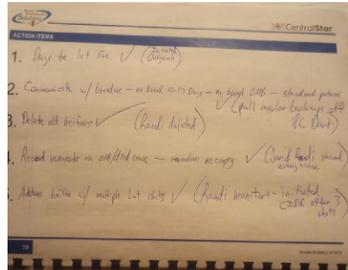
WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY



In partnership with MDARD, DNR, USDA-Wildlife Services and MDHHS, **12** Iosco County residents participated in programming in support of the state's goal of eradicating Bovine TB.

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious bacterial disease that poses a threat to livestock health and agriculture, and can also have public health implications due to the potential transmission to humans through consumption of unpasteurized dairy products or close contact with infected animals including deer. Control measures include testing and culling infected deer. Infected deer numbers are not high, but testing in 2022 positively identified infected deer in Crawford, Iosco, and Ogemaw Counties.

Providing specialized support to local farmers



Phil Durst, Senior Beef and Dairy Extension Educator works one-on-one with local farmers to address problems and discuss alternatives. One Iosco County dairy producer with a smaller (<200 cows) herd worked with Phil to connect with CentralStar Cooperative for a herd analysis to address problems related to the farm's breeding program. The farmer walked away with a list of five action items for himself and his herd manager to do.

Two months later, Phil received a text message without comment, only a photo of the completed list.

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

As leadership partners of the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant supported local schools in fielding place-based stewardship education projects.

In the 2022-2023 school year, **122 students and 5 educators** from Iosco County were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.

In the 2023-2024 school year, **255 students and 9 educators** from Iosco County were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. While learning about the world around them, youth gain valuable life skills such as responsibility, citizenship, teamwork, and problem solving. In 2023, **1,162** Iosco County youth participated in **90** programs.



26 youths learned how to fish and protect our Great Lakes at Fish Camp. All campers received a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, and snacks after learning about knot tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics, and more!

EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR SUCCESS THROUGH SCIENCE LITERACY

More than 700 Iosco County youths participated in science literacy programs about animal science, environmental and outdoor education, plants, soils and gardening, and science and engineering.



More than **30** youths attended a 4-H Chocolate Party where they learned about the history of chocolate and how it grows, and tasted cacao nibs and samples of chocolate from all over the world.

Introducing youth to art, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)



In partnership with Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools, MSU Extension facilitates opportunities that encourage students to make observations, ask questions, design solutions to problems, test ideas and discover answers while exploring and learning through their world.

"I love science because of you, you make it fun!"
-Whittemore-Prescott student



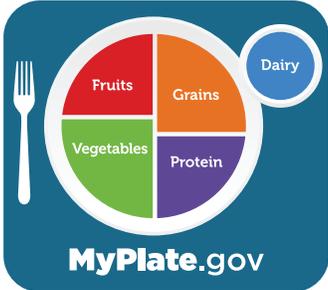
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families, and children gain crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increase their daily activity, and improve their food security. In 2023, **110** Iosco County residents participated in **54** health and nutrition programs.



MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits. MSU Extension SNAP-Ed nutrition instructors teach youth, teens, adults and seniors how to make health a priority through instructional series such as Show Me Nutrition, Eat Healthy, Be Active, Cooking for One, and Healthy Eating Adds Up. **209** Iosco County residents participated in **16** SNAP-Ed programs in 2023.



64 Oscoda High School students completed a 6-week Teen Cuisine series where they learned about the importance of healthy food choices, MyPlate recommendations, physical activity, food safety, and participated in a hands-on cooking experience.

"I don't like eating big pieces of vegetables in general, but I like this, it's really good!"

-Teen Cuisine participant

Supporting nutrition

In partnership with MyMichigan, **16** Iosco County residents participated in a 6-week Cooking for One Series at the Oscoda Senior Center. One participant shared:

"I learned so much from your class. I'm making lists again which is helping me stick to my budget better. I'm putting what I learned into practice."

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