



Delta County

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

100 MSU Extension has served Delta County over 100 years

\$ \$4,199,082 total economic impact in Delta County

4 1,383 youth in 4-H and other youth development programs

3 3 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing education

234 234 adults and youth in health and nutrition programs

18,612 MSU Extension website received 18,612 visits, 77% first-time visitors

1,745 1,745 acres owned by the MSU Forest Biomass Innovation Center

\$1,130,122 MSU disbursed \$1,130,122 in financial aid to county students; 38 students enrolled

\$118,211 \$118,211 spending with local businesses

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

During 2019, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension continued to partner with Delta County to strengthen youth, families, businesses and communities. In this report, we will highlight local and statewide programs that made a difference in Delta County residents' lives; including helping farmers with financial management and farm stress; providing opportunities for youth's career and leadership development through 4-H; teaching families how to buy, cook and eat nutritious food; helping communities grow their tourism and community development opportunities; and providing a suite of online resources and programs.



Because of your continued support, we are able to help Delta County residents improve their lives, their work places and their communities. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Delta County and we're looking forward to another successful year ahead.

Paul Putnam, District Director

Program Highlights

Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT)

Contributed by Jesse Traub.

IAT, housed in MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, provides career-ready certificate programs dealing with the agricultural and environmental industries. In addition to its programs on campus, the IAT partners with community colleges around the state to offer these programs and make higher ed. agricultural training more accessible. The Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) program had its first year at Bay College in Delta County. Much of IAT's efforts this year focused on spreading awareness of the program throughout the central UP and recruiting students. Although no students are enrolled in the IAT program at Bay College at this time, there were three applicants for the program (all from Delta county) and numerous inquiries. So interest in the program does exist, it just needs to be tapped better.

To help spread awareness and recruit students, the IAT program has appeared at numerous local schools, college recruitment nights, career day events, and conferences in the area over the past year. Additionally, the IAT program has made contacts with MSU Extension, the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center, and Michigan Farm Bureau not only to help promote the program, but also to help advise on its activities and future directions.

MICHIGAN SEA GRANT

Martha Gerig started her role with MSU Extension on September 30, 2019. She works with coastal communities and businesses in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to apply science-based knowledge to address Great Lakes issues. She divides her time between Marquette and Delta county offices. Martha's focus areas include coastal resiliency, environmental change, and fisheries.



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Program Highlights

BeLeaf It or Not YouTube Series

In April, 2019, the forestry YouTube series "BeLeaf It or Not!" went "live" with a dedicated YouTube channel. The first five episodes are posted. A few edits remain to be done. <https://www.youtube.com/c/beleafitornot> There were 490 views at the end of April. Light promotion has begun. Several of these videos were "beta tested" among a group of 20-30 teachers, with positive feedback. The advisory group has met several times to also provide feedback and to suggest episode topics. The advisory group consists of foresters and educators. Bill Cook, Georgia Peterson, and James Ford are the field crew.



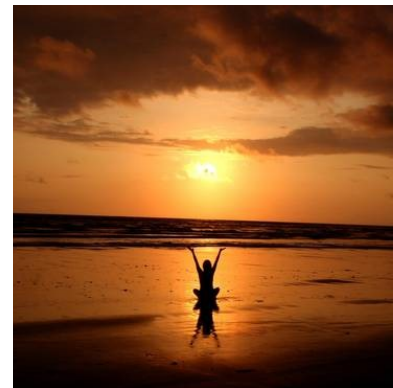
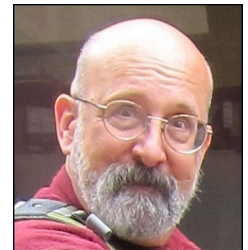
Bill Cook with youth at Forestry Camp.

Social-Emotional Health Programming

MSU Extension Health Educator, Tracie Abram, continues to provide **RELAX** and **Stress Less with Mindfulness** programming series to help participants improve stress management, problem solving attention and focus. Residents of Delta, County have had opportunities to participate in these program series. Abram has offered these series as community-based programming as well as to students in high school health classes, seniors and recently in 2020, at the Delta County Jail. Tracie has also provided work-site wellness programming or one-time presentations in 2019 to Community Action Agencies, Great Lake Industries, Girl Scouts, Senior Centers, and 4-H and Civic Groups. Seniors or adults aged 55+ can participate in **Stress Less with Mindfulness** for free due to grant. RELAX costs \$25 for the five-session series. Anyone interested in learning more about these programs, or want to participate in these series, can contact Tracie at 906-235-2985 or visit the MSU Extension Events Management Calendar for a listing of programs offered in your county.

<https://www.events.anr.msu.edu>

Bill Cook
Forestry Educator, retired



RELAX Alternatives to Anger and Stress Less with Mindfulness are just two of the programs offered to Delta County residents



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Social Emotional and Disease
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Educator
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Program Highlights

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Summer of 2019, nutrition education was provided for Delta seniors through the distribution of the Senior Project Fresh coupons at the Escanaba, Gladstone, and Rock senior centers. Recipes and helpful tips were shared along with fruit and vegetable nutrition information was shared with over 80 participants. A new program, "Cooking For One", was presented at the Gladstone Senior Center with 15 participants completing the series. Information shared included My Plate healthy eating, food budgeting and menu planning, food safety and tasty, easy and healthy recipes for one. This program will be offered at other locations later this year.

Students in the first and third grade classrooms at Lemmer Elementary school participated in the Show Me Nutrition series, with approximately 230 youth receiving healthy eating information about My Plate, food safety, the importance of being physically active and taste testing of foods from each of the food groups. Many students- and teachers- experienced new foods and received recipes to encourage adding different foods to their day.

The Show Me Nutrition series was also provided to the Head Start classrooms in Escanaba, Gladstone and Rapid River, reaching approximately 180 pre-school children. Again, each lesson included visual support of the food group presented, taste testing and physical activity for the students.



AgBioResearch
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU FORESTRY INNOVATION CENTER

The 1,745-acre MSU Forestry Innovation Center in Escanaba is leading a number of initiatives to broaden MSU's impact in the forestry and wildlife sectors.



Kids learn to make healthy snacks during MSU Extension programming.



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Program Highlights

HEROES TO HIVES submitted by Adam Ingrao

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Heroes to Hives is the nation's largest beekeeping training program for military service members. Our 9-month program is offered free to service members and their dependents across the US and offers a comprehensive education program that couples a self-paced online education course with hands-on instruction at apiaries across Michigan. Our students leave the program with the knowledge and community to be successful beekeepers.

IMPACT:

Since 2016, Heroes to Hives has trained 356 veterans, active duty, reservist and National Guard personnel and 100 of their dependents operating over 2,000 hives in 25 states.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 2019 Student demographics
- 208 veterans and 100 dependents

Gender

- 66% male
- 34% female

Branch of Service:

- Air Force: 15%
- Army: 45%
- Coast Guard: 1%
- Marines: 19%
- Navy: 20%

55% of our students are combat veterans having served in the:

- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Gulf War
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- 56% of our students are Service Connected Disabled Veterans

BEEKEEPING

As part of our evaluation process we ask students to select their motivations for becoming a beekeeper (Factors are ranked from most motivating factor to least).

1. **Bees are in decline and I want to help.**
2. Honey and bee products for personal use.
3. Honey and bee products to sell for profit.
4. I am new to agriculture and want to start with bees.
5. To diversify my farm.

Student's beekeeping career goals are evaluated annually and our students are interested in:

1. **Beekeeping as a hobby.**
2. Having a beekeeping business.
3. Working for a commercial beekeeper.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

As part of our regular evaluation process we survey our students with entrance and exit surveys to determine their educational outcomes. Our students report the following outcomes due to their education with Heroes to Hives.

- 95% report increased confidence in keeping bees
- 90% report increased understanding of disease and pest management
- 90% report increased ability to monitor and treat varroa mites
- 97% report improved understanding of overwintering management of bees
- 97% of students are happy with their Heroes to Hives education
- **98% would recommend Heroes to Hives to another person**

HEROES
TO HIVES
HELPING VETERANS HEAL

Program Highlights

EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

Heroes to Hives empowers veterans who will become the next generation of small-scale sustainable beekeepers. This work allows them to continue serving their nation as defenders of the most important managed pollinator on the planet. In order to continue and grow this important effort we seek corporate and private partners sharing our mission as we grow capacity around veteran outreach and empowerment.



Heroes to Hives Program, Escanaba

CURRENT TRAINING LOCATIONS

- Southwest MI – MSU Kellogg Biological Station Bird Sanctuary, Augusta
- Central Southern MI – MSU Main Campus, East Lansing
- Southeast MI – Ford Motor Company Cherry Hill Farm, Canton
- Central Northern MI – MSU Lake City Research Station, Lake City
- Eastern Upper Peninsula – Bee Wise Farm, Newberry
- ***Western Upper Peninsula – MSU Community Garden, Escanaba***



Investing in Delta County Youth with 4-H

*According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.*



Delta County 4-H Club of the Year
Sewing Up A Storm

Delta County 4-H believes in the power of young people. By providing opportunities to learn and lead, 4-H helps youth become informed and engaged community members. While exploring new topics and activities in an experiential way, youth build the skills they need for life.

In 2019, Delta County 4-H had a total of 300 youth enrolled as 4-H club members. In addition, 1,107 youth aged 5 to 19 took part in learning opportunities with MSU Extension. The program was supported by 138 adult volunteers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL INTERST PROGRAMS

Thomas Mayville, Escanaba High School, attended the Teen Leaders in Action Workshop at Kettunen Center, the Michigan 4-H Training facility. Upon his return, he provided healthy living training to 157 fifth graders at the EUE.

128 fourth graders from Escanaba Upper Elementary and fourteen 5th graders from Big Bay De Noc traveled to Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham this year for a day of hands-on agriculture, food, and natural resources education.



Students from Escanaba Upper Elementary spent a day at MSU UPREC Farm



Investing in Delta County Youth with 4-H & MSU Extension

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Through a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area, Delta County 4-H provided a peer mentoring culinary club (16 youth), a financial literacy program (14 youth) and monthly activities for Bigs and Littles (23 youth and 21 adults).



Having experiences outside their comfort zones help young people become more resilient, more independent and better able to plan and reach their long-term goals. Attending Delta County Outdoor Skills 4-H Survivor Camp is a three day overnight camp that gives youth the opportunity to test the limits of those comfort zones. The camp provides youth the opportunity to develop resiliency and experience stress in a safe environment all while having fun in an atmosphere that promotes team building, communication and leadership skills development



Seven of the 64 campers at U.P. Summer Camp were from Delta County. The theme for the camp was young adult novels and included learning to play quidditch, canoeing, campfires, and a Wizard's Ball.

U.P. 4-H Camp at Clear Lake Education Center.

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

DELTA COUNTY MSU EXTENSION STAFF

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MSU Extension Upper Peninsula



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