

Message from the District Director



Michigan State University Extension continues to work for Gladwin County youth, adults, businesses and communities providing outstanding research-based education and community development programs. With the ever-changing world and needs of the people we serve, MSU Extension ensures that everyone can participate in our programming. Considering participants and their needs, many of our face-to-face programs provide both an in-person and remote option to participate. Our mission remains providing the knowledge and resources of MSU's campus directly to individuals, communities and businesses to help improve lives around Michigan

Eric Karbowski, District Director

Gladwin County Staff
 Liberty Quackenbush -Community Nutrition Instructor
 Brittany Schultz- Office Manager
 Kable Thurlow - Beef & Grazing Educator
 Talynn Johnson - 4-H Program Coordinator

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SNAP-Ed



198

residents served in SNAP-Ed Programming.

MSU Extension staff provides programs for even the youngest of Gladwin county residents. Staff taught Show Me Nutrition curriculum to students of the Gladwin Great Start Readiness Program.

One student's guardian said their child "is a very picky eater but is trying different foods" after the class. The teacher says, "[students] are more willing to try new foods. They talk about healthy foods more" after participating in the class.

62
 Extension programs hosted in the county
(up 55% since 2021)

1,242
 Total participants that attended programs hosted in the county
(168% increase from 2021)

1,299
 Number of residents from county that attended MSU Extension programs



25
Partnerships

29
Volunteers

13,011
Facebook Reach

169
Youth enrolled in county 4-H



Our Staff Stories



**Cora Okkema,
Dairy Educator**

Crisis preparedness is an often-overlooked area of farm risk management; yet the risk here is loss of reputation and potentially, loss of market.

Cora Okkema, dairy educator, serves Gladwin County and provides education on drafting a preparedness plan and crisis response education.



**Kable
Thurlow,
Beef & Grazing
Educator**

Thurlow has worked with Extension since 1998, first as a local 4-H Agent and later expanding his reach as a multi-county livestock agent. Now, Thurlow serves as a Beef & Grazing Educator that is housed in Gladwin and provides services throughout Michigan. Thurlow grew up on a family farm in Gladwin County and raised sheep and beef cattle. Throughout his life, Thurlow has remained involved with agriculture and continues to provide educational opportunities in the areas of beef production, grazing, pasture utilization, forage, and sustainable agricultural to the residents of Gladwin County.



**Talynn
Johnson,
4-H Program
Coordinator**

Johnson provides leadership and management of local 4-H programs, volunteers, and youth participants in Gladwin County. She promotes and strengthens the Gladwin County 4-H program by developing programs and partnerships, promoting and evaluating 4-H program. She is also the liaison from the Michigan 4-H office helping to ensure that statewide opportunities and information is available to local participants.



**Kara Lynch,
Food Safety
Educator**

Lynch is a Registered Dietitian working for Michigan State University Extension as a Food Safety Educator. In this role, Kara provides valuable educational programs to the Gladwin community including ServSafe.

A ServSafe examinee comment:
"I just want to say how much I appreciate your patience and help both in class learning and by phone."



**Teagen Lefere,
Financial
Homeownership
Instructor**

MSU Extension provides Financial & Homeownership training and resources, foreclosure prevention assistance, homeownership education, and money management for the residents of Gladwin County. Lefere is a program instructor for the Financial & Homeownership group. She specializes in foreclosure prevention assistance and homeownership education.

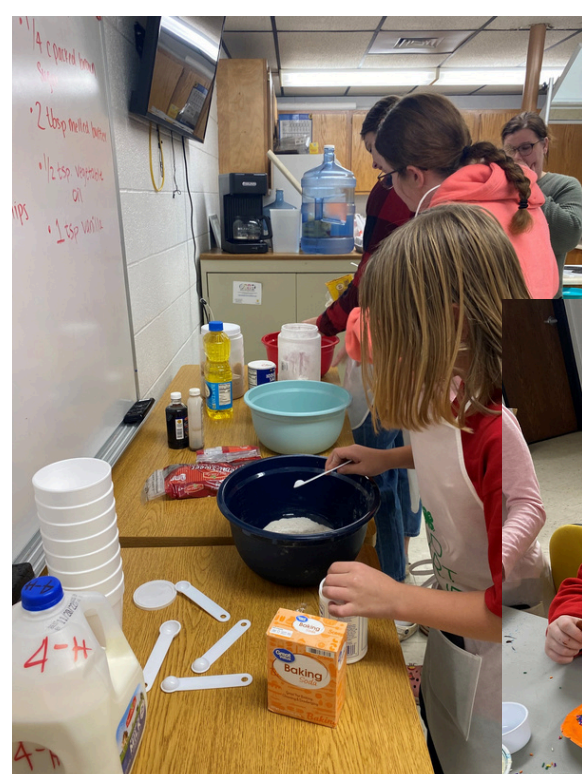


**Liberty
Quackenbush,
Community
Nutrition
Instructor**

Quackenbush is a Registered Dietitian working for Michigan State University Extension. Quackenbush provides both in-person and virtual nutrition and physical activity education to SNAP-Ed eligible audiences. She also offers support to her Gladwin community partners who want to make policy, systems, or environmental changes to improve the health of their communities.

Agriculture and Agribusiness

MSU Extension serves the agriculture industry by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents. In 2022, Gladwin County residents had the opportunity to participate in programming related to animal agriculture, agribusiness management, beekeeping, consumer and ornamental horticulture, and field crops, fruit crops, and vegetables.



"In-The-Mix" SPIN Club

Special Interest (SPIN) clubs allow groups of five or more young people from at least two different families to learn about a topic of interest while building friendships within their community. The "In-The-Mix" club of Gladwin brought together youth that were interested in baking to make "yummy" treats while learning new recipes, how to properly measure ingredients, and food safety. Through this fun and welcoming opportunity, the club baked recipes such as edible cookie dough, chocolate covered pretzels, cookies and brownies.



One of the 9 year olds in the club said, "it was the most fun thing" they've ever done.

Beginner Grazing School 2022

The Michigan State University Extension Beginner Grazing School is designed to provide participants with the latest livestock and forage research on grazing management. The school objectives are to increase knowledge about managed grazing, soil health and fertility, livestock nutrition and health, pasture establishment and renovation, fencing and watering systems, pasture allocation, partial budgeting, and grazing plan designing. The in-person field day delved deeper into hands on demonstrations and activities focused on pasture allocation, fencing and water tools, forage identification, and evaluation of pasture allocation using actual livestock.



"The training was great. There was just enough field portion to demonstrate activities, we well as a class size conducive for learning different methods to be utilized in our grazing techniques moving forward," says a class participant.