



Montcalm County 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



MSU had \$7,623,775 total economic impact in Montcalm County*

*<https://mispartanim pact.msu.edu/stories-data/index.html?geography=county&impactarea=msu&district=&county=Montcalm&variable=>



867 youth participated in 4-H clubs, early childhood or after school programs.



The MSU Extension website received 22,038,201 page views by Michigan residents. 71% of Montcalm County residents still used desktop computers to make their 765 views.



1,672 Montcalm County residents participated in 314 MSU Extension programs in 2023. There were an estimated 4,914 contact hours by programming staff.

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Montcalm County MSU Extension provided programming from all four MSU Extension institutes in 2023.

Each institute is home for Educators, Program Instructors, Program Coordinators, Paraprofessionals, Students, and various Part-time staff who live and work in the local communities. A detailed list of staff is included at the end of this report. The following pages highlight just some of the programming that staff delivered to Montcalm County residents in 2023.

During this period, 1,672 Montcalm County residents participated in 314 different in-person or online programs. There were 749 participants in programs hosted in the County. In addition, 457 4-H youth and 112 4-H volunteers participated in 28 4-H clubs while an additional 410 youth participated in other programming. Your local MSU Extension staff and the statewide network of Educators worked through local partners to bring the University's research and resources directly to our County residents.

Bill Hendrian



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MSU Extension



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Extension



Supporting Agriculture and Agri-Business

Agriculture and Agri-business Institute



Farm Business Educators explain the Farm bill.

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION HOSTED IN MONTCALM COUNTY

Animal Agriculture:	2 prog.	24 par.
Consumer Hort.	1 prog.	16 par.
Field Crops	1 prog.	78 par.
Fruit Crops	2 prog.	17 par.



Photo by Heather Dyer.

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION ATTENDED BY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Animal Agriculture:	27 prog.	290 par.
Business Mgmt.	7 prog.	44 par.
Consumer Hort.	16 prog.	257 par.
Environmental Ag.	6 prog.	14 par.
Field Crops	32 prog.	155 par.
Fruit Crops	7 prog.	35 par.
Ornamental Hort.	6 prog.	38 par.
Vegetables	4 prog.	41 par.

FARM EMPLOYEE TRAINING



MSU Extension Dairy Educator, Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa offers education to dairy farm workers.

Our MSU Extension Dairy Team continues to provide on-farm education and training. We equip dairy employees with essential skills, so that farms can achieve tangible results. We cover milking techniques, maternity care, sick cow management, calf care, low-stress animal handling, cow feeding management, and team communication. These trainings are offered on farms across the state of Michigan and are delivered in English, Spanish, or both languages. In 2023, the dairy team conducted more than 22 training sessions, affecting 15 farms, and representing over 20,000 dairy animals. More than 160 dairy employees took advantage of the training. According to our dairy educator, Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa, 88% reported at least one positive change in the employees during the following months after the training, including: engagement, communication with the farm management team, teamwork, and efficiency. 100% reported improvements in at least one area.



Supporting Good Health and Safe Food

Health and Nutrition Institute

PROGRAMS ATTENDED STATEWIDE BY LOCAL RESIDENTS

Food Safety	22 prog.	37 par.
General Health	37 prog.	95 par.
SNAP Education	29 prog.	396 par.



SOME EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS HOSTED IN THE COUNTY

- Show Me Nutrition
- Re-Think Your Drink
- Be Kind to Your Mind
- Changing Negative Self-Talk
- Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention



NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Our Community Nutrition Instructors work with schools, community groups, even the courts providing basic nutrition education and physical activity. Students participate in weekly sessions held right at their school. The students learn basic food preparation, making healthy meals, and shopping on a budget while still selecting the healthy foods. Our Community Nutrition Instructors held programs in a number of Montcalm County schools in 2023. They used popular curriculum like Show Me Nutrition.

Students also learn the importance of incorporating physical activity into their daily routines. Our Community Nutrition instructors make it fun, and the students often bring their knowledge home to share with their families.





Supporting Youth Development

Children and Youth Institute

4-H PARTICIPATION



The MSU Extension Children and Youth Institute provides programs for youth, caregivers, and families.

Number of 4-H Clubs	28
Youth Involvement in 4-H clubs	457
Youth involvement in outreach	
And Expansion 4-H programs	410
4-H Volunteers	112

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION BY COUNTY RESIDENTS



4-H offers youth the opportunity to pick an animal or still-life project and learn throughout the year. The culmination is often the show at the County Fair.

4-H programs	31 prog.	217 par.
Career Exploration	8 prog.	12 par.
Child & Family Dv.	41 prog.	56 par.
Leadrshp & Civic Eng.	5 prog.	7 par.
Science Literacy	5 prog.	11 par.

Career Exploration and Workforce Development



4-H youth learn the best practices for preparing “buyer’s” letters to prepare for the auction.

In one district county, fifty-two youth registered for an event to learn how to create content for “buyer’s letters.” Using a Youth Business Guide to Success, a volunteer from the business community facilitated a discussion and recommendations for youth to make good impressions, build appreciation, and make their business pitch! Participants then practiced everything from handshakes to “elevator” speeches with the help of local business volunteers.



Supporting Strong Communities

Community, Food, and Environment Institute



PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION ATTENDED BY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Community		
Food Systems	6 prog.	48 par.
Financial and Homeownership	21 prog.	110 par.
Government and Community Vitality	13 prog.	22 par.
Leadnet	4 prog.	4 par.
Natural Resources	10 prog.	22 par.
Sea Grant	4 prog.	7 par.
Product Center	11 prog.	12 par.



In Montcalm County, Brenda Long helped with 33 MIHAF applications to prevent foreclosures in 2023. The funding approved:

\$ 176,035.52

“You have no idea how much this means to us. Not only do we thank you but owe you. We get to keep our home.”

BH, Program Participant

Participants

3,285

Sessions

281

Hours

441

HELPING STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS

MSU Extension Educator Brenda Long was on the Financial and Homeownership Education (FHE) team. She assisted homeowners with the online Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) process. Many of these homeowners did not have the technology skills to self-apply and upload the required documents. She also provided follow-up assistance.

As a HUD certified housing counselor, Brenda could also provide in-depth mortgage counseling to homeowners including communicating with their mortgage servicers and submitting a mortgage assistance application. She also worked closely with several county treasurers who referred homeowners facing foreclosure for delinquent property taxes.

MSU Extension staff located in Montcalm County

Sunni Haglund	4-H Program Coordinator	989-831-7500	harri1541@msu.edu
Bill Hendrian	District 8 Director	231-843-4395	hendria2@msu.edu
Vicki Newcomb	Office Manager	989-831-7500	newcombv@msu.edu
Joanna Urban	Community Nutrition Instructor	989-831-7506	urbanjoa@msu.edu
Steve Whittington	Field Crops Educator	989-831-7509	whitti34@msu.edu

Additional MSU Extension staff serving Montcalm County

Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa	Dairy Educator	970-888-1356	paolabs@msu.edu
Corey Clark	Farm Business Educator	517-420-2042	clarkcr@msu.edu
Roxanne Turner	CYI / 4-H Supervising Educator	517-546-3950	turnerr@msu.edu
Charles Gould	Bioenergy Educator	616-994-4547	gouldm@msu.edu
Monica Jean	Field Crops Educator	616-443-8782	atkinmon@msu.edu
Sheila Hebert	Maternal Infant Health Educator	517-432-3076	murphysh@msu.edu
Ezra Pompos	Finance and Homeownership	517-887-4575	epompos@msu.edu
Holly Tiret	Social Emotional Educator	616-632-7893	tiret@msu.edu
Eric Walcott	Government & Public Policy	517-353-9106	walcott3@msu.edu
Casey Zangaro	Swine Educator	989-875-5292	zangaroc@msu.edu