



# Huron County

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

[msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu)



## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is the delivery system that brings cutting edge knowledge directly to the citizens of our state. Over the past year, MSU Extension partnered with Huron County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Huron County residents need it most.



From agriculture to 4-H to personal finance programs and from youth to senior audiences, MSU Extension provides education to help Huron County residents improve their lives. This report highlights just some of the work done last year.

We're passionate about serving Huron County and understand that equipping residents with knowledge helps them at home, at work and in their communities. Thank you for supporting MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Jerry Johnson, District Coordinator

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MSU Extension District 10  
 Huron County 4-H  
 Family Nutrition Program

## BY THE NUMBERS

- \*\*\$4,845,785 total economic impact in Huron County.
- \*\*\$187,249 spending with local businesses
- \*\*91 Huron County students enrolled at MSU
- \*\*MSU disbursed \$295,823 in financial aid to Huron County students
- \*\*570 MSU alumni in Huron County

## MEASURING IMPACT

### CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H Program.....	1,029
Food Safety Programs .....	309
Health & Nutrition Programs .....	1,126
Field Crops - Agricultural Programs .....	379
Livestock - Agricultural Programs .....	403
Ensuring Strong Communities - 2 Villages .....	2,567
Environment & Natural Assets.....	115
<b>TOTAL IMPACT.....</b>	<b>5,928</b>

### DISTRICT 10 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, the MSU Extension website ([msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu)) received 19,141 visits from Huron County. Of those, 78.5 percent were first-time visitors. The easily accessible and searchable science-based content make the MSU Extension website one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

## MSU Extension celebrates 100 Years in Huron County

» 100 Years in Huron County — In 2017, MSU Extension celebrated 100 years of being part of the Huron County community. A display was set up at the Huron County Building with information on programming available through MSU Extension. In November, a display was erected as part of the lighted Christmas display on the fairgrounds. A new road sign was also put in place.



New road sign



Light display at fairgrounds



Display at Huron County Building



# Developing Youth and Communities



Marianne Buza, Dairy Educator, instructs participants at an event.

**When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).**



Exploration Days delegates



When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Extension programs help children develop early literacy skills that support school readiness. They learn leadership and decision-making skills in 4-H that increase their likelihood of becoming civically active. 4-H'ers also demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors such as drug use, and learn to complete tasks, solve problems and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H involvement also helps participants avoid or reduce involvement with the court system. This helps ensure more young people succeed in school, attend college and contribute to their communities. More successful young people in communities results in greater tax revenues and consumer spending and increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

## 4-H Youth Exploration Days

» 4-H Exploration Days — Michigan's largest annual 4-H event is designed to help students:

- ◆ Learn new ideas and techniques
- ◆ Increase their interest in and readiness for college
- ◆ Explore career options
- ◆ Develop decision-making skills
- ◆ Develop independence as well as teamwork

Participants also meet and interact with people from different backgrounds and areas throughout Michigan. 4-H volunteers and staff are on hand to provide oversight and guidance. Participants pre-register, choosing from more than 200 session options which they attend throughout their three-day stay. Huron County's delegation consisted of 15 youth and four adult chaperones. 2017-18 had six first-time delegates.

## Career Exploration Day

» Career Exploration Day — A partnership was established with Bad Axe Middle School and the Huron County 4-H Youth Development Program to provide a "Career Day" for approximately 150 youth in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. It was held on April 20, 2018, and a variety of careers were presented to the students with an emphasis on traditional and non-traditional agriculture careers. MSU Extension Dairy and SNAP-ED Programs also participated by presenting educational and career experiences in those fields. Response from the youth participants was overwhelmingly positive.

## Developing Youth and Communities, continued



Renee Stacer, Nutrition Program Instructor with MSU Extension takes part in Career Exploration Day



The PEP instructor waits for the riders to enter the arena at the fairgrounds  
Photo Credit: PEP Program



Logan Kneffel displays the tied fleece blanket he made in a 4-H workshop

### 4-H School Enrichment Program

» 4-H School Enrichment Program — Huron County youth developed critical life skills during 4-H school enrichment programming. An opportunity was provided to three local school districts to receive programming for six weeks which consisted of one hour sessions. During these sessions, students learned various lessons focusing on 4-H life skills such as, sewing, nature, character education, nutrition, crafts, leadership and animal science. Over 100 students participated in this enrichment programming.

### 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP)

» 4-H Proud Equestrian Program — is a therapeutic horseback riding program that offers riding lessons to youth with special needs. In 2017, 18 youth, the maximum number of participants allowed, with special needs participated in the 4-H PEP horseback riding program. Not only do they get riding time, but they also spend time in a stable management class where they learn more about the horses and do arts and crafts projects. Numerous 4-H leaders volunteer their own horses for this program each year.

### 4-H'ers Earn Group State Award

» State 4-H Awards — Three Huron County 4-H members brought home the Michigan 4-H State Award in the Group Award category during Michigan 4-H Exploration Days in June. Royce Daskam, Pearl Daskam and Addy Battel of the Boots and Bling 4-H Club earned the award on behalf of their project *Meating the Need for Our Village*, which provides high-quality protein to low-income families. 4-H members and other youth raise meat animals and donate milk to food pantries as part of the four-year-old hunger relief project. Through *Meating the Need for Our Village*, youth have provided nearly 7,000 pounds of meat, more than 600 gallons of milk and soon eggs, leading to a \$43,000 impact in the Thumb.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards program provides members an opportunity to showcase what they have learned through their 4-H experiences and to receive recognition for the dedication and hard work of compiling their 4-H State Awards application. After the Daskams and Battel submitted their application, judges named them delegates to the awards program. At Michigan State University they gave a 10-minute presentation about their project to a panel of judges and answered questions to determine the state winner. A 4-H State Award is the top honor a 4-H member can earn, and through the process all applicants and delegates have built their skills and expanded their portfolios.

### 4-H Project Workshops



Participants work on their 4-H projects at a workshop

» 4-H Project Workshops — are offered to allow all youth ages 5 to 19 (4-H and non-4-H members) to experience how to use their skills and gain new ones as well as letting their creativity flow through making different arts and crafts and other projects. This round of workshops featured five different project areas such as fleece-tied blankets, jam making, photography, making a stuffed teddy bear and planting flower pots. These workshops were attended by area 4-H members in 2017-18 and organized by the Huron County 4-H Council and the MSU Extension Youth Development Program.

### 4-H Camp

» 4-H Camp — The main purpose of 4-H camp is to get youth (ages 9 to 14) involved in an outdoor-living experience. Thumb Area 4-H camp offers an excellent opportunity for 4-H'ers and non-4-H'ers to make new friends and share experiences in camping, all while building and developing life skills. 4-H camp activities include Great Lakes ecology, tree climbing, mud hiking, swimming, archery, outdoor survival skills,



4-H Camp participants

teambuilding skills, skits, games, crafts and more. There were 84 youth (Huron – 26, Sanilac – 12, St. Clair – 32, Tuscola – 14), 15 adult chaperones/volunteers, along with a team of 28 teen counselors (Huron – 6, Sanilac – 6, St. Clair – 11, Tuscola – 5) attending the 2017 Thumb Area 4-H camp held July 6-8 at Camp Cavell in Lexington, Michigan. In order to become a teen counselor, teens must go through intensive training and be responsible for planning and implementing activities for Thumb Area 4-H Camp each year. Throughout the year, committee members are involved in numerous workshops and trainings in preparation for Thumb Area 4-H Camp.

### State Youth Leadership Council Members

» 4-H State Council Members — Established in 2015, the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) is a statewide leadership opportunity for 4-H youth. SYLC members serve as representatives of the Michigan 4-H program, promoting 4-H through state and local activities, and can provide a youth voice and perspective on the development of 4-H programs and curricula. SYLC members are also provided an opportunity to represent Michigan in attendance at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. Huron County 4-H'ers Addy Battel and Pearl Daskam were both selected to serve on the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council. Their term began in January.

Whether it is written, spoken or visually represented, the way we express ourselves makes a big impact on our daily lives at home, work and play.



# Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.



Educational material used in ServSafe Manager Training courses



Handwashing display presented at Owen-Gage school for K-12 graders

When you support MSU Extension's efforts to enhance residents' access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food, program participants will focus on food safety measures in the field and at harvest, learn proper food preparation and food preservation techniques, and bring community partners together to strengthen access to healthy food supplies. This leads to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

Food Safety is a global issue from farm to table. Its impact on our health and well-being is significant across the life span. Food-borne illness outbreaks occur on an ongoing basis crossing all socioeconomic lines from production, consumption and preservation of foods. Overall health is impacted by the safety of the food supply and foodborne illness.

To educate consumers about keeping their food safe, MSU Extension provides programming in the areas of Food Preservation, Cooking for Crowds, Safe Food = Healthy Kids and ServSafe Manager Training for adults. Food safety educational presentations for youth and adults groups are held upon request and online education is also an option for some programs.

Results of programming in Huron County include:

## ServSafe Manager Training

» **ServSafe Manager Training** — Manager certification and education was provided for 60 foodservice employees representing local schools, churches and restaurants. This course provides education for the ServSafe Food Protection Manager course and proctoring of the certification exam. Through ServSafe, participants learn how to help prevent foodborne illness throughout the flow of food and set up food safety management systems.

## Food Safety Education and Presentations

» **Food Safety Education and Presentations** — 155 youth engaged in a food safety presentation and information to learn about staying healthy by keeping germ free. Handwashing was the focus for the students. 43 adults attended food safety presentations on topics to help them stay healthy and fight foodborne illness.

## Michigan FACT Sheets

» **Michigan Fact Sheets** — These resources provide valuable information on the safe use, storage and preservation of Michigan grown fruits and vegetables. They were available at four local farm markets as well as the MSU Extension office and food safety programs.

## Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued

### Cooking for Crowds

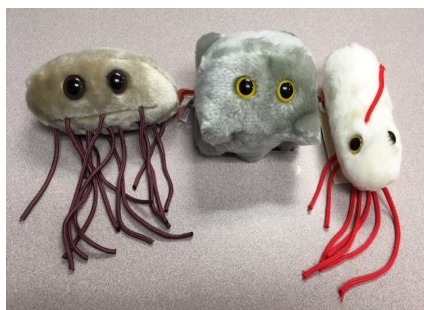
» Cooking for Crowds — Classes were held for 35 volunteers at three local organizations. Cooking for Crowds is designed for non-profit groups that run food fundraisers and events such as meals, bake sales, sub sales and dinners. There are a range of food safety risks that develop when cooking large volumes of food and participants learn to reduce those risks and help prevent the conditions that may lead to a foodborne illness.



Using Glo-Germ, proper handwashing skills are taught and practiced at food safety classes



Ecoli - Norovirus - Salmonella  
Giant stuffed microbes are used when explaining pathogens that can contaminate food and how to prevent them from causing foodborne illness.



### Safe Food = Healthy Kids

» Safe Food = Healthy Kids — is a new pilot program funded through a Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant which focuses on providing food safety education for childcare providers. The goal of the program is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in young children. In Huron County, 16 childcare providers attended this new, innovative training which incorporates hands-on learning with an educational texting campaign to enhance learning after attending the program.

TEXT: SafeFood to 797979 to sign up and receive food safety tips every week.



Promoting the new educational food safety texting campaign

### What they said:

» Cooking for Crowds participants:

*“I learned a lot of new information about calibrating a thermometer and preventing cross contamination.”*

*“Class was very helpful in knowing requirements for ensuring safe food safety while cooking. Great resources and presentation.”*

*“It was helpful to fully understand the dangers of improper cooking, etc. This will help me pass on the knowledge to other volunteers.”*

» Safe Food = Healthy Kids participants:

*“I learned I need to calibrate my thermometer, and I liked getting the chart with cooking temperatures.”*

*“It helped with proper glove use.”*

*“Taught me about foodborne pathogens and the right cooking temperatures to use for safe food.”*

*“It showed me ways to cook food safely and helped me learn if you don’t have and use proper sanitizer, people can get sick.”*

*“I will be more diligent about temping meats with a thermometer.”*

# Ensuring Strong Communities



MSU Extension understands that building civic engagement and healthy economic structures leads to greater opportunities and stronger communities.

When you support MSU Extension, participants learn how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged; learn effective conflict management skills that help leaders and residents work collaboratively on complex issues; and engage youth leaders in decision-making. The First Impressions program helps communities realize their potential for community tourism. All of these outcomes help lower the cost of governmental services and lead to personal and community stability, strong neighborhoods and safe communities.

## First Impressions Program

» **First Impressions (FI) Program** — was developed to help communities learn about their existing strengths and weaknesses as seen through the eyes of first-time visitors. The FI program has been used to help communities across the U.S. and Canada inform economic initiatives or further develop community goals. MSU Extension has adapted this program, adding a tourism focus to meet the needs of Michigan communities. MSU Extension's First Impressions: Assessing Your Community for Tourism (FIT) is a unique version of FI for our state. Following are the results of MSU Extension's FIT program in two Huron County communities.

## FIT the Village of Elkton

» **The Village of Elkton** — was visited by four first-time unannounced visitors. Each traveled individually to the village and recorded his or her experiences conducting visitor research, maneuvering through and around Elkton visiting stores, restaurants, outdoor spaces and additional tourism-related sites. Some of the points that came from these visits include:

- ◆ Downtown Development Authority re-engaged and launching projects after a four year absence.
- ◆ Local artists engaged for mural paintings
- ◆ Website redesigned and promos announced
- ◆ Businesses engaged for better service
- ◆ Youth/business entrepreneurship program initiated



Village of Elkton gateway sign  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension

Mural located in the Village of Elkton  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension



Village of Elkton quilt trail marker  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension





## FIT the Village of Sebewaing



A waterway located in the Village of Sebewaing  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension

» **The Village of Sebewaing** — was visited by four first-time unannounced visitors. It was determined by these visitors that Sebewaing has some wonderful assets including a marina, historical museum, unique architecture and waterways meandering through a walkable and historical downtown and residential areas. The assets and experiences identified by the four visitors can serve as a base from which to capitalize and strengthen Sebewaing's image and assets for future visitors. Items to come from the data submitted by these visitors was:

- ◆ Established “Historical River District”
- ◆ Launched new farmers market
- ◆ Businesses engaged for better service
- ◆ Recreation Plan updated after five years in partnership with MSU Urban Planning Program
- ◆ Kayak trail signage (tentative)
- ◆ Grant dollars secured for future projects



Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension



Camping in the Village of Sebewaing  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension

## Food Council in Michigan's Thumb Area

» **Food Council in Huron County** — The five District 10 counties including St. Clair, Lapeer Tuscola, Sanilac, and Huron counties will be represented by a food policy council beginning the fall of 2018. The purpose of the council initially will be to develop a thorough understanding of what the food system looks like in the greater Thumb area both from a consumer and producer perspective. The food system is a large dynamic web of networks represented by both private and public sector circles. It further represents a large portion of economic activity within the district geographic area and internationally.

Additionally, the council will evaluate what best strategies will assist in the promotion of a food system that provides for the food needs of those who are secure and insecure. To this end, the council will develop and sponsor projects, programs and other initiatives that provide education to the greater public and promote changes in practices with stakeholders and policies with elected officials that support the larger food system.

The council received a \$3,000 grant from the Michigan Local Food Policy Council Network in June of 2018. Each county will have designated representatives to serve on the council beginning in September 2018.



Village of Sebewaing mural  
Photo credit: FIT MSU Extension

# Keeping People Healthy

**Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.**

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn safe food handling practices, increase their physical activity and improve the quality of their diets. Extension programming also helps decrease incidents of violence and bullying. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

In Huron County, residents were engaged in a variety of programs to enhance their health through interactive educational classes on Nutrition and Physical Activity.

## Senior Market FRESH

» **Senior Market FRESH** — Educational presentations for 272 county residents over the age of 60, in partnership with the Huron County Health Department, were held. Seniors learned the importance of fruits and vegetables in their diets as well as receiving \$40 in coupons to be used to purchase fresh Michigan fruits and vegetables at local farm markets to enhance their nutrition and health.



Spinach flowers created by preschoolers became a fun and healthy art project they could eat

## Show Me Nutrition and Grow It, Try It, Like It

» **Show Me Nutrition and Grow It, Try It, Like It** — 144 youth engaged in a series of classes about healthy eating, MyPlate, and being more physically active.

## Cooking Matters and Eat Healthy, Be Active

» **Cooking Matters and Eat Healthy, Be Active** — A series of nutrition classes for adults, teens and families was offered locally at various sites throughout the county. 83 participants took part in this nutrition education programming. Class participants learn not only about healthy eating but also basic cooking skills and the preparation of healthy recipes.

## Eat Smart, Live Strong (ESLS)

» **Eat Smart, Live Strong (ESLS)** — This nutrition education series for seniors was held at the Huron County Senior Center for nine senior citizens. The series combines both education about eating more fruits and vegetables with adding more daily physical activity.

## Nutrition Presentations

» **Nutrition Presentations** — Presentations on various nutrition topics were held for 109 participants. They were given healthy eating tips during the 35 - 60 minute presentations. Topics vary from fresh fruits and vegetables to picky eaters and healthy snacks.



Fight Bac lesson presented at the Huron Learning Center for preschoolers

## Keeping People Healthy, continued

### Healthier Childcare Environments



Youngsters enjoying lunch family style on their new MyPlate plates at a childcare provider

» **Healthier Childcare Environments** — This initiative helps childcare providers identify areas for improvement related to nutrition and physical activity policies and environmental best practices. A trained nutrition education coach from MSU Extension helps childcare providers through the process and connects them with resources to work towards best practices. Areas of focus include: active/inactive play time, fruits and vegetables, screen time use, menus and variety, physical activity policy and nutrition policy. After four to six months of assessing their environment, action planning and implementing new nutrition and physical activity best practices, the result is a healthier childcare environment for the childcare providers and the children they care for. In Huron County, five childcare sites participated in this new program impacting more than 78 children as well as their families.



A beach ball becomes a game to add physical activity at a childcare site. Looks like four jumping-jacks for everyone!

### Diabetes PATH Series

» **Diabetes PATH** — is a self-management workshop aimed at empowering people to take an active role in managing diabetes. Over the course of six weeks, participants learn strategies to help them deal with difficult emotions, how to develop a healthy eating and exercise plan, goal setting and problem solving, and a variety of other tools to manage diabetes. The series is designed for adults of all ages including those with prediabetes, type 1 or type 2 diabetes, family members and caregivers. Diabetes PATH offered two series in Huron County that were attended by 18 people which is the maximum number of participants the class allows.

### What they said:

» **Healthier Childcare Environments childcare providers:**

*“I have adapted more mindful eating practices, expanded my meal patterns and planning, and nutrition is discussed during meals more often. Physical activity for children has increased, and we are participating in more group physical activity. We have turned off the TV during meal time and are enjoying conversation about our food. The children are more open to trying new foods with our family style snack time.”*

*“After having a few meetings with the instructor, I started to see the changes with my daycare kids. They started to try different foods even if it was one bite. Now at the end of the program, all my daycare kids are loving the new foods!”*

*“All the children are trying at least one bite of new food because of the two bite club. Parents are surprised that their children are trying new kinds of foods.”*

» **Diabetes PATH participants:**

*At the 6th session (last class of the series) one of the participants shared that she went to her doctor to get the results of her blood work associated with her type 2 diabetes. The doctor came into the examination room and said, “Whatever you’re doing, keep it up because your A1C levels are within normal range!” This participant shared that before she took this series, her doctor was encouraging her to start insulin injections because her A1C levels continued to be dangerously high. This participant attributed the self-management skills learned in the Diabetes PATH series to her A1C levels being within normal range.*

*“This class was life changing. The book is a priceless treasure. The leaders were A+. I’m grateful for this class.”*



Using MyPlate to enjoy a healthy, balanced meal



More vegetables are added at snack time at a home childcare provider site. Here kids are trying red, yellow and orange peppers as well as cucumbers.



# Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



**Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.**

Fish caught during a charter boat excursion (above)  
Charter fishing boat (below)  
Photos credit: Michigan Sea Grant



Residents drop off items at the annual household hazardous waste collection

When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about income-generating opportunities, ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs can lead to increased income for families that retain their natural resource assets, help landowners become better stewards of their land, and protect land management opportunities for future generations. Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

Michigan Sea Grant Extension promotes research, education, and outreach to enhance responsible and sustainable use of our diverse Great Lakes resources. Through MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant works with Michigan citizens, industries, and coastal communities to encourage their use, benefits, and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources that positively influences our state's economy, environment and quality of life.

## Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops

» **Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops** — In 2018, Michigan Sea Grant Extension hosted four Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops – including one in Bad Axe. These workshops brought together over 300 anglers, charter captains, and others with fisheries researchers and managers from across Michigan. At the Bad Axe workshop, there were over 100 participants including more than 50 attendees from Huron County. Participants gained better understanding of Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem changes, how people are interacting with and affect these resources (e.g. fishing trends, management issues) and connected-research and management activities relating to Lake Huron and local communities.

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

» **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** — In 2017, the collection was held on Saturday, April 29th. The three hour event collected over 8,000 pounds of toxic waste from area Huron County residents to prevent it from going into local landfills and potentially contaminating ground water. Residents dropped off 1,967 toxic products. This collection is a collaboration between the Huron Conservation District and Huron County along with MSU Extension where the program is coordinated.

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



Participants visit with agri-business vendors at Thumb Ag Day

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



A cow takes time out from eating to pose for a picture.

Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. The production of commercial food and nonfood agricultural operations is growing rapidly. The number of households raising a portion of their own food and raising livestock or gardening for pleasure or relaxation continues to increase. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.

## Thumb Ag Day

» **Thumb Ag Day** — MSU Extension hosted its annual Thumb Ag Day on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at the Ubyly Heights Country Club. Approximately 220 visitors from 10 different counties met with 82 vendors at the event. Participants also had the chance to attend educational sessions, including: making production costs fit today's markets, commodity market update, and ways to combat nutrient transport from agricultural fields and downstream water bodies. MSU Extension Field Crops Educators Martin Nagelkirk, Phil Kaatz, and Bob Battel also presented an agricultural review with results of the 2017 field trials including an update on RoundUp resistant marestail.

## Pesticide Education

» **Pesticide Education** — Huron County MSU Extension offered two sessions of pesticide education during January and February to restricted use pesticide (RUP) users. This education serves to keep RUP users applying pesticides in a safe as well as economic fashion.

## Great Lakes Cattle Feeding & Marketing Shortcourse

» **Great Lakes Professional Cattle Feeding and Marketing Shortcourse** — was offered in Bad Axe with 28 people attending. The course is designed to increase knowledge of strategies to reduce antibiotic use in their feedlot, metaphylaxis to reduce bovine respiratory disease, what to look for on a laboratory feed analysis, snapped/high moisture ear corn use in feedlot diets, can genomics increase feedyard profitability?, 2017 National Beef Quality Audit results, comparing Holstein and beef breed cattle cutouts, where is the market for Holstein steers headed?, and outlook for corn and beef prices.

## Thumb Cattlemen Series

» **Thumb Cattlemen Series** — The Thumb Cattlemen series, facilitated by Dr. Jeannine Schweihofer, starts in December and ends in April. The group meets once a month to learn from experts and discuss with each other topics that include animal well-being, animal health, fundamentals and opportunities in Michigan feedlots, Packers and Stockyards Act, environmental management, managing farm stress and meat quality.

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued



VaDia device attached to a milking claw to monitor milk flow



VaDia device used in on-farm research project



Milan Forrester fits a cow with help from volunteer Jared Sanderson during Thumb Dairy Odyssey Days.

Since the summer of 2016, the MSU Extension dairy team has been doing summer research projects on farms across the state. These research projects are to help answer questions dairy producers have. The research projects provide valuable information to the farms and create a picture of the issues state wide.

### Improve Your Calf Raising Program

» **Improve Your Calf Raising Program** — In 2016, the first project the team did involved the immunity of dairy bull calves verse dairy heifer calves. The winter education program was about how to improve your calf raising program based on results from the project. The program was held at six locations, including Bad Axe with several people attending from Huron County.

### Evaluating Parlor Performance

» **Evaluating Parlor Performance** — During the summer of 2017, the dairy team's research involved evaluating parlor performance by measuring milk let down and milk flow. The topic for the following winter educational program included ways to increase profits by making changes in milking parlors. Meetings were held in five locations with dairy producers from Huron County attending.

### Heat Stress on Dairy Farms

» **Heat Stress on Dairy Farms** — For the 2018 summer project, the level of heat stress on dairy farms is being assessed. The winter education program will be influenced by the results of the project. During the three research projects, 21 Thumb area farms participated and of those farms, 10 are located in Huron County.

### Thumb Dairy Odyssey

» **Thumb Dairy Odyssey** — Thumb Dairy Odyssey Days completed its 7<sup>th</sup> event. This continues to be a unique event that is attracting youth from all over the state to learn about dairy. The idea for the program came from Huron County 4-H member Addy Battel. It was created because, even though the Thumb area of Michigan is the number one milk producing area in Michigan, it lacks any dairy specific youth events. This event takes place on Saturdays in the summer. In 2017 and 2018 each summer had two separate Saturday events where youth were able to visit different local dairy farms and learn about animal science, agriculture and most importantly some of the career possibilities they present. Many farms across the state of Michigan struggle to find those who want to work on farms or in agriculture. These youth were also encouraged to try showing animals at fair or attending events like Dairy Days at MSU. In 2017 and 2018, Thumb Dairy Odyssey Days saw 87 youth participate, along with 54 parents and volunteers in attendance. Of the 87 youth, 26 were from Huron County.

Dr. Michelle Borek Stine shows youth how to give a physical examination to a cow





# Online Opportunities

Over the past few years, MSU Extension has been developing online opportunities for people to get training or attend programs that may not be offered directly in the county. Using an electronic format allows MSU Extension to reach a broader audience and offer additional programming to Huron County residents.

## Online Food Safety Related Programs

- » **Food Safety Workshop for Childcare Providers** — Participants learn food safety best practices in an interactive, food safety workshop for childcare providers. Topics include cleaning and sanitizing, cooking and storing food as well as common allergens and personal hygiene. [msue.msu.edu/childfoodsafety](http://msue.msu.edu/childfoodsafety)
- » **Online Michigan Cottage Food Law** — Participants learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan's Cottage Food Law by taking this low-cost online course at their own pace. Lessons include information on preparing, packaging, labeling, storing and transporting cottage foods. [msue.msu.edu/cottagefood](http://msue.msu.edu/cottagefood)
- » **Online Home Food Preservation Course** — This low-cost course is designed to increase knowledge and confidence in water bath and pressure canning, freezing, pickling and dehydrating techniques. [msue.msu.edu/foodpreservation](http://msue.msu.edu/foodpreservation)
- » **Online Food Safety Training for Food Service Workers** — Food Service workers can enroll in a free food safety-training course that can be completed at their own pace. The course covers basic food safety for the front line food service employee and is available in several languages. [campus.extension.org](http://campus.extension.org)



Online options available through MSU Extension

## MI Money Health

- » **MI Money Health** — Michigan's financial health starts with you. When individuals and families in our communities are financially healthy, it creates an environment for sustained community prosperity. [www.mimoneyhealth.org](http://www.mimoneyhealth.org)
- » **Starting Over After Foreclosure Toolkit** — This toolkit is designed to help people who have been through home foreclosure or are now in the foreclosure process to rebuild their financial lives. The toolkit is available in English and Spanish. There are eight distinct units available for use in this toolkit. [www.mimoneyhealth.org](http://www.mimoneyhealth.org)



## Social and Emotional Health

- » **RELAX Alternatives to Anger** — This program provides help in understanding and managing anger and stress, and in developing communication skills needed for healthy relationships. [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu) see "Programs" under the Family topic

## Citizen Planner Online

- » **Citizen Planner Online** — The online version of this program includes access to resources similar to the classroom program along with relevant web resources, decision-making tools and online exercises. <http://citizenplanner.msu.edu/>

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**Garden or Yard Question?**  
 Visit the Gardening in Michigan website:  
[www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu). View tip sheets on  
 smart soils and other smart gardening  
 topics OR call **MSU Extension's toll-free**  
**Hotline: 1-888-678-3464**

**Food Safety Hotline**  
 Do you have questions about food expiration dates?  
 Want to know how long leftovers will last? The MSU  
 Extension food safety hotline can help answer these  
 types of questions.  
**Hotline: 1-810-285-9565**

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