



Ionia County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



MSU had \$14,879,534 total economic impact in Ionia County



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



MSU Extension website received 22,038,201 page views by Michigan residents. Of the 714 Ionia County sessions, over 70% still used desktop computers to access the webpages.



1,405 Ionia County residents participated in 219 different MSUE programs in 2023, with an estimated 3,249 contact hours by programming staff.

100

Serving Ionia County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Ionia 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 highlights just some of the programming that staff delivered to Ionia County residents in 2023. During this period, Over 1,400 Ionia County residents participated in 219 different in-person or online programs. In addition, 758 4-H youth and 98 4-H volunteers participated in club activities and projects leading up to the 2023 Ionia County Fair. 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.



CONTACT



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MICHIGAN STATE
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Supporting Agriculture and Agri-Business

Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute



Farm Business Educators explain the Farm bill.

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION

Animal Agriculture:	25 programs
Farm Business:	8 programs
Consumer Hort.	16 programs
Environmental Ag.	5 programs
Field Crops	36 programs
Fruit Crops	6 programs
Ornamental Hort.	2 programs
Vegetables	4 programs



Photo by Heather Dyer.

PROGRAMS HOSTED LOCALLY

- Greenstone Producers Day
- Milker Training
- Farm Crisis Planning
- Parlor Performance Evaluation
- Animal Handling and Wellbeing Training
- One-on-one education 148

FARM EMPLOYEE TRAINING

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.



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

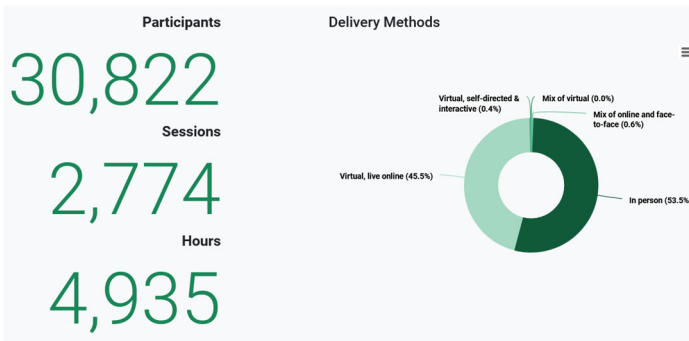


Supporting Good Health and Safe Food

Health and Nutrition Institute

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION

Food Safety 10 programs
 General Health 14 programs
 SNAP-Education 21 programs
 Statewide over 30,000 participants!



PROGRAMS HOSTED LOCALLY

Brentwood Housing OTP Physical Activities
 Pediatric Immunization Update
 Adult Immunization Update
 Show Me Nutrition - 16 classes partnering with Saranac Elementary



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Our Community Nutrition Instructors work with schools, community groups, even the courts providing basic nutrition education and physical activity. On one occasion this past year, Joanna Urban was wrapping up programming with a fourth-grade class at Saranac Elementary School. They were discussing what they had learned about nutrition and physical activity. One student raised his hand to comment about a change that occurred after tracking his physical activity. "I get way over an hour of exercise everyday now. Since the first day you came to our class, I cut four hours of video games out of my day.....I told my dad that I was worried about how much he plays video games, and he told me he would stop playing them completely."





Supporting Youth Development

Children and Youth Institute



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

PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION

4-H general learning	11 programs
Career Exploration and Workforce Development	5 programs
Child and Family Development	8 programs
Leadership and Civic Engagement	1 program
Science literacy	7 programs



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.

PROGRAMS HOSTED LOCALLY

Youth Involvement In 4-H Clubs	322
Youth Involvement In 4-H and afterschool	758
4-H Clubs	26
4-H Volunteers	98
Small Ruminant Hoof Trimming	



4-H is Michigan's largest youth development

4-H INVOLVEMENT IN THE FAIR

Beef	68 entries
Cavies	12 entries
Dairy	70 entries
Dairy Feeder	83 entries
Dairy Goats	62 entries
Market Goats	63 entries
Poultry	235 entries
Rabbits	180 entries
Sheep	118 entries
Swine	567 entries
Still Exhibits	108 entries
Foods	33 entries



Supporting Strong Communities

Community, Food, and Environment Institute



PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATION

Community Food Systems	9 programs
Financial and Homeownership	25 programs
Government and Community Vitality	10 programs
Leadnet	4 programs
Natural Resources	8 programs
Product Center	5 programs
Sea Grant	4 programs



PROGRAMS HOSTED LOCALLY

- Spending Plans Saving
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Ionia County Buck Pole
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Education and Lymph Node Extraction
- Ionia/Montcalm Food Policy Council
- One-on-one education 291

Participants

10,575

Sessions

614

Hours

1,531

HELPING STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS

MSU Extension Educator Brenda Long is 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. In 2023, Brenda assisted on 26 Ionia applications helping homeowners to acquire \$191,681.88 to save their homes.

Statewide over 10,575 participants in FHE and Government Vitality programs!

MSU Extension staff located in Ionia County

Shawn Frisbie	4-H Program Coordinator	(616)330-4453	heintze8@msu.edu
Karen Balice-Gregory	Office Manager	(616)527-5357	balicegr@msu.edu
Agriculture	Agriculture and Agribusiness	(616)527-5357	
Health/Nutrition	Community Nutrition Instructor	(616)527-5357	
Community/Natural Resources/Environment		(616)527-5357	
Bill Hendrian	District 8 Director	(616)527-5358	hendria2@msu.edu

Additional MSU Extension staff serving Ionia County

Charles Gould	Bioenergy Educator	(616)994-4547	gouldm@msu.edu
Sheila Hebert	Maternal Infant Health Educator	(517)432-3076	murphysh@msu.edu
Monica Jean	Field Crops Educator	(616)443-8782	atkinmon@msu.edu
Steve Whittington	Field Crops Educator	(989)831-7500	whitti34@msu.edu
Ezra Pompos	Housing & Financial Instructor	(517)887-4588	epompos@msu.edu
Holly Tiret	Social Emotional Educator	616-632-7893	tiret@msu.edu
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Casey Zangaro	Swine Educator	989-875-5292	zangaroc@msu.edu
Paola Bacigalupo Sanguesa	Dairy Educator	970-888-1356	paolabs@msu.edu
Katie Ockert	Community, Food, Environment Educator		ockertka@msu.edu