

LENAWEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

MSU Extension Lenawee County
 1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2020
 Adrian, MI 49221

Phone: 517-264-5300

Email: msue.lenawee@county.msu.edu

Website: [MSU Extension Lenawee County](#)

Office hours 8AM-12:30PM 1:30-4:30PM

Follow us on social media: [MSU Extension—Lenawee County](#)



Message from the District Director

The long-lived steadfast oak trees found throughout Michigan can live between 100 to 600 To thrive, the oak does more than endure change; the oak embraces it by making the necessary adjustments to maintain the lives it supports as well as prepare for new growth. Change is inevitable. Embracing it can lead to growth, resilience and transformation. MSU Extension is no exception.

Throughout our 153-year history, we've seen lots of changes to our programs and because of your support, we continue to bring you quality information whether we must alter the format, content, or the method in which we bring it to you. In 2025, the National SNAP-Ed Program ended. That meant that we had to say goodbye to nearly 100 colleagues and friends here in Michigan. MSUE and families across Michigan felt the loss of the SNAP-Ed Program deeply. But like the mighty oak, MSUE is adapting to the change and continuing to share researched-based information through a variety of other programs.

Our resilient staff are working hard to identify emerging issues and ways that we can provide value in the communities we serve. We are seeing individuals and families being strengthened by our health programs for chronic diseases, fall prevention, parenting and food safety. Adults in various stages of their lives are participating in homeownership and financial webinars such as **“Thriving on a Fixed Income”** and **“Mortgage Foreclosure Basics.”** Farmers and gardeners are benefitting from our programs on disease prevention, invasive species, and nutrient and waste management. Youth are participating in programs such as 4-H, financial literacy and special interests that make them **“Beyond Ready”** for their future.

Groups such as non-profits, corporations, and governmental agencies also benefit from Extension’s various educational opportunities. Entire departments in non-profits have taken mental health first aid training. Municipalities are leveraging science-based data on housing, tourism, and data centers from community and economic development tools to assist them make decisions about how to shape their communities.

Whatever training or information you need to thrive in a changing world, whether you want virtual or in-person programming; it's very likely that, **Extension Does That!**



4804 participants from the county attending programs

1169 4-H enrolled youth



28 Ask Extension questions answered



337 Lenawee Volunteers

Overall Impact



17 community coalitions within the county that MSU Extension employees are members of



3 Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy System and Environmental sites receiving PSE education within the county.



3457 participants from the county attending programs.



10 policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites



450 programs (across the state) attended by participants from this county.



172 client consultations



480,857 Lenawee contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts.

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



72,517 participants in community, food, and environment programs from across Michigan, Statewide



476 virtual programs related to Financial Education, Food Systems, Water and Environmental Quality, Government and Businesses



7 businesses/ food products created



\$246.5 BILLION annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy



4,534 MI Stronger Family Online Participants Statewide and beyond



136 participants in county agriculture programs.

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners newsletter.



MSU Extension Product Center

The Michigan State University Product Center helps Michigan entrepreneurs and businesses to develop and launch new product and service ideas into the food, beverage, and agriculture markets. Whether you are a budding entrepreneur or operate a well-established company, the Product Center is your key to the front door of Michigan State University's vast and varied technical expertise, research and outreach services.

The Product Center has an extensive network of certified innovation counselors who offer services anywhere in Michigan.

7 Lenawee County Clients Served with 51 employees

32 Counseling Hours

\$83,000 annual Sales from these clients

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/productcenter/index>



Project RED Showcases Teen Leadership and Agricultural Education

Project RED not only educates about 900 4th grade students from every school district in Lenawee County about agriculture, it also creates future leaders. By empowering teens to lead and teach, the program fosters confidence, public speaking skills, and a deeper understanding of agriculture science. Participants leave with a greater appreciation for where their food comes from and the important role agriculture plays in their lives. This initiative is a shining example of how community partnerships can create meaningful, youth-led learning opportunities that benefit everyone involved.



4-H Jr. Chef

Six 4-H Chef workshops for ages 5-11 develop recipe reading skills, kitchen safety skills, measuring, and food mixing/preparation skills. Cloverbuds are learning when and how to share their ideas. Older participants talk more and are more likely to help each other out. Participants are excited to attend the upcoming workshops to see their new friends, and excited to create the recipes again when they return home.



Public Health, Nutrition, and Youth Programming



1169 4-H youth enrollments



\$11077.19 4-H volunteer hour value



3828 total youth participants



337 total volunteers



210 Lenawee residents participating in Food Safety programs including ServSafe



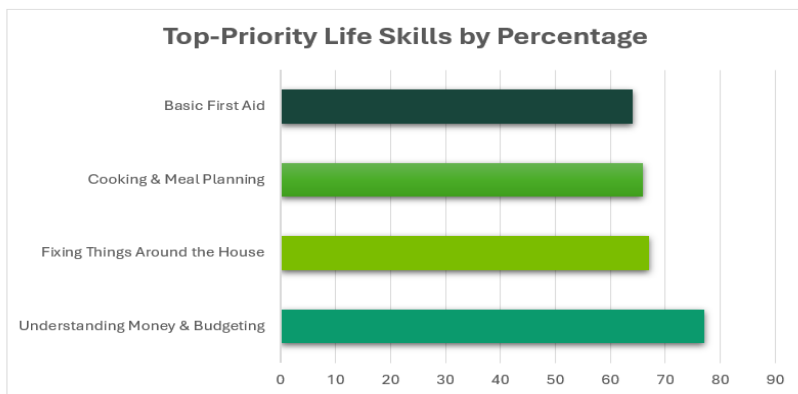
467 nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county



624 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs

2025 4-H Needs Assessment Survey

A total of 659 individuals participated in the statewide survey, including 295 parents/guardians, 231 volunteers, and 37 youth representing 61 counties. 96 youth participated in dot voting at events.



Four Way Partnership on Cover Crop Education

MSU Extension and Lenawee Conservation District staff came together in partnership with Midwest Cover Crop Council and the Lenawee Intermediate School District to offer a hands-on education opportunity for Lenawee High school students about conservation agriculture. Students set up their own cover crop plots at the LISD Center for Sustainable Future. Students got hands on experience sampling cover crops, dug soil to root growth and looked for earthworms.



Have Tomatoes, Will Can

Participants in the WIC program attended a home canning workshop at the ProMedica Farms in Adrian led by MSU Extension Food Safety educator. WIC provided a water bath canner, tools and jars, Promedica Farms contributed the space and the fresh tomatoes, Each participant contributed to creating a batch of stewed tomatoes and tomato sauce to take home.

Partnerships



County Partnerships

Adrian Drager School

Adrian Head Start

Adrian Senior Center

Alexander Elementary School

Britton Deerfield Community Schools

Community Learning Connections

Community Mental Health

Charlotte Stephenson Manor

Countryside Veterinary Services

Goodwill Industries

Hidden Lake Gardens

Hope Community Center

Hudson Lincoln Elementary School

Hudson Middle School

Lenawee Community Foundation

Lenawee County Fair

Lenawee County Farm Bureau

Lenawee Great Start Collaborative

LISD ATSS Program

Michener Elementary School

Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibition MAFE

Morenci Middle School

Onsted Elementary School

Onsted Middle School

Promedica Farms

Lenawee County Staff

Main Office Phone 517-264-5300

Hours: M-F 8am- 4:30pm (lunch 12:30- 1:30pm)

1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2020

Adrian, MI 49221-3867

Mary Bohling

Amy Shovels,

Janelle Stewart

Korede Olugbenle

Matt Shane

District Director

HNI Instructional Design Educator

CYI/Ldrsp/CivicEngagmt/4-H PC

AABI/ Conserv. Agronomist

Associate Director – Field Operations

bohling@msu.edu

shovels@msu.edu

stewa191@msu.edu

olugbenl@msu.edu

shanemat@msu.edu

mollsher@msu.edu

harr1325@msu.edu

mburns@msu.edu

Sheryl Moll

Laura VanEtten

Melissa Burns

CYI/4-H PC

Ag/4-H Extension Coordinator

Extension Coordinator

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Have a home gardening or lawn question?



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Ask Extension

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>

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Did you know?

Dial gauge pressure canners need to be tested annually to ensure dial gauges are accurate.



MSU Extension can help!

MICHIGAN 4-H LICENSE PLATE

SUPPORT 4-H AND SHOW YOUR 4-H PRIDE!



AVAILABLE AT THE MICH. SOS



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

FOOD SAFETY HOTLINE

Operating Monday through

Friday,
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Call 877-643-9882



Ask Extension <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>

Food Safety Hotline 877-643-9882

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ServSafe®

EARN SERVSAFE MANAGER CERTIFICATION WITH HELP FROM MSU EXTENSION.

This class is designed for anyone working in the food service industry, including non-profit organizations.



Contact your local MSU Extension Food Safety Educator for more information.

