

LENAWEE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The butterfly effect is an idea introduced by Edward Lorenz in the 1960s that small, seemingly insignificant singular events may ultimately lead to much larger outcomes. If taken on their own and independent from others in the community, MSU Extension workshops, programs and publications may seem to impact only those individuals who experience them first-hand. However, over the last 150+ years, MSU Extension has worked diligently to facilitate community partnerships and coalitions that broaden our education efforts and “Bring Knowledge to Life”. In addition to our county partners,

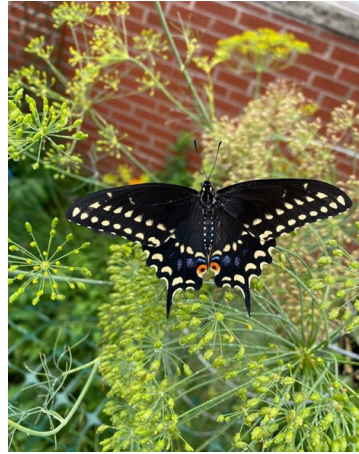


Photo credit: MSU Extension

MSUE staff throughout District 12, worked with 123 partners and coalitions in 2023 to expand the reach of our programs and education initiatives. Together, we are creating ripple effects, like the flaps of the butterfly wings, that

stretch across the county and beyond. Inside you’ll find 2023 success stories, participant feedback, event photos, program metrics and much more about the impact that MSU Extension is making in the lives of friends, family, and neighbors in Lenawee County.

Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up [here](#) to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners e-newsletter.



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PREPARING CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE



A local business owner who conducts fused glass workshops for the public recently commented that she loves to hold workshops for 4-H members. "The kids are so polite and diligent. I only have to give instructions once because they listen so well and get right to work! I enjoy their creativity. They use glass scraps to cut and lay out such wonderful designs. There might be 35 kids here and

no two sun catchers look alike. They clean up after themselves better than a lot of my adults! "

She usually doesn't allow 5 to 8-year-olds in her studio classes, but because our 4-H members have shown her that they can work safely and carefully, she allows them at our workshops. They have an adult helper with them.



Fused Glass Sun Catchers

*4-H Volunteer Value is calculated at #volunteers x 10 Hours x \$30.15 per hour



As the instructor was beginning a presentation on Mindfulness for Children, going around the room with an icebreaker and introductions, a couple introduced themselves. They were excited to share that they had recently been in my Parent Talk System webinar, and when they discovered I was going to be presenting locally, they had to come so they could meet me in person. They went on to express their gratitude for


the webinar class, and how the tools they learned had been so helpful for them. It was a heartwarming moment all around!

Follow our Facebook page for more information and resources at [MI Stronger Family - MSU Extension](#)

THE PARENT TALK SYSTEM ONLINE SERIES

This parenting series is designed to improve communication and provide practical verbal strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. This class is meant for parents of kids from toddlers to teens and will explore eliminating unwanted behaviors, setting limits, teaching about consequences, giving effective feedback, promoting independence, and developing character.

DATES: 2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4
TIME: 11:30AM-1:00 PM EST



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension
Questions? Contact Courtney Aldrich at aldric82@msu.edu



IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION

A Morenci Middle School 7th grade math class participated in a presentation focused on MyPlate food groups, and healthy breakfast foods. We prepared 3 quick breakfast recipes as a class, and all three teams completed their recipes on time, with attractive presentation. We discussed how many food groups were represented in the food, and some suggested the recipes didn't have to only be for breakfast.

We voted by show of thumbs, how many enjoyed the recipes. Although a few were a bit skeptical at first, the final tastings proved to be a huge success, with a unanimous

" You know, I am going to show these to my family. We could definitely make these this weekend. "

positive vote for all three recipes!

As the students were leaving for their next class, one student pulled me aside and said, " You know, I am going to show these to my family. We could definitely make these this weekend. I mean, we're not doing anything anyway!"

I love when young people see a new way. When a new skill is learned, and when one is exposed to something new and positive, it can create a new ripple of change in a family. Let's hope this student's family like those recipes, too!

Our staff delivers educational programming to communities and helps create lasting healthy changes, from kitchen tables to school cafeterias. Programming is supported through the [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education \(SNAP–Ed\)](#).

Nutrition Programs include:

- **Cooking for One**
- [Cooking Matters](#)
- [Eat Healthy, Be Active](#)
- [My Way to Wellness](#)
- [Peak Health and Performance](#)
- [Show Me Nutrition](#)
- [Teen Cuisine](#)



The following email was received after a presentation about food preservation at Tecumseh District Library.

*Dear Mary:
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for presenting the Preservation Equipment Road Show at Tecumseh District Library (TDL) on Thursday (January 19th) evening. During your thought-provoking lecture, I learned that water bath canning is an inexpensive way to can high acid foods, and all vegetables, meats, poultry and soups must be pressure canned in order to avoid Botulism. I also discovered that*

the dial gauge for your pressure canner should be checked annually, and if you drop it, you should have it tested.

It was an honor for TDL to partner with MSU Extension for this life-enriching learning opportunity. Thank you for sharing your passion for food preservation with the residents of Tecumseh and the surrounding townships this winter.

*With sincere gratitude and appreciation,
Chuck Harpst, Local History Librarian*

MSU Extension offers high-quality, affordable programs that help Michigan residents learn the importance of safe food and water in their everyday lives. Our research-based programs help food handlers learn safe food-preservation skills and techniques.

Food Safety Programs include:

- [Cooking for Crowds.](#)
- [Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Home Food Preservation](#)
- [Safe Food = Healthy Kids](#)
- [ServSafe](#)



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

MSU Extension educators in the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute work with farms of all sizes helping to positively impact individual farming operations. When those individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.

Financial Analysis & Tax Management

MSU Extension works to improve farm personnel well-being and income, expand agriculture-related businesses and increase employment opportunities, leading to agriculture being one of the strongest industries in Michigan. Supporting agriculture and helping to improve financial stability and competitiveness has a significant economic impact on Michigan and local communities. The MSU Extension farm business management team created a

\$1.57 million
in tax saving benefits to participating farms


wealth of fact sheets and decision tools that aid farmers in better understanding government program options, custom work rates and land rent trends as well as assessing farm plans against industry benchmarks for improved decision-making.

Irrigation Efficiency

Irrigation plays an important role in Michigan agriculture. High-value crops are nearly 100% produced under irrigation and require an irrigation system upon contract. MSU Extension

uses a variety of methods such as in-person and recorded presentations, articles, websites, field demonstrations and conferences to educate irrigators and policymakers. Educators also provide awareness and education on large-volume water use registration and reporting in irrigation-related education meetings.

2,283
participants in irrigation-related programming



25
ASK AN EXPERT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

104
AG PROGRAMS WITH RESIDENTS

444
RESIDENTS ACCESSED AG PROGRAMS

\$104.7 Billion
Annual impact of food & agriculture on MI economy

Gardening Successfully

MSU Extension educates Michigan residents about gardening practices that diversify landscapes, reduce chemical inputs and enhance edible food production.

To ensure resources are provided equitably in Michigan, educators use a variety of methods. MSU Extension extends the capacity of educating Michigan communities about sustainable gardening through

recruiting and training volunteers to serve on a diagnostic responder team or as an Extension Master Gardener. These volunteers are pivotal in reaching a much broader audience.

Extension Master Gardeners are equipped through advanced training to help disseminate research-based

gardening education to residents. Whether serving as a diagnostic responder or sharing Smart Gardening advice at a public event, the team of nearly 2,000 statewide volunteers multiply the efforts of every team member.



\$3,067,030
cotributed economic value of services by Extension Master Gardeners
*in Michigan



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

MSU Product Center

[MSU Extension](#) and the [MSU Product Center](#) assist entrepreneurs and businesses to develop products and services in the food and agriculture markets. Its team of experts consult with clients on a one-on-one basis, helping new entrepreneurs navigate from concept development to launch and beyond.

The MSU Product Center also offers specialized services such as labeling, packaging, and nutritional analysis. If you are interested in business counseling from the MSU Product Center, please visit the [website](#).

Government & Community Vitality

Are you a government official or urban planner looking for guidance? We offer trainings on a wide range of public policy topics. We facilitate meetings and promote good governance and we offer *Citizen Planner* trainings and timely webinars. Government and Community Vitality Education providing community development expertise to local governments to “thrive local” by working with communities using data and tools that support efficient delivery of the critical public services that safeguard the health, safety and welfare

of Michigan residents.

Land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials throughout Michigan. Teaches the fundamentals on roles, responsibilities and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. More information regarding citizen planner and local government/housing education can be found under the full program list below.

- [Great Lakes Leadership Academy](#)
- [Citizen Planner](#)
- [Tribal Education](#)
- [Livable Communities](#)



Pollinator education for home gardeners and the public

MSU supports efforts of home gardeners and the public to improve pollinator health by learning about pollinators, planting flowers for pollinators and minimizing pesticide exposure. MSU provides information to pollinator enthusiasts, home gardeners and the public through its Pollinator Champions online course (<https://>

pollinators.msu.edu/programs/pollinator-champions). In this free, self-paced course, individuals learn about the pollinators in Michigan, why pollinators are important and what you can do to help pollinators. After completing the course, individuals can choose to become [Certified](#) Pollinator Champions to receive presentation slides and handouts to teach others about pollinators.

Success!

“The info provided today gave me lots of good ideas for planting to support pollinators.” – 2023 Pollinator Stewardship Program Participant

“This was very helpful for my personal activity on improving pollinator habitat! Thanks for sharing.” – 2023 Pollinator Stewardship Program Participant



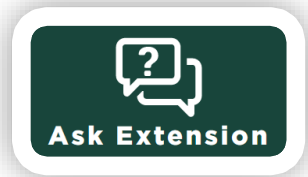
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A Statewide Network of Resources to Help You

MSU Extension is the home of the latest in research, education and outreach covering a wide range of issues from agriculture & agribusiness, health and nutrition, youth education and outreach and community and economic vitality. If MSU Extension doesn't have an expert in your county to answer your questions, we can connect you to our statewide resources to connect you to the information you need.

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more! **Ask Extension:** www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert



Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882 Hours M/W/F, 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

Lawn and Garden Hotline: 888-678-3464 Hours: M,W,F 9:00 am–12:00 pm (Year round)

Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.

Soil Mailers: MSU Extension home lawn and garden and commercial soil mailers provide access to personalized fertilizer recommendations for thousands of Michigan residents every year. The home lawn and garden mailer can be purchased in person at [MSU Extension offices](#) or online from the [MSU Extension bookstore](#). Commercial soil mailer are purchased in person at [MSU Extension offices](#). Questions about soil results can be sent to MSUsoiltest@msu.edu.

MSU Extension Bookstore <https://shop.msu.edu/collections/msu-extension-bookstore>

Look for bulletins, publications and MSU Extension products at the Bookstore!