



Mackinac County

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS



2 Extension professionals based in the county, 50+ providing educational opportunities



\$1,946,455 total economic impact in Mackinac County



409 youth involved in 4-H, early childhood or after school enrichment



2 affiliated clinical sites



\$10,815 spending with local business



20 enrolled MSU students, 200 alumni



MSU disbursed \$401,624 in financial aid to county students

100+

MSU Extension serving Mackinac County over 100 years

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Once again I am delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Mackinac County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses, and communities.



MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational services to County residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside County residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

Again this year, we've welcomed Mackinac County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media, and provided a library of research-based resources they've browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Mackinac County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

Erin Daines, District 2 Director



MACKINAC COUNTY

Additional MSU Extension Reach

- Michigan State University Extension staff have been actively serving the residents of Mackinac County.
- Services from across all reaches of Extension are accessible because of the Gold Standard commitment Mackinac County has made with Michigan State University Extension.
- Mackinac County residents are able to access services in the areas of Agriculture & Agribusiness; Children and Youth; Community, Food and Environment; and Health and Nutrition.

245

Mackinac County Residents Served

97

of Programs Mackinac County Residents Attended



MACKINAC COUNTY

MSU Extension Reach Breakdown

97

Programs Mackinac County
Residents Attended

12

Agriculture &
Agribusiness
Programs

83

Community, Food &
Environment
Programs

68

Children &
Youth
Programs

82

Health &
Nutrition
Programs

Program Highlights

AGRICULTURE

Stan Moore, Farm Business Management Educator - Northern Michigan, conducted a farm Financial Analysis with TELFARM client in Mackinac County.

Adam Ingrao, Extension Specialist: MSU Extension Veterans' Liaison / Agricultural Entomologist, was asked by MAEAP Technician Jen Parks (Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District) to present on biological controls for livestock systems. Presentation was primarily on fly and parasitic worm control. This presentation was held January 16, 2020 at the Garfield Township Hall with 8 participants.



RELAX ALTERNATIVES TO ANGER

This series was offered to Mackinac County residents as well as LaSalle High School students in 2020.

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger helps teens, adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger and stress, and develop the communication and problem solving skills needed for healthy relationships.



RELAX Alternatives to Anger is one of the programs that have been offered to Mackinac County residents by Tracie Abram.

Program Highlights

WINTER BIRDING EUP TOUR - WITH HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE AND LITTLE TRAVERSE CONSERVANCY

This was an educational field trip for new and intermediate birders. Covering winter ecology of bird life, bird identification skills, and the impact of bird tourism in the EUP. Session held January 11, 2020 with 12 participants.



A snowy owl perches on a telephone pole. Photo: Steve Baker

SENIOR PROJECT FRESH FOR MACKINAC COUNTY

This program was modified for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since we could not meet in person, handouts and project fresh coupon books were mailed to eligible Mackinac County Seniors.

Senior Project FRESH/Market FRESH (SPF), which is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill, is a program aimed at older adults, helping them incorporate more fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. Senior Project Fresh was created to benefit the restricted income senior and a secondary benefit to the Michigan farmer.



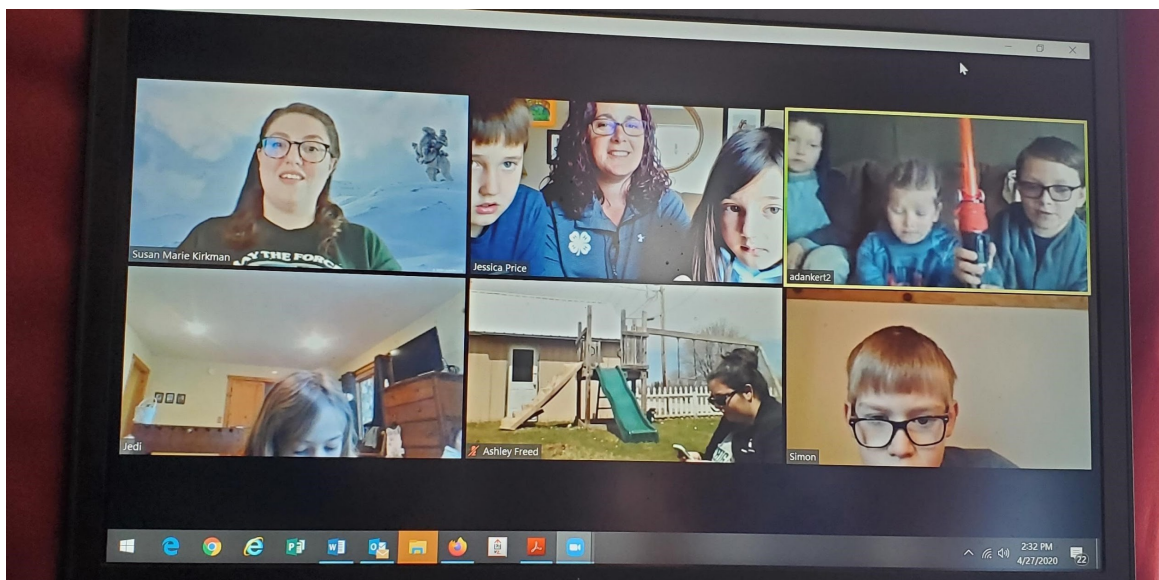
Program Highlights

JEDI TRAINING

In 2020 the **Jedi Training 4-H SPIN** (Special Interest) Club was created by **Mackinac County** 4-H Program Coordinator Susan Kirkman and Luce County 4-H Program Coordinator Jessica Price. This five session SPIN club allows a space for youth who enjoy Star Wars to come and learn more about being a Jedi. The club was offered several times throughout 2020 and had both local, state, national, and international youth participate. Youth learn about how to be a Jedi Knight through **mindfulness practices, interactive discussion and physical activities**. Popularity of the program grew so much that a Padawan Training SPIN club was developed for youth ages 5 - 7. Additionally in the last quarter of 2020 the development of a part 2 to the club, now called Jedi Masters, took place.

This program has allowed youth a **unique virtual opportunity to connect with others** who have a common interest in Star Wars. Youth and families alike have enjoyed the opportunity this club offers them. Some of the feedback that has been received by participants and their parents is as follows:

- Thank you for this. My son really needed this interaction with like minded kids who have the same interests and thank you for allowing the open discussion afterwards. This was fantastic and I appreciate your time with putting this together. He hasn't been this excited in WEEKS!
- My son said he “missed Jedi training club” within 15 minutes of the club ending.
- I liked getting to talk to other people about Star Wars.
- I love the programs that 4-H Mackinac County offer and I love the patience and skills that both Jessica and Susan bring to the kids.



Investing in Mackinac County Youth with 4-H

*According to research completed by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, 4-H'ers are **4X** more likely to make contributions to their communities, **2X** more likely to be civically active, and **2X** more likely to make healthier choices.*



LIFE OF THE STRAITS

Due to COVID the **Life of the Straits** program, a summer staple for **Mackinac County**, was moved to a virtual platform. This program is a collaborative effort between **4-H and Michigan Sea Grant**. Since its inception the program has now grown to include all of the counties that touch the waters of the Straits of Mackinac. For the summer of 2020 it was decided the program would move forward in the form of a virtual video series. Video clips were recorded and then made into short films that were shown via Zoom meetings over the course of several weeks. Once the series was completed all of the videos were uploaded to YouTube so that anyone can access and watch them. A landing page for the program was created and can be viewed at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/life-of-the-straits/>

The summer series includes videos of the **Mackinac Bridge, Inland Waterway, 40 Mile Point Lighthouse, Les Cheneaux area, Fort Michilimackinac, and Mackinac Island**. Families were able to learn about the beauty of the Straits area from the comfort of their living rooms. Each session ended with a guest speaker joining to answer questions and give more in depth information about the things that were talked about in each video. All of the videos can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrRNRwudM7U9v5BSEr4_cRE9ig50Seo9U

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities, and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to dream of successful futures. For more information about the programs we offer please refer to the contact information below.

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