

Message from the District Director



Mother Teresa said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters and create many ripples." MSU Extension acts as a catalyst for lasting change across the Upper Peninsula and beyond, reaching all ages and communities. Our programs support youth, farmers, older adults, and local economies, making a broad impact.

For over 100 years, MSU Extension has partnered with organizations to bring Michigan State University's knowledge to our communities, amplifying our collective impact. Together, we achieve more than any single entity could alone.

I've been with MSU Extension for nine years, first as a Health Educator and now as District Director for the Eastern Upper Peninsula. I look forward to continuing our work and exploring new ways to collaborate and create positive ripples of impact in Marquette County and beyond.

Erin Daines, District 2 Director



Marquette County Staff

- Brad Neumann, Advanced/Specialized Land Use Senior Extension Educator
- Liana Pepin, 4-H Program Coordinator
- Biidaaban Reinhardt, Extension Educator Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP)
- Erin Tigue, Extension Tribal Outreach Educator, SNAP-Ed Supervisor

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274

EXTENSION PROGRAMS INCLUDING MARQUETTE RESIDENTS

2,651

MARQUETTE RESIDENTS ATTENDED EXTENSION PROGRAMS

MARQUETTE COUNTY'S NUMBERS:

- 257 SNAP-ED in person participation
- 16 Extension Partnerships
- 78 participants with 1 on 1 education

46

Extension programs held in the county

2,304

People attended programs held in the county



REPORTING

66

Extension educators, specialists and program staff reported data for Marquette County

55

County direct one-to-one education contact

13 Lawn & Garden Hotline Calls Answered

21 Marquette County residents participated in the Ag For Tomorrow Conference

"Will be increasing our flower production, will be considering loan/debt management as we look to add on a small facility to our farm. Enjoyed the class!"

218

Youth enrolled in county 4-H

1,162

Youth participants



Staff Success Stories

Brad Neumann - Senior Extension Educator

The MSU Extension Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Online Certificate Course launched in March 2023 with the goal of making on-demand training readably available to Michigan local officials any time in a convenient web-based platform. Since launch, **200 individuals registered for the course.**

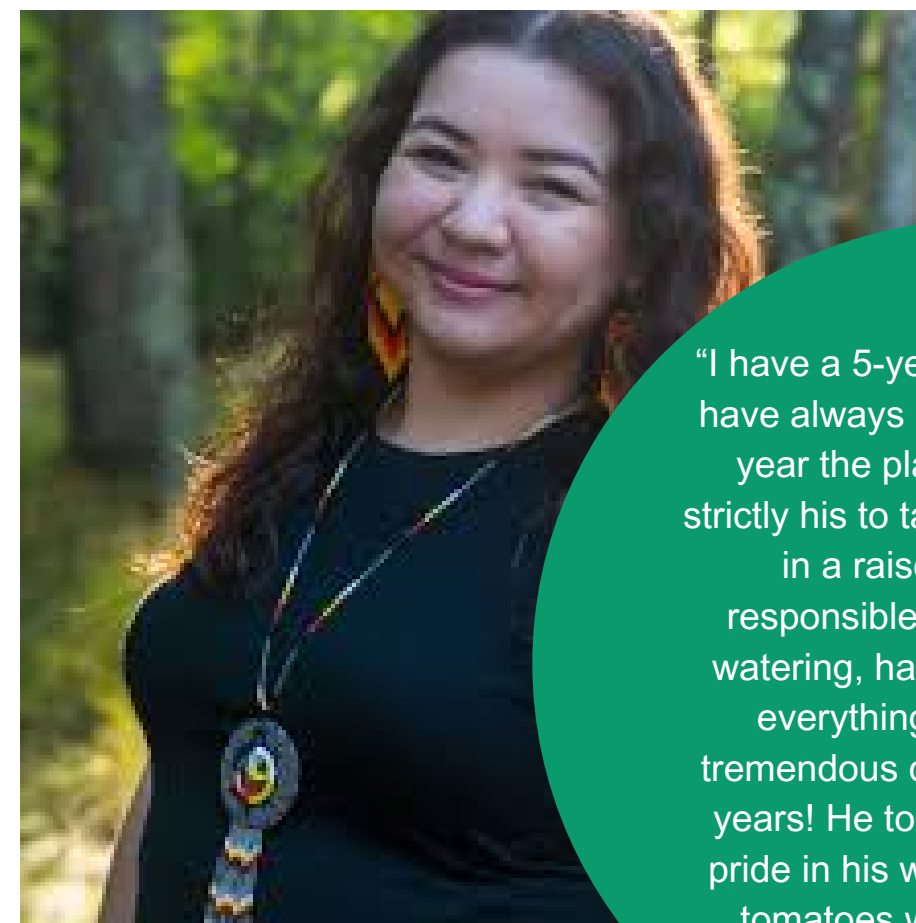
The ZBA is the local government body with the responsibility and authority to hear appeals that arise in the administration of the local zoning ordinance. If a zoning setback prohibits a property owner from building on their lot, or a decision by the planning commission is in doubt, the ZBA can hear the request and decide if a different course of action is warranted. This is a critical function of a community's planning and zoning program to protect due process. Acting properly, a community's Zoning Board of Appeals protects the interests of all parties and upholds due process, but when poorly trained, the board can be a serious legal risk to the community.



"Every class provided by MSU have items that everyone can learn from including folks like myself with fifty years experience in township Zoning business. The staff and presenters are superb!"

Biidaaban Reinhardt- FRTEP Educator

Biidaaban was part of the success of the UP Food Summit, hosted in collaboration with multiple partners in local food systems and with support from many MSU colleagues, **reached 206 participants at Northern Michigan University's Northern Center.** This event was a mix of conference style education, such as presentations and panels, along with hands-on demonstrations, a tabling area, and a local food Photo Voice project. The keynote address was on Manoomin and Climate Change. This event brought together folks from multiple sectors of food systems for education and networking. Relationships and the power of coalitions to bring together people with diverse skill sets and experiences contributed to the success of this event.



"I have a 5-year-old, and although we have always had a small garden, this year the plants from this kit were strictly his to take care of. We put them in a raised bed and he was responsible for planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, and preparing everything in that bed. I saw a tremendous difference from previous years! He took such ownership and pride in his work and told us that his tomatoes were the best tasting tomatoes ever grown. I think he was right too."

Erin Tighe - Tribal Outreach Educator and SNAP-ED supervisor

Erin's staff have improved access to healthy foods in Marquette County. Marquette County's SNAP-Ed team has been collaborating with other local agencies as part of the UP Food as Medicine coalition. In 2023 they launched a self-paced, online nutrition and wellness course, **My Way to Wellness**, for UP residents participating in the Food As Medicine program. **Participants get an extra \$40 in vouchers** to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets when they complete the course. My Way to Wellness is a way we can provide programming to **Marquette residents** who may not be able to attend in-person classes because of scheduling conflicts and transportation barriers. And linking course completion with more Food as Medicine vouchers supports local farmers who sell at the Marquette Farmers Market and other area markets.



"This is one of the greatest learning experiences I think I have ever had! It not only enforced the way I'm already doing things it taught me a lot of new things and gave me brilliant ideas!"

4-H 2023 Recap

2023 4-H Camp at Clear Lake Educator Center

Marquette County had a wonderful group of youth, teen counselors, adult volunteer, and our program coordinator attend U.P. 4-H Camp at Clear Lake Education Center nestled in a lush forest off the grid during the three days youth were at camp. The camper's participated in a clue challenge, a dance, arts & crafts, apple play, canoeing, campfire time (skits, songs & smores), ice cream making, introduction to coding, iPad: nature sketching, learning financial literacy through a money carnival, nature hikes, team sports, scavenger hunts, shooting sports (archery & BB guns), swam, and more - all while learning new skills and making new friends. We ended with awards and a slideshow!



"We reached new audiences and our club membership increased by another 34% in 2023."

Liana Pepin
4-H Program Educator



2023 Collegiate 4-H: Northern Michigan University Partners with Michigan State University Extension

Collegiate 4-H student organization with Northern Michigan University (NMU) is one of two offered in the **entire** state. NMU Collegiate 4-H has allowed NMU students who were in 4-H as youth to reconnect with the program as adults. It has also encouraged students who are still of membership age to connect with 4-H in a new way and remain connected at their home county level, too. So far, we have **six members attending meetings and seven additional who have expressed interest** in the club and plan to register- these are students who are new to 4-H.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

2023 4-H Recap Continued...

2023 Marquette County 4-H Day Camp in Ishpeming

Marquette County 4-H partnered with the Marquette County West End Youth Center to provide a 4-H Day Camp. The program provided structured lessons in teamwork through group challenges, community connection through partner agency presentations and community service projects, as well as ample opportunity to be active through large group games and water slide fun.

The program was a great success, recruiting **50 new youth to the 4-H program** from the Ishpeming area. It was a place for youth to see friends from school during the summer months and to meet new friends from different schools. One young person, named Edward, had recently moved from a different part of the county to the Ishpeming area. Unfortunately, when he began, he was sitting alone but he quickly began to make friends. His mom, Jessica, expressed gratitude by explaining how the start of the new school year looked hopeful because he was able to make friends before the first day of school.

"I want to let all my friends with school aged kids know how **AMAZING** the 4-H camp has been this year. We started to hit a bit of a summer slump and I decided to place my girls in the 4 week day camp offered for the first time this year and it has been so educational and fun for them. They have been exposed to a variety of experiences through projects and guest speakers that have excited them and taught them so much about nature, community and science. I am so impressed with this camp experience and we are so very lucky to have this opportunity in our community," said Jennifer Gibbons, 4-H Day Camp mom.



Marquette County Fair

The Marquette County Fair was held in mid-August. We had tables set up for a variety of 4-H promotional activities throughout the fair in the 4-H Building. One hundred eighty-two youth participated in these activities.



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.