



MISSAUKEE COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

6180 W. Sanborn Road, Suite 2, Lake City, MI 49651

Message from the District Director

It's a privilege to once again highlight the impact of our ongoing collaboration between Missaukee County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Thanks to your continued partnership, our team has been able to deliver meaningful, research-backed programs that benefit youth, families, entrepreneurs, and the broader community across Missaukee County.



Throughout 2024, MSU Extension staff have worked diligently to promote healthier lifestyles, support local and emerging businesses, foster youth leadership and career readiness, and assist farmers with business planning, pest management, crop production and mental health resources. Our team members are deeply embedded in the community! We live here, work here, and are committed to responding to the evolving needs of our neighbors.

This progress wouldn't be possible without your support. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Missaukee County, thank you for helping us make a difference. We're excited about the year ahead and hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs or events.

Impact



37,413 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters and handouts



11 current 4-H Clubs



1,804 participants from the county are attending programs.



21 volunteers in the county

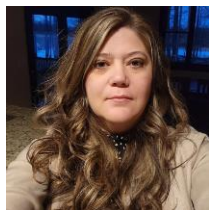


176 youth enrolled in 4-H



72 programs hosted in the county

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9,808 people participating in Food Safety programs including, ServSafe® – Statewide



155 of nutrition and physical activity participants hosted in-county.



1,458 of total youth participants



343 county residents who participated in health and nutrition programs.

4-H Program – Shooting Sports Spotlight

Youth in Missaukee County are gaining valuable skills and confidence through the Spot On Shooting 4-H Club. The program teaches firearm safety and marksmanship in a supportive, hands-on environment. All equipment, including rifles, ammunition, and safety gear, is provided, making it easy for new participants to get involved.

At one meeting, a young participant expressed fear about handling a firearm. With guidance from caring instructors, she learned how to safely and confidently operate the equipment and proudly showed off her target—complete with bullseyes—saying she wasn't scared anymore. Stories like this highlight the impact of the program.

Instructors work closely with youth, helping them track their progress and build confidence. Many participants are keeping their first targets to measure growth throughout the 4-H year. The program continues to be a positive experience for local families and a great opportunity for youth to learn, grow and succeed.



Missaukee County MSU Extension Highlights:

Christmas Tree Educator Updates:

The Spring Christmas Tree Meeting at the Lake City Research Station was a great opportunity for local growers to learn and connect. The afternoon included lunch and several short presentations focused on practical topics like weed control, pest management, tree nutrition, and using weather tools to track pest development. Attendees picked up useful tips to support healthy tree growth and had time to ask questions and share ideas with others in the industry.



Missaukee County 4-H Program Highlight:

Families gathered at 2 The Moon Bakery in Lake City for a creative afternoon of crafts and connection. While children made colorful suncatchers, parents relaxed with coffee and enjoyed the cozy atmosphere. Hosted by MSU Extension and 4-H, the event offered a fun way for families to spend time together and explore local offerings.



Impact



36 participants in community, food and environmental programs
Missaukee County



71 participants in agriculture and agribusiness programs from Missaukee County



343 participants in health and nutrition programs from Missaukee County



1,369 participants in children and youth programs from Missaukee County

Missaukee County Youth Program Highlights:

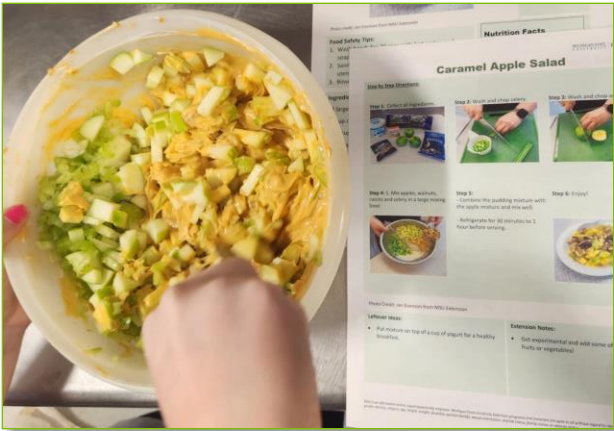


Figure 1



Figure 2

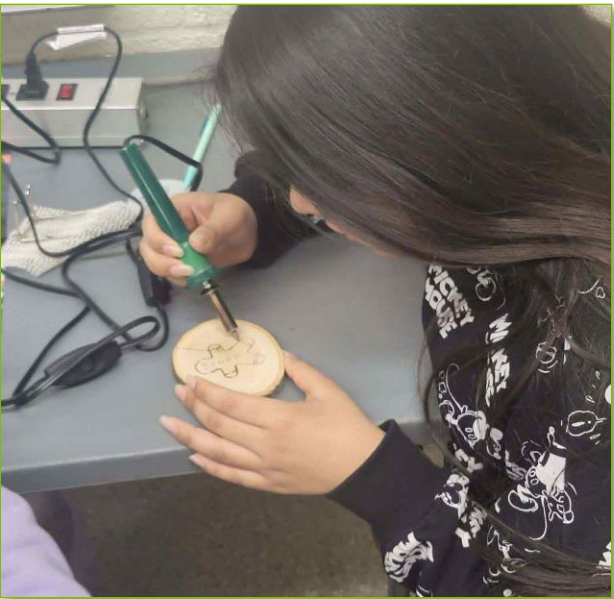


Figure 3

Figure 1: Lake City High School’s Teen Cuisine program featured a Caramel Apple Salad activity led by Renee Sanders, a community nutrition instructor.

Figure 2: SPIN Club participants explored CPR techniques, learned childcare fundamentals, and discovered age-appropriate play activities—all designed to help youth develop the skills needed to become confident and capable babysitters.

Figure 3: Youth across Missaukee County learned about trees, what they need to grow, and then expressed their creativity by making ornaments using wood burning techniques.

Figure 4: At Falmouth Library, youth explored the world of pollinators by reading a book on pollination, crafting bees, and actively participating in the pollination process—sharing pollen from flower to flower just like real pollinators!



Figure 4

Master Gardener Program Updates:

The MSU Extension Master Gardener Program offers adults in Missaukee County science-based training in gardening and horticulture. Participants gain practical knowledge and become certified Master Gardeners, helping to lead local gardening projects and share research-backed practices with the community.



Alliance for Economic Success: Michigan Economic Developers Association's 2024 Capitol Day —

MEDA's 2024 Capitol Day, now called Economic Development Impact Day, brought together economic developers and state leaders to discuss key issues like workforce housing and legislative priorities. The event featured policy updates, networking, and conversations aimed at strengthening Michigan's economic development efforts.

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Highlight:

A two-day event in Cadillac, Michigan, bringing together over 100 participants from across the state to share ideas, attend breakout sessions, and strengthen rural entrepreneurial communities. Hosted by MSU Extension, the conference featured expert speakers, local charm, and practical strategies for economic development.



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