

MONTCALM COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Stanton, MI | 989-831-7500

- Bill Hendrian – District 8 Director
- Vicki Newcomb – Support Staff
- Sunni Haglund – 4-H Program Coordinator
- Steve Whittington – Field Crops Educator
- Shannon Stover – Health & Nutrition Educator



Message from the District Director

Montcalm County MSU Extension provides people with access to resources and expertise in areas of agriculture, agribusiness, health, nutrition, community, food, environment, and children and youth development. Staff located in Montcalm, Clinton, Gratiot, Ingham, and Ionia Counties all serve this area as a part of a statewide team of Extension professionals. Anyone is welcome to visit our office and meet with local professionals or get connected to the appropriate regional expert, purchase soil test kits for their fields or gardens, find pesticide manuals critical for certification, have their pressure canner lid tested or ask questions. People contacted us via telephone, email, in person, or online. In fact, 206,346,096 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts were made with MSU Extension statewide in 2025.

Impact



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



1,709 participants from the county attending programs.



472 4-H enrolled youth



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



172 volunteers serving in the county



72 of participants in county agriculture programs.

Overall Impact



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



8 policy, systems, and environmental changes with those PSE sites.



1,709 participants from the county attending programs.



178 client consultations



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



199,398 contacts through social media, web activity, e-newsletters, and handouts.



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

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity



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



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



151 people from this county attended events hosted by Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association



10 MAMG(Master Gardener) events took place in this county, utilizing 22 volunteers and a total of 1,752.75 volunteer hours



72 of participants in county agriculture programs.

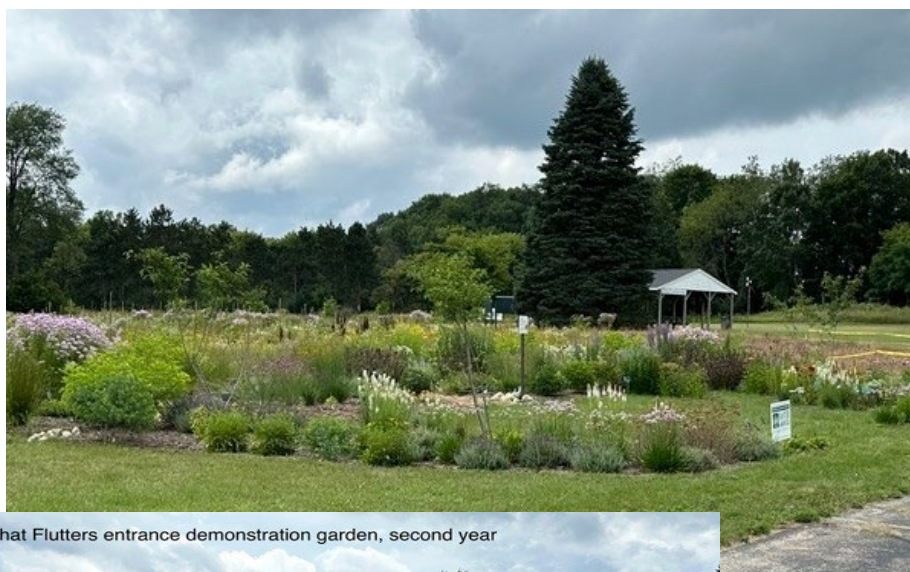


\$244.2 billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan's economy

Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, and Agricultural Productivity

Montcalm County Extension Master Gardeners

During 2025, a total of 28 Montcalm County MSU Extension Master Gardeners logged 6,684 volunteer hours working on 6 educational garden projects. The two projects that received the most volunteer hours were the gardens at Heritage Village and the All That Flutters project. The All That Flutters project received recognition as a Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Association and is also recognized as part of The Homegrown National Park Initiative. In addition to these projects, the Extension Master Gardeners are working with students at the Montcalm Area Career Center to establish (plan and plant) 2 pollinator gardens.



Public Health, Nutrition, and Youth Programming



474 4-H youth enrollments and
95 Cloverbud (age 5-8) enrollments



521 nutrition and physical
activity participants hosted in-
county.



1,294 total youth participants



563 county residents who
participated in health and
nutrition programs.



147 total 4-H volunteers



11,944 people participating in
Food Safety programs including
ServSafe (statewide)

Additional data points of interest



43 answered Ask Extension
questions



24 Commercial & Farm Soil Test
samples processed



38 partnerships in the county



49 Homeowner Soil Test samples
processed



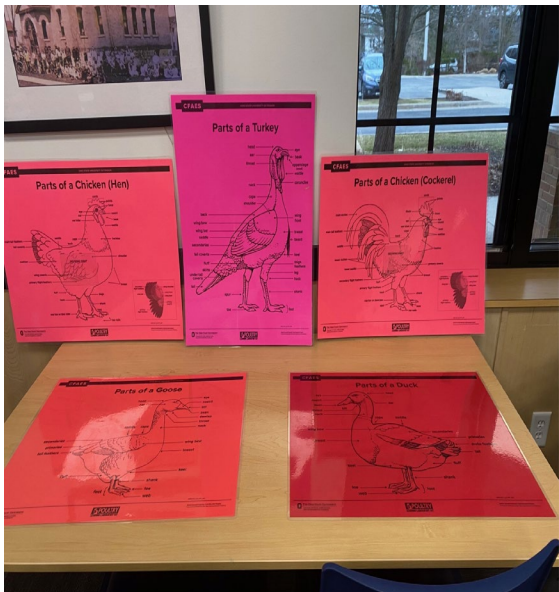
50 programs hosted in the
county



6 Educational garden projects and
7 events hosted by the Master
Gardeners



1,117 participants attending
programs in the county



Raising Poultry in Your Backyard – Sunni Haglund (4-H PC)

The Flat River Community Library asked if I would conduct a "Raising Chickens in your Backyard" program. They wanted me to cover anatomy, physiology, parasites/illness, general maintenance, coop care, and anything else that I could think of that would be good for beginner poultry owners to know. I collected resources from various other Extension offices throughout the United States, including Penn State, Purdue, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, and Colorado State. I also brought resource books and our poultry learning lab kit from our office, to show them some of the resources they're able to sign out. Throughout the session, participants expressed where they were at in their poultry journey and any questions they had to better prepare for the start of their journey. Ones who currently have chickens shared tips and tricks that they have learned throughout their time. We shared knowledge for nearly 2 hours!



2025 Potato Field Day

The 2025 Potato Field Day was held at the Montcalm Research Center in Lakeview, MI on August 7th. The total registrations for this event were 134 with 98 sign-ins at the event. This field day brought producers, agribusiness professionals, local agriculture industry, state regulators, federal services like USDA NRCS, MSU staff and leadership, and researchers together around Michigan Potato production. This year's field day focus was all about Potato Integrated Pest Management which consisted of two breakout sessions: an agronomic update and a drone and remote sensing update. The intent of the structure of the field day was to give updates agronomically on potato IPM by our University experts, and showcase emerging and developing agriculture technology that can be used to bolster or support potato integrated pest management efforts.



Finding Balance & Confidence Through Tai Chi

Participants in the Tai Chi program reported meaningful improvements in both physical well-being and confidence. Many described the class as one of the best decisions they have made for their health. With a patient, knowledgeable instructor who breaks down each movement clearly, participants felt supported in a calm and welcoming environment.

Over the eight-week course, participants noticed better sleep, improved balance, increased strength, and greater comfort with everyday movement. Grateful for the positive experience, participants expressed enthusiasm for continuing with future sessions and highly recommend the class to others seeking a gentle, effective, and supportive approach to movement and wellness.



The Blessings Pantry

The Montcalm County Board of Commissioners approved a request to allow two shelves to be installed at the MSU Extension office in Stanton.

The Blessings Pantry has now been installed in the hallway just outside the MSUE office. There are shelves featuring food items such as chicken broth, pasta, soup, and a variety of canned goods, as well as hygienic items, and even some clothes.

The motto for the Blessings Pantry is "Take what you need, leave what you can." and is open to anyone finding themselves in need.

Programs hosted in Montcalm County:

4-H:

YQCA Training;
Small Animal Showmanship workshop
Backyard Poultry workshop
Embryology program
Mental Health for Youth
Wednesday Walk in the Woods
Bake-Off
Jar Programming
Career Day
Montcalm County Fair
Community Parades
Project Night Lights at Helen DeVos
Craft workshops
Stanton Old Fashion Days events

Master Gardeners:

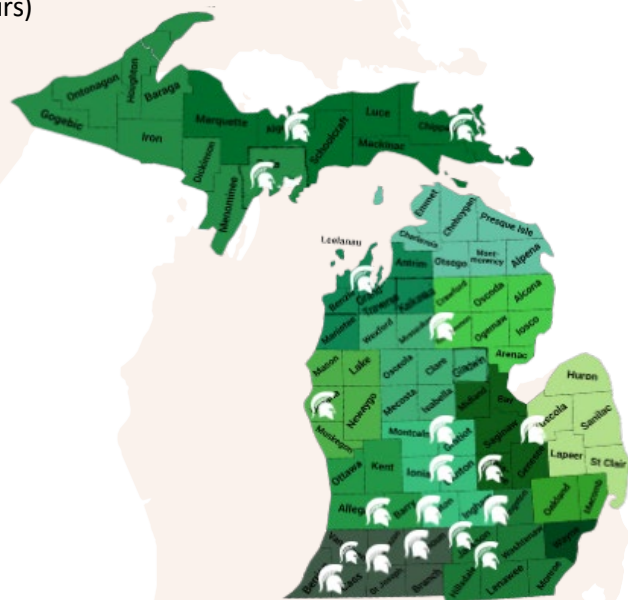
All that Flutters (16 volunteers and 594 hours)
Flat River Historical Museum Victory Garden (6 volunteers, 146 hours)
Greenville Floral Pollinator Garden (2 volunteers, 20.5 hours)
Heritage Village (16 volunteers, 1,450.95 hours)
M-TECH Educational Gardens (6 volunteers, 373.75 hours)
Montcalm County Fairgrounds (1 volunteer, 69 hours)
Peter Rabbit Herb & Perennial Garden (3 volunteers, 42.5 hours)
Annual Plant Sale (20 volunteers, 3,070 hours)
Seeds of Knowledge Tea (11 volunteers, 573.5 hours)

AABI:

Virtual Breakfast (26 week-long webinar)
Potato Field Day
RUP Pesticide Review & Test
Wheat Watchers

Health & Nutrition:

SNAP-Ed programming
ServSafe
Tai Chi
Cottage Food Law
Holiday Gift Giving
Preserving Salsa
Preserving Veggies from the Garden
Preserving with Blanching and Freezing



MSU AgBio research centers are located throughout the state including the Montcalm Research Center dedicated to important research related to potatoes and dry beans.

County Partnerships and Coalitions

Greenville Public Schools
Lakeview Elementary School
Montcalm Community College
Montcalm Couty Conservation District
Potato Outreach Program
Mecosta County Conservation District
Flat River Community Library
Montcalm County Commission on Aging
Hope Network/KMG Prestige
IM Kids 3rd Meal
Montcalm Great Start Readiness Program
Huntley's Clubhouse
Lincoln Heights Elementary
Baldwin Heights Elementary
Vestaburg Community Schools
Carson City Elementary
Tri-County Edgerton School
Greenville High School
Central Montcalm Upper Elementary
Montcalm County Fair Association
Newaygo County Conservation District
Have Mercy
Tamarack District Library
Carson City Public Library
Greenville Floral
Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association

Montcalm County MSU Extension Staff

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In 2025 alone, almost 300,000 Michiganders participated in MSU Extension programs, and they had plenty of programs to pick from — we delivered more than 8,000 last year! Some people took classes to plan their retirement. Some took classes to learn how to can tomatoes. Others learned how to improve their farm's recordkeeping, start a mindfulness practice or support their children's development. And that's just the start of our impact across the state.

To learn more, go to:
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-state-university-extension-at-work-2025-impact-report> or
download the report from the
QR code.



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