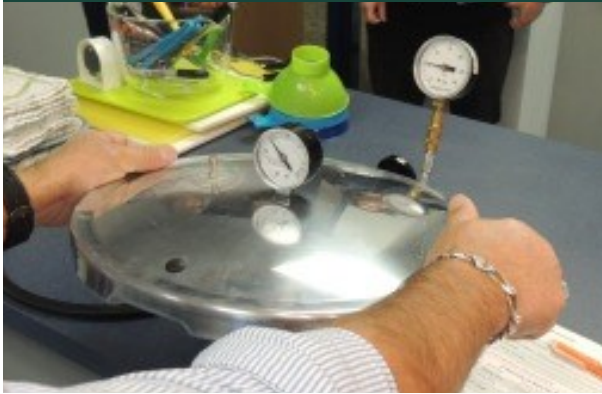


MONTMORENCY COUNTY 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**PROGRAMS
ACCESSED BY
RESIDENTS**

74

**SOCIAL MEDIA
REACH**

38,379

I am very pleased to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Montmorency County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. We want to thank everyone who has shown their support for 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 outreach 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, brought health programs to local schools, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents and are rooted in community relationships and responsive to community needs. Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Montmorency County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

- Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director



**PROGRAMMING
REACH**

729



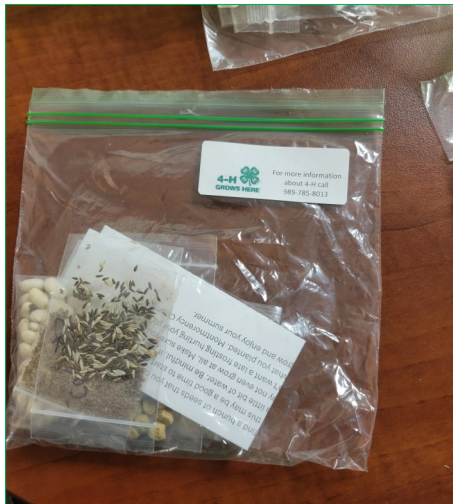
DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES

The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion.



94 youth
52 adult
volunteers

4-H connects with students in the classroom.



Seed program baggies for students.

4-H programs to highlight in Montmorency County:

Seed Program: 401 youth from the Hillman, Atlanta and Lewiston Elementary Schools were able to receive baggies full of seeds that they could use to start a garden.

4-H in the Classroom: Kindergarteners at Hillman Elementary participate in STEAM activities once a month.

Embryology Programs: Hillman Elementary School and Atlanta Community Schools students get the opportunity to learn about the chicken life cycle and hatch chicks at the end of the six-week program.

Mock Interviews: Community members go into Hillman High School and Atlanta Community Schools to run mock job interviews and resume clinic to help Juniors and Seniors get prepared for life after high school.

4-H Summer Camp: 15 youth are able to attend summer camp, learning all about Michigan resources.

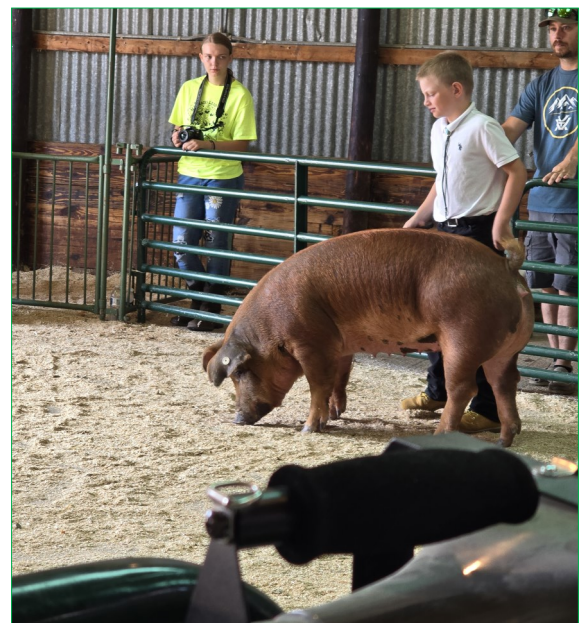


Students pose with their chickens in Embryology class.

DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES



Youth stand with their cows in Clover Bud Dairy Show.



A youth stands with their animal in the Hog Show.



Youth making ice cream.



Youth stand with their animals at the Beef show.



IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION

Michigan State University Extension is here to support all the ways we can live healthier lives, be strong and successful, and build healthier communities by bringing the vast knowledge and resources of MSU directly to your community.

MSU Extension offers programming and resources for social-emotional and mental health, chronic disease and diabetes management, food safety and food preservation, developing healthy relationships, caregiving and parenting, nutrition and physical activity, and more.



Amy and Sharon prepping the vegetables for the Brussel Sprout Hash and Eggs.

Cooking For One held at New Beginnings Ministries in Hillman. This was a six-week series in November and December with seven participants. Overall, the feedback of this class was very positive!



Amy assembling our Potato Leek Pizza!



Sue and Sue working on the Brussel Sprout Hash and Eggs.

Food Safety – In the Schools



Atlanta Senior Class

The senior class at Atlanta schools learned basic home food preservation skills. Karen Fifield, a food safety educator for MSU Extension, provided instruction on basic cooking skills and kitchen safety. Students were able to practice what they learned through hands-on activities.



“Making my own marinara sauce makes me feel proud of myself. Look at what I have accomplished.”

“It was fun to make jam. I am going to eat it all by tonight, then I’ll have to make more!”

- Quotes from class participants



The end result - everyone was able to take home their own



Various pectins used to make jams and jelly.

Science in the Kitchen

Pectin + Sugar =

Food Safety –Educational Community Programs



ServSafe® examinees

ServSafe®

ServSafe® is a national certificate program designed to encourage safe food practices in restaurants. Restaurant managers or workers are required to have this certificate. Food safety educators provide this service.

Check out the Food Safety
Hot Line:

877-643-9882



Karen Fifield connects audiences with MSU

Michigan Cottage Food Law

This program provides food safety education to entrepreneurs that create shelf stable products for sale.

The Cottage Food Law class serves the State of Michigan, utilizing both face-to-face and online format. We have been able to teach over 2,000 entrepreneurs in the last year.



Hillman Lions Club distribute food at the

Public Displays

Fair, Conservation Days and Farmers Markets are great ways to meet the public and promote our programs. MSU Extension provides a wealth of information such as Michigan Fresh Fact sheets. [Check out our Michigan Fresh fact sheets.](https://www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/) (URL: https://www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/)



Karen Fifield at Project Connect in Lewiston.



Food preservation information
at the Farmers Market

Food Safety –Educational Youth Programs



4-H Clubs and food safety—a joint programming effort.



Food Safety is for everyone
– even online!

*Preserving MI Harvest
Pantry Food Safety*



Montmorency youth learn about the importance of washing vegetables.



Food Safety at 4-H Camp

IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION



MSU Extension is here to support all the ways we can live healthier lives, be strong and successful and build healthier communities by bringing the vast knowledge and resources of MSU directly to your community. MSU Extension offers programming and resources for social-emotional and mental health, chronic disease and diabetes management, food safety and food reservation, developing healthy relationships, caregiving and parenting, nutrition and physical activity, and more. Supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), MSU Extension helps create long-lasting, positive changes - from community gardens to childcare homes and beyond.

Popular programs in Montmorency county:

Cooking Matters: a six-week series that shows adult participants a wide variety of budget friendly recipes, with participants making a new recipe each week.

Show Me Nutrition: youth curriculum focused on the five food groups on MyPlate: Fruits, Vegetables, protein, grains and dairy. Each week, students have a food tasting that connects them to each food group and participates in different physical activities.

Senior Project Fresh: The Senior Project Fresh program is aimed at helping older adults eat healthier as they age. The program provided Hillman Seniors Center and Lewiston 50+ club members with free nutrition education and coupons that can be exchanged for fresh



Making ice cream at the Montmorency County Fair.



Safe food and knife-handling with a veggie dip tasting at Oqueoc 4-H Camp.

WELCOME MORGAN HARDIES

Morgan is our new Community Nutrition Instructor serving Alpena and Montmorency Counties.

"I am very excited to be out in the community working with all ages and in our schools with their students."





SUPPORTING FOOD & AGRICULTURE

MSU Extension works to improve farm personnel’s well-being and income, expand agriculture-related businesses and increase employment opportunities, making agriculture one of the strongest industries within Michigan. Supporting agriculture and helping to improve financial stability and competitiveness has a significant economic impact on Michigan and local communities.

\$104.7 BILLION

annual contributions from Michigan’s food and agriculture industry

\$5.13 BILLION

economic impact of the animal agriculture industry in Michigan

805,000

jobs related to the food and animal agriculture industry in Michigan

Partnering with growers for timely research to address local issues

Instructor Paul Gross held the “Growing Successful Food Plots from the Ground Up” class at the Brush Creek Mill in Hillman on April 11, 2024. Attendees learned the science, practical applications and skills to grow the ultimate food plot for their specific situation.



On Thursday, September 12, MSU Extension held a Soybean Field Day in Hillman. Attendees learned updates about Soybean Research, Variety Selection, Wildlife Damage Management, and an upcoming soil health and climate resilience project.

Farm Management
Over \$1.57 million in tax savings

Smart Gardening
32,711 article views in 2022

Field Crop Programs
508,000 indirect contacts
11,565 direct contacts

Beginner Farmer
772 participants
6,071 accessed resources



MONTMORENCY COUNTY OFFICE

This past year Montmorency County MSU Extension has helped community members through phone, email, Facebook and office walk-ins.

As MSU Extension continues to bring research and education to citizens across the state, three wonderful resources help reach every community member in our county:

MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline **(888) 678-3464**

Calls answered by Extension Master Gardeners with the knowledge and resources to help with gardening and lawn questions.

Ask Extension **canr.msu.edu/ outreach/ask-an-expert**

One-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts on topics such as lawns, agriculture, food preservation, natural resources, and

Soil Testing **homesoiltest.msu.edu**

Don't guess - soil test! Learn what vital nutrient your soil is missing for healthy growth in gardens, lawns, and crops.

Purchase soil tests in our office or online.

MSU Extension Staff in Montmorency County

Adam Koivisto
District Director

koivist4@msu.edu, 517-614-0754

Patricia Makins
Office Manager

makinspa@msu.edu.989-785-8013

Karen Fifield
Food Safety Educator

fifield@msu.edu, 989-785-8016

Bonnie Hardies
4-H Program Coordinator

colli427@msu.edu, 989-785-8015

Morgan Hardies
Community Nutrition Instructor

hardies1@msu.edu, 989-354-9883



MSU Extension Montmorency

12265 M-32

Atlanta, MI, 49709

PHONE: 989-785-8013

EMAIL: msue.montmorency@county.msu.edu

WEB: www.canr.msu.edu/county

Stay Connected!

Scan the QR code to sign up for monthly emails highlighting local MSU Extension events and



MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical needs and issues and opportunities.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.