



# Sanilac County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS

**100<sup>+</sup>** Over 100 years of serving Sanilac County



MSU Extension website received 31,521 visits from Sanilac County; 78.5% first-time visitors



\$96,604 spending with local businesses



2,065 youth in Sanilac County 4-H programs



88 Sanilac County students enrolled at MSU



MSU disbursed \$1,289,060 in financial aid to Sanilac County students



491 MSU alumni in Sanilac County



\$4,600,901 total economic impact in Sanilac County

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is the delivery system that brings cutting edge knowledge directly to the citizens of our state. Over the past year, MSU Extension partnered with Sanilac County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Sanilac County residents need it most.



From agriculture to 4-H to personal finance programs and from youth to senior audiences, MSU Extension provides education to help Sanilac County residents improve their lives. This report highlights just some of the work done last year.

We're passionate about serving Sanilac County and understand that equipping residents with knowledge helps them at home, at work and in their communities. Thank you for supporting MSUE and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Jerry Johnson, District 10 Director

## CONTACT



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MSU Extension District 10



@MSUExtension

**Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical**

**Staff Located in Sanilac County Office:**

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**Garden or Yard Question?**

Visit the Gardening in Michigan website:  
[www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu). View tip sheets on smart soils  
 and other smart gardening topics OR call MSU Extension's  
 toll-free Hotline:  
 1-888-678-3464

**Food Safety Hotline**

Do you have questions about food expiration dates?  
 Want to know how long leftovers will last? The MSU  
 Extension food safety hotline can help answer these  
 Types of questions.  
 Hotline : 1-810-285-9565



**Ask an Expert**

Questions are answered by Cooperative Extension, University  
 staff and volunteers from across the United States

[Ask.extension.org/ask](http://Ask.extension.org/ask)

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# Developing Youth and Communities



When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants

- Learn life skills that prepare them for a successful future.
- Explore career opportunities, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- Make healthier nutrition and physical activity choices.
- Engage as active leaders in their local community.

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, providing educational opportunities to over 6 million youth. 4-H programs are available for all youth ages 5-19. The 4-H motto is "Make the best better". We accomplish this by providing youth with opportunities to build skills through educations, hands-on learning experiences in a safe and fun environment.

932

4-H Members

375

Adult  
Volunteers

61

4-H  
Community

## Sanilac County 4-H Clubs

Sanilac County 4-H has a broad reach across the county. Over 800 youth from every community in the county are enrolled in 4-H clubs. 4-H clubs meet year-round and offer members a multitude of learning experiences through project content areas that span everything from science and engineering to food, crafts, personal development, and animal science.

4-H clubs in Sanilac County boast a long history of providing positive youth development. Of the 61 current active clubs, 3 new clubs were chartered this year; while 4 clubs celebrated an 85 year anniversary milestone.

In addition, 3 short-term special interest (SPIN) clubs were held this year. SPIN clubs meet for a shorter time period to focus on a specific content area. 4-H members enrolled in SPIN clubs may choose to participate in only a 6-8 week program; or they can be members of an ongoing community club.

Sanilac County MSU Extension also reaches youth through 1-time school and community presentations and programs. For a total reach of 1017 youth.

**Lakeside 4-H Club is the oldest club in Sanilac County, chartered in**



  
4-H'ers participate in

  
**5M**  
ANNUALLY  
SCIENCE  
PROJECTS

  
**2.5M**  
ANNUALLY  
HEALTHY LIVING  
PROJECTS

  
**2.5M**  
ANNUALLY  
CITIZENSHIP  
PROJECTS

**Sanilac County**

1340 Science

107 Healthy Living

422 Civic Engagement

## Developing Youth and Communities, continued

### Volunteers make 4-H possible

4-H programs are made possible by the service of our dedicated volunteers. 4-H volunteers serve as project leaders, club organizational leaders, fair superintendents, event chaperones, and advisory committee members. In addition to the 375 adults working with Sanilac County youth, 38 youth members have also enlisted as program volunteers. Sanilac County 4-H volunteers range in years of service from 1 to over 50.

**Volunteers being recognized with 25-years of service at the Leader Banquet: Kimberly Byrnes, Jackie Stull, Nick Romzek, and Mike**



### Leadership Development

4-H develops leaders for the future and the present. 4-H members have the opportunity to develop skills such as communication, problem solving, and team building through 4-H. Building leadership skills can happen through attending a training, serving as a club officer, participating in community service projects, or participating on a 4-H advisory council or committee.

#### » 4-H Ambassadors

Sanilac County offers 4-H members at every age an opportunity to represent and promote the county 4-H program. Roles may include, but are not limited to: appearances at local events and parades representing 4-H, media interviews, assisting with fair event and presenting about 4-H to local representatives or community



38

Youth  
Volunteers

4-H  
Ambassadors

8 Seniors

7 Juniors

26 Cloverbuds

3

Citizenship  
Washington  
Focus

3

Michigan  
Capitol  
Experience

1

4-H National  
Congress

58

4-H  
Exploration  
Days

1

National

## Leadership Development

### » 4-H Citizenship and Leadership Development Awards

The Sanilac County 4-H Citizenship and Leadership Development Award provides funding from multiple sources to ensure Sanilac County 4-H members have the opportunity to attend 4-H National Congress, 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus and 4-H Capitol Experience. To earn this award, 4-H members must complete an application and participate in an interview. Through these leadership program experiences, youth participants are empowered to become well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and world.

**Citizenship Washington Focus delegates: Ariel Butler, Allison Hawken, and Ella Kritzman.**



### » Sanilac County 4-H Spring Fair

Over 400 people attended the 2018 Sanilac County 4-H Spring Fair. The event provides youth an opportunity to showcase their 4-H work and receive constructive feedback from a judge. The event is a great opportunity for youth to improve their confidence and communication skills. It also serves as a promotion event to recruit new families.

### » 4-H Exploration Days

The Sanilac County sent a record number of delegates to 2018 4-H Exploration Days on the campus of Michigan State University. During the 3-day conference, youth have an opportunity to live in a dorm room, attend classes, and explore campus. This event is MSU Extension's flagship pre-college program. Michigan 4-H youth are 10% more likely to enroll in college than



## Developing Youth and Communities, continued

### » 4-H State Awards

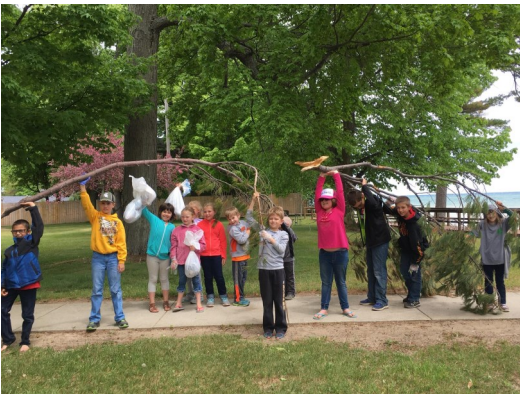
Seven Sanilac County 4-H members participated in the 2018 4-H State Awards program. The State Awards program is a rigorous application and interview process that provides 4-H members with hands-on experience in workforce preparation skills while recognizing their achievements. Carly VanNorman, a Sanilac County 4-H member was selected as the senior state winner in Swine Science.



**4-H State Award delegates: Cady Wallace, Katie Romzek, Catherine Sanford, Amanda Kosal, Carly Van-Norman, Kimberly Schultz, and Heather Berry.**

### » Community Service

4-H members pledge their hands to larger service. Community service is a



### » Cloverbud Camps

4-H Cloverbud Camps were held monthly throughout the past year. The events were open to any Sanilac County youth ages 5-8 years old. Each camp averaged 10 participants. The day-camps each featured an introductory activity for younger members in nutrition, animal science, physical activity, and a craft. The camps resulted in several new families enrolling in Sanilac County 4-H Clubs.



9

Cloverbud  
Camps held

## Supporting STEM career explorations

4-H members build skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and responsibility through science programs. 4-H members are 2x as likely to participate in STEM programs compared to their peers. Over 40% of 4-H alumni pursue a degree in a STEM related field.



### >> Vet Science Club

Sanilac County 4-H launched a new 4-H club in 2018 in partnership with Thumb Veterinary Service. The Vet Science 4-H Club has met monthly since March at the clinic's office. The new club attracted over 25 youth from Sanilac and surrounding counties. Youth participating in the club had an opportunity to experience a cat spay surgery and practice calf presentation and delivery simulations.

### >> Livestock Judging

Twelve Sanilac County 4-H members participated in 2 state level livestock judging contests this year. Members met using a combination of virtual meeting spaces, classroom, and farm visits to increase their skills in evaluation, reasoning, critical thinking, and communication.



### >> Thumb 4-H Camp

Sixty-three (63) youth, twenty-two (22) teen counselors and eleven (11) adult chaperones from Huron, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties attended Thumb Area 4-H Camp held at Camp Cavell in Lexington, July 6-8, 2018. The main purpose was to get youth (4-H and non-4-H), ages 9 to 14 years of age, involved in an outdoor-living experience. Camp featured arts and crafts, singing, outdoor games, campfires and s'mores. "Olympics" was this year's theme for Thumb Area 4-H Camp.

### >> Livestock Auction

Every summer, Sanilac County 4-H members look forward to exhibiting and selling their 4-H project animals at the fair. This experience provides an opportunity for youth to learn about food production and food safety from farm to plate. In addition, youth gain valuable skills in marketing and entrepreneurship as they learn how to calculate their break-even price and identify potential buyers. This year's livestock auctions gross over \$540,000; which will help 4-H members grow their agricultural enterprises and save for college.

236

4-H Livestock Exhibitors

155

Livestock Auction Buyers

# Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



**MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.**

**36**

**ServSafe  
Certified**

## Reducing foodborne illness through education

Food Safety is a global issue from farm to table. Its impact on our health and well-being is significant across the life span. Food-borne illness outbreaks occur on an ongoing basis crossing all socioeconomic lines from production, consumption and preservation of foods. Overall health is impacted by the safety of the food supply and foodborne illness.

To educate consumers about keeping their food safe, MSU Extension provides programming in the areas of Food Preservation, Cooking for Crowds, Safe Food=Healthy Kids and ServSafe manager training for adults. Food safety educational presentations for youth or adults groups are held upon request and online education is also an option for some programs.

Results of programming in Sanilac County include:

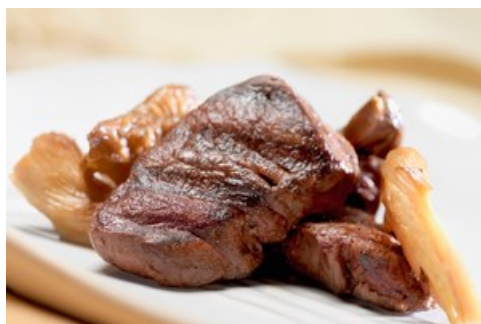
### ServSafe

ServeSafe manager certification and education was provided for 36 foodservice employees. This course provides education for the ServSafe Food Protection Manager course and proctoring of the Certification exam. Through ServSafe participants learn how to help prevent foodborne illness throughout the flow of food and set up food safety management systems.

### Food Preservation

As Michigan gardens grow and thoughts turn to those gardens and farm markets overflowing with fresh produce, it is a good idea to think about safely preserving fresh produce. The bounty of Michigan produce can be enjoyed all year long with safe food preservation. Food preservation is a science and we must properly preserve food or dangerous bacteria can be present and cause foodborne illness. Food Preservation classes teach safe preserving techniques and provide valuable resources to ensure the safety of home preserved food.

Online class can be found at: [www.msue.msu/food\\_preservation](http://www.msue.msu/food_preservation)





## Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued

**Food Safety Education and Presentations.** 16 adults engaged in a food safety presentation and information to learn about staying healthy by keeping germ free

**Cooking for Crowds** class was held for 4 volunteers. Cooking for Crowds is designed for non-profit groups that run food fundraisers and events such as meals, bake sales, sub sales and dinners. There are a range of food safety risks that develop when cooking large volumes of food and participants learn to reduce those risks and help prevent the conditions that may lead to a foodborne illness.

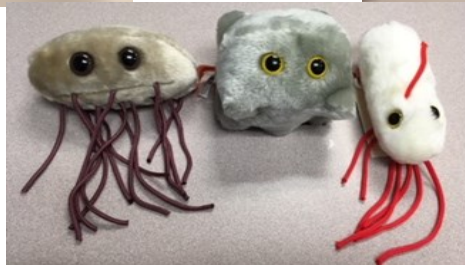
**Michigan FRESH** fact sheets educating on the safe use, storage and preservation of Michigan grown fruits and vegetables were distributed at our office and food safety programs

**Safe Food = Healthy Kids** is a new pilot program funded through a Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant which focuses on providing food safety education for child care providers. The goal of the program is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in young children. In Sanilac County, 26 child care providers attended this new, innovative training which incorporates hands-on learning with a technology piece, an educational texting campaign to enhance learning after attending the program.

TEXT: SafeFood to 797979 to sign up and receive food safety tips every week.



Using Glo-Germ, proper handwashing skills are taught and practiced at food safety classes



E. coli - Norovirus - Salmonella

Giant stuffed microbes are used when explaining pathogens that can contaminate food and how to prevent them from causing foodborne illness.

26  
Childcare  
providers  
received  
food  
safety  
training

Safe Food = Healthy Kids participants said after attending the class:

*"I learned I need to calibrate my thermometer, and I liked getting the chart with cooking temperatures."*

*"It helped with proper glove use."*

*"It showed me ways to cook food safely and helped me learn if you don't have and use proper sanitizer, people can get sick."*

*"I will be more diligent about temping meats with a thermometer."*

# Keeping People Healthy



244

youth series participants

56

adult series participants

71

adult 1-time presentation participants

245

Senior Market Fresh Coupon Books distributed

## MyPlate in Sanilac County

“SNAP-Ed is an evidence-based program that helps people lead healthier lives. SNAP-Ed teaches people using or eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn to be physically active.”<sup>1</sup> USDA’s Choose MyPlate and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are the basis for the nutrition education curricula that SNAP-Ed uses.

Among adult participants in SNAP-Ed programs, 80% showed improvement in one or more nutrition practice (makes healthy food choices, reads nutrition labels, etc.) and 72% showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices (planning meals, does not run out of food, compares prices, etc.). Among youth, over 95% showed improvement in one or more core nutrition areas.

“SNAP-Ed works by building partnerships with all types of community organizations. Communities have social marketing campaigns, hold nutrition education classes, and improve their policies, systems, and the environment of the community. SNAP-Ed even addresses local issues like lead poisoning.”<sup>1</sup> Throughout Sanilac County, MSU Extension Nutrition Program Instructors Susan Maxbauer and Mary Schommer partnered with many organizations to deliver nutrition and physical activity programs.

## Sanilac County Nutrition Education Partners:

### » Preschool and Headstart Programs

Croswell Headstart, Carsonville-Port Sanilac Headstart, Carsonville-Port Sanilac Preschool, Sandusky Headstart

### » Early Childhood and Daycare Programs

Geiger Early Childhood Center, Humpty Dumpty Day Care, Wiggles and Giggles

### » Adult Series Education Programs

Sunrise Village Senior Apartments, Community Mental Health, Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club, MSU Extension

### » Adult One-Time Education Programs

Sanilac County Community Baby Shower, Senior Project Fresh, Preschool Parent Night

## Education and Curriculum

Nutrition education series for adults include 6 or more hours of hands-on education. All curriculum used by MSU Extension nutrition programs is evidence based. Adult curriculums include: *Eat Healthy, Be Active*; *Eat Smart, Live Strong*; and *Healthy Eating Adds Up*. Of the 56 adult participants taking a series, they represent 94 family members.



## Healthier Childcare Environments

The Healthier Child Care Environment initiative helps childcare providers identify areas for improvement related to nutrition and physical activity policies and environmental practices. A trained nutrition education coach from MSU Extension helps child care providers through the process and connects them with resources to work towards best practices. Areas of focus include: Active/inactive play time, fruits and vegetables, Screen time use, Menus and variety, Physical activity policy, and Nutrition policy. After 4-6 months of planning and implementing new nutrition and physical activity practices, the result is a Healthier Childcare Environment for the childcare providers and the children they care for! In Sanilac County three childcare providers participated in this program impacting over 108 children and their families.

108  
children and  
families  
impacted at  
their childcare  
site and homes

A home childcare provider shared her thoughts after completing the program: “Because of this program, I am now practicing family style meals. My children just love it, and I feel they have benefited from it greatly. We sit down, choose our food and talk about how each one helps give our bodies what they need. We also have a lot more nutrition posters and reading material which have also helped involve my kids in making better choices for meals. My children love the “2 bite club.” We used to say, “I don’t love it, but I can eat it.” My children also love the “My Plate.” They were so excited the day my trainer brought them! This program has me so excited and interested in teaching my children more about nutrition and exercise. “

Another provider shared “This program has made it possible for me to learn how to increase nutrition education for myself, the children in my care, as well as their parents with nutrition information, education play sets and other resources. I am thrilled to have a Nutrition Policy and Breastfeeding Policy in place with the help of this program. The pre/post assessments are awesome tools to see how much your program improves during the program. The kids love the MyPlates at lunchtime and talking about what food goes where on MyPlate.”



Pictured above:

Enjoying lunch family style on the new MyPlates.

Middle Picture above:

Kids playing a MyPlate game to learn about food groups.

Pictured above:

Breakfast of whole grain toast, crunchy peanut butter and banana served family style.

## District 10 Nutrition Staff at The Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum event

The Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum, located in Tuscola County, is an agricultural museum and educational center open to individuals, families and student groups to educate and stimulate awareness of our agricultural heritage.



May 9-11 the Barn offered school field trips with students coming from Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Bay, Saginaw, St. Clair, Lapeer, and Genesee Counties. The barn reports that 1,426 students attended and visited the 26 Education Stations offered to students.

MSU Extension reached 1,403 people (students and chaperones) over the course of the 3 days. The theme was “The Thumb: Naturally Sweet”, so our display was “Fruit: Nature’s Candy” and our education discussed recommended servings, forms of fruit, and included a fruit-themed physical activity game.

Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a

## Farm stress program

In collaboration with the Ag and Agri-Business Extension Educators in Districts 9 and 10, Kris Swartzendruber, Extension Educator for Social and Emotional Health, conducted the *Farm Stress: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset* program for area farmers attending the Thumb Ag Review Meetings.

Farmers know how to care of their animals and crops, taking careful steps to ensure that they are healthy and safe. Unfortunately, farmers don’t always take the same care in monitoring and managing their own mental and physical stress and fatigue. At present, commodity prices are low, making stress especially palpable for the farmers in the thumb area.

MSU Extension puts a high emphasis on making sure farmers care for their own health and wellness in this high-stress profession. Whether these stresses come from a financial issue or the stresses of everyday life, the *Farm Stress* program is designed to provide information and resources to not only help the farmers identify and manage stress for themselves, but also for their family members, friends and/or neighbors.



As a result of these programs, the majority of the participants reported a significant increase in their knowledge about:

- Understanding rural stress issues and the warning signs of stress
- The impact stress has on our bodies
- Assessing stress issues and taking steps in managing stress
- Recognizing available resources

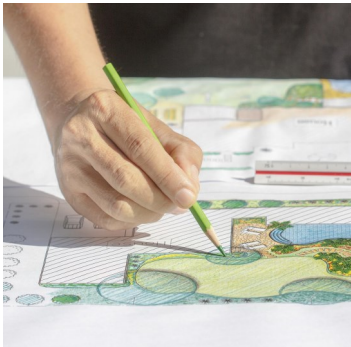
72

Farmer participants

MSU Extension provides trusted, evidenced-based education and expertise in:

- Markets and Financials
- Risk Management Plans and Farm Analysis Information
- Managing Stress, Anger or Depression

# Ensuring Strong Communities



**MSU Extension understands that building civic engagement and healthy economic structures leads to greater opportunities and stronger communities.**

**6**

Entrepreneurs used MSU Product Center

**4**

Community Leadership Teams

## MSU Public Policy Programs

Sanilac County had two local officials attend MSU Public Policy programs in 2018.

- ⇒ Citizen Planner Advanced Academy
- ⇒ Zoning Administrator Certificate Program

## MSU Product Center

The MSU Product Center improves economic opportunities in Michigan agriculture, food, and natural resource sectors. The Product Center helps entrepreneurs develop and commercialize high value, consumer-responsive products and businesses. The Product Center connects entrepreneurs with MSU staff with technical expertise, research, outreach, and educational services. MSU Product Center services include concept development, business development, market research, supply chain linkage, feasibility studies, packaging and labeling, and business growth. During 2018, six Sanilac County businesses worked with MSU Product Center counselors.

## Food Policy Council in Michigan's Thumb Area

The five District 10 counties: St. Clair, Lapeer, Tuscola, Sanilac, and Huron counties will be represented by a food policy council beginning the fall of 2018. The purpose of the council initially will be to develop a thorough understanding of what the food system looks like in the greater Thumb area both from a consumer and producer perspective. Additionally, the council will evaluate best strategies to assist in the promotion of a food system that provides for the food needs of those who are secure and insecure. The council will develop and sponsor projects, programs and other initiatives that provide education to the public and promote changes in practices with stakeholders and policy makers that undergird the larger food system. The council received a \$3,000 grant from the Michigan Local Food Policy Council Network in June of 2018 to begin this work.

## First Impressions Tourism Assessments

MSU Extension conducted follow-up evaluations to determine what actions and impacts came from First Impressions Tourism (FIT) assessments in four thumb communities. Communities selected in 2017 were: Elkton, Sebawaing, Imlay City, and Marlette. Partnership with Prosperity Region 6 led to each community being awarded \$2,000 to implement improvements of their choice based on the results from FIT.

Each community identified either one large or several small projects:

**Elkton** – Promotional social media videos, mural paintings in downtown designed to attract visitors, student-to-business/entrepreneurial relationships established.

**Imlay City** – Historical walking tour and website consolidations, beautification programs for community members and private/public partnerships between the city and Vlassic.

**Marlette** – Development and implementation of their first farmer's market being driven by a re-engaged Downtown Development Authority comprised of nine new members.

**Sebawaing** – Completion of MSU Urban and Regional Planning program resulting in a new recreation plan and updates to master plans; launching a new farmer's mar-

# Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



19

Master  
Gardeners

15

Fishery  
Workshop  
Participants

17

Solar Energy  
Workshop  
Participants

## Master Gardner Recertification

MSU Extension Master Gardner Program is an adult horticulture education and volunteer leader training program committed to improving the quality horticulture-based volunteerism and beautifying communities throughout the state. Program participants must complete at least 40-hours of education to receive the title of Master Gardner. To meet the annual recertification requirements, Master Gardeners must complete 20 volunteer hours educating others in their community and 10 continuing education hours in horticulture. Sanilac County had 19 Master Gardeners recertified in 2018.



## Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Programs

Four Lake Huron Regional Fisheries workshops were held in 2018 to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture industries in Michigan. Workshops were held in Arenac, Huron, Mackinac, and Presque Isle Counties. A total of 323 people attended the workshops; including 15 Sanilac County participants. The workshops were attended by anglers, fisheries related businesses (charter captains, bait shop owners, and commercial fishing operators), resource management interests, educators, and media.

Workshop topics at Huron County workshop included education and research on prey fish, predator fish diets, offshore fisheries, cisco restoration, walleye and yellow perch fisheries, Lake Huron fisheries management. Topics at other locations vary slightly to the region.

## Renewable Energy Development Programs

MSU Extension's Agriculture and Greening Educators held a series of seven educational workshops focused on agricultural solar energy development. The workshop was attended by 17 Sanilac County residents. Over 450 people from across Michigan participated in the workshops during March.

The workshop was intended to help farmers understand the renewable energy landscape, nuances of solar leases, zoning considerations, and accompanying tax implications. The program content included: the context for solar energy development on Michigan Farmland; a community vision for solar energy systems ; zoning approaches for solar energy; siting considerations for utility-scale solar; integrating solar with existing ag systems ; understanding solar energy lease agreements; and taxation guidance including impact on PA 116 .

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



Agriculture is a primary economic driver of Michigan's Thumb Region. Sanilac County is a major contributor to the agricultural sector with a wide portfolio of agricultural products including:

- Field Crops-wheat, soybeans, corn, sugar beets, dry beans
- Forages and hay
- Livestock-beef, dairy

## Thumb Ag Review: Local Research Results

The Thumb Ag Reviews are a series of post-harvest meetings intended to provide farmers, agronomists and agribusiness an opportunity to learn about the results from the research and demonstration field trials conducted by the MSUE Field Crops educators located in the Thumb of Michigan.

Phil Kaatz, Bob Battel, and Martin Nagelkirk were the MSU Extension educators who presented the findings at five locations in the Thumb. These locations included Saginaw Valley Research & Education Center in Richville, Thumb Ag Day in Ubley, Lapeer Education & Technology Center in Attica, Westpark Inn in Sandusky, and at Gracies Restaurant in New Lothrop. The topics discussed included:

- corn hybrid trials
- soybean variety trials
- glyphosate resistant varieties
- conventional non-herbicide resistant varieties
- RR 2 Xtend varieties
- Liberty Link varieties
- biological additive trials
- corn population trials
- yard compost in a corn/soybean rotation
- corn nitrogen rate trial
- soybean cyst nematode resistance variety trial
- alfalfa sulfur source trial
- wheat fungicide efficacy trial on stripe rust susceptible varieties



160

Farmers  
attended  
Review  
Meetings

\$242,885

Estimated  
improved  
profits to  
farmers

### » Intensive management of wheat inputs

In all, there were 160 participants, 77% of the participants completed a post-evaluation survey. Those completing the evaluation represented 107,420 acres of crops. 83% said they would make changes in management practices based on the information they received, and estimated a potential in increased revenue or in cost savings of \$242,885 from implementing the changes.

## Workshops for Agricultural Producers

### » Manure Handling Certification Program

MSU Extension launched a new certification program in March 2018 in draft version for manure haulers. Seven Sanilac County farmers attended the inaugural education program. The program aims to address potential water quality issues related to manure application and nutrient management and improve safety practices around manure storage. In addition, 1 Sanilac resident attended the manure hauler field day in August.

### » Summer Forage Tour

Nine Sanilac County farmers attended the Summer Forage Bus Tour hosted by MSU Extension. Included on the 3-stop tour was a Deckerville farm. The event was attended by producers, suppliers, educators, and agribusinesses associated with forage production. The tour highlighted different systems of production. Two Sanilac producers attended the Optimizing Forage Profitability in 2018 Program. The program highlighted education primarily targeted at dairy industry.

### » Thumb Cattlemen Updates

Thumb Cattlemen meetings are held throughout the winter months and provide a variety of topics for producers to improve production practices to maximize profitability. Four meetings in the series were attended by Sanilac County producers.

Topics included EnviroImpact Online Tool, nutrient management, managing farm stress, feed efficiency, and price transmission in the beef industry.



### » Wheat Research and Education

The Thumb is Michigan's leading region in the production of field crops. Martin Nagelkirk, a resident of Sanilac County, is one of several Agriculture Extension Educators that serve the area. While serving various supportive roles to the local agricultural industry, he focuses on the production of small cereal grains, particularly soft winter wheat.

Extension Educators assist producers by relying on research conducted by Michigan State University and other Land Grant Institutions. In Martin's case he also draws from years of conducting local on-farm research addressing the effectiveness of various practices and products. While his field research is particularly helpful to Thumb-area producers, much of his work is shared state-wide and nationally.

In addition to his emphasis on wheat research, he has also been evaluating the feasibility of producing malting barley in response to the growing interest in Michigan craft breweries. He works with a state-wide work group made up of other MSU staff to identify adaptable varieties, assess the financial risks and opportunities, and evaluate various practices best suited to Michigan conditions.

These efforts are often in concert with grower or industry organizations. Ultimate-

8

Manure  
Haulers  
Certified

11

Forage  
Education  
Participants

11

Thumb  
Cattlemen  
Updates  
attended



21

Farms participated in on farm research

Parlor inspection tour

87

Youth participants

### On Farm Research Influences Education Programs.

Since the summer of 2016, the MSU Extension dairy team has been doing a summer research project on farms across the state. These research projects are to help answer questions dairy producers have. The research projects provide valuable information to the farms and create picture of the issue state wide. The first project the team conducted involved the immunity of dairy bull calves verse dairy heifer calves. The 2017 winter education program was about how to improve your calf raising program biased on results from the project. The program was held at 6 locations, including Bad Axe. Summer of 2017 The dairy team's research involved evaluating parlor performance by measure milk let down and milk flow. The topic for the 2018 winter education program was ways to increase profits by making changes to your parlor. Meetings were held in 5 locations. For the 2018 summer project the level of heat stress on dairy farms is being assessed. The 2019 winter education program will be influenced by the results of the project. Of the 3 research projects 21 Thumb area farms have participated.



### Thumb Dairy Odyssey

Thumb Dairy Odyssey Days just completed its 7th event. The first event took place in the summer of 2016. This continues to be a unique event that is pulling youth from all over the state to learn about dairy. This program was invented by 4-H member, Addy Battel. It was created because, even though the Thumb area of Michigan is the number one milk producing area in Michigan, it lacks any youth events for dairy. Youth were able to go to different local dairy farms and learn about animal science, agriculture and most importantly some of the career possibilities they present. Many farms across the state of Michigan struggle to find those who want to work on farms or work in agribusiness. In 2017 and 2018, Thumb Dairy Odyssey Days had 87 youth participated and there were



Hendrick Eggink gives a farm tour



Marianne Buza teaching low stress animal handling



Milan Forrester clips a cow for show with volunteer Jared Sanderson



# Sanilac County MSU Extension

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