

Message from the District Director

Mother Teresa once said, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters and create many ripples". MSU Extension is a catalyst for creating lasting impact that ripples across the Thumb, state, and beyond. Our programs reach all audiences and age groups. From youth learning essential life skills and farmers exploring ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness, to older adults being able to access healthier foods and local communities discovering ways to increase economic impact. The possibilities of impact through MSU Extension are endless.

Through partnerships we can produce exponential ripples to change the lives of our neighbors, family, and friends. For over 100 years, MSU Extension's goal has been to "bring knowledge to life". By connecting with organizations and agencies across the Thumb, we bring the knowledge and research from Michigan State University to our communities and empower them to improve their lives. Alone we can cast a small stone to create ripples. Together our stone grows to produce larger impact than any one organization can create themselves.

I have been with MSU Extension for over nine years focusing on improving the health and nutrition of community members. As I continue to learn my new role as District Director, I am looking forward to exploring new ways to work with our partners as we create ripples of impact across St. Clair County and beyond.



Karly Creguer
District 10 Director
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St. Clair County Staff

- Carol Bublitz** - Community Nutrition Instructor - bublitz@msu.edu
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- Valerie Fusee** - 4-H Program Assistant - valerie.fusee@affiliate.msu.edu
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- Kylie Veldman** - Office Support Staff - veldman9@msu.edu
- Lori Warchuck** - 4-H Program Coordinator - warchuc1@msu.edu

Contact Information

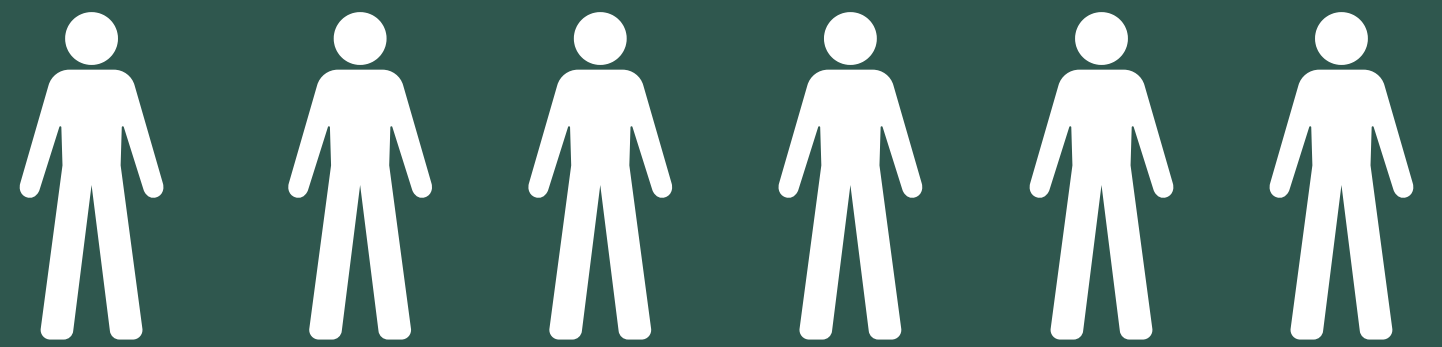
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371

MSU Extension Programs including St. Clair Residents

4,296

People attended programs held in St. Clair



REPORTING

109

Extension Programs held in St. Clair County

12

MSU Extension specialists and program staff reported data for St. Clair

Program Reach

Estimated **5,322** St. Clair Residents attended Extension Programs

Estimated **1,249** hours of programming for St. Clair Residents



697

Youth enrolled in county 4-H

279

Adult Volunteers



Our Staff Highlights

Various success stories and highlights of the year from our St. Clair County and neighboring area's staff who also serve this county

Lori Warchuck, 4-H Program Coordinator provides leadership and management of local 4-H programs, volunteers, and youth participants in St Clair County. Through her work, Lori creates opportunities for youth in St Clair County by developing programs and partnerships, evaluating 4-H programs, and recruiting and training volunteers. Lori is also the liaison for the Michigan 4-H office and helps to ensure that statewide opportunities and information are available to local participants.



Short Term Special Interest (SPIN) Clubs: 5 **Youth Members: 697**
School Enrichment Participants: 3,486 **Adult Volunteers: 279**
Outreach Program Participants: 25,329 **Community Clubs & Committees: 53**

Program Success - From the Forest to the Table Workshop



More than 30 4-Hers learned what to do after the harvest of game animals. Processing of quail, rabbit and whitetail deer were demonstrated in this hands-on learning experience. Youth also participated in "shoot or don't shoot" scenarios. Scenarios reinforce gun safety, knowing what is past your target and the responsibility of the trigger pull. Tree stand safety, blood trail tracking, survival skills hunting ethics and hunting rules were also part of this day of learning in the outdoors.

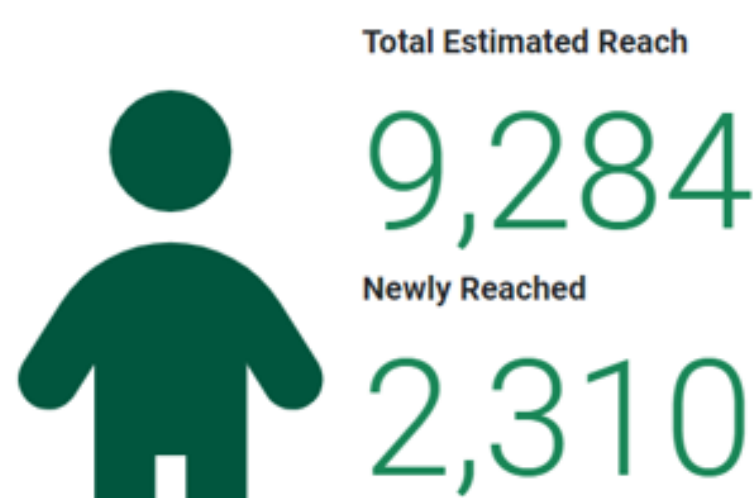
Valerie Fusee, 4-H Program Assistant

In the St. Clair County Schools, she spends the majority of the year teaching embryology and doing hands on science experiments with the students. She is also the educational coordinator for the St. Clair County Earth Fair.



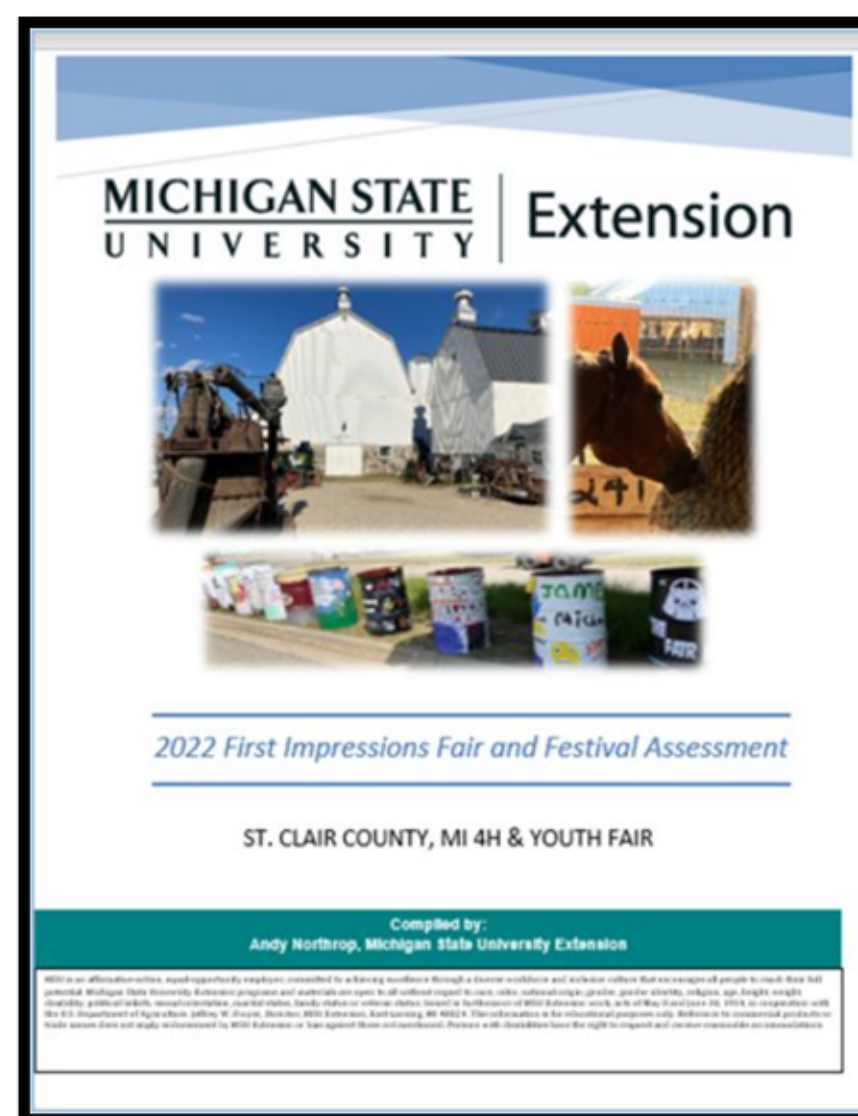
Nutrition & Physical Activity Education

Carol Bublitz (bottom right) and **Jennifer Evenson** (top right) are St. Clair County's Community Nutrition Instructors. Funded by SNAP-Ed, they work to educate community members how to be healthy on a budget. They also provide public health coaching to community partners to guide them in implementing healthy changes. Their work impacts the lives of our community members from preschool-aged to older adults.



St. Clair County 4-H Fair Board captures visitors impressions to drive future developments.

Michigan State University Extension partnered with the St. Clair County 4-H Fair Board in spring 2022 to conduct a first-time visitor assessment and analysis of their 4-H and Youth Fair (SCC4H). The fair assessment took place during the week of July 18-23, 2022. The results were shared with the SCC4H Board of Directors in September 2022, and by early 2023, a plethora of new developments began to emerge. MSU Extension followed up mid-year with their Fair Board president. Impacts and actions taken towards improving St. Clair County 4-H and Youth are highlighted by MSU Extension tourism educator, Andy Northrop.



Andy Northrop
Community/Tourism
Extension Educator



Scan QR code to learn more about MSU Extension's Fair & Festival Assessment

Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series 2023 Summary



Phil Kaatz
Field Crops Educator
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The MSU Extension Field Crops Team hosts the Virtual Breakfast Series every Thursday morning during the growing season for farmers, agribusiness professionals, agency personnel, and others interested in agriculture. The series is flexible, fluid, and able to adapt to constantly changing conditions for crops such as corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat, sugar beets, and dry beans. Valuable crop management information is shared to address potential and current issues related to weather, pest infestation, and crop diseases. Emerging issues are addressed in a timely manner to help farmers increase efficiency and profitability of the farming operations.

Year-end highlights include:

- 4,729 live participants (182 average)
- 6,923 YouTube recording views (267 average)
- 2,171 Podcast views (84 average)
- 60 Michigan counties (72%)
- 15 States (IL, IN, IA, KY, MN, NC, NM, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, UT, VT, WI)
- 11 Foreign countries (Australia, South Africa, Israel, Burundi, Canada, Ethiopia, Ireland, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda)

Post-program evaluation completed in November 2023:

- 325 total respondents
 - o 4,522,267 acres represented
 - o 99.1% had an increase in knowledge
 - o 79.1% indicated a crop management change has been made or will be made in the future
 - An average of 52% of the acres will have changes
 - A total of \$2,816,810 of increased revenue or savings to farmers or agribusinesses these management changes represent

Health Educator Jacqui Rabine worked with colleagues to provide evidenced-based programs to 1,100 participants in District 10, which includes St. Clair County, in 2023. These programs include topics around Disease Prevention & Management, Falls Prevention, and Social & Emotional Health.

In a statewide report of those surveyed after participating in Social & Emotional Health programs:

- 93% of Mental Health First Aid participants say they can better recognize signs of a mental health crisis.
- 90% of RELAX Alternatives to Anger participants report improved communication skills.
- 93% of participants feel confident using mindful breathing to reduce stress.
- 87% of Powerful Tools participants felt highly confident making caregiving decisions after class.



Alyssa Maturen
Supervising Educator



Scan for more

In 2023, the Michigan Vaccine Project grant reached over 400,000 Michiganders using its radio, newspaper, podcast, webinar, and social media campaigns. Programming has reached every corner of Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula and Beaver Island. The MVP grant will be ending July 1, 2024 but the materials produced during its time will remain online for continued access at www.canr.msu.edu/vaccineeducation/.



Erica Clites
Michigan Sea Grant
Extension Educator
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Michigan Sea Grant

The MI Paddle Stewards program teaches paddlers to identify and report invasive species as well as to decontaminate their boats to prevent the spread of those species.

We had 13 people attend the training which was for people who want to train members of the public. The training focuses on learning to identify aquatic invasive species.



Friends of the St. Clair River looks to revive MI Paddle Stewards program

Friends of the St. Clair River is seeking to bring back the hands-on learning portion of an invasive species learning program aimed at local paddlers.

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