



St. Clair County 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

100+

Over 100 years MSU Extension professionals have provided education to St. Clair County residents



\$88,078 spending with local businesses in St. Clair County



296 St. Clair County students enrolled at MSU



MSU disbursed 6,323,359 in financial aid to St. Clair County students



2,417 MSU alumni living in and contributing to St. Clair County.



3,881 youth involved in 4-H in St. Clair County youth development programs



\$20,770,372 total economic impact in St. Clair County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Jerry Johnson, District Director



As our battle with the pandemic continued into 2021, our nation, our state and the thumb region struggled to recover. When our residents tried to resume their former lives, we learned even more about their challenges and to no one's surprise, Covid-19 was not the only problem they faced. What we saw were people neglecting routine medical care, putting off cancer screenings, staying home from school or "attending" virtually. We saw food insecurity on the rise, we saw high unemployment, rampant underemployment and money woes on the increase and we saw small businesses going out of business. We saw an increase in the use of recreational drugs and alcohol. We saw people fighting isolation, confusion, depression and loneliness. However, we also saw "hunger" ... a hunger to return to normal or at least a new normal.

We saw a hunger to grow as producers planted, harvested and processed – and our Agricultural Educators were there to support them. We saw a hunger to become more self-sufficient in home food preparation and preservation and our team was there to help our residents do it safely and efficiently. For those with a hunger for financial relief we were there to provide education and resources to stretch their food dollar further. Our children never lost the hunger to learn and we were back to in-person teaching with our 4-H youth in a year that saw a welcome resurgence in fair attendance. Many of our residents had a hunger to reduce their level of stress or provide essential care to a loved one and our program instructors and educators were setting attendance records in reaching residents both virtually and in person.

Thank you for supporting MSU Extension and for working with us to provide life-changing education to the residents of St. Clair County.

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Developing Youth and Communities

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Serving St. Clair County

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. We always welcome new members and new volunteers; if you are interested in joining 4-H, please contact the St. Clair County MSU Extension office at 810-989-6935. We would be happy to help you enroll today!

4-H PROGRAM NUMBERS IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY:

Total club membership—608 youth members

Total clubs—53 4-H Clubs

Total program outreach efforts—3,881 youth reached in outreach programming efforts

Total volunteers—241 adult volunteers

4-H VIRTUAL EMBRYOLOGY “Chick Cam”

4-H with the help of St. Clair County Information Technology staff delivered virtual embryology in the classroom. The “Chick Cam” was set up to live stream 4-H Embryology in the classroom program, with more than 600 views. Youth from across the county received educational lessons and could watch hatching in real time.



Developing Youth and Communities

Whether it is written, spoken or visually represented, the way we express ourselves makes a big impact on our daily lives at home, work and play.

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H & YOUTH FAIR FEATURED AG ON THE MOVE TRAILER

During the week of the Fair, 4-H staff delivered agriculture related programming utilizing the “Ag on the Move Trailer”. The trailer featured a tractor simulator, digital games that made learning fun. Games that included questions for our youngest fair goers like “Does chocolate milk come from a brown cow?”. Hands on crop seeds identification and careers in agriculture were featured. Nearly 500 youth and adults participated in this fun learning opportunity.



SELFIDGE 127th WING FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY!

4-H volunteers and 4-H staff spent September 11, 2021 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base bringing 4-H activities for military kids during the 127th Wing Family Appreciation Day! Programming efforts included wildlife ID, slime science, archery and a fitness obstacle course. More than 300 youth and adults from across the state participated.



Developing Youth and Communities

ALL 4-H PROGRAMS:

- ◆ Animal Science
- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Careers
- ◆ Environmental & Outdoor Education
- ◆ Global & Cultural Education
- ◆ Healthy Youth
- ◆ Leadership, Citizenship & Service
- ◆ Life Skills
- ◆ Science & Engineering
- ◆ Volunteering & Mentoring

4-H SCIENCE BLAST

This day camp consisted of 30 children in the Clay Township Area. We met for a total of 6 weeks every Wednesday. The camp started on July 28 and ended September 1st. Each week the young scientists explored and participated in different science experiments. They learned about chemical reactions and made their own Lava lamps. One session covered Michigan fish and they did a craft with rubber fish, paint and drawstring bags. We took a look at Bernoulli's theory by watching a video of a local pilot explaining air pressure, lift and thrust. The kids then made their own gliders and we did an experiment comparing a homemade glider to a store bought glider. We learned about the power of air pressure by utilizing air bags. The final two classes covered the power of our sun. We made art work utilizing special paper that reacts to the sun. The young scientists did an experiment with sun tan lotion and solar beads. During the last class, the kids learned how different colors react to sunlight. We did an experiment with solar ovens and chocolate utilizing different colors in the solar ovens. They made their own solar ovens and baked a s'more for their final project. While the baking was going on in the solar ovens, Carol Bublitz, Extension Community Nutrition Instructor, gave a lesson on sugar.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H & YOUTH FAIR GooseChase

During the week of the fair, we had a Scavenger Hunt through the GooseChase app. The Scavenger Hunt had 54 teams of 2 to 6 people per team. It covered 20 different missions that focused on agriculture, 4-H fair and how to become a 4-H member. At the end of the week, the winning 7 teams received a prize for their hard work and submissions. This event reached approximately 163 people and was a great way to educate and promote the 4-H program.



Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

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Health & Nutrition
Institute

Serving District 10
St. Clair, Huron,
Sanilac and Tuscola
Counties

Comments from
program participants
included:

“This program helped me gain more knowledge about cleaning & sanitizing, correct temperatures for preparing food, how to engage in activities with regards to food safety, preventing illnesses and tips for meals & snacks.”

“It has helped me get through this pandemic by being able to connect with others that love canning.”

FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety is a global issue from farm to table. Its impact on our health and well-being is significant across the life span. Foodborne 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 above areas. As the coronavirus pandemic continued, August 2020-2021 focused on providing online education in all our core food safety programming areas to reach a multitude of audiences including childcare providers, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and consumers with the goal of educating on food safety best practices as well as encouraging the implementation of these behaviors. We offered a large variety of food safety education programs as well as food safety educational campaigns to increase knowledge and awareness and encourage consumers to keep food safe.



PROGRAM SUCCESSES

Data from participants indicated the following results after attending our classes:

- 51% of Cottage Food Law participants reported after attending they plan to sanitize surfaces before preparing food.
- 86% of consumers who attended Home Food Preservation classes, reported feeling confident or very confident in their ability to find research-based recipes.
- 69% of childcare providers attending Safe Food =Healthy Kids plan to check food temperature with a calibrated food thermometer.
- 85% of Pantry Food Safety – It’s Your Job! volunteers reported they are very confident in their handwashing and personal hygiene knowledge after attending the program.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



Think Food Safety brings awareness to consumers on illegal food sales and the Cottage Food Law (CFL). We continue to encourage awareness of foods consumers are buying to ensure safety. Only non-potentially hazardous foods can be made and sold under the CFL. Examples of approved food items under CFL include bread, chocolate covered pretzels, cookies, and jars of fruit jelly. Unfortunately, there is confusion about what can and cannot be sold as CFL, which results in illegal and unsafe food sales.

Follow us on Facebook

Please call the MSU Extension Food Safety Hotline with any food safety questions you might have, for example, how to preserve food at home, safe food storage, cooking temperatures, etc.

Operating Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EDT

Call 877-643-9882

Sign up to receive a weekly food safety educational text message providing great information to help you keep you and your family safe from foodborne illness.

Text "SafeFood" to "797979" to join us!

(MSU Extension) It's not a myth, you do need to wash a melon before cutting into it. Many pathogens can survive on the outside and be transferred to the edible portion. Play it safe and scrub the melon with a clean veggie brush or hands before cutting. STOP to end



IT'S MICHIGAN FRESH FOR YOU!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

To learn more about safely using, storing and preserving Michigan grown fruits and vegetables, visit:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/

Looking for information to safely use, store and preserve all the great produce and proteins in Michigan? Visit our MI Fresh website for fact sheets, recipes, and more. Check out Michigan Fresh Venison as we move forward through hunting season.

Government and Community Vitality, Tourism

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

**Andy Northrop
Extension Educator**

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Serving the State of Michigan & District 10

Huron, Lapeer,
St. Clair, Sanilac and
Tuscola Counties

- Sustainable Tourism Development
- First Impressions: Tourism Assessments
- Planning for Tourism
- Community Vitality
- Leadership and Facilitation
- Connecting Entrepreneurial Community

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities

Resilience, Recovery, Reconnecting

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) conference is a community development program designed for stakeholders, economic developers, businesses, local government, educators, and nonprofits to create a network that increases a community's potential for entrepreneurship. The CEC program normally culminates in an annual in-person conference held every October in towns across Michigan where participants attend seminars in downtown businesses to share ideas and learn best practices.

CEC offers programs on a wide variety of topics

- microbusiness loans,
- geofencing,
- food systems,
- building strong tribal nations,
- civic and community engagement, and...
- the intersection of design and crime prevention.



Sustainable Living and Leadership Series Launched for 2021!

Launched in 2020, this multi-topic series is designed and hosted by Extension services at Michigan State University, Purdue University and the University of Florida. Together, experts from all three institutions provide national attendees with a plethora of knowledge, including real-world examples, to help strengthen critical thinking skills related to future actions and decision making with sustainability in mind. Series topics will include sustainability 101, energy, water and food, and will explore how these interconnected systems function together and independently.

Participants:

- ◆ Explore issues of energy, water, food and more
- ◆ Learn about sustainability through a “systems lens”
- ◆ Share with and learn from other community sustainability leaders
- ◆ Delve into our economy, consumer choices and global impacts
- ◆ Discover sustainable living actions you can take in your home and community



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



Mary Bohling,
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Serving the State of
Michigan



2021 MICHIGAN SEA GRANT PROGRAM

Michigan Sea Grant is a program of MSU Extension and the University of Michigan that fosters economic growth and protection of Michigan's coastal Great Lakes resources with support from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EDUCATION

Sea Grant programs for aquatic invasive species (AIS) focused on education and outreach programs to encourage people to do their part to reduce the spread of invasive species. In 2020, we took our efforts online with the new self-paced MI Paddle Stewards course. Participants of this free course take five short modules to learn about important invasive species, how to properly clean a watercraft, and how to report invasive species. Paddlers learn to use the MISIN (Midwest Invasive Species Information Network) app, a reporting tool used by Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and others to locate invasive species of concern. The MI Paddle Stewards program is funded by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant program. Nearly 130 people completed the course in 2020. Learn more at <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/educational-programs/mi-paddle-stewards/>

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Each year, Sea Grant educators facilitate fisheries workshops across the state of Michigan. These workshops are intended to bring together anglers with fisheries managers and other subject matter experts to provide information about the status and trends of fishing in the Great Lakes and connecting waters. The 2020 southeast Michigan fishery workshop covering the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River and western Lake Erie, took place virtually in April with 59 people attending.

WATER SCHOOL: Essential Resources for Local Officials

Elected and appointed officials often need to make important decisions regarding the future of shared water resources. The new online version of the Michigan Water School program provides decision-makers with critical, relevant information needed to understand Michigan's water resources to support sound water management decisions. This project has been generously supported by the Erb Family Foundation and Pure Oakland Water. The program includes recorded webinars on water quantity; water quality; water finance and planning; and water policy issues. Over 300 people registered for the webinar series in 2020. Learn more at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/water-school/>



Keeping People Healthy

Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

Serving St. Clair County

Community Nutrition Instructors

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QUOTES:

"This class was just fantastic! It really motivated me to be healthier and make better choices. The facilitators were just awesome!"

"It helped me get back on track with nutrition and healthy eating habits"

SNAP-Ed NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

Many things changed throughout 2020. One constant was the delivery of evidence-based nutrition information that was open to all people. This past year, nutrition education had to shift to virtual programming to protect the health of participants, partners, and staff. Our staff across the state worked quickly and efficiently to move our classes to an online format so that we were able to continue to meet the needs of our participants with only a short delay. Although our Community Nutrition Instructors (CNIs) did not program as individuals as in previous years, they did help to reach large numbers of people through virtual education, and more recently through a return to in-person education. The CNIs worked within district teams, and three or more worked together on each program to ensure it would go on regardless of internet instability, illness, or power failure. CNIs from District 9 (Bay, Genesee, Midland, Saginaw, and Shiawassee) and District 10 (Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Tuscola) teamed together to offer more than 260 nutrition education programs. As virtual programming became the norm for most people and they tired of it, "Zoom fatigue" sometimes led to no one registering for the program, which was then cancelled. In spite of the difficulties of doing classes exclusively virtually, the CNIs were able provide more than 220 programs to a combined total of 2,090 adults or youth. They provided coaching to help 11 partner sites self-assess and identify how to increase health behavior through implementing new policies, creating changes within their systems, or by addressing aspects of their environments. The CNI team continued to reach out to previous partners and to connect with new partners, including collaborations within the MSU Extension Institutes. As we return to in-person programming, our communities can count on the constancy of Community Nutrition Instructors providing fun, relevant, evidence-based nutrition and physical activity programs that help individuals and organizations to make positive changes that lead to better health.

Comments from participants:

"I would like you and your team to know that I just had a physical done a few weeks ago and thanks to your team's help this is what my doctor said: I had lost 22 pounds and my blood numbers were so much better. I still think about what I learned in class and try to do better each day."

"Great fun being a participant in the Eat Healthy-Be Active Zoom Class. It was just so good to be reminded of things I should or could be doing to better my well-being."



CNIs taught participants how to serve take-out or delivery foods to add more nutrients and reduce fats, sodium, and added sugar by reducing portions and adding veggies and fruit.

Keeping People Healthy

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

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Serving the State of Michigan & District 10
Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties

DISEASE PREVENTION MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Kris Swartzendruber, Extension Educator, and Jacqui Rabine, Program Instructor, for the Health and Nutrition Institute, conducted the following programs for District 10



DIABETES PATH (Personal Action Towards Health)

A self-management series for adults with prediabetes, type 1 or type 2 diabetes and members of their support system. Over the course of six-session series, participants learn strategies to help with blood glucose monitoring, developing a healthy eating and exercise plan, reading food labels, setting goals and a variety of other tools for managing their diabetes. Kris conducted two online series, reaching 23 adult participants. All expenses related to the Diabetes PATH series were covered by a grant from the Lions of Michigan and Lions International.

NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

An evidence-based lifestyle change program for preventing type 2 diabetes, this is a 1-year program, with a total of 23 sessions and is based on research led by the National Institutes of Health and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By making modest behavior changes that are introduced throughout this program, participant's risk of developing type 2 diabetes is reduced by 58%. Kris helped facilitate this online series from September 2020 through February 2021 to 14 participants.

CHRONIC PAIN PATH

(Personal Action Towards Health) is a self-management series that supports adults, and members of their support system, who face daily challenges of living with chronic pain. During this six-session workshop participants learn ways to effectively communicate with health professionals, manage and prevent the misuse of medications, deal with frustration, understand difficult emotions and manage pain through healthier eating and exercising. Kris conducted three of these series online reaching 21 adult participants.

Keeping People Healthy

Improving Health & Nutrition Institute

Serving District 10

Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties

All expenses related to the Chronic Pain PATH series were covered by a State Opioid Response grant received by Michigan State University Extension.

STRESS LESS WITH MINDFULNESS

A five-session series that focuses on using mindfulness to reduce stress related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension. There is research that shows that mindfulness may also be helpful in managing chronic conditions such as cardiac disease and diabetes. By offering alternative ways of relating to everyday life experiences, including thoughts, emotions, physical sensations and events, Stress Less with Mindfulness teaches and encourages the use of mindfulness self-care skills to help one feel better and enjoy life. Kris and Jacqui conducted 18 online series reaching 198 participants. All expenses related to the Stress Less with Mindfulness series were covered by a State Opioid Response grant from Michigan State University Extension.

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger

A four-session series that helps adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger and stress, and develop the communication and problem-solving skills needed for healthy relationships. Participants learn what anger is, what triggers anger, calming down and de-stressing methods, tools for problem-solving, effective communication skills, and steps that allow them to forgive and let go of the past. Kris and Jacqui conducted 14 online RELAX series reaching 293 adult participants.

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

A six-session series designed to help those caring for adults with chronic conditions or for children with special needs deal with stress. Participants learn tools to help them reduce stress, communicate effectively with family members/doctors/paid help, take care of themselves, reduce guilt/anger/depression, make tough decisions, set goals and problem solve. Kris and Jacqui conducted three online Powerful Tools for Caregivers series reaching 35 participants.



TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS

An 18-session series designed to help older adults, and adults with disabilities and at risk of falling, stay active. Research shows that Tai Chi helps increase strength/balance/posture, prevents falls, improves the mind/body/spirit, reduces stress and increases relaxation. In February, both Kris and Jacqui went through extensive training and evaluation to become certified Tai Chi Instructors. Since then, they have helped facilitate two online series, reaching over 40 participants. All expenses related to the Tai Chi for Arthritis training and series were covered by a Falls Prevention Grant received by Michigan State University Extension.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

Phil Kaatz

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Serving the State of
Michigan & District 10

Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair,
Sanilac and Tuscola
Counties

QUOTES:

"It gives me timely information when it is needed the most." Ross Voelker

"I watched those that pertained to me and they were very informative." Guy Cowing

"The Virtual Breakfast is a great program. It is easy to attend, at a convenient time, has a variety of topics, and knowledgeable

FIELD CROPS VIRTUAL BREAKFAST SERIES

Every Thursday during the growing season, farmers were able to access the most current information available for timely, relevant in-season crop and weather information from MSUE Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each 30-minute zoom session is divided into 15-minute segments for crop information and weather. Following the presentations, participants can participate with MSU Specialists and Educators in a half-hour question and answer period. This innovative approach using technology has provided growers from every region of the state the opportunity to participate in a live webinar via their computer, laptop, or cell phone. Each participant can ask questions of the specialists and educators during the live sessions. Also, live streaming on Facebook allows for online participation. Each session is close-captioned and recorded for viewing on the MSUE Field Crops Team website.

The Virtual Breakfast Series is a result of a focus group that included young farmers asking for opportunities to have fast-paced, video or Internet based, and unbiased research information during critical times of the spring and summer.

Farmers and agribusiness professionals can also apply for Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits weekly.

A wide range of topics were planned according to the seasonal issues that frequently occur at specific times. However, the series is flexible, adaptable, and can change quickly and effectively when unexpected issues arise.

Each week field crop producers are invited by email to participate and a MSU Extension News article is written and published as the MSU Extension News Digest to encourage participation. The number of individuals who subscribe are 1,209 to the email notifications and 6,188 to the MSU Extension News Digest.

Quotes from St. Clair County farmers: "Convenient and informative." Steve Schweiger. "This series has been a very valuable and easily accessible resource for my farm.

Thank you very much." Tom Hackstock. "I get timely information on subjects that have importance and benefit to my farming operation and I get some knowledge of the concerns of other crops I don't grow." John Lipa. "I like them because you can watch the ones that are of interest to you, they're brief and packed full of good information." Glenn Prange.

Virtual Breakfast Series	Live participants	YouTube Views	MSUE Podcasts	Facebook/Instagram Views	MSUE News Article Page Views	Total Views
Total Audience	3,180	2,399	1,610	14,165	2,514	23,868

Supporting Food and Agriculture

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

- Food Safety
- HACCP Plans
- Beef Quality Assurance
- Meat Cutter Training Course
- Chronic Wasting Disease resources for meat processors
- USDA Grant of Inspection



ST. CLAIR COUNTY PROJECT RED

There were 525 fourth graders from throughout St. Clair County that participated in the Project Rural Education Day (RED) with St. Clair County Farm Bureau at the Goodells County Park. The event is held to educate youth about agriculture, agricultural practices, and how food is raised. MSU Extension staff provided programming at this event including hands-on interactive demonstrations. Dr. Schwehofer, Dr. Jaborek, and Colleen Wallace provided education related to beef production; Carol Bublitz and Jennifer Evenson connected vegetable production from the farm to table; and Lori Warchuck, Val Fusee, and Jacqui Rabine provided programming related to honeybees.

MEAT PROCESSOR ASSISTANCE

Food safety is a critical component to producing safe and wholesome food. Meat processors in St. Clair County regularly receive technical assistance from MSU Extension. This includes assistance with humane animal handling and stunning training, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Specialized Retail Meat Processing Variance, product labeling, and general food safety and processing. Many food processors are required to have food safety plans, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) or Preventive Controls for Human Foods. These important industry trainings that provide participants with a certificate at the end of the course were hosted by MSU Extension and co-taught by Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer and team of Campus specialists including Dr. Les Bourquin, Tina Conklin, Dr. Kirk Dolan and Jason Hofman.

Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer

Senior Meat Quality Extension Educator

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Serving District 10 & the State of Michigan

Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and

Supporting Food and Agriculture

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

- Feedlot management
- Ration formulation
- Cattle marketing

Dr. Jerad R. Jaborek

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Serving District 10 & the State of Michigan

Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola Counties

FEEDLOT EDUCATIONAL SERIES

The feedlot educational series began its virtual introduction of monthly feedlot educational presentations in December of 2020 through April 2021 with 82 participants and over an additional 250 online views. Michigan State University Extension Ag Educators presented on a variety of topics related to feedlot production and management. MSU Beef Feedlot Systems Educator, Dr. Jerad Jaborek, presented on crossbreeding dairy cows with beef bulls, alternative protein options for expensive distillers grains, and the effect of feedlot facility designs on cattle growth and performance. Huron County Dairy Educator, Marianne Buza-Murawski, shared some tips for raising healthy dairy calves. Drs. Melissa McKendree and Corey Clark talked with the group about how to prepare an enterprise budget and conduct financial analysis on beef or feedlot operations.



HOT TOPIC: BEEF ON DAIRY CROSS CATTLE

A collaborative effort was made with The Ohio State University to provide current and relevant information to dairy and beef producers about crossbred dairy beef cattle. The practice of crossbreeding dairy cows with beef semen has become increasingly popular in Michigan and across the United States. The virtual program consisted of three sessions with 46 participants signing in from across 10 different states and one from outside the United States and nearly 200 online views since. The first program session consisted of a discussion with beef cattle procurement experts from JBS on the current beef on dairy crossbreeding situation. The second session brought in Chip Kemp, director of the American Simmental Association and International Genetics Solutions, to speak about genetic selection considerations for beef matings with dairy cows. The third session was presented by Dr. Jaborek and Garth Ruff, OSU Beef Extension Specialist, who shared multiple on-farm management considerations for crossbred dairy beef calves.



Supporting Food and Agriculture

Beef Quality

Assurance provides consumers with assurance that beef producers are properly caring for animals and providing a safe and wholesome product. BQA certification provides producers with more market outlets and greater profitability.



USEFUL FEEDLOT TOOLS AND RESOURCES

In the spring of 2021, JBS, one of the major beef packing companies in the U.S., announced that they will be offering a new high-energy Holstein/Holstein-cross contract option for cattle feeders that raise and market fed-Holstein cattle. To help producers decide whether to use the old or new contract option, members of the MSU Extension Beef Team created an excel spreadsheet tool to aid producers in determining which contract would result in the greatest returns for their cattle. The JBS Contract Comparison Tool has 24 downloads to date.

Looking for educational reading materials on feeding feedlot cattle? Over the last year, Dr. Jaborek has written 10 extension articles on a variety of topics including crossbreeding dairy cows with beef bulls, JBS high energy Holstein contracts, rumen development in calves, managing the feed bunk for efficiency cattle growth, bloating in cattle, kernel processing of corn silage, and the economic benefit of corn silage inclusion in feedlot diets. Additionally, two feedlot related articles on the effects of day length on cattle growth and feedlot manure management have been written for the Michigan Cattleman's magazine by Dr. Jaborek.

MICHIGAN AG IDEAS TO GROW WITH

This was a weeklong virtual program that encompassed many aspects of the agricultural industry and offered a full array of educational sessions for farmers and homeowners interested in food production and those considering agricultural endeavors. This program featured a variety of tracks focused on livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, sustainability, soil health and irrigation, horticulture, and home gardening. A track was also offered for youth participants. Two sessions of the animal agriculture track were led by Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer who presented on direct marketing meat to consumers, and Dr. Jaborek who presented on beef nutrition for small scale beef producers. Phil Kaatz, Lapeer County Field Crops Educator, presented three times on alfalfa pests, cover crops, and farm stress.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As a new member of the community, Dr. Jaborek has been trying to introduce himself to the community. He has had the pleasure of meeting with a few feedlot producers in the area and hopes to meet many more. He advises anyone interested in meeting, scheduling a farm visit, or with cattle feeding questions to contact him. Dr. Jaborek has also been able to help collaborate with other people in the community to discuss beef cattle production at Project Red with 4th grade youth and with people at the Sanilac County fair. He has also helped serve his community by distributing food at a local food truck in Applegate and help lead at a local youth empowerment camp in Sanilac County.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

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

- Animal Welfare
- Dairy Management
- Virtual Coffee Breaks
- On-farm Training

Marianne Buza,

Dairy Extension Educator

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Serving Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, St. Clair, Lapeer, Macomb and Saginaw counties

Virtual Coffee Break with MSU Extension Dairy Team

36 episodes in 3 seasons- season 4 about to launch

Since the beginning of 2020, the Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team has released 3 seasons of podcasts. The topics these podcasts have covered LEAN farm management, dairy farming in other counties, Corn silage management, antibiotic use, metabolic diseases, calf raising, getting a loan, beef and dairy crosses, parlor performance and teat dips just to name a few. There have been a total of 36 episodes and season 4 with another 11 will be released this fall. These episodes have had a total of 3,071 downloads. These episodes have had 75.6% of the plays have been in the USA and 41.9% in Michigan. The thumb area accounts for 9.71% of the total plays of these episodes.

These podcasts are designed as conversations lasting less than half an hour that can be listened any time. The recorded podcasts are perfect for busy farmers who can catch the Coffee Break meeting at their convenience. The series is also available as a podcast on all major podcast channels like Apple Podcast, Google Podcast and Spotify.

On-farm Training Opportunities

Michigan State University Dairy Team has continued to provide training for farm employees and managers in the areas of: Milking, Calf Care, Maternity Management, Animal Handling, Down Cow Management, Euthanasia and Dairy feeder development. These trainings worked well in 2020 and 2021 because they already target small groups and happen on the farm. They can take place elsewhere but are most conveniently taught on an individual farm for that farm's protocols and needs. These trainings are offered statewide and in English and Spanish.



Search for **Virtual Coffee Break MSUE Dairy Team** on your favorite podcast app or visit <https://anchor.fm/msu-dairy-team>

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**DISTRICT 10 ADVISORY BOARD for Counties
Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola**

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What is the Purpose of the Advisory Board?

The Michigan State University Extension District 10 Advisory Board purpose is as follows:

Advocacy: Intentionally informing residents and elected officials about the achievements of MSU Extension as well as the educational capabilities and partnership opportunities available

Vision: Providing MSU Extension with key insights pertaining to your geographic and socio/economic areas of residence, employment and volunteerism

Pathways: Using your influence to open doors for potential partners/customers/collaborators of MSU Extension for the purpose of growing influence and bettering communities

Needs Identification: Providing insight into areas of deficiency or opportunity in which MSU Extension educational programming can address and benefit residents

Mentoring: Providing honest, constructive feedback to the MSU Extension District Director on methods of enhancing personal and organizational engagement, involvement and effectiveness

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MSU Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan's economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information needed to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower our children to succeed. It is the mission of MSU Extension to help people improve their lives through an education process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. MSU Extension meets this mission by providing Extension programs in the following subject matter areas:

- ◆ Agriculture & Agribusiness
- ◆ Children & Youth Development, including 4-H
- ◆ Health & Nutrition
- ◆ Community, Food and Environment

MISSION:

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

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