

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Cheboygan County

Adam Koivisto	District Director
Jessica Woiderski	4-H Program Coordinator
Katie Parr	Child & Family Program Instructor
Marilynn Ellenberger	Community Nutrition Instructor
Samantha Vieau	Office Manager



Message from the District Director

I'm happy to share highlights from another successful year of partnership between Cheboygan County and MSU Extension. Thanks to your continued support, we've helped residents lead healthier lives, supported local businesses and farms, and created meaningful opportunities for youth development. Our programs—offered in-person, online, and in hybrid format—make MSU Extension resources more accessible than ever. Our staff live and work in the community, building strong relationships and responding to local needs. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another impactful year and hope to see you at an upcoming program.

- Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director

Impact



180

programs accessed by residents



26,126

reached by social media



1,488

reached through programming

4-H PROGRAM



February Chocolate Workshop



Health Rocks in the Classroom



4th of July Parade



Earth Day Expo



Robotics Camp



Summer Camp

4-H PROGRAMMING

This year, Cheboygan 4-H focused on expanding its volunteer base and broadening the scope of its programming and community offerings.

Nine clubs (pictured on the next page) with a variety of interests met year-round and worked on projects that were entered in the Cheboygan County Fair.

Cheboygan 4-H expanded its school programming and classes this year. Jessica, the local 4-H leader, continued doing an Adulting 101/life skills class at Compass Academy for the school year and added a Health Rocks class for fifth- and sixth-grade students at Cheboygan Area Schools. The Health Rocks program covered social emotional learning, making smart decisions, knowing the consequences of doing drugs, and creating a group of family and friends who support you in leading a healthy life.

4-H also expanded its summer programming to a wider variety of camps, including orienteering, archery, kayaking, fishing, robotics and more. Camps were offered free or for \$5 a day and included breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Cheboygan 4-H continued to be involved in community events at the library, fairgrounds, local parks, Knights of Columbus, schools, and at the Children's Trail.

Local youth continued to be supported by scholarships from Cheboygan County 4-H Council to attend state-wide events such as Exploration Days at Michigan State University's campus, state animal shows and clinics, and state-wide camps and educational opportunities.



Cheboygan County Fair



134 youth enrolled in year-round programming



221 youth in clubs or classes



>500 local youth impacted by programming



63 adult volunteers

4-H PROGRAM



Eureka Explorers Club



Tech Club



Kountry Kidz Club



Arts & Crafts Club



Bike Club



Little Buds & Sprouts Club



Mane Squeeze Club



K9 Club



Sew On & So On Club

CHILD & FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT



16 Cheboygan youths who participated in a July babysitting clinic.



In June, 15 youth in Indian River participated in a babysitting clinic and earned certificates of completion



CareQuest Youth were trained and certified with CPR and First Aid Certificates in an informational insight into Early Childhood.

Through fundraising we were able to provide 59 kids free ride bracelets for the fair!



PROGRAMMING

June and July of 2025, 15 kids participated in getting Babysitting Certified in Indian River and 16 more in Cheboygan! During this class we discussed what it takes to be a babysitter, nutrition, safety, how to engage kids and the business of babysitting. The certified babysitters also received their CPR/First Aid certification as well, making them ready to start their babysitting career!

In July of 2025 Katie was able to participate in Cheboygan Otsego Presque Isle (COP) CareQuest on Early Childhood. This was an opportunity for kids to learn about what it takes to work in early childhood, what job opportunities there are as well as how to work with kids. We had 8 kids participate as we met at the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway. This group of kids also left with their CPR and First Aid certifications!

In collaboration with the Cheboygan County Child Advocacy Council, Katie was able to chair the event of Family Fun Day at the fair on August 4th! We had a great turnout with over 100 adults and 154 kids joining in the activities provided by 19 organizations! Through fundraising we were able to provide 59 kids free ride bracelets for the fair!



Katie Parr, Child & Family
Program instructor

In this role, Katie trains virtually and in-person on topics for early childhood educators, caregivers, and parents, including topics on preparing children for school success in early childhood and social and emotional health in children

SNAP-Ed PROGRAM



A student at Wolverine High School showcasing their "Cheesy Vegetable Pasta." The class worked collaboratively to make this dish.

This vegetable stir fry was the first experience most students had using a stovetop. Students who reported that they typically avoided eating vegetables commented that "This is actually really good!"



SNAP-ED PROGRAMMING

SNAP-Ed is an evidence-based program that helps people lead healthier lives. SNAP-Ed teaches people using or eligible for SNAP benefits about good nutrition and how to make their food dollars stretch further. SNAP-Ed participants also learn to be physically active. This program has proven to reduce risks of chronic disease and improved overall health for millions of people making low-income.

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.



"This is actually really good!"

- Participant

NLEA/MSU EXTENSION JOINT COALITION SEA GRANT

Building strong communities



Sam Bailey moderates a panel of outdoor recreation industry leaders at the February Catalyst Conversations event.

In 2023, Michigan's outdoor industry generated \$13.9 billion in GDP. The industry represents more than just tourism; it includes the individuals and businesses designing, developing, and delivering the tools and gear of the great outdoors. A panel of outdoor manufacturers, service providers, and access facilitators will explore the challenges and opportunities for the outdoor industry in Northern Lower Michigan. Sam Bailey is an MSU Extension educator who is also partially employed by and fully embedded at Northern Lakes Economic Alliance.

Michigan Sea Grant



2025 marked the fourth year that MSU Extension educators led Environment Day with Leadership Cheboygan.

Michigan's Great Lakes and coasts are a dynamic ecosystem with fluctuating water levels, many species of fish, birds, plants and other wildlife, and a wide variety of habitat types. A large boating community, commercial and recreational fisheries, and rapid development along Michigan's coasts all present challenges for the ecosystem. Michigan Sea Grant helps foster economic growth and protect Michigan's coastal, Great Lakes resources through education, research and outreach. A collaborative effort of Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, Michigan Sea Grant is part of the NOAA-National Sea Grant network of 34 university-based programs. For the fourth year in a row, MSU Extension Educators led the Leadership Cheboygan Environment Day.

AG PROGRAM



Michigan State University (MSU) Extension educators work with farms of all sizes to positively impact individual farming operations. When individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.



EXTENSION AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS IN MICHIGAN

AG PROGRAMMING

Michigan is agriculturally diverse both in what we produce and who produces it. MSU Extension goes beyond traditional methods of working with farmers with a strategy to reach farms at every level and size of production. We understand that some farmers may not be able to meet in person due to distance or timing of an educational offering, so we incorporate a vast array of online learning and digital informational opportunities to meet people both where they are and when they have the time to consume information integral to their farming success. In the past year, we have reached audiences in a variety of ways.

KEY PROGRAMMING IMPACTS

- Pesticide Safety Training: 88% passing rate of those who attended review sessions
- Swift Response to Avian Influenza Outbreak: \$104.7 billion annual impact of food and agriculture on Michigan’s Economy
- Soil Testing Program: 100 years of services to businesses and private homes
- Managing Farm Stress: 1,769 Participants reached through 45 educational sessions
- Ask Extension: 6,179 questions answered in 82 counties



59,018 participants



992 programs



711 news articles



170,000 subscribers

Highlights

- 70% - In-person Events
- 19% - Webinars
- 6% - Hybrid
- 5% - Online Courses

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This past year Cheboygan 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 more!

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.

Stay Connected!

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



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