

# HILLSDALE COUNTY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The butterfly effect is an idea introduced by Edward Lorenz in the 1960s that small, seemingly insignificant singular events may ultimately lead to much larger outcomes.

If taken on their own and independent from others in the community, MSU Extension workshops, programs, and publications may seem to impact only those individuals who Experience

Photo Courtesy of MSU

them first-hand. However, over the last 150+ years, MSU Extension has worked diligently to facilitate community partnerships and coalitions that broaden our education efforts and “Bring Knowledge to Life”. In addition to our county partners, Extension staff throughout District 12, worked with 123 partners and coalitions in 2023 to expand the reach of our programs and education initiatives. Together, we are creating ripple effects, like the flaps of the

butterfly wings, that stretch across the county and beyond. In this report, you’ll find success stories, participant feedback, event photos, program metrics and much more about the impact that MSU Extension is making in the lives of friends, family and neighbors in Hillsdale County.



Want more frequent updates about future programs and impacts? Sign up with the QR code to receive our monthly Report to Our Partners e-newsletter.



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# PREPARING CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE



Parents and caregivers are the first to have influence on a child's development and future academic success. To ensure the success of families across Michigan and to support children's school readiness, MSU Extension has invested in research- and evidence-based programming for the parents, caregivers and early childhood educators who have the first

opportunity to enhance children's skills and become their best resources and advocates.

This programming supports families while helping parents and caregivers increase early childhood science, Math, and preliteracy skills, as well as enhancing the social and emotional wellness of children and youth. By increasing parents' and caregivers'

knowledge of child and youth development, MSU Extension is able to help caring adults build a positive foundation for learning and lifelong success.



MSU Extension and CAPA teamed up to offer a new opportunity to our youth this past August. We were able to train 10 teens in basic babysitting skills, certify them in CPR, and the use of an AED. The students also took home one of our

BTIO dolls to care for overnight to gain more experience. We were

able to offer this class free to the youth and CAPA covered the cost of the CPR training. We look forward to holding another training in the Spring and in the Fall.



\*2023 Michigan rate of \$30.15/hr x 10 hrs avg per volunteer

**IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION**



When it comes to [nutrition](#) and [physical activity](#), MSU Extension's team of experts brings evidence-based education into communities across the state. Our staff delivers educational programming to communities and helps create lasting healthy changes, from kitchen tables to school cafeterias. Programming is supported through the [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) and the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education \(SNAP—Ed\)](#).

Programs and offerings include:

- [Cooking for One](#)
- [Cooking Matters](#)
- [Eat Healthy, Be Active](#)
- [My Way to Wellness](#)
- [Peak Health and Performance](#)
- [Show Me Nutrition](#)
- [Teen Cuisine](#)

“I learned so much about the [Michigan Cottage Food] law, and I practice the things I have learned in the class to keep everybody safe. The inspector always tells me I’m doing great.”

-Cottage Food Law class participant and food business entrepreneur

**7**  
NUTRITION PROGRAMS WITH HILLSDALE PARTICIPANTS

**25**  
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN HEALTH & NUTRITION PAROGRAMS

**92**  
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS

**127**  
DISTRICT SERVSAFE PARTICIPANTS

Safe and properly prepared food can prevent foodborne illness, thus reducing healthcare costs and improving overall health and well-being. Whether for food entrepreneurs, volunteers preparing food for the community, childcare providers or consumers interested in preserving food, MSU Extension teaches a variety of classes to help

everyone enjoy safe, healthy food. For keeping food safe.

MSU Extension offers high-quality, affordable programs that help Michigan residents learn the importance of safe food and water in their everyday lives. Our research-based programs help food handlers learn safe food-preservation skills and techniques.

Programs include:

- [Cooking for Crowds](#)
- [Cottage Food Law](#)
- [Home Food Preservation](#)
- [Safe Food = Healthy Kids](#)
- [ServSafe](#)



**ENHANCING AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS**

**MSU Extension educators in the Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute work with farms of all sizes helping to positively impact individual farming operations. When those individual operations do well, their success helps to fuel state and local economies.**

**Nutrient Management.** The Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program helps prevent manure application problems and reduce insurance premiums through improved nutrient management plan implementation and responsible manure application. The Fertilizer Cost Comparison Decision tool has versions available for forage, field crop, fruit and vegetable growers. MSU Extension held training workshops and wrote numerous articles on maximizing nutrient needs while minimizing costs.

**Dairy Employee Trainings.** MSU Extension focuses on areas that influence workforce development opportunities and

decisions regarding labor issues in the dairy industry. Bilingual training in English and Spanish assists farms with employees who speak English as a second language. Farmers depend on this service to train their employees on milking, cow and newborn calf care, sick cows, low stress animal handling and cow nutrition, affecting more than 22,000 dairy cows per year. These topics are part of a core training for new dairy farm employees, yet still applicable to seasoned staff. MSU Extension will continue to bring education and resources to dairy farms to support the care of animals, improve sustainability of the industry and develop the dairy

workforce. Dairy employees, managers and owners value these trainings.



**96%**

**of dairy farm employees reported increased skills due to a training session**



**2023 Hillsdale County Ag Career Day By: Madelyn Celovsky & Tom Guthrie**

The Agriculture Career Day, hosted by Hillsdale Co Farm Bureau. Run by volunteers. The Farm Bureau invites 9-12th grade students from Hillsdale County Schools along with Addison and Hudson (in Lenawee County) since many of those students come from Hillsdale County. Many students at this stage are exploring career opportunities and this event provided exposure to the variety of agricultural career opportunities. Other invited presenters included agronomists, custom applicators, electrical mechanics, drone operators, and an ag social media influencer all from various agricultural businesses throughout the Hillsdale County area.

As representatives from MSU Extension, Tom Guthrie and Madelyn Celovsky gave a brief history of extension, explained the mission of MSU Extension, and discussed their respective individual career paths that led to a career in extension. The presentation outlined the range of program areas in AABI, a message further illustrated by a panel tower display highlighting each program area with a captivating photo and short description. Based on the post-event survey conducted by Hillsdale County Farm Bureau, students appreciated learning about the diversity of agricultural careers available in the region. Participants (students, teachers, and volunteers) asked questions and were engaged by the personal anecdotes shared by the presenters.

Overall, the event was successful in exposing students to the many avenues that are available in agricultural careers and strengthened the collaboration between MSU Extension and local agricultural organizations. Importantly, this event also provided an opportunity for MSU Extension educators to continue building relationships throughout the Hillsdale County agricultural community.

**"I had an AMAZING day THANK YOU so much to everyone who pulled all this together and talked to all of us and have us a little more education about these AMZING job opportunities."**

**-Anonymous student in survey**



**MSU Product Center**

[MSU Extension](#) and the [MSU Product Center](#) assist entrepreneurs and businesses to develop products and services in the food and agriculture markets. Its team of experts consult with clients on a one-on-one basis, helping new entrepreneurs navigate from concept development to launch and beyond. The MSU Product Center also offers specialized services such as labeling, packaging, and nutritional analysis. If you are interested in business counseling from the MSU Product Center, please visit the [website](#).

**Product Center in Hillsdale County**

- 3 companies assisted
- 24 consulting sessions
- 38.50 total contact and prep hours
- \$ 4000 in sales growth



**Government & Community Vitality**

Are you a government official or urban planner looking for guidance? We offer training on a wide range of public policy topics. We facilitate meetings and promote good governance and we offer *Citizen Planner* trainings and timely webinars.

Government and Community Vitality Education provides community development expertise to municipal and

county governments to “thrive locally” by working with communities using data and tools that support the efficient delivery of critical public services that safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan residents. Land use education and training to locally appointed and elected planning officials throughout Michigan. Teaches the fundamentals of roles, responsibilities, and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. More information regarding citizen planning and local

government/housing education can be found under the full program list below.

- **Great Lakes Leadership Academy**
- **Citizen Planner**
- **Tribal Education**
- **Livable Communities**



**Hillsdale County Staff**

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**A Statewide Network of Resources to Help You**

MSU Extension is the home of the latest in research, education, and outreach covering a wide range of issues from agriculture & agribusiness, health and nutrition, youth education and outreach, and community and economic vitality. If MSU Extension doesn't have an expert in your county to answer your questions, we can connect you to our statewide resources to connect you to the information you need.

**Ask Extension** offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, nutrition, and physical activity, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming, and more! **Ask Extension:** [www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert](http://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert)

**Lawn and Garden Hotline: 888-678-3464**

(option 1) Hours: M/W/F, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Year round)

Crabgrass, brown spots, or powdery mildew, the Lawn and Garden Hotline can give you information on all your home gardening questions.



**Soil Mailers:** Residential and Commercial soil mailers are available for

purchase at the local MSU Extension office. Questions regarding residential mailers can be answered by the lawn and garden hotline number above. Commercial sample results can be answered at 877-643-9887 or by email at [MSUsoiltest@msu.edu](mailto:MSUsoiltest@msu.edu).

**Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882** Hours M/W/F, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Do you have questions about food expiration dates, how long food will last or preserving foods at home? The Michigan State University Extension food safety hotline can help answer these types of questions and concerns.

**MSU Extension Bookstore** <https://shop.msu.edu/collections/msu-extension-bookstore>

Look for bulletins, publications and MSU Extension products at the Bookstore!