



# Huron County

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**\$5,313,423**  
Economic Impact



**86**  
Enrolled Michigan Students



**\$46,572**  
Spending with Local Businesses



**717**  
MSU Alumni in Huron County



**\$1,833,553**  
Financial Aid Disbursed



**2,511**  
Youth in 4-H

### Message from the 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 Huron County.

Jerry Johnson, District Director  
johnjer@msu.edu / 810.989.6935

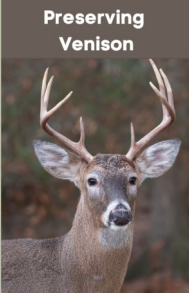
# Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

It's time in Michigan for bow hunting season followed by firearm deer season. Before a successful hunt, prepare to safely preserve your venison. Remember:

- Venison must be **Pressure Canned**
- Only follow a research-based preservation recipe
- Venison can be frozen

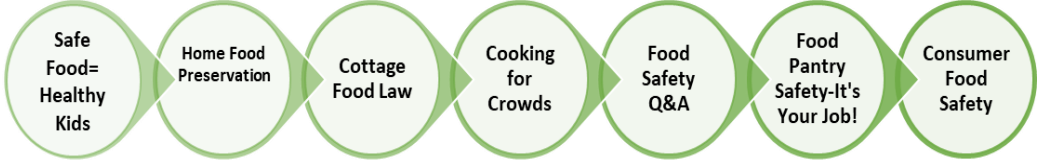
To learn more visit: [www.canr.msu.edu/food\\_preservation/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/food_preservation/)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension



## 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.

**Huron County Food Safety Staff:**

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Food Safety Extension Educator

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9750+ participants

367 food safety sessions offered

Over 21,000 children served by childcare providers who received food safety training

400+ hours of education provided

**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/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/)

## Program Successes

Participant quotes:

*"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."*

*"This program was so helpful for me because the information that I received can not only help me at work, but also help me at home and in my future!"*

*"The information about the strength of different brands of bleach for proper sanitizing"*

## Ensuring Safe and Secure Food, continued

*was extremely helpful."*

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 a Safe Food=Healthy Kids session 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.



**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.

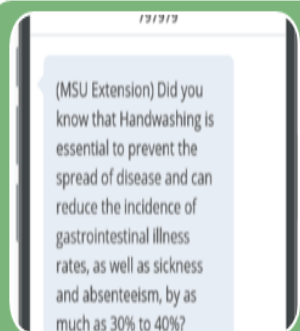
**Follow us on Facebook**



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!**

# Keeping People Healthy

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## 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 including Huron County.

### Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Towards Health)

Diabetes PATH is a self-management series for adults with prediabetes, type 1 or type 2 diabetes and members of their support system. Over the course of this 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 has 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

The National Diabetes Prevention Program is 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)

Chronic Pain PATH 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 has conducted three of these series online reaching 21 adult participants. All expenses related to the Chronic Pain PATH series were covered by a State Opioid Response grant received by Michigan State University Extension.



## *Keeping People Healthy, continued*

### **Stress Less with Mindfulness**

Stress Less with Mindfulness is 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**

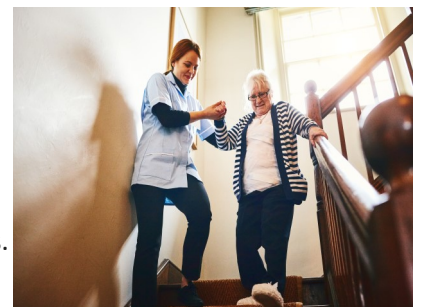
RELAX: Alternatives to Anger is a four-session series that helps adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger and stress, and develop the communication and problem-solving skills needed for healthy relationships. Participants learn what anger is, what triggers anger, calming down and de-stressing 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**

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is 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**

Tai Chi for Arthritis is 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.



### **Community Nutrition Education**

This past year, Nutrition Education staff shifted to virtual programming working quickly and efficiently to move classes to an on-line/Zoom format to be able to continue meeting the needs of participants. Community Nutrition Instructors worked in groups of three to teach classes within their team of ten counties, including Huron, making it possible to reach 2,090 participants. In July 2021, teaching classes in-person returned in time to participate in the Ready to Soar program through the Huron Intermediate School District. Fourteen high school students participated in the day-long Teen Cuisine program where they were taught nutrition along with hands-on cooking skills.

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



**Huron County  
Agriculture Staff**

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## Virtual Coffee Break with MSU Extension Dairy Team

*36 episodes in 3 seasons – with 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 include 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 so far, while season 4 with another 11 will be released this fall. These episodes have had a total of 3,071 downloads with 75.6% of the plays being in the USA and more specifically 41.9% in Michigan. The Thumb Area accounts for 9.71% of total plays.

The podcasts are designed as conversations lasting less than half an hour that can be listened to at 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

The 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. The 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. Trainings are offered statewide in both English and Spanish languages.

## ***Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued***

### **Meat Processor Assistance**

Food safety is a critical component to producing safe and wholesome food. Meat processors in Huron County 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, including egg producers in Huron County, are required to have food safety plans. These plans include 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.

### **Food Label Claim Infographics**

Understanding food label claims can help consumers make informed choices when making food purchasing decisions. Food labels have a myriad of logos, claims and production information. There is so much information on food packaging that consumers have a difficult time digesting it all. "Free Range", "Organic", "Natural", "Certified Humane", "No Antibiotics Added" - these are just a few commonly found claims on food labels! Label claims can be government defined and approved, third-party certified, or be a claim made by the manufacturer or producer and verified through documentation. Two different agencies, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), oversee government approved and regulated claims to ensure that the claims are truthful and not misleading. Being able to decipher information on food labels is important to making sound purchasing decisions. A team of educators formed with the focus of creating educational resources to help clear up food label confusion. To date, the series includes infographics about: Animal Raising Label Claims, Antibiotic Label Claims, Dairy Milk Label Claims, Food Product Dates, Hormone Label Claims, Natural and Organic Label Claims, Food Labels and GMO Label Claims.

The infographics are similar, but different and all of the them are colorful, educational, reproducible and sharable and are available at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/search?tag=food%20label%20claims>. Several of them have been translated to Spanish as well.

### **Youth Marketing Resources**

Marketing resources for youth with livestock projects were developed to use as youth created alternative marketing plans as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of numerous county fairs being cancelled in the summer of 2020, youth with livestock, poultry and rabbit projects were left scrambling to develop a marketing plan. Direct marketing of meat and poultry requires that certain regulations are followed depending on the method of marketing used and species (livestock vs. poultry/rabbits). The collaborative efforts of MSU Extension personnel established resources specific to each species and packaged the options together in four different factsheets that were created. [https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth\\_business\\_guide\\_to\\_success/4-H-Animal-Project-Marketing-Resources/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/4-H-Animal-Project-Marketing-Resources/) The resources are applicable for direct marketing at any time, not only during the pandemic.

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### Agricultural Staff Serving Huron County

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### 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 Michigan State University (MSU) Field Crops Specialists and Extension Educators. Each 30-minute zoom session is divided into two 15-minute segments; one for crop information and the other for 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 MSUE News Digest to encourage participation. The number of individuals who subscribe are 1,209 to the email notifications and 6,188 to the MSUE News Digest.

2021 MSU Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series:

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



#### Thumb Ag Research & Education (TARE)

TARE is a group of Michigan State University Extension Ag Educators that are dedicated to serving the counties in the Thumb of Michigan with timely agricultural educational material.

Michigan State University Extension Educators representing TARE specialize in beef cattle production, dairy production, farm business and management, feedlot management, field crops, meat processing and safety, and vegetables.

Extension Educators: Corey Clark, Jeannine Schweihofer, Jerad Jaborek, Marianne Buza, Phil Kaatz, and Ben Phillips



## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued



### Participant 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 speakers."* Jim Bischoff

*"As a MSU Crops & Soils graduate ('73), I found the wide range of subjects very interesting, but especially Jeff Andresen's weather reports."* Wayne Kukuk

*"Timely topics that were well presented by knowledgeable people in a way I could understand, I also appreciate Jeff's weather outlook and totals data, keep up the great work please!"* Steve Pollock

*"This series has been a very valuable and easily accessible resource for my farm. Thank you very much."* Tom Hackstock

*"Field Crop Virtual Breakfast: It's like having a farm visit with your Extension Editor and Extension Specialist."* Ira Krupp

*"I am a small (400A) grower of fruit, grain and vegetables in Cayuga County, NY. I listen to the weekly breakfast webinars from MSU for the timely information. This has been very helpful. I have adapted many of the practices in my operation. Thank you for allowing out of state grower participation!"* Thane Benson

*"Informative, timely, helpful, and the information is presented well."* Karl Ritchie

*"I found the podcasts I listened to be very informative. They were of an appropriate length and the topics covered were what we needed to hear."* Jerry Heck

*"These virtual breakfasts provide condensed information on best practices and emerging technologies affecting field crops here in Michigan, plus they provide us opportunities to ask questions directly of a wide range of experts."* Leon Cook

*"A farmer-friendly way to keep up to date on what is happening currently"* Gail Roggenbuck

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### 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 (MSU) 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 (OSU) 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. Jerad Jaborek and Garth Ruff, OSU Beef Extension Specialist, who shared multiple on-farm management considerations for crossbred dairy beef calves.

### 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. Jerad 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 daylength on cattle growth and feedlot manure management have been written for the Michigan Cattleman's magazine by Dr. Jaborek.

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### Michigan Ag Ideas to Grow With

Michigan Ag Ideas to Grow With 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. Jerad 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. Jerad 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 helped lead at a local youth empowerment camp in Sanilac County. Dr. Jaborek covers the entire thumb area including Huron County. He can be reached at [jaborekj@msu.edu](mailto:jaborekj@msu.edu) or 810.648.2515.



# Ensuring Strong Communities

## Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities 2021

*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 from

- 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 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



## *Ensuring Strong Communities, continued*

### **Transforming Michigan Tourism by Ensuring Safe, Accessible and Welcoming Communities**

The Tourism Team of Michigan State University Extension is proud to offer the upcoming online seminar series “Transforming Michigan Tourism by Ensuring Safe, Accessible and Welcoming Communities.” This series will focus on the basic tenets of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and how a community can more effectively make itself a welcoming destination for all travelers.

Future sessions will focus on building strong and mutually-beneficial tourism partnerships with diverse communities in your area while attracting new travelers, and a case study of community and tourism development by and for diverse groups in Detroit.



### **Serving Huron County and the State of Michigan**

#### **Andy Northrop**

Community Vitality and Tourism  
Extension Educator

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- \* Sustainable Tourism Development
- \* First Impressions: Tourism Assessments
  - \* Planning for Tourism
  - \* Community Vitality
  - \* Leadership and Facilitation

# Developing Youth and Communities

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## Huron County 4-H Program

Even though several programs were cancelled in the 2020-21 year, the 4-H program managed to keep its members engaged in activities offered locally and across the state. During the 2020-21 4-H year, Huron County had 595 participants (4-H members and non-4-H youth), 528 active members, and 117 4-H volunteers. With the return of face-to-face interactions, the Huron County 4-H program looks forward to providing educational programming opportunities and other activities once again.

## 4-H School Enrichment Program

Huron County special needs youth developed critical life skills during 4-H school enrichment programming. A partnership continues between the Huron Learning Center and Huron County 4-H program. Twice a month programming was provided to approximately 10 special needs 4-H members in the classroom where they learned a variety of life skills. This programming continued during the Covid-19 health crisis via Zoom by partnering with the classroom teacher.

## 4-H Educational Kits

Offered monthly during the year, 4-H educational kits were developed and available for Huron County youth to register for and receive. These hands-on kits were a great success. The kits included fairy gardens (28), planting fall bulbs (23), Christmas gnomes (22), canvas painting (41), do it yourself greenhouse (40), and string art (31). More than 100 youth (4-H members and non-4-H youth) participated in these educational opportunities provided by the Huron County 4-H Program.

## 4-H Proud Equestrian Program (PEP)

The 4-H Proud Equestrian Program is a therapeutic horseback riding program that offers riding lessons to youth with special needs. This year's event was held at the Huron County Expo Arena throughout the month of August 2021. Nine special needs 4-H members participated in this year's program.



## 4-H Council Officers:

*President -*

Jeff Gillig

*Vice President -*

Kelly Hunsanger

*Secretary -*

Erica Karg

*Treasurer -*

Cynthia Puvalowski

## ***Developing Youth and Communities, continued***

### **4-H Camp**

Thumb Area 4-H Camp was developed and implemented by District 10 4-H staff from Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair & Tuscola counties in a collaborative effort. With overnight camp not being an option for this year, 4-H staff met via zoom for several months working together to develop and plan a “Day Camp” experience for 4-H members and non-4-H youth.

Thumb Area 4-H Camp Counselor’s Teen Leadership workshops were held over zoom with a face-to-face in-person training in July where eight 4-H teens participated in the event. During the training, camp counselors learned team building and problem-solving skills, brainstormed ideas, and developed a plan for the 2021 Adventure Day camps.

Thumb Area 4-H Camp provided two 4-H Adventure Day Camps in August 2021. The day camps were held in Lapeer County at Camp Lael with 16 registered campers, and Evergreen Park in Sanilac with 21 registered campers from the surrounding counties including Huron. Campers ranged in age from 8 to 14. Ten teen counselors (aged 15-19) assisted with various activities during these day camps. Campers enjoyed team building skills, games, science-based STEM activities (lava lamps and s’mores solar ovens), archery, and tie-dying camp t-shirts. Everyone had a great time!

### **4-H Youth Exploration Days**

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan’s largest annual 4-H event designed to help students:

- Learn new ideas and techniques,
- Increase their interest in and readiness for college,
- Explore career options,
- Develop decision-making skills, and...
- Develop independence as well as teamwork.

This year’s event was held virtually. Two Huron County 4-H members participated in the virtual event.

### **4-H Virtual Programs**

With 4-H in-person programming being paused, many opportunities were offered in a virtual format. By going virtual, youth from Huron County had several opportunities to participate in unique educational experiences. Some of the virtual programs offered to youth (4-H members and non-4-H youth) were “4-H in the Kitchen Live!”; 4-H Coding Weekend; Lego Master Builder & Minecraft SPIN Club; American Sign Language; Cooking with a Plant-Based Twist; All About Honeybees; 2021 World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute Conference; series of Livestock Workshops; and many more programs. These are just a few of the many sessions offered virtually by MSU Extension and the 4-H program across the State of Michigan.

### **4-H Community Service**

Each year 4-H members and adult 4-H volunteer leaders wrap empty two-part gift boxes for the Huron County Clothe-A-Child program. The Clothe-A-Child program organizes and delivers more than 300 complete outfits and goodies to many needy children in Huron County at Christmas time. In 2020, a total of 150 boxes were wrapped by five 4-H clubs, 9 adults and 13 youth.



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### Join us on Social Media



- + MSU Extension District 10
- + Huron County 4-H
- + Family Nutrition Program
- + Thumb Ag Research & Education (TARE)
- + Think Food Safety



@MSUExtension

### Food Safety Hotline

Do you have questions about food expiration dates? How long leftovers will last or preserving foods at home? The MSU Extension food safety hotline can help answer food safety questions and concerns.

**Hotline: 877-643-9882.**

### Ask Extension

Ask Extension offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as **lawns, gardening, agriculture, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming** and more!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>

### 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**

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