

Message from the District Director

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

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

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



Karly Creguer
District 10 Director

Office: 989.672.3870
Cell: 989.217.1264
Fax: 989.673.5953
oberski9@msu.edu

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

Huron County Staff

- Patti Errer - 4-H Program Coordinator
- Jenna Falor - Field Crops Educator
- Laurie Messing - Food Safety Educator
- Shelly Sowles - Support Staff / HHW Coordinator
- Kari VerEllen - 4-H Support Staff

Contact Information

1142 S Van Dyke Road, Bad Axe
989.269.9949
msue.huron@county.msu.edu
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/huron>

220

EXTENSION PROGRAMS INCLUDING HURON COUNTY RESIDENTS



2241

HURON COUNTY RESIDENTS ATTENDED EXTENSION PROGRAMS

REPORTING

6

Extension educators, specialists and program staff reported data for Huron County

95

District Contacts Reported

42

Extension programs held in the county

1433

People attended programs held in the county

1028

Total hours of programming in the county



Staff Programing

Huron County 4-H Program

4-H is the largest youth development program in Michigan. Its motto is "To make the best better." Members and leaders follow a 4-H pledge that represents the 4H's by, "Head for clearer thinking, Heart for greater loyalty, Hands for a greater service, Health for a better living for my club, my community, and my world."

Most people think 4-H is for kids who live on farms or are interested in raising animals. That is not true! 4-H offers a lot of different topics and existing areas along with animal science and agriculture such as, STEM activities, cooking, clothing and textiles, woodworking, Lego's, robots, gardening, shooting sports, creative arts, and so much more. 4-H members participate by belonging to a club, or attend camps, a SPIN (Special Interest) club, school enrichment, after school programs, virtual programs, workshops, community events, and many other program opportunities. 4-Her's learn by doing.

At the heart of 4-H are caring adult volunteers who grow current and future leaders by giving their time and expertise to empower young people with important life skills. The volunteers provide positive role modeling with real life experiences. 4-H leaders help members build confidence and dream for the future.



Patricia Errer 4-H Program Coordinator

errrpat@msu.edu
989.269.9949



Inside the Numbers

- Clubs - 37
- Volunteers - 132
- Youth Participants - 639
- Active Leadership Committees - 2
- Program Participants - 2,350
- Sessions - 101
- Hours 227

4-H Opportunities Offered in 2023

School Programming - Huron County 4-H provides programs at local school districts.

Special Needs Programming

Too Good for Drugs - A drug prevention program targeted for students in 4th, 5th, and 7th grades.

Project Alert - A drug prevention program targeting 8th grade students.

4-H Camp - Thumb Area 4-H Camp is a 3 day, 2 night camp held for all 4-H members in the Thumb Area ages 9-14. It provides leadership opportunities for teen counselors aged 15-19. Campers get an overnight camp experience and make life long friends.

Clinics and Educational Programs

Small Livestock Association (SLA) Clinic - Huron County offered a SLA Clinic pertaining to animal health, nutrition and showmanship.

Projects Galore - This program offers several still project areas where participants attend an all-day event making educational projects with the opportunity to display at the Huron Community Fair.

Ice Skating Event - This program focuses on exercise and healthy living.

Barn Preservation - Michigan Barn Preservation Network is an education experience for youth regarding barn raising and learning a "one-of-a-kind" opportunity that provides information, exposure, and experience through a traditional community barn raising common in Michigan communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Huron Community Fair - The fair is an opportunity for 4-H youth to showcase all their hard work to the community. Over 513 4-H youth participated in the fair. Showing projects has many educational benefits such as teaching youth about the value of hard work, healthy competition, and many life skills.

Michigan State and National 4-H Events

Michigan 4-H provides Huron County youth with the opportunity to participate in statewide events and competitions. Huron County was represented at the following:

Michigan: State 4-H Horse Show
Exploration Days

National: 4-H National Congress



4-H Projects Galore



4-H Ambassadors

Keeping Our Food Safe

There is a need for unbiased, science-based information on safe food practices. MSU Extension provides food safety education and outreach for home food preservers, entrepreneurs, childcare providers, consumers, foodservice workers, and volunteers aiming to reduce foodborne illness for all. Huron County residents participated in online and in-person classes offered by the Food Safety team including *Preserving MI Harvest Home Food Preservation*, *ServSafe Manager Certification*, *Michigan Cottage Food Law*, *Safe Food = Healthy Kids*, *Cooking for Crowds* and *Pantry Food Safety-It's Your Job!*

To provide additional food safety education, there were multiple resources to utilize. MSU Extension's Think Food Safety Facebook page is available for social media users. Think Food Safety shares food safety tips and information on a huge variety of topics, food preservation information, food recalls, upcoming class schedules and videos at your fingertips. Also available to Thumb Area residents online are Michigan Fresh fact sheets which are loaded with information on using, storing and preserving the Michigan Fresh Produce grown in your garden or purchased from local farmer's markets. Finally, the Food Safety Hotline (call 877.643.9882) is available to anyone having a food safety question of any type.

What participants said...

"The information provided has ensured that I will be using current guidelines when I am preserving food. Thank you for sharing your expertise and providing research based resources."

"I am completely new to canning. It seemed difficult and mysterious. You have taken the mystery out of it. I feel like this is something I can actually do. I plan to start gardening and preserving my own food."

---Preserving MI Harvest class participants

"The food cooling was new to me. I had always put large pots in the refrigerator. I will change that."

"It was absolutely an eye opener for me, I've been doing so many things wrong and appreciated this training."

"Learn so much about bleach, the kind to use and how much for proper sanitizing."

---Safe Food=Healthy Kids class participants



Laurie Messing
Food Safety Educator

lmessing@msu.edu
989.269.9949

Agriculture and Agribusiness



Jenna Falor
Field Crops Educator

falorjen@msu.edu
517.449.9055

MSU Extension serves the agriculture industry by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents. The Thumb Area in particular has some of the richest farmland in the state allowing for high quality field crops to be produced. This past growing season, 10 soybean on-farm research plots were grown and harvested in the Thumb with the data collected to be used for future education.

MSU Extension's agriculture and agribusiness programs cover not only field crops, but programming that is relevant to area producers. In 2023, Huron County residents along with Sanilac and Tuscola County residents had the opportunity to participate in programming relating to several topics including *Restricted Use Pesticide Testing*, *Crop and Pest Management Updates*, and a *Regional Wheat Field Day* held right here in Huron County. Also offered to area residents was a *Farm Succession Planning Workshop*, as well as a family friendly *Farm Record-Keeping for Women in Ag* workshop. *Thumb Ag Day* is another opportunity for producers to not only be able to sit in on field crop and animal agriculture educational sessions, but it's also an opportunity for them to visit with local agribusinesses all under one roof during this day long event held at Ubyly Heights each December.

4,729 live participants took part in the Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series including 252 people from Huron County in 2023.

Another highly successful program offered by MSU Extension Field Crops Educators is the *Field Crops Team Virtual Breakfast Series*. Happening every Thursday morning during the growing season, this virtual series is geared toward farmers, agribusiness professionals, agency personnel, and others interested in agriculture. The series is flexible, fluid, and able to adapt to constantly changing conditions for crops. Valuable crop management information is shared to address potential and current issues related to weather, pest infestation, and crop disease. Emerging issues are addressed in a timely manner to help farmers increase efficiency and profitability for the farming operation. While all Field Crops Educators along with campus and industry experts are involved with this program, you can find Jenna in the background and Phil Kaatz at the helm of this project.



Thumb Ag Day

Phil Kaatz
Field Crops Educator

kaatz@msu.edu
810.338.5242

Additional Staff Serving Huron County Residents

Health Programs

Evidence-based disease prevention and management programs are a large part of what we do at MSU Extension. Programs such as *Chronic Disease PATH (Personal Action Towards Health)*, *Chronic Pain PATH*, and *Dining with Diabetes* help people learn to manage their chronic health conditions through increased physical activity, knowledge of healthy eating and improved communication with their healthcare provider.

Fall prevention programs are also offered in the Thumb Area including Huron County. *Tai Chi for Arthritis* and *Fall Prevention and a Matter of Balance* are geared toward older adults and very popular with local adults.

We know that mental health is just as important as physical health. Programs like *Stress Less with Mindfulness*, *RELAX - Alternatives to Anger*, *Powerful Tools for Caregivers of Adults with Chronic Conditions and Children with Special Needs*, *ACEs and Positive Childhood Experiences* and *Mental Health First Aid* are programs geared toward overall well-being and are available to local residents.

Kris Swartzendruber

Health Educator
swartze6@msu.edu
989.245.5903

Kris worked with colleagues to provide education to 1,100 participants in District 10 in 2023 which included Huron County.

Animal Agriculture

The Thumb Area is one of the most populated in the state when it comes to cattle. MSU Extension's Jerad Jaborek, Beef Feedlot Systems Educator, offered programs to help producers with a variety of issues. These workshops were offered throughout the Thumb Area including Bad Axe.

Implant Boot Camp, designed to provide producers with hands-on training on cattle ear implants, and a *Feedlot Health and Management Program*, focused on animal handling and recognizing feedlot cattle with health concerns were among Dr. Jaborek's topics. He also became a certified beef carcass ultrasound technician in 2023. This will allow him to capture carcass ultrasound images to measure ribeye size, back fat thickness, and marbling deposition which provides a peak under the cattle hide without having to slaughter the animal. This data gives producers a greater knowledge of the carcass potential for various uses.



Jerad Jaborek
Beef Feedlot Systems Educator
jaborekj@msu.edu
715.451.2035

Nutrition Instruction and SNAP-Ed

In May 2023, Mary Gilbert joined the MSU Extension team as a Community Nutrition Instructor working within the SNAP-Ed Program with residents in both Huron and Sanilac Counties. One of Mary's focuses during her short time with MSU Extension has been a project called *The Last Food Mile*, which distributes three pound bags of seasonal produce to area residents. This produce is grown by local Amish farmers. Huron County received over 8,400 pounds of fresh produce which was distributed among residents at the Harbor House in Harbor Beach, North Huron students and at Bay View Senior Living. Over 200 people a week received this produce.

Mary has now shifted her focus to cooking, teaching a *Teen Cooking Course* at Laker Jr/Sr High School. She's also done a cooking demonstration at Laker Head Start.

Mary Gilbert
Community Nutrition Instructor
gilbe242@msu.edu
810.648.2515



Additional Resources

By Phone...

Food Safety Hotline: 877.643.9882 Mon - Fri 9 - 5 p.m.
Garden or Yard Hotline: 888.678.3464 Option 1

Online...

Ask Extension: [Ask Extension - MSU Extension](#)

Websites...

MSU Extension: www.canr.msu.edu/outreach
MI Fresh Fact Sheets: www.canr.msu.edu/mi_fresh/index

Social Media...

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

Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter)
[@MSUExtension](https://twitter.com/MSUExtension)



Huron County
part of District 10