


# Lapeer County 2023 ANNUAL REPORT




## BY THE NUMBERS


**100+** Over 100 years MSU Extension professionals have provided education to Lapeer County residents

 \$38,395 spending with local businesses in Lapeer County

 205 Lapeer County students enrolled at MSU

 MSU disbursed \$3,628,285 in financial aid to Lapeer County students

 1,346 MSU alumni living in and contributing to Lapeer County

 1,818 youth involved in 4-H in Lapeer County youth development programs

 \$11,513,131 total direct economic impact in Lapeer County

## 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 Lapeer County and beyond.

## CONTACT



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MSU Extension District 10



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@MSUExtension

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



**Phil Kaatz**

**Forage Management  
and Field Crops  
Educator**

## Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series

The MSU Extension Field Crops Team hosts the Virtual Breakfast Series every Thursday morning during the growing season for 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 such as corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat, sugar beets, and dry beans. Valuable crop management information is shared to address potential and current issues related to weather, pest infestation, and crop diseases. Emerging issues are addressed in a timely manner to help farmers increase efficiency and profitability of the farming operations.

Year-end highlights include:

- 4,729 live participants (182 average)
- 6,923 YouTube recording views (267 average)
- 2,171 Podcast views (84 average)
- 60 Michigan counties (72%)
- 15 States (IL, IN, IA, KY, MN, NC, NM, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, UT, VT, WI)
- 11 Foreign countries (Australia, South Africa, Israel, Burundi, Canada, Ethiopia, Ireland, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda)

Post-program evaluation completed in November 2023:

- 325 total respondents
  - ◇ 4,522,267 acres represented
  - ◇ 99.1% had an increase in knowledge
  - ◇ 79.1% indicated a crop management change has been made or will be made in the future



**Jerad Jaborek**

**Beef Feedlot  
Systems Educator**

The Thumb Area is one of the most populated in the state when it comes to cattle. Jerad Jaborek offered several programs to help producers with a variety of issues. These workshops were offered throughout the Thumb Area.

- **Implant Boot Camp** was designed to provide producers with hands-on-training on cattle ear implants. **25 Producers** attended this program.
- **Feedlot Health and Management Program** -This program focused on basic animal handling and recognizing feedlot cattle with health concerns.
- Jerad also became a certified beef carcass ultrasound technician in 2023. This certification will allow him to capture carcass ultrasound images, which provides a peak under the cattle hide without having to slaughter the animal to measure ribeye size, back fat thickness, and marbling deposition. This data gives producers a greater knowledge of the carcass potential for various breeding or genetic trait uses. It will also allow 4-H exhibitors the ability to learn about carcass grading and to see how well their market steer's carcass performs relative to other steers showing at their County Fairs

# Government & Community Vitality



Andy Northrop

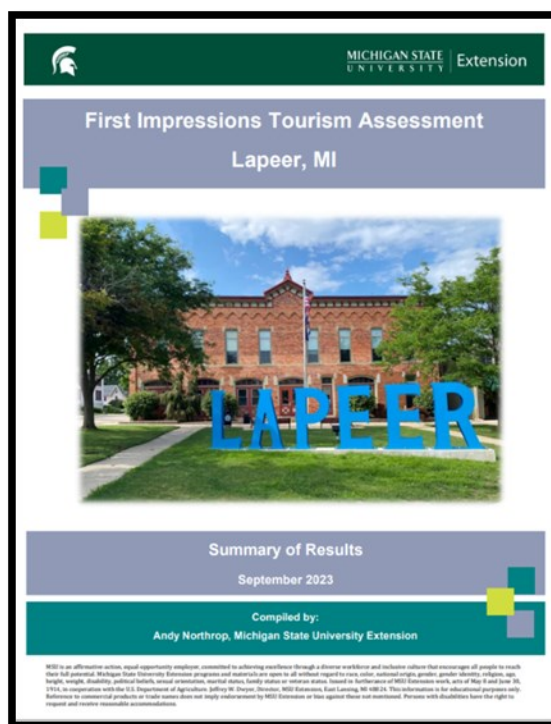
Community/  
Tourism Educator

Serving the State of Michigan and District 10 including 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

## The City of Lapeer

The City of Lapeer and the City of Grand Blanc were selected in 2023 to participate in MSU Extension's FIT assessment offered in partnership with MEDC. Reports are available for both communities. Impacts and actions are aggregated one year later from participating in the program.



Please take the time to read the entire report :

### [First Impressions Tourism \(FIT\)](#)

**Here are some highlights:**

Thoughts and Ideas for Downtown:

- Downtown Lapeer is on the upswing!
- I found value in the DDA and Good News newsletters...
- I appreciate the painted benches, control boxes, and murals.
- I wish I could have learned who painted the murals...
- The alleyway music performance space was surprising for how well it worked...

# Developing Youth and Communities



**Sarah Griffin**

**4-H Program  
Coordinator**

4-H has different types of clubs, depending on a volunteer's interest and time commitment.

- **Community clubs** focus on multiple projects and involve members of a variety of ages and interests. Meet every month.
- **Project clubs** focus on one primary 4-H project. Meetings may be monthly or weekly.
- **SPIN clubs** combine concepts of special interest groups with the 4-H club model. Focus on one topic for a set length of time, perhaps 6 to 8 weeks.



*4-H Club members and volunteers offered a petting zoo and activities to the public at a local Tractor Supply Company store.*

## Lapeer County 4-H Youth Development Program

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that kids learn best by doing. Youth, ages 5-19, complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Young people who are members of 4-H clubs are more likely to engage in positive activities, go to college and be civically engaged in their communities. Locally, Lapeer County 4-H offers a variety of club options, educational opportunities, community service projects and scholarships for higher education and additional learning experiences.



*2023 Ambassadors: Diana Aboukarroum, Audrey Johnston, Cash Hanks, Weston Hanks, Catherine Wackler (not pictured), and Jaxson Niester (not pictured).*

**237 Enrolled 4-H  
Club Members  
and 93  
Gold Volunteers**

# Developing Youth and Communities



**83 Youth Campers  
and Teen Counselors**

**11 Adult Camp  
Guides**

**2 Summer Camps**

*Campers enjoyed swimming, kayaking, science, art, and fun during 4-H summer camp at Camp Lael. The Wildlife Adventure Camp held at Lions' Bear Lake Camp introduced campers to fishing, archery, and outdoor cooking.*



**42 County Activities and  
Workshops**

**1,733 Outreach Contacts**



*Participants of the "Explorers of the Deep" workshop, estimate how much weight they need to add to their ocean robot to reach neutral buoyancy.*



*Crafts were made by members attending the annual Kick-off and Information meeting held in September.*



*Students attended weekly financial literacy sessions during the summer in collaboration with the Summer Migrant Education Program.*

**452  
School  
Enrichment  
Participants**

# Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

Christine Venema

Food Safety Educator



Christine Venema, MSU Extension Educator for food safety, provides programming in the areas of Food Safety for young people, Food Preservation, Michigan Cottage Food Law, Pantry Food Safety—It’s Your Job! and ServSafe manager training for adults.

**Food Preservation:** Since January 2023 Christine has assisted in 28 online food preservation sessions. She developed and taught 12 of these sessions.

**Food Safety:** Christine is a member of the MSU Extension Food Safety Team and has been providing weekly food preservation programming to the people of Lapeer County via zoom. Since January 2023 Christine has assisted with 21 Food Safety question and answer programs. Of those she developed and taught 10 of them.

As a member of the Food Safety Team Christine has answered questions on the **Michigan State University Extension Food Safety Hotline**. She did this during the months of October and November. She received calls from Michigan and other states in the United States of America.

**Cooking for Crowds:** Christine taught one class via zoom on Cooking for Crowds for nonprofit organizations.

Christine has taught 9 **Pantry Food Safety—It’s Your Job!** sessions via zoom. Through this program 120 people have received certification statewide.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Christine has taught one session on ‘What to do After a Flood’ as a part of the emergency preparedness food safety programming.

**Michigan Cottage Food Law** class: Since January, Christine has assisted with 9 Michigan Cottage Food Law zoom sessions and taught a segment of one.

**ServSafe for Food Service Managers:** Since January 2023, Christine has taught 10 ServSafe classes to 104 people in Lapeer County.

As a part of the Michigan State University Extension Food Safety Team, Christine has assisted in the **415 food safety programs** that have reached **7,205 people** across Michigan, the United States, and the world.

# Keeping People Healthy



**Jennifer Evenson**



**Nola Auernhamer**

## Community Nutrition Instructors

Community Nutrition Instructors help people find their way past these shopping and eating concerns. Friendly and timely access to information through MSU Extension's SNAP-Ed program helps Lapeer County residents to make affordable healthy food choices, keep their foods safe, and make food that's enjoyable to eat.

## Lapeer County SNAP-Ed

During the federal fiscal year (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) the MSU Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) program provided nutrition education, physical activity promotion, and public health coaching for program participants and community partners in Lapeer County.

MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructors, also covering St. Clair and Tuscola Counties, reached 645 unduplicated individuals through 63 in-person classes offered throughout the county. Additionally, 800 individuals were reached indirectly through fact sheets, newsletters, or health fairs. The classes and events were held at congregate meal sites & senior nutrition centers; the Extension office; public housing sites, public schools, and at the county fairgrounds.

In 2023, the thumb area initiative called “The Last Food Mile” provided an opportunity to bring fresh produce and nutrition education to people in need. In Lapeer County, over 200 bags of produce were delivered to Silver Maple Village. Residents received healthy, nutrient dense foods in addition to nutrition fact sheets and education on how to use the fresh food.



## Extension Educators Serving Lapeer County

### MSU Extension Staff Serving Lapeer County

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Karly Creguer	District 10 Director	989-672-3870	<a href="mailto:oberski9@msu.edu">oberski9@msu.edu</a>
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Phil Kaatz	Educator, Field Crops & Forages	810-667-0341	<a href="mailto:kaatz@msu.edu">kaatz@msu.edu</a>
Christine Venema	Educator, Food Safety & Nutrition	810-667-0341	<a href="mailto:venema@msu.edu">venema@msu.edu</a>

### Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Lapeer County

Name	Role	Phone	Email
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