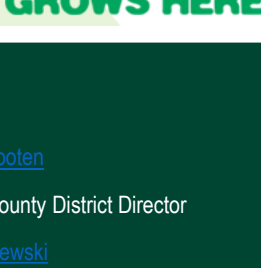




4-H Family News

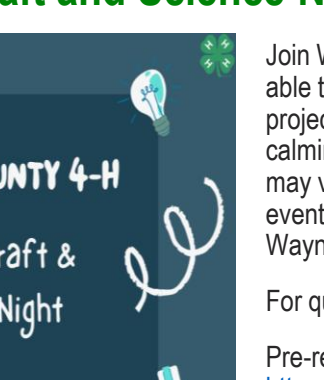
DECEMBER 2023



WAYNE COUNTY

December Newsletter Contents

- Wayne County 4-H Events
- Wayne County 4-H 2023-2024 Awards Ceremony
- Wayne County 4-H'er Spotlight
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- Statewide 4-H News



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

CONTACT US

- [Richard Wooten](#)
MSU Extension - Wayne County District Director
- [Dane Wierswille](#)
4-H Supervisor
- [LeAnn Swoboda](#)
4-H Educator
- [Ashleigh Apel](#)
4-H Program Coordinator
- [LizAnn Ropes](#)
4-H Program Coordinator
- [Wendy Eubank](#)
4-H Program Instructor

PHONE & EMAIL:

- (313) - 494 - 4797 (Focus Hope)
- (734) - 721 - 6576 (Western Wayne)

WEBSITE:

- <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/M14HWayne>

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WAYNE COUNTY 4-H EVENTS

4-H Winter Craft and Science Night



Join Wayne County 4-H at our free family craft and science open house event! Youth will be able to learn about different scientific processes while creating a work of art and take home the projects they created! Participate in projects such as marshmallow catapults, candy structures, calming snow globes, paper circuit greeting cards, and more! Please note topics and activities may vary. Families can drop by anytime between 5:00 - 7:00 PM to take part in this fun filled event, create a work of art, learn something new, make new friends, and learn more about the Wayne County 4-H program!

For questions or concerns, contact Ashleigh Apel at apelashl@msu.edu

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStfXGcQidb2tbr0N3FIOlVrHdpBFqBdruHyJa8EZYe4WQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

Date and time: December 14, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Location: Flat Rock Public Library, 25200 Gibraltar Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134

Gather & Grow Volunteer Sessions

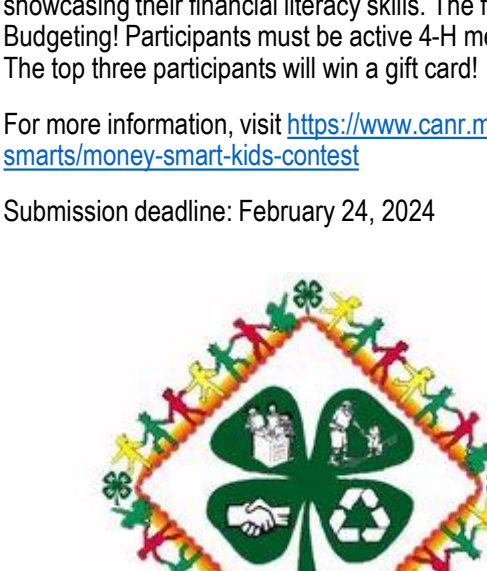
Volunteers are an integral part of keeping the Wayne County 4-H program safe, fun, and fulfilling. We want to help you grow! This virtual opportunity for Wayne county 4-H volunteers is to gather with 4-H program coordinators and learn a skill that will help them grow into better volunteers to help shape and guide young people in the Wayne County 4-H program.

For questions or concerns, contact Ashleigh Apel at apelashl@msu.edu or Latoya Jones at cairnjon@msu.edu.

We want to hear from you! To let us know what you would like to learn in these sessions, submit a response at https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_80qf74ZewjyT10. Surveys due December 31.

Date TBD.

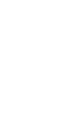
Dairy Bowl Quiz Team



Washtenaw County 4-H is extending an invitation to 4-H members in neighboring counties to join their Dairy Cattle Quiz Bowl Team. The club is open to youth ages 9-19 as of January 1, 2024, that are interested in learning about dairy science and dairy production.

This is a great opportunity for youth to explore a new project area, learn new skills, meet fellow 4-H'ers in surrounding counties, and participate in the 4-H State Dairy Days Competition in July.

The group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month January through July. They discuss dairy science and dairy production topics. The material is also very relevant to youth interested in vet science. They meet at Homing Farms in Manchester. The first meeting is Monday, January 15 at 6:30 pm. They will have pizza to start our kick-off meeting for the year. To RSVP (to help plan for food) or if you have any questions, please contact Katelyn Packard at khorning14@gmail.com or Amy Harris at harr1976@msu.edu.



WAYNE COUNTY 4-H EVENTS

4-H Creative Campaign Contest



Do you love 4-H? Do you want to inspire more young people to join in the fun? Submit an entry into the 4-H Creative Campaign Contest! Participants can submit a short, one-minute video highlighting "Why You Should Join 4-H", exercising their creative chops and helping to spread the word. Participants must be active 4-H members aged 9-19. The top three participants will win a fun prize!

For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-clovers-codesubmission/>

Submission deadline: January 31, 2024

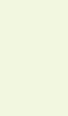


4-H Cash Composition Contest

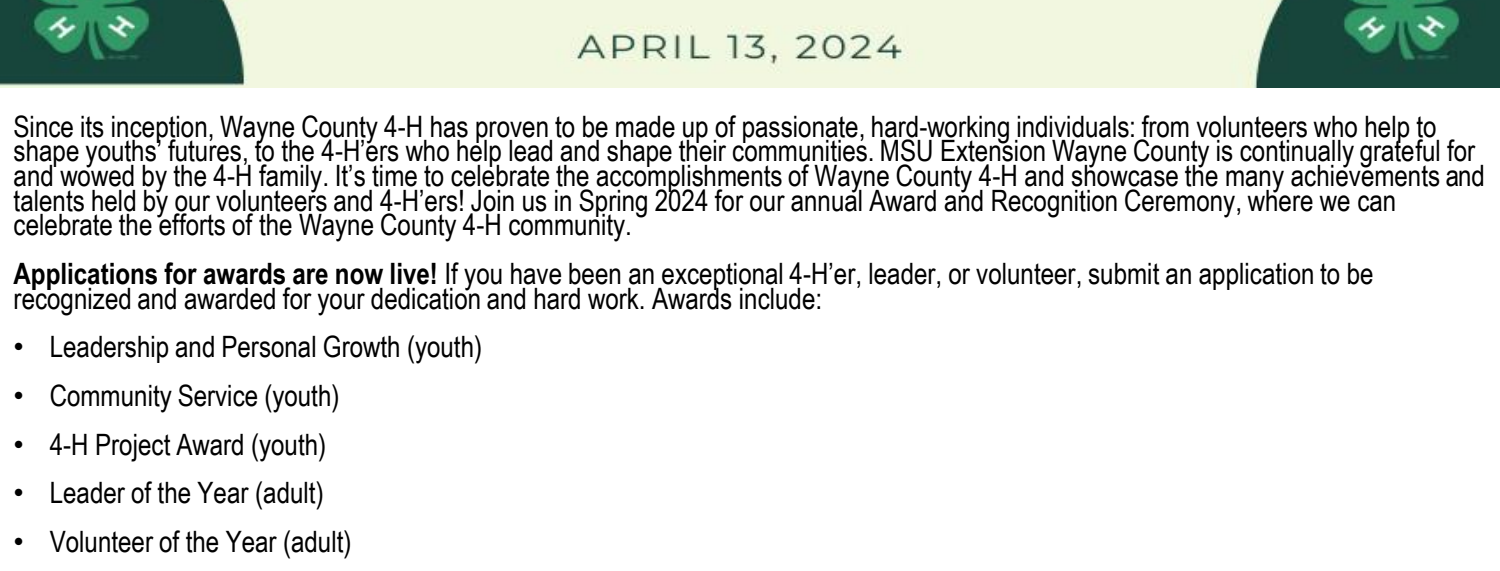
Financial literacy is important and is a skill that can be honed! 4-H is inviting its members to write a short, 300-word essay showcasing their financial literacy skills. The focus for 2024: Budgeting! Participants must be active 4-H members aged 9-19. The top three participants will win a gift card!

For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>

Submission deadline: February 24, 2024



WAYNE COUNTY 4-H 2023-24 AWARDS CEREMONY



Since its inception, Wayne County 4-H has proven to be made up of passionate, hard-working individuals: from volunteers who help to shape youth's futures, to the 4-H'ers who help lead and shape their communities. MSU Extension Wayne County is continually grateful for and wowed by the 4-H family. It's time to celebrate the accomplishments of Wayne County 4-H and showcase the many achievements and talents held by our volunteers and 4-H'ers! Join us in Spring 2024 for our annual Award and Recognition Ceremony, where we can celebrate the efforts of the Wayne County 4-H community.

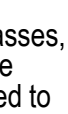
Applications for awards are now live! If you have been an exceptional 4-H'er, leader, or volunteer, submit an application to be recognized and awarded for your dedication and hard work. Awards include:

- Leadership and Personal Growth (youth)
- Community Service (youth)
- 4-H Project Award (youth)
- Leader of the Year (adult)
- Volunteer of the Year (adult)

Visit our website to submit your application here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2022-23-recognition-event>

Location: Wayne County Community College District Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111

Date: April 13, 2024



4-H'ER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Ryan!

Ryan is one of the Wayne County 4-H Family's spectacular 4-H'ers! Ryan joined 4-H three years ago, and has proven himself as dedicated, active, and an excellent leader. Ryan's experiences exemplify where trying new things will get you! Read about Ryan here!



If you or someone you know is a star 4-H'er, send in a nomination here!

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_cvU3kKrJ2CwWfuk

Wfuk

What are your 4-H achievements?

I recently became a member of the 4-H Michigan State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC), which works to spread the ideas of 4-H by improving existing programs and making more people aware of the impact 4-H has. Our job is to spread the word about 4-H to both youth and donors, as well as come up with ideas to make Michigan 4-H a better place for everyone. At our last meeting, we discussed plans for an ASL club! We also volunteer at different events across the state, where we share the work 4-H is doing to the community.

How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I joined 4-H in 2020 during the [COVID-19] lockdowns. My mother was looking for virtual activities for my siblings any to do, and she came across 4-H. I pretty much did every virtual program 4-H offered for that first year. At the start, it was primarily little nerdy clubs, a few cooking classes, a Dungeons and Dragons club, an Among Us club, a few coding classes, a class about the history of the Navy, and a neat little group where we designed LEGO sets using an online system. Eventually it expanded to adulting classes, such as Adulting 101, a course on helping to save for college (with Frank, who I now work with in SYLC), and, of course, Future Squad.

What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

The programs I was in for that first year were both educational and fun, and I wanted to keep doing more. Eventually, I became an official member of 4-H.

What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

Try out lots of different things! 4-H work on a large variety of topics, but you will definitely be able to work on some of your favorite topics, so you should also try things that you may not have thought of doing before.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

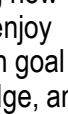
My first year at Expo Days was a great experience. I took a course on stage magic, which I don't think I would have even considered if it weren't for that. (Huh. Kinda ties back to question 5.)

What are your plans for the future?

Go to university and get a degree in music and maybe computer science and become a composer for video game soundtracks.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself?

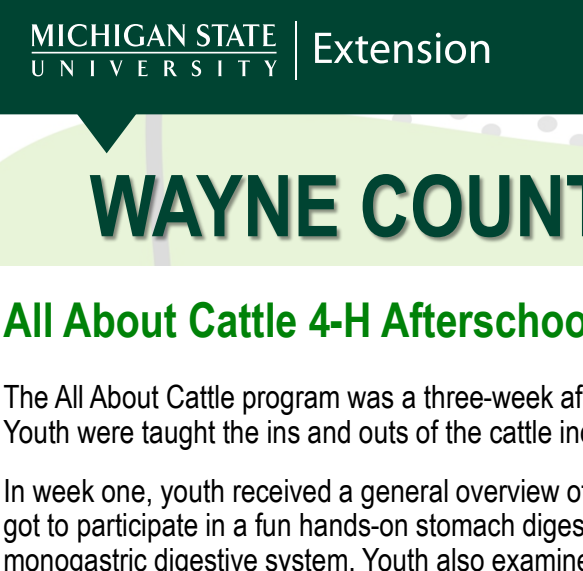
You will often see me wearing glasses. Just to clarify, they are not real and are just frames. People have actually gotten confused by this!



4-H VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Jessica Lenyard!

Jessica Lenyard is a volunteer at Pingree Farms, a center of youth agriculture education in Detroit. Jessica is an active and passionate volunteer and youth leader, and brings her knowledge of animal science to the youth of Wayne County. Hear more from Jessica about her experiences with 4-H!



If you or someone you know is an amazing 4-H volunteer, send in a nomination here!

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_cvU3kKrJ2CwWfuk

Wfuk

Where do you volunteer for Wayne County 4-H, and how did you get started?

I volunteered in Detroit at Pingree Farms as the 4-H Youth Leader. I work as a Licensed Veterinary Technician in Biomedical Science and Emergency Veterinary Medicine. I got started with 4-H through a colleague and very close friend of mine, Mykela Orsette. We were at work one day, and she was telling me about her experience in 4-H growing up. I mentioned that that my kids were interested in joining a 4-H club. She directed me to the website, and we found a club in our area. We have since involved ever since.

What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?

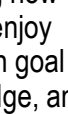
My favorite part of volunteering for 4-H is being able to share my passion for animals and learning to the kids. Making big concepts that seem huge and important into something fun and understandable. We have all types of project areas in our program, but animal science is what the kids tend to gravitate towards and the most. The most fulfilling part for me is watching how much care and responsibility the kids put into their projects. I also enjoy watching the club members grow from student to leader. The main goal is to instill confidence in the kids. Confidence comes through knowledge, and this fosters independence.

What volunteer projects do you like most to be a part of?

I enjoy teaching the kids about animal welfare, enrichment and veterinary science. I also enjoy teaching about biosecurity and helping the kids produce health maintenance plans for the animals and SOPs for the farm. We did a blood draw workshop this summer and some of the club participants were able to learn and practice venipuncture (the puncture of a vein) on goats. The blood samples were used for health screenings, and they learned about the different diseases that the blood was being checked for. I also enjoy teaching the kids about public speaking and leadership.

Do you have any advice for other 4-H Volunteers?

My advice for other 4-H volunteers would be to bring whatever skill you have or whatever your strengths are and lead with that. 4-H is so many things. Lots of "helping hands". You never know what activates the youth members are interested in exploring. You never know what asset your experience with a hobby, or a subject area could be to the club. Don't be afraid to coordinate educational activities, community service or fun activities to see what different projects the kids may be interested in doing.



WAYNE COUNTY 4-H SUCCESS STORY

All About Cattle 4-H Afterschool Program at The Dearborn Academy

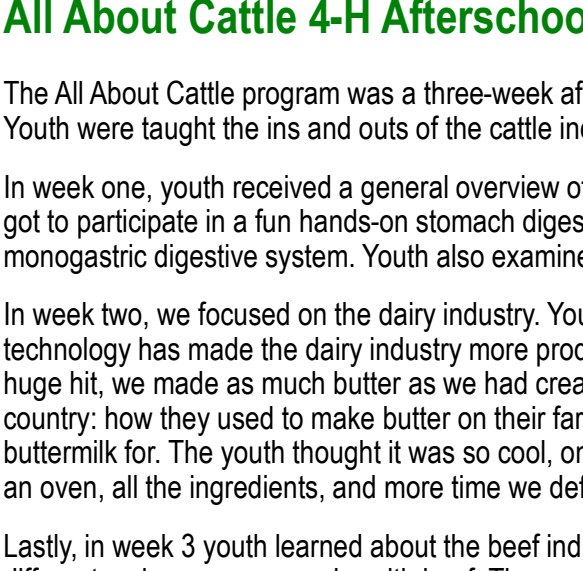
The All About Cattle program was a three-week afterschool program, with the goal of teaching youth about the cattle industry. Youth were taught the ins and outs of the cattle industry, while also participating in fun, educational activities.

In week one, youth received a general overview of cattle, how they live, what they eat, and what their purposes are. The youth got to participate in a fun hands-on stomach digestion activity as they learned the difference between a ruminant and a monogastric digestive system. Youth also examined feedstuffs and discovered all the ingredients that go into a cow's diet.

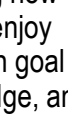
In week two, we focused on the dairy industry. Youth learned how the dairy industry has advanced over the years and how technology has made the dairy industry more productive. They were also able to make their own homemade butter. This was a huge hit, we made as much butter as we had cream! One of the 4-H volunteers also shared her experience back in her home country, how they used to make butter on their farm, a few different methods they used, as well as what they used the buttermilk for. The youth thought it was so cool, one of them shouted, "Can we make biscuits too, Ms. Ashleigh?!" If only we had an oven, all the ingredients, and more time we definitely would have!

Lastly, in week 3 youth learned about the beef industry. We talked about some differences between beef and dairy cattle, and different recipes you can make with beef. The youth shared the various ways that families prepare beef at home. This was a very diverse group made up of cultures including Muslim and Arabic, Hispanic, black, and white youth. Some of the meals shared were beef tacos, shawarma, chesneburgers, and more. One of the youth, of Muslim identity, also went into detail about how in his culture they can only eat beef if it is halal. The youth explained the rest of the classroom, for those who may not have been familiar with halal, what it was and how it consisted of the animal being butchered and processed a special way. The most exciting part was when we brought in a 3-week-old calf to school for the participants to handle at the end of the program. For many of the youth, this was the first time they ever saw a cow in person, we had all levels of excitement and fear, but we made sure to go over safety measures to take while interacting with the calf. It was the perfect way to end the program and leave a lasting impression on the youth.

This program was a huge success. The youth loved 4-H and all the experiences it brought. Every week the youth were engaged and eager to learn. It was a rather large group with 40 youth, but it was successful, and learning was never hindered because we had amazing 4-H volunteers and staff to help make the program a success! I will never forget every time I walked into the school, and the youth running up to me and saying, "Hey! You're the 4-H lady, we miss you!" I am so glad not only did they remember me four months later, but that I was able to come back and provide them with yet another amazing 4-H experience.

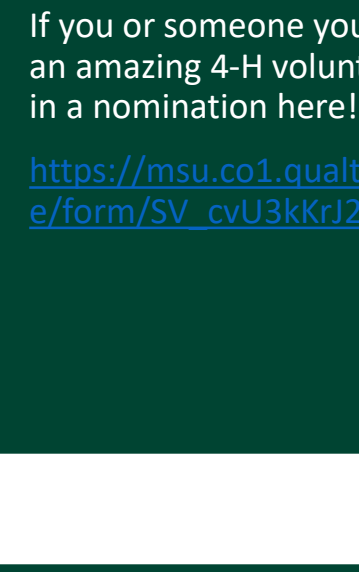


"Ahh, it smells like home. I had cows on my farm at home. I love this, it reminds me of my farm in Honduras. I finally feel like I am home." -4-H Youth Participant.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shop the Michigan 4-H store this holiday season



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order Michigan 4-H specific items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNjw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

December 12: Wild Spartans – Casting for a Career in Coldwater Conservation

Online
Dive into the Great Lakes and rivers to explore their coldwater residents! Meet the Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, Jamie Vaughan. Learn about her field work and the education and career path she found to get there.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024dec

MSU Extension Listening Sessions Series

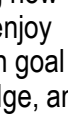
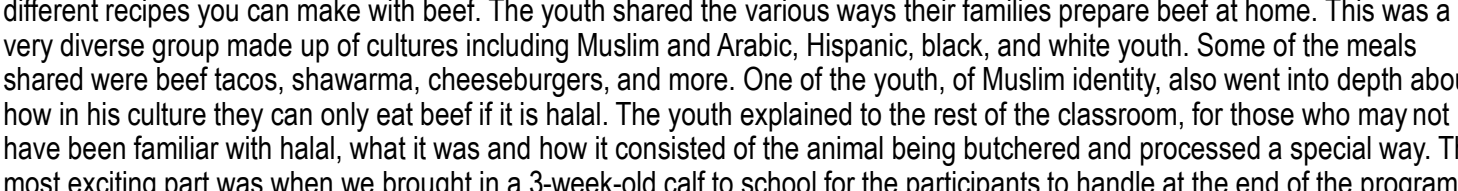
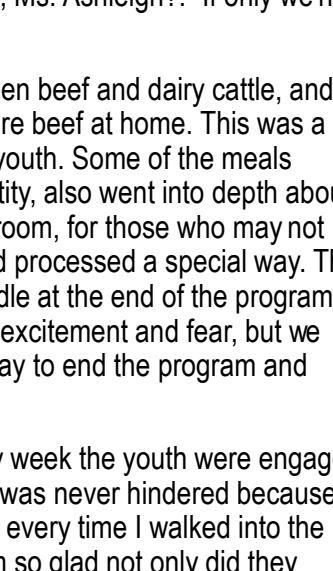
Various locations
MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions. Through these sessions, MSU Extension hopes to gather input on where the organization is, what they do well, and where there are opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

- Dec. 11 - Marquette - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- Dec. 12 - Grayling - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
- Dec. 13 - Frankenmuth - 4:30-7 p.m. - Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
- Dec. 14 - Muskegon - 4-6:30 p.m. - Muskegon Community College
- Dec. 18 - Kalamazoo - 4-6:30 p.m. - Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center

Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Walk-in registrations may be limited due to facility capacity. Register now at [events.canr.msu.edu/listeningseries](https://msu.edu/listeningseries).

Kettunen Center Inventory Closeout

Kettunen Center was the first 4-H volunteer and youth training center in the nation, owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation from 1961 to 2021. The center's remaining merchandise, such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, jackets, mugs and more, is now available for sale! We know the Kettunen Center meant so much to the 4-H community and this is an opportunity to purchase something by which to remember the center. Purchase yours today at <https://m4hfdn.org/shopku/>.



STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

MSU Extension announces statewide public listening sessions

Adapted from: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-extension-announces-statewide-public-listening-sessions-in-november-and-december>.

Whether it's supporting the dedicated professionals who drive the state's agriculture economy or empowering children to develop leadership skills, helping others is central to the mission of Michigan State University Extension, the community outreach arm of the university.

"Service is at the core of who we are," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "As we think strategically about our organization, we value input from those we serve most of all."

With that in mind, MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions at various locations across the state as part of an ongoing strategic direction process. These sessions will begin in late November and continue through mid-December.

Through these sessions, the organization hopes to gather input from a diverse group of people to determine where MSU Extension is, what is working well and opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come.

Each listening session will begin with a welcome from MSU Extension leadership and staff. Then, participants will be divided into two groups – external participants and partners will gather in one room, and MSU Extension faculty and staff will gather in another. In each of these rooms, participants will be invited to share their perspectives and insights through a series of facilitated activities. Questions will center on topics such as: emerging social, economic, and other trends that participants expect will impact them in the future; what participants know MSU Extension for; what participants believe MSU Extension does well, and what they think can be improved; and what participants envision a thriving MSU Extension would look like in the future. Common themes heard from participants will be identified and reflected to the entire group for each activity.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend – youth, parents, community and statewide partners, all MSU Extension-affiliated faculty and staff, and curious community members. Translation and interpretation services, as well as other accommodations, will be available upon request.

Listening Session Locations and Dates:

- Dec. 11 - Marquette - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- Dec. 12 - Grayling - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
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