

## Message from the District Director



Michigan State University Extension continues to work for Clare County youth, adults, businesses and communities providing outstanding research-based education and community development programs. With the ever-changing world and needs of the people we serve, MSU Extension ensures that everyone can participate in our programming. Considering participants and their needs, many of our face-to-face programs provide both an in-person and remote option to participate. Our mission remains providing the knowledge and resources of MSU's campus directly to individuals, communities and businesses to help improve lives around Michigan.

Eric Karbowski, District Director

### Clare County Staff

Teagen Lefere - Program Instructor for Financial Homeownership  
Michelle Neff - 4-H Supervision Educator  
Liberty Quackenbush - Community Nutrition Instructor  
Lori Trailer - Office Manager  
Miranda Warmuskerken - 4-H Program Coordinator

### Contact Information

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## SNAP-Ed

**37**

residents served  
in SNAP-Ed  
Programming.



The Prescription for Health class series held online in May and June of 2022 proved helpful for participants to be more physically active than they had been as well as make healthy eating choices more often.

Below is a comment from a participant:

*"I'm doing activities every day that I can do and trying to find things that are fun for me so that I enjoy it."*

**43**

Extension programs held in the county

(up 65% since 2021)

**674**

People attended programs held in the county

**958**

Number of residents from county that attended MSU  
Extension programs



## REPORTING

**73**

Volunteers

**10,781**

Facebook page views

**285**

Youth enrolled  
in county 4-H



**Staff Success Stories**

On May 3rd of 2022, Project R.E.D (Rural Education Day) was held at the Clare-Gladwin RESD John C. Magnus Center. Students explored the grounds of the Magnus Center to learn about various rural educational topics. There were topics on food production, animals, environmental science, farm safety, and greenhouse education. Kids were able to meet ag-science students in the CTE Program, get up close to animals and participate in hands-on activities, all while exploring various careers in agriculture.



**Miranda Warmuskerken,  
4-H Program Coordinator**

In total, there were 12 sessions for the 5th graders to explore.

**Kara  
Lynch,  
Food  
Safety  
Educator**



Lynch is a Registered Dietitian and has worked for Michigan State University Extension as a Food Safety Educator since 2014. In this role, Kara provides valuable educational programs to the community including ServSafe, Michigan Cottage Food Law, Food Preservation, Safe Food = Healthy Kids and more.

A ServSafe examinee comment:

*"I just want to say how much I appreciate your patience and help both in class learning and today by phone."*

**Michelle  
Neff,  
4-H  
Supervision  
Educator**



4-H Exploration Days is a Pre-College program that welcomes youth participants ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life!

A comment from Neff:

*"As part of the planning team, I love 4-H Explorations Days and all the experiences it allows for youth from round the state. The connections youth make and the career opportunities that they have to explore is why this event has been successful for over 50 years!"*



**Farm Crisis Preparedness**



**Cora Okkema,  
Dairy Educator**

Crisis preparedness is an often-overlooked area of farm risk management; yet the risk here is loss of reputation and potentially, loss of market.

A farm crisis is an event that seriously disrupts the farm. Examples include: an environmental problem such as a chemical or manure spill, an animal abuse problem by employees or by a visitor, an employee injury or death by accident or intention, or a food product quality problem caused by accident or intention.

Cora Okkema, dairy educator, serves Clare County and provides education on drafting a preparedness plan and crisis response education.

## Financial Resources

MSU Extension provides Financial & Homeownership training and resources, foreclosure prevention assistance, homeownership education, and money management for the residents of Clare County. Lefere is a program instructor for the Financial & Homeownership group. She specializes in foreclosure prevention assistance and homeownership education.



**Teagen Lefere,**  
**Financial**  
**Homeownership**  
**Instructor**

Below is a comment from a participant in a 2022 class:

*"Just wanted to say thank you ladies! I very much enjoyed your class last night. Thank you for laying out the home buying process so practically for us."*

## Agriculture and Agribusiness

MSU Extension serves the agriculture industry by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents. In 2022, Clare County residents had the opportunity to participate in programming related to animal agriculture, agribusiness management, beekeeping, consumer and ornamental horticulture, and field crops, fruit crops, and vegetables.



## 4-H Cloverbuds

Our youngest 4-H'ers aren't quite ready to participate in many of the activities that older children can, but there's still plenty for them to do in 4-H, starting with fun! The emphasis is on participation, learning and teamwork, not competition. They might learn about nutrition while helping to prepare simple snacks, plant seeds and learn what to do to help them grow, or help with animal grooming and feeding (with supervision).



**13**  
participants

**7**  
Volunteers

Cloverbuds in Clare County took the spotlight showing off their skills by proudly presenting their animals at the county fair. The Cloverbud Show helps young kids, 5-7 years of age, get prepared for their future as 4-H club members.