



Bay County

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



\$17,492,455
Total Economic Impact



\$1,696,111
Spending with Local Businesses



\$3,645,864
Financial Aid Disbursed



181
Enrolled Michigan Students



1,646
MSU Alumni in Bay County



1,948
Youth Participants
in 4-H

Message from the District Director



Michigan State University Extension is proud to provide our state's residents with the knowledge they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities, and empower their children to achieve successful futures.

As times change and new challenges arise, Extension is committed to meeting people where they are to make our programming and resources accessible to all. We now offer virtual, hybrid, and face-to-face programming throughout the year depending on our partners' and residents' needs, requests, and preferences. Moreover, we ensure our customers – the residents of Bay County – are provided with the high-quality, evidence-based curricula they are accustomed to.

MSU Extension provides hundreds of programs focused on youth development, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, mindfulness, business, agriculture, veteran's outreach, invasive species, farmers market, food safety, Saginaw Bay watershed and community food systems. We focus on the needs of youth, families, seniors, veterans, farmers, and the disadvantaged while working with our partners in the communities that we serve.

On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving your county, thank you for your continued support. I would also like to thank all our partners, businesses, families, and youth that we serve. It is a pleasure and honor to work with you and meet your needs so we can make a positive difference in your community.

Mark J. Rankin, District 9 Director

Serving Bay, Genesee, Midland, Saginaw, & Shiawassee Counties



Program Highlights



SLEEP Program Success Story:

"Liz, I am so glad you mentioned the sleep class during the Tai Chi class. The sleep class was extremely helpful in both the information you provided and the tools we learned. The class helped me identify bad habits which were preventing me from getting restful sleep. I also learned knowledge and actions I can apply to create better sleep habits. Lastly, I learned not to get frustrated if I can't fall asleep or if I wake up during the night....instead, I stay calm and pull out my 'toolbox' and take action. I am getting better quality sleep and feeling more energized during the day. Thank you for having a passion in this subject and inspiring me to continue learning about sleep."



MiSUPER Reimagining Recovery Webinar Series Success Story:

"Several articles you mentioned in the training are ones I've referenced for this paper, so the whole training was very relevant and a great fit with some things I'm working on. And it was just very interesting in general, it broadened my perspective on what harm reduction is." - Participant

"This quote, 'The opposite of addiction isn't recovery, it's connection.' A powerful reminder to continue to engage and meaningfully connect with folks in my family and community who are dealing with substance use issues." - Participant

"The way concepts have been explained within the first two webinars have made me feel like I am strengthening my own understanding, so I can better serve the communities I work with." - Participant

Health Team

MSU Extension Health Team programming aims to promote health and well-being, including understanding important connections between physical, mental, social and emotional health. Extension Educators continue to provide evidence-based health programs such as Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, Walk with Ease, Personal Action Towards Health (PATH), Sleep Education for Everyone Program (SLEEP), and Stress Less with Mindfulness throughout the community.

Program Highlights:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention combines slow movement, deep breathing, and focused intention to help people improve strength, balance and posture while helping prevent falls. Other benefits include improving relaxation, vitality, posture, and an improved immune system. Studies have shown that Tai Chi can reduce falls by nearly 70%. The program focuses on confidence building, which is linked closely to the reduced rate of falling. This program is offered for 16 hours in a variety of formats.

The Michigan Substance Use Prevention, Education and Recovery (MiSUPER) team continues to evolve and expand its content, developing a 3-part educational webinar series titled "Reimagining Recovery: A Systems Approach to Addressing Substance Use Disorder." The series explores the research behind structural, social, and root determinants of addiction, limitations of the brain disease model of addiction, and how criminalizing and punitive approaches to substance use are both normalized and exacerbating the overdose crisis. This webinar series emphasized non-punitive strategies to support people who use drugs and/or are living in recovery, including harm reduction.

The Arthritis Foundation Walk with Ease exercise program is now being offered in the community. This self-paced program is designed to alleviate pain and enhance overall health for individuals with arthritis. Participants gradually increase their walking duration to 30 minutes at least three days a week. The program focuses on improving balance, boosting confidence in walking ability, and reducing limitations associated with arthritis.

Mindfulness Lunch and Learn Programs

MSU Extension health educators provided 40 virtual mindfulness lunch and learn sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the year, reaching around 2,000 audience members. These sessions cycled through our mindfulness menu of programs, with topics ranging from mindful walking and eating to building resilience to avoid burnout. Participants who registered for these programs through MiRegistry were able to receive continuing education credits by attending these sessions.

Program Highlights



Earn ServSafe certification with help from MSU Extension.

MSU Extension offers 8-hour ServSafe training, which is a national certification program.

This class is designed for anyone working in the foodservice industry, including non-profit organizations.

MSU Extension will be offering proctoring of the ServSafe Manager Certification Exam by appointment.



Contact your local MSU Extension Food Safety Educator for more information.
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/servsafe/events>

Follow our [Think Food Safety Facebook](#) page.

View upcoming events, food safety tips, and recordings of our *Food Safety Q & A* and *Investigating Food with Science* Programs.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
FOOD SAFETY HOTLINE Operating Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Call 877-643-9882

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

Food Safety in Bay County

MSU Extension Food Safety Team programming works to provide educational programs for food workers, cottage food entrepreneurs, childcare providers, food pantry volunteers, and consumers, providing information about the five risk factors that contribute most to foodborne illness – personal hygiene and health, cooking temperatures, holding temperatures and cleaning of food contact surfaces. In 2023 the Food Safety team continued to reach multi-counties in Michigan and out of state with virtual programming and the return to live programming as well.

Food safety for childcare providers provides food safety education for staff who care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The curriculum used is Safe Food = Healthy Kids, developed by MSU Extension educators. Learn what the best practices are for food safety to help keep kids safe.

Cooking for Crowds is a three-hour food safety training for volunteers working in a non-profit venue. Cooking for Crowds classes educate volunteers who offer fundraisers and events such as dinners and bake sales. This program aligns with the 2009 Michigan Food Code.

Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop classes offer a unique feature with a combination of presentations offered in this program with the Food Safety Team, teaching safe food handling concepts and the MSU Product Center sharing tips on building a solid business and marketing plan to sell the Cottage Food items. The program ends with a Q&A session featuring an inspector from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to answer questions pertaining to food products.

Pantry Food Safety – It's Your Job! is another three-hour training offered for volunteers working in food pantries and food banks. After completing the Pantry Food Safety training, participants will receive a certificate of completion.

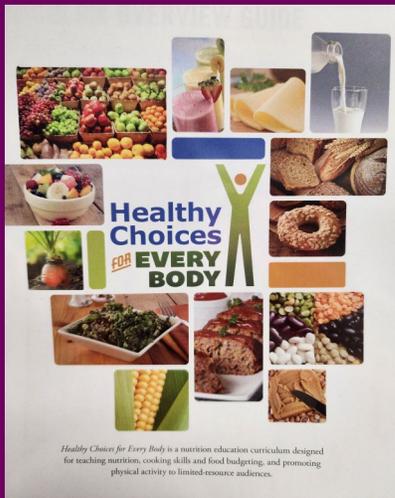
Preserving MI Harvest

[Learn the latest methods and research for preserving foods at home. Let us help you fill your pantry and freezer by preserving food safely at home.](#)

To learn more and to register, visit: [Preserving Michigan Harvest](#)

Several other online programs are offered statewide, Emergency Preparedness Series, and Food Safety for Food Service Workers (a D2L self-study course).

Program Highlights



MSU Extension aims to improve the knowledge, skills, and behavior of how individuals view nutrition. Through promotion, planning, and delivery our staff works with audiences at a local, county, and state level to make changes to increase nutritional well-being.



Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families, and children gained crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increased their daily physical activity and reduced their food insecurity.



Health and Nutrition

MSU Extension Bay County Health and Nutrition provides nutrition education to children, youth, adults, and families with limited financial resources and are eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP), Senior Project Fresh, WIC Project Fresh.

MSUE Community Nutrition Instructors and educators continually worked together to create a variety of engaging and impactful activities and material to increase our online participation. Classes such as Eat Healthy, Be Active (adults), Healthy Foods, Healthy Families (adults), Show Me Nutrition (youth), Healthy Choices for Every Body, Growing Healthy Kids, JIFF, Teen Cuisine (youth 6th grade to 12th grade), Cooking for One and Cooking Matters (teens and adults) are offered. MSU Extension also offered a variety of one-time-presentations such as Cooking Matters at the Store, Healthy Holidays, Budgeting your Benefits, Hydration, Physical Activity, and Healthy Snacks to name a few. MSU Extension continues to offer online, face-to-face, and hybrid classes in order to meet the needs of our participants.



Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), a free nutrition education program to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits.

MSUE SNAP-Ed nutrition instructors teach youth, teens, adults, and seniors how to make health a priority through an instructional series. The goal of the SNAP-Ed program is to increase the likelihood that those eligible for SNAP benefits will establish healthy eating habits and increase their time spent involved in physical activity while staying within their limited food budget.



Program Highlights



A [homeownership seminar](#) from MSU Extension will equip you with valuable information about the home-buying process that will help you navigate the technicalities and avoid costly mistakes.



[Foreclosure](#) - Michigan has been one of the hardest-hit states during the housing crisis and many homeowners still face foreclosure in the wake of the economic recession. To save your home, you must prepare yourself with the most reliable and accurate information. The more you know about the foreclosure process and your options, the more likely you'll be able to save your home. Refer to our [mortgage foreclosure fact sheet](#) or our [tax foreclosure fact sheet](#) to get started. For additional resources click [here](#).

Money Management

MSU Extension's goal is that every Michigan resident has the opportunity to participate in personal finance and home ownership education. We educate a diverse audience regardless of their financial status. MSU Extension has certified housing and money management counselors that deliver trusted, unbiased education that is easy to understand and can demystify common money and home ownership best practices. Our university programs and resources help Michigan residents navigate the financial life of themselves and their families.

More Information - [MSU Extension MI Money Health](#)

Community Food Systems Team Goal and Program Areas

The **MSU Extension** Community Food Systems team works to make the Michigan food system accessible, equitable, fair, healthy, diverse, and sustainable by focusing on the people who shape food systems through education, connection, networking, research, assistance, and consultations. The Community Food Systems team leads programming that: supports community food value chains, supports food and farming business sustainability, enhances land and ecosystem quality, cultivates networks, and increases community engagement in agrifood systems.

Statewide Programs:

Michigan CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Network - The goal of the Michigan CSA network is to help farms increase overall participation in Michigan CSAs by connecting CSA growers to facilitate collaboration, educating consumers about the benefits of CSA membership, and expanding access to CSAs through alternative payment methods. The Michigan CSA Network convenes statewide network meetings and distributes marketing and education materials that benefit both CSA farmers and consumers.

Michigan Farm to Institution Network - The Michigan Farm to Institution Network helps people across the farm-to-institution supply chain learn, connect, and collaborate. Since 2014, the network has provided a space for learning, sharing, and working together to help farm-to-institution programs grow in Michigan.

Michigan Apple Crunch

The Michigan Apple Crunch is an annual event to promote National Farm to School Month and celebrate the iconic Michigan Apple. Thousands of participants from K-12 schools, Early Care and Education sites, and other institutions and

organizations across the state and Great Lakes Region register to crunch into a local Michigan apple on Crunch Day. Apples provide a great way to get local schools and institutions excited about supporting local farmers and they are a nutritious snack that is available in Michigan eleven months of the year.

In 2023, 2,007 sites in Michigan participated, with a total of 255,834 crunchers!



Program Highlights



[Foundations of Gardening](#) is a ten-week online certificate course that covers the fundamentals of gardening. It includes weekly webinars delivered by MSU Extension horticulture experts and learning modules with readings, videos and interactive activities. This course is the prerequisite for applying to become an MSU Extension Master Gardener but is open to anyone regardless of interest. Scholarships are available for those that wish to apply.



The MSU Extension Master Gardener Program is an adult horticulture education and volunteer leader training program committed to improving science based horticulture information in communities throughout the state of Michigan.



Consumer Horticulture

The **Consumer Horticulture team** serves Michigan through its educational lawn and garden programming. We provide research-based information and training to our communities. In addition, we answer questions submitted by the public through [Ask Extension](#) and our MSUE Lawn and Garden Hotline (1-888-678-3464 prompt #1). Answering calls on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Ask Extension is an online tool that allows Michigan State University experts to answer questions submitted by the public along with photos of issues they are experiencing in their garden or lawn. In 2023, 6,471 [Ask Extension](#) questions were responded to statewide, along with 1,652 hotline questions. Alongside these tools, our **“Gardening in Michigan”** [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) house ornamental and vegetable gardening resources and hosts free educational videos.

In 2023, Bay County residents participated in MSUE Consumer Horticulture programs such as home vegetable gardening, indoor plant propagation, native plant selection for pollinators, and tree pruning. This included virtual programs such as Dig In!, a continuing education program for Extension Master Gardener Volunteers that prepares them to work with and educate the public. Midland County residents also participated in the ten-week Foundations of Gardening course. The Consumer Horticulture team works with local organizations such as libraries, and local schools to improve access to horticultural education in the community.

The Consumer Horticulture team trains and supervises Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. These passionate volunteers work with community partners across the state, focusing on public education and helping maintain educational gardens such as Carroll Park Pocket Park and I-75 South Rest Area.



Being in the Extension Master Gardener Program requires only an enthusiasm for gardening and a willingness and commitment to volunteer, sharing science-based education.

Program



Free Rural Resilience Online Course

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America's farmers and ranchers, Michigan State University Extension has partnered with others from the USDA's Cooperative Extension System, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation, and National Farmers Union to create a [free online course](#) that is now available and open to the public. This Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training course covers topics such as managing stress, communicating with distressed farmers, and suicide awareness. You can register for this course on our website:

carr.msu.edu/managing_farm_stress



I visited several vegetable growers in the Bay area in October and November (below is the list). The majority of them have worked with Ben Phillips and knew about MSU Extension

and our services and it was an introductory visit.

Name	Affiliation	County
Paul Bublitz	Paul's Produce	Bay
Ben and Sarah	Brandt Farm Company	Bay
Mike Van Ooteghem	Van Ooteghem's Farm & Greenhouse	Bay
Bob Heinz	Heinz Farm	Bay
Mark Walreven	Walreven Farms	Bay
Randy Appold	Hoerauf & Sons Farm Produce	Bay
Shelly and Matt Har-	Timm Family Farm	Bay
Tyler Keit	Rooted by Keits	Bay

Highlights

Managing Farm Stress

MSU Extension Managing Farm Stress Team

Collectively, the MSU Extension Farm Stress team conducted a record number of programs, reaching a record number of participants in 2023. Across all staff reporting program activities in PEARS on behalf of the MSUE Farm Stress team, there were 68 unique direct program activities in 2023, which spanned 169 distinct sessions with 5,657 participants. We also had 103 individuals enroll in the Rural Resilience online D2L training course. Furthermore, 33 farmers and farm family members were referred through our teletherapy partnership to Pine Rest for behavioral health support, with another 2 farmers to Easterseals for counseling; this is a 52.17% increase compared to 2022.

Saltanat Mambetova Vegetable Extension Educator



"I am originally from **Kyrgyzstan** and grew up in a post-Soviet time when every citizen who had land became a farmer.

"I am honored and excited to join Michigan State University Extension (MSU Extension) as a Vegetable Extension Educator. My assigned area covers eastern Michigan (Thumb area). I will be

based at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

"During my graduate and postdoctoral studies at MSU, I had the opportunity to participate in and organize field days, grower meetings, and conferences as well as collaborate with potato and vegetable growers. Along with my Ph.D. advisor Noah Rosenzweig, MSU Extension Educators, and the ANR Communication team we published a series of YouTube videos about the [importance](#) and management of soft rot diseases during [planting](#), [growing](#), [harvest](#), and [storage](#).

"I am excited to return to Michigan for the opportunity to serve vegetable growers in the eastern region of the state. I aim to develop an Extension program based on the needs of the industry and continue the legacy of a strong partnership between growers and stakeholders and MSU.

"My office is located at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan. I encourage you to stop by, call, or send an [email](#) if you want to talk about your production challenges, invite me to your operation, or discuss how MSU Extension can best assist you."

Program Highlights



Over 170 people helped release +230 juvenile Lake Sturgeon into the Tittabawassee River. These release events take place each year in August and September at the Bob G. Caldwell Municipal Boat in Midland.



Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops

In the spring of 2023, MISG Extension hosted three hybrid Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops –focused on the open water fisheries and nearshore fisheries, including Saginaw Bay. These workshops engaged over 150 anglers, charter captains, and others with fisheries researchers and managers from across Michigan – close to **60 participants** learned about the Saginaw Bay fishery. Participants gained a better understanding of Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem changes, and these stakeholders learned about research and management activities relating to Lake Huron and local communities.

Michigan Sea Grant Extension

Michigan Sea Grant (MISG) Extension promotes research, education, and outreach to enhance the responsible and sustainable use of our diverse Great Lakes resources. Through MSU Extension, MISG works with Michigan residents, industries, and coastal communities to encourage their use, benefits, and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources that positively influences our state's economy, environment, and quality of life.

Saginaw Bay Sturgeon Restoration - MISG Extension works with local, state, and federal partners to facilitate Lake Sturgeon release events throughout the Saginaw River system. At these events, community members learn about and help restore this iconic native fish species. This year's release events marked an important milestone – **over 5,000 Lake Sturgeon released into the Saginaw River system**. Learn more at www.saginawbaysturgeon.org

Center for Great Lakes Literacy - MISG Extension provides leadership for the Center for Great Lakes Literacy (CGLL), a collaborative effort led by Sea Grant educators throughout the Great Lakes watershed. CGLL engages and inspires teachers, scientists, and students to promote improved stewardship of our shared freshwater treasure. A Great Lakes literate person is someone who understands, appreciates, shares about, and helps to protect the Great Lakes resources and the watersheds that feed them.

Twenty educators from across Michigan participated in the 2023 Lake Huron Place-Based Education Summer Teacher Institute hosted in Au Gres. The 2023 institute focused on climate change and green infrastructure in the Great Lakes as both an issue and a student stewardship opportunity.

To support their implementation of a place-based education project, each educator – including one from Midland County – received a \$500 project stipend with support from CGLL and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative network and its leadership partners also supported the Summer Institute.

www.michiganseagrant.org



Program



Professional development webinars were held for Bay childcare providers in partnership with the Great Start to Quality Eastern Resource Center. Five webinars were held with 48 providers attending to receive credit for professional development hours. Staff worked directly with Bay County Head start to provide workshops for enrolled parents and caregivers. Presentations included topics such as “What Children Need to Know to Start School” and “Essential Skills for learning and Life.” Nearly 50 parents and caregivers attended these virtual events. Child and Family Development team staff presented 2 sessions at the NEMCSA Annual Meetings on “The Importance of Fathers to Early Childhood Development” and “The Mindful Father” serving nearly 200 early childhood professionals.

As of December 2023, Teresa Crook is one of the newest members of the [Michigan State University Extension](#) team. She will



serve as a Field Crops Agronomy Educator serving the Saginaw Valley and Thumb region. Crook’s office is located at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Originally from southern

Illinois, Crook attended the University of Illinois: Champaign-Urbana for her bachelor’s degree in agricultural economics with additional classes in agronomy. Her formal education was completed by her master’s degree from Michigan State University in weed science under the direction of Karen Renner. As a result of her research, her love of plants became firmly cemented.

If you have any questions concerning field crops or nutrient management or have ideas for how MSU Extension can better serve you, please feel free to contact Crook at 989-652-3552. Crook said, “I’m looking forward to this next career chapter and helping to serve producers in my new role.”

Highlights

Child and Family Development

Early Childhood

The MSU Extension Child and Family Development Team offers programs and services that support families in a variety of ways. From helping parents and caregivers increase early childhood science, math, preliteracy, and social and emotional skills in young children to developing critical life skills and healthy behaviors in youth of all ages, MSU Extension works to ensure Michigan’s families are stronger and children are prepared to excel in school and life.

With the Family Enrichment Program (FES),

Extension Staff from the Children and Youth Institute and the Healthy Nutrition Institute come together to offer a six-week parent and family series combining “Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting” with “Healthy Foods, Healthy Families”. The “Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting” curriculum focuses on key parenting strategies such as: creating family routines, developing emotional control in children, becoming calm and assertive parents, establishing consistent rules and relationships, helping children learn from their mistakes, and developing empathy. The “Healthy Foods, Healthy Families” curriculum teaches parents how to prepare and shop sensibly for healthy meals on a budget, how to identify different food groups and why our bodies need a variety of foods, and discuss the importance of proper nutrition on a young child’s development, body, and mind. A major aspect of the FES program is emphasizing habits, routines, and traditions by helping parents and caregivers create a secure and safe foundation for their children in this ever-changing world.

Music and movement playgroups are part of a child’s healthy appreciation for sound identification, physical coordination, and social/emotional development. Skills gained during a structured class help with later math, reading, and overall learning success. Families attend weekly sessions consisting of hour-long learning to listen to culturally interesting music while dancing and playing a variety of child-sized instruments. Participation in experiences like this helps young children gain exposure to, and knowledge of, basic principles in rhythm/rhyme, patterns, and gross motor coordination which all contribute to healthy development and foundational building blocks to reading and math.

Parents, caregivers, and early childcare

professionals have access to virtual series/classes and one-time presentations on topics such as parent communication, building early emotional skills, positive discipline, developing early literacy skills, math, and early childhood, promoting social-emotional health, building tools for the resilient child, and preparing young children to start school. The virtual classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with professional development classes held on Friday afternoons. Virtual series are held no less than twice a month rotating evenings, afternoons, and mornings throughout the year.

Extension Providing 4H Youth Development



Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides more than 200,000 young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion.

Bay County 4-H partnered with two Health Teachers at Bay City Western High School to provide the curriculum, "Your Thoughts Matter." Lessons focused on Defining Mental Health, Knowing the Numbers, Anxiety, Depression, Body Image, and Media Messages. 120 Freshman and Sophomore students participated.

Mock Job Interviews to help guide and provide resources for upcoming job interviews were held at Bay City Academy and Western High School. A total of 220 high school students participated in this event.

Financial Literacy programs were offered to 9th and/or 10th graders at the following schools; Bay City Central High School, John Glen, Garber High School, Bay-Arenac Community High School, and Pinconning High School and reached over 900 students. Students get a taste of the adult world with hands-on budget simulation, complete with jobs, income, family, and debt. This allows participants to make mistakes, and suffer the consequences of their decisions, in a realistic, safe environment. It's a great way to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to have actual employees of our community speak with the students.

MacGregory Elementary participated in a Literacy Family Engagement Night. Bay County 4H brought in 10 different literacy activities for the 123 participants and every student received a free book.

Hampton Elementary School partnered with Bay County 4H to host family engagement nights occur monthly for the entire school year. Slime Night was the most successful night so far where 150 people participated. Other topics included Thankful Night and Craft Night.

Bay City Academy participated in the 4-H Mindful Me curriculum to their Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students. Every lesson a story is read to the students and they do a hands-on activity. Programming was provided to 120 students during a 7-week curriculum.

Hampton Elementary School began a bi-monthly programming with 2nd graders. The first lesson was about Landforms and students created a landform booklet that they can use when the teacher starts their classroom lesson. Students also learned the Three States of Matter in another lesson. A total of 75 students participated.

Embryology programming was provided to 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades at the Bay City Academy. Embryology is a 21-day hatching time and lessons were provided once a week for five weeks. Most of the students have never been around a chicken before so it was an amazing experience for all of them. A total of 120 students were reached with this program.



Bay County 4H has a partnership with Pinconning Boys & Girls Club. The 4H Program Coordinator, Holly Mueller, brings in crafts, mindfulness activities, animals, etc. The participants can request activities of whatever they are interested in. Recently, participants planted garden boxes and learned about seeds and how to properly germinate them, spacing of seeds and when to water.

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"Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg - Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the university resides on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize Michigan's 12 federally recognized Native Nations, historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history and experiences."