

# Crawford County 2023 Annual Report

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**132** PROGRAMS  
ATTENDED BY  
CRAWFORD COUNTY  
RESIDENTS

**26** SOIL SAMPLES FROM  
CRAWFORD COUNTY  
PROCESSED

**70** HEALTH & WELLNESS  
PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS

**13** RESIDENTS ATTENDED  
FOOD SAFETY  
PROGRAMS

**215** RESIDENTS SERVED  
BY SNAP-ED

**226** NATURAL RESOURCES  
PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS

**40** AGRICULTURE  
PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS

**38** YOUTHS ENROLLED IN  
4-H

**703**

**TOTAL CRAWFORD COUNTY  
RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN  
MSU EXTENSION PROGRAMMING  
IN 2023**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

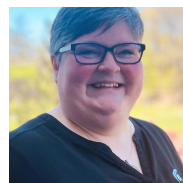
This annual report is a summary of the work that MSU Extension has done in Crawford County to help people improve their lives through an educational process that brings the vast knowledge and resources of Michigan State University to local communities in northeast Michigan.

In the following pages, you will discover the stories of progress, resilience, and empowerment that have defined our engagement with individuals, families, and organizations across District 4. From cultivating sustainable agriculture practices to nurturing the potential of our youth through 4-H programs, each achievement is a testament to the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of our communities.

We could not do this work without local partners in community government, local volunteers and supporters, or people who turn to us for the information and education that we provide. Please continue to use us as a resource for information and ask us questions.

Thank you for your support in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,



**Julie Darnton**  
District 4 Director



More than 322,000 people in Michigan visited our website last year. You may want to look here too!

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

The agriculture industry is developing and growing, contributing more than \$104.7 billion annually to Michigan's economy. MSU Extension works to increase farm success through workforce development opportunities, protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets, and advancing agriculture through applied research. In 2023, **62** residents from Crawford County participated in agriculture and agribusiness programs.

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

In partnership with MDARD, DNR, USDA-Wildlife Services and MDHHS, **20** participants joined in-person in Grayling, as well as online to discuss how to best proceed toward the state's goal of eradicating Bovine TB.



Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious bacterial disease that poses a threat to livestock health and agriculture, and can also have public health implications due to the potential transmission to humans through consumption of unpasteurized dairy products or close contact with infected animals including deer. Control measures include testing and culling infected deer. Infected deer numbers are not high, but testing in 2022 positively identified infected deer in Crawford, Iosco, and Ogemaw Counties.

## STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. In 2023, **226** Crawford County residents participated in natural resources programs including MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring program, Michigan Conservation Stewards, Forest Management 101, nature walks, and more.



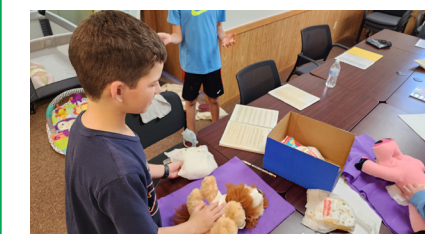
As leadership partners of the Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, MSU Extension and Michigan Sea Grant supported local schools in fielding place-based stewardship education projects. In 2023, **175 students and 2 teachers** from Crawford County were engaged in Great Lakes and natural resources stewardship programs.



In partnership with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory team of research-based scientists, **12 Crawford County residents** joined 23 other members of the Kirtland Garden Club to learn about Mason bees.



The Tractor Supply Company Spring 2023 campaign raised **\$725** to support 4-H in Crawford County.



**13** youths participated in 4-H Babysitting courses in 2023.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



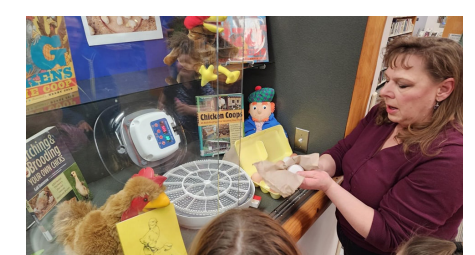
Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. While learning about the world around them, youth gain valuable life skills such as responsibility, citizenship, teamwork, and problem solving. In 2023, **279** Crawford County youth participated in **34** programs.

## HELPING YOUTH FIND BELONGING

4-H Exploration Days is a pre-college program for youth ages 12-19 from across the state of Michigan designed to allow youths to try new things, gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning, and make friendships that can last a lifetime. The 2023 4-H Exploration Days theme was around belonging and all the ways that youth can and do belong. **22** Crawford County youths attended 4-H Exploration Days in 2023.



In partnership with Devereaux Memorial Crawford County Library, **23** Crawford County youths participated in 4-H at the Library, where they learned about coding, creative writing, embryology, and more.



MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

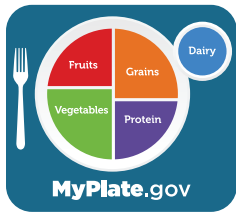




# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION

Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families, and children gain crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increase their daily activity, and improve their food security. In 2023, **70** Crawford County residents participated in **23** health and nutrition programs.



### SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits for people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, individuals, and families how to make health a priority. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that SNAP-eligible persons will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA food guidance. In 2023, **215** Crawford County residents participated in **17** SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Healthy Be Active, Teen Cuisine, Cooking Matters and Cooking for One.

### SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

As a result of MSU Extension's social-emotional programming, **59** Crawford residents learned how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families' and communities' understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **16** programs including Matter of Balance, Begin with a Breath, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention.

## Senior Project FRESH

Market Fresh Food

### SENIOR PROJECT FRESH

Senior Project FRESH, which is part of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Bill, is a program aimed at older adults, to help them incorporate more fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. The program was created to benefit the restricted income senior and as a secondary benefit to the Michigan farmer. Senior Project FRESH provides participants free nutrition counseling and \$20 in coupons that can be exchanged for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy snacks sold at local farmers markets and roadside stands. **89** Crawford residents participated in Senior Project FRESH classes in 2023.

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