

Message from the District Director



Michigan State University Extension continues to work for Isabella 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

Isabella County Staff

- Nonie Gross - Office Manager
- Monica Jean - Field Crops Educator
- Kara Lynch - Food Safety Educator
- Sabrina McGee - Community Nutrition Instructor
- Misty Oebel - Health and Farm Stress Educator
- Kristi Schreiber - 4-H Program Coordinator

Contact Information

200 N. Main St.
3rd Floor Room 340
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
www.msue.msu.edu

msue.isabella@county.msu.edu



30



PARTENSHIPS WITH MSU EXTENSION AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

SNAP-Ed

1,122 Residents served in SNAP-Ed Programming.



A past participant from Isabella County saw her nutrition instructor and shared that she had lost over 20 pounds since she took the nutrition class. She was so thankful for the classes (Eat Healthy Be Active) that gave her the tools to be successful.

154

Extension programs held in the county

(up 51% 2021 to 2022)

2,525

People attended programs held in the county

(up 36% 2021 to 2022)

3,126

Number of residents from county that attended MSU

Extension programs

(up 26% 2021 to 2022)



REPORTING

213
Volunteers

174
Volunteer hours logged

34,250

Facebook page views

522

Youth enrolled in county 4-H

1,122

Youth Participants



18 USC 707

Staff Success Stories

Plant Science Educator Dixie Sandborn, with help from Isabella County 4-H Program Coordinator Kristi Schreiber, presented a wonderful program on the history of the cacao plant, the value of chocolate (so exceptional it was once used as currency), how it started as a beverage and how it later morphed into the chocolate we love to eat today. Participants were provided with fun lessons and activities, the favorite being able to taste ten varieties of chocolate with varying degrees of sweetness. They commented that this was one of the best workshops they had experienced and many asked for a Chocolate "2" workshop.

"This workshop was a super success and everyone loved it! We need to do another workshop with chocolate, maybe a chocolate 2 workshop?"

- Evergreen 4-H Club administrative leader



Kristi Schreiber,
4-H Program Coordinator

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."

Sabrina McGee,
Community Nutrition Instructor



In 2022, McGee taught Teen Cuisine, a hands-on cooking program that teaches students in grades 6-12 important life skills for eating smart. This class was a group of at-risk teens from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

A comment from one of the teens:

"Dear Sabrina, thank you for teaching me now to make some of my favorite things healthier. I am going to miss our time together. I learned a lot from you."

Farm Crisis Preparedness



Cora Okkema, M.S.,
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 Isabella 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 Isabella 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:

"I just wanted to follow up and say thank you again for the information you and your colleague presented in the Homebuyer Education class. The information I learned is unmeasurable and the HBE (Home Buyer Education) should be a mandatory class for all first time homebuyers."

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, Isabella 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 Dog Showmanship

82
participants
March through July,
2022

With 4-H Companion Animals programs, 4-H youth explore veterinary and animal science by engaging in projects with their pet and learning to feed, train and care for the animal.

"I am so excited about getting this partnership up and running in 4-H. What a great opportunity for youth and families in Michigan. This could be a fantastic way to contribute to communities by having youth and families start the fundamental training with potential Leader Dogs."

*-4-H State Dog
Committee Member*

