

Message from the District Director



Michigan State University Extension continues to work for Missaukee 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

Missaukee County Staff

Susan Beerens, 4-H Program Coordinator
 Judy Brinks, Office Manager
 Anna Kahmark, Community Nutrition Instructor
 Bill Lindberg, Christmas Tree Educator

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SNAP-Ed



12
 residents served
 in SNAP-Ed
 Programming.

Senior Project Fresh was offered as one time presentations nine different times in the county serving 68 adults.

Senior Project FRESH provides participants \$25 in coupons that can be exchanged for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods sold at local farmers' markets and roadside stands.

"Because of this class I made a list of goals for myself, to include making a menu, eating more colors, to move more and drink more water."
 – Program Participant

25
 Extension programs held in the county
(up 212% since 2021)

295
 People attended programs held in the county

491
 Number of residents from county that attended MSU
 Extension programs
(up 129% since 2021)

REPORTING

10,076

4-H Facebook page views

52

Youth enrolled
 in county 4-H



10

Volunteers

Staff Success Stories

Lindberg is an MSU Extension Christmas tree educator serving Christmas tree producers in Missaukee County and throughout the state. Christmas tree online courses, related Zoom webinar series and the new Introduction to Growing Christmas trees online course all reach out-of-state and some international audiences.



**Bill Lindberg,
Christmas Tree Educator**

"Not only did your advice and guidance save us a good deal of money on fertilizer this year, we also may have just stopped a slow-motion trainwreck with our trees' health. It will likely take a few years to correct this issue, but at least we now know that we are on the right track. Thanks for all your help."

– Program Participant

**Kara
Lynch,
Food
Safety
Educator**



Lynch is a Registered Dietitian works for Michigan State University Extension as a Food Safety Educator. In this role, Kara provides valuable educational programs, available to Missaukee County residents, 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."

**Teagen Lefere,
Financial
Homeownership
Instructor**



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

**Cora
Okkema,
Dairy
Educator**



A farm crisis is an event that seriously disrupts the farm. Crisis preparedness is an often-overlooked area of farm risk management; yet the risk here is loss of reputation and potentially, loss of market.

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

**Anna Kahmark,
Community
Nutrition
Instructor**



Kahmark works within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. She works directly with local organizations from schools to senior centers to provide nutrition education.

Below is a participant comment from the Eat Healthy, Be Active workshop:

"I can't purchase groceries anymore without checking the nutrition facts label and reading the ingredients."



Susan Beerens
4-H Program
Coordinator

4-H Program Coordinators provide leadership and oversight for growth and management of local 4-H programs, volunteers, and youth participants. Beerens' mission as the program coordinator is to create opportunities and programs for youth in Missaukee County. Ingrained in Beerens' commitment to expanding youth development opportunities in her community is establishing a strong foundation built on trust and positivity.

"[Beerens] brings community connections and as a 4-H alumni, knowledge of 4-H youth programs. In addition, she has energy and some great ideas to help reach diverse audiences in Missaukee County."

- Michelle Neff, MSU Extension Supervising Educator

4-H & Conservation Workshops

Missaukee and Wexford County 4-H were approached by Consumers Energy's Green Team to hold a community service event to help support the wildlife of the area by building bluebird nest boxes for the Missaukee Conservation District. Both 4-H Coordinators made a joint effort to obtain a monetary donation from Consumers Energy to purchase supplies for 4-H'ers to build the boxes. Home Depot (Cadillac) was kind enough to give a discount on materials, as prices nearly doubled during the planning of the event. They even delivered them. Agriscience and natural resources students at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center cut the materials and provided a workspace for the event.

The two 4-H clubs that participated in the event combined their efforts to build eight bluebird nest boxes that were then donated to the conservation district in an effort to further support wildlife education and habitat.



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, Missaukee 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.