****

**Ray Hammerschmidt**

MSU Extension   
Interim Director

Ray Hammerschmidt is the interim director of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. He provides leadership to an organization that has staff and faculty both on campus and across the state with an annual budget of more than $75 million. For more than 100 years, MSU Extension has helped grow Michigan’s economy by equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to do their jobs better, raise healthy and safe families, build their communities and empower their children to dream of a successful future.

Dr. Hammerschmidt received a B.S. in biochemistry from the School of Agriculture at Purdue University in 1974. From there, he became interested in plant pathology, and in 1976, he earned a master’s degree in plant pathology from Purdue. In 1980, he received a Ph.D. in plant disease resistance from the University of Kentucky

Also in 1980, Dr. Hammerschmidt received a research and teaching appointment at MSU conducting fundamental and applied research on potato diseases. It was through the “applied” work that he became involved with MSU Extension, talking to growers, and working closely with specialists to become familiar with MSU Extension’s role. He has taught many courses and has been involved with the Diagnostics Services lab and Project GREEEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs). For nearly 13 years, he was chair of the Plant Pathology Department. He also directs the North Central Region part of the USDA-funded National Plant Diagnostic Network.

Ray and his wife, Pat, have two children, Eric and Sara, and a granddaughter.

~~~~~