Message from the District Coordinator

MSU Extension (MSUE) staff strive to provide programming that has a positive impact on the citizens of Kent County while making the best use of the local, state, and federal funds that have been generously provided for the completion of this work. I wish I could effectively share in this report the smiles on faces as light bulbs go off with youth and adults who participate in MSUE programs.

Extension educators and program staff continue to look for ways to streamline program delivery systems to make our programs accessible for all county residents. Advancements in technology have enabled MSUE to provide access to programs and resources in a more timely and efficient manner. Still, our presence in county offices across the state allows us to remain connected to the communities we serve, which gives us a better understanding of local programmatic needs.

This report is intended to provide an overview of the wide array of programming opportunities that have been provided to the residents of Kent County over the last year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension programs in Kent County.

Betty Blase
District 7 Coordinator
Apples

Tree fruit educators from MSU Extension in West Michigan hold meetings during the year for producers. One type is the weekly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) update for producers and industry support people such as pesticide and fertilizer retailers and pest scouts.

Amy Irish-Brown, MSUE Tree Fruit Senior Educator and Phil Schwallier, MSUE District Tree Fruit Educator, coordinate meetings from early April through mid-July, 20 to 25 meetings per growing season. Meetings are held on the Ridge and in the Belding area, beginning at 7 AM and ending by 8:30 AM. Attendance ranges from 80 to just over 100 per week.

Information is packed into these meetings to prepare industry people with information for decision-making the next week. Little time is spent talking about what happened the previous week; focus is on potential issues to address in the near future. This helps growers preempt major issues rather than reacting, helping them produce a higher value fresh market crop. The focus crop is apples which account for over 95% of tree fruit acreage in the greater Grand Rapids production region, but management aspects for cherries, peaches, plums and other tree fruit crops are covered as necessary.

PowerPoint presentations are created each week with handouts covering topics like:

- Weather outlooks and degree day summary; relative season correlation (are we ahead or behind a “normal” average growing season)
- Rainfall totals and needs for irrigation
- Various tree fruit insect development models and management guidelines
- Various disease development models and management suggestions
- Horticultural tasks related to crop stage - pruning, crop load management, fertilization

These have been held for over 30 years, with content changing to meet each season’s unique challenges. Their value is shown by participant survey responses:

- 92% of participants said these meetings save them money in their farming business. Average estimated savings was $6,838 per farm. Using the average number of 60 growers who attend each week, this per-year savings is $410,250 due to proper timing of spray applications covered in the IPM meetings.
- 95% feel their yield and quality is better as a result of the information received
- 85% said that the information presented by MSU Extension at these meetings is unique and available nowhere else
- 95% of growers indicated that monitoring of apple scab spore development by MSU Extension is very important to their pest management decision making.

http://apples.msu.edu/index.htm
Food Safety Modernization Act

With the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) signed into law in 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began regulation of fresh produce production for the very first time. Most inspectors have not ever been on a farm, let alone understand that a farm is different from a manufacturing facility. The tendency for most inspectors, therefore, is to evaluate farms based on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) instead of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). ‘Farm sensitivity’ training for FDA’s Consumer Safety Officers (CSOs) is the only way to really prepare CSOs for their role as enforcers of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

What has been done? In the spring of 2013 Michigan State University Extension was contacted by the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security to collaborate on a training to be held in Grand Rapids for FDA CSOs who work in outbreak investigation. MSUE worked with grower contacts and with Michigan Ag-Bio-Research staff to design a two-day field experience to expose CSOs to Midwest fruit and vegetable production and harvesting.

In addition, MSUE staff worked as part of the training cadre to facilitate groups of CSOs as they worked through exercises. Though the focus of the training was outbreak inspection, the CSOs involved will also be responsible for enforcement of FSMA.

Results/Impact? In all, 25 CSOs and Department of Agriculture officials from various states participated. Though it is too soon to report the long-term impact of the program, anecdotally only five of the participants had been on farms at the start of the training and only one had worked on a farm. After the training, all participants had visited a farm, spoken with several farmers and had a much clearer understanding of the risks of farming to food safety.

For more information, contact MSU Extension educators Carlos Garcia-Salazar or Phil Tocco.
Spotted Wing Drosophila

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is becoming the most damaging pest for Michigan’s small fruit crops like blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. Evaluation by MSUE staff on the impact of this pest on all small fruits conducted at the end of 2012 indicated that losses reached 29 million dollars just because of fruit losses and downgrading of fruit loads. The main reason for this economic impact was lack of awareness of the presence of the pest on the grower’s field, or difficulties identifying it in time to control the pest before it caused extensive damage.

In response to the extensive damage caused by the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) to berry crops during the 2012 season, MSU Extension provided three in-depth workshops on the SWD biology, monitoring and identification to prepare growers and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practitioners to manage this pest during the 2013 fruit-growing season. The purpose of the training was to provide growers with the much needed training for them to make informed IPM decisions on when to control the insect. Workshops included classroom and hands-on training sessions conducted around the main small fruit growing area in West Michigan.

The first workshop was on March 7 at the MSU Trevor Nichols Research Center in Fennville, MI. The second was on April 11 at the Ottawa County Fillmore Complex at West Olive, MI, and the third workshop was on May 2, 2013 at the Lake Michigan Collage, South Haven Campus in South Haven, MI.

In total, the number of growers trained under this program was 86 including eight growers from Kent.
Nursery Growers Stay Up-to-Date with New Techniques for Plant Production

MSU Extension Senior Educator, Thomas Dudek, develops timely educational programs for nursery growers across West Michigan. Kent County ranks #3 in Michigan in value of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod with over 63 million dollars in sales according to the USDA Census of Agriculture in 2007.

During 2013, Dudek partnered with Dr. Hannah Mathers of The Ohio State University to offer an in-depth one-day weed control workshop in West Olive, Michigan. Ten Kent County nursery growers attended and learned about newly labeled herbicides that would solve stubborn weed problems in nursery crops. In addition, information on avoiding herbicide resistance was discussed. This helps nurserymen reduce the risk of having problem weeds develop tolerances to herbicides thus increasing labor costs for hand hoeing. Also, workshop attendees learned how to improve their weed sprayer’s coverage by proper calibration techniques and using some relatively new nozzle types that give better coverage.

Kent County nursery growers also routinely attend the Summer Nursery Discussions held by Dudek. These hour and a half programs highlight the latest Michigan State University research targeted to the nursery industry. In 2013, Dr. Bert Cregg and Dr. Tom Fernandez (MSU Department of Horticulture) both shared some new unbiased research activities.

New to the industry, Radio Frequency Identification technology assists in plant inventory management and traceability in the nursery and throughout the supply chain. “This is very new cutting edge technology for nurseries we hope to adopt here in Michigan”, states Dr. Fernandez.

Dr. Cregg provided participants new information on:

- eliminating cones on Fraser fir which could help reduce costs associated with hand removal
- data on the Blue Spruce decline issue facing the industry, and
- some new fir species hybridization research.

Along with this, Mr. Dudek regularly updates attendees with the latest disease and insect management information they need at their nursery, all in a one and half hour time frame!
Consumer Horticulture

Science-based gardening, environmental awareness and sustainability are hallmarks of MSUE consumer horticulture programs yet these messages were not getting through to the home gardener, according to Dr. David Smitley, MSU Professor of Entomology. This prompted MSU faculty and staff to develop simple messages supported by years of research at Michigan State University centered on smart lawns, soils and plants: “Smart Gardening.”

A crucial part of the Smart Gardening campaign was “taking it to the street”—employing electronic means, appearing at public venues and using print media. During 2013, MSUE consumer horticulture educators and trained volunteers actively engaged clients at three home and garden shows, interfacing with tens of thousands of people representing more than half of the state’s counties. Professional displays where over 36,000 fact sheets were distributed allowed volunteers to dialogue with clients about how to “green” up their lawn and landscape while protecting Michigan’s water and environment.

Educators ramped up the http://migarden.msu.edu/ website to reflect these messages, adding tip sheets, dozens of “smart” news articles and Smart Gardening videos. This website is now the first choice when using a search engine for gardening in Michigan. In 2013, more than 35,000 people visited the website making over 136,000 page views.

Smart Gardening was taken to a higher level during two Smart Gardening conferences held in both the upper and lower peninsulas. Participants got a good look behind-the-scenes at research that drives and reinforces these simple messages.
Smart Garden Apprentice Program

The Smart Garden Apprentice program was developed at Kent/MSU Extension as an intensive, season-long educational series for a classroom of 20 individuals. Participation was limited to those who had already completed the MSU Master Gardener training program to pave the way for elevated levels of instruction.

Students learned about soil health and compaction that can accompany the “built” environment in landscape settings. Using the Grand Ideas Garden as a learning laboratory, they identified and removed invasive plants and learned about pesticide application, sprayer calibration, and safety. Compost piles were built, turned and harvested. Every type of garden plant was explored including woody plants, perennials, annuals and vines.

A focus on water conservation and uniform irrigation required students to measure and evaluate outputs from different watering devices commonly used in a home setting. With a focus on conservation and weed control, different types of mulch were explored, applied and evaluated throughout the growing season. Participants also focused on “smart plants” while installing a new native plant “rain garden” adjacent to the Grand Ideas Garden.

The curriculum was designed to take advantage of a constantly changing environment, with focus on pest outbreaks such as Downy Mildew or Verticillium wilt, and weather that contributed to increased care of plants. Every session had a built in “pest patrol” lab-walk using pest outbreaks in the garden as learning opportunities for students. Several sessions required students to search for and make decisions on control for plant issues.

Field trips were designed into the experience including a day lily farm where students learned about genetics and plant breeding, and a perennial producer where students saw first-hand how large producers implement conservation techniques for energy, water and environment. The field trips were capped off with a visit to Chicago’s internationally known Botanic Gardens where horticulturist Richard Hawke led the group through the plant evaluation trials and green roof educational exhibit.

Evaluation

67% of students said the ten sessions exceeded their expectations. The design of the program (spanning 22 weeks, meeting every other week) provided students the opportunity to be in a cumulative learning environment that built on messaging and actions shared during previous weeks. Students said the field trips not only reinforced curriculum but demonstrated some of the techniques being taught on a “grand” scale.

For more information, contact Rebecca Finneran, Consumer Horticulture Educator
The goal of the Kent County Farmland Preservation program is to create a long-term environment for agricultural production. The Purchase of Development Rights program is an economic development tool to retain agricultural businesses. This voluntary program compensates owners of agricultural property for accepting a permanent deed restriction on their land limiting future development of the land for non-agricultural purposes.

Kent County is home to some of the most prime, unique fruit growing lands in the nation. The county is the fifth largest producer in Michigan of agricultural products, supplying some of the state’s leading food processing facilities including Gerber, Zeeland Farm Services, Country Fresh, Kellogg’s, King Milling, Michigan Turkey Producers, and Yoplait.

Two farms totaling 114 acres were permanently preserved in 2013. Total cost of preserving these farms was approximately $295,600 or $2,593 per acre. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the total cost of preserving these four farms was contributed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program, 16% from Kent County, and 48% from private sources.

The Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board is working to preserve two more farms in 2014 totaling 196 acres. Once these farms are preserved, this will bring the total acreage of prime and unique farmland preserved through the Kent County Program Development Rights (PDR) Program to almost 2,600 acres since 2003 when the program was created. The Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board will be submitting a grant application to the USDA NRCS’s Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to seek 39% of matching funds toward the total cost. The Agriculture Preservation Board has submitted a proposal to the Wege Foundation to assist with funding a portion of the 2014 project as well.
During the 2013 Kent County Youth Fair, MSU Extension educator Glenda Kilpatrick had an opportunity to speak with Barb Roth, mother of one of our Kent County 4-H members, Diana. During the course of the conversation, Mrs. Roth explained to Kilpatrick how participation in the 4-H Youth Development program had helped her daughter successfully face a challenge. Here’s how Kilpatrick relates the conversation:

“In 2012, twelve-year-old Diana entered chicken showmanship in the Kent County Youth Fair for the first time. She finished near the bottom of the class. As Diana walked out of the ring, she told her mother, “That will never happen again.” Her mother thought Diana would never enter competition again. But that was not the case.

Diana went home and studied. She looked up information on the internet. She checked out the National Poultry Standard of Perfection from the MSU Extension office and studied it. She sought out older youth that were experienced poultry showmen, and set up lessons with them. She had her mother quiz her on chicken parts and diseases while they drove in the car.

Fast forward to the 2013 Kent County Youth Fair Poultry Showmanship contest. Diana won her age class, and returned to the championship. Diana also earned the reserve champion poultry showman award this year, which is across all age classes.

Why do I feel this is a success? Diana developed several life skills through this experience:

- She realized she had a problem and developed solutions to solve it (problem solving.)
- She set goals for herself, and learned how to find and apply knowledge.
- Finally, she demonstrated resiliency by not quitting, even when she was disappointed in herself.

The ribbons may fade, but the lessons learned by Diana will help mold her adult life.”

Diana on the left, her mom Barb Roth on the right.
Taken at the 2013 Kent County Youth Fair.
4-H riding program wins awards for making a difference

The Kent Special Riding Program (KSRP) was honored as nonprofit of the year at the WGVU Engage I HAVE Made a Difference awards ceremony November 8 at the Seidman Center on the downtown campus of Grand Valley State University. The award recognizes an organization that demonstrates overall excellence and conducts a superior level of service to the community by helping their constituency.

WGVU Public Media, a PBS member station, honors local individuals and organizations dedicated to helping the community and all its citizens to reach their best potential by presenting these awards. The awards, offered in eight categories, are part of a national program for PBS stations that recognizes excellence in the local nonprofit community.

The KSRP was also a finalist in the health category, which recognizes an individual or an organization with exemplary health, safety and environmental community initiatives and programs that have made the community a better, healthier place.

The KSRP is a member of the Kent County 4-H and is part of the Michigan State University Extension program. It has just wrapped up its 37th year in providing therapeutic and recreational horseback riding instruction to individuals living in Kent and surrounding counties who are physically, mentally and emotionally challenged. The program strives to maximize the potential of all individuals involved in the program in a safe and stimulating environment. Congratulations to everyone associated with the Kent Special Riding Program!

Kent Special Riding Program (KSRP) instructors Amy Plets (left) and Jackie Foster accept KSRP’s WGVU Engage I HAVE Made a Difference award for nonprofit of the year, Nov. 8, 2013, at Grand Valley State University
MSU Extension at the Downtown Market

The focus of work in the Greening Michigan Institute is on leveraging natural and human assets for prosperity. One area of that work is in community food systems. MSU Extension educators Kendra Wills and Garrett Ziegler work to connect local food producers to local markets in order to increase the amount of Michigan grown and processed foods consumed by Michigan residents. In 2013, this work was enhanced by their move to the Downtown Market in Grand Rapids.

On September 1, Wills and Ziegler officially moved into office space at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market. Diane Smith, innovation counselor from the MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio, joins them one to two days a week.

Their presence at the market is a great opportunity to educate the public and establish relationships with people who produce local food as well as those who buy it. Although market shoppers may not expect to see MSU Extension at the market, when they do see us, they immediately “get it”—we can help them whether it’s in providing nutrition, cooking, food safety or gardening information and education.

Wills and Ziegler were active in the outdoor market from its opening May 4 through the season, promoting the Michigan Fresh campaign and educating about healthy eating, and safe food preparation and preservation.

In addition, MSU Extension staff used the indoor facilities for educational sessions. Health and nutrition educators Jeannie Nichols and Rita Klavinski facilitated a ServSafe class to 23 participants. Nichols also offered a Cooking for Crowds session on Oct. 9 and “Starting a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan” on Nov. 7. Cooking for Crowds is an educational program focusing on food safety for nonprofit groups who prepare food for their members or for the public as fundraisers.

Kent 4-H program coordinators Kristi Bowers and Christine Mickelson have been offering youth programs on Tuesdays at the market as well. This wonderful new venue has provided MSUE staff and Kent County residents more opportunities for education on a wide variety of topics.
Money Management Education

Jinnifer Ortquist, MSU Extension educator for financial and homeownership education, provided education on money management in a variety of formats during 2013. In addition to providing class series to 50 participants at the Kent MSU Extension office, she also provided offsite series at the Salvation Army Booth Family Services - Kindred Transitional Housing Program, and Family Network of Wyoming. Ortquist focused efforts in 2013 on building a broad array of local partners including Lutheran Child and Family Services, the NOW Program, Bethany Christian Services, DA Blodgett/St Johns, UCOM, Catholic Charities West Michigan, and Standale Senior Neighbors, among others.

MSUE electronic digest articles feature pertinent information from hundreds of MSU Extension experts throughout the state, available online at the user’s convenience. Personal finance and homeownership are the topic areas covered by Ortquist. People may sign up to receive an email digest of information tailored to their interests by texting MSUE to 22828 and following the step-by-step instructions, or sign up at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/about/get_involved

In 2013, Ortquist also provided Smart Choice Health Insurance webinars to community members statewide. Smart Choice is a Health Insurance Literacy Program developed by the University of Maryland. This program helps educate participants on a variety of topics related to insurance, including: why insurance is important, understanding needs and wants, how much insurance costs, and how participants can determine what they can afford. To access these webinars visit: https://connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance, click “Guest” and type in a pseudonym to remain anonymous.

MSU Extension also offers on-line, self-directed money management and homebuyer education classes as an agency partner of e-HomeMoney and e-HomeAmerica. For additional financial resources, including educational workshops, please contact Jinnifer Ortquist at: ortquisj@anr.msu.edu
The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and the bio economy.

An MSUE educator with special training as an innovation counselor delivers these services. Business counseling is conducted on a one-to-one basis and may take place at the MSUE office or the client’s home or business location. The assistance provided is tailored to meet the needs of the client and may include things like:

- developing a business plan
- navigating the regulatory maze
- accessing the supply chain, or
- seeking funding options

The educator also assists clients in accessing specialized services they may need that are offered through Michigan State University like feasibility studies, nutritional labeling and packaging assistance.

In Kent County, 434 counseling sessions took place over the past year to assist local entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. Eleven new jobs were created and 13 jobs were retained. $762,750 of new sales was reported by clients.

The Gluten Free Bar, a company located in Ada, received the 2013 MSU Product Center’s Start-Up to Watch Award. This award is given to a MSU Product Center client who has demonstrated exceptional growth as a new company with continued potential to grow the business. The Gluten Free Bar was launched in 2010 and today is sold in over 650 stores in the Midwest. The products are in national distribution through eight distributors and the company is experiencing a 300% compounded annual growth rate.

The Meijer Made in Michigan program, launched in 2012 in collaboration with the MSU Product Center, expanded in 2013 with 55 MSU Product Center client products being offered in a special section at all 102 Michigan Meijer stores. Annual sales generated by the program are $1 million. The partnership between MSUE and the MSU Product Center is providing support for entrepreneurs in creating economic development across the state.
Nutrition and physical activity for adults:

During 2013 in Kent County, the MSUE adult nutrition education programs continued their work with agencies that routinely serve large numbers of individuals who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. We work with agency partners like Guiding Light Ministries, Goodwill Industries, Gerald R. Ford Job Corps, and Senior Meals to ensure that their participants have the opportunity to receive nutrition education that can help them and their families eat healthier on a budget.

We continue as the nutrition education provider for the culinary arts and the health occupations programs at Job Corps. Our staff provide the nutrition education part of the wellness program at Guiding Light, as well as for all the adults entering Goodwill’s Achieve program. MSU Extension also reaches over a thousand seniors annually by providing the education component for Senior Project Fresh—a program that puts fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers into the hands of low income seniors. In 2013, our programming added a partnership with MOKA, a non-profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities in West Michigan.

Nutrition and physical activity for youth:

Our long-standing partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools continues with nutrition in classrooms and in after-school programs, and through their Kent Vocational Options and Community Based Occupational Training program for adults 18-26 with developmental disabilities. Our nutrition lessons are adapted to fit the educational needs of each individual classroom and provide many hands-on learning activities to reinforce the concepts.

Several new partnerships were begun in 2013:

- St. John’s Home—we have taught nutrition and life skills to several different age groups of youth, helping them to learn about why healthy food is important, and how they can prepare simple dishes.
- Camp Blodgett’s program that takes inner-city youth to the lakeshore. One of our instructors worked with a group of 25-30 youth, teaching them nutrition in a series of classes embedded in their summer camp experience.
MSUE educator Holly Tiret talks about the work she has done with youth in Kent County Juvenile Detention:

“In 2013, I taught young people at the Kent County Juvenile Detention summer program. Week one, we go through a Michigan State University Extension Program called RELAX: Alternatives to Anger. The second two weeks we focus on an evidence-based program from Hazelden called Safe DATES: An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum. Both programs emphasize emotional competence, self-regulation and good communication skills – all part of healthy relationships between people.

From the outside, you may think that these kids are all bad apples, lost causes, all destined on a path straight to jail or the morgue. However, even after only three weeks with them I have learned to see them through a different lens. Now I realize that my view is limited. I have no clue why any of them are in the program, and really don’t care to know.

What I do know is that this experience has taught me more about myself, life, family, hope and the importance of unconditional love than I could ever teach them. I’ve learned to be cautious of my own biases. We all make mistakes in life. Some make bigger mistakes than others. We all need to have a connection to some type of family; someone who loves us unconditionally. These young folks seemed to be starving for this type of love. I found that it’s not a matter of them not having unconditional love, but maybe it’s more that they are not recognizing love for what it is.

One lesson during the “RELAX: Alternatives to Anger” program can help them begin to see what unconditional love looks like in their own lives. The lesson focuses on learning to listen to someone who is angry. I ask them to think about the last time their mom or dad was really mad at them or yelling at them for something. I ask them to think about how hard it is to listen to someone who is angry. I suggest that they should try to focus on the feelings underneath the words. Some of the feeling words they came up with were worried, disappointed, frustrated, disrespected, and sad. All of these feelings are born out of the unconditional love parents have for their children when they mess up.

My job while I am there, is to teach to the core of the good person they could potentially be, not who they are at the moment. I choose to view their current circumstance as a temporary bump in the road, because for some, maybe even one, it might be just that. History is filled to the brim with examples of people who have achieved great things while overcoming very difficult life circumstances.”
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<th><strong>STAFF DIRECTORY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Administration:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Blase-District Coordinator, Phone 616-304-7191</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Gutierrez-Administrator</td>
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<td><strong>Educators:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Finneran-Consumer Horticulture, Landscape &amp; Turf</td>
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<td>Amy Irish-Brown-District Fruit</td>
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<td>Glenda Kilpatrick-4-H Youth Development</td>
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<td>Stephanie Marino-Nutrition and Physical Activity</td>
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<td>Jinnifer Orquist-Resource Management</td>
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<td>Holly Tiret-Health &amp; Nutrition, Academic Success</td>
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<td>Kendra Wills-Community &amp; Economic Development</td>
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<td>Garret Zeigler-Community-Based Food Systems</td>
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<td><strong>Program Associates:</strong></td>
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<td>Jane Higley-Nutrition Assistant</td>
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<td>Gloria Martin-Program Instructor</td>
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<td>Amy Prins-Program Instructor</td>
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<td>Deb Shattuck-Nutrition Assistant</td>
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<td>Latoyia Thomas-Nutrition Assistant</td>
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<td>Yesi Velasco-Nutrition Assistant</td>
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<td><strong>Program Coordinators:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristi Bowers-4-H</td>
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<td>Christine Mickelson-4-H</td>
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<td><strong>On-Call:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Brady-Master Gardener Facilitator</td>
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<td>Marcia Lucas-Master Gardener Hotline Team Leader</td>
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<td>Ginny Wanty-Master Naturalist Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Radunzel</td>
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<td>Lynn Vecziedins-MSUE District Support</td>
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<td><strong>Other Extension Educators Serving Kent County:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Conklin-Animal Well Being</td>
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<td>Joanne Davidhizar-Product Center Innovation Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Dudek-Senior District Extension Horticulture &amp; Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Goldy-Upland Vegetables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Gould-Beef/Livestock</td>
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<td>Tom Guthrie-Equine</td>
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### Other Extension Educators Serving Kent County:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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District 7
Kent, Ottawa & Allegan Counties

ENROLLED MICHIGAN STUDENTS
2970

ENROLLED MEDICAL STUDENTS
238

ALUMNI RESIDING IN REGION
22,008

SPENDING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES
$46,300,508

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
$320,713,730*

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED
$28,470,466

4-H YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
17,421

PROPERTY OWNED BY MSU (ACRES)
166

MEDICAL INTERNS/RESIDENTS/FELLOWS
283

MSU PARTNER HOSPITALS
3

*Data is from an independent study by the Anderson Economic Group

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