

Wexford County

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

MSU Extension—serving Wexford County since 1914

Michigan State University Extension continues to be a vital part of Wexford County. As MSUE transforms into a statewide organization, I am awestruck by some of the impact and outcome data that I am seeing. The strength of our organization and our ability to bring the research of the university to the communities we serve is evident in many ways. We are engaged in regional and statewide efforts to assist businesses and individuals to gain economic security, advance their businesses, improve water quality, reduce crop loss, strengthen families, and help people make good decisions about the food they eat. The list is long, but the numbers keep adding up to demonstrate impact across the state and in your county. Here are just a few examples:

- Growers reported that information from MSUE has led to the adoption of new tools and technologies that mitigated environmental impacts of Michigan farm land, reduced pesticide use and decreased fertilizer applications.
- National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker Data for Michigan 4-H program alumni who graduated high school in 2009 to 2012 indicate these students are currently attending college at a significantly higher rate than their same-age Michigan peers.
- Adults and youth report learning about increased fruit and vegetable consumption, reduced serving sizes, and overall increase in physical activity to improve health and reduce obesity after they participated in MSU Extension’s SNAP Ed nutrition programs.

This report will tell you about some of the specific impacts we are having on residents and businesses in Wexford County.

Shari Spoelman, District Coordinator

2012 Program Participation Numbers

4-H Children and Youth Programs (unduplicated)	664
4-H Members (Traditional Club Enrollment)	93
Short Term /Special Interest Participants	204
School Enrichment Programs.....	428
Health & Nutrition Programs (adults).....	667
Agriculture and Agribusiness Programs	58
Greening Michigan Programs	50

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Mission

Michigan State University helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

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JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life-skills.

As the youth development program of the nation's 109 land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension System, 4-H fosters an innovative, "learn by doing" approach with proven results. The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development, a longitudinal study conducted by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at Tufts University, shows youth engaged with 4-H are:

- Nearly two times more likely to get better grades in school;
 - Nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college;
 - 41 percent less likely to engage in risky behaviors; and
 - 25 percent more likely to positively contribute to their families and communities.
- » **Babysitting Clinics**—In 2012, Wexford 4-H teamed up with the Wexford-Missaukee Child Protection Council to deliver babysitting classes to 40 youth in Cadillac and Manton schools. Teaching youth the importance of being prepared and knowing what to do when babysitting young children is an important and popular skill as youth prepare for summer jobs.
 - » **Special Interest Clubs**—4-H collaborated with Mackinaw Trail Middle School in order to provide after-school opportunities for adolescents. Youth expressed interest in varying topics, and adult volunteers ran short-term clubs to meet those needs. Yoga, Robotics, and Geocaching clubs formed. Other interests identified include: Photography, Crafts, and International Studies. We are looking for adults to step forward to lead these clubs.
 - » **Entrepreneurship training**—continued at Cooley Alternative High School. This collaboration has been going on for several years, and each year it just gets better. In 2012 the students participated in more hands-on activities, building their abilities in problem-solving, planning and organizing, communication, and marketable skills. Career exploration was also incorporated into the curriculum for the first time.
 - » **Exploration Days**—12 youth from Missaukee and Wexford county attended Exploration Days (MSU pre-college experience) June 20,21,and 22. Wexford County had 7 participants attend.



Missaukee and Wexford County 4-H worked together during the Northern District Fair with Dog Agility demonstrations, Robotics Club demonstration, and helping to facilitate the Fair Market Livestock Auction.

- » **Hot Topic! Robotics**—continued to draw tremendous interest from youth. They are very excited to learn about ways robots can enhance our lives and how they can put these pieces together and have them accomplish tasks. Problem solving is a critical skill that is hard to teach due to so much information easily obtained directly from the internet; this project area provides a great way for kids to learn and practice this skill in a hands-on manner.
- » **Chicken and Eggs**—Assistance and education was provided to Lincoln Elementary School on a "Miracle of Life" egg incubation project in April, 2012.



4-H Increases College readiness & Success

National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker Data for Michigan 4-H program alumni who graduated high school in 2009 to 2012 indicate these students are currently attending college at a significantly higher rate than their same-age Michigan peers.

- In Wexford and Missaukee Counties, 71.4% of youth who graduated high school and had been involved with 4-H attended college, compared to 30.6% county-wide.

In 2012, six new 4-H clubs formed in Wexford County serving an additional 70 youth! New 2012 clubs include:

Robotics—Geocaching —Babysitting
Safety Clinic - Bicycling—Photography—
Yoga

Wexford 4-H & Youth Development

4-H Club Members	93
4-H Volunteers (adults)	59
Youth Involved in School Enrichment	428
Youth involved in short term projects	204
Total Youth Served (unduplicated)	664

HEALTH & NUTRITION



Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health issues. Access to high-quality and affordable prevention measures are essential to saving lives, reducing disability, and lowering costs of everyone's medical care.

Michigan ranks 15th nationally for prevalence of diabetes and it ranks fifth nationally for obesity.

Disease Prevention and Management Programs - MSU Extension disease prevention and management education programs helps participants increase their ability to lead a healthy lifestyle that greatly reduces a person's risk for developing chronic disease or improves disease management.

Michigan ranks 15th nationally for prevalence of diabetes and it ranks fifth nationally for obesity. Just over nine percent of Michigan adults have been diagnosed with diabetes – an estimated 701,000 people. An additional 364,400 Michigan adults are estimated to have diabetes but are currently undiagnosed.

Healthcare costs are 2.3 times higher for a person with diabetes as opposed to a person without diabetes. The cost of treating diabetes is expected to triple in Michigan over the next 25 years. It is estimated that the state can save \$545 million spent across all chronic diseases by investing \$10 in preventive care per person, per year.

» **PATH workshop in Wexford County**—In February 2012, MSUE worked with Mercy Hospital PHO to provide a four day PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) “train the trainer” workshops in Wexford County. Nine new PATH leaders were trained. **Results/Impact?** - Statewide PATH Major Results include:

- 31% of participants reported better health at the end of the 6 week series.
- PATH participants had a significant reduction in fatigue symptoms
- Increased amount of physical activity by PATH participants over 6 week series.
- Increased frequency of asking questions related to disease and treatment during healthcare visit (22%),



Community Partners

- Health Department
- Cadillac Schools
- Manton Schools
- Council on Aging
- Love INC
- YMCA
- Youth Build
- Club Cadillac
- Early Head Start

822 people in Wexford County received Nutrition Education from MSU Extension in 2012.

Nutrition Education—MSU Extension provides nutrition education to persons receiving (or eligible to receive) the Food Assistance Program. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education is funded through a statewide grant from the Federal Government (Farm Bill). The SNAP-Ed program plays a vital role in helping to improve nutrition among low-income individuals.



» **Cooking Matters**— This eight week course uses volunteer chefs, cooks, and nutritionists working with MSU Extension's program instructors to help families with limited resources make healthy foods at home with a wide variety of foods available to grocery stores, food pantries, commodity distributions, and farmers markets.

- 3 Cooking Matters classes were held in 2012 in Wexford County – Club Cadillac (NLCMH), Early Head Start parents, and YouthBuild students

» **Healthy Harvest** – This eight week session program's goal is to improve participant's health through their garden. The focus is on helping gardeners get the most out of their gardens, by making healthy choices about fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as eating a rainbow of colors every day.



- 2 Healthy Harvest classes – WiseWomen program participants and YouthBuild (2012-2013 class) students

» **Show Me Nutrition**—This curriculum was taught to 216 students at Franklin Elementary in Cadillac.

Wexford County Nutrition Education Numbers

County	Adult series	Adult OTP	Youth series	Youth OTP	# Sessions	Contacts
Wexford	52	446	216	108	82	2,351

Adult series = 6 – 8 sessions, Youth series = 6 sessions

OTP = One-time presentation, Contact = participants counted each time they attend a session

HEALTH & NUTRITION

- » **WIC Project FRESH** - WIC Project FRESH is a program that makes fresh produce available to low-income, nutritionally-at-risk consumers, through Michigan farmers' markets. Participants are given a booklet of 15 coupons, each worth \$2.00 to be redeemed at local farmer's markets. Used like cash, these coupons are then sent in at the end of each month by a market master and the vendors are reimbursed. 75 counties participated in the program, 1529 farmers provided food and more than 25,500 WIC clients used the coupons across Michigan last year.



Community Nutrition Presentations — Safety Expo, Family Expo (early childhood), YMCA – family night, Wexford County Fair, Breakfast on the Farm

As a result of attending this workshop, participants:	% Agree Wexford County
Will eat more fresh vegetables per day.	96
Will eat more fresh fruits per day.	97
Learned new ways to incorporate more fruits into my meals and snacks.	98
Will buy more fruits & vegetables at local farmers mrkts	87
Learned new ways to incorporate more vegetables into my meals and snacks.	88
Number of groups for county:	14
Redemption rate:	70 %

- » **Senior Project FRESH** - The Senior Project FRESH / Market FRESH program is administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Services to the Aging. In Wexford County, MSU Extension partners with the Council on Aging to provide nutrition education during coupon distribution.

County	# Distributed	# and % Redeemed
Clare	1000	881 - 88.10%
Gladwin	1380	1265 - 91.67%
Isabella	1000	836 - 83.60%
Mecosta	1000	739 - 73.90%
Missaukee	1790	1739 - 97.15%
Osceola	1750	1532 - 87.54%
Wexford	2070	1968 - 95.07%

Food Preservation

- » Residents in Michigan communities have the opportunity to receive high quality Food Preservation education offered by MSU Extension using the United States Department of Agriculture guidelines for safe food preservation. These workshops teach safe food processing and canning techniques to homeowners. In 2012, there were 46 Food Preservation events held statewide reaching 681 people, approximately 40 of them from Wexford County.



According to the Michigan department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Michigan's food and agriculture industry contributes \$91.4 billion annually to the state's economy. It employs 923,000 Michigan residents (nearly 22 percent of people working in Michigan). Michigan leads the nation in the production of 18 commodity crops.

The leading segment of Michigan's agriculture industry is Dairy, providing almost a \$1.8 billion impact to the economy and ranks 8th nationally in milk production. Livestock is close behind with hogs - ranked 13th in the nation in production - generating cash receipts of \$419.1 million annually. Cattle have an annual impact of \$433.7 million.

In Field Crops production, Michigan ranks #1 in black, cranberry, and small red dry beans and #2 in the nation in navy bean production. Sugar Beets - ranked #4 in the nation with an annual indirect economic impact of \$272 million; Soybeans - ranked #12 in the nation with a farm-gate value of \$990 million; Corn - ranked #11 in the nation and adds \$2 billion to the economy.

Horticulture, including nursery plants, Christmas trees and floriculture, is ranked 3rd in the nation in wholesale sales with \$376.1 million. Michigan ranks 1st in the nation in production of Begonia baskets, Easter Lily pots, cut Geraniums, Geranium seeds, Petunia baskets, New Guinea Impatiens baskets, and Impatiens in both flats and baskets.

Agriculture plays a large role both socially and economically in Wexford County. It is estimated that nearly \$7 million comes from the agriculture industry, 43% from crops, and 57% from livestock sales. The main agricultural products produced are Christmas trees, corn, soy and wheat. In the last available agriculture census (2007), there were 371 farms, with an average size of 104 acres.

Restricted Use Pesticide Exam & Prep—Jerry Lindquist coordinated and led the instruction for the Restricted Use Pesticide Exam on Feb. 20, 2012 in Cadillac with over twenty farms and commercial pesticide applicators in attendance from Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford Counties. The course teaches applicator safety, along with proper application techniques including integrated pest management to make the food supply safer and to protect the environment. That afternoon the Michigan Department of Agriculture offered the RUP exam at the same location and a total of 18 took the exam with 16 passing, which will provide them the license to purchase restricted use pesticides for the next three years.

Dairy Nutrition Roundtable—Fourteen agribusiness professionals (dairy nutritionists and veterinarians) serving Missaukee, Mecosta, Osceola and Wexford Counties had the opportunity to participate in a Dairy Nutrition Roundtable in Lake City in December 2012. MSU dairy nutrition professors interacted with dairy nutritionists and veterinarians to informally discuss current issues related to the nutrition and feeding of dairy cattle.

Michigan Crop Rankings

In fruit and vegetable production, Michigan is ranked #1 with tart cherries, producing 60-65% of the U.S. tart cherries.

We are also ranked #1 with Blueberries and Cucumbers (*for Pickling*).

Squash - ranked #2 in the nation

Carrots and Celery - ranked #2 nationally

Apples - ranked #3 in the nation and contributes \$194.7 million to the state.

Asparagus - ranked #3 in the nation and produces 21% of the U.S. asparagus.

Potatoes - ranked #8 in the nation and an annual economic value of \$174 million



Christmas Tree Production and Research—Wexford County has a long history of growing Christmas trees. Over 3,200 acres in the county are dedicated to Christmas Tree production. *The Wexford-Missaukee county area grows nearly a third of the Christmas trees marketed from Michigan each year.* MSU Extension provides support to Christmas Tree growers to help ensure successful harvests. MSU Extension, through research and Extension programs, emphasizes the safe, sustainable and profitable production of Christmas trees and nursery stock.

Jill O'Donnell, Extension Educator worked with Wexford county Christmas tree growers to manage Douglas-fir needle midge, pine needle scale and other pests. Through educational programs and individual assistance that included helping with identification of problem, timing of pesticides, evaluation of pest and fertilizer management programs. These efforts resulted in Wexford growers reporting that they were able to *harvest trees that they would not have been able to without Extension's help. This equated to \$501,600 in increased income.*

» **Manton Research Trials**— In 2012 we had research trials in the Manton area to look at a new herbicide to be used in Christmas tree production. Herbicides can be a tool that growers can use to maximize the production of high quality trees in as few years as possible. Effective use of herbicides contribute to increased survival, more rapid annual growth, less needle-cast disease problems, and generally improved foliage and tree quality. When properly used, herbicides provide benefits not only during initial establishment and growth of the tree but also through the rotation when annual shearing and eventual harvest of the trees is completed.



- » **Farm Safety**—Thirty three area producers learned how to develop or update their farm safety plan through a workshop developed by MSU Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau. This proactive training helps growers understand regulations, assess various risks and provided materials to help them develop a safe work environment for their worker's and family members.
- » **Plant and Disease identification**—Pests can impact farms, forests, gardens, and infest homes. Wexford County MSU Extension helps Christmas tree growers, farmers, landowners and homeowners prevent and control pest damage in ways that are economical, environmentally sound and safe for human health. MSU Extension offers residents a place to bring insect, disease or plant samples in for identification. Each year we complete 200-300 identifications and provide information on the various pests. Some of the more common pest we have brought in are: tomato disease problems, powdery mildew, spiders, rose chafer, emerald ash borer, bed bugs and ticks.
- » **Soil Tests**—Wexford County MSUE provides both commercial agriculture and homeowners access to soil test kits for samples sent to the MSU Soil Lab for analysis and recommendations.

MSU Extension's research and expertise in the Christmas Tree industry resulted in \$.5 million economic benefit as reported by a grower who was able to harvest trees that he otherwise would not have been able to harvest.

Did you know?

Christmas tree sales for this area are estimated at least \$10,000,000.

Education provided by Extension Ground Water Specialist:

- Planting guide for legumes as cover crops
- Cover Crop seed dealer list
- Managing Pests using Cover Crops
- Environmental Benefits of Cover Crops
- Utilizing Cover Crops as Feed Source

Community Food Systems

- » **Cadillac Area Food Systems Network**—Started in 2012, this group of community organizations and individuals are committed to explore and enhance the local food system. The network's goals are to increase access to local, healthy food by joining resources and seeking funds to leverage new and existing initiatives such as community gardens, farm markets, farm-to-school programs, food hubs and environmental enhancements. The Food System Network advocates for food and farming policy that is good for the public (healthy), the environment, the local economy, farmers, and animals. It supports and encourage farming in the region. MSU Extension is a member of the Cadillac Area Food Systems Network

The mission of the Cadillac Area Food Systems Network is to promote the growth, development, distribution and consumption of healthy, locally sourced farm and food products through education, advocacy, collaboration, networking, and concrete actions that improve the health of the community.

Government and Public Policy

- » **Michigan Northern Counties Association:** Bringing county commissioners together from 33 counties in northern lower Michigan to learn about issues important to county government, and to share information and learn from the experiences of others has long been the goal of the Michigan Northern Counties Association (MNCA). Recent topics include: ORVs and tourism, mining issues, roads, equalization, health care, statewide ballot issues and the impacts of these issues on county government services. Monthly meetings also include a legislative update from the Michigan Association of Counties. In District 6, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford Counties are regular participants.
- » **New County Commissioner Workshops**—Since 1968, MSU Extension, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Counties, has conducted the New County Commissioner Workshops following the biennial election of commissioners. The program offers information and learning opportunities on county structure and process, budgeting and finance, county administration, courts, and more. Four new commissioners from Wexford County participated in the program in 2012.
- » **Land Use**—The signature programs for Land Use include Placemaking and Planning for the Global Economy: *What is the role for your local government in the global economy?*. These programs had attendees from Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola, and Mecosta Counties. Some of the specific trainings included: Sign Regulations; Right to Farm Act; Placemaking Summit; Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Incompatible Office; Placemaking and Form Based Codes.

Natural Shoreline

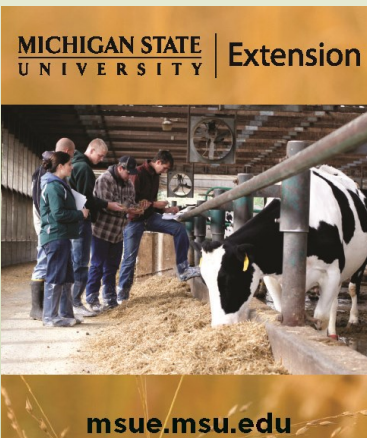
- » **Natural Shoreline Maintenance and Native Plant ID**—hands on field training was provided in Cadillac at the lakefront demonstration site for landscape professionals from the region, June 2012.



STATEWIDE NETWORK—Extension Educators serving Wexford County

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MI SPARTAN IMPACT

MSU works side by side for a stronger Michigan.



ENROLLED MICHIGAN STUDENTS

41



ALUMNI RESIDING IN COUNTY

512



SPENDING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

\$64,571



VENDORS

27



TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT *

\$4,919,105



FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED

\$619,214



4-H YOUTH and ADULT PARTICIPANTS

721



PRODUCT CENTER SESSIONS

28

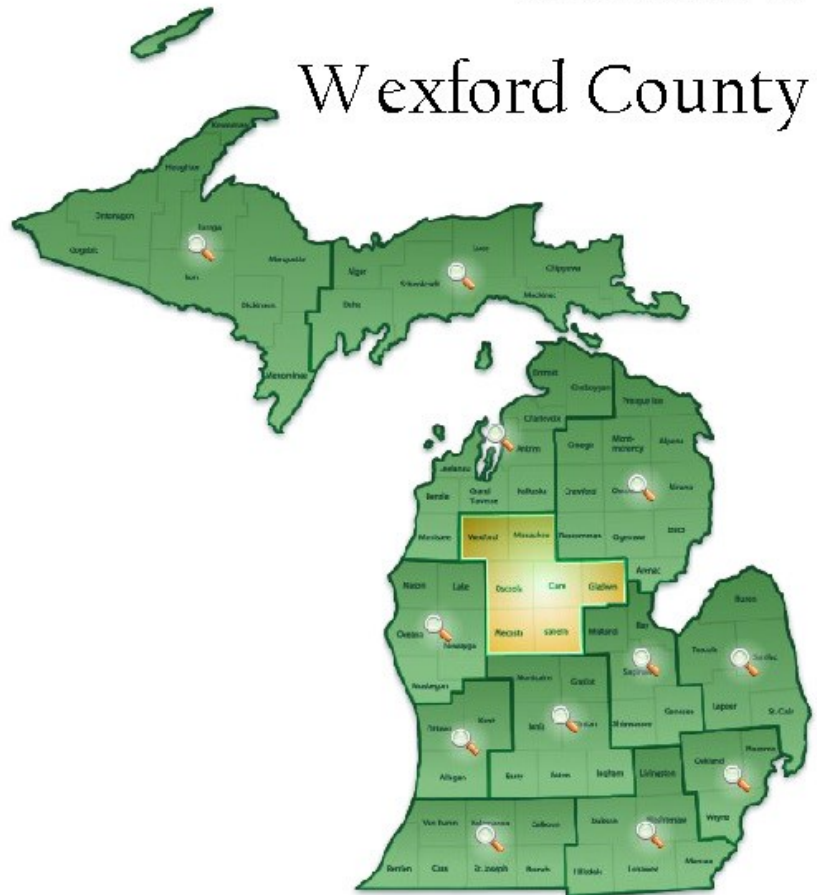


PRODUCT CENTER JOBS CREATED

1

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

District 6: Wexford County



For additional information visit:

<http://mispartanimpact.msu.edu/>

<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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