

Monroe County 2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the District Coordinator

MSU Extension (MSUE) staff strive to provide programming that has a positive impact on the citizens of Monroe County while making the best use of the local, state, and federal funds that have been generously provided for the completion of this work.

It's now easier than ever to see the impact that Michigan State University and MSU Extension have on our communities. In May, we launched www.mispartanimpact.msu.edu, a website that showcases MSU research, partnerships and programs and how they benefit Michigan's economy.

An interactive map on [MI Spartan Impact](#) highlights localized activities, including the number of students enrolled, the number of alumni and MSU's economic impact, not to mention a sampling of stories about Spartans working in our community and across the state. For example, District 12 is home to 3,938 MSU students, 20,108 MSU alumni, and 20,760 current 4-H participants.

Thank you for your continued support of MSUE programs in Monroe County.

Sincerely,
Matt Shane

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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4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan, with nearly 200,000 youth between the ages of 5 and 19 participating. Because Michigan 4-H is part of MSU Extension, the activities youth participate in are all backed by, and based on, child development research. Experiential (i.e. hands-on) learning is used, as well as time spent intentionally thinking about what's been learned to make it a meaningful experience, with skills and ideas learned that last a lifetime.

Monroe County has a proud heritage with 4-H. There are currently 2,039 youth enrolled in 4-H clubs in the county. In addition to the club enrollments, there are 4,575 youth impacted by local children and youth programs. There are 797 volunteers who invest their time and energy helping Monroe County youth succeed.

- » **Exploration Days**— Held at Michigan State University, this three-day MSU pre-college program gives young people a chance to experience college life, learn new ideas and skills, and meet people from across Michigan. This past June, 196 Monroe County 4-H members participated in a variety of educational opportunities.
- » **Slow Spokes**— For the past 41 years, 4-H youth and adult volunteers have had an opportunity to ride their bikes from Monroe County to MSU's campus to attend Exploration Days. This year, 95 4-H youth members and 20 adult volunteers participated in this "Slow Spoke Special Ride" fun event.

Right: State 4-H award winners at the 2013 Exploration Days. In total, 196 Monroe County 4-H members participated in Exploration Days at MSU.



- » **Revolution of Responsibility** — Community service projects are part of nearly every 4-H experience. 4-H is underscoring that aspect of the program through its Revolution of Responsibility campaign. 4-H'ers all over Michigan are identifying needs in their communities, figuring out how to address those needs and stepping up to solve problems, make improvements and create change. During the 2013 Holiday season, Monroe County 4-H families collect mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to donate to those in need. 4-H youth are making a difference in their communities.
- » **Monroe County Fair** — The county fair gives 4-H participants the opportunity to showcase their learning and educate the public in the process. At the 2013 Monroe County Fair, 4-Hers exhibited hundreds of projects from dozens of categories. Completing a project and exhibiting at the fair helps to develop life skills by:
- Giving youth skills they can use for a lifetime.
 - Helping youth learn in ways appropriate for their developmental stage.
 - Helping youth learn to make friends and work as a team.



Far Left: 2013 Junior Livestock Association Showmanship Sweepstakes participants



Far Left: 2013 Fair participant, Mason Shipe, shows off his best of breed Pocket Pet

Left: 2013 Small Animal Association Showmanship Sweepstakes participants

JOIN | THE REVOLUTION  OF RESPONSIBILITY





Right: Mini-Expo Participants practice cake decorating, one of the 32 sessions offered at this year's event.

- » **Mini-Expo**— The popular Mini-Expo was a huge success again this year. Thirty-two different sessions kept everyone busy. Members were taught everything from making beautiful jewelry, to duct tape bags, and candy making. There were 201 4-H members in attendance with an additional 105 volunteers. Participants use the tips and techniques learned at these sessions to create projects for the Monroe County Fair.



4-H Officer Training— The Learning Center at the Extension office was packed as Youth Leadership Board (YLB) President, Alexis Garbo, called the Officer Training Workshop to order. This workshop was planned and facilitated by the youth board members, with the support of the 4-H Council Executive Board. As the workshop began, each officer position was discussed so that participants understood the roles and responsibilities of an officer, and what was required to serve on an executive board.

Six teams were formed to build towers using drinking cups and other materials. The goal was to build the tallest tower. Youth Leadership Board members then

Right: Participants learn leadership qualities by participating in a cup stacking exercise during the 4-H Officer Training



provided 'leadership' for the activity. They acted out various leadership styles, such as: dictatorship, democratic leadership, irritable, lazy, indifferent or controlling leadership.

The youth evaluated their leaders at the conclusion of the project and discussed what type of leader they each wanted to be.

Agriculture is a critical industry to the economy of Monroe County. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,119 farms encompassing 207,812 acres. The total market value of agricultural products sold is \$130 million, of which 94% are crops and 6% are livestock.

- » **Upcoming Opportunity**—Michigan State University is answering the call to help feed a hungry world while respecting the environment, training young people for success, keeping Michigan healthy and helping communities thrive. And we want to hear from you. Leaders from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR), MSU Extension and AgBioResearch are touring the state to get input from Michigan residents as they plan for the future of agriculture and natural resources at Michigan State University. Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts about how CANR can continue to move Michigan forward through research, education and outreach. The District 12 event is being held at the Rogers Reserve in Jackson and will include a chestnut roast.
- » Registration is requested but not required. To register, visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/WhatsNowWhatsNext>.



Michigan State University is answering the call to help feed a hungry world while respecting the environment, training young people for success, keeping Michigan healthy and helping communities thrive.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from and talk to:

- Fred Poston, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU
- Doug Buhler, director of MSU AgBioResearch
- Tom Coon, director of MSU Extension
- Kelly Millenbah, associate dean and director of academic and student affairs, CANR

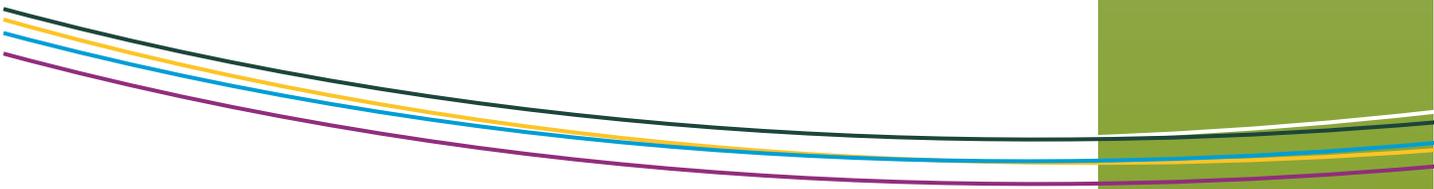
November 19, 2013, 4-6 p.m.

Rogers Reserve
8072 S Jackson Rd, Jackson, MI 49201

Registration is requested but not required. To register, visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/WhatsNowWhatsNext/>.

Light refreshments will be served.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.



- » **Understanding and Investigating Horse Cruelty—** Michigan State University Extension collaborated with Linda Reider, the Michigan Humane Society Director of Statewide Initiatives, to deliver a ‘Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare - Understanding and Investigating Horse Cruelty Workshop’ which was held at the Monroe County Emergency Dispatch Center on May 21, 2013.

Due to drought conditions in some regions of Michigan in 2012, hay availability for horse owners became limited. Limited hay availability caused hay prices to rise dramatically. Therefore, in the fall of 2012, the ‘Status of Michigan Horses Interagency Working Group’ was formed. Agencies represented in the Interagency Working Group include Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Horse Council, Farm Service Agency and the Michigan Humane Society. The goal of the Interagency Working Group was to evaluate what potential issues were occurring within the Michigan Equine Industry.

Based on the consensus of the working group, contacts with horse owners searching for feed resources, reports of thin horses and horse owners searching for alternatives for horses they no longer preferred or could afford to take care of were identified as issues. In turn, realizing that law enforcement agencies would be on the front lines when potentially dealing with some of these issues, a workshop entitled, ‘Understanding and Investigating Horse Cruelty’ was developed.

Educational topics of the workshop included: 1) ‘Best Practices for Evaluating Basic Equine Health and Body Condition’ presented by Karen Waite, MSU Equine Extension Specialist, 2) ‘Handling – Making it Safe for You and the Horse’ presented Tom Guthrie, Statewide MSU Extension Educator, Equine, and 3) ‘Working with Your Local Prosecutor; Horses as Evidence and Handling the Media’ presented by Debby MacDonald, Chief Investigator and Detroit Shelter Director for the Michigan Humane Society. Educational presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion with participants entitled, ‘Putting it All Together for Best Outcomes for Horses and Cases’ to wrap up the workshop.

MSU Extension Educator, Tom Guthrie, demonstrates proper horse tying using a “2X4” horse at the Understanding and Investigating Horse Cruelty workshop.



- » **Consumer Horticulture Programming** — For residents who want to save money, who love fresh flavor, or who just enjoy working with nature, Michigan is a great place for growing fruit, vegetables, flowers and other landscape plants. The MSUE garden website, www.migarden.msu.edu, highlights the resources at MSU for gardeners. Advice is based on science performed at MSU or other land grant universities. For horticulturalists who need direct advice, the gardening hotline (1-888-MSUE4MI) is available five days each week. This year 39 Monroe County residents utilized the hotline for advice.
- » **Master Gardener Volunteer Program**— The Master Gardener Volunteer program (MGVP) gives interested individuals the chance to participate in a 12-week training experience that provides in-depth education in many aspects of horticulture, including trees and shrubs, flowers, vegetables, fruit, soil, water, pests, indoor gardens, and lawns. The MGVP has been revised to include online modules that will allow participants to take part in classes on a schedule that works best for them.
- » **MSU Product Center** — 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. The MSUE educator has special training as an innovation counselor to deliver these services. Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-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 Monroe County 64 counseling sessions took place to assist 11 local entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. The MSU Product Center also assisted in the development of the Strategic Growth Initiative proposal requesting funding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to fund a feasibility study for a soybean processing plant in the county. The partnership between MSUE and the MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio is providing support for entrepreneurs in supporting economic development across the state.



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Accelerating Innovation for Business, Industry and Entrepreneurs

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- » **Soybean Production Meeting**— The SMaRT (Soybean Management and Research Technology) program was initiated by the Michigan Soybean Checkoff on November 1, 2010, to help Michigan soybean producers become more profitable. The SMaRT program is a partnership between MSU Extension and the Michigan Soybean Checkoff. One of the main objectives of the SMaRT program is to help soybean producers evaluate the performance of new products, practices and equipment through well-designed, on-farm research projects. There were 130 producers who attended the SMaRT program held in Dundee.
- » **Commercial Vegetable Production** — With the challenging growing season, commercial vegetable producers in Monroe and surrounding counties have benefited from having an educator housed in District 12. This year the MSU Extension educator:
 - Offered a day-long workshop on pumpkin and watermelon production, two crops that are gaining in importance in Michigan. To assist current and potential growers, the MSU Extension workshop covered production basics, as well as diseases, insects, varieties, marketing and food safety practices. There were 70 growers who attended this workshop.
 - Visited farmers to discuss issues on vegetable crops and collected samples for transportation to the plant diagnostic clinic on campus.
 - Provided weekly vegetable production web updates for the SE region of Michigan.

Right: Symptoms of bacterial leaf blight in tomatoes. Photo credit: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, MSU Extension, 2013



Far right: Flood in cucurbit fields. Photo credit: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, MSU Extension, 2013



» Ferry Farms LLC hosts Breakfast on the Farm event —

Ferry Farms LLC, in Hillsdale County, was host to a ‘Breakfast on the Farm’ event on September 21. This family-friendly event gave consumers a glimpse of what modern production agriculture is all about. In addition to a pancake breakfast featuring Michigan-made products and self-guided tours of the farm, visitors learned about what it takes to be a dairy farmer as well as a crop farmer. More than 250 volunteers helped to make this event a great experience for 2,111 participants.

“We’re most excited to be able to give the public an opportunity to connect with where their food comes from,” Ali Ferry said. “We want to open up our doors and help remove any misconceptions folks might have about food and agriculture.”

Ferry Farms is environmentally verified through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). MAEAP is a voluntary and proactive program that helps farms prevent or minimize risks of agricultural pollution.

The Ferry family invites visitors to check out the farm online by visiting their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ferryfarms.

“What a wonderful day and experience! Thank you for opening your farm to us so we could experience farm life. A beautiful day and beautiful farm.”

- 2013 Breakfast on the Farm participant





- » **Financial Literacy Programming** — MSU Extension assists individuals, households, organizations and communities to become sustainable through workshops and other education related to financial capability, pre-purchase and foreclosure intervention and more. Whether you are thinking about how to invest for retirement or build a college fund, face issues with purchasing a new home or avoiding foreclosure, or if you want to learn how to handle credit card debt, Michigan State University Extension has experts that can help you.
- » **Financial and Home Ownership Programming**—Buying a home is the largest single financial transaction a person will ever make. MSU Extension offers a three-session course covering:
 - The advantages of home ownership
 - Steps in the home buying process
 - Understanding the costs of home ownership
 - Why good credit is important
 - Know how to determine how much house you can afford
 - Who is on your home buying team
 - Mortgage loan basics
 - How to maintain your investment

Each session is two hours long and features guest speakers from the housing industry. Participants completing all three sessions receive a certificate of completion, which is required for state housing authority down payment assistance programs. Monroe County had 11 participants in the course this year.

- » **Dollar Works 2**—Dollar Works 2 is a hands-on educational program based on the assumption that personal financial management is a set of skills which must be learned. Participants attend a series of workshops that teach basic economic and personal finance concepts to strengthen family skills in managing finances, making informed decisions about their money and increasing their long-term financial stability.

People understand and use money within the context of their culture and life experiences. While there is no “right” or “wrong” way to handle money, some ways are more likely to increase financial control and independence.



Michigan State University Extension nutrition aims to improve the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior of how individuals view nutrition. Through promotion, planning and delivery, our staff works with diverse audiences at a local, county and state level to help implement everyday changes to individual and family diets for an increased nutritional well-being.

» **Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity** — The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education (SNAP-Ed) provides nutrition education to Bridge care eligible adults and children. This program focuses on improving dietary quality, and on increasing physical activity, while stretching food dollars. The ultimate goal of SNAP-Ed programs is to promote healthy weight maintenance and to prevent obesity. During the past year in Monroe County, 434 adults and 493 youth were reached through nutrition education classes at various venues in the county. Impacts included:

- 91% of adults who participated in the nutrition education classes improved the dietary quality of their daily food consumption.
- 45% of adults followed safe food handling practices.
- 47% of adults reported an increase in whole grain consumption.
- 41% of adults learned new ways to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their meals and snacks.

Youth participating in SNAP-Ed classes were more likely to:

- Choose healthy snacks.
- Consume more fruits and vegetables.
- Participate in more physical activities



"I never knew all the advantages of breastfeeding until I experienced it."

- Monroe BFI Program Participant



"Since Cooking Matters, I have lost 56 pounds. I feel great, I don't need my inhaler to make it up to my second floor apartment. Their cookbook is like my bible. The food is great. The recipes are great. Just feel 100% better being healthy."

Cooking Matters Participant- Monroe County

- » **Breastfeeding Initiative (BFI) Mother-to-Mother Program**—Many new mothers know the value of breastfeeding, but unfortunately run into barriers during their breastfeeding experience. The BFI program empowers and supports mothers to overcome these barriers. The program utilizes peers to provide breastfeeding support to mothers throughout the first year of their infant's life. It combines the strengths of MSUE and WIC in an effort to reverse declining breastfeeding rates among low-income women. The BFI program began in 1993 as a free program that offers breastfeeding information, encouragement and support to WIC and SNAP/Bridge Card participants through BFI peers. This year a total of 370 contacts were made with nursing mothers through BFI programming in Monroe County. Additionally, MSUE staff trained 127 Monroe County registered dietitians and nursing students about the benefits of breastfeeding.
- » **Food Safety**—There is a renewed interest in food preservation from home gardens, community gardens, and community supported agriculture (CSA) businesses. Although home food preservation is a great way to enjoy fresh local produce year-round, there are also potential food safety risks if the proper procedures aren't followed. MSU Extension has created a new website called [Michigan Fresh](#). Michigan Fresh helps people explore the state's bounty of fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamentals.
- » **Cooking Matters**—Cooking Matters educates participants on how to select and prepare nutritious foods, along with selecting budget friendly ingredients that are necessary to prepare healthy meals for their families. Participants will learn skills and gain the knowledge and confidence to enrich their families with nutritious and wallet friendly meals. Cooking Matters has been offered several times in Monroe County and has received very positive feedback. One participant said, "I started to move more, cook food that is more from scratch than before, cutting out processed foods. I really loved this class."
- » **Nurturing Parenting Workshops** — Community Based Nurturing Parenting is an evidence-based program for parents and caregivers to strengthen and build parenting skills that promote positive family relationships. Participants learn what nurturing is and how to be a nurturing parent, to enhance positive relationships with children, how to discipline without spanking, methods to handle stress and anger, child growth and development, understanding the brain development of children and teens and how to help build self-esteem. Numerous sessions of this workshop have been offered in Monroe County. The sessions are usually held at the Arthur Lesow Community Center. There have been 37 Monroe County participants this year.

- » **Food Preservation Workshops**—Michigan State University Extension educates community food handlers on skills and techniques for proper food preservation in an effort to decrease food-borne illnesses. Food-borne illness outbreaks occur on an ongoing basis crossing all lines – from production, consumption and preservation of foods. Residents in Michigan communities have the opportunity to receive high quality education on safe temperatures for storing food, cooling hot foods, storing temperatures, freezing and dehydrating food, as well as canning using the United State Department of Agriculture guidelines for safe food preservation. ‘Food Preservation Education’ offered by MSU Extension is a workshop intended to teach safe food processing and canning techniques to homeowners. In 2012, program delivery ranged from 60 minutes to seven hours, with the average session lasting 2 hours. During 2012, there were 46 Food Preservation events held statewide reaching 681 people, including a workshop in Monroe County.
- » **Michigan’s Cottage Food Law**— There were four, ‘How to Start a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan’ workshops conducted in District 12 during the spring of 2013, held in Hillsdale, Monroe, Lenawee and Washtenaw Counties. Jeannie Nichols, food safety educator, worked with Michah Loucks and Joanne Davidhizar, MSU Product Center counselors, to provide both food safety and business education to the participants in these two hour workshops.
- » **Good Agricultural Practices**— Classes and presentations on Good Agricultural Practices prepare farmers to sell their produce in retail markets and ensure the safety of their produce for sale. In these programs, participants learn about topics in produce safety, responsibility in food safety, good agricultural practices and how to implement changes in their operation that can further enhance quality and safety of their food. For more information visit the [Good Agricultural Practices website](#).



MSUE STAFF DIRECTORY

Additional MSUE Educators with Monroe County Coverage	
Pat Benton	Breastfeeding Initiative
Roger Betz	Farm Business Management
Ann Chastain	Community Engagement & Leadership Development
Bill Cook	Sustainable Natural Resource Management
Christina Curell	Agricultural Water Quality
Dr. Kristin Getter	Floriculture Production
Merrill (Charles) Gould	Livestock Residue & Energy Use
Phil Kaatz	Forage Production
Rita Klavinski	Community Food Systems & Food Safety
Gerald Lindquist	Grazing Management
Jackelyn Martin	District 12 4-H Supervision
Mike Metzger	Field Crops and Small Ruminants
Martin Nagelkirk	Wheat Production
Jeannie Nichols	Food Safety & Cottage Food Law
Jill O'Donnell	Christmas Tree Production
Glenn Pape	Land Use & Stewardship Education
Dennis Pennington	Biomass to Energy Production
Bethany Prykucki	Government & Public Policy
Insa Raymond	Youth Academic Success
Brenda Reau	MSU Product Center
Lina Rodriguez	Commercial Vegetable Production
Kurt Schindler	Land Use & Public Policy
Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer	Meat Quality
Mike Staton	Soybean Production
Rochelle Sturtevant	Sea Grant Program
Marilyn Thelen	Integrated Crop & Livestock Systems
Nancy Thelen	Agricultural Literacy
Bob Tritten	Tree & Small Fruit Production