MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

For more than 100 years, MSUE Extension has been partnering with local governments and communities throughout the state to help Michigan citizens grow and improve. MSUE extension integrates the extensive research network of the university, our resources and our staff into the public, thereby equipping Michigan residents with the information they need to improve their work, health, safety and communities. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 was created to foster economic development by stimulating the transfer of on farms, in factories, and in families knowledge from research practice through agriculture, 4-H and youth, natural resources, coastal issues, and many other subject areas.

In this report I have the challenge of conveying the scope and importance of the work of a large number of people in diverse program areas into a concise report. There are many people who access MSU Extension online resources and educational programs that are not included in this report. As we move forward with greater technological accessibility, more and more people in Marquette County are using MSUE resources.

I’ve included links to give more information on the value of MSU Extension programs that are accessible in your communities. Please let me know if you need additional information on any of the topics covered in this brief overview of our work in 2015-2016. I think that you will be pleased with the excellent programs provided to the residents of Marquette County. It is with pleasure that I support the staff members and programs that have and are occurring in Marquette County, and I appreciate your continued support.

Paul Putnam, District 1 Coordinator

CONTACT US

184 Hwy US 41 East - Negaunee, MI 49866

Phone: 906/475-5731
Fax: 906/475-4940

http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/marquette

MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

Youth Programs .................................................................1750
  4-H Members (traditional club enrollment) .........................182
  Youth in School Enrichment Programs .............................1520
  Special Interest/Short Term Programs ..............................48

Health & Nutrition Programs ..............................................239

Natural Resources ...........................................................119

Agriculture ........................................................................324
  Agriculture for Tomorrow .............................................126
  Other ...........................................................................198

TOTAL IMPACT .....................................................................2,432

MSU EXTENSION’S EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH

Through combined face-to-face trainings, online webinars, social media, website interaction and electronic newsletters, MSU Extension has made more than 8.8 million connections. More than 149,000 adults* and 203,000 youth† participated in MSU Extension programming in the 2015-16 programming year.

More than 3.7 million people viewed more than 7.2 million pages on the MSU Extension website.‡ Of those, more than 760,000 were Michigan residents. MSU Extension remains one of the most visited Cooperative Extension System education websites in the country.

MSU Extension also distributes a series of electronic newsletters that cater to residents’ unique interests. Last year, nearly 1.3 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were distributed to about 16,900 email addresses.‡ You can sign up for these informative newsletters by visiting msue.msu.edu and clicking on “Newsletter Sign Up” texting MSUE to 22828.

MSU Extension uses social media channels to reach people with educational content. Currently, Extension reaches more than 3,500 Facebook followers and more than 2,800 Twitter followers.‡ In addition, Michigan 4-H families and volunteers stay informed about activities through social media channels, including on Michigan 4-H Facebook with more than 4,000 likes and on Twitter with more than 1,300 followers.

‡From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016
When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce. Extension programs help children develop early literacy skills that support school readiness. They learn leadership and decision-making skills in 4-H that increase their likelihood of becoming civically active. 4-H also helps young people succeed in school, attend college and contribute to their communities. More successful young people in communities results in greater tax revenues and consumer spending and increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

4-H Exploration Days

4-H Exploration days take place annually in June on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. It is designed for young people ages 11 to 19 and involves approximately 2500 participants from every Michigan county. Marquette County had 24 youth and 3 chaperones attend this annual event in 2016. This fun learning program gives a multitude of hands-on learning sessions, field trips, and recreation opportunities that are designed to:

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, teamwork, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.
- Give youth opportunities to try things that aren’t available in their county.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college.

Many parents and 4-H volunteers notice improvements in their children’s interest, knowledge and social skills after they attend 4-H Exploration Days. Participants often return to MSU as students due to the positive experiences they’ve had during 4-H Exploration Days.
4-H Camp

Bigley 4-H Camp was held July 26-30 at Clear Lake Education Center in Shingleton, Michigan. 35 4-H campers from Alger, Delta, Macomb, Marquette and Schoolcraft Counties to connect to nature, share about themselves and learn about others. Based upon the program evaluations:

- 80% of campers indicated attending Bigley Camp helped them develop new skills in an area they enjoy
- 74% of campers indicated attending Bigley Camp helped them with their self-confidence
- 68% of participants indicated attending Bigley Camp helped them improve their leadership skills
- 93% of participants indicated that while attending Bigley Camp, they learned to communicate better with others
- 100% of campers indicated they became more aware of cultures other than their own while at Bigley Camp.
- 100% of Bigley Campers indicated they felt respected by campers who were different than them
- 100% of participants indicated they accepted people who looked, thought or acted differently while at Bigley Camp
- 95% of participants indicated they worked as a team while at Bigley Camp

Overall, the planning committee was very pleased with the positive outcomes of the program.

Global and Cultural Education

Michigan’s 4-H Children’s Art Exchange with China has been positively impacting more than 350,000 Michigan youth for over 25 years. Marquette county had 1,330 youth participate in the art exchange in 2015 and 1084 participated in 2016.

Through the Art Exchange, children communicate and learn about China by being asked to create “visual letters” to send to children their own ages in China.

A visual letter is like a written letter in that they both tell stories, share important ideas and feelings and connect children on two sides of the globe.

Since written letters are limited with the language differences the visual letters have taken shape as the primary means of communicating and learning about each other.

The collected evaluation percentages are always high in the increase of knowledge, awareness, understanding and desire to learn more because of participation in the Michigan 4-H Children’s Art Exchange with China.

Other global educational opportunities can also be found on the MSU Extension Global and Cultural Education website or for other information about 4-H learning opportunities and 4-H programs, contact Liana Graves at 906-475-5731 or at deisenro@anr.msu.edu.
Whether it is written, spoken or visually represented, the way we express ourselves makes a big impact on our daily lives at home, work and play.

The Future We Want

The Future We Want Workshop was a thought-provoking educational experience for middle and high school aged youth. The workshop included an interactive multimedia based presentation and group discussions that engaged youth in understanding and taking action to address some of our world’s most significant challenges.

World leaders from 193 countries have committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; 17 interconnected goals that seek to end poverty, combat climate change and fight injustice and inequality by the year 2030. Young people, as informed and engaged global citizens, have a vital role to play in achieving these goals and helping to create a just and sustainable planet. There were 40 participants.

F.A.S.T. 4-H Club

This homeschool club began in September and 4-H staff has been busy screening many project leaders since August. There are 38 volunteers and 71 youth members so far. Currently, they meet every other Friday with four 45 minute group sessions for each youth - the classes are offered by age group (1st-4th Grades, 5th-8th Grades, and High School). The current classes youth have to choose from are the DNR Black Bear Program (DNR as well as Park Service and Forest Service Staff have come and presented about the black bear in Michigan including their life cycle, diet, migration, etc.), dissection (they dissected worms, frogs, fetal pigs, and a pregnant dogfish), sewing, physical education, book club (they read the Narnia series), character education (teaching manners and responsibility), entrepreneurship, drama, gardening, Cloverbud activities (for the youngest club members), and a chorus class for all ages. Starting February 3rd, they will be welcoming in new families (they have a waiting list). They will be in a new location that will accommodate larger numbers and will be starting several new options for the older youth. Many of these families are completely new to 4-H and are learning a lot about how much the program has to offer.
Stronger Economies Together (S.E.T.) is a data driven economic development program that was launched by USDA Rural Development in 2009. The S.E.T. process has impacted 28 states across the U.S. and has now reached the central Upper Peninsula region of Michigan. The purpose of S.E.T. is to strengthen the capacity of communities in rural America to work together in developing and implementing an economic development blueprint that strategically builds on the current and emerging economic strengths of their region.

During the S.E.T. process, step-by-step facilitation is provided by state resource teams to guide the design and implementation of a practical and viable economic development plan. In-depth data tailored to the region is provided and technical assistance is available to regions upon completion of the S.E.T. training.

STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER IN THE CENTRAL U.P.

The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) was the applicant for S.E.T. in the central U.P. region. The six counties of Michigan’s central Upper Peninsula include: Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, Marquette, and Schoolcraft counties. Communities of this region share strong economic ties and face similar economic challenges.

Since 1970, CUPPAD has provided both technical and advisory services to the region and partners with local, regional, state, and/or national planning agencies and organizations to provide a comprehensive approach to economic issues.

As part of the State of Michigan’s Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI), CUPPAD, with assistance from representatives from various sectors, facilitated the development of a regional 10-year plan entitled UPWARD 2025: A Framework for Prosperity. Five regional goals were identified by the team, including: growing the regional economy, strengthening workforce development, enhancing educational opportunities, improving infrastructure networks, and improving quality of life. The RPI Council is currently working on updating the 10-year plan.
CUPPAD’s primary interest in applying for the S.E.T. process was to enhance existing regional planning efforts such as the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). Through S.E.T. new voices have been brought to the table in regional planning efforts and gaps in existing regional plans have been identified. The S.E.T. process, though valuable to CUPPAD, was not intended to solely guide the RPI or other regional planning efforts; instead, participants representing various interests are encouraged to step up to the plate and move projects identified through S.E.T. forward.

S.E.T. sessions for the C.U.P. region began in November 2015 continued through August 2016 and were facilitated by representatives from USDA Rural Development and Michigan State University Extension with data provided by Purdue University Center for Rural Development.

Further information about SET can be found at: http://srdc.msstate.edu/set/home

Information regarding the Regional Prosperity Initiative and central U.P. SET sessions can be found at: http://www.centralupdashboard.org/s-e-t/
Keeping People Healthy

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn safe food handling practices, increase their physical activity and improve the quality of their diets. Extension programming also helps decrease incidents of violence and bullying. Encouraging these healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person’s life span.

Stress Less with Mindfulness

Stress Less with Mindfulness introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness to reduce stress. Mindfulness can be defined as paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmentally.

Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress related symptoms such as worry, depression, and physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions such as cardiac disease and diabetes. The MSU Extension program is offered as a five-part series or as one-time workshop.

RELAX

RELAX is a four-part educational series designed to help adults, parents, teens and caregivers increase their knowledge about anger issues and put anger management and healthy relationship skills into practice. Through discussion and skill-building activities, participants explore what anger is and what triggers it. This interactive program teaches participants techniques for calming down and de-stressing, the principles of problem solving, effective communication skills, and ways to forgive and let go of the past.

One-Time Social Emotional Presentations 2016

MSU Extension helps young people, parents, caregivers, and community members develop and sustain healthy relationships through increased understanding of the social and emotional aspects of an individual’s life. MSU Extension’s educational programs promote positive peer interactions, strengthen communication skills, and demonstrate methods of managing stress that help reduce negative, harmful behaviors. Ten people participated in this program.
**Show Me Nutrition**

Show Me Nutrition youth series is a six to eight week program with 1-hour sessions providing youth in grades pre-kindergarten to 8th grade with age-appropriate literacy-based education in areas of nutrition, food safety, physical activity, body image, and media influence on health choices. In Marquette County Show Me Nutrition series were taught in North Star Elementary and Middle School and Gwinn Middle School with a total of 112 youth.

**Eat Smart Live Strong**

Seniors in Marquette at Lost Creek Apartments and in Ishpeming at Pioneer Bluff Apartments learned to eat healthy, and be active in a group series. This is an opportunity for adults to learn to make healthy eating and regular physical activity part of their lifestyle. Participants also learn the importance of vitamins, minerals, and the 5 food groups. There were 17 participants.

**Achieve Community Wellness**

Achieve Community Wellness is a group of agency staff who work on and have an interest in healthy lifestyles of adults, youth, and families, and the environments they live in. Recent projects of the Community Wellness committee include working with local restaurants to designate healthy options on menus. These healthy options were analyzed by dieticians to show they meet limits of sodium, calories and fat, and include minimum amounts of fruits or vegetables. There were 15 participants.

**Dining with Diabetes**

Dining with Diabetes is a fun and interactive four-session course series designed for people who have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and/or members of their support system. Participants learn to make healthy food choices and incorporate balanced menus into the family dining experience. Classes include research-based education, cooking demonstrations and healthy recipe tasting. Six adults participated in this series.

**Matter of Balance**

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Matter of Balance is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Matter of Balance includes eight two-hour sessions for a small group led by two trained facilitators. During the class, participants learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. Fifteen adults participated.
Spartners for Heart Health

Spartners for Health is for students to learn about physical activity and nutrition with the idea of improving health for the students and possibly their families. This class was offered throughout the school year to two separate health classes in Ishpeming—one being offered in the fall semester and the other in the spring semester. The Spartners curriculum was offered during both semesters. This program also worked closely with Northern Michigan University helping with the mentoring and teaching portion of the class. Forty-one youth participated in this program.

Eat Healthy – Be Active

Eat Healthy—Be Active sessions were attended by participants at Pine Ridge Apartments, MARESA Transitions students, and the Janzen Homeless Shelter. At these sites, participants learned about reading Nutrition Facts labels to make healthy choices, making easy meals with healthy foods, ways to increase their physical activity, and many other topics relating to healthy eating on a limited budget. Another goal of sessions is to help participants increase fruit and vegetable consumption, so several food demonstrations include vegetables to allow participants to try ways of including them more often.

Participants at the Janzen House included 4 men who helped make recipes using foods in the shelter pantry. The Janzen House manager is very committed to encouraging healthy eating habits and learning skills.

Participants in the Transitions II class at MARESA are young adults with varying cognitive disability and education needs. Sixteen students participated in six sessions of Eat Healthy Be Active. The learning objective focused on were healthy food choices, understanding and comparing Nutrition Facts labels, increasing physical activity, and grocery shopping skills.

Superior Alliance for Independent Living hosted another nutrition series, It All Adds Up which is designed for participants with cognitive or physical disabilities. Three participants enrolled in and completed six sessions, and several others came with caregivers to two sessions with in the series. In addition to nutrition the participants learned about kitchen safety and the importance of trying new foods to acquire preference for more healthy foods.
Near Shore Dangerous Currents Education

Ron Kinnunen, Extension Educator/Sea Grant, held several meetings with Ian Davis (Marquette Fire Chief) and provided his department with a variety of water safety equipment for distribution at key areas along Marquette’s waterfront. The equipment deployed the previous year saved an ice fisherman who fell through the ice.

After two drownings at Little Presque Isle Ron Kinnunen worked with Keith Cooley (National Weather Service) and Douglas Barry (MDNR Parks) on three new rescue stations at that location. Ron was able to provide the rescue equipment for that site along with a new sign template on channel currents that exist in that area to replace the older ones. Since deployment of rescue equipment at that site two lives have been saved.

Ron also helped coordinate and participated in the Marquette Water Safety Expo. At this event he set up the Great Lakes Dangerous Currents display and answered questions from the public on dangerous currents. Others that participated in this event included the National Weather Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Marquette Fire Department, and the YMCA.

Ron made a presentation at the U.P. County Commissioners Conference on the Great Lakes Dangerous Currents program and highlighted areas in the U.P. that have been directly impacted by this work effort. Marquette County Commissioners also participated in this event.

Great Lakes Dangerous Displays were set up at the U.P. State Fair and at Northern Michigan University Orientation Day for new students, and provided a variety of educational materials on this subject.

Whitefish/Siscowet Lake Trout Marketing

Ron Kinnunen coordinated a day long educational session at the Annual Michigan Fish Producers Association Conference. At this event Ron made presentations on New Critical Control Points for Fish Processors to Address in Seafood HAACP Plans and Planning for Drill Conductor Training in the Great Lakes Region. Representatives from Thill’s Fishery in Marquette attended this event.
Ron also coordinated a three day Seafood HACCP Training course that was held at Bay Mills Indian Community. Instructors that assisted me with teaching this three day course included Beth Waitrovich, MSU Extension Educator Health and Nutrition, and Jim Thannum, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Formal evaluations from attendees rated the course as excellent. The 42 attendees included tribal and state-licensed fishermen/processors, the owner of two fish processing facilities in Alaska, representatives from national food distribution companies, and food safety inspectors from MDARD and the FDA. A representative from Thill’s Fishery in Marquette successfully completed the course.

**Drill Conductor Training**

Jerry Dzugan (Executive Director, Alaska Marine Safety Education Association) and Ron Kinunnen conducted a six Drill Conductor Training course across the Great Lakes region. All six Drill Conductor Training courses were evaluated by the 77 attendees who rated the training as excellent and they indicated that the emergency drills on actual vessels helped increase their proficiency should an emergency arise. The courses had representations from commercial fishers from Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie and also included four U.S. Coast Guard personnel needing the training for their jobs. Two people from Thill’s Fishery in Marquette successfully completed this course along with two Keweenaw Bay Indian Community tribal fishers who live in Marquette County.
The Ninth Annual Agriculture for Tomorrow conference sponsored by MSU Extension was held March 10, 2015, on the campus of Bay College, Escanaba, Michigan. This is the Upper Peninsula’s largest MSU Extension Agriculture educational event. One hundred twenty-six attendees were provided with educational programs. It also gave an opportunity for growers, agricultural product companies, federal and state agencies to gather and interact. A majority of them learned about the Agriculture for Tomorrow 2015 Conference from the *U.P. Ag Connection Newsletter* distributed monthly from the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center. [http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/newsletters](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/newsletters)

After the completion of the 20 different educational programs offered that day, 73% of the attendees positively identified ways to decrease production cost and increase income. Eighty four percent of attendees feel they will now implement new best management practices on their farm.

**Beginning Farmer On-line Webinar Series**

Michigan citizens interested in engaging in new agriculture enterprises sometimes lack knowledge, experience and technical support to get started. Extension educators and specialists receive numerous contacts from such people seeking basic, start-up information. The Michigan State University Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series was developed in response to this need.

The 2015 series based in Alger County included twenty webinars offered from January 26 through April 20, 2015. Twenty three MSUE educators, faculty and staff presented webinar topics, with 198 people from fifty-four Michigan counties, twelve other states, and three other countries registering for a total of 1,845 webinar views.

A majority of participants indicated that they plan to utilize additional MSU Extension resources based on the series. They also indicated that the series contributed to creation or updates of business and marketing plans, new crop production, and expansion of farms and marketing strategies on many farms. A small number of participants indicated that they were beginning new livestock and poultry enterprises, purchasing farm equipment, establishing new business relationships and improving job prospects. Six participants said that the series helped them decide not to begin cultivating a crop in Michigan due to increased understanding of costs and risks.

Participants were appreciative for the program especially the convenience of on-line participation. MSU Extension received many compliments on the webinar series.

Below is a link to the MSUE Beginning Farmer Webinar Series website.

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/beginning_farmer_webinar_series](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/beginning_farmer_webinar_series)
Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

In the center of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula sits the 118 year old Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center (UPREC). The purpose of UPREC is to serve as a hub for integrated crop and livestock research. Applied research on pasture-based cattle management practices and cropping rotations is conducted in the unique environment of the U.P. Grass-based beef finishing, utilization of cover crops, hoop-house farming, season extension and soil health studies are keystone research elements on the farm. The North Farm is an incubator farm specializing in diversified local food production, research, education, and outreach for northern latitude climates. Our focus is healthy soils, food, people, and communities. Please go the UPREC North Farm Facebook site for details and updates: [https://www.facebook.com/northfarmatuprec](https://www.facebook.com/northfarmatuprec)

Complementary agronomic studies at the 1,262-acre site focus on forages and small grains. The center also coordinates field trials on potato varieties and corn varieties throughout the Upper Peninsula region.

Research Goals

1. Improvement of soil quality to enhance the productivity of U.P. agricultural lands in a manner that emphasizes health linkages associated with soil, crop, livestock and people.

2. Development of research that demonstrates the costs and benefits of integrated crop livestock systems, including grass-based livestock production. Closer collaboration between UPREC and Lake City Research Center (LCRC) in Lake City to foster complementary research endeavors and to increase the quality and quantity of research results.

3. Development of research tied to the educational needs of regional food systems in the Upper Peninsula that contributes to community sustainability while linking to objectives 1 and 2.

MSU UPREC has been working over the last three years conducting research to support the growth of malting barley acres in Michigan, especially in the Upper Peninsula. In addition to variety trials, management practices such as fertility recommendations and fungicide use have been studied. In order for the malting barley industry to thrive in Michigan, suitable processing is also necessary. UPREC staff has been working with start-up malt-houses throughout the state and are confident that there will be a major increase in available processing by the end of 2015 – from 2 malt-houses to 6, including one in the Upper Peninsula.

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued
Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

The following deliverables have been produced in 2014 to support this emerging industry:

- MSU UPREC Malting Barley website to house research, resources, and contact information [http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/malting_barsley](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/malting_barsley)


For more information about UPREC and updates on current projects, please visit their website at: [http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc) or call Center Coordinator, Ashley McFarland at 906-439-5114 or email: ashleymc@anr.msu.edu
## Extension Educators Serving Marquette County

### Staff Located in Marquette County Office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Wibby</td>
<td>Extension Educator/4-H</td>
<td>906/315-2662</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wibby@anr.msu.edu">wibby@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Krahn</td>
<td>Extension Educator/SNAP-Ed</td>
<td>906/315-2660</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krahn@anr.msu.edu">krahn@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Neumann</td>
<td>EE/Gov’t &amp; Public Policy</td>
<td>906/475-5731</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neuman36@anr.msu.edu">neuman36@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liana Graves</td>
<td>Extension Educator/4-H</td>
<td>906/475-5731</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deisenro@anr.msu.edu">deisenro@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Carter</td>
<td>DPM &amp; Health Research Educator</td>
<td>906/475-5731</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecarter@anr.msu.edu">ecarter@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Kinnunen</td>
<td>Extension Educator/Sea Grant</td>
<td>906/226-3687</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kinnune1@anr.msu.edu">kinnune1@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norma Matteson</td>
<td>Secretary-Sea Grant Office</td>
<td>906/226-3687</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matteson@anr.msu.edu">matteson@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Marquette County:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nick Baumgart</td>
<td>Environmental &amp; Outdoor Education/ Shooting Sports</td>
<td>906-774-0363</td>
<td><a href="mailto:baumga75@anr.msu.edu">baumga75@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Carter</td>
<td>Disease Prevention &amp; Management, Health Research</td>
<td>906-482-5830</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecarter@anr.msu.edu">ecarter@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Cook</td>
<td>Forest &amp; Wildlife Management</td>
<td>906-786-1575</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cookwi@msu.edu">cookwi@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Isleib</td>
<td>Ext. Educator - Crop Production</td>
<td>906-387-2530</td>
<td><a href="mailto:isleibj@anr.msu.edu">isleibj@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Krans</td>
<td>Consumer Horticulture</td>
<td>906-875-0606</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kransr@msu.edu">kransr@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extension Educators Serving Marquette County, Continued

Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Marquette County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashley McFarland</td>
<td>Ext. Educator - UPREC Coordinator</td>
<td>906-439-5179</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashleymc@msu.edu">ashleymc@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Ostrenga</td>
<td>Ext. Educator/Supervisor - Nutrition &amp; Physical Activity/Food Safety</td>
<td>906-786-3032</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ostrenga@anr.msu.edu">ostrenga@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Radloff</td>
<td>Career Exploration/Work Force Preparation</td>
<td>906-786-3032</td>
<td><a href="mailto:radloff@msu.edu">radloff@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Ross</td>
<td>4-H Supervision, Academic Success</td>
<td>906-663-4045</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rantae@anr.msu.edu">rantae@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Schira</td>
<td>Sustainable Natural Resources Management &amp; Education</td>
<td>906-482-5830</td>
<td><a href="mailto:schira@anr.msu.edu">schira@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Waitrovich</td>
<td>Food Safety/Financial &amp; Housing Education</td>
<td>906-774-0363</td>
<td><a href="mailto:waitrovi@anr.msu.edu">waitrovi@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Walk</td>
<td>Community-based Food Production &amp; Marketing</td>
<td>906-635-6368</td>
<td><a href="mailto:walkmich@anr.msu.edu">walkmich@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Wardynski</td>
<td>Ruminant Educator, Business Management</td>
<td>906-884-4386</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wardynsk@anr.msu.edu">wardynsk@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Wiener</td>
<td>Program Instructor - Natural Resource Education</td>
<td>906-387-2530</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wienerr2@anr.msu.edu">wienerr2@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Home gardening questions? Call 1-888-678-3464</td>
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