MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

A mission statement communicates the purpose of an organization, this includes ours: “Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives by bringing the vast knowledge resources of MSU directly to individuals, communities and businesses.” Over the past 12 months, our staff have worked with residents throughout Delta County to address local needs by connecting people to the resources of the university and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading the latest Michigan State University Extension Delta County 2015–2016 annual report. It is a snapshot of the highlights of the important work done with County general funds that support the MSU Extension staff in Delta County. These highlights give a sense of our work in 2015–2016 and where we are guided in the future. Thank you for your continuing and strong support every year, it remains true that without you, we would not be here doing this important work with the residents of Delta County.

Jim Lucas
District 2 Coordinator

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MEASURING IMPACT

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

Youth Programs ................................................................. 1600
  4-H members (traditional club enrollment) .......................... 287
Special Interest/Short Term Programs .................................. 839
  4-H Overnight Camps .......................................................... 35
  4-H Day Camps ................................................................. 23
School Enrichment Programs ............................................. 415

Agriculture Programs ......................................................... 126
  Agriculture for Tomorrow ................................................ 126

DISTRICT 2 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, 14,016 visitors from our six-county district viewed 42,231 pages of rich, science-based content on the MSU Extension website (msue.msu.edu). Search engine rankings make msue.msu.edu one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

Based on data from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.
DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). 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'ers also demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors such as drug use, and learn to complete tasks, solve problems and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H involvement also helps participants avoid or reduce involvement with the court system. This helps ensure more 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.

Exploration Days

Twenty-five Delta County youth attended Michigan 4-H Exploration Days 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. Approximately 2,500 participants annually attend from across the state. More than 200 action-filled classroom and field trip sessions are offered throughout the MSU campus and at various off-campus locations. Exploration Days is a statewide 4-H program designed to:

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, team work, 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.
- Increase college exploration and access to the Michigan State University campus and its resources.
- 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.
Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Youth live in the dorms on the MSU camps, eat in the cafeteria, and attend classes just as if they were college students. Exploration Days participants select either two half session classes or a full session class which they attend for the three days they are on campus.

For Delta County youth, Exploration Days includes an additional two day citizenship trip planned by participants. This year’s delegation decided to take a white water rafting trip on the Peshtigo River and a tour of the Chicago Field museum. Youth who attend Exploration Days raised funds to pay for their trip through various efforts including the sale of Viau's meat, Sayklly’s candy bars, and production of radio ads that were played on WRUP 92.7 classic rock station throughout July and August.

Young Entrepreneurs Create Businesses

Students from Rapid River High school spent the spring semester getting hands on experience with starting their own businesses. As part of Michigan State University Extension Programming, youth in Michelle Hadel’s World Issues class have been participating in the Generation E Youth Entrepreneurship Program. The program has students create, develop and pitch their ideas for products or service businesses. For a handful of students, this was their third year participating in the program as part of an independent study program offered by the school.

Each business started with an idea for a product or service, and developed a prototype while figuring out the cost to produce the product. The students then developed a pricing strategy and marketing plan. As part of their experience, they traveled to Northern Michigan University and pitched their ideas to mentors at Invent @NMU who assisted them in refining the design of their products, discussed manufacturing options and reviewed their business plans. Invent @ NMU specializes in guiding young entrepreneurs through the process from validation to operations. Students saw firsthand how Invent @ NMU works with start-ups through the process of getting their ideas off the ground.

Students also toured the school of business and viewed a presentation on the most in demand career opportunities and degree programs NMU has to offer.

This group of students then traveled to Battle Creek to represent the U.P. in a statewide Generation E competition. Nine business competed against other youth entrepreneurs from around the state. The Business Included:

A & K Jerky- providing quality jerky made from farm fresh100% pure beef.
Chalk Talk- offers containers and decorative objects with space to write personal messages in chalk.
Durable Doggies- provides durable and adorable handmade dog toys for the entertainment and enjoyment of dogs and their owners.
LeSugar- creating and providing scented hand scrub.
Luscious Lashes- all natural beauty formula to grow your eyelashes thick, long, and luscious in 2 weeks.
Magnified Moments- captures your favorite moments and inspirational thoughts in an elegant glass gem.

Generation E Group Picture: Paige Vietzke, Heather Holzenkamp, Taylor Hedges, Hailie Couillard, Halie Hardwick, Savannah LaMarque, Aleece Paulin, Megan Evans, Carolyn Hamill, Brittany McNally
Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Positive Purpose - creates hand painted wooden plaques varying in size and design. Displays uplifting words to live by.

Take & Bake Cookies - marvelous cookie ingredients put in a lovely decorative mason jar made with love.

Vietzke Photography - capturing rare and beautiful moments through photography.

‘Being in this entrepreneur program, I get to learn how to manage my money and learn how I can develop my product, make it better, make it more wanted and it just gives me a great experience,’ said Rapid River senior Taylor Hedges.

Impact for Generation E

An evaluation of 86 Generation E participants yielded the following results:

- 97% of participants agreed (68%) or strongly agreed (29%) with the statement, “As a result of participating in this program, I understand what it’s really like to own my own business.”
- 94% of participants agreed (65%) or strongly agreed (29%) with the statement, “As a result of participating in this program, I understand the parts of a business plan.”
- 94% of participants agreed (55%) or strongly agreed (39%) with the statement, “As a result of participating in this program, I understand how to create a budget.
- 89% of participants agreed (52%) or strongly agreed (37%) with the statement, “As a result of participating in this program, I understand how to give an informative presentation.

Funding for the trip and program is supported by the Forum for Youth Initiatives. Income from the businesses developed in the Generation E program are pooled together in a cooperative structure and support each other. Profits are saved to support the following year’s class. However, individuals in the independent study program keep their profits after their startup costs are covered.

Delta County 4-H Program Names Outstanding 4-H Members

The Delta County 4-H Program held its annual recognition ceremony in December and honored two members with the outstanding 4-H member award. This award is given to older youth who are recognized for outstanding achievements and accomplishments in both club participation and involvement in county activities.

Laci Mitchell, Upper Hand 4-H Club, is a 9 year 4-H member involved in multiple clubs and projects including sheep, swine, beef, and horses. She has attended Michigan 4-H Explorations Days and was accepted into the MSU Vet Science Camp this past year. She is a member of the UP State Fair Livestock Advisory Committee and the Junior
Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Market Livestock Board. Laci believes being involved in 4-H has helped form her into the person she is today. She has been involved in numerous county level projects and regularly attends 4-H council meetings.

James Ayotte is a 9 year member of the Perpetual Pigs 4-H Club. He has also been very involved in the 4-H Entrepreneurship Program, Generation E and has created several businesses. He serves as the Vice President of the Delta County 4-H Council.

James has attended numerous state workshops multiple times, including Beef, Sheep, Swine and Arts/Craft & Sewing/Textiles. He also spearheaded a community service project last year based on a sewing project he learned at one of these workshops. He has been an active participant in both Teen Overnight and Exploration Days. James said his most rewarding experience in 4-H is the ability to make an impact and help others in the community.

LiveStock Clinic

The Delta County 4-H Program has hosted a Livestock Clinic at the Upper Peninsula State fairground for Market Livestock Exhibitors for the past 2 years. The Clinic focuses on many aspects of the Market Livestock Project including:

- Fitting and showmanship
- Animal management
- Animal care and welfare
- Biosecurity marketing your livestock project
- Completing your market livestock record book

Workshop presenters have included Julie Thelen, MSU 4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science State Specialist, Dr. Joe Domecq, MSU Department of Animal Science, Michigan State University Animal Science students, MSU Livestock Judging team members, Extension Educator, Dave Radloff, and Brock May, a regional and national champion in steer showmanship.

The 2014 Clinic had 21 youth and 20 adult participants. The 2015 Clinic was split into species specific programs. Fifteen youth and eight adults attended the Sheep/Swine Clinic. Ten youth and ten adults attended the beef clinic.
Funding for the clinic was sponsored by the Delta County 4-H Council, the Jason Zawacki Memorial Fund and Lloyd Johnson Memorial Fund with in kind donations from various businesses and the Upper Peninsula State Fair Authority.

The youth participants attending the livestock clinic indicated the following:

- 62% agreed and 31% strongly agreed they feel more knowledgeable about animal science.
- 62% agreed and 38% strongly agreed they plan to apply the animal science knowledge they have gained.
- 46% agreed and 54% strongly agree they have a better understanding of the concept of break even.
- 23% agreed and 77% strongly agreed they have a better understanding of marketing their livestock project.

**Upper Peninsula State Fair- Junior Market Livestock Record Keeping Project**

Delta County is home to The Upper Peninsula State Fair. MSU Extension 4-H programs providing the educational piece to the Junior Market Livestock Auction, the Market Livestock Record Keeping Project. In order to participate in the junior market livestock competition and sale, youth are required to submit a completed market livestock record book which includes project goals, monthly feed records, expense records, weight records, projected income, efficiency calculations, break even analysis, and animal science questions. MSU Extension 4-H Programs coordinate the Market Livestock Record Keeping Project with support from Greenstone Farm Services.

For the 2015 Fair, 302 youth exhibitors completed the market livestock record book project (79 beef, 166 swine, 47 sheep, and 10 goat). Nineteen volunteer judges and 6 assistants devoted 140 volunteer hours into judging and scoring the record books. Twelve youth were also interviewed by members of the Livestock Record book committee.
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 *UP 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.

**Forage Programming**

Beef and dairy producers across the Upper Peninsula face unique challenges to grow and harvest high quality forages in an economical manner. Soil conditions, weather during harvest, and short growing season are some of those challenges unique to the Upper Peninsula. MSUE Educators conducted winter meetings and on-farm forage field days to educate producers on innovative management practices to grow and harvest forages with high yield and quality.

In February 2015, a series of forage/cover crop educational meetings were held in four locations and attracted 57 participants. The cover crops/annual forages meetings included an overview of cover crops with potential for grazing in Michigan’s U.P. Dean Baas presented these sessions, including a segment on the online cover crop selector tool.

Michigan State University Extension educators also conducted on-farm forage field days at seven farms across the Upper Peninsula that attracted 70 participants. Each forage field day was based on topics identified by local forage focus groups and involved local farmers providing support for demonstrations, tours or both.

Upper Peninsula farmers were receptive to both winter programming and summer field days around the topic area of forage improvement. The
participants points of interest were soil health, fertility and low-input practices to improve forage performance. The management practices recommended by MSU had a positive feedback of 75-100% of respondents planning to implement these practices. The participants highly accepted cover crops, rotational grazing and broadcast seeding to establish pastures and improve forage stands based on their plans to implement these practices on their own farms.

**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
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

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.

Want to learn more about what Collin does at the North Farm? Please take the time to listen to an in-depth interview with the Farmer to Farmer podcast

http://www.farmertofarmerpodcast.com/episodes/thompson
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_barley](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/malting_barley)


- 2015 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan – April 10th – 11th [http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=hopandbarley15](http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=hopandbarley15)


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
Monica Jean grew up on her family’s small farm helping raise an assortment of animals including horses, Hereford cattle and poultry. She attended Beal City High School and participated in 4-H, FFA and several other extracurricular activities. She received a Bachelor in Science at Central Michigan University, majoring in Biology in 2014. Monica was employed through college at a local veterinary practice working with small and large animals. She was also a 4-H leader in Isabella County while attending CMU. Monica completed her Master in Science at Michigan State University in Animal Science. Her thesis was a part of the Extension’s Michigan Corn Stover Project working with Dr. Kurt Thelen, Dr. Steven Rust and Dennis Pennington. She concentrated on feeding corn stover to cattle in a confined feedlot, intercropping cereal cover crops into corn and storage of corn stover bales. She also participated in several other research projects including cattle comfort in confined feedlot and bioenergy production. She will be stationed in Delta County acting as the Field Crops Extension Educator for the area. She is thankful for this opportunity and is excited to be joining such a wonderful team! Monica began her new role on August 16, 2016. She can be reached via e-mail or by calling the Delta County MSUE Office, 906-786-3032.
Stephanie Ostrenga  
Supervisor and Food Safety Educator

Stephanie Ostrenga was born in Marquette and raised in Wallace and Escanaba. She attended Escanaba High School and ran cross country and track for the Eskymos. She continued her athletic career at Northern Michigan University before finishing her eligibility at Grand Valley State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Exercise Science in 2010. Stephanie earned her Certified Exercise Physiologist certification through the American College of Sports Medicine in 2011 and worked as a personal trainer with Fitness 19 in Kentwood before pursuing a graduate degree in Public Health. She completed her Master of Public Health degree at the University of Michigan in Health Behavior Health Education following a health communications internship at the Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County in Scotts Valley, California. Stephanie began working for Michigan State University Extension as a Nutrition Program Instructor in Oceana County in 2015 and is excited to continue with Extension as a Supervisor and Food Safety Educator in Western and Central Upper Peninsula. She began her new role on October 24, 2016 and is looking forward to helping grow health and nutrition programming in Delta County. Stephanie can be reached by email or by calling the Delta County MSUE Office at 906-786-3032.
# Extension Educators Serving Delta County

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Extension Educators Serving Delta County, Continued

Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Delta County

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