



# Alpena County

## 2016–2017 ANNUAL REPORT

[msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu)





## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Hello from Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) District 14, which serves Alpena, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle Counties. We want to thank Alpena County and the Youth and Recreation Committee for another year of partnership. Together we offer dynamic and diverse educational events and programs to people right here in our communities. MSUE is the outreach and engagement arm of Michigan State University and brings the latest research from campus directly to you. We believe education and innovative solutions can help address many of today's complex issues. We look forward to our continued service to Alpena County and the State.



The following pages highlight local impacts made possible by Michigan State University Extension staff through educational programs within the last year. I also want to highlight our Ask an Expert service that is available online through our website ([msue.anr.msu.edu](http://msue.anr.msu.edu)) 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Our MSUE Alpena County office staff can also help you use this service. This online tool is used by many Land Grant Universities across the country and allows people to ask Extension and University Faculty questions regarding many topics. The majority of questions asked in Michigan are related to plants and pests, especially during the summer months. When questions are submitted, they are then routed to staff with the appropriate expertise and science based answers are provided. You can see from the chart, Alpena County has made good use of this service. Please check Ask an Expert out for yourselves. Thank you to Gwyn Shelle of MSUE for this Ask an Expert data.

Lisa Anderson, PhD  
District Coordinator, District 14

## CONTACT US

MSU Extension Alpena County  
603 S. Eleventh Ave.  
Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: (989) 354-9870

Fax: (989) 354-9898

Email: [msue.alpena@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.alpena@county.msu.edu)

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

County	Number of Questions 2007-2017 (N=14,211)
Oakland	1,532
Wayne	1,236
Ingham	729
Kent	701
Washtenaw	673
Macomb	614
Genesee	448
Ottawa	431
Livingston	382
Alpena	341



## MEASURING IMPACT

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](http://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 ES237 Federal Report - Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015  
†From Michigan Extension Planning and Reporting System - Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015  
‡From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016



More than  
3.7 million  
visitors



viewed more  
than 7.2  
million  
pages.



1.3 million  
newsletters  
covering 90  
topic areas

# Developing Youth and Communities

Supported by Alpena County Residents



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).

## Alpena 4-H

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; which increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

## Growing true leaders

With innovative ideas, exuberant energy and the ability to look beyond preconceived obstacles, youth have the capacity to change the world. However, many lack the skills and confidence to empower these assets into motion. They need experiences and training that help them to feel ready and capable to lead.

Michigan 4-H helps to prepare current and future leaders by offering numerous opportunities for leadership development. From the club experience to statewide youth councils, all youth have the chance to serve in a leadership role. Those experiences and various leadership trainings provide youth with skills to last a lifetime and empower them to stand up today as true leaders in their families, schools and communities.

4-H offers a wealth of opportunities to youth ages 5 to 19 and to teen and adult volunteers. Seven guiding principles steer our work:

- 1) Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
- 2) Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
- 3) Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
- 4) Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
- 5) Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
- 6) Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
- 7) Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership. “Learn by doing” takes on a deeper meaning when considered in the context of these principles.



## Developing Youth and Communities, continued



**Out-of-school programs like summer camps help keep youth engaged and develop skills such as teamwork, decision making and goal accomplishment that will enhance their chances of future success.**



### How do we grow true leaders?

So just how does this happen? This report will describe the various delivery methods utilized in the Alpena County 4-H youth development program in 2016.

### 4-H summer camps

4-H Camps are a summer highlight for youth. They look forward to making new friends and participating in fun hands-on learning activities. Camps also provide youth an opportunity to learn the social skills that are needed to interact well with others, participate in groups, work cooperatively to accomplish goals, and develop the skills needed to make good decisions.

- **Summer Camp 4-H20:** (18) youth ages 9-12 years old and (3) teen counselors from Alpena engaged in our five county 4-H summer camp! This overnight camp at Ocqueoc Outdoor Center included archery, kayaking, macroinvertebrate identification, invasive species education, food safety, ROV (remotely operated vehicle) building, and more. Alpena 4-H members joined the over 60 youth from neighboring counties in this three day adventure.
- **Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp:** held annually at Camp Chickagami, for seven days, six nights provides hands-on learning, engaging youth ages 13-15 in exploring science, leadership, and careers (and of course, recreation) related to Michigan's Great Lakes and natural resources. Michigan teens participate in science sessions relating to local woodlands and wildlife, Great Lakes invasive species, wetlands, watersheds, fisheries, and more. Campers learn about Michigan's outdoors in numerous science-based activities, while exploring potential careers by working with professional experts.

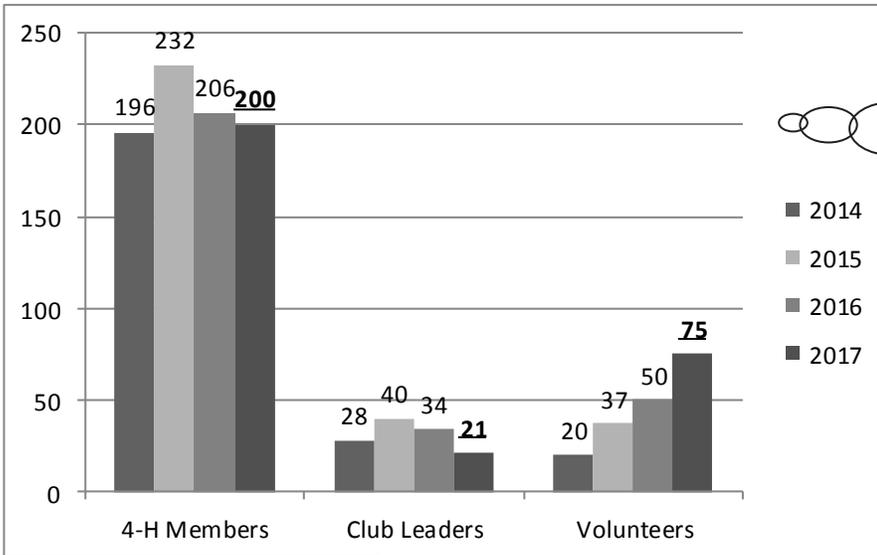
### Individual projects

4-H members participate in a variety of projects through their 4-H club. Projects may consist of clothing and textiles, shooting sports, robotics, visual arts, livestock and more. By engaging in individual projects 4-H members learn responsibility, time management skills, how to meet a deadline, financial accountability, and more. 4-H projects grow on the 7 guiding principles of 4-H by linking youth to adult volunteers and experts in their project area.



## Developing Youth and Communities, continued

### Alpena county 4-H enrollment



2017 4-H Enrollment numbers are an estimate, since the 4-H year ends September 1st

#### Join the Club!

Alpaca Fun  
 Alpena 4-H Council\*  
 Archery  
 Bean Creek Kritters  
 Beef  
 Blazing Saddles  
 Cathro Country  
 Cloverbud Explorers  
 Cute Craft Curators  
 Green Acres 4-H'ers  
 Happy Handlers  
 Hay Rustlers  
 Helping Hands  
 Horse Developmental Committee\*  
 KC3  
 Pine Grove Stable Equestrians  
 Plastic's F.L.O.A.T.  
 Seeds and Sprouts  
 Sewing  
 Shotgun  
 Spruce Ridge Wranglers  
 TBNMS ROV  
 The Hoof Prints  
 Trail Trotters  
 \*Advisory Council/Committee

### Building communication skills for a lifetime

Communication is an essential element of every aspect of life – personal and professional. 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. Youth who practice and enhance their communication skills in adolescence will find these skills to their advantage in future employment and adulthood.

To help young people develop this important life skill, MSU Extension's Michigan 4-H has made communication an aspect of nearly every area of its programming. Youth are required to record their progress on projects, verbally report their activities and illustrate their understanding in a number of ways. In Alpena County 4-H members develop communication skills through their 4-H club and various programs. Youth Day, one of the major 4-H events in Alpena, gives youth the opportunity to present their individual and group projects to an adult judge. This helps youth develop communication skills, confidence, and overall teaches them how to interact and effectively engage with an adult community member.



# Ensuring Strong Communities

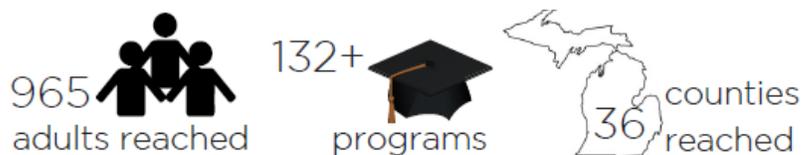


MSU Extension educators work to bring financial literacy, homeownership, foreclosure and postforeclosure education to individuals and families across Michigan. Most classes are free and open to all. Educators are HUD and MSHDA certified.

When you support MSU Extension, participants learn how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged; learn effective conflict management skills that help leaders and residents work collaboratively on complex issues; and engage youth leaders in decision-making. In the personal finance area, MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults. All of these outcomes help lower the cost of governmental services and lead to personal and community stability, strong neighborhoods and safe communities.

## Improving the fiscal health of Michigan communities

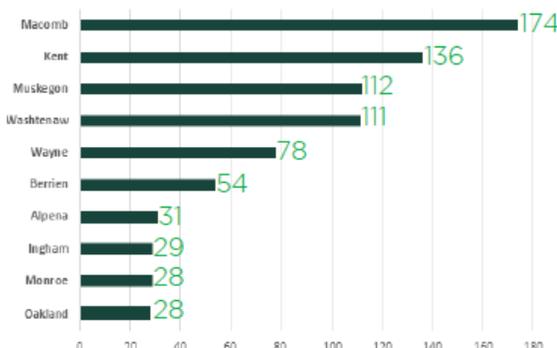
Whether it's handling credit card debt, investing for retirement or college funds, purchasing a new home, avoiding foreclosure, or simply wishing to have more control over personal finances, MSU Extension has expert educators located across the state that help Michigan residents in all aspects of money management. They assist individuals, households, organizations and communities to become more sustainable spenders through education focused on financial capability. MI Money Health is a website that provides Michigan residents with access to non-commercial, easily accessible, and reliable personal financial information. Here are the 2016 program results:



### FACTS

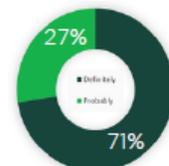
### RESULTS

Top 10 Participating Counties



Quality and effectiveness of the educational program you received

Effectiveness of the educational services in locating resources that you needed



Likelihood to recommend the educational program to someone in a similar situation as you



# Keeping Businesses Strong



**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Product Center**  
Food • Ag • Bio

**Accelerating Innovation  
for Michigan Businesses,  
Industries,  
and Entrepreneurs**

**When you support  
MSU Extension, you  
help participants  
understand the  
economic,  
environmental and  
social benefits of  
purchasing local  
and regional foods.**



MSU Extension and the MSU Product Center help Michigan entrepreneurs develop and commercialize high-value, consumer-responsive products and businesses in the food, agriculture, natural resources and bioeconomy sectors. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants understand the economic, environmental and social benefits of purchasing local and regional foods. You also help young people develop business skills that will help them succeed as adults and help communities capitalize on their ecological, social and cultural assets. This fuels the economy by creating and retaining jobs, and helps ensure a healthy tax base.

## Michigan State University Product Center assists entrepreneurs

Mary Dunckel is specially trained as an innovation counselor to deliver these services to local residents. Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-one basis and may take place at the MSUE office or the client's home, farm 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 innovation counselor also assists clients in accessing specialized services they may need that are offered through Michigan State University like feasibility studies, nutritional labeling, food science, and packaging assistance.

## Strengthening area horticulture businesses

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual "Let's Get Growing" garden show was Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Alpena Mall. This show provides area gardening businesses an opportunity to come together under one roof to share ideas and contact information for sourcing products that are essential to their business success. Given the short season for gardening in Northeast Michigan, this show helps the businesses identify niche markets which enhance their presence in the community. The show has become a spring staple in Alpena and it attracted 32 exhibitors and approximately 700 adult and 200 youth visitors.



# 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. 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. Extension programming also helps decrease incidents of violence and bullying through their social-emotional collaborators.

## Improving nutrition and increasing physical activity in Michigan communities

MSU Extension's SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) program includes but is not limited to, Cooking Matters, Eat Healthy, Be Active, Jump Into Foods and Fitness, Eat Smart Live Strong, Show Me Nutrition and Prescription for Health. These program teach adults and children:

- how to make the most of their food dollars
- skills such as menu planning & understanding recipes
- food preparation and keeping food safe
- and what a healthy plate looks like

The Prescription for Health partnership and referral through Alcona Health Center for 8 counties has made a big impact on the adult population in those counties. MSU Extension provides nutrition classes and grant funds through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Participants in Alpena County were given \$60 in vouchers for fruits and vegetables.

Classes were held at Samaritas housing and Alpena Community College and the following impacts were achieved:

- 75% improved in one or more food resource management practice
- 33% improved in eating two or more vegetables at their main meals
- 80% improved in one or more nutrition practice
- 39% improved in one or more food safety practice
- 23% improved in level of physical activity

### Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills...

MSU Extension is serving 544 children and families weekly in the Tip of the Mitt area through a partnership with Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. As part of the backpack programs of food distributed for the weekends, children and families receive recipes, resources and information to make a healthier choice an easier choice.

**Alpena County—  
6 schools—  
268 children**

## Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills

Some success stories from MSUE Alpena County Nutrition Instructor, Amy Page



*“I have created an incentive-like environment with my Developmental Kindergarteners and regular Kindergarteners in which each student received the ‘I Tried It’ medal from Show Me Nutrition on gold paper. I told the students that when I bring new foods for them to try I love to see an “I Tried It” bite from each food on their plate. After all foods have been sampled I check each plate and if I don’t see the “I Tried It” bites, I encourage them to try just a little bite. Once the student has tried every food item, I place a star sticker on their medals. The kids really want that star! I have seen a major increase in trying the foods and several students have empty plates since initiating this. I hear constant comments from them stating they really did like something they thought they wouldn’t like. It creates a feeling of accomplishment for them. It is a tactic that I will continue to use with the young ages.”*

Between July 2016 and June 2017, MSU Extension SNAP-Ed programs were presented to

620 adults and youth in Alpena County!

- 93 adults and 153 youth participated in a six-week series of nutrition lessons
- 146 adults and 228 youth participated in a one-time lesson on healthy lifestyle choices
- 1744 contacts were made with adults and youth in 2016-17. An increase of 930!



## Social Emotional Collaborations

GreatStart Collaborative (<http://greatstarttoquality.org/>) is a monthly meeting of Intermediate School District staff, local school district staff, Headstart/Early Headstart, Health Department staff, and Human Service agencies working together on strategies to strengthen families through building up Protective Factors known to reduce abuse and neglect:

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Social and Emotional competence of Children

MSU Extension educator, Denise Aungst, serves to connect and partner with individual agencies and the group as a whole by offering bullying prevention, alternatives to anger, stress reduction through Mindfulness, and parenting education.

The Parent Coalition of GreatStart liaison, Heather Martin, hosted a RELAX for Parents and Caregivers on December 7 with 7 in attendance for the workshop at the AMA-ESD office. Participants made calming jars, shared children’s books and additional resources.

# Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.



Connecting with our Lake Huron fisheries—past and present—for ecological, economic, and community values

Michigan Sea Grant Extension promotes research, education, and outreach to enhance responsible and sustainable use of our diverse Great Lakes resources. Through MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant works with Michigan citizens, industries, and coastal communities to encourage their use, benefits, and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources that positively influences our state's economy, environment and quality of life. Here we highlight our investments with Great Lakes fisheries stakeholders and engaging youth in Great Lakes stewardship opportunities.

## Community values in our Lake Huron fishery—past & present

Four *Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops* in 2016— one in Alpena —brought together more than 350 anglers, charter captains, and others with fisheries researchers and managers from across Michigan. Participants gained better understanding of Lake Huron fisheries ecosystem changes, how people are interacting with and affect these resources (e.g. fishing trends, management issues) and participants connected with research and management activities relating to Lake Huron and their respective communities.

## Bringing Great Lakes fisheries history and heritage to life in Northeast Michigan

Michigan Sea Grant partnered with Besser Museum and NOAA National Marine Sanctuary to host 40 people from across Michigan in Alpena for the annual, statewide 2016 Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail networking conference. Locally, Sea Grant supported the Besser Museum in securing a \$10,000 planning grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to help expand their Lake Huron fisheries heritage exhibits, including the *Katherine V* (commercial fish tug) and the *R/V Chinook* (retired DNR Fisheries Research vessel) fisheries science exhibits planned for the Museum.





**NEMIGLSI network received 2016 Innovative Education Award and recognition from North American Assoc. for Environmental Education**

## **Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiatives: Engaging youth in their environment and their Community through place-based education**

The Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (NEMIGLSI) network and partnership engages youth in Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects, provides support for schools and educators, and facilitates school-community partnerships. In 2016, nearly 2,000 Alpena County youth were engaged in hands-on learning through variety of Great Lakes and natural resource stewardship projects supported through this NEMIGLSI partnership. More than 60 educators from Alpena County schools were supported in professional development and/or fielding place-based stewardship education projects with their students.

Examples of projects led by Alpena area students this year include:

- Lincoln Elementary students learned about pollinators and pollution in hands-on ways while caring for Rotary Island habitats
- Ella White Elementary students collaborated with scientists to create a video to foster awareness about marine debris in the Great Lakes
- All Saints Catholic School student's art was celebrated in national 2017 NOAA Marine Debris Calendar

Regionally the NEMIGLSI is facilitated by Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant, 4-H Youth Programs, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and several other area partners with funding for this partnership through the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and Sea Grant Center for Great Lakes Literacy. In the most recent 2016-2017 school year, the NEMIGLSI regionally involved 5,155 youth (more than 20% of the region's total student population) in stewardship projects.

The NEMIGLSI network was recognized this year by the Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) through the accomplishments of MSU Extension's Brandon Schroeder who was named the 2017 Informal Science Educator of the year and also Alpena elementary school teacher Bob Thomson as their 2017 Elementary Science Teacher of the Year. MSTA is a state chapter of the National Science Teachers Association, one of the largest science organizations of its kind in the United States.



**Engaging youth as community leaders through place-based education and Great Lakes Stewardship projects in Northeast Michigan**



# Supporting Food and Agriculture



When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.



Michigan agriculture continues to be a diverse and thriving segment of the state's economy. When you support MSU Extension, you help producers develop efficient farming practices that optimize the use of inputs to enhance productivity while protecting soil and water resources. This education leads to better use of time, money and human capital, which helps retain and create agricultural jobs. Together, these measures strengthen Michigan's economy, encouraging growth of a sustainable and prosperous Michigan food and agriculture system.

## On-farm research and outreach

On-farm research and outreach bring locally relevant research-based information directly to producers. During the 2016 growing season, MSU Extension Educator James DeDecker collaborated with colleagues, industry partners and growers to complete eleven on-farm research projects investigating crop varieties and management practices that may improve the productivity and sustainability of crop production on Northeast MI farms. In order to share information regarding these projects, **eight local outreach events** were organized including field days and meetings reaching a total of **243 growers and other stakeholders**. In addition, **21 articles** were published on the MSU Extension website, through local media outlets and our Northern Farm and Field Newsletter reaching over **580 contacts on a bimonthly basis**. Notable findings/outcomes of these research projects have included the following:

- A sulfur fertility study showed that growers can increase hay yields and net income by as much as one ton and \$81 per acre by applying gypsum to sulfur deficient stands.
- A second year of malting barley variety trials showed that environmental conditions in Northeast MI are exceptional for producing high quality malting barley for the craft brewing sector.
- Three site years of wheat trials showed that growers can reduce fertilizer and pesticide inputs without significantly reducing wheat yields, increasing net income by as much as \$76 per acre.
- 78% of producers attending our 2016 Northeast MI On-farm Research Review reported that they intend to change their management practices based on the research results received, which they expect to generate an average of \$14 per acre in savings or added revenue, or \$38,635 total, during 2017.

← **Stripe rust infested wheat across Michigan in 2016. Resources from MSU Extension helped growers learn how to manage this new fungal disease.**

### Wildlife damage management

Since 2013, MSU Extension has partnered with wildlife management agencies, producers and other stakeholders to address the technically and socially complex issue of wildlife damage in Michigan agriculture (crop depredation and bovine tuberculosis (TB)). Conover (2002) estimated that wildlife-related economic losses to farmers and ranchers in the United States exceed \$4.5 billion annually. A combination of education, technical and financial assistance is needed to address wildlife damage. In 2016, MSU Extension's efforts were expanded in the following ways:

- \$100,000 was distributed through two DNR grant programs funding 31 habitat modification projects with the goal of reducing transmission of bovine TB and crop damage caused by deer in Northeast MI.
- 18 beef cattle and dairy farms in the bovine TB zone (DMU 452) were assessed by teams of public agency staff, including MSU Extension, under the new Enhanced Wildlife Risk Mitigation program to identify and prioritize potential TB risks that can be addressed with management changes, supported by \$1 million in government cost share funding, pending approval.
- Wildlife damage management sessions were offered at Michigan's three premier producer conferences in 2016-17 reaching a total of 142 participants, of which 63% rated wildlife damage as important or critically important, and 83% reported learning something new about wildlife damage management to apply on their farm.

### Field crops webinar series

In 2016, MSU Extension offered six one-hour webinars as part of the fourth annual Field Crops Webinar Series. The program was designed to share key production points from MSUE's traditional winter meetings with underserved audiences that cannot attend in-person programs due to geography, scheduling or ability. 110 individuals from 38 Michigan counties, five other states and Ontario participated in the program, resulting in 355 live webinar views.

- Evaluation of this program revealed that at least 9,921 acres of field crops and forage were exposed to practices that mitigate risk, increase yield, improve quality, or decrease inputs as a result of the series, generating a total of \$46,650 in savings or added revenue during 2016.
- This program is one of very few opportunities for certified pesticide applicators to earn MDARD recertification credits online, and participants earned a total of 229 credits by participating in the series.
- One participant commented, "I'm an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces and have an ADA-protected disability. With a day job and a disability, these webinars make the information of Michigan State University more accessible to me."



## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### Coping with farm stress

This has been a difficult year for many dairy farmers because of low prices for milk. In addition, beef cow-calf producers have also been facing low prices for their product. Though there is very little anyone can do about the prices received, there are things that can be done in the business and at home. This year Phil Durst, Sr. Extension Educator-Dairy & Beef Cattle Health and Production and MSU Extension have:

- Written a letter to dairy families encouraging them to contact MSU Extension for help.
- Met with farmers to help them consider management changes and alternatives.
- Met with two groups of ag professionals in Alpena County and West Branch to discuss the impact of stress on farmers.
- Invited dairy farmers to come together to discuss stress and ways to cope with it and had them share experiences of reducing costs.
- Spoke to beef producers in several meetings to talk about ways to improve the returns from their business.
- Worked individually with farmers to identify opportunities for improving finances.

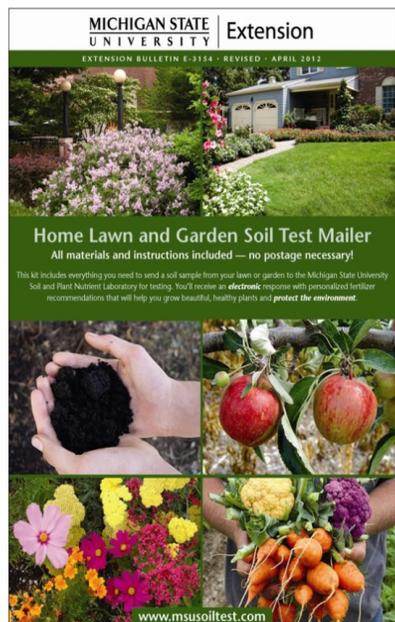
### Working to prevent Bovine Tuberculosis

While farmers, land managers and government officials have done much during the past 20 years to control TB in cattle herds, the reality is that there are still newly infected herds each year and prevention is the key. MSU Extension's Dairy and Beef educator has completed the following in preventing Bovine Tuberculosis:

- Working as a member of one of two teams of specialists visiting beef and dairy farms in the core TB area of Michigan, including Alpena County, to help farmers identify risks to their herd from potentially infected deer, we have done "Enhanced Wildlife Risk Assessments" on 17 farms.
- Developed reports with the team that provide ideas specific to the farm and to the management goals of the farmer.
- Have also been a member of the team that has investigated 4 new herd TB infections.
- Worked with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop policies that are practical and yet effective.



## Don't Guess, Soil Test!



Our office provides soil testing services for home gardens and lawns, field crops and wildlife food plots. For home owners, a postage paid self-mailer is available for purchase that makes soil testing a breeze. After collecting the soil sample, customers simply put the envelope in the mail and then expect results from the lab in approximately 10-14 days. For field crops and food plots the customer is responsible for mailing the samples to the lab and again, they can expect results within two weeks. Soil testing ensures that the appropriate amount of fertilizer and lime is applied, which is good for the pocketbook and the environment!

Residents with garden or yard questions have three options for assistance. They can visit the Gardening in Michigan website at [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu) to view tip sheets on many gardening topics. To talk to someone directly, they can call the MSU Extension toll-free hotline at 888-678-3463 with their question and a Michigan Master Gardener will offer advice. The final option we offer is “Ask an Expert” at [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org). This is a national website where residents can submit a question and supporting digital photos and they will receive a research based answer from an expert within a few days.

## Closing the farm-to-table gap with Breakfast on the Farm

While we all enjoy going to the grocery store and picking up whatever we need, the average consumer often has no idea where that food comes from. With more than 70% of consumers admitting they know nothing or very little about farming, MSU Extension works to improve this statistic with programs like Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF).

Since its debut in 2009, BOTF has hosted 38 events at a wide variety of farms across the state. The program has given 85,000 visitors and volunteers the opportunity to learn more about agriculture while experiencing life on a modern farm.

BOTF invites the public to enjoy a delicious farm-cooked breakfast on a modern farm and educates them with a self-guided farm tour. BOTF is an open door for the community to learn how their food is produced, and meet the local farmers who produce it.

- In 2016, two BOTF events across the state attracted more than 6,100 participants and volunteers.
- After visiting the farm, 90% of those surveyed indicated they would talk to others about what they learned at BOTF.
- Exit surveys show that participants have an increased level of trust for local farms after their visit.



## Alpena County Office Services

### Educational Bulletins & Publications

Extension educational bulletins/publications are available in the Alpena office; however, it is best to call ahead to see if it's in stock. You can also research and order bulletins at the MSUE Bookstore at (<http://bookstore.msue.msu.edu/>).

### Home, Lawn and Garden Hotline

Get answers to all of your gardening questions by calling the toll free Lawn and Garden Hotline: 1-888-678-3464

Staffed by MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educators and Master Gardener Volunteers

### Home-Owner Soil Test Kit

Available at the Alpena office to purchase for \$25 or order online from the MSUE Bookstore

(<http://bookstore.msue.msu.edu/>)-Bulletin E-3154.

### Commercial Soil Testing

Soil boxes for commercial soil testing (field crops, deer plots) can be purchased at the MSUE office at a cost of \$12 each. You will receive a soil sample information form to complete and send with your samples to the MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory.

### Pesticide Applicator Program; Certification, Training, Exams & Manuals

Manuals for Pesticide Certification can be purchased at the MSUE bookstore with credit card or can be ordered from the Alpena County MSU Extension office.

### Soil Erosion Permits

Alpena County MSU Extension is your 1st stop to get a Soil Erosion Permit . Applications and fees are handled Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30a-4:30p or by appointment on Mondays & Fridays.

### Alpena Baby Pantry Donation Drop-off Site

The Alpena Baby Pantry is a program of the Alpena and Presque Isle Child Abuse and Neglect Team, which is a local council of Michigan's Children's Trust Fund. The Pantry works to support families with some basic necessities during tough times. Items that are clean and in working condition are welcomed to be donated to the Baby Pantry at the MSU Extension office, located at 603 S. 11th Ave.

### Alpena County Plat Books

The sales of Alpena County plat books support the local 4-H program. Books are sold for \$25 and are published approximately every 3 years. Alcona & Presque Isle books are also available for sale.

### Alpena County Planning Commission

In Alpena County, an MSU Extension educator facilitates the day to day work of the County Planning Commission. This includes preparing agendas, recording minutes, sending correspondences and arranging educational opportunities.

## Extension Educators Serving Alpena County

### Staff Located in Alpena County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Helen-Ann Cordes	4-H Program Coordinator	989-354-9878	princeh1@anr.msu.edu
Mary Dunckel	AG & Product Center Counselor	989-354-9875	dunckelm@anr.msu.edu
Jessica Kendziorski	Staff Support	989-354-9876	kendzi20@anr.msu.edu
Scott Matteson	Financial/Home Owner Educator	989-354-9879	mattes25@anr.msu.edu
Amy Page	Nutrition Instructor	989-354-9883	pageamys@anr.msu.edu
Brandon Schroeder	Sea Grant Educator	989-354-9885	schroe45@anr.msu.edu
Sienna Suszek	4-H Supervising & Staff Development Educator	989-354-9877	suszek@anr.msu.edu

### Additional MSU Extension Staff Contributing to Report:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
Denise Aungst	Health & Nutrition Educator	231-533-8818	aungstd@msu.edu
James DeDecker	Bioenergy, Bioproducts, Field Crops	989-734-2168	dedecke5@msu.edu
Phil Durst	Agriculture & Agribusiness	989-345-0692	durstp@msu.edu



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The 4-H Name and Emblem have special protections from Congress, protected by code 18 USC 707.