

MSU Extension
Wexford County
2016-2017
ANNUAL REPORT

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

Michigan State University Extension is serving the residents of Wexford County by providing a variety of programs and resources to help people achieve their greatest potential. We offer a variety of resources through our Land Grant University. Whether it is a youth program designed to help kids learn responsibility or disease identification for a grower's specialty crop, we've got the backing of researchers and specialists on campus, and across the state in each Extension office.



Our staff is trained to connect people to the resources they need to grow food for their family, to prepare food safely and efficiently, to provide nutritious meals for their family, to work together to find common goals, and to help grow our communities.

In this day and age, a simple Google search brings up "answers" to life's many questions. It's easy to get answers. But are they the right ones? How do we know what will work best for us? That's a whole new challenge, and one that we are prepared to handle. We'll help you navigate the wild frontier out there.

Along the same line, technology has provided us with opportunities to teach from a distance. It allows participants to learn in their spare time, on their own schedule, from the comforts of their own home or farm. MSU Extension provides many opportunities for online learning, as well as the traditional classroom style, office visit, phone call, or farm visit. Throughout the years we have adjusted our methods to meet the needs of the changing world, but hold on to the traditional values of face to face interactions and "hands-on" learning.

Whatever the need, we are here to serve you. We will do our best to provide you with the information you need to make your life better. Whether it's health, agriculture, entrepreneurship, or teaching youth skills to carry forward throughout their lives, the cooperative extension service extends the research of the University while meeting the needs of the local community.

We thank our local governments, partners, and residents for providing us with the needed resources to maintain a local office, a strong 4-H program, and a touchpoint for local service.

Shari Spoelman,

District Coordinator



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More than 3.7 million visitors viewed more than 7.2 million pages.



1.3 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were sent to about 16,900 email addresses.



MSU Extension has more than 3,500 Facebook followers and more than 2,800 Twitter followers.

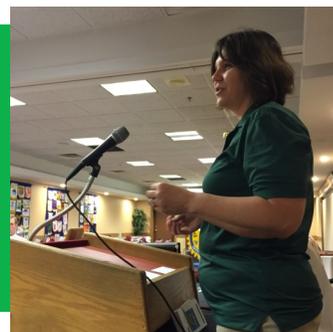
CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

Youth Served (unduplicated)	1,347
Nutrition Programs for underserved	1,196
Other Health and Nutrition	55
Agriculture	61
Consumer Horticulture	46
Early Childhood	59
Comm & Economic Dev, Nat'l Resources	102
Food Safety	60
Soil Tests	73

DISTRICT 6 DIGITAL REACH

From Jan 1, 2016, to Dec 31, 2016, 51,592 visitors from the 7 county district viewed more than 138,129 pages of rich, science-based content on the MSU Extension website (msue.msu.edu). Of those, 52.1 percent were first-time visitors. Search engine rankings make msue.msu.edu one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

Developing Youth and Communities



"The engineering boxes have been very well received! I have overheard a lot of great discussion between kids and parents about the scientific ideas they demonstrate. More than one family made a plan to explore more science activities at home! Thanks so much for providing this great service to our community!"

*- Tracy Logan,
Wexford Librarian*

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.

Building Community Partnerships

Young people experience 4-H through school and community clubs, in-school and after-school programs, and 4-H Camps.

Science in the Park

Wexford County 4-H collaborated with the DNR at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center during the summer of 2016 to bring Science in the Park to area youth and state park visitors. Families received a science challenge on Wednesday night. One of the challenges included building a boat that could float for 30 seconds while holding ten pennies. The following week, they constructed a boat that could paddle itself across a pool of water. Supplies included cups, straws, plastic wrap, duct tape, rubber bands and cardboard. Everyone had a great time coming up with a variety of ways to meet the challenges.



Engineering boxes set up at local libraries

4-H initiated an engineering activity box for each local library branch in Wexford County. Periodically, new activities are selected and provided to the Wexford Cadillac Library, who then rotates them through the multiple branches.

Working with the Northern District Fair and Cadillac Area Livestock Council

Throughout 2016, Wexford County 4-H worked with the Northern District Fair and the Cadillac Area Livestock Council to build the partner relationships needed to help youth be successful in their fair participation. 4-H provided activities for youth throughout fair week including a zoonotics training, a bicycle designed to make healthy smoothies with pedal power, the Life Skills demonstration wheel with a free book giveaway, and a geocaching demonstration. Youth were very excited about the activities and eager to know what we will be doing at next year's fair!

Bringing Embryology to the classroom

Wexford County 4-H provided school enrichment programming to the Cadillac High School biology classes. CHS teacher, Dr. Michele Cook, was interested in attempting to hatch chicks outside their shell. 4-H partnered with Dr. Cook to bring this science experiment to the classroom along with some of the 4-H Embryology information. The classes were able to view chick development right up to within 24 hours of hatching. The respiratory system was developed and working with the chick completely formed. Chicks were hatched from the eggs kept in shells in the incubator and youth learned about caring for baby chicks and what needs they have.



"Not only did we get to watch baby chicks hatch, but we even got to create little environments for them to grow up in"

- Cadillac High School Student

Great year for fundraising!

This year a new edition of the Wexford County Plat book was published. Since the spring printing of the new book, the 4-H Leader's Council have sold 244 copies. This fundraiser purchases club supplies for the various clubs and also covers participation fees for families that find it to be a hardship. In 2016, the 4-H Leader's Council covered participation fees for nine Wexford County youth.

Wexford County 4-H participated in the annual Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign in May. An information booth was put on location and 4-H members and volunteers were available. The Grands Club delivered rabbit showmanship demonstrations and the Manton Horse and Pony Club offered pony rides and canines to meet the community. An amount of \$596.70 was raised to help purchase programming supplies.

Club Highlights

4-H Geocaching Club

This club learned how to use a handheld GPS system and how to find and hide caches. The club also discussed safety precautions like poison ivy identification, mosquitos and ticks.

Cadillac 4-H Horseless Horse Club

This club started in November for equestrian learning fun.

4-H Sewing Club

This club started in November and learned to create rice bags, pillows, a pin cushion jar and a baby blanket.

4-H Grands

This rabbit and cavy club used some of their hard-earned funds to sponsor a personal self-defense class for youth through Ticonni's ATA Martial Arts. They participated in the Northern District Fair with youth exhibiting their skills at showmanship and auctioning off their market rabbits.

Mesick 4-H Trotters

This equestrian club marched in the Mesick Mushroom Festival parade this summer and passed out 4-H pencils and stickers to all of the youth there. They also participated in the many horse events at the Northern District Fair.

4-H Wexford Whatever's

This livestock club had youth raise swine, goats, poultry and rabbits for the Northern District Fair. They did a great job with their animals and learned so much about caring for them.

Wild Ones 4-H Club

This club started 2016 off with an ice fishing trip through the Carl T Johnson Center. They dissected owl pellets, made worm-composting bins, participated in stream monitoring and invasive species monitoring, tagged monarch butterflies and did some wild goose banding.



“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s natural desire to learn”

- Maria Montessori

350

Youth in Wexford County benefited from early childhood trainings that parents or caregivers attended

300

4th and 5th graders participated in the “Home Alone” program

“I like the idea of using puppets to address children’s behaviors, without singling out a child.”

- Power of Puppets attendee

Building a healthy and strong community through Early Childhood programs

Providing a quality education to our youngest members of society is key to building a healthy and strong community in the future. One of MSU Extension’s many areas of expertise is the Early Childhood team that provides quality trainings to adults working with young children. These adults include day care providers, child care center staff, and of course, parents, grandparents and other caregivers. In Northwest Michigan these trainings are typically done through 2-3 hour face-to-face workshops, conference presentations and webinars. They cover a variety of topics including social-emotional development, school readiness, positive discipline, and the benefit of play for youth ages birth to 5 years old. As a result, Michigan’s families are stronger and children are better prepared to enter and excel in school.

Classes

In 2016, providers in Wexford County participated in four of Michigan State University Extension’s most popular trainings including Power of Puppets, Science, Bullying Prevention and Understanding a Toddler’s World (behavior). Over 350 youth benefited from the trainings that their parents or caregivers attended this past year.



Early Childhood Conference

MSU Extension was also involved in the planning of the Cadillac Early Childhood conference. This past year, Dr. Jim Henry presented to over 200 providers on the effects of trauma on young children. The Great Start Family Expo is also an event that MSU Extension takes great pride in helping to organize. Several families and their young children from across the county attend and receive valuable information from area agencies. It also has fun activities for youth of all ages. Area fire and police agencies also attended so the youth could explore their vehicles and ask them questions.

“Home Alone” Program

A program that has been very successful is the partnership of MSU Extension, Cadillac Area Fire Department and the Wexford County Sheriff Department. Two years ago, the three agencies developed the “Home Alone” program. In 2016, the program was delivered to over 300 4th and 5th graders in Cadillac Area Public Schools and Mesick Consolidated Schools. Stemming from the very popular 4-H babysitting program, it is an opportunity for area youth to learn ways to keep themselves safe as they become more independent of the adults in their lives and influenced more by their peers.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food



MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

10,500

Michigan residents have been taught safe food handling, food preservation and methods to reduce food borne illness since 2013

When you support MSU Extension's efforts to enhance residents' access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food, program participants will focus on food safety measures in the field and at harvest, learn proper food preparation and food preservation techniques, and bring community partners together to strengthen access to healthy food supplies. This leads to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

Reducing foodborne illness through education of individuals, small businesses

The National Institutes of Health estimates that every year 48 million people in the United States become ill and 3,000 die from pathogens in food. Causes range from outdated home food preservation practices to unsafe sanitizing practices at public events and small businesses. Since 2013, MSU Extension food safety and preservation programs have taught almost 10,500 Michigan residents safe food handling, food preservation and methods to reduce foodborne illness.

In Wexford County:

- A "Food Preservation" class was held teaching updates and techniques on current canning and preserving practices.
- Residents attended a "Cooking For Crowds" class, held in the county building, reaching out to community members providing them education on safe food handling and tools to use within their organization.
- Eight participants attended the "Cottage Food Law" class to educate people on the state guidelines for making and selling foods at farmers markets.
- MSU Extension participated in the Senior Expo, promoting food preservation.



Through face-to-face and online learning, Michigan communities receive high-quality, research-based education using U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for safe food preservation.

- 95% of participants report they will follow research-based and tested recipes for home food preservation.
- 86% of youth participants gained knowledge about food spoilage organisms and learned how the organisms' growth can be slowed or prevented.
- 85% of participants can correctly list strategies for cross-contamination prevention.



Keeping People Healthy



125

Adults taught in a series of classes

564

Adults taught through presentations

276

Youth taught in a series of classes

231

Youth taught through presentations

Improving nutrition and increasing physical activities in Michigan communities

Limited income and poor nutrition affect quality of life and can increase healthcare costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 30 percent of Michigan adults are considered obese, and one out of every three deaths in Michigan is caused by cardiovascular disease, influencing the quality of life and adding billions of dollars each year in economic burden.

MSU Extension delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to help residents in urban and rural communities stay healthy throughout their lifespans. Programs teach participants how to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods and increase physical activity. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education is funded through a statewide grant from the Federal Government (Farm Bill). “SNAP-Ed” plays a vital role in helping to improve nutrition among low-income individuals.

Wexford MSU Extension partnered with the following organizations or agencies in 2016:

- Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital
- Baker College of Cadillac
- District Health Department #10
- Cadillac Area YMCA
- Staircase Youth Services
- Wexford County Council on Aging
- Cadillac Senior Center
- Mesick Golden-agers
- Harbor View Apartments
- Higher Ground/Love INC
- Club Cadillac
- 4-H (4-H Camp, Babysitting Club, Cooking Matters for Families)
- Cadillac, Manton & Mesick Public Schools
- Wexford/Missaukee ISD
- Cadillac Farmers Market



Ensuring Strong Communities



MSU Extension offers training courses on planning and zoning tools, policy options, land use and environmental issues. All services are available to Michigan's 1,858 municipalities, 14 multi-county regions, and 12 federally recognized tribal nations.

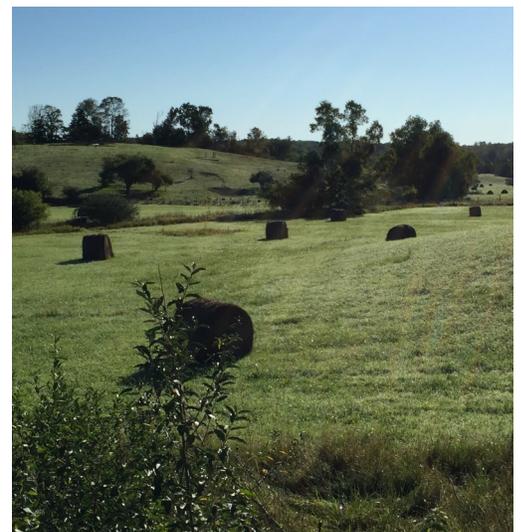
When you support MSU Extension, participants learn how to implement best practices in good governance that keeps communities solvent, productive and engaged; learn effective conflict management skills that help leaders and residents work collaboratively on complex issues; and engage youth leaders in decision-making.

The making of Wexford Joint Planning Commission

This may be the largest joint planning commission in Michigan, with eleven townships participating together to create one planning commission in Wexford County (near and around Cadillac, Michigan). A joint planning commission is where any two or more municipal governments (city, village, township) join together to create a single planning commission. Often this means one master plan for all the participating governments, and one zoning ordinance for all the participating governments. The facilitation to help guide the townships to reach agreement on all the details was done by MSU Extension Educator Kurt H. Schindler, AICP. Legal assistance and legal review was provided pro bono by Sarah C. Alden, *Esq.*, with assistance by Ricard M. Wilson Jr., *Esq.*, both of Mika Meyers PLC.

The major incentive behind creating the Wexford Joint Planning Commission was (1) the desire to retain planning and zoning and (2) the cost savings of doing so cooperatively. The 11 townships agreed to a funding formula where everyone pays an equal amount for the first 20% of the total budget (fixed costs), then a proportion to the township's total taxable value for 40% of the total budget (ability to pay), and finally a proportion to the number of parcels in the township (an indicator of how much zoning permit activity will take place) for the last 40% of the total budget. In future years the total budget will be the amount needed minus zoning permit and other fees collected in the previous year.

Most of the newly appointed members of the Wexford Joint Planning Commission also participated in MSU Extension's *Citizen Planner* training program held in 2016. This resulted in a newly created planning commission where a quorum of its membership had significant training in planning and zoning right from the start. Michigan State University Extension staff that focus on land use provide various training programs on planning and zoning – including joint planning commission, which are available to be presented to any county.





224

Volunteer hours were provided by our Master Gardeners in 2016



1,280

Potential volunteer hours to be given during the 2017 year from the 32 Master Gardeners who enrolled in the Fall 2016 class

Master Gardener Program

In the fall of 2016, MSU Extension offered a Master Gardener class at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center in Cadillac. Thirty-two (32) people attended training classes for 14 weeks to learn basic horticulture principles and environmentally sound practices. Once they complete the meetings and at least 40 hours of community-based service, they earn the Extension Master Gardener certificate and title. Through their volunteer outreach, Extension Master Gardeners shared science-based gardening knowledge and engaged citizens and empowered communities in environmentally responsible gardening practices, improving food security, improving community and developing youth through gardening.

Master Gardeners volunteer in community

Seven previously certified Master Gardeners from Wexford County had a busy year. They contributed 224 volunteer hours and received 53 educational hours as well. Many different projects areas were explored including community beautification, community food gardening, community gardening, educational gardening, environmental stewardship beautification, volunteer gardens and working with the Wexford and Missaukee Conservation Districts.



"There are so many benefits of community garden involvement. It is gratifying to see gardeners teaching gardening skills to their children, growing nutritious crops, enjoying the outdoors and learning from other gardeners" - Tammy Arrand, Advanced Master Gardener Volunteer

2017 projects

With 32 trainees in their first year, many volunteer projects will be underway. We are actively looking for projects within Wexford County. Community proposals are put together by organizations needing assistance by Master Gardeners. In order to be an approved project, the project has to have an educational aspect.



Making the Most of Our Natural Assets

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

Initial studies have shown that:

Cover crops help retain nutrients that otherwise would be lost.

Cover crops add nitrogen through fixation while combating weeds and breaking disease cycles.



When you support MSU Extension's natural resources education programs, participants learn about income-generating opportunities, ecological principles, natural resource issues and the role of natural resource professionals. They also explore public policy issues related to environmental stewardship. Our programs can lead to increased income for families that retain their natural resource assets, help landowners become better stewards of their land, and protect land management opportunities for future generations. Better land stewardship benefits communities by protecting and enhancing Michigan's natural resource assets.

Raising awareness of the benefits of cover crops

Cover crops are a hot topic in agricultural circles, thanks to an MSU Extension specialist's message that's resonating with the right crowd. Dean Baas, a senior research associate, conducts cover crop and organic agriculture research and education.

Cover crops are plants seeded into agricultural fields, either within or outside of the regular growing season, with the primary purpose of improving or maintaining ecosystem quality. Environmental benefits include enhanced biodiversity, increased soil infiltration and attraction of honeybees and beneficial insects.

Researchers are focusing on ways cover crops can be used by farmers to bring diversity to the crop system; to reduce reliance on fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides; and to determine the impact of cover crops on overall operation economics.

Protecting Your Shoreline:

A Workshop for Lakefront Property Owners

This class was held at the Carl T Johnson Center in Cadillac. Participants spent an evening learning best practices and strategies for protecting their shoreline property including:

- designing natural landscapes on lake front property
- use of native plants in shoreline landscapes, and
- common inland lake invasive species.



6,368

Acres impacted

100%

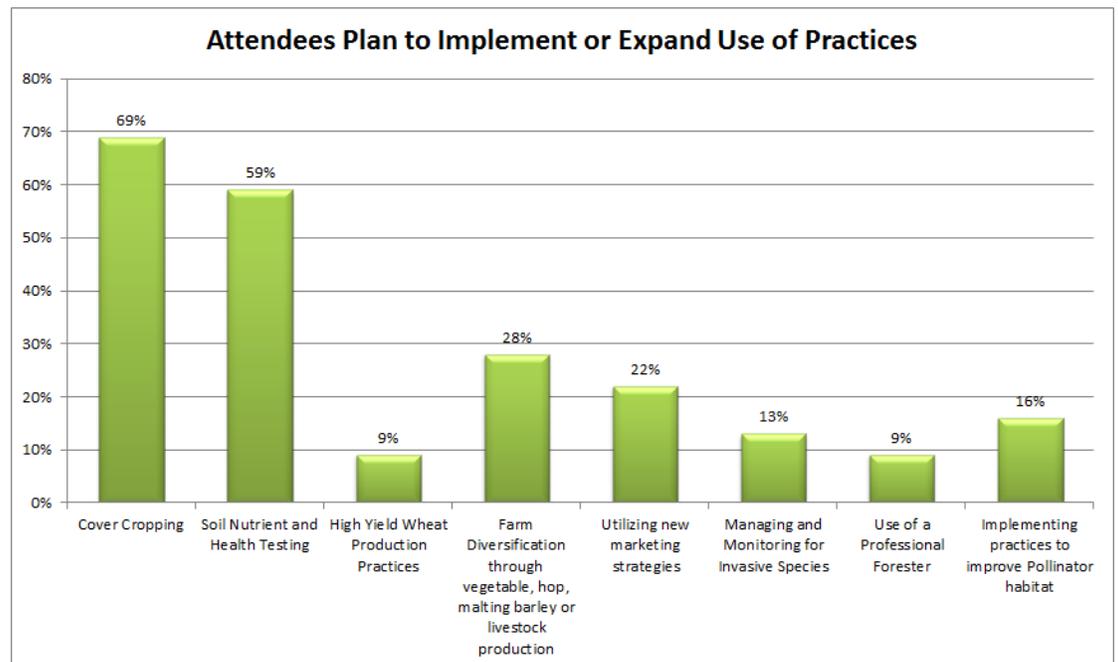
of conference attendees expanded their knowledge on a variety of topics

Highland Ag & Natural Resources Conference

On March 19, 2016 Michigan State University Extension in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Missaukee, Osceola and Wexford County Conservation Districts, held the first Highland Ag and Natural Resources Conference. The goal of the conference was to provide a variety of educational sessions with topics including soil health, novel crops, getting started with livestock, timber sales, youth development, invasive plants and much more. The conference was held at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center in Cadillac. Ninety-two people registered for the event and 14 sponsors and vendors also attended.



Sixty two percent of Highland Ag & Natural Resources Conference attendees were from Wexford, Missaukee and Osceola counties. In addition, the program drew participants from 15 other counties all across the state. The end of the session evaluation indicated that 100% of respondents expanded their knowledge based on the presentations. The following chart shows areas they plan to implement or expand their use of practices that they learned from attending the conference. It is estimated that these changes will impact 6,368 acres.



“This conference was extremely well run and organized with excellent, well qualified professionals! Good Job!”

- Highland Ag & Natural Resources Conference Attendee

Supporting Food and Agriculture



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

32

Wexford County residents participated in the IPM webinar series

Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. The production of commercial food and nonfood agricultural operations is growing rapidly. The number of households raising a portion of their own food and raising livestock or gardening for pleasure or relaxation continues to increase. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices. Participants also learn how to optimize and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and how to conserve and protect water resources. This education leads to better use of time, money and human capital, and helps retain and create agricultural jobs. These measures strengthen Michigan's economy while connecting farmers to local food opportunities and global markets. In this way you help MSU Extension encourage growth in a sustainable and prosperous Michigan food and agriculture system.

Online Learning

MSU Extension offers many agricultural programs on various production and marketing topics. Traditionally, these programs have been face to face workshops. As technology has changed, so have the methods used to reach clientele. Wexford County staff have developed various webinar programs. Webinars are usually one to two hours long and growers are able to participate from the comfort and convenience of their own home or office. Webinars are often free or affordable, improving access. Often they are recorded so they can access them at a time that is convenient. Webinar topics included:

- Beginning Farming Series,
- Soil and Nutrient Management for Christmas tree and nursery growers
- Integrated Pest Management series

Veterinary Feed Directive Meeting

The "Veterinary Feed Directives" changes that took effect on Jan. 1, 2017 have limited the use of some antimicrobials administered in feed and require veterinary oversight to obtain these products. The meeting was held to provide an opportunity for dairy producers, farm employees and industry professionals to learn about what actions were needed to be prepared for the changes.

A meeting was held on November 9, 2016 in Cadillac and was attended by area dairy farmers, feed company representatives and veterinarians.

The program highlighted information relevant to changes in the Veterinary Feed Directive. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion led by local veterinarians, nutritionists and feed mill managers.



2500

The number of acres in Wexford County dedicated to Christmas tree production.

Trees for Troops

Since 2005, Michigan's Christmas tree growers have donated more than 1,000 trees each year to support the Trees for Troops program. Imagine a smiling group of U.S. troops gathered around a Christmas tree that was grown on an American farm. Or, imagine a spouse and children sharing joyous memories of Christmas through the gift of a free, real Christmas tree while their family member is away serving our country.

"My husband is currently serving in Afghanistan and I knew that the holidays were going to be especially hard on me and my two children. All of our Christmas things including our tree are in storage, so I thought we weren't going to be able to have a tree or any decorations this year."

- Sara (Trees for Troops recipient)

Christmas Trees: Increasing profitability through local research

MSU Extension educators address issues critical to growers including: pest and disease management, plant nutrition, marketing, business management, water quality, and sustainability. Services are provided through farm visits, education programs, and research trials. Farms grow a variety of conifers in our area. MSU Extension is partnering with local growers to implement research trials looking at ways to reduce costs while producing high quality trees.

Nitrogen stabilization research. Application of commercial fertilizer materials has become an essential part of plantation management for many Christmas tree producers in Michigan. Most nitrogen applications are surface applied in the form of urea or ammonium sulfate. With surface applications of nitrogen, there is potential for nitrogen loss from volatilization, leaching, and denitrification. Some growers have begun to add nitrogen stabilizers, hoping to reduce nitrogen loss and optimize plant uptake. The addition of nitrogen stabilizers can add an additional \$70.00+ per ton. MSU is conducting trials to determine the efficiency of utilizing nitrogen stabilizers.

Cone research. Heavy cone production of Fraser fir remains one of the largest issues for Christmas tree growers. Fraser fir trees may produce hundreds of cones each year, which reduce growth and tree quality. In order to maintain tree quality growers remove cones from trees each spring by hand, a process that is labor intensive and expensive. Working with specialists at MSU we are partnering with local growers on trials to look at alternative cultural practices that will reduce the need for manual cone removal. These include the use of plant growth regulators (PGR's) and the application of herbicides to interrupt cone development, potentially saving growers over \$500/acre in labor costs alone.

MSU Extension brings resources from campus and other land grant universities to solve problems

Often the MSU Extension office is the first to identify emerging pest issues. In the Spring of 2016, we received a number of calls from Christmas tree growers that were having an issue with the new growth on Concolor fir turning brown and dying. At first appearance, this seemed that it could have been caused by frost. However, other plants in the area did not show frost damage. Concolor fir is a high value species. We suspected this may be caused by *Delphinella* shoot blight (*Delphinella abietis*). As with all pests, it is important to identify the causal agent. In addition, we sent samples to Dr. Gary Chastagner of Washington State University (WSU) for DNA analysis. Results from WSU confirmed *Delphinella abietis*.



Delphinella abietis

MSU Extension's Issues Identification—District 6 and Wexford County

Statewide—7,180 "Focus" surveys, plus focus groups throughout the state. The top two statewide priorities that emerged:

1. Safe and secure food and water
2. Creating jobs for tomorrow's workforce

Focus Survey: Wexford County Priorities

Preparing today's youth for tomorrow's job.

Ensuring that the food supply is safe and plentiful.

Helping Michigan maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for work, living, and play.

Helping communities create jobs and be great places to live.

Ensure a safe and plentiful water supply.

Conducting research/educational programs to combat diseases and pests that threaten the health of plants, animals, and people.

Conducting research/educational programs to make Michigan communities healthy places to live.

Conducting research/educational programs to build healthy and strong families.

Ensure senior citizens & their families have the information to make wise choices about resources, care, and health.

Help youth develop leadership/citizenship & other life skills.

District 6 Priority Items

Issues Identification - Focus Groups

2015-2016

Water Quality/Quantity: Provide education and research that helps assure Michigan's water remains clean and plentiful. Focus on protection of our watershed.

Career Development: Teach career development and job skills to youth that prepare them to be successful in the work force. Provide a special focus on agriculture related employment opportunities and skills.

Youth Outreach - At-Risk Youth: Promote traditional 4-H club involvement to reach youth that might otherwise not be able to participate due to financial considerations or lack of family support.

Budgeting and Personal Finances: Provide education to help consumers budget and use their limited resources wisely. Assist with poverty reduction through education.

Disease Prevention and Nutrition Education: Provide education and support for adults faced with chronic health conditions, especially as it relates to being overweight and/or obese.

Home Economics and Life Skills: Provide basic home economics and life skills education to youth. Include cooking, nutrition, food preservation, sewing, personal finance management (budgeting, account balancing, saving money, minimizing debt, etc.)

Agriculture Best Practices: Provide education related to agriculture production. This should include continued research and education for specialty crops like hops and barley, as well as specialty production like grass fed beef and aquaculture.

Farm Business Management: Provide education and support for farmers to maximize their profits. There should be a special emphasis on estate planning, farm succession planning, and assisting young or otherwise new farmers to enter the business successfully.

Agriculture Literacy: Educate the public about farming practices and the importance of farming. Provide unbiased reports and information on consumer topics of interest like GMO's and organics vs non-organics to dispel myths and provide a factual basis for sound personal choices.

Cottage / Small Businesses: Provide education and support for small business development, including cottage food law, gardening, food production, energy, environment, small government training and facilitation.

Extension Staff Serving Wexford County

Staff Located in Wexford County Office:

Name	Role	Email
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Additional MSU Extension Educators Serving Wexford County:

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Members of the MSU Extension District 6 Advisory Council

Clare County

Ken Brown
Jack Kleinhardt (Commissioner)
Vanessa and Trudy Foster
Christine Hammond

Gladwin County

Terry Walters (Commissioner)
Dick Metz
Ron Morley

Isabella County

Jerry Jaloszynski (Commissioner)
Kathy Methner

Mecosta County

Marilynn Vargo (Commissioner)
Vacancy

Missaukee County

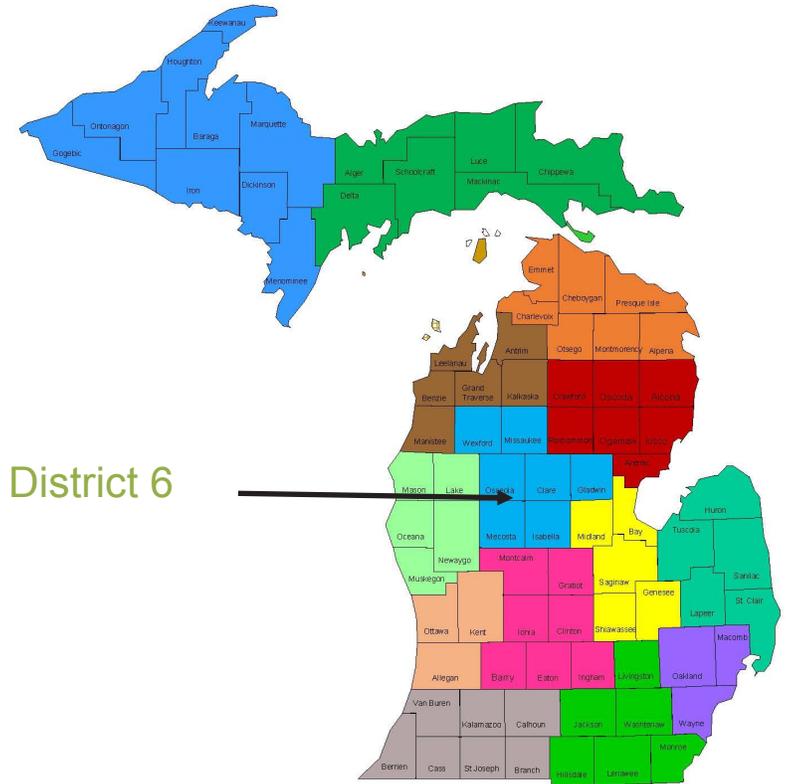
Cindy Jones
Frank Vanderwal (Commissioner)

Osceola County

Chris Gentry
Jill Halladay (Commissioner)
Russ Nehmer

Wexford County

Mike Solomon – Chair
Bill Goodwill (Commissioner)



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