This presentation was provided to the Berrien Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting on July 7, 2016 which was held at the MSUE office in Berrien County. Along with this presentation staff housed in Berrien and also those serving Berrien County were in attendance to talk about specific impacts and recent program accomplishments with Berrien County residents. In addition, two videos and one radio clip were included in the presentation. The presentation lasted 45 minutes.

Reference to the video/audio clips are in the notes. Information for this report was obtained from MIPRS, web searches and the Product Center.
Thanks to the commissioners for their continued support. Included this year is the new snap-ed prep/demonstration kitchen provided by the county maintenance department and the remodeling of the reception and storage areas.
We are grateful to all of our community partners and their support of MSUE programming in Berrien County. Particularly we are fortunate to have the help of the Berrien 4-H Foundation who will be 50 years old in 2018. They donate about $24,000 to 4-H program efforts each year.
These are the ways we connect with Berrien residents. The funds provided by the county and partners leverage the work we can do in the county, district and state.
Children and Youth

- 4-H
  - 794 Berrien youth enrolled
  - 257 Adult volunteers
    - 43 Clubs
      - 4-H Grows Here!
  - 525 additional youth experienced 4-H educational enrichment programs (D. Barrett, F. Cox, B. Krosnicki)

- Nutrition and Physical Education
  - One time presentation school age youth - 1916
  - Youth in series (at least 5 sessions) - 801

With detailed attention to the enrollment system 4-H has reported a 30% increase in enrollment. The additional 13 added clubs (spin clubs) may not be active all year but are active at certain parts of the year. These clubs are important to nurture as they will lead to youth getting involved in year round club activities.

525 Extra 4-H numbers included
331 commodity carnival
Introduction to resumes for the senior class at Brandywine High School, February 6. Arranged in partnership with one of the Transition Coordinators at Berrien RESA. This audience included a mix of youth with disabilities and able bodied youth. Deb Barret - 74Youth

Janice Zerbe. 18 portfolio assessments during the May 5 Young Entrepreneurs Day held in Berrien County. Approximately 10-minutes spent per person.

4-H Ag Innovators Experience at Niles YMCA Camp (Berrien County) July 10, 2015
43 surveys collected
Program delivered by: Betty Jo Krosnicki

Budgeting for Career Fund$ - Edward Lowe Foundation Young Entrepreneurs Day on May 5, 2015
Frank Cox facilitated three sessions titled Budgeting for Career Fund$ at the Edward Lowe Foundation Young Entrepreneurs Day. The event took place at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, MI. 59 youth.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/J4OFAMQRqkI
Dining with Diabetes is a five-session course designed for people at risk of diabetes or who have diabetes, as well as their family members. Through Dining with Diabetes participants learn how to prepare healthy meals using less fat, how to make meals using less sodium and sugar without reducing flavor and enjoyment, the causes of diabetes, tools for managing diabetes, and the importance of diet and exercise in managing diabetes. The program offers opportunities to sample a variety of healthy foods and take home recipes to further encourage behavior change.

In 2015, over 160 participants from 15 counties participated in the Dining with Diabetes program. Pre- and post-program evaluation data was voluntarily returned by 61 participants.
Nutrition and Health

- Social-Emotional Health & Parenting Education
  - Suzanne Pish Holley Tiret, Kendra Moyses, Gail Innis
  - Relax: Alternative to Anger for Parents/Caregivers
    - 62 Berrien County Foster Grandparents

- Child Development for child care providers
  - Telemon/Migrant Head Start – 53 participants
  - Webinar series and face to face – 32 participants
  - State Conferences – 6 participants

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger Parent/Caregiver Workshops
Berrien County Foster Grandparents program by Suzanne Pish - 62 Berrien residents
Berrien County 2016 Fruit Extension Programs
Fruit programing in Berrien County is provided by:
Dr. Bill Shane (tree fruits), Mark Longstroth (small fruit) and Brad Baughman (focus on grapes)
Feb 3-4, Southwest Michigan Hot Days – Mendel Center Lake Michigan College
Sessions for tree fruit, grapes, blueberry and vegetable growers 200 participants
March 1, Michigan Spring Peach Update, SW Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC)
full day program for peach growers, 50 participants
Bill Shane.
March 11, Grower Conference on Ag Labor, full day program on Ag Labor issues
Van Buren ISD Conference Center, Lawrence, 50 participants
Mark Longstroth
March 22, Berrien County Preseason Fruit Management Update, 6-8 PM.
Preseason update on pest control for tree fruit, blueberry and grape growers, 50 participants
April 4, Southwest Michigan 2016 Grape Kick-off Meeting, 3-6 PM (SWMREC)
Brad Baughman, included two out of state speakers
Monday April 4 to June 27, 2016
Weekly fruit IPM updates for southwest Michigan, 5-6 PM
Fruit Acres Farms Coloma 30 to 60 participants
Blueberry Meetings held in Van Buren County usually have 5 to 10 Berrien blueberry growers.
Upcoming meetings:
Aug. 23, 2016 Peach and plum variety showcase, 4-7 PM (SWMREC)
Bill Shane,
Brad Baughman assists local growers as well as new farmers and landowners interested in starting an ag business
Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Field Crops (corn, soybeans)
  - Programs throughout the district – 87 participants
    - Bruce Mackellar
    - Dean Bass
    - Eric Anderson
    - Lyndon Kelley
    - Mike Staton
  - Animal ag and manure management – 33 participants
    - Shelby Burlew – Dairy, Beef
    - Mike Metzger – Goats
    - Beth Ferry - Pork

Horticulture is the mainstay but there are also those in the county who raise field crops and animals and seek out MSUE for information and attend programs held throughout the district.

Pork program participants – 16
What: Smart Gardening Outreach - Exhibit at Fernwood Spring Gardenfest Program
When: 5/2/15 9:00 am -4:00 pm
Where; Fernwood Nature Center, Niles, MI, Berrien County
Who: Extension Master Gardener Smart Gardening Volunteer John Harville
    47 participants
Three trained MG’s to engage in this activity

Ron Goldy is in his second year of educating the public on local agriculture.
Click on this link to listen to his 2016 inaugural radio episode begins half way through
were peak levels out. https://soundcloud.com/wsjm/05-20-16-in-the-spotlight.
Berrien County Product Center Highlights

The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and the bio economy. Extension educators are specially trained as innovation counselors to deliver these services. Joanne Davidhizar is the innovation counselor housed in Berrien County that serves local residents as well as provides statewide leadership for the Michigan MarketMaker program.

Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-one basis and may take place at the MSUE office or the client’s home or business location. The assistance provided is tailored to meet the needs of the client and may include things like developing a business plan, navigating the regulatory maze, accessing the supply chain or seeking funding options. Joanne 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.

One hundred and eighty-eight counseling sessions took place in Berrien County that assisted in the launching of three new ventures and the creation of five jobs. $348,000 of new sales was reported.

Several value-added agricultural operations were assisted with expanding the processing capabilities of their businesses. Clients with food businesses received counseling to assist them in becoming licensed. The partnership between MSUE and the MSU Product Center is providing support for entrepreneurs in facilitating economic development across southwest Michigan.

MSU Product Center also conducted two overview classes, Starting a Licensed Food Business, in collaboration with the Niles Entrepreneurial & Culinary Kitchen.

Link is to video of Hophead farms, a winner of the product center’s value added award, highlights some of the outstanding work and assistance provided by Joanne Davidhizar.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGcEkzqaWSM&feature=youtu.be
Khurram facilitated nine sessions on various money management topics including pre-retirement, estate planning, real estate trends, and identity theft during Money Smart Week in April.

Feeding America annual training conference presentations on Making a Spending Plan to food pantry and mobile truck volunteers in six counties during March, May and June by Brenda and Khurram.
Events included Ludington Regional Fishery Workshop, Ottawa County Water Quality Forum, and Salmon Ambassadors presentations. – 38 Berrien residents in attendance.
Thank you for your continued support!