



# Ingham County

## 2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

MSU Extension serves individuals, businesses and families throughout Michigan. District 8 spans seven counties, with eight different Extension offices. MSU Extension also has a close partnership with MSU AgBio Research, and District 8 is home to two of their research centers; the Clarksville Research station and Montcalm Research center. The two organizations work together to keep farmers and the general public current on the newest technology and management practices.

MSU Extension programs create innovative opportunities for Michigan residents. These programs offer youth and adults access to educational opportunities as varied as dairy herd management, bullying prevention, diabetes prevention, youth college experiences, gardening, human nutrition and animal nutrition. Extension also provides an opportunity for new commissioners to attend New County Commissioner Training which includes workshops on county budgets, policy making, and statutory obligations.

It is a pleasure to work with the over fifty MSU and County staff members housed in these eight District offices. Please contact me with any questions you may have about this report or any MSU Extension programs.

Don Lehman  
District Coordinator, District 8



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## MEASURING IMPACT

### CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H Program.....	2,624
4-H Clubs Members.....	1,1110
Special Interest & School Enrichment Participants.....	1,220
Teen Volunteers.....	62
Adult Volunteers.....	232
Snap-Ed Series Participants.....	936
<b>TOTAL IMPACT.....</b>	<b>3,560</b>

### DISTRICT 8 DIGITAL REACH

From July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, 114,074 visitors from Ingham County viewed more than 428,277 pages of rich, science-based content on the MSU Extension website ([msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu)). Search engine rankings make [msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu) one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.

### MSU EXTENSION'S EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH

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

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

MSU Extension also distributes a series of electronic newsletters that cater to residents' unique interests. Last year, nearly 1.3 million newsletters covering 90 topic areas were distributed to

about 16,900 email addresses.‡ You can sign up for these informative newsletters by visiting [msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu) and clicking on “Newsletter Sign Up” or by 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

# 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).**

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.

## **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.

In the past year:

- 25 youth formed the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council, becoming statewide champions for 4-H.
- 32 youth were trained as teen leaders in the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience. These youth cultivated important leadership skills as they delivered programming to 1,200 of their peers.
- 40 youth learned how to become advocates for themselves and 4-H through the 4-H Teen Spokesperson training; 86% of those surveyed indicated they feel confident in standing up for issues that are important to them.
- 62 Ingham county youth became 4-H volunteers.



Through the partnership with the Lansing Lugnuts, the Ingham County 4-H program was able to reach hundreds of youth and their parents, giving them a glimpse of what 4-H has to offer.

### Partnership with Lansing Lugnuts

In 2016 a partnership with the Lansing Lugnuts was developed. This partnership allowed our Ingham County 4-H to promote itself and its programs at the Sunday “Kids Day” baseball games. From the end of June through early August, the 4-H booth actively engaged youth from Greater Lansing at four games, with the help of Ingham County 4-H youth members and adult volunteers. For the “Bark in the Park” game on June 26th, the Red Cedar Kids 4-H club taught fans how to turn old t-shirts into braided dog toys. They even donated some of their home-made toys to the Capital Area Humane Society. On July 10th, “Big Lug’s Birthday”, members worked with the 4-H International Exchange Program and did paper origami with fans while educating them about the opportunity to serve as a host family for an exchange student. July 24th was “Princesses and Pirates” day at the ballpark. The 4-H Youth Ambassadors helped young fans make their own lollipop ships, eye patches, crowns and wands. The Red Cedar Kids 4-H Club returned August 7th for “Superheros” day and taught fans how to make superhero figures using popsicle sticks.

Over the four games, we were able to reach hundreds of youth and their parents giving them a hands-on glimpse of what 4-H has to offer.

### Mini Maker Madness

On October 1st, 2016, the Mini Maker Foundation hosted the 2nd Annual Mini Maker Madness event at the Meridian Mall in Okemos. In an effort to promote the 4-H Tech Wizards program and 4-H programs in general, a team of 4-H staff from Ingham, Eaton and Jackson counties operated a booth which provided visitors with an opportunity to explore science and technology through several interactive activities. These activities included app-enabled robotic balls called Spheros that kids could send rolling around our “corral” using ipads; snap Circuits that allowed kids to learn how electricity and electronics work; Makey Makey kits that turned bananas into piano keys; and self-made catapults constructed with popsicle sticks, rubber bands and plastic spoons that kids could take home with them. Through these activities, the 4-H staff were able to expose a couple thousand young people to the Tech Wizards program and 4-H!



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.

### 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. Some Michigan 4-H programs make communication a major focus, further allowing youth to cultivate and enhance these critical skills.

In 2015:

- 40 youth attended the 4-H Teen Spokesperson workshop; 78% of those surveyed indicated they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings with others.
- 32 teen leaders taught more than 1,200 fellow young people the Water Windmill Challenge as part of the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience.
- Nearly 350 youth participated in 4-H meat and livestock judging programs where they verbally validated their class evaluations.



## 2016 Ingham County 4-H clinics and boot camps

**Two hundred participants joined Ingham 4-H staff for the 2nd Annual Ingham County 4-H Swine Project Boot Camp.**

In 2016 the Ingham County 4-H program offered four livestock educational programs. Positive feedback was received from individuals that attended these events. Adults and youth had the opportunity to learn together and to understand different species, animal science, animal health, biosecurity, showmanship, nutrition, and to improve their understanding of the hard work and dedication it takes to have a successful animal project.

Programs included:

- The 2nd Annual Ingham County 4-H Beef Clinic—90 participants
- The 2nd Annual Ingham County 4-H Swine Project Boot Camp—200 participants
- The 2nd Annual Ingham County 4-H Poultry Clinic—20 participants
- The 1st Annual Ingham County 4-H Goat Clinic—11 participants
- Poultry Biosecurity Training (partnership with USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services) — 20 participants



# 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.**

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 and 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.

Participants include youth, nonprofit organizations that prepare food for the public and food preservers who want to create safe products for their small businesses.

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.

## **Food preservation online course**

It is important for individuals to stay up to date on the latest research for home food preservation, recipes and processing times, as they are constantly under review and being updated. MSU Extension's Online Home Food Preservation course is a self-paced program that instructs science based recommended methods for safe home food preservation, regardless of a person's experience with preserving foods.

This course will help people avoid dangerous, life-threatening contamination of foods. Individuals will feel confident in processing their produce and feeding their families safe, healthy foods. Home food preservation stimulates the local economy by encouraging locally grown and purchased foods and for individuals and families to grow their own gardens.

This course includes a variety of preservation methods and skills from drying foods, using a dehydrator, freezing and blanching which requires little time or equipment, to a more advanced pressure canning. Each of the seven segments discusses the equipment and tools needed to safely process food.

# Ensuring Strong Communities



**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.**

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**

Only with healthy, vibrant communities can Michigan residents be expected to thrive. To help Michigan prosper in a sensible, sustainable fiscally responsible way, MSU Extension launched the Center for Local Government Finance and Policy in late 2015.

The center is led by MSU Extension economist Eric Scorsone, who has assisted multiple cities during fiscal crises including Detroit, Flint and Lansing. The center will advise cities during fiscal hardships so communities can find a sustainable path forward. It will also develop fiscal tools and offer outreach to help communities improve their fiscal health. In addition, the center is committed to connecting legislators with experts in public policy and forging partnerships in the public and private sector.

The center's efforts include:

- Assisting in the development of performance metrics for government budgets, strategic plans and public accountability reporting.
- Providing an overall assessment of long-term and short-term trends in revenues, expenditures, debt, general fiscal health and recommendations regarding adoption of financial policies.
- Publishing an annual local government fiscal health report for communities wishing to improve fiscal health.
- Publishing an annual legislative mandate report that identifies the costs imposed on local governments and their impact on fiscal and operational health.

**The MSU Extension Housing Program, assisted 57 households to become current on their property taxes. This resulted in the county receiving \$284,754.99 in back owed taxes.**

### Your Money, Your Goals

One program working to make our community stronger, is the Your Money, Your Goals program. This is a Train-the-Trainer event and works with social and case workers to become more aware of information and tools to financially empower their current clients. MSU Extension educational staff from the Financial and Homeownership team provided resources that the workers can use to assist their clients plus information about locally available resources they may need to create in order to better meet the needs of those they help. Thirty-two Ingham county case workers participated in this training.

### Foreclosure prevention

In 2016, the MSU Extension Housing program provided counseling services to Ingham county homeowners concerned about keeping their homes due to delinquent mortgages or property taxes. Foreclosure education is delivered through one-on-one office appointments with household members. The Housing counselors are HUD-approved and MSHDA-certified to provide such services. Follow up with clients is done until the outcome is known. Counselors also respond to phone and email inquiries.

Through working with the Michigan Hardest Hit Fund Homeowner Program, the MSU Extension Housing program was able to secure funds to assist fifty-seven Ingham County households to become current on their property taxes and brought in \$284,754.99 to the county in back owed taxes.

### Homeownership Education

Homebuyers make decisions that require them to determine their own financial situations and what financial products are available on the market. Research suggests individuals may not accurately estimate their own financial status, including information about debt and creditworthiness, which leads to less desirable financial decisions. MSU Extension Homeownership Education courses educate homebuyers on advantages of homeownership and steps in the home-buying process, understanding costs of homeownership and how to maintain the investment, mortgage, loan basics, why good credit is important, and how to determine how much house can be afforded.

Households can earn completion certificates by completing this program. These certificates are a requirement for Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) down payment assistance programs.



# Keeping Businesses Strong



**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.

## **Building entrepreneurial spirit and skills**

As the backbone of the economy, small business owners play a critical role in the prosperity of the nation. But to be a successful entrepreneur, one must have not only the ambition and moxie to take a risk, but also the business sense and skill to make a profit. To ensure the business owners of tomorrow – today’s youth – are triumphant in their future endeavors, they need to learn the entrepreneurial concepts that pave the way for success.

MSU Extension is helping to meet this need by providing youth and the adults that support them with the skills and resources necessary to turn ideas into business ventures. Through simulations and workshops, youth learn how to develop business plans and operate their own companies, as well as how to be more entrepreneurial in their everyday 4-H experiences. In 2015, these programs were delivered to nearly 1,200 people in 59 Michigan counties.

As a result:

- 92% said they learned how entrepreneurial skills could be used in any career, and 60% reported planning to start their own businesses.
- 16 Ingham County youth participated in business and entrepreneurship workshops.



**151 participants attended the Optimizing Dairy Farm Profit workshops, benefiting over 300 Michigan farms.**

### Optimizing Dairy Farm Profit

Michigan dairy farmers entered 2016 with \$4 less per hundred weight of milk than they had received just one year earlier. This represented a 25% decrease in income. This much of a drop in market price meant farmers would need to take a close look at their operation to survive.

In March 2016, the MSU Extension Dairy Team and specialist from Michigan State University offered “Optimizing Dairy Farm Profit”, a workshop designed to highlight information relevant to dairy farms staying profitable with today’s low milk prices. Presentations focused on a variety of topics that can impact a farm’s bottom line. Dr. Chris Wolf, MSU Extension dairy economist, provided a dairy market outlook. MSU Extension dairy and farm management educators also presented timely information including:

- How to identify bottleneck in management
- Financial indicators
- Financial comparisons between high and low profit farms
- Labor cost and productivity
- Economic analysis of custom forage harvesting
- Impact of stocking density
- Heifer enterprise considerations
- Easy-to-use Dairy Farm Cash Flow projection tool

Over 300 farms across Michigan were served by this program. Of the 151 participants, producers attended from Barry, Clinton, Gratiot, Ingham and Ionia Counties. Over 65% of those responding to the survey said they would be making management changes on their farm as a result of the meeting.



# Keeping People Healthy



**Encouraging 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.**

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

## **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. In 2015 alone, these programs reached more than 112,000 adults and youth across the state in over 1,600 different locations.

- 79% of youth participants improved their abilities or gained knowledge about how to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Guidelines.
- 79% of adult participants made a positive change in at least one nutrition practice, such as preparing foods without adding salt, or using the Nutrition Facts labels to make food choices.
- 73% of adult participants made a positive change in at least one food resource management practice, such as planning meals in advance or comparing prices when shopping.

# Making the Most of Our Natural Assets



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

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.

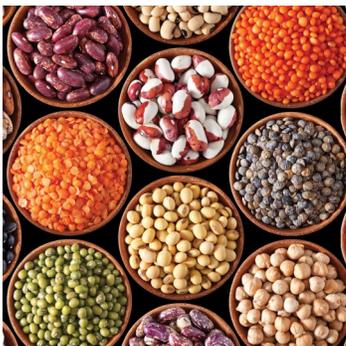
Cover crops are plants seeded into agricultural fields, either within or outside of the regular growing season, with the primary purpose of improving or maintaining ecosystem quality. Environmental benefits include enhanced biodiversity, increased soil infiltration and attraction of honeybees and beneficial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

Initial studies have shown that:

- Farming benefits include reduced erosion, improved soil quality through increased porosity, soil organic matter and water-holding capacity, as well as the addition of beneficial microbes.
- Cover crops help retain nutrients that otherwise would be lost.
- Cover crops add nitrogen through fixation while combatting weeds and breaking disease cycles.

# Supporting Food and Agriculture



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

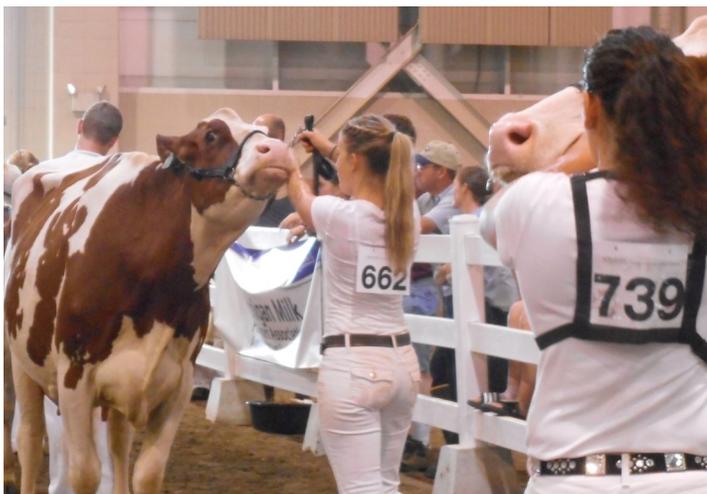
Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. The production of commercial food and nonfood agricultural operations is growing rapidly. The number of households raising a portion of their own food and raising livestock or gardening for pleasure or relaxation continues 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.

## Preparing youth for future careers in agriculture

As a pillar of Michigan's economy, agriculture must continue to grow and thrive. One way to ensure this success is to prepare an informed and skilled workforce ready for careers in this essential sector.

To meet this need, MSU Extension offers youth a continuum of learning opportunities in the agriculture industry. These opportunities range from interactive experiences such as 4-H Renewable Energy Camp and World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute, to educational resources such as the Youth Business Guide to Success, animal marketing curriculum and zoonotic disease prevention tools. Through these experiences and resources, as well as county 4-H projects, youth are educated about agriculture and prepared for careers in this important industry. In the last program year:

- More than 24,000 4-H youth participated in animal, biological and plant science projects in 78 counties.
- More than 850 youth took part in Michigan 4-H pre-college programs with an agricultural focus. These programs, which include 4-H Exploration Days and 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp, among others, are designed to help youth explore potential careers or academic areas.



232 recertification credits for pesticide use were given to farmers in 2016 through the webinar series offered by MSU Extension.

## Extension Educators take a close look at the first day of life for dairy calves

Top-notch animal care needs to be a priority on every farm from the first day of life. Best management of calves within the first 24 hours sets the stage for healthy heifers and ultimately healthy cows in the milking herd.

During the summer of 2016, Dairy Educator, Faith Cullens, along with MSU students, worked with 50 dairy farms across the state to survey how well they are doing with newborn calf care. Faith visited farms multiple times collecting data and samples, then followed up with producers on how they can improve newborn calf care. Participating farms are located in Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Ionia counties.

Individual farm results were shared and several producers made changes to improve newborn calf care after participating in this in-depth program working with Faith on best management practices.

Results of this study are being shared at programs in January and February 2017 across the state.



## Using technology to reach a larger audience

Farmers across Michigan have attended MSU Extension's Integrated Pest Management program to receive the latest research and recommendation from Michigan State University researchers for years. However, these programs are offered in just 6 locations and are traditionally offered during the day. This format does not work for everyone.

The winter of 2016 marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year MSU Extension offered a webinar series to extend the information from the live meetings. The webinar series is held one evening a week for six consecutive weeks. Each session featured one of MSU's researchers presenting current findings and/or recommendations for managing field crops. These sessions mirror the agenda from the live IPM meetings. Participants can earn Restricted Use Pesticide recertification credits for participating.

In 2016 we reached 110 farmers/ag business professionals. Of the participants, 52 received a total of 232 recertification credits. These credits help participants maintain their Pesticide Application Licenses. This format allow farmers from across the state to participate at a time that may be more conducive to their schedule. Technology has allowed us to reach over one hundred more farmers with current, research-based information of crop production.

## Extension Educators Serving Ingham County

### Staff Located in Ingham County Office:

Name	Role	Phone	Email
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## Extension Educators Serving Ingham County, Continued

### Additional MSU Extension Staff Serving Ingham County

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#### MISSION:

**Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.**

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