



WHO  
WILL?  
SPARTANS  
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# Leelanau County

## 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR:

This past year, MSU Extension conducted focus groups and online surveys to solicit feedback from the public on what are the most vital needs and priorities for Michigan residents. These results will shape our educational programming for Leelanau County residents now and into the future. MSU Extension is committed to providing relevant, responsive and timely outreach to families and communities.



Your MSU Extension staff have linked the knowledge resources of the University directly to individuals, communities and businesses. It is my distinct privilege to present these accomplishments in our annual report. This report summarizes some of the important work done by MSU Extension staff in Leelanau County. It has captured most of the significant highlights of our work in 2015 and provides a sense of the direction of our work into the future.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. Without you, we would not be here doing this important work with your constituents.

Jennifer Berkey  
*Jennifer Berkey*  
 District 3 Coordinator

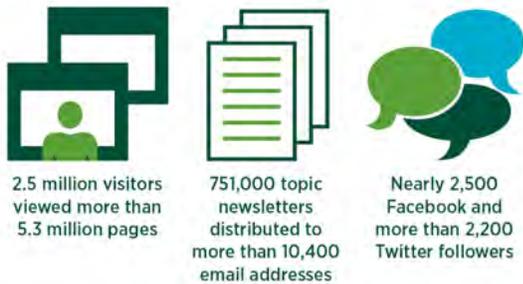
## MEASURING IMPACT:

### CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H: Developing Youth & Communities .....	1,773
Keeping People Healthy & Ensuring Safe Food .....	322
Supporting Food & Agriculture .....	925
Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses while Enhancing Our Natural Assets .....	114
Protecting People from Unintentional Injuries .....	1,205

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN LEELANAU COUNTY: ..... 4,339**

### MSU EXTENSION'S EXPANDED DIGITAL REACH IN DISTRICT 3 AND STATEWIDE:



Statewide 2014-15 Digital Reach



28% Increase in District 3 Visitors to MSU Extension Website

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# DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

## Developing Youth and Communities

When you support the MSU Extension 4-H program, 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.

According to the MacArthur Foundation, 65 percent of today's grade school students will end up working in jobs not yet invented. Young people need more than a good education to prepare for their future; they need well-rounded skills that can be applied to any career as well as the ability to explore and try on exciting opportunities in a safe and informative way.

**Leelanau County 4-H Program empowers youth to change their world!** The youth of Leelanau County benefit from the vibrant 4-H program offered here. Leelanau County's 4-H program provides many types of learning experiences that teach life skills such as confidence, leadership, and responsibility. 4-H youth develop relationships with caring adult volunteers who provide a safe environment in which to participate in "hands on" learning experiences. 4-H volunteers and parents work together to provide youth with programming that focuses on community service, excellence in education, fairness in competitive activities and the development of skills and abilities that will last a lifetime.



This year Leelanau County youth were involved in 4-H learning experiences in a wide variety of ways. We offer everything from traditional clubs, after-school clubs, short-term clubs, school enrichment, educational events, workshops, and camps. The winter

**4-H youth (grades 7-12) are 4 times more likely to make contributions to their communities.**

**4-H youth (grades 8-12) are 2 times more likely to be civically active.**

*~ Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development by Lerner and Lerner.*



[4h.msue.msu.edu](http://4h.msue.msu.edu)

## Developing Youth and Communities, continued



4-H Ski and Snowboard Program.

4-H Learn to Ski/Snowboard program had youth swooshing down the fluffy white ski hills of The Homestead. Other youth learned safety through our Tractor Safety and Snowmobile Safety programs. Three new clubs were formed, focusing on project areas including literacy, Lego robotics, and technology. A large number of our youth worked with animal science education studying horse, steer, goat, llama, alpaca, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, and/or dogs. Youth attended workshops, retreats, and overnight events, such as 4-H Winterfest, Challenge U 4-H Funfest, 4-H Capitol Experience, 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp, and 4-H Exploration Days.

**Leelanau County 4-H Youth Are Recognized For Their Accomplishments:** 4-H youth throughout the county continue to draw attention to their achievements and have been recognized with awards and scholarships. This year, 2 Leelanau County 4-H'ers were chosen to receive \$2,000 scholarships to attend MSU after high school, based on their written responses to questions about their community involvement, academic ability and long-term goals. Twenty Leelanau teens have been selected to receive this award over the last 8 years!

**Community Service is at the Heart of 4-H:** Through its pledge of "hands to larger service," 4-H has historically given back to the community by encouraging members to volunteer. Leelanau County 4-H'ers participate in many community service projects each year. Members of Frontier Quest 300 4-H Club spent the year volunteering at Reining Liberty Ranch, with the youth tracking over 260 volunteer hours there! Additionally, the club organized several fundraisers, and successfully raised enough money to replace the lighting in the barn at the ranch. It was truly an enriching experience for all!

### Partnerships with Local Organizations and Events:

This past year, Leelanau County 4-H was actively involved in numerous events which helped the public learn more about 4-H. Our youth and adults were busy participating in Cherry Connection, the Cherry Festival Parade, the Leland 4th of July Parade, summer reading programs, farmer's markets, and Suttons Bay Art Fair. 4-H curriculum materials and information were shared with teachers and students in Leelanau County schools. Additionally, Leelanau County 4-H partnered with the Leelanau Conservation District and the Leelanau Conservancy to develop a forest management plan for the 4-H Johnson Preserve, creating a wonderful learning opportunity for youth.



Leelanau 4-H'ers at the Cherry Festival Parade.

## Developing Youth and Communities, continued

**4-H'ers Enjoy Outdoor Education:** Leelanau County 4-H'ers and volunteers have been busy exploring, learning, and playing at the 4-H Johnson Preserve. Several events were held at the property this year, allowing youth and adults to learn about natural resources and enjoy some time outdoors. In the fall, a 4-H educational event centered on invasive species removal, taught participants about autumn olive, and much of it was removed from the property. During Winter Fun Day, held in February, participants enjoyed snowshoeing and cross country skiing out to the property, where they enjoyed a scavenger hunt and s'mores. In the spring, a group of 30 middle school students came out to the property and spent a morning planting and watering native plants, removing invasive species, and exploring the property. Additionally, the 4-H Outdoors Club held several meetings at the 4-H property, working alongside a consulting forester and creating a management plan for the property. The youth learned how to map, inventory the forest, determine where to plant trees and shrubs, how to improve habitat for wildlife, and much more. 4-H is fortunate to have so many people involved in the stewardship of this wonderful property.



**Much Fun Exploration Days:** Nearly 50 youth and adult leaders from Leelanau County adventured their way through countless amazing activities and sessions during the three-day event on MSU's campus in June. From crafts to biology, sports to science, classes were offered that suited the interests of everybody. And, during free time, Leelanau County youth and adults were treated to behind-the-scenes tours, entertainment, recreational activities, and much more. As one youth noted, "I would definitely recommend Exploration Days to a friend. There is a session to fit everyone's interests and time left over to explore the campus. Other activities are also set up for participants to enjoy in their free time such as swimming or ice-skating." It is obvious from the comments of the Exploration Days participants just how valuable this event is. The youth are provided the opportunity to sample college life- a potentially life-changing experience.



## Developing Youth and Communities, continued



**4-H Success at the Fair:** The Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council held its 44th Annual 4-H Livestock Auction on August 13, 2015 during the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This year, 1,150 4-H members participated with 514 youth selling market animals. Gross sales from the auction totaled \$720,530.78. This was a 9% increase from 2014 Sales. Animals donated to local food pantries/charities included 44 swine, 5 steers, and 4 lambs for a total live weight donation of 19,160 pounds!



One unexpected challenge to our 2015 Northwestern Michigan fair was the absence of live poultry due to avian influenza precautions. 4-H'ers with poultry projects were encouraged to decorate their pens with information about their birds for visitors and buyers alike. The youth also demonstrated their showmanship skills using fake birds and skill-a-thons. A writer from the *Detroit Free Press* visited the poultry barn for five hours to learn more about the poultry ban, how the 4-H youth did their shows and the youth's reaction to the ban. The Detroit-based paper published an informational news story in their newspaper and posted a video online. The video turned out great and has been viewed all over the state of Michigan and throughout the country!

**4-H Money Management Manuals:** 4-H members and volunteers across Michigan will have new resources to reference when conducting any financial business for their 4-H clubs, committees and councils.

The two new 4-H money management manuals are designed to ensure that there is transparency and a paper trail in all financial transactions. In addition, following the procedures outlined in the books will protect the reputation of 4-H members, volunteers, staff and the 4-H organization as a whole.

The manual for individuals serving in the role of treasurer, both youth and adults, is titled "Managing Money Wisely; Financial Manual for 4-H Treasurers." Adults providing leadership for a 4-H club, committee, or council will use the manual titled "Leading the Way to Financial Accountability; Financial Manual for 4-H Volunteers."

Once available on the Michigan 4-H website and in the MSU Bookstore, the two new manuals will replace the "4-H Treasurer's Record Book" which was written in 1997. Much of the information is not new, however several key financial policies and practices have changed; the new resources provide significantly expanded information and instructions for youth and adult volunteers.

The resources were created by MSU Extension educators Barbara Duvall, Laurie Rivetto and Sienna Suszek. Five daylong seminars were held around the state to train 4-H Program Coordinators in the use of the manuals. Training for Leelanau County 4-H treasurers and club volunteers will begin this fall.

# KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY & ENSURING SAFE FOOD

## Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) provides nutrition education to income-eligible adults and children. This program focuses on improving dietary quality, increasing physical activity while stretching food dollars. The ultimate goal of these programs is to promote healthy weight maintenance and obesity prevention. During the past year in Leelanau County, 272 adults and youth were reached through nutrition education classes at various venues in the county. This is more than double the amount from last year!

One of the many adult classes MSU Extension staff teach each year is through a partnership called **Project FRESH**. In collaboration with the Leelanau County Health Department, MSU Extension nutrition staff provide nutrition education to families involved in the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) on the benefits of including more fruits and vegetables in their diet. Eighty coupon booklets were provided to these participants to purchase locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables from Leelanau County farmer's markets through Project FRESH. These coupons were redeemed at the farm market for produce grown by local farmers.

During the Show Me Nutrition programming in Leelanau County, participants had the opportunity to engage in age appropriate, interactive, hands-on activities that promote good eating habits, positive body image, physical activity and food safety. During each nutrition class, students tasted a variety of healthy foods and gained the skills necessary to make healthy lifestyle choices. After one lesson, a student exclaimed, "We made green smoothies! I don't like spinach for dinner, but love it in a smoothie!"



### Impacts with Adults:

- 83% improvement in one or more nutrition practices like planning meals, making healthy food choices or reading food labels.
- 95% of participants in Project FRESH will eat more fresh fruits and vegetables per day.

### Impacts with Youth:

- 94% of the teachers reported that the children increased in their awareness of the importance of good nutrition.
- 84% reported that the children were willing to try new foods.
- 73% reported that the children were eating more fruits.
- 67% reported that the children were eating more vegetables.

Sampling smoothies made with the "fender blender" bike at the Indoor Farmer's Market.



## Keeping People Healthy, continued

### Teaching Residents about Food Safety

Supporting MSU Extension food safety education programs helps prevent food borne illnesses and ensures a safer food supply for consumers – whether that is at food retailers, restaurants, farmers’ markets or community meals served by organizations. MSU Extension food safety education programs train participants to prevent incidents of foodborne illness associated with unsafe food handling practices, which results in fewer medical expenses, fewer food recalls, and less temporary or permanent closures of food businesses by local health departments. Costs of illness, recalls, and food business closures are more expensive from a public health perspective than taking an inexpensive class to learn how to prepare food safely and preserve food correctly. Residents in Leelanau County participated in a variety of food safety classes.

Leelanau County residents indicated that as a result of attending food presentation workshops:

- 96% will follow research based/tested recipes when canning food at home.
- 97% will properly use processing techniques to safely can low and high acid foods.
- 98% will use correct processing times to safely can low and high acid foods.

### Preventing and managing chronic disease

Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health issues. Compared to the national average, Michigan adults suffer from more risk factors (obesity, hypertension, and high cholesterol) that contribute to chronic disease. Chronic diseases such as diabetes increase the financial burden on the healthcare system. Diabetes is a chronic disease of critical concern. The estimated cost of diabetes in Michigan is \$10.5 billion each year, including medical care and lost productivity. This figure is expected to triple over the next 25 years, reaching \$21.6 billion by 2040. It is estimated that the state can save \$545 million spent across all chronic diseases by investing \$10 in preventive care per person per year. Support of MSU Extension benefits participants and the community by moderating the increase in healthcare costs associated with caring for a growing population of people with diabetes and other chronic conditions.

MSU Extension’s Disease Prevention and Management (DPM) programs work to promote health and wellness by reducing and managing the incidence and impacts of chronic diseases among Michigan residents and communities. These community-based, evidence-based core programs provide participants with proven strategies for improved dietary quality, management of chronic health conditions and prevention of chronic diseases.

## Keeping People Healthy, continued

**Dining with Diabetes** is a fun and interactive course series targeting individuals with prediabetes, type 1 or type 2 diabetes, members of their support system and/or anyone interested in learning more. Participants learn to make healthy food choices and incorporate balanced menus into the family dining experience. Classes include research-based education, cooking demonstrations and healthy recipe tasting. Noted results of this program include greater knowledge and awareness in applying key concepts for type 2 diabetes management and prevention. For example, according to program evaluations, over 90% of participants can correctly identify which nutrients provide glucose of the body, and identify sources of carbohydrate in the food system. Local MSU Extension staff work in partnership with the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA and the Northwestern Michigan College Great Lakes Culinary Institute to provide strong and engaging programming.

National Diabetes Prevention Program is designed to bring to communities evidence-based lifestyle change programs for preventing type 2 diabetes. It is based on the Diabetes Prevention Program research study led by the National Institutes of Health. The lifestyle program shows that making modest behavior changes, such as improving food choices and increasing physical activity to at least 150 minutes per week, results in participants losing 5% to 7% of their body weight. These lifestyle changes reduced the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58% in people at high risk for diabetes. MSU Extension has achieved full program recognition from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is the only fully recognized program provider in the northwest Michigan region. Local MSU Extension staff partner with the Northern Michigan Diabetes Initiative to support delivery and recruitment of this year long program.

**Diabetes Personal Action Toward Health (PATH)** is a self-management workshop aimed at empowering people to take an active role in managing diabetes. Over the course of 6 weeks, participants learn strategies to help them deal with difficult emotions, how to develop a healthy eating and exercise plan, goal setting and problem solving, and a variety of other tools to manage diabetes. Local MSU Extension staff relies on a longstanding partnership with the Northwest Michigan Area Agency on Aging to deliver this self-management series.

**A Matter of Balance** is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. A Matter of Balance includes eight two-hour sessions for a small group led by a MSU Extension Extension Educator and coordinated in with the Northwest Michigan Area Agency on Aging and was offered through partnerships with the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA and the Village at Bay Ridge Assisted Living. This nationally recognized program was developed at Boston University.

*“Excellent class, the instructor was very knowledgeable and easy to understand. I really enjoyed myself.”*

~ Dining with Diabetes participant

*“I have learned more in the last three weeks in this class than I have learned in the last ten years.”*

~ PATH participant

*“After only six sessions, I can already walk further than I have in the last year. I feel so good... will not stop these exercises.”*

~ A Matter of Balance participant

**Sarah Eichberger's  
MSUE News Articles**



## Keeping People Healthy, continued

### Reducing anger, bullying and stress

MSU Extension addresses violence and bullying prevention through its focus on social and emotional health, with the overarching goal of helping young people and adults learn to foster safe, affirming and inclusive relationships and settings that are free from violence, abuse, bullying and harassment. By helping people learn safer and healthier ways to interact with others, MSU Extension benefits communities through decreased mental, emotional, social and economic costs associated with violence in communities. After one-time presentations on social and emotional health topics, evaluation surveys documented that:

- 82 percent of participants said they knew the skills needed for healthy relationships and ways to promote healthy communication.
- 80 percent of participants said they knew how to keep relationships safe physically, emotionally and socially.

MSU Extension's **RELAX: Alternatives to Anger** program offers techniques for calming down and de-stressing, problem solving, communicating and letting go of the past. As a result of the program:

- 96 percent of RELAX Parent/Caregiver workshop participants learned activities to assist children with self-control.
- 65 percent of RELAX participants reported they increased efforts to talk things through until a solution is reached.

**Be SAFE** offers a variety of educational resources to help communities reduce and prevent bullying behaviors while promoting healthy social and emotional learning and development. The initiative focuses on helping adults consider ways to do this within all of the settings where young people live, learn, grow and develop – including out-of-school settings. Be SAFE resources include the Be SAFE: Safe, Affirming and Fair Environments curriculum, face-to-face and online workshops for adults and a series of workshops for parents and caregivers.

“As a result of your program, our adults are more open to understanding young people, and the youth seem to better recognize how much concern and care the adults have for their safety.” - Youth group leader, Be SAFE: Safe, Affirming and Fair Environments

# SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Home Horticulture

2015 was the first year of having a full-time MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor in Leelanau County, greatly increasing MSUE's ability to serve county residents with educational programming, garden and landscape diagnostic services and horticultural projects. Through volunteer outreach, Extension Master Gardeners share science-based gardening knowledge and engages citizens and empowers communities in environmentally responsible gardening practices, improving food security, improving community, and developing youth through gardening.

This past year, Master Gardeners have volunteered over 1,400 hours on various projects in Leelanau County valued at \$32,298.00. The bulk of the hours were in project benefiting the community like environmental stewardship, youth gardening, Leelanau Governmental Center gardens, community beautification and food, security and hunger support. There are thirteen designated Master Gardener projects and four school yard gardens that are maintained by the volunteers.

One successful and impactful project was the Suttons Bay Rain Gardens.

The Watershed Center received a grant to help the Village of Suttons Bay upgrade their storm drain system to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff getting into Grand Traverse Bay and to help reduce harmful bacteria carried by stormwater at their two public beaches. Sarah U'Ren, Program Director of The Watershed Center, sought out the assistance and expertise of local Master Gardener Volunteers to help plant rain gardens in the village of Suttons Bay. In 2015, five Master Gardener volunteers have led workbees, groups of volunteers and children from the Suttons Bay Montessori School in planting 19 rain gardens around town. They have also held sessions to educate rain garden adoptees on how to care for and maintain them.

There are currently signs on the gardens most visible as people travel through downtown Suttons Bay. These signs show some of the plants and describe the benefits of the rain gardens. Master Gardeners have proudly taken the lead on this local project and educate residents about the benefits of rain gardens while improving ground water in Suttons Bay.



**“When we were working with the garden adoptees teaching them how to maintain the rain gardens, folks walking by would ask us questions about them, and we would explain the benefits of having a rain garden. It is really a neat, beneficial project!”**

**~ Lillian Mahaney,  
Leelanau County  
resident and Advanced  
Master Gardener**

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

### Leelanau Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic

Although county residents are always welcome to call or visit the office for assistance with horticultural issues, the office held specific diagnostics on the last Wednesday of the month in May through September of 2015. Residents were welcomed to bring in samples of plants, insects, diseases and other problems; MSUE staff, county employees and volunteers provided the expertise to diagnose problems and provide management recommendations.

The Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor is part of the statewide MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Team. This group shares expertise, resources and personnel time for generating educational materials and conducting programs locally and across the state. The Consumer Horticulture Team maintains the following resources and programs for all Michigan residents:

- The MSUE Lawn & Garden Hotline, 1-888-MSUE-4MI
- The Soil Test Self-Mailer and interpretation website, [msusoiltest.com](http://msusoiltest.com)
- The Gardening in Michigan website, [migarden.msu.edu](http://migarden.msu.edu)
- The Smart Gardening Initiative, tip sheets available online and in hardcopy
- MSUE Consumer Horticulture webinars, workshops and conferences

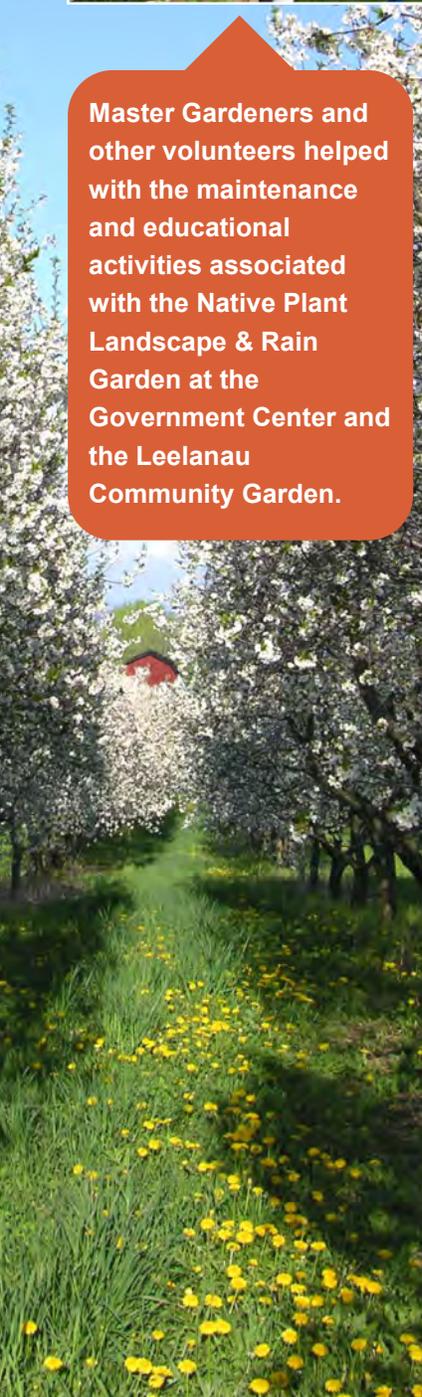
The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center was pleased to host its annual open house in late August this year. This annual event features a day of tree fruit production education through a research station wagon ride farm tour. Tree fruit researchers from MSU's campus and the NWMHRC provided attendees with the most current updates of the 2015 season's research projects. The 120 attendees were particularly excited to watch a video from the NWMHRC's demonstration of a new approach for harvesting high-density tart cherries using an over-the-row blueberry harvester. At the evening dinner and banquet, Don Gregory of Cherry Bay Orchards was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

### Developing an Industry-Wide Approach for SWD Management in 2016

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) is an invasive insect pest that poses significant challenges to cherry production in Michigan. The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center host a summit on November 20th to bring researchers and industry leaders together to discuss a strategic plan to mitigate the risk of SWD in cherries. There were 75 in-person participants and 49 remote participants who joined the event through ZOOM technology. Participants were provided with the latest updates on SWD research and observations, and MSU Extension conducted a needs assessment to determine the critical foci for future research and extension programs for SWD. As a result of this needs



Master Gardeners and other volunteers helped with the maintenance and educational activities associated with the Native Plant Landscape & Rain Garden at the Government Center and the Leelanau Community Garden.



Smart Gardening in Michigan:  
[migarden.msu.edu](http://migarden.msu.edu)

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

assessment, MSU researchers submitted five grant proposals geared toward SWD in cherries research, totaling more than \$173,500 in potential project funds.

### 2015 Tree Fruit Integrated Pest Management Updates Series

MSU Extension Educator, E. Pochubay hosted a total of 32 2-hr meetings in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau from May-early August. Over the course of this program, 537 participants attended the meetings to discuss the current season's tree fruit production and receive diagnostic services. Based on a survey of 44 respondents, 60-100% respondents reported that they adopted a practice that was suggested at an IPM Update, and estimated this program's value at a total of ~\$11,177 - \$558,883 for the 5,588 acres of apples and cherries that were reported.

Other educational programs with D3 leadership and participation included:

- 2016 Tree Fruit School, February 18-20, Grand Rapids, MI
- Cider: From Apple to Bottle, March 25, Thompsonville, MI
- Hart Spring Meeting, March 31, Hart, MI
- Orchard Tours and More (formerly Cherry Connection), July 6-10, Traverse City, MI
- Traverse City Cider Week, Cider and Sausage Salon, August 17-23, Traverse City, MI
- Great Lakes Expo, Tart Cherry, Sweet Cherry, and Hard Cider Sessions, December, Grand Rapids, MI

### Wine Grapes

The wine grape industry in Leelanau County has been growing at a rapid pace over the last 25 years, growing from four wineries in the early 1990's to an amazing 24 wineries in 2016. MSU Extension has played a significant role in the support of this agricultural industry through educational meetings, employee development, diagnostic services, analysis of potential vineyard sites, trainings for new growers and variety trials at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center near Bingham.

The grower meetings in 2015 included a full day session at the annual Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show in January, the annual Wine Grape Kick-Off meeting in April, and a series of "First Friday" grower updates held at local vineyards from May through August. Much of the meeting time during 2015 was taken up looking at severe cold injury from winter weather, harsh freeze injury from May, and devastating hail injury from an August storm. The end result was the smallest percentage of a full crop at harvest time in over ten years. Various topics relating to vine recovery from winter cold and spring frost injuries, growing practices and selecting varieties to avoid weather-related injuries and the future of the wine grape industry in the light of climate





## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

change were features at the December Great Lakes Fruit & Vegetable Expo in Grand Rapids and the Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show in Acme in January.

A number of Leelanau County wineries cooperated with MSU ongoing viticultural research efforts in 2015, through producing test batches of wine from experimental varieties and providing equipment or services for maintenance of the research center vineyard.

### Saskatoon Berries

Saskatoons are a relatively new crop to the Grand Traverse region, but a well-established crop in central and western provinces of Canada. Similar in appearance and culture to blueberries, they are actually more closely related to apples. They do not require acidic soils, so they could likely be grown on much of the agricultural land in Grand Traverse County. MSU Extension and campus specialists worked with growers of this emerging fruit crop in 2015 to develop pesticide recommendations, establish a pruning demonstration plot and prepare a grant proposal for a local variety trial and growing practices research plot (funded in early 2016).

### Conservation Issues

In recent years the plight of honey bees due to colony collapse disorder has brought a great deal of attention to honey bees, our native bees (Michigan has over 500 species of bees), and other beneficial insects that rely on flowering plants for some portion of their food resources. Recent severely downward trends in the overwintering population of monarch butterflies has also generated a call for action in the area of native plant and insect conservation.

Duke Elsner coordinated and helped to facilitate an on-line webinar to inform members of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents on the monarch butterfly situation in June of 2015. He also wrote a brief fact sheet on [growing milkweeds in Michigan](#) to support monarchs and contributed information on butterfly nectar plants and several photographs to an MSUE bulletin titled "[Protecting and Enhancing Pollinators in Urban Landscapes](#)" which was released in early 2016.

The Farm Business Management team conducted 2014 Farm Bill educational workshops with the objective of informing producers on the new Farm Bill. This includes the changes in commodity programs and the farm and risk management implications that come along with these changes.

The bill introduced major changes in risk management programs for corn, wheat, soybeans, fruit, vegetables and dairy producers in Michigan. These new programs, combined with an anticipated decrease in commodity prices, created major risk management decisions that will affect the financial success of Michigan producers

## Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

during 2014–2018 (the life of the 2014 Farm Bill). Because the bill required a 1-time irrevocable decision by producers, programing in this area required the combined farm management, financial analysis, and marketing subject matters of the MSU Extension Farm Business Management Educators. This irrevocable decision, combined with the complexity of these new programs and the uncertainty of the long-term commodity price outlook, created a unique urgency for programming on this topic.

The 2014 Farm Bill brought the most significant change to the **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** since the program was initiated. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of crops that are not insurable under normal crop insurance. Tart cherry is one of those crops. The NAP policies are administered by county FSA offices and are designed to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields and / or prevent crop planting.

Area Farm Business Management educator Curtis Talley, in cooperation with the Farm Service Agency conducted a regional meeting in Traverse City to explain these new developments and demonstrate decision making software designed by the Farm Service Agency.

Michigan State University Extension conducted 10 meetings across Michigan on the **Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP)** in September 2015. Seven of the meetings were held live, and 3 were live webinar broadcast. Producers received a current milk production and marketing forecast, discussed risk management, and how the DMPP program can fit into a risk management strategy.

The Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team delivered the **Optimizing Dairy Farm Profits** program to 7 locations in Michigan. The program highlighted information relevant to staying profitable with today's milk prices including: understanding financial performance indicators, improving labor productivity, and making good financial decisions in the areas of forage harvesting, stocking density, and the heifer enterprise.

Managing employees is a critical function of business management, yet one in which farm business owners may lack skills and confidence. The **Effective Management of Farm Employees** research project continues to deliver educational programs for Michigan's agricultural employers. Phil Durst and Stan Moore taught a 1.5 hr. pre-conference session for the Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference with highlights from the 2015 Employee Management conference. The project also led to a regular column for Dairy Business – East, a popular dairy magazine with wide circulation.





# FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES

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## Assistance to support beginning farmers across MI

In addition to wine grape and tree fruit education, MSU Extension provides valuable education throughout the Grand Traverse Region each year to support current and prospective producers of **emerging crops like hops**. The first commercial hopyard in Leelanau County was planted in Empire, MI in 2009. Since then hops have been planted in many counties across Michigan though the majority of Michigan's hops are produced in northwest Michigan. Leelanau County is currently home to approximately 150 acres of hops, and multiple hop processing facilities representing millions of dollars in investment.

Michigan State University Extension partnered with the Michigan Brewers Guild and the Hop Growers of Michigan to host the 2nd annual **Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference** in March 2016. The Conference was held at the Grand Traverse Resort and attracted over 350 participants from multiple states and countries. MSU Extension has taken a leadership role across the North Central and North East regions by providing valuable research and outreach to current and prospective growers on best practices for planting, harvesting and pest management. MSU also leads the **Great Lakes Hop Working Group**, a multi-state research and education collaborative that seeks to develop and promote best production and post-harvest practices. Dr. Serrine was recently asked to participate as a member of the Hop Growers of America Best Practices Advisory Committee.

MSU Extension is also facilitating economic development opportunities within the community food systems realm. MSU provides leadership for the **Grand Traverse Foodshed Alliance**, a non-profit organization based in Traverse City, MI that developed the **Grand Traverse Food Innovation Hub (GTFIH)** in partnership with Cherry Capital Foods at 1610 Barlow. The GTFIH, currently managed by Taste The Local Difference, is comprised of ten suites that house multiple Leelanau County based value-added food businesses such as: The Redheads, and the Michigan Hop Alliance. A commercial teaching kitchen is in the planning stages as well. The facility is also home to the Northwest Michigan Food and Farming Network, hosts a monthly permaculture design course, and has served as a venue for Traverse City SCORE chapter meetings.

With the intention of promoting and building a vibrant local agriculture community, the **2015 Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference** hosted more than 1,000 attendees at

## Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses, continued

this multi-day event. MSU Extension was part of the annual planning committee for this committee as well as taught educational sessions. Local growers had some significant impacts from attending the conference:

- 90% intended to make positive changes in their farm with their new knowledge
- Local growers indicated a highly significant increase in knowledge of where to find local resources and make connections with others working in the local food system
- Participants indicated a highly significant increase in food production/processing knowledge

The public value of this conference is increased local production and purchasing of local products keep dollars in the regional economy which fundamentally supports rural and regional development.

**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 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 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.

**Northern Michigan Counties Association**, organized by MSU Extension, county commissioners from 33 counties in northern lower Michigan meet 8 times per year to share information and learn from the experiences of others.

**MAC Annual Conference** joint presentation by MSU Extension and Citizen's Research Council on constitutional and statutory requirements that Michigan fund mandated local services, types of mandates, and the use of fiscal notes in Michigan and elsewhere to enhance compliance.

**Building Strong Sovereign Nations** is a leadership building program developed by MSU Extension in cooperation with leaders of Tribal Nations in Michigan and delivered annually in conjunction with the United Tribes of Michigan fall meeting. The program is open to leaders from all Tribal Nations in Michigan and is also available to leadership and staff of individual tribes.

**New County Commissioner Workshops** are being planned for late November and early December 2016, following the election of commissioners.





## Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses, continued

The Stronger Economies Together (SET) program is a national initiative collaborating with USDA and local partners in Manistee, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska, to help identify and develop business sectors that hold the highest growth potential in an effort to help create, attract, and retain jobs.

Placemaking workshops, delivered as part of the MIplace Partnership Initiative, help communities create and enhance amenities resulting in a high quality of life for residents, increasing their ability to retain and attract talented workers and therefore making them more competitive in the global economy. Workshops provide training on the MIplace Placemaking curriculum, and MSU Extension facilitators assist communities in developing draft placemaking strategies to move from training to action.

MSU Extension educators also held the following **Government & Public Policy** trainings in and around Leelanau County this year:

- Form Based Zoning
- Zoning Board of Appeals Training
- Freedom of Information Act Training
- Land Division Review Training
- Sidewalk Design, Planning and Liability

“At question was whether a person could serve on both the Board of Review and the Zoning Board of Appeals. When asked, the MTA first said no, the offices were incompatible. Bingham Township had appointed the same person to both and planned to ask him to step down from the ZBA. He’s a solid, thoughtful, prepared member of the ZBA, and Steve didn’t want to lose him. Then along came a link to an Attorney General opinion on serving on the Planning Commission and the Board of Review, provided in your email blast. I read that, alerted Steve to it, he forwarded it to the township supervisor who then forwarded it to the township attorney... long story short, the MTA position has been reversed.

People do read your blasts, and they do make a difference. Thanks for all the effort that goes into them.”

- Kathy Egan, Planner, Suttons Bay and Bingham Townships

## Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses, continued

### Enhancing & protecting our Great Lakes coastal resources

Through research, education and outreach, Michigan Sea Grant is dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes and coastal resources. Sea Grant staff engage partners on projects designed to foster science-based decisions that promote vibrant, livable communities that offer opportunities for economic growth while preserving our natural resources.

Michigan Sea Grant co-hosted the 8th annual **Freshwater Summit** which was held in conjunction with the State of Lake Michigan Conference 2015 at the Grand Traverse Resort. District Educator Mark Breederland moderated and gave a Great Lakes Update on fisheries and lake level variations. Other topics covered included evaporation and microplastics research to a crowd of over 170 people.

Educator Mark Breederland also worked with Fishtown Preservation Society on displays and promoting Fishtown's authentic working waterfront including at the 2015 National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Conference in Tampa, Florida (November 2015). As well, facilitating information relating to dredging of the Leland Harbor has been an active area.

Swimming safety and drowning prevention was also an active area. The **Dangerous Currents** program of Michigan Sea Grant, the Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network, and collaborators in Leland Township, the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project and others worked to expand and learn from each other with beach emergency equipment and rescue stations, trainings, and programs.

Discussions and education also occurred with Northport and Elmwood Marinas on the **Clean Marina Program**, encouraging boaters and best practices in marinas for good Great Lakes stewardship and safety.



# PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

Safe Kids North Shore is one of over 400 unintentional injury prevention coalitions under Safe Kids Worldwide. Since Safe Kids was founded in 1988, there has been a 60% reduction in unintentional injuries to children age 19 and younger nationwide.



SAFE  
K:DS  
NORTH SHORE

Safe Kids North Shore:  
[qtinjuryprevention.com](http://qtinjuryprevention.com)

Safe Kids North Shore/Injury Prevention Services is in its 16th year of providing injury prevention focused education and programming to the residents of Grand Traverse County and Northern Michigan. In addition, the coalition just entered its 11th year of programming through a continued partnership between MSU Extension and Munson Trauma Services. In 2015 a new partner, MSU CHM-Traverse City Campus, came on board as well. Unintentional injuries are the number one cause of death to children ages 1-14. Safe Kids North Shore uses research and programs developed by Safe Kids Worldwide to provide education and programs to the community in effort to decrease the occurrence of unintentional injury deaths in both children and adults.

Grand Traverse Region Injury Prevention Network, led by Safe Kids North Shore brings area agencies and their experts together to address injury prevention programming across the lifespan in a collaborative manner. Through a joint endeavor with Grand Traverse Metro Fire and their Risk Watch program, education and presentations are taken into the Traverse City Area Public schools monthly. Through our partnership with Munson Healthcare, our Injury Prevention Services oversees the Kohl's 4 Season Safety program, providing head and sports injury prevention programming with funds made available to the hospital through Kohl's Cares.

Some highlights of this year's programming in Leelanau County includes:

- Direct contact injury prevention programming to 1205 adults and children
- 63 volunteer or in-kind hours were spent on direct-contact injury prevention programming.
- 60 adults attended a presentation regarding the importance of injury prevention programming, local risks/statistics, needs, cost to the public, etc.
- 12 Water Rescue stations were unveiled in Leelanau County – through the Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network. These stations and 27 others in the region were made possible through the Tribal Council Allocation of 2% Funds secured by the Grand Traverse County Health Dept. in efforts to address the local drownings.



One of the 12 Water Rescue Stations in Leelanau County.

## Protecting People from Unintentional Injuries, continued

- 95 youth received sports safety programming addressing the prevention of injuries that are commonly seen in our local emergency department, urgent cares and physician offices such as: concussion, dehydration, hyperthermia and over-use injuries.
- 762 teens participated in Driver Behavior/Distracted Driving program. In Leelanau this program partners with the Leelanau County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police. The program heightens awareness regarding driver behaviors and the outcomes of those behaviors. Following an informative presentation, students experienced first-hand the dangers of distracted driving while using a driving simulator, the effects of driving while impaired by wearing "fatal-vision" goggles then engaging in mock field sobriety tests and finally participated in a segment of "Ask Law Enforcement" where they can have myths dispelled by law enforcement partners. Adult presentations are tailored to fit the audience. They are offered for companies/agencies for employee trainings as well as for mature adults and the different issues they face with driving and aging.
- 170 students and teachers participated in the Chill Out for Winter Safety (& Cold Water) presentation. Both Medical Students and Residents through the MSU College of Human Medicine program assisted in delivering this program to area elementary students. While the program addresses such risk areas such as hypothermia, frostbite, cold water submersion, helmet use for winter sports, the repeated focus was placed on 4 key points: dress appropriately for the weather and in layers, use the proper gear and wear a helmet when doing something you like to do fast, always ask an adult for permission and bring a buddy/have a plan if you are alone.
- Safe Kids North Shore also oversees the Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST's) in this region. Leelanau currently has 2. Support needed for their re-certification, technical updates, continuing education units and support for their local programming is all provided to them at no charge.



Sheriff Borkovich provides a few words of wisdom to participants of one of the Driver Behavior presentations.

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