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 Manistee 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 Manistee 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
District 3 Coordinator

CONTACT US:

385 Third Street
Manistee, MI 49660
Phone: 231-889-4277
Hours: Mon/Wed. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Fridays 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Email: msue.manistee@county.msu.edu
msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/manistee

STAFF HOUSED IN MANISTEE COUNTY:

Kurt H. Schindler, AICP
Senior Educator, Land Use
schindl9@msu.edu

Cynthia Jacobi
Nutrition Program Instructor
jacobic@msu.edu

Debra Laws
4-H Program Coordinator
lawsf@msu.edu

Sherry Stamp
Secretary
stamp1@msu.edu

MEASURING IMPACT:

CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H: Developing Youth & Communities .............................................. 1,163
Keeping People Healthy & Ensuring Safe Food ................................. 1,341
Supporting Food & Agriculture, Fostering Strong Communities & Businesses, and Enhancing Our Natural Assets ...................... 227

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN MANISTEE COUNTY ..........2,731

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

Statewide 2014-15 Digital Reach

2.5 million visitors viewed more than 5.3 million pages
751,000 topic newsletters distributed to more than 10,400 email addresses
Nearly 2,500 Facebook and more than 2,200 Twitter followers

2013-14
27,817
2014-15
35,640
28% Increase in District 3 Visitors to MSU Extension Website

WHO WILL HELP OUR COMMUNITY SOLVE PROBLEMS? SPARTANS WILL.

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DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

The Manistee County 4-H Advisory Council

- This board functions as the main oversight of the local 4-H program, and also acts to support the mission, capacity, and priorities of the other 4-H councils and developmental committees.
- The current board consists of 9 members, representing the communities of Arcadia, Bear Lake, Brown Township, Kaleva, Manistee Twp., and Stronach Twp.
- A new sub-committee formed in 2015 called the “4-H Expansion and Review Committee.” Their goal is to implement practices to increase youth and adult participation numbers. With the reduction of 4-H staff in Manistee, their work is viewed as a valuable benefit to the program.
- The Advisory Council also works with 4-H staff to support a 4-H ambassador program, county plat book, college scholarship, annual youth trip to Michigan State University, volunteer recognition program, and a youth exhibit area at the Manistee County Fair.
- 4-H staff assists this council, and all 4-H councils and developmental committees by preparing all meeting agendas and materials, reserving meeting space, and in handling a number of clerical tasks required by these groups.

The Manistee County 4-H Companion Animal Committee

- This group assists 4-H staff with the promotion of companion animal awareness and its importance in regards to youth development, particularly for those children who do not have the resources or ability to engage in larger animal projects.
- Currently, the Companion Animal Interviews event held at the fair is produced by this committee. This event, open to 4-Hers and non-members as well, helps build confidence and public speaking skills. More important, it offers an alternative for those kids who are not involved in livestock or horse projects.

The Manistee County 4-H Horse Show Committee

- This committee produces the annual 4-H Horse Show, as well as 2 educational clinics in the summer. The group also represents the interests of many Benzie 4-H members involved in horse projects, as that county does not have a horse committee.
- In June of 2015, the committee hosted an educational event in a classroom setting at the Manistee Conservation District, featuring horse expert Kerry Schubach.

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

Even our young 4-H Cloverbuds take their project work very seriously! Here’s Abigail Isabell, 5, of the Northwood’s Kids 4-H Club, proudly showing off her ribbon at the 2015 4-H Horse Show.
turnout of nearly 35 youth was surprising, as these numbers do not reflect the current participation at the annual horse show. The group’s goal was for the kids to learn essential horse basics, but the event turned out to be a learning experience for committee as well. They will be focusing future efforts on determining the reasons that many of these youth are not active horse show participants.

- In July of 2015, the committee hosted an outdoor arena clinic with horse show judge Valerie Covell, in a skills assessment event in preparation for the annual show.

The Manistee County 4-H Livestock Council

- This group assists 4-H staff with events and activities that focus on animal science and education. The council for the 2015-16 program year is comprised of 1 teens and 3 adults from Benzie county and 2 teens and 7 adults from Manistee county.

- The summer of 2015 posed an unusual challenge for all 4-H youth exhibiting and selling any poultry species in Michigan. In early spring, the USDA began monitoring the spread of a large outbreak of Avian Flu in the midwestern states. By June 1st in Michigan, the announcement was made that no public exhibitions of poultry would be allowed indefinitely. 4-H programs and county fairs were given the option to handle this news in whatever manner worked for their local programs, including canceling any poultry-related activity. Within the first day of the announcement, Manistee 4-H Program Coordinator Debra Laws established a plan for the 2015 fair. 4-H children would continue to raise their market poultry, show an artificial replica at the fair, create a lifelike animal exhibit to take the place of a live one, and then sell their market animals via a full color photo auction program that she produced. Because she made many of her arrangements within the first day of the announcement, she was able to secure some of the last of the lifelike and highly sought after poultry replicas for the kids to use for showmanship. As a result of these efforts, 4-H members sold 70 poultry animals.

- The premier event carried out by this group is the annual 4-H Livestock Auction at the Manistee County Fair. In August of 2015, the auction celebrated its 35th year with a sale featuring 155 animals and 45 donated items. With 109 buyers participating, the event raised nearly $118,000. Honor State Bank, which is also a 32 year consecutive buyer, has served as auction cashier since 2005.

- A total of 7.5% of auction proceeds go back to the Livestock Council for ongoing support of its programs. A smaller portion goes to other 4-H councils that were designated as recipients of income from certain donated items that were sold.

Grace Servinski, 10, sold her pen of turkeys at the 4-H Livestock Auction at the 2015 Manistee County Fair for a total of $1,200. She donated all the proceeds to the Munson Healthcare Cancer Patient Fund.
Developing Youth and Communities, continued

- The majority of the auction money raised goes back to the 4-H members and is used for back-to-school needs and college funds.
- At the 2015 auction, figures indicate that 38 of the registered buyers represented Manistee county businesses. People want to support businesses that support 4-H. These local businesses report that the exposure and publicity they get by being involved in this event increases their foot traffic and volume.
- The newest effort of this council will be an annual day-long inservice every April that will focus on livestock selection and care, showmanship skills, and marketing strategies.

The Manistee County 4-H Ambassador Program
- A maximum of two youths are selected annually through an application and interview process.
- Youth selected serve as representatives of the program at public 4-H events and council meetings.
- Ambassadors indicate that this distinction is a highly favorable asset when stated in portfolios and resumes, scholarship and college admissions applications, and employment interviews.
- The 2015 Ambassador, Alycia Peterson, has repeated her term for 2016. Alycia is a 7-year 4-H member, and graduate of Bear Lake High School. She has just completed her first year at Grand Valley State University in a pre-veterinary medicine curriculum.

The Manistee County 4-H Advisory Council Scholarship
- Funded through a generous donation by the late Corrine M. Hahn, who retired as County Extension Director of the Manistee MSUE office in 1994, this annual award of $1,000 is given to a 4-H member who completes a rigorous application, portfolio and interview process.
- The 2015 scholarship was awarded to Alycia Peterson, a 2015 graduate of Bear Lake High School. Alycia, a 7-year 4-H member, has just completed her first year at Grand Valley State University in a pre-veterinary medicine curriculum.
- The 2016 scholarship has not yet been awarded, but interviews are slated to take place in May.

“I am finishing my first year at GVSU, and reflecting on the experiences I’ve had so far, I underestimated how much my 4-H experiences have helped to prepare me for the move to college. I joined the Equestrian Club there, and qualified for semifinals. Also, I have participated in community service, and on top of that I have made so many new friends. Every day, I use the values 4-H taught me and I’m not sure that I would have transitioned so easily if I didn’t have them.”

- Alycia Peterson, 2015 Manistee County 4-H, Corrine M. Hahn Scholarship Winner
Developing Youth and Communities, continued

The Manistee County Land Atlas and Plat Book

- This valuable reference source, produced by 4-H staff in cooperation with Rockford Publishing, is currently promoting the 25th edition – the 2015 Manistee County Land Atlas and Plat Book.
- The book is a valuable asset in promoting local tourism and real estate interests.
- Proceeds from all sales go directly to the Manistee County 4-H Advisory Council. Numerous 4-H activities, special events, and funding for travel to statewide educational events and 4-H Exploration Days are made possible in part due to the financial support received annually through plat book sales.
- Sales records continue to show that the book is ordered statewide, by residents of both peninsulas, as well as the states surrounding Michigan.
- In addition to the courthouse and the Extension office, the book is also sold locally at businesses throughout the county. Kris Buckner, with Saddle Up Gas & Grocery in Bear Lake, tells us “It’s an important item to have in our store. As we go through our weekly checklist, the plat book supply is on that list, without question. We do whatever we need to do to attract people to our store and people definitely come to this store to buy plat books. They are that important to our business.”

Magoon Creek “Day with Nature” 2015

- This is a day-long educational event that Debra Laws has planned and hosted since 1995. In the spring of 2015, Laws hosted the event for all Onekama, KND and Bear Lake 4th grade classes.
- Guest speakers along the trail provided presentations on Native American music, rustic skills and woodcarving, soil studies, forestry, and wildfire prevention. The students went home with tree seedlings to plant and other educational materials.
- For her work and partnership with them in this event, the Manistee Conservation District (MCD) honored Laws with a certificate of appreciation and a tree planted in her name at an Earth Day event commemorating a red pine forest recently donated to the MCD.
- Plans have been confirmed for the May 2016 event, and all Manistee County 4th grade classes will be attending. Other guest speakers are on board to give additional presentations on birds, stream ecology, Lake Michigan, and fish and aquatic species.

“My class went to Magoon Creek. I liked the Native American music and historic weapons place we stopped at. We also learned about wild fire prevention, and forestry conservation that were all done by Sean, Andy, Erik, Jed, and also a guest speaker. I liked it so much I’m going to have to go on a weekend some time. I thought it was a good experience for us so we can get off our phones and iPods.”

~ Sawyer, from Tracy Bennett’s Onekama 4th grade class.
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. During the past year in Manistee County, 237 adults and 1,027 youth were reached through nutrition education classes at various venues in the county.

Youth programming continues to be a cornerstone of educational programming in Manistee County. Children participate in a six-week series of lessons using Show Me Nutrition, a curriculum that teaches youths how to have a healthy lifestyle. Several important health themes are taught in each grade level, such as nutrition, food safety and physical activity. The students especially enjoy the food taste tests which reinforce the learning lessons that week like yogurt parfaits and low-fat dairy. Keeping the students on their feet and physically active is another favorite part of the class time as well. In 2015, all income eligible elementary and pre-schools in Manistee County participated in nutrition education with MSU Extension.

Cooking Matters for Teens was offered for the first time in Manistee County, at Kaleva Norman Dickson (KND) High School. The program teaches teens about healthy eating and cooking. An MSUE program instructor and a chef, KND Food Service Director Janice Momber, worked together to teach interactive lessons to help teens build skills and confidence in making healthy meals. At the final class teens completed in a Healthy Pizza Challenge. Students developed recipe for their pizza, complied a shopping list, prepared pizza which was judged by KND staff and superintendent.

The mother of kindergarten appreciated the nutrition lessons for her son. She said that he is a picky eater and is now willing to try new foods, especially the recipes featured in the parent newsletters. She said her son enjoyed the class and shared a lot of the information he learned at home.

Adult outreach grew this year with increased partnerships and outreach at new venues. Nutrition education is done with hands-on classes teaching adults how to prepare healthy meals over a series of weeks or at a presentation in partnership with partners like Love Inc, Manistee County Health Department, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Central Wellness, Manistee Community Kitchen, 5Cap and the Manistee County Senior Center. Adults who participate in our classes improve their nutritional practices as well as increase their fruit and vegetable consumption.

Brethren High School students Megan Wayward and Brittany Dean in the Cooking Matters Class. The class is designed to teach the students how to cook healthy. ~ MANISTEE NEWS ADVOCATE – 5/18/2015
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.

Michigan State University Extension disease prevention and management programs work to promote health and wellness by reducing and managing the incidence and impacts of chronic diseases among Michigan residents and communities. Health factors such as obesity and physical inactivity significantly influence risk for developing chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The County Health Rankings, an annual measure of the overall health of nearly all counties in the nation ranked Manistee County 46th out of all 83 Michigan counties. Rankings are comprised of several national measures that affect the health of communities, such as high school graduation rates, access to healthy food, rates of smoking and obesity.

MSU Extension can support improved health of individuals and communities through delivery of evidence-based programs and engaging in multi-level partnerships with shared goals of reducing the prevalence of chronic disease. Noted activity within Manistee County includes the following:

- MSUE support and contribution of LiveWell Manistee – a local network whose mission is to “promote a culture of health and wellness for all.” MSUE has helped contribute to developing of a new, multi-level, evidence-based strategic plan with goals aimed at obesity prevention, increasing physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, and reduced tobacco use. MSUE will continue to actively engage in this committee and help promote the measureable objectives.

- MSUE staff helped in design of the Manistee County Health & Wellness Summit – August 13, 2015.

- Farms, Food, and Health, this sold out conference took place in January at the Grand Traverse Resort and brought health practitioners, employers, hospital and school food service directors, educators and farmers together under one roof to connect the dots between health care and wellness. Participants from Manistee were among the statewide audience. MSUE served as one of the primary conference organizers and hosts. A ‘Farms, Food and Health’ Facebook page was created following the conference to promote sharing.

- Participation in an April 2015 health fair at Brethren High School. MSUE was one of several community partners who provided information and resources to support physical health promotion.

More info on the Manistee County Health & Wellness Summit can be found here.
SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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 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

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
Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

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.

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.

Other Consumer Horticulture programming and services available for residents of Manistee County include:

- Gardening Hot Line
- Gardening in Michigan web site
- Ask an Expert system
- Smart Gardening programming
- Soil tests for home gardens, yards and landscape plants
- Master Gardener Training and Volunteer Program

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 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.
Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

Highlights of this educational effort:

- 110 local and regional meetings were held state-wide that reached a total audience of 8,000 persons.
- The Michigan State University Farm Management Team collaborated with local Agricultural Extension Educators and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- Curtis Talley, area Farm Business Management Educator conducted regional meetings in Petoskey, Rogers City, Alpena and Traverse City.
- A set of educational publications for Michigan producers was developed.
- Decision making software to analyze the financial consequences of the various program alternatives was demonstrated and made available.

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.

Previously, the producer paid a $250 fee / crop (up to $750 / county) to protect against yield shortfalls that exceeded 50% of the producer’s historical average production (APH). Now, the producer can purchase coverages up to 65% of Actual Production History with losses paid at 100% of the NAP market price. The producer still pays the administrative fee and there is a premium for buy-up, a structure similar to crop insurance.

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.

- 81 participants
- 16,044 milking cows impacted (based on 36 survey responses)
- 365,610,272 pounds of annual milk production impacted

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued
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.

- Over 130 attendees from across Michigan
- Resource tools were shared with producers on a USB thumbdrive

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.

- Over 60 producers and professional came early to the Great Lakes Regional Dairy Conference for the 9:30 am pre-conference session on employee management. This was a great response to a session offered at a time that required them to leave farms early in order to attend.

- In April 2015, Durst and Moore were asked to provide an in-service for Extension Educators preceding the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference in Ft. Wayne, IN. Educators from Ohio, Indiana and Iowa attended and understood the principles of management taught by Durst and Moore.

- Stan Moore was invited to speak at the Nebraska Beef Summit in mid-November of 2015 on “Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining Labor”. Moore was the lead speaker for the summit. The summit attracted over 120 producers, students, allied industry representatives, and campus specialist.

- In February 2016, Moore and Durst providing a talk at a symposium for dairy producers in Florida, sharing employee management principles with over 50 attendees.
FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES

Assistance to support beginning farmers across MI

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 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.

productcenter.msu.edu

John Amrhein’s MSUE News Articles
Extraordinary Governance and Effective Meetings workshop held in Benzie County attracted participation from Manistee County.

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.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians council and a few staff participated in a local presentation of the Building Strong Sovereign Nations program in October 2015.

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

The Stronger Economics 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 Manistee 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

In 2015, Michigan Sea Grant Extension worked on key Lake Michigan fishery transition issues and where fishery changes may impact coastal communities such as Manistee, Onekama & Arcadia. A Regional Sportfishing Workshop allowed fishers from various Manistee County ports to understand changes to the prey base and the salmon and trout fishery. The economic impacts of a diverse and healthy sportfishery are quite significant, drawing people to Manistee County from all over the Midwest.
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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Amrhein</td>
<td>Government &amp; Public Policy</td>
<td>231-922-4627</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amrhein@msu.edu">amrhein@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Breederland</td>
<td>Coastal Communities Development</td>
<td>231-922-4628</td>
<td><a href="mailto:breederl@msu.edu">breederl@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Chastain</td>
<td>Leadership and Community Engagement</td>
<td>231-439-8972</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chastainl@msu.edu">chastainl@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Crick</td>
<td>Forestry &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td>989-275-7179</td>
<td><a href="mailto:crickjul@msu.edu">crickjul@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina Curell</td>
<td>Environmental/Water Quality</td>
<td>231-745-2732</td>
<td><a href="mailto:curellc@msu.edu">curellc@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James DeDecker</td>
<td>Specialty Field Crops</td>
<td>989-734-2168</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dedecke5@msu.edu">dedecke5@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Dudek</td>
<td>Greenhouse/Nursery</td>
<td>616-994-4542</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dudek@msu.edu">dudek@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Durst</td>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>989-345-0692</td>
<td><a href="mailto:durstsp@msu.edu">durstsp@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Duvall</td>
<td>Career Exploration/Workforce Prep</td>
<td>231-256-9888</td>
<td><a href="mailto:duvall@msu.edu">duvall@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Eichberger</td>
<td>Disease Prevention and Management</td>
<td>231-922-4836</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eichber2@msu.edu">eichber2@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin Elsner</td>
<td>Small Fruit</td>
<td>231-922-4822</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elsnr@msu.edu">elsnr@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Ferry</td>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>269-445-4438</td>
<td><a href="mailto:franzeli@msu.edu">franzeli@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill Gould</td>
<td>Livestock/Bioenergy</td>
<td>616-994-4547</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gouldm@msu.edu">gouldm@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Guthrie</td>
<td>Pork/Equine</td>
<td>517-788-4292</td>
<td><a href="mailto:guthri19@msu.edu">guthri19@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Hayes</td>
<td>Community Prosperity</td>
<td>231-582-6482</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andy@northernlakes.net">andy@northernlakes.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Kaatz</td>
<td>Forage/Commercial Agriculture</td>
<td>810-667-0341</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kaatz@msu.edu">kaatz@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Lindquist</td>
<td>Grazing Management</td>
<td>231-832-6139</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindquis@msu.edu">lindquis@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Lizotte</td>
<td>Integrated Pest Management</td>
<td>231-944-6504</td>
<td><a href="mailto:taylo548@msu.edu">taylo548@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald May</td>
<td>Environmental/Air Quality</td>
<td>989-875-5233</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mayg@msu.edu">mayg@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Metzger</td>
<td>Goats &amp; Sheep</td>
<td>517-788-4292</td>
<td><a href="mailto:metzgerm@msu.edu">metzgerm@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Miller</td>
<td>Children &amp; Youth Institute Supervision</td>
<td>231-258-3320</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mille454@msu.edu">mille454@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Moore</td>
<td>Dairy/Agricultural Human Resources</td>
<td>231-533-8818</td>
<td><a href="mailto:moorest@msu.edu">moorest@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill O’Donnell</td>
<td>Christmas Tees/Ornamental/Landscapes</td>
<td>231-779-9480</td>
<td><a href="mailto:odonne10@msu.edu">odonne10@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Pennington</td>
<td>Biomass</td>
<td>269-838-8265</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pennin34@msu.edu">pennin34@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Pochubay</td>
<td>Fruit Production</td>
<td>231-946-1510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pochubay@msu.edu">pochubay@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Proctor</td>
<td>Tribal Governance</td>
<td>231-439-8927</td>
<td><a href="mailto:proctor8@msu.edu">proctor8@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethany Prykucki</td>
<td>Leadership and Community Engagement</td>
<td>231-258-3320</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prykucki@msu.edu">prykucki@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Roth</td>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>231-882-0025</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bannonpa@msu.edu">bannonpa@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Rothwell</td>
<td>Commercial Fruit</td>
<td>231-946-1510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rothwel3@msu.edu">rothwel3@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeannine Schweihofer</td>
<td>Meat Quality</td>
<td>810-989-6935</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grobbelj@msu.edu">grobbelj@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Robert Sirrine</td>
<td>Community Food Systems/ Hops</td>
<td>231-256-9888</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sirrine@msu.edu">sirrine@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean Solomon</td>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>231-582-6232</td>
<td><a href="mailto:solomon@msu.edu">solomon@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Staton</td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>269-673-0370</td>
<td><a href="mailto:staton@msu.edu">staton@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis Talley, Jr.</td>
<td>Farm Business Management</td>
<td>231-873-2129</td>
<td><a href="mailto:talleycu@msu.edu">talleycu@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Thelen</td>
<td>Agriculture Systems</td>
<td>989-227-6454</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thelen22@msu.edu">thelen22@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Venema</td>
<td>Family Financial Literacy</td>
<td>810-667-0341</td>
<td><a href="mailto:venema@msu.edu">venema@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Wieland</td>
<td>Product Center Innovation Counseling</td>
<td>231-348-1770</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wieland5@msu.edu">wieland5@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Wilson</td>
<td>Master Gardener</td>
<td>248-347-0269</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wilsonm1@msu.edu">wilsonm1@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>