Ogemaw County
2015–2016 ANNUAL REPORT
msue.msu.edu
MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

At Michigan State University, our goal is to move the state forward by focusing on research and educational programs that matter most to those who call Michigan home. The issue identification process is an important part of determining where to concentrate the time and energy of MSUE faculty and staff members for the greatest outcomes. In January 2016, District 4 held two sessions, this same process was repeated in 13 areas of the state, and data will be aggregated and used to set a direction for future university engagement with the development of our long-range plan of work. Although the plan is not yet complete, below are major program areas that were identified for our district.

CONTACT US

Michigan State University Extension

2015 Programs In Which Ogemaw County Residents Participated

Tourism has the potential to drive future economic development.

Ogemaw Residents took part in the following workshops which have a connection to economic development, business skills, community beautification and a strong county government.

- Facilitative Leadership Series
- Understanding Tourism presentation
- Conflict Smoothie workshop
- Understanding Food Hubs
- Septic/well Homeowner webinar
- Place Making Strategy Development workshop
- Lake Huron Fisheries Workshops
- Home Foreclosure Prevention webinars
- County Government support through NMCA
- Smart Gardening
- Cottage Food Law series
- Soil Test Services
- Mid Michigan Farm and Garden Show MSUE sessions
- Master Gardener Re-certifications
- Farm Financial Counseling

Thank you Ogemaw County Residents and the Ogemaw County Commissioners for supporting Michigan State University Extension. Building relationships, solving problems and meeting the needs of Michiganders has been the focus for MSUE for over 150 years.
Michigan State University Extension
2015 Programs In Which Ogemaw County Residents Participated

Health and nutrition, chronic disease, poverty and an aging population contribute to the poor health reports for our counties: (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. )

Ogemaw Residents took part in the following workshops which have a connection to preventing chronic diseases, healthy eating, and food safety.

- Chronic Pain (PATH) Series
- Farm to Table series for Commission on Aging members
- Diabetes prevention and management workshops
- ServSafe Series for food establishment workers
- Food Preservation workshops
- Youth Gardens and Food Safety workshops
- SNAP series for adults and youth
- Effects of Digital Technology on Brain Development
- Stress Less with Mindfulness webinar.

Natural Resources is a major financial, recreational, physical and emotional well-being platform in our region.

Ogemaw Residents took part in the following workshops which have a connection our water, forests, and wild life.

- Great Lakes Water Safety Conference; MSUE session
- Tolfree Bio Blitz
- Forestry Camp for Youth
- Science Camp

Ogemaw County ranked 53 out of 83 counties for overall health according to countyhealthrankings.org (2016)

Advances made by CANR student and faculty, and MSU Extension educators and specialists enhance your life today and will improve the lives of your children and grandchildren tomorrow
Agricultural practices, financial management and regulatory requirements are changing rapidly and the producer has to be current to be viable. There is a need to promote the general publics’ understanding of agriculture literacy.

Ogemaw Residents took part in the following workshops which have a connection production, diseases, and financial management to assist growers in being profitable and environmentally friendly.

- Pest Management
- Beginning Farmer Series
- Beef Workshop
- Manure Management Webinar
- Field Crops Management Workshop
- Farm A Syst Training
- Cover Crop and Soil Health Webinar
- Dairy Production
- Soil Test Services
- Farm Financial Counseling

Youth and 4-H, a substantial portion of youth are unprepared for the skills needed to be successfully employed. Some of the factors that contribute to this are: high school dropout rates, limited out of school activities, a low number of people to volunteer for out of school time activities, and a high percentage of families living in generational poverty.

4-H Youth Programs:

- 293 Youth members in 4-H Clubs
- 376 Youth Participated in short term programs
- 43 Youth attended Camp
- 168 youth Participated in School Enrichment programs

⇒ Total of 880 4-H Ogemaw Youth
DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

CHILDREN AND YOUTH INSTITUTE
Dorothy Munn, Extension Educator
Peggy Zettle, 4-H Program Coordinator—Ogemaw County

4-H preparing youth for the future
The future of Michigan lies, in part, in the hands of its students’ abilities to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Science literacy among school aged youth in Michigan is below the national average, directly impacting college readiness.

Extension 4-H clubs connect caring adult volunteers to youth
Through 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).

- 15 active clubs ranging from livestock to sewing, archery, crafts, babysitting and camps.
- New clubs that will be starting this summer and fall are a community club in Mills Township, Robotics, Shotgun, Rifle, Photography, and Dog Clubs.
- 40 adult volunteers make all clubs successful.

“I’m realizing the science and what they learn are secondary to the relationship we are building. It’s more important to the kids that we are here and care about them.” - 4-H Tech Wizards volunteer

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.
Developing Youth and Communities

**MSU 4-H Exploration Days**

A pre-college program where over 2500 youth from across Michigan learn to become independent and responsible by living in residence halls on the campus of MSU.

- 24 youth from Ogemaw County took a variety of action packed classes.
- Several course choices offer a firsthand experience in a potential career.
- Youth experience MSU dorms, buses, cafeteria and other aspects of major university life.

**4-H Spring Achievement Day**

A day of recognition for Ogemaw County 4-H Clubs, youth and adult volunteers that the public is invited to attend.

- Club members display their personal projects and they are evaluated on their work.
- Many Cloverbuds-members aged 5-8, were recognized for their participation.
- Leader and member recognition pins and certificates were awarded.
- Outstanding Achievement Awards were given to youth in numerous project areas.
- Over 200 people were in attendance at the event.

“Thank you Ogemaw County 4-H for helping my son get a head start in college with the youth council scholarship, it is just one of the amazing things 4-H does for the youth in our community. It has been a pleasure to see how my son has been influenced by his 4-H career, helping him become the outstanding young man he is today. By having to show in front of large crowds, work on an achievement project to be judged, or coming together with 4-H leaders and fellow club members to get a job done. That experience forms our children into outgoing, competitive young adults that can thrive in our community!”

- Ogemaw County Parent

Congratulations Brady Zettle from Ogemaw County on winning the $2,000.00 MSU Pre-College Scholarship
Supporting STEM careers through youth programming

**Tolfree Bio Blitz**

7th and 8th graders gained a firsthand look at the biodiversity of different plant and animal groups in our community at the Tolfree Foundation Wellness Pan.

- MSU Extension and 20 partnering organizations within Ogemaw County were involved in the event.
- Attended by 401, 7th and 8th grade students from Surline and St. Joseph Catholic Schools.
- MSUE staff led students in understanding the importance of pollinators found in edge habit, students collected information to carry out a biological inventory.

**4-H Forestry Fun Camp**

In 2015, Ogemaw MSU Extension natural resource and youth education staff partnered with the MSU Forestry Department and the Michigan Conservation District foresters to offer a pilot 4-H Forestry Day Camp.

- Youth utilized science and math skills related to forest management and explored a variety of careers in forestry.
- Participants indicated that they were more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship and career opportunities that youth can pursue in forestry fields. Additionally 90% of youth planned to apply the science knowledge and skills they developed at camp.

“I liked working with forestry tools, identifying trees, diseases, invasive species, being in the woods and learning the different types of jobs working with forests.”

- Ogemaw County Youth

Michigan forest products industry harvest about 12 million tons of wood. Each ton of wood generates about $100 worth of economic activity, totaling $1.3 billion worth of economic activity! Over 78,000 acres of land is located in the State and National forest land within the county (USDA & MDNR).
Encouraging healthy behaviors

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.

“I have walked better this last 6 weeks than I have in the last 6 years.”
Commented a local participant.

Helping Ogemaw County prevent diabetes

Personal Actions Toward Health (PATH)

PATH Diabetes help participants learn important skills such as goal setting, eating healthy, exercise, communicating with health care professionals and managing medications.

- PATH Diabetes series provided to Ogemaw County Senior Center.
- Through The West Branch Regional Medical Diabetes Outreach program - 22 participants attended the MSU Extension led session.
- One-third of participants reported an improved health status at the end of the program

In 2015, Ogemaw residents also participated in “This is your brain online: The impact of digital technology on mental health.”

Through the National Diabetes Prevention Program, MSU Extension helps participants to learn ways to change their lifestyles and improve their health.

Michigan ranks 15th in the nation for prevalence of diabetes, with an estimated 10 percent of Michigan adults aged 18 and older had been diagnosed with diabetes – about 758,300 people. An additional 250,200 Michigan adults are estimated to have diabetes but are currently undiagnosed.
Peggy Zettle  
*Family Nutrition Program Instructor*

**Teaching valuable healthy-eating skills**

In 2011, 17.5 percent of people in Michigan were considered to be living below the poverty level. More than 1.7 million Michigan residents receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

**Show Me Nutrition**

A comprehensive nutrition curriculum that teaches youth to have a healthy lifestyle using age appropriate content, activities and handouts.

- 120 students from Surline Elementary 4th graders completed the program.
- Youth learned how to eat healthy and be active.
- Youth taste tested fruits and vegetables that many had never had before.
- Nutrition fact sheets and newsletters went home with each student after each lesson to share with their family.

“Hi Peggy, I just wanted to give you a very big complement. Torey loves your SNAP-Ed nutrition class. He came home with lots of good info and uses it on a daily basis. I find him reading labels all the time and asking questions about everything. Thank you very much. You are doing a great job. He even passes info on to others.”  - Parent of SNAP-Ed participant
ENSURING SAFE AND SECURE FOOD

Karen Fifield
Extension Educator, Health and Nutrition Institute, Food Safety

Teaching Ogemaw Food Safety

Cooking for Crowds is an educational program for nonprofit groups that prepare food for their members or for the general public as fundraisers.

- Participants learn how to prevent unsafe conditions that may cause food borne illness.
- Participants learn how to plan, purchase, store, prepare and serve food correctly.
- MSUE provided this course to 19 Ogemaw residents.

Michigan State University Extension Offers ServSafe, a national certification program for those working in food service, specifically manages and other leaders.

- The course teaches how to prevent foodborne illness and how to train employees about the latest food safety issues.
- 25 Ogemaw residents participated in the 8 hour course
- They covered topic including: providing safe food, forms of contamination, the safe

“This class has made me aware of a better quality of food service/food safety that can be attained at our church.”
- Cooking for Crowds participant

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 communities viable.
ENSURING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Greening Michigan Institute
Bonnie Wichtner-Zoia, Extension Educator
Leadership, Community Engagement and Tourism

Tourism
MSU Extension helps communities grow and prosper by proving leadership community engagement and tourism educational programming.

Understanding Tourism in Michigan Communities (UTMC)
- This 3 hour workshop is directed at communities and individuals seeking to better understand tourism opportunities and how niche markets can help transform, grow and sustain assets in their communities.
- Attendees explore their own assets and identify possibilities to leverage tourism opportunities.

First Impressions
- The purpose of the First Impressions Program is to help a destination learn about their existing strengths and weaknesses as seen through the eyes of the first time visitor.
- Participating communities receive a written summery, public presentation and tourism –related recommendations.
- The MSUE Tourism Team is currently conducting a pilot First Impression program in the district.
- Articles and information about a variety of tourism- related subjects can be found on the Michigan State University Extension Tourism website at: http://msue.anr.edu/topic/info/tourism.

Tourism is a significant part of several industries: 94% of lodging, 43% of recreation and 25% of food & beverage employment is supported by tourism spending. - Tourism Economics

MSU Extension’s focus on year-round tourism brings together educators and researchers with municipalities, communities and businesses to develop and enhance their uniqueness as a destination “hotspot.”
Leadership and Community Engagement

Through its public policy education and community leadership workshops, MSU Extension informs residents about public policy issues and processes, offers leadership skill development classes and strengthens community capacity to solve complex problems.

- MSU Extension offers two highly acclaimed facilitation workshops that are designed to train leaders from communities and organizations: Facilitative Leadership and Advanced Facilitative Leadership.

Conflict Resolution

To engage productively in community and economic development opportunities it is essential to openly address and resolve disagreement in a constructive manner.

- MSU Extension offers hands-on and research-based educational opportunities that help people build the skills they need to manage a range of conflict situations – from one-on-one interactions to large public meetings.
- A Three-hour Communicating through Conflict workshop has been offered in the county and surrounding district.

“When working with the public, we come into conflicts and what I learned will help me stop and think of how to work through and ultimately resolve those conflicts.” – Ogemaw Attendee

Placemaking, a strategy led by local governments and planning commissions, can be a cornerstone of Michigan’s economic recovery.
Farm Business Management

In collaboration with the USDA Farm Service Agency and commodity organizations in Michigan, the MSU E Firm team (Farm Information Resources Management) developed a one-stop source of information for producers and landlords that include:

- A set of publications for Michigan producers and landlords
- Decision-making software to analyze the financial consequences of alternative program decisions
- Integration of the FIRM software with advanced risk management tools developed at the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University
- 110 local and regional educational meetings that reached a total audience of 8,000 producers throughout the state
SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sarah Rautio, PhD
Supervisor in Nutrition & Physical Activity
Educator in Consumer Horticulture

MSUE Master Gardeners Improving Communities

Every year Master Gardeners share their knowledge with families on growing their own food.

- Volunteers are committed to improving the quality of life in Michigan through horticulture-based volunteerism and beautifying communities throughout the state.
- MSUE provides Master Gardeners with resources and workshops to ensure they have the latest plant and soil science research available to them.
- Members are actively participating in a variety of projects that improve access to growing local food, beautify landscapes, and spread valuable science-based knowledge on sustainable gardening practices to local citizens.
- Master Gardeners in Ogemaw County assist with both the Rose City and Skidway Lake Community Gardens, which provide plots to local citizens for growing their own food.
- Master Gardeners planted and maintain flower beds at the West Branch County Annex Building.
- provided garden-related instruction at community events, such as “BioBlitz” at the West Branch Medical Center Toll Free Foundation Park.

Most recently, Master Gardeners have been spreading the word about the MSUE “Smart Gardening” Initiative, which is a campaign that helps property owners gain the knowledge they need to be more environmentally savvy and SMART gardeners.

Ask an Expert!

Call the MSU Extension toll-free hotline: 888-678-3464
SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE AND AG-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Phil Durst, Sr. Extension Educator

Dairy & Beef Cattle Health and Production

In 2015, Ogemaw County’s farm sales generated $46,260,000.00.

Farm Employee Management:
Managing employees on a dairy is a key to better and more consistent performance; therefore:
- Have helped dairy owners and managers develop their skills and knowledge to more effectively manage employees.
- Co-wrote a series of employee mastitis lessons that are published in Hoard’s Dairyman magazine so that dairy employees develop their knowledge.
- Taken a leadership role in coordinating a section of a new book on managing farm employees for dairy producers.

Producing higher quality, higher value, animal products:
Beef cow-calf production is a major industry in NE Michigan that depends on successful sale of healthy, well-grown calves each year.
- Worked with beef producers to host the West Branch Feeder Calf Sale.
- The 2015 sale resulted in over $1 M in sales
- Co-led a pilot project to help beef and dairy producers identify risks for exposure to Bovine TB and ways to help prevent infection.

Ogemaw’s top 2 areas of agriculture production are
(1) milk and dairy products (2) beef cattle and calves
Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

**Cattle health and comfort:**

- Leading a statewide project to help dairy producers, including those locally, reduce the risk of transmission of BLV.
- Involved statewide, and locally with dairy farms to better understand mastitis and improve treatment use.
- Have written and taught locally, statewide, nationally and internationally about cattle health and comfort.

**Learning on the farm:**

The best classroom for farmers is often a farm, and farmers can provide a good example and model for other producers.

- Involving local dairy producers as members of the MSU Extension Dairy Advisory Team; providing input and learning and sharing experience and ways of doing things.
- Host monthly conference calls with producers to discuss current issues on farms and in the industry.
- Developed farm tours enable producers to see and understand how other producers solve problems and achieve results.

During the 2014 Ag Expo, MSU researchers provided a demonstration for local municipality representatives of animal mortality composting.

Proper animal composting works well as a way to deal with road kill, as an alternative disposal method for animal control units and as a disaster response when livestock and other animal mortalities require disposal.
Extension Educators Serving Ogemaw County

Staff Located in Ogemaw County Office:

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Bonnie Wichtner-Zoia, Leadership, Facilitation, Conflict Management and Tourism Educator
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DISTRICT 4 DIGITAL REACH
From July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015:

⇒ 2.5 million visitors viewed more than 5.3 million web pages.
⇒ Search engine ranking help make msue.msu.edu one of the most visited Cooperative Extension Systems education sites in the country.
⇒ 751,000 topic newsletters were distributed to more than 10,400 email addresses.
⇒ MSUE Extension reached more than 2,500 Facebook and more than 2,200 Twitter followers.
⇒ Michigan 4-H families and volunteers stay informed about activities through Michigan 4-H Facebook with 3,125 likes.
District 4 Extension Council

Each district of MSU Extension has an advisory council to assist the District Coordinator in a variety of ways. The Council’s composition is a balance among various sectors that Extension educational programming serves.

Members are nominated and selected due to their experiences with Extension and proved leadership. They network with others who share similar interests and concerns, help shape Extension programming efforts important to citizens in the district, gather support for establishing or extending educational effectors around issues of concern in the district, and participate in leadership and issue focused educational events.

Members of the District 4 Council in 2016 include:

- Bobbe Burke (Arenac)
- Joan Crick (Alcona)
- Sharon Czaika (Iosco)
- Jen Czymbor (Arenac)
- Robert Dixion (Crawford)
- Roy Elie (Ogemaw)
- Rose Ford (Iosco)
- Elizabeth Grabow (Ogemaw)
- Paul Grabstanowicz (Alcona)
- Shelly Hubbard (Crawford)
- Patricia Killingbeck (Arenac)
- Joell Krejarek (Alcona)
- Ken Melvin (Roscommon)
- Marc Milburn (Roscommon)
- Joe Powers (Crawford)
- Chuck Preston (Iosco)
- Bruce Reetz (Ogemaw)
- Erik Rodriguez (Arenac)
- Leisa Sutton (Iosco)
- Sasha Weaver (Crawford)

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