

Bringing Knowledge to Life in

Newaygo County

Newaygo County

Newaygo County Extension
817 South Stewart Avenue
Fremont, MI 49412-9201

P: 231-924-0500
F: 231-924-6480

E-mail: msue.newaygo@county.msu.edu
Web: msue.msu.edu/Newaygo

August 2007

MSU President visits Newaygo County

MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon visited Fremont on July 19. During her remarks she underscored the importance of research and agriculture for improving the Michigan economy.

The luncheon was followed by a tour of long-time partner Gerber Products research kitchen and aseptic processing facility. President Simon then visited MC Dairy for a tour of their unique water buffalo farm and discussed possible linkages with MSU for research and economic spin-offs.



Water Buffalo at MC Dairy.

Water buffalo produce high-butterfat content milk that is ideal for making European quality mozzarella cheese. MC Dairy plans to begin milking by fall, and shipping milk to the Starting Block, a kitchen incubator in Hart, where work will begin on producing a marketable cheese product.

Simon's visit was coordinated by MSU Extension, Gerber, the Newaygo County Economic Development Office and The Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Kay Cummings, County Extension Director

Newaygo County hosts Citizen Planner program

MSU Extension's Citizen Planner program, a nationally recognized training series for elected and appointed officials, was offered this spring in Newaygo County.

The program offered participants seven core sessions on the fundamentals of community planning and zoning including legal foundations, roles and responsibilities, plan implementation and development control, best practices and ethics.

These classes were presented by leading land use experts from across Michigan, and participants received a certificate of completion for the program.

Thirty six officials from 11 municipalities across Newaygo County took part in this year's program, representing all levels of local government.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 32 participants received scholarships to reduce their participation costs.

Ryan Coffey, Land Use Educator

Focus Areas for Local Extension Programming

Land use education

Facilitating economic entrepreneurship in tourism, agriculture and childcare

Addressing obesity with nutrition education

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. Offices in counties across the state link the research of the land-grant university, MSU, to challenges facing communities. Citizens serving on county Extension councils regularly help select focus areas for programming. MSU Extension is funded jointly by county boards of commissioners, the state through Michigan State University and federally through the US Department of Agriculture.



Youngsters contribute to local recycling effort

More Newaygo County residents are recycling these days. Since spring, Recycling for Newaygo County has seen a definite increase in the volume of materials dropped off by county residents. Drop-off trailers are filling faster and being emptied more often. Much more of the county's "valuable trash" is being recovered and saved from the landfill.

As a result of this increase, employees at the Fremont Recycling Center processing plant have been busier than ever – sometimes overwhelmed—by sorting, baling and preparing the materials for shipment to recyclers.



Youth volunteers helping out at the Recycling Center.

Several members of Friends of Recycling, a support group, have come to the rescue, volunteering their time and talents.

One group, the Leo Lions of Fremont Middle School, has been a great help. Under the direction of Laurene Homsher, groups of two to six young people have been working at the Center each Thursday to help sort the mountains of recyclables for three hours.

They are very productive, sorting several bags of materials, and they have fun doing it. They have certainly made a difference and are much appreciated.

The youngsters are not only learning the value of protecting the environment from pollution, they are also finding out that even as youngsters, their community service work makes a difference in the county.

Bob Pinder, Recycling for Newaygo County

4-H Youth Farm Safety Day held

Farming is an enriching way of life, but also an inherently dangerous one. More than 700 adults and 200 children die each year in farm work-related accidents across the U.S.

To help Newaygo young people stay safe on the farm, the seventh 4-H Youth Farm Safety Day was held at the Newaygo County Career Tech Center recently. The Newaygo County 4-H Council sponsored the event to help keep children safe while in the field and home.

Professionals from each of the safety areas were on hand to staff learning stations that more than 60 youngsters and team leaders visited.



A Fremont fire fighter demonstrates the use of a fire extinguisher.

Each teen leader and youth participant received a first aid kit, goody bag of information and a personal protective equipment kit containing goggles, gloves, masks and earplugs.

Gerber Memorial Health Services generously contributed first aid kits. Other donors included Voelker Implement Sales, Inc. of Big Rapids, Gerber Products, Fremont Insurance Company, Wilbur Ellis of Grant, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Nestle Waters North, West Michigan Veterinary Services of Coopersville, the White Agency, Wm Bolthouse Farms, Inc. and Wal-Mart of Fremont. The Fremont Area Community Foundation also was a supporter of the day.

4-H Teen Team Leaders and FFA members from Grant High School guided the youth participants through the safety stations. Without the many volunteers and their efforts at Youth Farm Safety Day; the event would not have been a success.

Sandy Risedorph, 4-H Educator