



# Macomb County 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Macomb County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses and communities.

MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational services to county residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships and are responsive to community needs.

This year, we've also welcomed Macomb County residents into our online community: we've offered online educational courses, answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media and provided a library of research-based resources to be browsed on our website.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Macomb County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you'll be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

**Ed Scott**

**District Director**

**MSU Extension-Macomb County**

### MISSION:

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

## MEASURING IMPACT

4-H Youth Development.....	12,313
Volunteers.....	492
Natural Resources .....	6,410
Health, Nutrition & Food Safety .....	3,083
Community Food Systems .....	214
MSU Product Center .....	29
Consumer Horticulture .....	11,189
Master Gardener Volunteers.....	263
Garden Hotline & Diagnostics .....	713
<b>TOTAL IMPACT .....</b>	<b>34,706</b>

## CONTACT US

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## MACOMB COUNTY EXTENSION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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Jerry DeMaire

Stephen Hulbert

Lisa Lane

Ralph Lang

Chuck Lumpkin

Jean Persely

Hannah Stevens

Linda Stout

Brian Walmsley

Joie West

# Program Highlights

## COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS



Keynote panelists at the All About Food Conference



Cultivate Michigan beet, celery and onion tour

***As a result of participation in the Cultivate Michigan Marketplaces, respondents indicated that they:***

- planned to sell more local food (97% of local food suppliers)
- planned to purchase more local food (92% of food purchasers)
- learned new options for marketing local food (89% of local food suppliers)
- made a new sales connection (97% of local food suppliers)
- strengthened a relationship with a food service buyer (74% of local food suppliers)
- learned new options for purchasing local food (98% of food purchasers)
- made new purchasing connections (100% of food purchasers)
- planned to contact at least one farming contact they made (91%)

Community Food Systems staff work to improve the local food system in Macomb County, specifically by finding ways to connect farms to public institutions and providing educational content to help residents better understand where their food is coming from and the benefits of sourcing food locally. In 2018, over 200 Macomb residents benefitted from Community Food System Programming.

### **Macomb Food Collaborative**

Hosted by the Macomb Food Collaborative, the *All About Food: From Farm to Fork Conference* was held in March of 2018. The conference was supported by MSU Extension, a member in the Collaborative, and convened food system stakeholders from around Macomb County, with additional participants from surrounding counties.

### **Farm to Institution**

Farm to Institution is a comprehensive approach to building the regional food system by providing foods that are nutrient dense to students, patients and consumers, creating increased economic opportunity for local growers, and a more connected food community. In Macomb County, the Community Food Systems program partnered with the Macomb Health Department to create a farm to school directory to more easily connect local farmers willing to sell to schools with food service directors that want to increase their local purchases. To further foster Farm to Institution programs, the Community Food Systems work team hosted educational tours focused on beef, beets, celery and onions and a series of Cultivate Michigan Marketplaces that facilitated connections between institutional buyers and local food suppliers. The team also hosted educational workshops, including Starting and Sustaining a School Garden, where participants learn how to begin or expand their school garden through facilitated goal setting and hands-on activities.

# Program Highlights

## CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

### Master Gardener Program

According to the National Gardening Association (NGA), three of four households in the United States report engaging in some type of gardening. The MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture staff in Macomb County seek to help the public make smart gardening decisions. We do this by holding public events, producing literature, providing content and training for the lawn and garden hotline staff and volunteers, and by training and supervising the community projects of Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers.

The EMG program is a volunteer organization that provides horticulture education to the public. Volunteers are trained during a 14-week course taught by MSU Extension. The new class of 59 volunteer trainees are part of a group of 207 volunteers who contributed 14,750 volunteer hours and made over 11,000 public contacts in 2018.

Macomb County Master Gardeners work on projects in schools, parks and other public spaces. Focus areas include gardening to support pollinators and protect water quality and contributing expertise to community and food donation gardens. Extension Master Gardener volunteers can be found at Ask a Master Gardener booths at the Macomb County Farmer's markets on a weekly basis during the spring, summer and fall. At the markets, volunteers provide MSU Extension Smart Gardening literature and are available to answer basic gardening questions.

There were 111 soil test kits completed for Macomb County residents in 2018, and feedback indicates that people changed practices based on their soil test results from MSU Extension.



Ed Scott, District Director, Karen Burke, Macomb County Master Gardener Coordinator and Dr. Peter Carrington, edible and toxic plant specialist attend the Master Gardener Banquet held yearly to acknowledge the work of volunteers.



MSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers at a Smart Gardening outreach booth at the Michigan State Fair in Novi, MI.



MSU Extension Master Gardeners answer lawn and garden questions from the public.

# Program Highlights

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Teen Counselor at the 4-H Day Camp field trip held at the Outdoor Adventure Center.



4-H Volunteer Brenda Martin instructs 4-H members Vivian and Viano Boomer on the art of weaving.



Pictured are Morgan Elementary students with their national certificates and Utica Community Schools K-12 Art Department Chairperson Karen Barbolla.

MSU Extension staff and volunteers served over 12,000 Macomb County youth in 2018. Those youth participated in educational programs that included animal science, shooting sports, outdoor adventure challenge, arts, mentoring and natural resources.

### MSU Extension Teen Counselor Program

The Teen Counselor program is open to Macomb County students in grades 9 through 12. These teens are recruited and then trained to assist in facilitating 4-H programs. Last year, teens from East Detroit, Warren Mott, Fitzgerald and Lincoln High School volunteered hundreds of hours of community service at 4-H Day Camps, special events and in-school programs. In exchange, they were given certificates of community service for their portfolios, a letter of reference based on their performance and many professional development workshops including Mad City Money. Teens must complete an application, have a face-to-face interview and complete a three-day training before they can volunteer with special events or day camps, always under the supervision of a 4-H Program Coordinator.

### Day of the Dead

MSU Extension 4-H, the Hispanic Coalition of Macomb and St. Francis/St. Maximilian members partnered together and hosted an authentic *Day of the Dead* or *El Dia de los Muertos* event. *Day of the Dead*, for Hispanics across the world, is a special celebration during November. During this time, Latinos honor and remember their loved ones. Families create beautiful offrendas (alters) in their homes, display family pictures and make their favorite foods and articles of past times. There is also a community celebration in the cemetery with music, dancing and food. At the Macomb County Day of the Dead event, participants were able to try food from Latin American countries and create traditional crafts that adorned the church's officina (alter).

### China Art

Through MSU Extension, thousands of Michigan kindergarten through 6th grade children participated in the 2018 Michigan 4-H Art Exchange with China. Held annually, it is the most participated program in Macomb County by non 4-H youth. The program is a global education opportunity that connects students with children their own age in China. Macomb County had the second highest participation rate in the state with over 1600 elementary students participating from the following four school districts: Utica, Centerline, Roseville and Armada. The program has two components. The first is a classroom teaching kit to facilitate learning about China. In the second component, program participants are invited to send "visual letters" to children their own age in China.

# Program Highlights

## Project Unify

Macomb County 4-H teamed up with the Chippewa Valley School District's *Project Unify* program to bring archery to students at Dakota High School. *Project Unify* is a mentorship program for students with disabilities and is sponsored by Special Olympics. The sports and education program of Special Olympics is used to activate young people to promote school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. There were 124 students from Dakota that participated in the archery program using safe foam arrow tips. This was an introduction to archery for many youth who were able to practice their new craft three times during the year.



Students at Dakota High School practice archery using safe foam arrow tips.

## Lake to Table

Twenty-two youth from Macomb and St. Clair Counties took part in a fishing event that taught them important skills to become a successful and ethical angler. Youth participated in a presentation from the MI Department of Natural Resources about lake ecology, including live examples of fish, crayfish, crustaceans and even native lamprey. They also discussed the importance of ethics in fishing and why being an ethical angler is important for both the lakes and themselves. The youth then boarded boats, fished in two different lakes and brought their catch back with them. Their next steps included learning the importance of a sharp knife at a knife sharpening table, how to process/fillet their own fish and how to prepare the fish for cooking over an open campfire.



Happy Days Fishing Camp received a Friends of 4-H Award for being accommodating hosts.

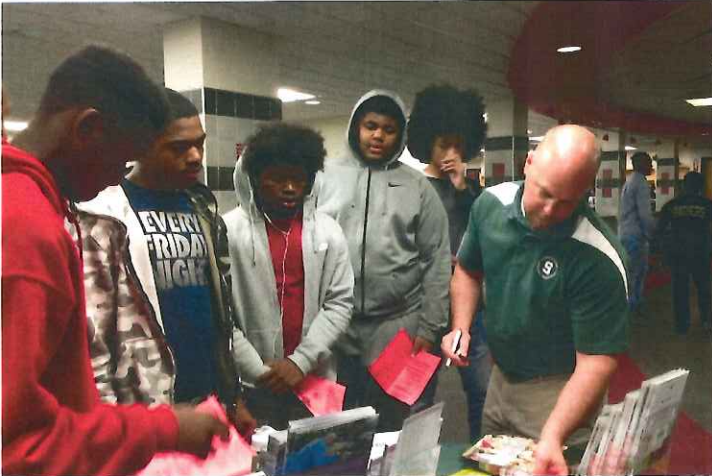
## Military Connected Youth 4-H Club Community Garden

The DTA 4-H Club in Macomb County is comprised of military connected youth and has been around for 10 years. One of the club's main project areas is the community garden outside of the Child Development Center at the U.S. Army Garrison-Detroit Arsenal. 4-H members do everything from building new flower beds, to planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. DTA 4-H Club leader Dave Galer says, "Now in our eighth season, we have used this garden to teach our teens, who in turn mentor the younger children at the CDC, about such topics as plant science, nutrition, and the importance of conserving our natural resources."



DTA 4-H Club members work together to build a flower bed to add to their garden in the 2018 growing season.

# Program Highlights



Teens meeting with Nathan Westfall from the MSU College of Ag and Natural Resources at the Mt. Clemens Community Schools Career Fair.



Mad City Money at the Max Thompson Family Resource Center located in Warren.



Participants in **Invent It** at the Macomb County Tank Arsenal.

## Career Education, Workforce Preparation, Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

In 2018, 859 participants were involved in in-depth career education, workforce preparation, financial and entrepreneurial skill building in Macomb County. Programming took place in partnership with many schools and organizations including the Macomb Intermediate School District, Academy 21 in Centerline, Mt. Clemens Community Schools, Roseville Schools, Van Dyke Public Schools; Chesterfield Township Library, Jermaine Jackson Center, Max Thompson Family Resource Center, Junior Leadership Macomb, Mt. Clemens Community Coalition, TCB Mentoring, Juvenile Justice Center and Child and Youth services for military families. Based on the partner organization's need and youth audience, programs were developed to address the need. Build Your Future, Mad City Money, Invent It, Career Preparation Day, Apprenticeships 101, Career Exploration/Career Expectations, The Art of Networking, Interviews for Success, and S.M.A.R.T. Goals were just a few of the many programs offered.

4-H programming in career education and workforce preparation is aimed at achieving the following outcomes:

- Young people will have the knowledge needed to choose appropriate post-secondary workforce training, entrepreneurial or career endeavors.
- Youth will be better prepared to make wise economic choices in their personal and work lives.

In Macomb County, youth explored different occupations and post-secondary educational options by speaking with career professionals and a variety of educational institutions in person. They were able to practice their networking, interviewing and communication techniques. Youth also created their resumes, cover and thank you letters, and discussed professionalism in the workplace.

With funding from Chemical Bank, there was a strong focus on financial literacy education. Here, youth explored money values, needs and wants, goal setting, credit and debt, investing, and budgeting.



# Program Highlights

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### Food Preservation

Home food preservation education has been implemented through MSU Extension's system for more than 50 years. Extension uses research-tested recipes and information to convey safe food practices. Consumers are advised to use United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved home food preservation practices, including canning, freezing and drying, to ensure safe, high-quality preserved foods. Consumers who use untested or outdated home food preservation techniques or recipes put the health of families at risk.

In 2018, Macomb County residents responded to rising food costs by utilizing home food preservation. Many found it beneficial to preserve home grown food from gardens, community gardens and food purchased at farmer's markets.

MSU Extension food safety educator, Eileen Haraminac, delivered five hands-on food preservation classes in Macomb County to county residents and residents of nearby counties. The topics of these hands-on workshops ranged from pressure canning, canning jams and jellies, salsas, blanching and freezing, and canning tomatoes.

The goal of each class was to provide food safety knowledge and proper canning practices, including: carefully selecting and washing fresh food; peeling fresh foods; hot-packing many foods; adding acids (lemon juice and vinegar) to some foods; using acceptable jars and self-sealing lids and processing jars in a boiling-water or pressure canner for the correct period of time.

### Healthy Food Matters and Empower Entrepreneurship

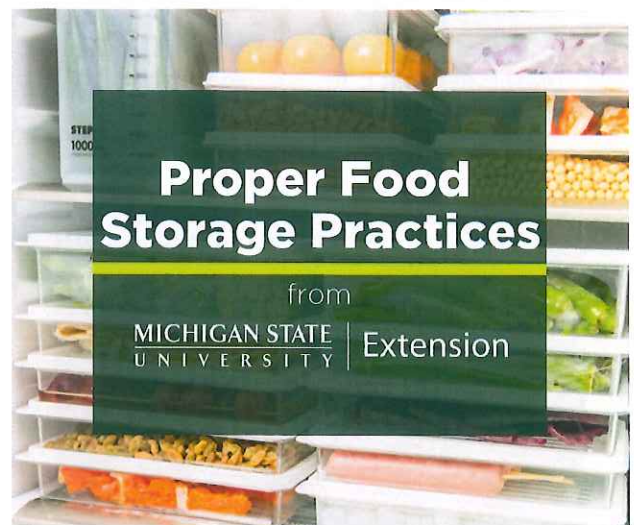
Healthy Food Matters and Empower Entrepreneurship is a cross institute program offered to the Arab and refugee population in Southeast MI. Participants in this series use the Eat Healthy Be Active community workshops to learn about healthy food choices.

This curriculum emphasizes the importance of physical activities and introduces participants to healthier options in preparing culturally relevant cuisine.

In addition, participants receive educational content related to cottage food law and the process of starting small businesses.

*Participants were surveyed with pre/post evaluations. Impact from the programs:*

- 80% of adults learned new information in the program
- 84% of adults were confident/very confident in their ability to safely preserve food at home
- 86% of adults understood the importance of following up-to-date, research-tested recipes
- 84% of adults were confident in their ability to find and share research based food preservation recommendations with friends and family



Proper food storage practices can help you reduce waste and cut down on cost.



Proud graduates from the bundled Healthy Food Matters and Empower Entrepreneurship .

# Program Highlights



MSU Extension Educator, Rob Weber, presents at the Arab and Chaldean Council in Sterling Heights.

## FORECLOSURE COUNSELING, HOME BUYER EDUCATION and FINANCIAL LITERACY

### Foreclosure Prevention and Foreclosure Counseling

The Foreclosure Prevention program has had an important partnership with the Macomb County Treasurer's Office for several years and in 2018 continued their work of helping homeowners save their home and become more financially stable.

Through one-on-one counseling, MSU Extension Educators and Instructors met with 156 homeowners who were either three years behind on their property taxes or experiencing mortgage default. As a result, homeowners entered repayment plan agreements with the Treasurer, were approved for modifications with their mortgage lender, and learned how to budget during a financial crisis.

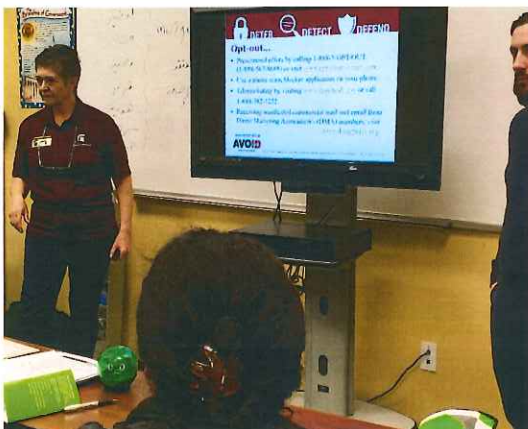
Mortgage foreclosure counseling is offered as well. We help people communicate with their lender, apply for assistance programs including modifications, forbearances, repayment plans, etc. MSU Extension is proud to report that 99% of our foreclosure clients successfully retain their home and avoid foreclosure.

One of the Foreclosure Prevention program's biggest achievements over the last six years has been helping homeowners apply for the Step Forward Michigan program, which offers a forgivable loan to homeowners who qualify. In 2018 alone, the program helped over 40 homeowners successfully receive the financial assistance that caught them up on all three years of property taxes. This totaled nearly \$240,000 in tax dollars returning to Macomb County (\$1.9M since the program's inception in 2013).

MSU Extension's foreclosure hotline is also an important resource for distressed homeowners in Macomb County who aren't sure what help is available. In 2018, MSU Extension talked with 326 people via phone and provided education on foreclosure prevention options and what steps they can take. Often times a homeowner needs to speak with someone urgently about their housing situation, so having a person just a phone call away is an important service that MSU Extension provides.



Ghassan Younan interprets Nancy Latham's presentation to the Arab American Chaldean Council.



MSU Extension offers educational programs free of charge.

# Program Highlights

## Home Buyer Education

Homeownership Education workshops help participants who are either thinking of or in the process of buying their first home. This six-hour course educates participants on how to navigate the complicated process of becoming a homeowner. Topics include: advantages of homeownership, steps in the home buying process, understanding the cost of homeownership, understanding credit and debt management, and shopping for a home and obtaining a mortgage loan. The course often invites mortgage loan officers, realtors, and home inspectors who lend their knowledge on their areas of expertise.

There were 221 participants in the Macomb County workshops in 2018. The in-person course is offered monthly. Online webinars are also an option for those who cannot come in person. In addition to the knowledge gained, another benefit is that this is an approved course by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The certificate the participants receive after completing the course can be used as one of the requirements necessary to obtain down-payment and closing-costs assistance from MSHDA. For those that qualify, they can receive up to \$7,500 to help them with the costs of purchasing a home.

## Financial Coaching

Financial Empowerment isn't about getting richer. It is about helping people use the income and resources that are already at their disposal in a manner that puts them in control. Financial Empowerment also helps them make more calculated decisions, aligns their behavior with their values, ultimately making financial goals more obtainable.

In 2018, financial coaches at MSU Extension worked with 75 individuals to start them on the path to financial wellness.

Many of the participants learned about MSU Extension's coaching program through key partners including Macomb Community Action and St. Paul of Tarsus Catholic Church. One participant said, "To be honest, I thought I don't need a financial coach; I know what I'm doing. Boy, was I wrong! Nancy Latham showed me a lot of ways to save money."



MSU Extension Program Instructor, Nancy Latham, engages participants in the Home Buyer Education class.



Nancy explains how to spot and prevent identity theft.



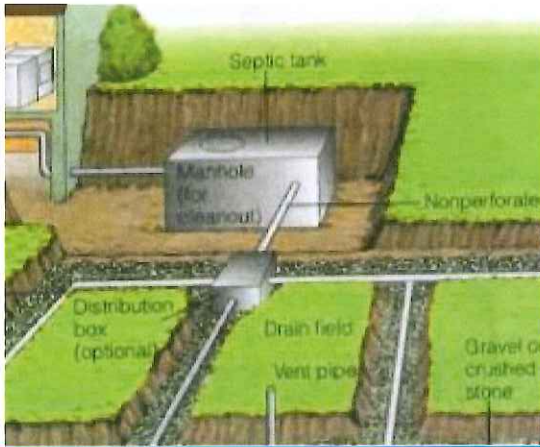
Certificates of Participation awarded at completion of class.

# Program Highlights

## GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC POLICY and NATURAL RESOURCES



Terry Gibb, Senior Extension Educator; Ed Scott, District Director and Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel welcome guests to the MSU Extension Centennial Celebration.



Septic Field Diagram



Steve Cassin, former Macomb County PED Executive Director, instructs the Citizen Planner program participants on the basics of planning.

### MSU Extension Centennial Celebration

MSU Extension placed its first permanent “agent” in Macomb County in June, 1918. Since then, Extension has continued to grow and expand to meet the changing needs and issues of the county.

In September, a Macomb Extension Centennial celebration was held to celebrate its 100 years in the county in conjunction with the county Bicentennial also in 2018. Seventy-two individuals representing communities, county, state and local government, county agencies and departments and volunteers attended the celebration.

Seven long-time volunteers (over 20 years continuous volunteer service and other volunteer efforts in the community) were recognized as the backbone of Extension outreach. Tributes were offered by communities, the county, state and federal legislators and the Governor.

### Homeowner Septic System Education Workshops

Point-of-sale program follow-up data indicates that at least 10% of septic systems checked through these programs are in some level of malfunction or failure. With nearly 1.4 million septic systems in Michigan, that can have a significant negative impact on both surface and ground water.

In 2018, Extension held three in-person workshops in Shelby, Washington and Ray Townships. A statewide septic education webinar was held in September during SepticSmart Week with 91 sites participating in the webinar, including six from Macomb, twelve from Oakland and seven from Wayne.

### Citizen Planner Program

MSUE continued its partnership with the Macomb County Planning & Economic Development Department (PED) to provide one scholarship per Macomb County community to assist in educating local officials and staff on basic land-use issues and techniques.

Twenty-four participants from 14 Macomb communities participated in the scholarship program with four sending more than one participant to the training.

In addition to the seven core sessions, MSUE offered an eighth session covering the resources counties have available to assist communities with planning and zoning efforts.

# Program Highlights

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Great Lakes Education

The Great Lakes Education Program (GLEP) introduces students to the unique features of the Great Lakes through a combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience. It is designed to stimulate interest in the Great Lakes and help students understand their role in protecting these vital freshwater resources. All classes have the opportunity to be involved in both the vessel-based education offered through MSUE, as well as complementary shoreside education offered by Metropark interpretive educators. This provides each class with a full day experience.

GLEP is part of an approved science curriculum for students and addresses an important need. Studies have shown that fourth grade students in Michigan generally have little understanding of the Great Lakes and local water resources. GLEP helps bridge this gap and prepare students for their roles as future decision-makers responsible for the state's natural resources.

Recent research by Michigan Sea Grant (MISG) has shown that GLEP participants significantly increased their knowledge of the Great Lakes and water resources.

In 2018, a total of 1396 students and 208 adult chaperones participated in GLEP. Nineteen volunteers donated 624 hours (\$24.69/hr. valued at \$15,406) to the program. A Huron Pines AmeriCorps representative also spent 65 hours on the boat during program delivery. Schools from 13 districts and two private schools participated in the program.

### Water Conservation

In 2018, MSUE and MISG representatives conducted 145 water conservation programs in Macomb County. The programs took place in 53 schools representing over 20 different school districts throughout Macomb and Wayne Counties. A total of 3,718 1st-4th grade students and 145 teachers were involved in the 60-minute hands-on water science program. There were 76 hours (\$24.69/hr. valued at \$1,876) of in classroom instruction time given by seven MSUE volunteers.



Steve Stewart assists students in conducting the pH test.



Students observe the final step in the dissolved oxygen test.



Justin Selden explains that 20% of the Earth's surface water can be found in the Great Lakes.

# Program Highlights



MSU Extension staff represent the MSU Product Center at the Making It In Macomb trade show.



Mano's Authentic Pita Strips can now be found in Whole Foods.

## MSU PRODUCT CENTER

The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio was established in Spring, 2003 with funds from the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and MSU Extension to improve economic opportunities in the Michigan agriculture, food and natural resource sectors. 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.

Whether you are a budding entrepreneur or an established company, the Product Center is your key to the front door of MSU's vast and varied technical expertise, research, outreach, and educational services.

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. This may take place at the MSU Extension office, close proximity to the client's home, or the actual business location. The assistance provided is tailored to meet the needs of the client. Services include developing a business plan, navigating the regulatory procedures of state and local food licensing, accessing the supply chain or seeking funding options. The innovation counselor also assists clients in accessing specialized services such as: feasibility studies, nutritional labeling, food science, and packaging assistance.

Sixty-one counseling sessions took place in Macomb County to assist 29 entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. There was \$171,000 in new sales reported along with \$255,000 in investments made.

Mano's Authentic Pita Strips in Clinton Township built a new production facility. The company participated in the 2018 Making it in Michigan trade show.

"Thanks to the Making It In Michigan food show, we were just recently approved in all of the Whole Foods Market stores in Michigan! We're super excited and grateful for that opportunity." Alvin Saywa, owner.

**Macomb County VerKuilen Building**

**Youth Development**

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Kathy Jamieson	Extension Educator	586-469-6093
Seth Martin	Program Coordinator	586-783-8163
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**Finance and Housing**

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Rob Weber	Extension Educator	586-469-7610
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**Nutrition, Health and Wellness**

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Connie Kurple	Community Nutrition Instructor	586-469-6020
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Crystal White	Community Nutrition Instructor	586-469-4105

**Agriculture and Agribusiness**

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Kevin Gould	Extension Educator, Beef	517-763-6279
Phil Kaatz	Extension Educator, Field Crops	810-667-0341
Ashley Kuschel	Breakfast on the Farm Coordinator	586-469-7616
Mary Wilson	Senior Extension Educator	248-347-0269

**Natural Resources and Sea Grant**

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Justin Selden	Extension Educator	586-469-7139
Steve Stewart	Senior Extension Educator	586-469-7431

**Government, Public Policy and Natural Resources**

Terry Gibb	Senior Extension Educator	586-469-6053
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**Community Food Systems**

Kaitlin Wojciak	Extension Educator	586-469-6088
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**Administration**

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Debbie Safian	District II Support	
Ed Scott	District II Director	248-858-0905

**Macomb County Max Thompson Family Resource Center**

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Kea Norrell-Aitch	Extension Educator	586-469-6264

Finance and Housing

Elizabeth Martinez	Extension Educator	313-494-4965
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Nutrition, Health and Wellness

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Saneya Moore	Supervising Extension Educator	586-469-6082
Jacqueline Rabine	Program Instructor, Social & Emotional Health	586-469-7481
Tiffany Stevens	Community Nutrition Instructor	586-469-6102
Lisa Tams	Extension Educator, Family Well-Being	734-716-2185

