



# Macomb County 2022 Annual Report

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR



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

MSU Extension continues to offer 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 local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management, production, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents, are rooted in community relationships, and are responsive to community needs.

In 2022, as we moved away from the last of our COVID-19 restrictions, MSU Extension continued to provide a robust variety of online options to participate in our programming. We've offered educational courses and answered questions on topics ranging from gardening to food safety, raised program awareness through social media and provided a library of research-based resources on our website. We are able to accomplish this while continuing to reopen many of our programs to in-person interaction. 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 will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.

Edward N. Scott III M.A.E.  
District 11 Director- Macomb & Oakland Counties

MICHIGAN STATE  
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Extension

# 2022 MACOMB COUNTY PARTICIPATION NUMBERS



4-H CHILDREN & YOUTH..... **1,162**



4-H VOLUNTEERS ..... **115**



NATURAL RESOURCES..... **291**



COMMUNITY & FINANCIAL STABILITY..... **740**



COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS..... **31**



AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS & HORTICULTURE..... **1,481**



MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS..... **179**



NUTRITION, HEALTH & WELLNESS..... **2,977**



MACOMB COUNTY EXTENSION DIGITAL REACH..... **81,163**



**TOTAL**..... **88,139**

## MSU EXTENSION MACOMB COUNTY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Anthony Birkmeier  
DaVante Montgomery  
Edna Clark

Lisa Lane  
Pat Lutz

Jean Persley  
Joie West  
Linda Stout

MSU is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS & CONSUMER HORTICULTURE

Michigan ranks second in the nation in crop diversity due to its unique climate, topography and impact of the Great Lakes. Agriculture is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the Michigan economy. MSU Extension serves the agriculture and floriculture industries by engaging in research, education and outreach that enhances the quality of life of Michigan residents.

In 2022, **1,481** Macomb County residents participated in programming related to

- animal agriculture,
- consumer and ornamental horticulture, agribusiness,
- and production of field crops, fruit crops, and vegetables

### CONNECTING RESIDENTS TO RESEARCH

Organized as a statewide resource in 2010, the MSU Extension lawn and garden hotline (888-678-3464) provided answers to more than 8,000 callers per year. **72 Macomb County residents used the hotline** in 2022 to ask questions about plant identification, troubleshooting with their trees, shrubs, lawns, and vegetables, and properly understanding soil test recommendations.

Though the Ask Extension system, Michigan residents can ask questions and receive expert answers quickly on a broad range of subjects through an online form. University research-based information is provided to help residents improve their quality of life, family, garden, business, and community. In 2022, **216 Macomb County residents received answers** related to trees and shrubs, insect and plant identification, lawns, and general gardening.



In partnership with Blake Farms, MSU Extension Master Gardeners at Lavender Fest

were able to assist 525 people and answer questions on topics including invasive plants and native plant recommendations.

**“I had no idea this type of help was available.”**

-Program participant

### SMART GARDENING

Smart Gardening is an initiative that helps people become great gardeners who are environmentally savvy. It is a campaign to help home and experienced gardeners adopt and implement real-life techniques in their yard and garden that will help them save time, money and the environment. The MSU Extension team of horticulture educators uses many methods to help folks learn about being a Smart Gardener, including seminars, conferences, one-on-one education, media, public events, information booths, and more.

In 2022, **more than 1,000** Macomb County residents participated in gardening programs including: 2022 Extension Master Gardener College, Cabin Fever conversations, Smart Gardening with Vegetables 101, and workshops on pruning, container gardening, planting deer resistant bulbs and landscapes, and more.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY, FOOD & ENVIRONMENT

### SUPPORTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources programs improve public understanding, help landowners and communities use those assets for sustainable long-term social and economic development and conserve natural resources for future generations. **291 Macomb County residents participated in natural resources programs in 2022.**



*Pictured: Boxwood leaves, the target of invasive box tree moths*

Invasive species such as the box tree moth pose an enormous threat to Michigan's biodiversity and economic well-being. MSU Extension provides educational resources such as the [Identification Guide to Boxwood and its Lookalikes](#) to identify, assess, and control invasive species throughout the state. **141** residents from Macomb County participated in in-person and online programs to learn more about invasive species.

### FINANCIAL HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION

MSU Extension provides resources and education on money management, foreclosure prevention, buying a home, retirement planning and more to help residents and their families to become more financially healthy.

In 2022, **531** residents participated in financial homeownership education programs such as Surviving and Thriving on a Fixed Income, Savvy Tips for Starting a Small Business, Retirement Myths and Facts, Protecting your Identity, Property Tax Foreclosure Basics, Informed Renter, and more.

### KEEPING MACOMB FAMILIES IN THEIR HOMES

MSU Extension believes an educated customer will be more confident in making important decisions about foreclosure. Free foreclosure education and counseling is available to assist homeowners in understanding the process of foreclosure, to provide the education a homeowner must have to assess their situation and work with a lender to obtain a loan modification.

In partnership with the Macomb County Treasurer's Office, **121** residents facing tax foreclosure received free financial coaching and budgeting education.

### MSU PRODUCT CENTER

Strategy development and implementation is crucial to a business's long-term success. The MSU Extension Product Center is an organization that brings together on-campus expertise in the sectors of food, agriculture, and natural resources to help entrepreneurs define and launch innovative products. Field-based innovation counselors advise entrepreneurs on business planning, regulatory requirements, and product development needs.

**72** Macomb County residents received client counseling from the Product Center in 2022.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Michigan 4-H is growing current and future leaders. The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion. In 2022, **1,162** Macomb County youth participated in **161** programs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

4-H environmental and outdoor education teaches youth about science and ecology, interrelationships and impacts, health, and positive outdoor experiences. As a result, youth learn to appreciate and respect the connection between people and nature.

### INSPIRING FUTURE SCIENTISTS

4-H science activities facilitates opportunities that encourage youth to make observations, ask questions, design solutions to problems, test ideas and discover answers while exploring and learning about their world.



**14** Macomb 4-H Creative Clovers Camp participants gained communication and critical thinking skills through artistic technology expression while learning about photography, video, music, and more.

***"I loved every day of this camp and it was so much fun!"***

*-Macomb County Creative Clovers Camp youth participant*



### CHILDHOOD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

MSU Extension provides early childhood and family development programs that help parents, caregivers, childcare providers, and other important adults in the lives of children from birth to age 8 develop important skills. These programs focus on school readiness, social-emotional development, and positive life skill development. In 2022, **305** Macomb County residents participated in these programs.



**48** Macomb County preschoolers participated in environmental education programs and learned about soil science and natural resources conservation.

***"The kids loved the interactive activities!"***

*-4-H member volunteer*



Youths age 5-12 learned about plants and basic garden practices at the 4-H Community Garden in Warren.



**24** Macomb County youth practiced problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership skills by helping each other learn to use Apple pencils and iPad camera features

to animate everyday objects by drawing on the pictures they took.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH & NUTRITION

Through MSU Extension's nutrition and physical activity programming, Michigan adults, families and children gain crucial knowledge about nutrition and healthy foods, increase their daily activity and improve their food security. In 2022, **2,977** residents participated in Macomb County health and nutrition programs.

MSU Extension partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program designed to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits for people who are eligible for food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). MSU Extension SNAP-Ed community nutrition instructors teach youth, individuals, and families how to make health a priority. In 2022, **1,144** Macomb County residents participated in SNAP-Ed programs, such as Eat Healthy Be Active, Cooking Matters, Senior Project FRESH, and Show Me Nutrition.



(pictured: Tiffany Stevens, Community Nutrition Instructor)

***"I was always told that once I turn 40 things will begin changing. That could not be truer. I am now 42, weight is much more difficult to shed, I am tired more days in a week than I'm not, which provides the perfect excuse for my lack of physical activity.***

***I have tried many diets and have recently opted instead for a change in lifestyle. After joining the MSU nutrition program with Tiffany Stevens, I am learning to do just that. I now walk for 2 miles at least 3 days a week. I prepare my meals in a healthier way and make sure my plate is more balanced with fruits and vegetables. This is something I had not done previously. I also grocery shop differently. And this has helped my family. I find my cart full of fresh fruits, vegetables and more lean meats. I try to stay away from processed foods which were previously my easy go-to. Tiffany has taught me a lot about healthy living, and I plan to continue applying these as a new way of life. #GoalSetting"***

***-Healthy Food Healthy Families program participant***

### SUPPORTING STRONG COMMUNITIES

In 2022, **1,037** Macomb residents participated in MSU Extension's social-emotional health programs to learn how to manage their anger, reduce stress, thrive as caregivers, practice mindfulness and strengthen their families' and communities' understanding of and response to mental health crises. Residents participated in **176** programs including RELAX: Alternatives to Anger, Stress Less with Mindfulness, Mental Health First Aid, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and more.

### FOOD SAFETY

As a result of MSU Extension's food safety and food preservation programming, **331** adults in Macomb County learned how to reduce their risk of illness when preparing food and to preserve food safely, childcare providers learned how to reduce foodborne illnesses in the children they care for, and food service managers, workers and volunteers learned how to protect their customers' health and sell food products safely and legally.



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