

Alpena County 2022-2023 Annual Report

PROGRAMS
ACCESSED BY
RESIDENTS

153

SOCIAL MEDIA
REACH

20,232

ONLINE
REACH

4,233

PROGRAMMING
REACH

2,900



I'm delighted to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Alpena 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 outreach 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. We continue to provide outreach online, hybrid, as well as in-person formats. These options have increased accessibility to Michigan State University resources for your residents. Our staff live and work alongside county residents and are rooted in community relationships and responsive to community needs.

Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Alpena 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.

- Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director

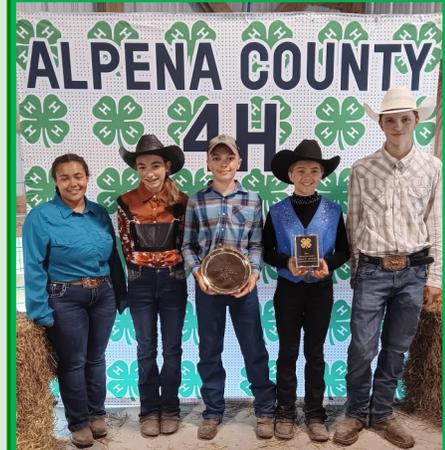


2023

Alpena County 4-H



The Alpena County 4-H Program connected with over 5000 youth through the 2022-2023 4-H program year. The program is home to over 200 enrolled youth & volunteers. The program partnered with over ten community partners, ranging from Pied Piper & Hinks Schools, to the Library & GreenStone Farm Credit Services. They participated in over six community events including hosting this year's Spring Break Event with the local Optimist Club. This year we had over 60 new members enroll. Youth had over 20 local learning opportunities and hundreds of state & national opportunities. Alpena County 4-H events ranged from homemade ice cream making, life skills, ice fishing, barnyard first aid, summer camp, clinics, workshops, and Exploration Days on campus just to name a few. The agriculture side of 4-H continues to grow. The Alpena 4-H Program Coordinator dedicates time working Nationally to create professional development for others working with youth experiencing homelessness and poverty.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

Summer 4-H Camp



2023



Supporting Food and Agriculture

Ag Literacy Educator:

- Created a new partnership with the Alpena Farmers' Market—Planned & provided education for Garden Day, Food Preservation Day and an activity at Kids Day. Provided Michigan Fresh factsheets weekly.
- Provided USDA Value Added Producer Grant workshop
- Conducted successful Breakfast on the Farm event—Okkema Dairy, Mecosta County—1,300 visitors
- Provided education and support for farm tour at B&B Farm in Alpena County
- Provided ongoing business counseling for area Product Center food/agriculture entrepreneurs



Community Nutrition Instructor:

- Taught over 15 youth nutrition series within Alpena
- Taught 6 adult cooking and nutrition series
- Taught outdoor/campfire cooking at Ocqueoc Outdoor 4-H Camp!
- Students learn about nutrition, food safety, reading a nutrition fact label, physical activity and how our bodies break down food to utilize nutrients.
- Most adult classes are focused on cooking small, yet healthy meals. We learn how to make a helpful grocery list, using ads and coupons to save money along with comparing unit process to get the best deal.

Want to learn more?



[canr.msu.edu/
agriculture](http://canr.msu.edu/agriculture)

We are working to help people be successful while protecting the environment, ensuring food safety, reaching new markets & advancing agriculture through applied research.

Supporting Food and Agriculture

MSU Extension works to improve farm personnel well-being and income, expand agriculture-related businesses and increase employment opportunities, making agriculture one of the strongest industries within Michigan. Supporting agriculture and helping to improve financial stability and competitiveness has a significant economic impact on Michigan and local communities.

\$104.7 BILLION

annual contribution from Michigan's food and agriculture industry

\$5.13 BILLION

economic impact of the animal agriculture industry in Michigan

805,000

jobs related to the food and animal agriculture industry in Michigan

Partnering with Growers for Timely Research to Address Local Issues

Farm Management
Over \$1.57 million in tax savings

Smart Gardening
32,711 article views in 2022

Field Crop Programs
508,000 indirect
11,565 direct

Beginner Farmer
772 participants
6,071 accessed resources

Helping Farm Families Transition Farm Businesses

- 168 Attended Educational Programs
- Over 100 Private Sessions
- 35,272 Accessed Written Articles

"I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate the help you have given us in the farm transition. Thank you for the hope you have given me (personally). I haven't had any for the farm in a long time."

Industry Collaborations Focus on Preparedness for

ERAIL: Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock

- Training of first responders, animal haulers and others on how to properly respond when animals are involved in a traffic accident
- The ERAIL program currently has three trailers fully stocked and deployed in Branch, Jackson and Otsego counties
- 42 counties, 7 other states sent trainees to ERAIL

MSU Extension Fruit Team Continues Fight Against Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

Daily contact with fruit industry, 20 presentations to 500+ growers representing majority of 60,000 acres of susceptible crops has reduced SWD economic impact

- 83% based management decisions on local/regional SWD trap reports and MSU Extension articles
- 69% pruned cherry orchards to open canopies to minimize SWD pressure
- 65% monitored for SWD adults using traps on-farm



Food
Preservation
Station—
 Alpena
 Farmers’
 Market—MSU
 Extension
 Educators
 Karen Fifield
 and
 Mary Dunckel

MSU Extension Food Safety Hotline: 877-643-9882 Monday-Friday 9am—5pm.

Michigan Sea Grant



Fisheries Workshops Spring fishery workshops offer current research and information related to the status of the Great Lakes fishery. Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, USGS Great Lakes Science Center, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and local fishery organizations annually offer evening regional workshops to provide valuable information for anglers, charter captains, resource professionals, and interested community members.

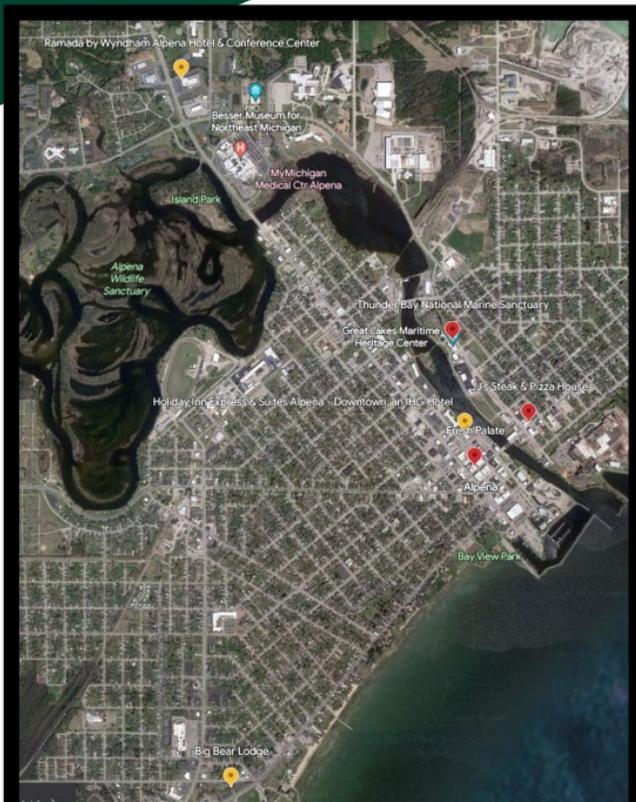
Workshops include information and status updates on topics such as fish populations and angler catch data, forage or prey fish surveys, offshore fisheries and open water fisheries, as well as updates on fisheries management activities, citizen science opportunities for anglers, and a variety of other topics of interest based on specific regions.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | **Extension**

Community Food and Environment



The Community Food and Environment Institute held their Spring Conference in Alpena in April 2023. Educators from all over the state spent two days in Alpena working on Strategic planning and professional development. Attendees of the conference also attended workshops at many locations across the City.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Meeting Locations – Red Dots

- [JJ's Steak and Pizza House](#)
- [Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)
- [The Fresh Palate](#)

Lodging Locations - Yellow Dots

- [Holiday Inn Express Downtown](#)
- [Big Bear Lodge](#)
- [Ramada Inn](#)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Alpena OFFICE

This past year Alpena County MSU Extension has helped community members through phone, email, Facebook and office walk-ins.

As MSU Extension continues to bring research and education to citizens across the state, three wonderful resources help reach every community member in our counties:

- **Ask Extension** offers one-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts and Extension Master Gardener volunteers on topics such as lawns, gardening, agriculture, food safety, food preservation, natural resources, community development, youth programming and more! Visit Ask Extension at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert>
- **The MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline** is made up of Extension Master Gardeners with the knowledge and resources to help community members with questions from “What plant is this?” to “What’s eating my flowers?” Call the hotline at: (888) 678-3464
- **Soil Test** to learn what vital nutrient your soil is missing for healthy growth in gardens, lawns, and crops. Learn more at: <https://homesoiltest.msu.edu/>

Resources at your Fingertips

CONTACT US:

MSU Extension Alpena
603 South Eleventh Ave
Alpena, MI 49707
(989)354-9870
MSUE.Alpena@msu.edu



Adam Koivisto	koivist4@msu.edu
Sienna Timm	suszek@msu.edu
Mary Dunckel	dunckelm@msu.edu
Brandon Schroeder	schroe45@msu.edu
Michelle Eagling	eaglingm@msu.edu
Danielle Jirasek	jirasekd@msu.edu
Sheryl Wright	Sheyl.wright@affiliate.msu.edu



MISSION:

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

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. 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.