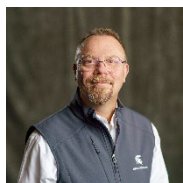


# OTSEGO COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Adam Koivisto	District 14 Director
Sandra Westover	Supervision & Staff Development Educator
Jane Sherry	Community Nutrition Instructor
TBD	4H Program Coordinator
Mary Kinney	Office Manager



## Message from the District Director

I'm happy to share highlights from another successful year of partnership between Otsego County and MSU Extension. Thanks to your continued support, we've helped residents lead healthier lives, supported local businesses and farms, and created meaningful opportunities for youth development. Our programs—offered in-person, online, and hybrid—make MSU Extension resources more accessible than ever. Our staff live and work in the community, building strong relationships and responding to local needs. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another impactful year and hope to see you at an upcoming program.

— Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director

## Impact



**225**  
Programs  
Accessed by  
Residents



**787**  
Programming  
Reach



**9,612**  
Social Media  
Reach

4-H PROGRAM



100 Years of 4-H in Otsego County

4-H in Otsego County began in 1925 and was originally called Boys’ and Girls’ Club. The following year, Mr. Lester V. Benjamin was hired to work with 4-H in Otsego, Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties. Financial backing for county club work was provided by the Gaylord Chamber of Commerce. 5 potato and 6 canning clubs were started for summer programs. Sewing, handicraft and hot lunch were started for the winter months.

We have grown so much over the years!



66 youth enrolled



10 adult volunteers



4-H at the Otsego County Fair

August 1st – August 15<sup>th</sup>

**OTSEGO 4-H**

**SPRING BREAK EXTRAVAGANZA**

**MARCH 24-27TH**

**FUN!**

**MONDAY \_ THURSDAY AT THE:**

**The Landing Zone**

Bowling Alley and sports complex featuring volleyball courts, a video arcade

989-732-3574

**Monday 5-9pm**

Foxhole Arcade & Pajama Night, Free Arcade Card/bowler

**Tues 5-9pm**

Eat and play. Free Arcade game card for every kid that comes in.

**Wed 2pm-5:30 pm**

Cosmic glow bowl, Free shoes, \$4 games

**Wed 6-10pm**

Silly 9-pin Games, win Arcade Cards

**Thursday 4-9pm**

\$1 slice Pizza/bowler

REGISTRATION IN 4-H ONLINE IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS:

[HTTPS://4HONLINE.COM/#/USER/SIGN-IN](https://4HONLINE.COM/#/USER/SIGN-IN)


PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL MSU EXTENSION OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS

4-H Spring Break Extravaganza






12 youth programs



181 participants



3 adult programs



24 participants



Chicken Fajitas made by Patriot Place veterans

SNAP-ED Programming

Community Nutrition Instructor Jane Sherry enjoyed teaching a variety of nutrition programs in Otsego County:

- Adults learned about healthy cooking, meal planning and budgeting, and food safety.
- Youth learned about MyPlate, nutrition and the importance of physical activity.



Improving Outdoor Play Environments

MSU Extension partnered with Gaylord Head Start to improve their outdoor play and learning environment for preschoolers as a part of a PSE effort.

A \$1500 SNAP-Ed PSE mini grant was used to purchase portable play equipment such as balls, balance beams, scooter boards, tunnels, jump ropes and more.

Preschoolers will have access to this inclusive play equipment during play time which will increase physical activity. Other benefits for students will include improved physical, social and emotional development.

Expanding Resident Gardens

MSU Extension partnered with Alpine Haus Apartments to expand their shared garden for residents as a part of a policy, system and environmental (PSE) change effort.

A \$1500 SNAP-Ed PSE mini grant was used to purchase twelve EarthBoxes (a container gardening system), ergonomic tools and other garden materials for residents.

This initiative is expected to boost fruit and vegetable consumption among residents, encourage physical activity and strengthen community connections.



Bean and tomato plants grown by Alpine Haus residents using EarthBoxes





**Logging Professional Training**

Alpine Center, December 13th & February 13 and hosted by MSUE U.P. Forestry Innovation Director, Jessie Randall.

Approximately 80 Loggers attended events to satisfy wood-procurement and harvesting requirements for SFI-certified wood purchasing companies in Michigan. Each company must accrue four hours per QLP (Qualified Logging Professionals) training each year. Core training consists of 8 hours of training covering topics such as, Fiber Sourcing Standards, MIOSHA Safety, Best Management Practices (BMP), Climate adaptation, Invasive species ID and Control.



**Ice Storm Recovery Resources for Residents**

The historic ice storm that hit northern Michigan in late March 2025 caused widespread tree damage - the “100 year” storm ravaged forests, residential areas and whole communities. MSU Extension responded with timely and relevant information and resources for food safety following natural disasters and what to do about tree damage. The questions from residents are still on-going and have included the following topics:

- Tree damage - will our trees live or die?
- Forester help - where can I get professional help?
- Logging practices - how much is our timber worth?
- EFRP program – how can I get help paying for clean up?
- Clean up rates - how much can I charge for clean up?



AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

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.

100

years MSU Extension  
has provided soil  
testing services



100 Years of Soil Testing Services

MSU Extension partners with A&L Great Lakes, Inc. to analyze soil samples from the Home Lawn & Garden and Commercial/Farm soil test kits sold in county Extension offices; Extension staff then generate MSU-specific fertilizer and soil amendment recommendations. From January to December 2024, MSU Extension issued recommendations for 4,377 home lawn and garden samples—a 23% increase over 2023—and 1,819 commercial and farm samples, up 11%. Through this program, MSU Extension continues to deliver trusted soil testing services that Michigan residents and farmers have relied on for over a century.

Ask Extension and the Lawn and Garden Hotline

Michigan residents can receive expert, research-based answers to their questions through MSU Extension’s online Ask Extension system. In 2024, Extension staff and trained Master Gardener volunteers responded to 6,179 questions from residents in 82 counties on topics ranging from gardening and landscaping to family, business and community. The Michigan Lawn and Garden Hotline provides additional statewide support via a toll-free number. In 2024, the hotline received 1,540 calls—a 6% increase from the previous year—with questions from residents in 80 of Michigan’s 83 counties. Both services ensure residents have accessible, science-based guidance to support healthier gardens, homes and communities.



6,179

**Ask Extension** online  
questions answered in 2024



1,540

**Michigan Lawn and Garden  
Hotline** calls received in  
2024



Managing Farm Stress

Farming can be a stressful occupation - MSU Extension has a suite of resources and educators that can help identify and manage stress



Farm Management

Integrating management skills and principles into the daily operations of farms and firms along with the programs provided by MSU Extension.



ERAIL

Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (ERAIL) provides training and resources when dealing with accidents involving livestock



Pollinator Programming

Integrating management skills and principles into the daily operations of farms and firms along with the programs provided by MSU Extension

# OTSEGO COUNTY MSU EXTENSION

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Website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/OTSEGO>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/msueotsego>

This past year Otsego 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 county:

**MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline** **(888) 678-3464**

Calls answered by Extension Master Gardeners with the knowledge and resources to help with gardening and lawn questions.

**Ask Extension** **[canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert](https://canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert)**

One-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts on topics such as lawns, agriculture, food preservation, natural resources, and more!

**Soil Testing** **[homesoiltest.msu.edu](https://homesoiltest.msu.edu)**

Don't guess - soil test! Learn what vital nutrient your soil is missing for healthy growth in gardens, lawns, and crops. Purchase soil tests in our office or online.

*Stay Connected!*

Scan the QR code to sign up for monthly emails highlighting local MSU Extension events and information you can use



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