What can Extension do for you?

MSU Extension offers on-going information and educational programs in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Children, Youth, and Family Programs; and Community and Economic Development.

Agriculture and Natural Resources
In the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSUE provides information to members of the agricultural industry through county-based agents. Agriculture and Natural Resources focus areas include:
- Wise Land Use
- Integrated Pest Management
- Animal Management
- Waste Management
- Agricultural Profitability and Marketing
- Plant Agriculture Systems

Children, Youth, and Family Programs
In the area of Children, Youth, and Family Programs, MSUE works to strive to help people manage and improve the quality of their lives and communities. Children, Youth, and Family Programs focus areas include:
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Youth Development/4-H

Community and Economic Development
In the area of Community and Economic Development, MSUE is working to improve the quality of life in Michigan. They are doing these by working to accomplish five priorities including:
- Developing Entrepreneurs
- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
- Preparing for the Expanding Bioeconomy
- Educating and Supporting Decision Makers
- Building Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

For more information, please contact:

Michigan State University Extension:
- Website  www.msue.msu.edu
- Phone  517-355-2308
- Fax  517-355-6473
- Mailing Address
  Michigan State University Extension
  Agriculture Hall
  Room 108
  Michigan State University
  East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

Michigan State University Extension also has offices in all 83 counties of Michigan. For more local information, visit the Extension website (see above) to find an office location near you!
History of MSU Extension

“Michigan Extension work began before the organization was officially organized. The Michigan State College’s (now MSU) first livestock field agent was hired in 1907. In 1912, the Michigan Legislature authorized county boards of supervisors to appropriate funds and levy taxes to further teaching and demonstrations in Extension work. Eleven agricultural agents were named that year. In 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension System and directed the nation’s land grant universities to oversee its work.”

With the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, the first statewide home economics and 4-H youth Extension workers were appointed; county home economics agents were appointed beginning in 1915. In the early years of Extension, “demonstration agents” showed or demonstrated new farming or homemaking techniques. Today, Extension agents use a wide variety of information systems to deliver educational information.” (MSUE Website, 11-6-07)

The Purpose of MSU Extension

“Since its beginning, Michigan Extension has focused on bringing knowledge-based educational programs to the people of the state to improve their lives and communities. Today, county-based staff members, in concert with on-campus faculty members, serve every county with programming focused on agriculture and natural resources; children, youth and families; and community and economic development.

Today’s problems are very complex. Solutions require the expertise of numerous disciplines and the collaboration of many partners. Operating synergistically with the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and other Michigan State University units, MSU Extension extends the University’s knowledge resources to all Michigan citizens and assists them in meeting their learning needs through a variety of educational strategies, technologies and collaborative arrangements.” (MSUE Website, 11-6-07)

The Vision of Extension

Michigan State Extension envisions a state where:
- Michigan has strong and healthy families and optimistic youth from all cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds
- Michigan has a profitable, globally competitive and safe food system in harmony with its natural resources base
- Michigan has a citizenry of all ages who understand their role as stewards of the land
- Michigan has viable and caring communities capable of generating meaningful jobs and satisfactory income levels for all its citizens

Where do I find Extension?

Michigan State Extension is headquartered at Michigan State University in East Lansing. There is also a Michigan State Extension office in all 83 Michigan counties with agents that focus on assisting the county. Please visit the MSUE website at www.msue.msu.edu or call Extension at 517-355-2308 to find an office near you!