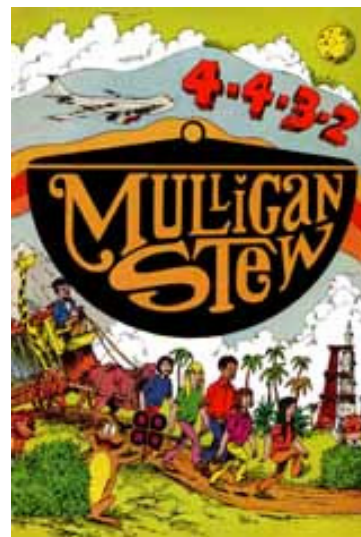




1980 - 2007



## Highlights from 1980 – 2007

Extension office on the move: During this time period, the Extension office moved three times. In 1980, the office moved from the County Courthouse to the second floor of the McNamara Insurance building. Four years later it moved to 200 Livingston Blvd in the J. Richard Yuill Alpine Center. Then in 1998 the office was relocated to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Alpine Center where it is currently.

Staff changes: **1992** Les Howard retired as County Extension Director and is replaced by Jack Middleton. **2003** Jack Middleton retired as County Extension Director. District Extension Educator, Phil Alexander, took on County Extension Director role in addition to his 21 county assignment. Alexander retired in December 2007.



Longtime 4-H Agent Ann Wright retired in 2003 and Bethany Prykucki is hired.

Several Home Economists served Otsego County as part of a multi-county assignment from 1980 -2007 namely Pam Kail (Cheboygan), Janet Rathke (Charlevoix) , Marlene Caszett (Antrim), Kris Sorgenfrei (Presque Isle), and Linda Cronk who is also the Crawford County Extension Director.

Ben Bartlett, Cheboygan County Extension Director, has served as the Agriculture Educator in Otsego County since 2004.

**1981:** Montmorency County got its own County Extension Director (CED) allowing Les Howard to be full time in Otsego County.

Horse Barn built at fairgrounds and named “4-H Cooperative Barn”.

**1986:** Leadership Development series of workshops conducted in Otsego County.

**1987:** Otsego County celebrated Michigan’s Sesquicentennial. Les, Phil, Ann, and Pam served on the year-long county committee.

**1991:** The county is inundated by gypsy moth which prompted voters to approve a special millage for a suppression spraying program. Extension provided technical assistance and produced fact sheets for homeowners.

**1993:** The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) began in Otsego County aimed at families who were eligible for food stamps.

**1994:** The Breastfeeding Initiative began in collaboration of MSU Extension, the Health Department and Otsego Memorial Hospital.

### New 4-H Programs

Adventure Quest Day Camp, Horseback Riding for the Handicapped Program, Dad and Daughters Dance, Folk Patterns, Michigan History Expo for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, Agriculture and Natural Resources Day at Fleming’s Farm. The 4-H livestock and gardening programs expanded greatly.



### New logo and name

**1997:** MSU Extension partnered with RSVP and United Way to create the Volunteer Center.

**1999:** Otsego County began offering The Michigan Master Gardener Volunteer Program to people who are enthusiastic about gardening, who want to learn more about growing plants and are willing to share their knowledge with others.

**2000:** The first annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference was held in Gaylord and continued there until 2003 when it was relocated to Grayling.

**2003:** Citizen Planner – a program to assist people serving on local zoning and planning commissions was conducted.

**2004:** Historical Barn Survey conducted in Otsego County as part of Matthew Pearson’s AmeriCorps\* VISTA internship with 4-H.

**2006:** Otsego County became one of the first Elder Friendly Community in Michigan.