

# MSU Extension – a valuable partner in the battle against bTb



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## **Mission of MSU Extension:**

“Help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.”

Extension Educators in every county,  
Educators that care about “their” counties,  
Educators who work to meet local needs.

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## **1. Communication of practical, accurate, sound, research-based information.**

- Newsletters: county, district, state

*Example: Bovine TB News*

- Grooms and Durst
- monthly, electronic
- Michigan, US and research updates
- Increasing distribution list

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- Meetings: classroom to pasture
- Farm visits
- The Extension – Research continuum

**Extension is trusted.**

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## **2. Comprehensive approach to issues**

When we work with farm families we can bring together a team that looks at:

- farm management
- financial aspects
- family, and
- the industry.

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*Example: Team visits with owners of a depopulated herd*

Several visits to assess wildlife disease risks and review potential enterprises and alternatives. Compared financial projections of several alternatives.

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## **3. Develop leadership and decision-making skills**

This is the strength of Extension. Our youth programs start this. But our adult programs are about expanding the horizon of alternatives and helping people consider the consequences of various courses of action.

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*Example: group of ag producers in NE Michigan*

- Multiple Extension Educators have worked with the leaders of this group over the past years to help them become more effective participants in the bTb issue.

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## **4. Serve as a coalition builder and team player**

The bTb issue necessitates partnerships and Extension has been a partner with many.

Committee involvements such as:

- MDA TB Advisory Committee
- Disease Control Permit Advisory Committee

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## **5. Work with a wide range of stakeholders**

- Hunt clubs & landowners RE: wildlife food plots
- Local business development ( CoC, EDC)
- Local governments
- Agricultural producers

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## **6. Work to discover and implement solutions**

- Creativity is valued.
- Education has a purpose – to move people to action to accomplish their goals.

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## *Example: USAHA Test & Remove Subcommittee*

Started out as a report on Michigan's experience with Test & Remove herds and is now a subcommittee working to come to consensus on policy recommendations whereby states have a viable option to offer this tool to producers.

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- TB is a marathon.
- Extension Educators have been, and are continuing to work with people on a local level.
- Opportunity to do more together.
- MSU Extension wants to be a valuable partner on this issue.

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*Thank you!*

