

See what's happening at Tollgate this month!



MSU Tollgate Farm December 2019



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Save the Date! Upcoming Events

2020 Tollgate Farm Camp Winter, Spring, and Summer Registrations are now open!

Wild Winter Camp (Feb 17 & 18, or Feb 17-21)

Tollgate Farm Wild Winter Camp registration is now open! Don't waste the winter break staying inside.. join us outside as we embark on adventures with camp friends on the farm. Camp fills quickly, so register early. Register Here!



Spring Break Camp (March 30-April 3 or April 6-10)

Do you know where your children will be over spring break? Registration is now open for



Tollgate's Spring Break Camp. A typical camp day will include making yummy and nutritious snacks, caring for our farm animals, sowing seeds in the garden, and investigating the natural world of field, forest, and pond. [Register Here!](#)

Summer Dreaming?

Every day at Tollgate Summer Camp is an exciting adventure. A typical day will include making nutritious snacks in Garden Kitchen, caring for our farm animals, gardening, engaging in a creative week-long STEM project, and investigating the natural world of field, forest, and pond. Campers gain a strong land ethic while caring for the farm, our animals, and the camp community. Check out our exciting new and classic camp themes for campers ages 5 - 18! [Register Here!](#)



Tollgate Stewards Program: Where Every Day is an Outdoor Adventure

What is a steward? A steward is a person whose responsibility is to take care of something. That's exactly what this experience offers - a chance for stewards to mentor and lead at camp while gaining valuable leadership and life skills.

The Stewards-in-Training (13-14 years) and the Stewards (15-19 years) assist the educational leaders and serve as role models for campers and peers. Stewards and SITs have fun and make new friends while developing a deep understanding of the farm and knowledge of our educational camps.

To learn more or to register or apply, [click here](#).

***New this year!* MSU Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute**

Held June 15-21, 2020, SSLI is a six-day training and youth development summit for 15-19 year olds incorporating a mentorship model, a day trip to campus, a multi-day outdoor wilderness teambuilding adventure, an advanced leadership role throughout the summer at stewards trainings and camp, and a capstone sustainability action project. Those completing the institute receive a certificate.



For those interested in learning more or applying for this fun and exciting leadership experience, [click here](#). Financial Aid is available and applications are reviewed based on the needs of the participants, potential impact on their learning, cost of the program, and potential for meaningful collaboration. For more information, visit our [financial aid website](#).



Join us to Celebrate Chinese Culture at Tollgate!

MSU Extension Tollgate Farm, in partnership with the Novi Public Library, presents an afternoon to Celebrate Chinese Culture. Hosted by Tollgate Farm on January 18th from 2-4 pm, this event will explore crafts and stories in Chinese culture. We will end with a hike and a warm drink. Please see our [flyer](#) for more information and register [here](#).

Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast March 7-8th, 2020

Start out with pancakes, coffee, cocoa, sausages and of course, Tollgate maple syrup! Then jump on the hay wagon to head out to the sugar bush, where you can



watch sap get cooked into syrup, participate in tree tapping, visit the traditional sugar camp and watch our draft horse get to work! A hands-on, maple-flavored event for the whole family!

[Click here](#) for more information or to register for this event.



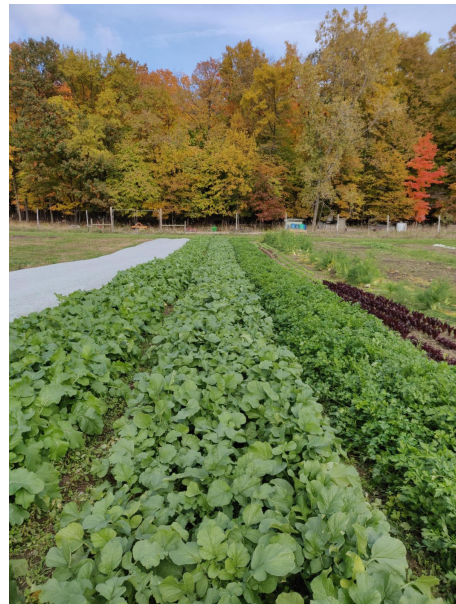
Come Join the Team! Volunteers needed for Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast

We are looking for volunteers for our annual foray into the sugar bush at our Maple Tapping and

Pancake Feast! Volunteers are an essential part of putting together one of our largest events of the year. Volunteers assist with cooking, educational activities and more! Please visit our volunteer registration page to [sign up](#) and contact Will Jaquinde with any questions.

Registration for the 2020 Community Supported Agriculture program is now open!

CSA members join us for a 20 week adventure in seasonal, local, sustainably grown produce while supporting our beginning farmer programming. Explore new vegetables, cook exciting foods, see your farmers every week and more; learn about all the benefits of the CSA and how to sign up [here](#).



4th Annual Starry Night on the Farm: June 12-13, 2020

Returning for its fourth year, Starry Night on the Farm combines adventure and learning for a fun family



overnight. Come celebrate the coming of summer, explore the night sky, and investigate the importance of agriculture and the sun in our daily lives, all right here at Tollgate Farm.

The Oakland Astronomy Club will be joining us once again to lead night sky viewing and astronomy learning activities. We'll camp outdoors under the stars before waking to a farm fresh breakfast and morning

animal chores. Leave with lots of warm memories and new friends.

Program is after dinner 6 pm Friday evening to noon Saturday. Some tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads are available to borrow. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Tollgate News & Announcements

Evenings in the Garden returning in 2020!

We are excited to announce that our popular Evenings in the Garden will be returning in 2020. Watch our [event page](#) for the upcoming dates.



Learn Locally, Act Locally

Explore big ideas and investigate phenomena via programs designed for schools that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. Tollgate offers

authentic interactive learning opportunities in the historic 1830s farm setting. Participants explore science phenomena while making important interdisciplinary connections and gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of natural

resources and agriculture in their daily lives.

Also available are Collaborating Classroom semester or year-long experiences where students investigate real world issues to make a positive difference in their local community.

- Winter on the Farm (February)
- The History and Science of Maple Sugaring (late February through March)
- Sheep to Sweater (late February through April)
- Ecosystem Explorations
- Plants and Their Partners
- Spring into Farming: The Nutrient Cycle
- Water and Land: The Connection
- Insect Investigations
- Journey of Water and Beyond
- Embryology

For more information, fill out a farm visit reservation form and email Ellen Koehler.

Tollgate welcomes all to our programs and strives to provide opportunities for schools to experience farm-based experiential learning. Assistance is determined based on established need and schools are encouraged to apply here.

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is Looking Forward to the Arrival of Lambs and Kids!

Now that breeding season has come to a close, we think that we have 4 pregnant sheep and 7 pregnant goats. This was confirmed by a recent activity using a veterinary ultrasound to confirm pregnancies, a unique experience for our youth members. Our teens learned how to use the ultrasound before then showing younger members how to use this equipment. We looked for and found heartbeats, spines and movement. Lambing will start around Jan 13th! [Click here for more information and to watch videos of the ultrasounds.](#)





Welcome to the farm, Colton and Lenny!

Two new cows arrived at the farm for 4-H beef projects.

Interested in joining 4-H?
Contact the Tollgate Farm 4-H

Club by email, visit their website, or facebook.

Tollgate Opportunities

A Summer Job Opportunity Like None Other!

Come join our amazing summer camp team and positively impact the lives of the youth that we serve, as you spend your summer teaching, playing, and learning in the great outdoors. View job openings [here!](#)



Rent the Tollgate Conference Center

The MSU Tollgate Conference Center, historic barn, and Americana boardroom are available for your next business meeting, bridal or baby shower, private luncheon, or holiday event. Our catering staff are available to meet your needs for your event and we have premium food options for holiday celebrations!

To learn more about hosting your event at Tollgate, visit the [Conference Center Website](#).



**Coming soon in
2020!**

*Wedding Ceremonies and
Rehearsal Dinners at
MSU Tollgate Farm*

Contact our Events Coordinator Kari Heughens for more information:
248-347-3860 (x 205)
heughen3@msu.edu

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center offers programs throughout the year designed to allow adults and children to experience learning hands-on, explore the joys of gardening and the natural world, appreciate and promote locally grown food, and build community.

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