

See what's happening at Tollgate this month!



MSU Tollgate Farm November 2019



Visit Our Website or Follow us on  

Save the Date! Upcoming Events



Support the MSU Tollgate Farm Financial Aid Fund

At MSU Tollgate Farm, instructors lead visitors through an exciting exploration of the farm and natural world, encouraging them to grow their appreciation for agriculture, locally sourced food and the outdoors. We offer a number of program opportunities for people of all ages, but have an impact on more than 7,200 students a year through our school field trips, early childhood

education programs, and spring and summer camps.

Programming opportunities at MSU Tollgate are fee based to support the employment of qualified instructors, educational materials, and to care for farm livestock. A number of students who visit the property come from low-income families or

school districts, making the fees associated with each program difficult to cover for their families. In the past year 13 percent of students have benefited from the MSU Tollgate financial aid fund. A committee of dedicated community members, including MSU Tollgate staff and site volunteers, award aid based on the needs of participants, potential impact on their learning, the cost of the program, and the potential for meaningful collaboration.

Please consider making a donation on December 3rd as part of **Give Green Day**. Donations made on this day will be matched dollar for dollar!

2020 Tollgate Farm Camp Registrations Open Mid-December!

It may be cold outside but we are busy planning our school break and summer camp schedule for 2020. View the flyer of our summer camp offerings here or visit our camp webpage for more information. The registration link will be posted in mid-December.



MSU Tollgate Farm
SUMMER CAMP
June 22 – August 21, 2020, Novi

Ages 6 – 14
KinderCamp open to 5-year-olds on select weeks

Monday- Friday 9am-4pm
Aftercare available 4-6pm

Camp Offerings: Food Camp, Animal Camp, Survival Camp, Water Camp, Outdoor Adventure Camp, Vet Camp, Green Science Adventure Camp, Horse Camps, Winged Wonders Camp.

Starting at \$310 per week. Financial Aid available.

www.tollgate.msu.edu
(248) 347-0269 ext 220

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Stewards Leadership Program

Tollgate Farm Stewards are teens who serve as youth leaders during farm camp while developing life skills and strong friendships. Spaces fill quickly. Registration opens soon.

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.

Tollgate News & Announcements

Horse Day for Farm Sprouts

"Horse Day" is a very special day in our Farm Sprouts preschool program. Farm Sprouts work with our horses just one day out of the year, midway through October during our fall season. We involve our expert horse staff to make it a safe, authentic, and empowering experience. This year, Debra Morgan, our 4-H Program Coordinator and Rachael Moran, our Livestock Instructor, joined with us to lead us through an incredible day in the arena with Farm Sprouts. Read more about Horse Day [here](#).



School to Farm Learning Journeys with NGSS

Join us at Tollgate and experience one of our specially designed programs for schools and community groups. Explore big ideas and investigate phenomena via programs that are aligned with



Next Generation Science Standards.

Experiential learner-centered journeys include Winter on the Farm, Maple Sugaring, Water and Land: The Connection, Spring into Farming, Embryology, The Journey of Water, Plants and their Partners, and Sheep to Sweater.

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](#).

Visit the [School Program Page](#) on our website to read more or contact Ellen Koehler to schedule a farm visit.



Designing Outdoor Learning Spaces: Community-based Learning with First Lego League Team

4th-grade FLL robotics team from Village Oaks Elementary in Novi recently returned to

Tollgate Farm to gather more research after having visited the farm in an earlier grade to explore the plight of the honeybee. Team members are currently working on a proposal to design new outdoor learning environments for their own school community with interactive features for science and environmental study. With excellent questions and strong observations, they experienced the essential elements of Tollgate's teaching garden, pond and riparian buffer zone, children's garden, and greenhouse.

Watershed Wonderings and The Journey of Water

Tollgate education staff visited a 5th grade in Farmington Schools to kick off a yearlong investigation of the health of the waters that make up the Rouge watershed. We wondered why should we care about water quality. Why, as scientists, do we bother testing our water and what is our role in caring for our water? Lanigan Elementary 5th graders had excellent ideas about these questions, and many of them explained that water quality is important because all living things depend on our watershed, including plants, animals, and people!



Read more about our 5th grade program with Lanigan [here](#).



How does our garlic grow at Tollgate Farm?

This fall our CSA staff planted about 4,500 cloves of garlic that will be harvested in 2020. Garlic is a special crop for Tollgate because each plant is grown from a clove from the harvest of the previous year. Most of the

garlic that CSA members receive is related to the first garlic grown on the farm over 5 years ago!

During the harvest process each summer the CSA staff saves about half of the heads we grow as seed garlic, and the other half of the heads are distributed during the Summer and Fall CSA. The garlic heads that we save are then broken into cloves. Each clove is a seed that is planted in the fall and emerges in the spring. The plant continues to grow, both above and below ground through early summer until we harvest the big beautiful heads of garlic in late July. Once pulled out of the ground, the garlic with stalks still attached are hung to cure for a few weeks. The curing process allows for the garlic to completely dry and harden so that the garlic is able to be stored for a longer period of time. Once dry, we cut the stalks and roots off, sort, and distribute to you!

Want some garlic recipes? Check out the [CSA Recipe blog](#). Interested in signing up for next year's summer CSA? Registration begins December 1st on our [website](#).



Tollgate Farm 4-H Club: Animal Projects!

A 4-H Livestock or Poultry project is truly an educational experience. The youth showmen need to learn about their species: anatomy, care, nutrition,

handling, and more. We have begun projects with some educational events to get the kids started. These activities include the MSU Small Ruminant Workshop, Fecal Testing for Parasites, 2 poultry showmanship clinics, and an upcoming workshop on ultrasound. More exciting activities coming soon!

Know any young person who might be interested in learning more about livestock or poultry through participation in a showmanship project? There are a few more opportunities to lease a duck or a market lamb. The animals are waiting to meet you. For more information, visit our [website](#), [facebook](#), or send us an email.



Meet our new Silver Appleyard Ducks

Tollgate now has three Silver Appleyard Ducks. These ducks are a heritage breed developed in England. Some of our school programs will have the

opportunity to meet them and learn about their features, traits, and behavior. Learn more about this breed of ducks [here](#).

This Month's 4-H Newsletter is Here!

Oakland County 4-H Connections is a monthly newsletter for 4-H members,

families, and the general community with news and information about 4-H youth development activities in Oakland County.

November Newsletter

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here to view online](#)

Oakland County MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

4-H Connections

November 2020

Deadline for 4-H Re-Enrollment is November 15

ATTENTION ALL 4-H YOUTH AND VOLUNTEERS
RE-ENROLL NOW FOR THE 2019-2020 4-H YEAR
<https://ml.4honline.com>

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS: NOVEMBER 15, 2019

As you know 4-H membership provides youth many benefits. As a 4-H member during the 2018-2019 program year you had many opportunities to learn important life skills and participate in fun and exciting project areas.

We know that the 2019-2020 4-H program year, which started on September 1, will be even better. There is a new re-enrollment deadline in Oakland County 4-H. All 4-H youth need to re-enroll by November 15, 2019.

The reasons for the November 15 deadline include:

- Deadline for 4-H Re-Enrollment is November 15
- National 4-H Week Window Display Results
- WANTED – Members Interested in the 4-H Horse & Pony Project
- 4-H Youth Activities Area at the Novi Pal Expo
- Save the Date 4-H Fashion Revue 2020
- Michigan 4-H Partners with MSU's Women's Leadership Institute to Energize Women

Tollgate Opportunities

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.

MICHIGAN STATE
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MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Rd.
Novi, MI 48377
248-347-0269
tollgateprograms@msu.edu
<http://tollgate.msu.edu/>

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