

See what's happening at Tollgate this month!



MSU Tollgate Farm September 2019



Visit Our Website or Follow us on  

Save the Date! Upcoming Events



6th Annual Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest

Join us for our annual fall tradition, Pumpkinfest 2019, Saturday and Sunday October 5th & 6th from 11 am to 5 pm! \$5 per person / children 2 and

under free and free parking. While pumpkins and wagon rides are always fun, there will be so many other activities taking place. Food, live music, farm animals, educational exhibits, and children's activities all make for a fun fall outing for all ages.

Don't miss our great activities:

- Wagon rides to the u-pick pumpkin patch
- Farm animals and horse riding demos
- Children's activities (storytimes, pumpkin painting, face painting, strawland)
- Educational Activities and Exhibits (MSU Bug House, Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum cow eye dissection)

- Delicious food concessions (including Parmenter's cider and donuts)
- Live music
- And Much More!

View the flyer [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Come Join the Team! Pumpkinfest Volunteer Opportunities

Pumpkinfest, our biggest fundraiser for educational programs, needs your help!

We are still looking for volunteers to help support our staff on October 5th and 6th. There are so many different supporting roles where Tollgate visitors would appreciate your help. For adults and youth 16 and older, we would like to invite you to consider volunteering in one of the many roles available for this event.



A sample of volunteer positions available include: wagon ride helper, "strawland" children's area monitor, cider pressing helper, photographer, sound board operator, food concessions worker, volunteer center helper, welcome center helper, fishing helper, and more!

To sign up, register [here](#).

If you're interested in helping Tollgate's mission through a sponsorship or donation, please email [Ellen Koehler](#) or call 248-347-0269 ext 227.

Fall Plant Sale

Come shop the Tollgate Garden volunteers Fall Plant Sale on September 21st from 9 AM - 12 PM! Many hardy perennials for sun and shade. This is an opportunity for shoppers to purchase great looking healthy

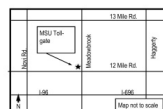
Michigan State University
Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Fall Plant Sale
Saturday September 21, 2019
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Reasonably priced, Michigan hardy perennials for sun and shade, including Michigan natives that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators.

Featuring late summer and fall blooming varieties
Payment accepted with Cash, Check, MasterCard or Visa
MSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer questions and assist in your selections



Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.



Michigan State University
Tollgate Farm and Education Center
12 Mile & Meadowbrook Roads
In Novi
248 947-2860 ext. 251
www.tollgate.msu.edu

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plants at very reasonable prices.
All proceeds support the grounds and gardens.

[Click here to view the flyer.](#)

Tollgate Pig Roast

Join us on Sunday, October 13th at 5pm for a delicious farm to table meal! We'll be preparing pork from Steinhauser Farm and cooked by chef Jeff Rose of CAYA Grill along with scrumptious sides from Tollgate vegetables and other area farms. This is a celebration of the harvest season and the end of the sustainable agriculture apprenticeship. We would love to have you join! [Register here.](#)



Tollgate News & Announcements



Mike Mathis named Director of MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

Mike Mathis, the interim education director of MSU Tollgate in 2017 and acting director in 2018 has been

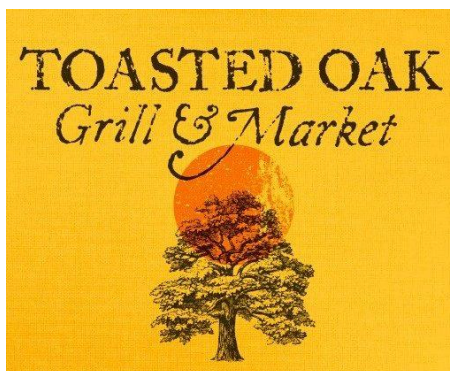
named the director of MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center. Before joining MSU Extension, he held positions in teaching and outdoor education, including five years with Metroparks Toledo as an environmental education specialist and a nature camp coordinator. Mathis also worked for Partners for Clean Streams and on the NURTURES program as a graduate assistant at the University of Toledo. Mathis

received master's degrees from UT in both biology-ecology and for curriculum and instruction, as well as a bachelor's degree in middle childhood education. Before earning his master's degrees, Mathis taught social studies to fifth to eighth graders at the Toledo Preparatory and Fitness Academy.

See the full new release [here](#).

Thank you to our sponsors and partner!

Thank you to Vibe Credit Union, Barton Malow Company, and the Barton Malow Foundation for supporting the 2019 MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest. By sponsoring the event, they are helping to support authentic place-based educational programming about sustainability and the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. Their sponsorship helps provide financial assistance to struggling schools and individuals to participate in our programs. We also want to thank the City of Novi for partnering with us on this event and helping spread the word about MSU Tollgate Farm and all of our great programs and events.



MSU Tollgate Farm Teams up with Chef Ken Miller from Toasted Oak Grill & Market

Campers at Top Chef Food Camp had the opportunity to speak with Chef Ken Miller from Toasted Oak Grill & Market about the importance of

sustainable farming practices and how it influences flavor, personal health, and the community. The kids then harvested their own vegetables and Chef Ken and other Tollgate staff judged the camper's "Top Chef" dishes. In addition to this camp, Chef Ken also teamed up with Extension Educator Joyce McGarry to do a food demonstration at The Michigan State Fair highlighting the importance of sustainability, safe

food practices, and the use of fresh vegetables. We look forward to working with Chef Ken more in the future.

Visit our **facebook page** to see the video of Chef Ken and Joyce McGarry.

New Faces on the Farm

We are proud to welcome four new members to our Tollgate staff! Allison Aigner is a new educational program leader, Jennifer Dunlap is an early childhood instructional guide, Sara Mund is our day camp coordinator, and Deanna Wagner is an agricultural laborer.



Read more about these new staff members [here](#).



Congratulations to Tollgate Farm 4-H Club Members Who Received Urban Farming Scholarships!

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club congratulates 8 of our members who received Urban Farming

Scholarships from the Michigan State Fair - in total \$4,600. These kids received this honor for their work in the garden and in the barn. Each completed an essay demonstrating their knowledge of the importance of agriculture in their community, knowledge gained through their experiences at Tollgate Farm and through 4-H.

Interested in Tollgate Farm 4-H? Join Us!

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is open to new youth members age 5 - 19 for the 2019-2020 year. For more information, visit our [website](#), [facebook](#), or send us an email.

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.

September Newsletter



School to Farm Place-Based Learning with NGSS

Fall is a great time to visit Tollgate Farm and experience one of our variety of specially designed programs for

schools and community groups. Explore big ideas and investigate phenomena via programs that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.

Fall programs offered at Tollgate include: Harvest Farm Ecology, Kindergarten Trees, The Journey of Water, Weather and Animal Adaptations, Water and Land: The Connection, and Ecosystem Investigations.

Visit the **School Program Page** on our website to read more or contact **Ellen Koehler** to schedule a farm visit.

Tollgate Opportunities

Rent the Tollgate Conference Center

The MSU Tollgate Conference Center, historic barn, and American boardroom are available for your next business meeting,



bridal or baby shower, or private luncheon. Our catering staff are available to meet your needs for your event!

To learn more about hosting your event at Tollgate, visit the **Conference Center Website**.

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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