



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

# MSU Tollgate Farm August 2021

## Upcoming Events

- [MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Gardening Series Sponsored by Bordine's:](#)  
September 11th: 10 - 11 AM
- [MSU Tollgate Farm Fall Plant Sale:](#) September 18th: 9 AM - 12 PM
- [Pumpkinfest 2021: October 2-3: 11-5 PM](#)
- [Pumpkinfest 2021: Volunteer Sign Up](#)
- [Evenings in the Garden:](#) Starts October 7: 6:30-8:30 PM
- [Fall Farm Stand:](#) October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 13, 20, December 4: 10 am – 3 pm
- [School to Farm Visits: In Person Visits Resume at MSU Tollgate Farm](#)
- [Decorators Need For Holiday Lights at the Farm:](#) December 16-20th
- [Goat Shouts Are Back!](#) All Year Long

## News & Announcements

- [Join Tollgate Farm 4-H Club: New Year Starting September 1: No Registration Fee to Join 4-H](#)
- [Vet Science Camp 2021: A Speciality Camp Where Kids Explore Tools and Technology of Vet Science](#)
- [Join the Sustainable Agriculture Team for a Journey from Seed to your Plate With an Onion](#)
- [Interested in Volunteering at Tollgate?](#)
- [August Oakland County 4-H Newsletter](#)



## Join us for Pumpkinfest 2021: October 2 & 3rd

We are excited to be able to gather once again for this iconic community event and fundraiser. Please plan to join us for the 7th Annual Fall festival - the 2021 MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest sponsored by Vibe Credit Union and Barton Malow. Join us from 11 AM - 5 PM at the beautiful historic 160 acre farm for hayrides, farm animals, cider & donuts, live music, activities, games, and so much more!

Learn more about fall crops and where your food comes from with our staff and volunteers. The cost is \$5 a person and children 2 and under are free (parking is free). Lots of educational exhibits, children's strawland, music, and many children's activities are free of charge. Tickets can be purchased for pumpkins, food, and select children's activities.

The proceeds from Pumpkinfest support educational programming and help schools and

## Opportunities & Spotlights

- [MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Where are Farmer Sam's Chickens Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Rent MSU Tollgate Farm for Your Next Event](#)

individuals who might otherwise not be able to attend programs and camps at MSU Tollgate Farm. Come out and have a great day of family fun while supporting the Farm.

SEE THE FLYER

## Upcoming Events



### MSU Tollgate Fall Plant Sale: Saturday, September 18th: 9 AM-12 PM

MSU Tollgate's Fall Plant Sale is right around the corner. Fall is a great time for planting, so this sale is the perfect time to enhance your yard. Tollgate volunteers will be on hand to help you make the best plant selections for your landscape. This is a great opportunity to acquire some great perennial plants at a reasonable price. Questions? Contact Roy Prentice at 248-330-3623 or email him at [prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu)

SEE THE FLYER

## Come Join the Team! Be a Volunteer for Pumpkinfest

Pumpkinfest, our biggest fundraiser for educational programs, needs your help! We are looking for volunteers to help support our staff on October 2nd and 3rd. There are so many different supporting roles to choose from for adults and youth 16 years and older. Volunteers not only help with the event, but develop long lasting relationships while having a great time. Proceeds from Pumpkinfest help fund educational programs that help struggling schools and families have high quality educational experiences that can positively impact their environment as they explore community food systems, natural resources, and sustainable agriculture. We hope to have you on board as part of the fun and excitement of Pumpkinfest 2021 and thank you in advance for your continued support of Tollgate and its programs!



SIGN UP HERE

HomeGrown Gardening Series Last Session: September 11 - Veggie



## Harvest and Storage with MSU Tollgate's Own Darby Anderson

The advantage of having a home garden is that you can pick and savor your vegetables when they are at their optimal flavor. But how can you tell when to harvest your vegetables and what are the best conditions to store your homegrown vegetables? Find out answers to these questions and so much more as MSU Tollgate Sustainable Agriculture Instructor Darby Anderson explores veggie harvest and storage!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## School to Farm Visits: Students Return for In-Person Place-Based Inquiry Learning

Explore big ideas and investigate phenomena with our programs designed for schools that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. Tollgate offers hands-on interactive learning opportunities in the historic farm setting where participants explore science phenomena while making important interdisciplinary connections to place and gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of natural resources and agriculture in their daily lives. Opportunities also available for our Collaborating Classrooms model where schools collaborate with staff to design the learning experience as they can connect their students' classroom learning to farm visits. Choose from our array of Fall programs:

- Harvest Farm Ecology (Grades K - 5) Late September - Early November
- Trees, Trees, Trees (Kindergarten) September - October
- Weather and Animal Adaptations (1st Grade) September through early November
- Water and Land: The Connection (2nd Grade) September through October
- Insect Investigations (2nd Grade) Fall/Spring
- Ecosystems Explorations (3rd Grade) September - October, April - early June
- The Journey of Water and Beyond (Grades 3 - 8) September through October



Select dates still available. A Tollgate financial aid process is [available](#) for schools.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

## Save the Date! Fall Evenings in the Garden

We are excited to offer these upcoming Fall sessions **in person** on the Farm from 6:30 - 8:30 PM! Questions? [Email Katie Gallagher](#)

### October 7 - Eric Kampe - Seed Saving & Plant Genetics

Eric Kampe is one of the five farmer/owners of the Green Things Farm Collective, an organic no-till farm outside of Ann Arbor. Eric will share his experiences as a small farm seed saver since 2007. He will describe why seed saving is important, how the bigger seed saving industry is set up, and the unique value a small farm or garden seed saver provides.

### October 28 - Jan Coppola Bills - Troubleshoot your Garden Woes with Two Women and a Hoe

Jan Coppola Bills is the author of Late Bloomer, a certified landscape designer, advanced master gardener and entrepreneur and founder of the Detroit-area landscape design company [Two Women and a Hoe®](#). This session provides you with the opportunity to submit your garden pictures (in advance) so Jan can address your garden woes and help you put your yard into working order for year to come.

### November 4 - Marc Boone - Pawpaw Tree Care

More information on this session coming soon.



VISIT THE WEBSITE



## Save the Dates! Fall Farm Stand: October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 13, 20, December 4: 10 am – 3 pm

Join us on select weekends in October, November, and December for our Fall Farm Stand. Stock up on pumpkins, mums, seasonal produce, cider, donuts, holiday wreaths, 4-H Club products, and more! Check out our Shopify website in September to see what will be offered at each Farm Stand date.

## Decorators Needed for Holiday Lights on the Farm 2021: December 16-20th

The team at MSU Tollgate Farm would like to thank all of the people who decorated at last year's Holiday Lights at the Farm! This year we welcome individuals, families, friend groups, non-profits, businesses, etc. to create a lighted holiday display at the farm. Everyone is welcome to invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to decorate with them.

This year's Holiday Lights at the Farm is December 16-20th with set-up between December 10-14th. Decorators are responsible for taking down their displays from December 21st through January 1st.

If you are interested and would like to set up an appointment to come to the farm to see the available spots for decorating, contact Kari Heughens at [heughen3@msu.edu](mailto:heughen3@msu.edu) and she will be happy to assist you. We can also provide pictures of the many different locations for displays.



## Goat Shout-Outs are Back!

Send a fun message to a loved one or friend for their special occasion with the help of the MSU Tollgate goat herd. Write a brief custom message and a staff member will craft a 30 second private video link from our goats to your recipient. Messages like, "Happy Birthday Jack. You are no longer a kid!" or "Congratulations on your graduation from doe and buck!", are a perfect way to share some love. Requests will be fulfilled within 7 business days and will be sent by email. All proceeds from the \$20 fee go to supporting the care of livestock at the farm.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

## News and Announcements

**Join Tollgate Farm 4-H Club:  
Our 2021-2022 Year Starts  
September 1: No Registration Fee  
to Join 4-H!**

At the core of 4-H is a learning by doing philosophy that is reflected in our club members activities at MSU Tollgate Farm. The kids in the club work hard to support the animal barn and fund club activities through farm stand sales. The club is a business for our young members, who make products to sell. Along the way they learn about animal husbandry, team building, goal setting, responsibility and much more. Want to learn more about joining? Contact the club with the links below and/or read more club member responsibilities and activities with the button below.

Contact Tollgate Farm 4-H by [email](#), on [the web](#), or on their [Facebook page](#).

[READ MORE](#)



## Vet Science Camp 2021: A Speciality Camp Where Kids Explore Tools and Technology of Vet Science

This July, our Vet Science Camp returned with campers ages 12-14 exploring the worlds of veterinary and animal medicine with a variety of hands-on experiences and activities. Campers learned how to move sheep by understanding flight zone, collected and tested fecal samples, dissected fetal pigs and cow eyes, and painted horse skeletal and digestive systems onto a very patient horse. Campers not only had the chance to help our Equine Vet, Dr. Hilary Lobar, check a horse for lameness, they also met Animal Science Educator Nick Babcock from MSU and many more guest speakers and visiting veterinarians. This unique camp gave campers a glimpse into the real world of veterinary and animal science with authentic hands-on experiences they will remember for years to come. Want to read more about this camp? Continue with our blog article below.

[READ MORE](#)

## Join the Sustainable Agriculture Team for a Journey from Seed to your Plate With an Onion

Have you ever wondered how your food gets to your plate? Our Sustainable Agriculture Team wants to take you on that journey with one of our most versatile vegetables, the onion! Onions can take over 100 days from

seed to harvestable bulb and our team wants to show yoContinue the journey with the link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Saturday MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteer Work Days

Our group volunteer garden work days have resumed on Saturdays. Volunteers under the direction of an area garden leader maintain our wonderful gardens while enjoying the companionship of others and learning about the gardens' plants. A hot dog lunch is provided after the morning activity and of course more conversations on gardens. Interested in becoming a garden volunteer? Check out our volunteering page below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## 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.

[READ MORE](#)

Oakland County  
**Youth & Families**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension August 2021

**BACKYARD CAMPING FOR YOUTH**

By Nick Baumgard

Camping is great fun for youth and easy when in your own backyard. Keep it simple for a fun, summer activity.

Summer is camping season, bringing thousands of families to Michigan's outdoors. There are many popular places to camp including state parks, national forests, national parks, county and private campgrounds. These are not always accessible, convenient or affordable. With young children, camping in your backyard is a great alternative. It is close to home, a great introduction, non-breasting and fun!

Backyard camping is simple and doesn't require a lot of preparation or equipment. A tent and sleeping bag is really all that is needed, but other items will enhance the experience. Blankets can replace a sleeping bag. Sleeping under the stars is an awesome experience, but too often mosquitoes will necessitate the use of a tent. Other items make a backyard campout more enjoyable such as a flashlight, pillow, ground pad and insect repellent. Too many items take away the simplicity and add clutter. Keep it simple.

Young children will need [camping activities](#) to keep them busy. Books take on a whole new perspective when reading with a lantern or flashlight inside a tent. Try some books about the outdoors or adventures in the wild. Star gazing can be very enjoyable on a clear night, provided there is enough darkness away from city lights. Try being silent and listen to the sounds of the night. Singing songs, cards games and storytelling will add to the excitement of a backyard campout. Let youth decide what activities they would like to do and have them organize them.

A campfire will greatly enhance any camping experience. As with all fires, make sure it is contained and allowed in your neighborhood. Keep the fire small and always have an adult near to tend the fire and ensure it's safe. Cooking and making s'mores are great ways to enjoy a campfire and an experience that all youth should have.

Any camping trip would not be complete without food, and backyard camping is no exception. Most food can be made indoors and brought out to the camp site. Simple items such as hot dogs, sandwiches and pizzas seem to taste better when outdoors. Some foods can be prepared at the campsite to add to the experience. Keep some snacks on hand such as fruit, nuts and popcorn to curb those late night urges.



## MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner

Now that we are open to the public again, come out and have a little fun with your kids playing our Where are Farmer Sam's Chickens Scavenger Hunt. Follow the instructions on the worksheet and look for the chickens around the Farm. Find all 7 chickens to spell the special chicken body part. The photo here is one of the chickens hiding!

[GET THE SCAVENGER HUNT](#)



MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center  
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