



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU Tollgate Farm February 2021

Upcoming Events

- [MSU Tollgate Farm 2021 Summer CSA Registration](#): Now Open
- [Maple Tapping Kits and Pancake Feast Kits for Purchase at the Farm Store](#): Now Available
- [MSU Learning From the Farm to You](#): From the Farm-to-School Virtual Programs Now Available
- [Steward Sustainability Leadership Institute for Ages 15-19](#): Winter-Summer 2021
- [MSU Extension Winter 2021 Virtual School Garden Sessions](#): February 17, March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, 2021
- [MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Gardening Series Sponsored by Bordine's](#): Second Saturdays 10 am, February – September 2021
- [Virtual Stewards Winter Series](#): Starting February 18th
- [Evenings in the Garden: Winter & Spring Sessions](#): February 25th - April 29th, 2021
- [4-H Virtual Interactive Maple Sugaring Series for Grades 1-5](#): March 1-5
- [Collaborative Teacher Support Network](#): March 8th
- [Virtual Sustainable Stewards Series for Ages 15-19](#): Starting March 26th
- [Virtual S.T.E.A.M. Break Camp \(Spring\) for Grades 1-4](#): March 29th - April 2
- [4-H Virtual Interactive Follow the Nutrient Trail \(Grades 3-5\)](#): weeklong from April 26-30 OR weekly April 8-May 6
- [4-H Virtual Interactive Plants](#)



Lambing Season Comes to a Close at MSU Tollgate Farm

Read about our lambing season from Sam Stokes, our Interim Livestock Coordinator:

"Few seasons are more joyous or more stressful than lambing time. In the cold of January, ewes deliver their babies into the world. They lick their babies clean, opening into their airways and getting them as dry as possible. Lambs find their legs quickly, and then must find their mother's udder and begin nursing. Getting colostrum, or the "first milk" is vital to the survival and long term health of these new lambs.

Every birth is different. Some go easily, others don't, which is when shepherds can help. The long hours waiting on the cold and all the worry are made worth it when we can revive a lamb, or

[and Their Partners \(Grades 1-3\)](#): weeklong from May 3-7 OR weekly May 4-June 1

- [Goat Shouts Are Back!](#) All Year Long
- [Building Leaders: A Summer Leadership Adventure for Ages 13-19](#): Summer 2021
- [In Person Summer Camp 2021: Complete the Survey](#)
- Specialty Camps: Winged Wonders, Vet Science, Outdoor Adventure: July 12-16, July 27-31 and August 16-20, 2021

News & Announcements

- [Tollgate Farm 4-H Club Seed Donation Service Project](#)
- [February Oakland County 4-H Newsletter](#)

Opportunities & Spotlights

- [Join Our Summer Camp Team: Now Hiring](#)
- [Staff and Volunteer Spotlights February 2020](#)
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help a 300lb new mama be patient while her babies learn to nurse. Sometimes, just being there with an extra towel and some post-labor cookies is all that's needed, and those are the best of times.

This year, our Suffolk ewes came through for us with 8 beautiful lambs. First time mom Coco had two beautiful ewe lambs all by herself! Next, I helped Poppy deliver a 14lb ewe lamb whose incredible size earned her the name "Zilla"....as in "Godzilla". Coco's sister, Autumn, delivered triplets next: two ewes and a ram. Triplets proved a little too much for this first time mom, who only could manage to take care of the two, very strong ewes. So the little, more delicate ram is now being cared for by humans who were all too happy to stand in for his mom. Last but not least I helped Bea, the oldest ewe of the group, deliver yet another 14lb lamb, this time a ram, and his 10lb twin brother.

All of our new families are doing well. The lambs enjoy jumping around, exploring in the snow, and tasting whatever their mamas eats and nursing....a lot. We are beyond thrilled to have 5 beautiful ewe lambs joining our flock and look forward to it continuing to grow."

[MORE LAMBING PHOTOS HERE](#)

Upcoming Events



Registration is now open for the 2021 Summer CSA!

What is a CSA? Community Supported Agriculture is a system where members buy shares in the growing season. As a member of our CSA you will receive a weekly supply of fresh vegetables and herbs that reflect the seasonal abundance.

What makes the Tollgate CSA unique? The vegetable production that supports the CSA is a demonstration and training site for our Sustainable Agriculture Apprenticeship Program, numerous volunteers, and Summer Camp attendees of all ages. We strive to create community and educational opportunities around growing food from the moment the seeds are planted in the ground to the day they are packed into our members' shares.

How does the CSA work? This is a 20-week share running from May 26th to October 6th with pickups on Wednesdays from 4-6:30pm. We offer full and half shares as well as a cooler pickup option for a more flexible pickup window. Due to COVID-19 we will be hosting

curbside distributions outside the pavilion for the foreseeable future. Members will remain in their cars and all shares will be prepacked for a quick and minimal contact pickup. Check out our website below for more information on the CSA and for details on how to register.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Virtual Evenings in the Garden

Our popular Evenings in the Garden series is now virtual. These sessions are held on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. All sessions will be held digitally. A video link will be sent prior to the session and a recording will be made available after the meeting with the exception of February 25th session.

February 25 - Ana Heck, Apiculture Extension Educator, MSU Extension *LIVE lecture only, will NOT be recorded

March 11 - Jan Coppola Bills from the Detroit-area landscape design company Two Women and a Hoe® (twowomenandahoe.com)- Comfort, Ease, and Simplicity

April 15 - Dr. Bert Cregg, Professor of Horticulture and Forestry at MSU and Christmas Tree Extension Specialist: Christmas Tree Production in Michigan

April 29 - Dr. Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability at MSU - A New Way to Farm: Why is Lavender Farming Growing in Michigan?



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Virtual Sustainable Stewards Series for Ages 15-19

What does sustainability mean, and why is it important to you? A steward is someone whose responsibility it is to take care of something. MSU Tollgate Farm is offering this FREE virtual 3 part Sustainable Stewards Series to explore how you can be a sustainability steward with your peers and with community partners. These panel discussions will help you prepare for college and career as you explore how sustainability will impact your future in meaningful ways. Led by college students and local community partners, these virtual panel discussions will be followed by Q & A and peer-to-peer conversation. Sessions include: **Becoming a Sustainable Steward** March 26, 2021 4-5 pm – MSU Sustainable Spartans, **Water World** April 23, 2021 4–5pm – Erin Cassidy and members of Friends of the Rouge, and **Climate Science Basics: Climate**

Science and YOU May 21, 2021 4-5 pm - Lindsey Kemmerling, MSU PhD Candidate, MSU Kellogg Biological Station. Register early to save your space. These virtual panel discussions are open to all 15-19 year olds.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

S.T.E.A.M. Break Camp (Spring) Registration Open

Join us virtually as we transition from winter to spring and dive deep into all the wonderful things that the new season brings. Each day offers a new theme with a hands-on STEAM activity that will get your child thinking and creating! From learning about the kid goats being born on the farm and hatching chicken eggs to dissecting an owl pellet-- this is a virtual learning adventure your child doesn't want to miss! This camp takes place March 29th - April 2nd and is open to campers 1st-4th grade. Learn more and register below.



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Growing in Community: A Virtual Stewards Winter Series

MSU Tollgate Farm is offering a safe place for teens to connect and reunite as a community. Led by youth and moderated by staff, sessions include team-building activities and peer-to-peer conversation about resiliency and leadership. Thursdays at 4 pm - February 18, March 18, April 15, June 3, 2021.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Missing our Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast? Purchase your Maple Tapping Kits and Pancake Feast Kits at the Farm Store

Even though Tollgate is still closed to the public, you can still experience a "taste" of the maple sugaring season. The Tollgate Farm Store is currently offering two maple themed kits: a tap-your-own-maple kit and a pancake feast kit. Both are good ways to "tap" into the maple season. Our Maple Tree Tapping Kit (\$15.00) includes the tools you will need for taping six trees for sap, plus, a list of a few items you will need to use from your tool set and a bucket to catch your sap.



Instructions are included. Our Pancake Feast Kit includes Sunflower Bakehaus pancake mix (makes approximately 5 dozen pancakes) and Tollgate maple syrup. Choose a box with (\$35.00) or without (\$30.00) locally sourced sausage. Pancake Feast Boxes also include educational activities to learn more about maple sugaring. Limited kits are available so purchase yours today!

[VISIT THE FARM STORE](#)



MSU TOLLGATE FARM

HOMEGROWN GARDENING

A series designed for families and individuals to explore the joys of home vegetable gardening

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Gardening Series: Second Saturdays at 10 AM EST

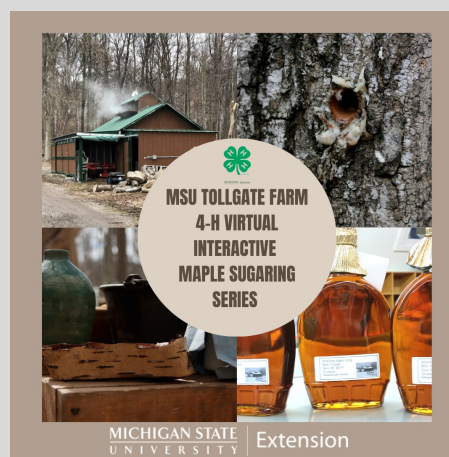
There is still time to join us for the MSU Tollgate Farm's HomeGrown Gardening Series sponsored by Bordine's. Whether you're thinking about starting a garden or you are an experienced veggie gardener looking to explore new ideas and share your knowledge with others, you're invited to join Extension educators from across the state for this new virtual series designed to encourage and support home vegetable gardeners. Sign up for the full series or individual sessions.

Our next session on **March 13th** is **Seed Starting for Everyone** with MSU Extension Educator **Isabel Branstrom**. Each seed contains the resources needed to create a new plant. However, they need the right conditions to germinate and successfully grow. This presentation will cover what these conditions are and how to start seeds using simple techniques and tools. We will also discuss how to care for your new seedlings once they sprout!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Registration Now Open: 2021 Tollgate Farm 4-H Virtual Interactive Maple Sugaring Series: Grades 1-5: March 1-5

Join us for a maple sugaring adventure as we discover how maple sap becomes maple syrup. Explore the fascinating science and history of making maple syrup from sap as you virtually visit Tollgate Farm's sugarbush and sugar shack. You'll have a chance to explore how and why a tree produces sap in the first place, how to identify a maple tree, and how we tap maples for sap. Observe a modern day maple sugaring operation and explore the regional history of making this sweet treat by getting to know the history of the land, its peoples, and the tools. Be food scientists as together we explore the science of sweetness and steam in your very own testing lab. Series is accompanied with journal pages and a special maple sugaring blog with extension activities. Choose between two sessions: 2 - 3 p.m. or



REGISTER HERE



Learning Fresh from the Farm to You

This spring, students will explore how they can make a difference in the world around them as they investigate plants and pollination or the nutrient cycle. Aligned with literacy, math, and Next Generation Science standards, Tollgate's virtual interactive programs utilize inquiry place-based learning and interaction with the farm and farm educators. Students virtually visit the fields, forest, greenhouse, and barns to investigate science phenomena taking place on the farm. Interactive sessions, recorded virtual farm visits, accompanying journal pages, and blog are included. Check out the blog from our early elementary trees program [here](#). A financial aid process is available. Teachers may request these farm-to-school visits below. Financial aid process is [available](#). Questions? Email [Ellen Koehler](#).

RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Also check out these programs for home-based and after-school learners.

- **Follow the Nutrient Trail (Grades 3-5) April 26-30 weeklong OR April 8-May 6 weekly Thursdays:** How do plants and animals depend on one another in the nutrient cycle? Let's follow the nutrient trail of consumers, producers, and decomposers as we meet our goats, chickens, and red wiggler friends, the worms! Visiting the garden, orchard, and animal barn, students will investigate how the energy of the sun transforms and travels through the nutrient cycle. Through hands-on STEM challenges, students interact with Tollgate Farm staff and the plants and animals of Tollgate. [REGISTER HERE](#).
- **Plants and Their Partners (Grades 1-3) May 3-7 weeklong OR May 4-June 1 weekly Tuesdays:** How do plants grow and how do they depend on other living things? Students explore plant structure and function and what plants need to grow. Visiting the garden, greenhouse, gardens, fields, and animal barn, students will investigate pollination and seed dispersal. Through STEM learning activities, students take a close look at where our food comes from as we explore ways we can make a difference in our world. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Join the Collaborative Teacher Network!

The Collaborative Teacher Network offers peer-to-peer support for educators at meetings designed to refresh your mind, take you outdoors, and connect you with other teachers. Together, we share and learn ways to venture outdoors confidently, safely, and joyfully with children and use nature for teaching and learning in virtual and/or in person settings. Program is free and open to all Michigan-based educators and teachers.

Up-Close Observation, March 8, 3pm: Bring or find a natural object to examine closely. We'll use sketching and listing to connect with the object before we change our perspective to imagine its role in our ecosystem. Materials needed: natural object, paper, writing utensil, outdoor clothes and shoes, access to the outdoors

Sign up below – and feel free to share with your colleagues!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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](#)

Winter 2021 Virtual School Garden Education Sessions

Michigan State University Extension is offering a free Winter 2021 Virtual School Garden Education series for formal and informal educators including school and community garden organizers. This series of six interactive, educational garden sessions will be held every other Wednesday starting February 3, 2021 to April 14, 2021 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. By registering for the entire series, you will be able to attend each session using the same link. Please contact [Kristine Hahn](#) with



any questions.

The Next Session on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 4:00 pm features Theme Gardens with Dr. Norm Lownds, Director 4-H Children's Garden, MSU.

REGISTER HERE



MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Teen Leadership Program

Calling all 13-19 year olds!

The MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Teen Leadership Program offers teens a chance to mentor and lead at camp while gaining valuable leadership and life skills. Stewards-in-Training (13-14 years old) and Stewards (15-19 years old) assist the educational leaders and serve as role models for campers and peers. Fun adventures await teens as they make new friends while developing a deeper understanding of the farm and what it means to be a leader.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE

MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute for Ages 15-19

For ages 15-19 who love adventure, SSLI is designed to be a fun and life-changing stewardship experience which includes virtual sessions on sustainability, an outdoor team-building experience, leadership roles at camp, a mentorship model, a capstone sustainability action project, and a certificate of completion. Great on college applications, this Tollgate stewards leadership helps you make a positive difference in the world around you. For more info, email [Ellen Koehler](mailto:Ellen.Koehler).

RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE



Feeling Hopeful for In Person Summer Camp 2021

We are currently dreaming of hot summer days filled with kids exploring and learning outside at our farm. However, due to the pandemic and with still so much uncertainty, it is impossible for us to provide a definite plan of what 2021 summer



programs will look like at our farm. Despite this uncertainty, we want to offer this interest application as a way to gauge interest in our hopeful summer schedule. If summer camp programs are able to move forward, pending approval to return to in-person programming from the University, we will give those who fill out this application early-bird access to our registration.

Fill out your interest application with the button below.

INTEREST APPLICATION

Specialty Camps: Winged Wonders, Vet Science, Outdoor Adventure: Save the Dates!

Specialty camps at MSU Tollgate Farm are designed with the slightly older camper in mind and involve challenge and adventure as well as opportunities for leadership development. Young teens and pre-teens, be sure to mark the following dates for these adventures!

- Winged Wonders (ages 10-14), July 12-16
- Vet Science (ages 12-15), July 27-31
- Outdoor Adventure (ages 12-15), August 16-20

July 12-16, 2021

MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
and
MSU Tollgate Farm

Winged Wonders Camp



Our Favorite Birds and Birding Stories



MSU TOLLGATE FARM
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MSU Tollgate Farm awaits word about the timing of the return of our in-person programming. Summer camp and stewards programming will depend on University COVID-19 guidelines.

News and Announcements

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club Seed Donation Service Project Update

[Tollgate Farm 4-H Club](#) has been gathering seeds for donation to school and community gardens since 2013. This year the tradition continues. As of today: 1267 packets were given to 18 gardens. The total number of people served is 6311.

Club funds, raised through sales of goat milk soap and other products, fund any shipping and handling charges. Thank you to Susan Walters-Klenke for organizing the seed drive, Miriam Klenke for sorting all the seed packets received, and all the adults who stepped up to help get the seeds distributed.

Thank you also to the seed companies that donated to this effort:



- Baker Creek Seeds
- Botanical Interests
- Bountiful Gardens
- Chas C Hart
- High Mowing Organic Seeds
- Renee's Garden
- Seeds of Change
- Seed Saver Exchange

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 February 2021

CHILDREN CAN BE VICTIMS OF IDENTITY THEFT TOO

Becky Long, Michigan State University Extension, July 15, 2020
 Updated from an original article written by Kristin Hoenesberger

Learn the warning signs of identity theft and how a child's personal information can be compromised.

More than 5.3 million children are victims of identity theft annually and 50% of these children are under 6 years old, according to Robert Chappell, Jr., in a Detroit Free Press article. This is a shocking statistic and may surprise many adults. There are warning signs that indicate a child's personal identity is being used fraudulently. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) advises parents to look out for the following:

- The child is turned down for government benefits because the benefits are being paid to another account using your child's Social Security number.
- The child receives a notice from the IRS saying the child didn't pay income taxes, or the child's Social Security number was used on another tax return.
- The child gets collection calls or bills for products or services you didn't receive or purchase.
- The child receives credit card offers or bank information in the mail.

A child's identity is put at risk in several ways. Scam artists want a child's personal information because the Social Security number is priceless. Think about all the places where a child's personal information is kept: School officials, doctor offices, and your home can all experience breaches of security.

Parents may be devastated to discover their child's identity has been stolen. If a parent or guardian suspects use of their child's personal information, then a credit report should be ordered. According to the [Federal Trade Commission](#), adults should request a [credit report of the minor's credit file](#). The credit reporting agencies will require additional documentation to perform the search. They will need the child's birth certificate, Social Security card, the parent or guardian's government-issued identification card and proof of address (utility bill, insurance statement, etc.).

Adults must contact all three credit bureaus to check activity using the child's identity:

Equifax: 1-800-625-6285
Experian: 1-888-397-3742
TransUnion: children@transunion.com

Ideally, there will be no credit file existing for the child. However, if credit activity is found, then the adult must act quickly. Request a copy of the child's credit report. Have the credit bureau remove all accounts, inquiries, and collection notices from any file connected with the child's Social Security number and name. Ask that an [attached fraud alert or credit freeze](#) be placed on the file. A [fraud alert](#) is how one will notify credit verification firms a business knows any credit is granted. Contact information in the credit file must be kept updated so

Opportunities and Spotlights



Join Our Summer Camp Team!

Do you love spending your summers outdoors? Do you have a passion to inspire and educate the future leaders of the world? Are you pursuing/have pursued a degree in natural sciences, agriculture or education? MSU Tollgate Farm Summer Camp is now hiring 9 seasonal full-time summer positions. Summer camp isn't just for kids, join our team and apply today.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Staff and Volunteer Spotlights

February 2020

Curious about everyone who works at MSU Tollgate Farm? Every Monday on our Facebook and Instagram we feature a staff member or volunteer. The last month we have featured Debbie Morgan, 4-H Program Coordinator and Deb Kearney a nursery volunteer who has also volunteered in many other areas of the farm.

[READ MORE](#)

MEET OUR STAFF



Debbie Morgan:
4-H Program Coordinator



Interested in Volunteering at Tollgate?

We are grateful and appreciate our volunteers at MSU Tollgate Farm. Would you like to volunteer at Tollgate? Check out the steps to become part of the Tollgate volunteer team.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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