



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU Tollgate Farm May 2021

Check out our new MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner in the Opportunities and Spotlights!

Upcoming Events

- [MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Spring Plant Sale:](#) June 12-13
- [Virtual Sustainable Stewards Series for Ages 15-19:](#) May 21st: 4-5 PM
- [Virtual Stewards Series:](#) June 3: 4-5 PM
- [MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Gardening Series Sponsored by Bordine's:](#) Second Saturdays 10 am through September 2021
- [Tollgate Farm 4-H Club:](#) Goat Milk Soap Sale Coming Soon!
- Summer Camp 2021
APPROVED: [Visit our Webpage](#)
- [Goat Shouts Are Back!](#) All Year Long
- Pumpkinfest 2021: October 2-3: [Volunteer Sign Up](#)



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteer Spring Plant Sale: June 12-13th

MSU Tollgate Farm has a variety of beautiful horticultural gardens that are maintained by a dedicated team of garden volunteers. To help support the development and maintenance of these gardens the MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers have an annual spring plant sale with reasonably priced Michigan hardy perennials for sun and shade. This year's sale will take place on June 12th and 13th from 9 AM to 2 PM. Due to COVID-19, advanced registration is REQUIRED for 30 min shopping slot per household. Masks are required during the entire shopping and check out procedure, and social distancing will be enforced.

Sun and shade perennials are available in 1 gallon pots for \$5 and include Michigan natives that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators. Look for deals on specialty plants with premium pricing. Not sure what you need for your

News & Announcements

- New Accessibility Improvements at MSU Tollgate Farm
- Updates from the Sustainable Agriculture Team
- [Interested in Volunteering at Tollgate?](#)
- [May Oakland County 4-H Newsletter](#)

Opportunities & Spotlights

- [MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner May Seed Tape & Seed Bombs Activities](#)
- [Meet our Staff and Volunteers](#)

[May 2021](#)

garden or yard? Experienced garden volunteers will assist you in your selection and answer any questions you have about particular plants or the best choices for your garden or yard. Register below and check out the [flyer](#) for more information.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Upcoming Events



Tollgate Farm 4-H Club: Summer Sales Coming Soon

The kids in the Tollgate Farm 4-H 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. New this summer will be online sales of club products through the Tollgate Store. Here you will find farm stand favorites including Goat Milk Soap, Fruit Leather, Maple Craisin Granola and more! We are also looking forward to a sale table at the Spring Plant Sale. The club is hopeful for a return to outdoor in-person activities at the farm this summer and looking forward to a return to the farm for animal care and other club activities.

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is open to new members age 5 - 19. For more information on the Club, [email the club](#), visit their [facebook](#), or see their website below.

[VISIT THE CLUB'S WEBSITE](#)

Climate Science and YOU: For Ages 13-19: May 21, 4-5 pm

MSU Tollgate Farm is offering this **free** virtual Sustainable Stewards Series for those teens who want to explore how to be a strong environmental steward.

Climate Science and YOU - May 21, 2021 4-5 p.m. EST

What do you know about how climate change impacts you and how you impact climate change? Explore climate science with PhD candidate Lindsey Kemmerling of the Kellogg Biological Station as you explore your own carbon footprint and engage in conversation about how you can make a positive difference. If you would like to join other teens

in leadership role moderating the Q&A for this session, email .

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Learning Leadership Together June 3, 4-5 PM



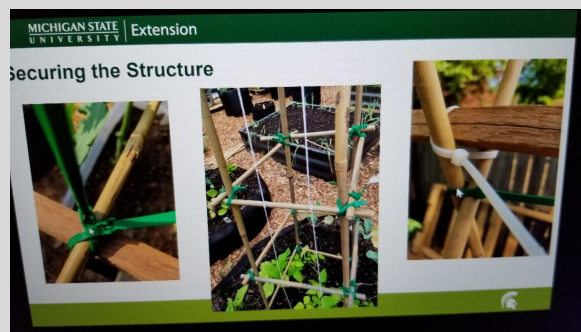
All teens ages 13-19 are invited to join us for our final spring virtual Tollgate steward/SIT training for music, fun, leadership development, and teambuilding at the All Steward/SIT Virtual Leadership Training June 3 at 4 PM. Hear the latest announcements about the stewards summer orientation and find the special teen leadership role that fits you.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

HomeGrown Gardening Series Taking Growing to New Heights June 12, 10 AM EST

Wayne County Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Deirdre Hope will show you how to construct trellises to help you grow a variety of veggies and share a wealth of vertical gardening methods and strategies. Join us for one or more sessions. Registrants may register and receive recorded sessions of any in the series!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



2021 Summer Camp Approved

As always, our top priority during the pandemic is



to protect the health and safety of our staff, guests, and community. We, as MSU Extension, recognize the important role that summer camp has on the lives of children-- including supporting their social, emotional, and physical development. However, we also understand the importance of taking action to lower the risk of COVID-19 spread. This is why we have developed a plan to host a modified MSU Tollgate Summer Camp at a reduced capacity.

For more information about the camps we plan to offer, when to expect registration to open, and frequently asked questions visit our camp webpage below. For specific camp questions feel free to contact Day Camp Coordinator, [Sara Mund](#).

[VISIT OUR CAMP WEBPAGE](#)

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](#)



Preparing for MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest: October 2-3, 2021

Plan to join us for the 2021 MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest this October 2nd and 3rd, 11 am – 5 pm. This fun-filled fall harvest festival is a farm-based celebration for all ages! Are you interested in being a part of the 2021 Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest volunteer team? We're excited to invite you to join a group of dedicated volunteers who help bring this fun fall community event to life. Our hope is that in-person programming is able to resume by fall with safety precautions in place. As more is known, the size and format of Pumpkinfest 2021 will be determined by university and state guidance related to Covid. Come for a shift, come for day or two, or join us to lead an area as key volunteer. Proceeds from Pumpkinfest help support educational programming at the farm. Join us to help make a difference! Extension Master



Gardeners, be sure to sign up for select roles marked 'EMG credit' to qualify for volunteer hours. If you are not currently a volunteer at MSU Tollgate Farm and want to learn more about becoming one, visit our [website](#).

SIGN UP NOW

News and Announcements

New Accessibility Rollable Walkway Arrives at MSU Tollgate Farm

As part of our Wheelchair Accessibility Initiative on Give Green Day, a new rollable walkway has arrived at MSU Tollgate Farm. This light weight walkway will allow people with limited mobility access to the fields, woods, and pastures of MSU Tollgate Farm. We look forward to more accessibility improvements in the future. Thank you again to all of our donors for supporting this important Initiative.



Updates from the Sustainable Agriculture Team

It must be almost summer because our first planting of tomatoes and peppers are in the ground!

We plant 2 successions of tomatoes and peppers for a longer harvest window. The first planting is planted early May into our caterpillar tunnels (see picture) and the second planting is planted 4 weeks later at the end of May. The caterpillar tunnels are a form of season extension as the tunnel insulates the plants from chilly nights allowing us to plant into them earlier in the season. We also hope to transition one of the tunnels at the end of the tomato season to grow fall greens for our Fall CSA!

Caterpillar tunnels are moveable structures that we

construct and deconstruct every season. The moveability of these structures allows us to rotate where we put the tomatoes and peppers each season. Crop rotation is a management strategy in which plants/plant families are rotated around and are not planted in the same space year after year. Crop rotation helps improve soil health, combat pest and weed pressure, and optimize available nutrients in the soil.

In the next few weeks, we will start trellising and pruning the tomatoes. This will become a weekly/biweekly task for the rest of the summer. By early August we will be swimming in tomatoes and peppers!

Saturday MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteer Work Days are Back!

The MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers have resumed Saturday group garden activity days with continued safety precautions. These activities days allow a group of up to 25 gardeners to tackle various projects around the farm under the direction of the area garden leads. We are excited that our volunteers are now able to enjoy interacting again while gardening. Interested in becoming a garden volunteer? Check out our volunteering page below.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Oakland County
Youth & Families

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY Extension May 2021



Martha Lawrence honored by Oakland County MSU Extension for 53 years of service to Michigan 4-H

As individuals and organizations across the county celebrated National Volunteer Week April 16-24, Martha Lawrence of Waterford is among fifty three volunteers honored by MSU Extension statewide in 2021.

"Volunteers are the backbone of so many MSU Extension programs," said Patrick Cuthrey, acting director for MSU Extension. "And these fifty three volunteers have truly gone above and beyond, giving their time and talent to our 4-H communities for half a century."

Lawrence first began volunteering with Michigan 4-H in 1968 as the leader and founder of the Riverside Bay Bees that met three nights a week from 1968-1972. In 1972, Martha moved to Jayco Elementary in Waterford to start the Jayco Sew-Sew 4-H Club, now the Jayco 4-H club, which met at Grayson Elementary until Covid-19 caused it to go remote in early 2020.

During her fifty three years of volunteer service, she has been involved in many programs and events, including the Oakland County 4-H Culinary Exchange, The Annual Oakland County 4-H Fashion Show, and the Oakland County Achievement Awards. However, her most cherished role is being the leader of the Jayco 4-H Club.

In 2017, Martha received Oakland County 4-H's highest recognition as a recipient of the Oakland County Lifetime Achievement Award in the inaugural class. She has helped thousands of youth learn valuable life skills during her time as a leader.

"If Oakland County 4-H had a M. Ruthmore for volunteers, Martha Lawrence would definitely be on it," said Jason Scott, Oakland County 4-H Program Coordinator. "Martha is one of the most selfless and genuine people I have ever met. When the pandemic lockdown started last spring Martha went straight to work sewing over 400 masks before she stopped counting."

Martha currently lives in Waterford, Michigan with her husband Al where she still enjoys sewing and crafting and spending time with her 5 grandchildren. She can't wait to get back in person with her 4-H kids.

In recognition of her service, Lawrence and other 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks.

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](#)

Opportunities and Spotlights

Meet our Staff and Volunteers May 2021

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 Richard Dumbleton, a Maple Sugaring Volunteer, and Nicole Bard, our new Multi-Media Communications Assistant and Farm Apprentice.

[READ MORE](#)

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS



Richard Dumbleton



MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner

Do you have kids at home looking for some fun hands-on seasonal activities? We have you covered! Each month we will feature a seasonal activity from the farm. It's spring time and we have you and your family set for fun plantings with our seed tape and seed bomb activities.

[GET THE ACTIVITIES](#)

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