



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU Tollgate Farm September 2021

Upcoming Events

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- [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 & Wagon Rides](#): October 9, 16, 23, 30, November 13, 20, December 4: 10 am – 3 pm
- [Seasonal Story Time](#): October 23: 10-11:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM
- [MSU Dairy Store Ice Cream Cart on the Farm](#): October 23: 11 AM - 4 PM
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Join us for Pumpkinfest 2021: October 2nd & 3rd: 11 am - 5 pm

Excitement is building for our 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](#), [Barton Malow](#), [The Goddard School of Novi II](#), and [Great Lakes Ace Hardware](#). So much fun to be had at this year's event including fishing, pumpkin picking, pumpkin painting, straw maze, pumpkin bowling, harvest story time, music, and lots of interactive learning activities about the farm and agriculture!

Entry costs \$5 per person, 2 years and under free. Tickets can be purchased for pumpkins, food, and select children's activities.

The proceeds from Pumpkinfest support educational programming and help schools and 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

Opportunities & Spotlights

- [MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Seed Dissection Activity](#)
- [Rent MSU Tollgate Farm for Your Next Event](#)

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

[SEE THE FLYER](#)

Come Join the Pumpkinfest Volunteer Team!

Every great event has a team of great people who make it happen. Fishing, concessions, welcome area, children's strawland, wagon rides, and many other volunteer roles are available. It takes a village to create a special place for the community to gather to celebrate fall and the harvest of local foods. Join the team that helps Pumpkinfest come to life! Fully outdoor event is October 2-3, 11 am - 5 pm. All community members 16 and up are welcome to volunteer! 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](#)

Sign Up Now for Our MSU Tollgate Farm Seasonal Story Time: October 23rd

Fall is here which means it's time for a Seasonal Story Time! Meet other grown-ups and kiddos while we sing songs, dance, and

Fall Storytime at the Farm

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2021**

read together about the fall season. Extend the fun by exploring and playing in our Children's Garden after the story. This program is designed for children ages 2-5 years old with a parent/caregiver and has a session from 10 - 11:30 AM and session from 1-2:30 PM. Children under 2 years old are welcome to accompany their parents and join in with the story/animal visit portions of the program. Cost is \$5 for each participant 2 years old and over.

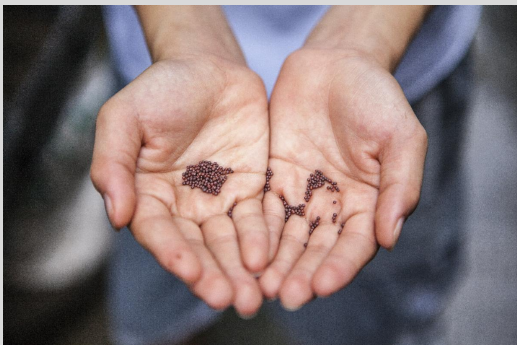
[REGISTER HERE](#)

**MSU Dairy Store Ice Cream
Available on October 23rd and 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 enjoy a wagon ride around the farm for \$5 a person (children under 2 are free)! We are also excited to welcome the [MSU Dairy Store](#) Ice Cream Cart on October 23rd from 11 AM - 4 PM. Check out our Shopify website on October 1st to preorder your farm goodies. Cash and credit will also be accepted onsite.



[VISIT THE FARM STORE](#)



Fall Evenings in the Garden Return to In-Person Format

COVID-19 UPDATE: We are planning for an in-person program in October-November. All participants, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask while indoors. Please do not attend any programs, meetings, or events if you feel ill.

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

Marc Boone owns a two-acre orchard consisting of 300 pawpaw trees located near Ann Arbor Michigan. A hobbyist turned local expert by commitment to knowledge and pursuit of growing the perfect pawpaw. Join as Marc describes soil requirements, location selection, pollination and fruit, care and maintenance, and choosing quality plants. Whether grown for their flowers in spring of fruits in the fall, a pawpaw tree could be the perfect addition to your home landscape.

November 11 - Mary Wilson- Garden Sized Trees and Shrubs for SE Michigan

Mary Wilson worked for Michigan State University Extension for 35+ years and served as the State Leader for the Extension Master Gardener Program. Gardeners are often overwhelmed by the plethora of plants available online and at garden centers. Join Mary to explore an array of superior trees and shrubs that are adaptable to difficult conditions in our gardens. Examine plants that perform well in sun/shade, wet/dry soils, clay/sand and are less prone to pest issues.

[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. For more information email [Ellen Koehler](#).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Calling All Teens! MSU Tollgate Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute Resumes This Fall

What does it mean to be a good steward at home, at school, and at the farm? How can environmental stewardship be a part of the farm? How can all careers and fields of study encompass sustainability? Join us for this leadership experience as we explore answers to these questions while you expand your ability to make a positive difference in the environment. This fun, challenging leadership summit is for teens ages 13-19 who love adventure. Includes a systems-thinking approach, a mentorship model, leadership roles at camp, an outdoor wilderness team-building experience, campus visits, a capstone sustainability action project, and a certificate of completion. Monthly meetings begin this Fall. Interested? Email [Ellen Koehler](#).

Financial aid process is available and MSU Tollgate welcomes all and strives to provide opportunities for youth and adults of all income levels to experience farm-based experiential learning. Assistance is determined based on need and SSLI applicants can learn more or apply [here](#).

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 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

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club Returns to the Michigan State Fair!

The Michigan State Fair offers many opportunities for our Tollgate 4-H Club members to showcase their work. We take sheep and goats to the fair to participate in showmanship and breed classes. Congratulations to our goat showmen for placing 1st and 2nd in their competitions! We are also proud of our scholarship winners who received 3 Urban Farming and 2 Home Arts scholarships. You can find samples of some of their State Fair project submissions [here](#). The club encourages our members to participate in both the Oakland County and Michigan State Fairs. Whether it's an Animal project or Home Arts, these projects are a journey. The kids need to research, plan, meet deadlines, and become subject matter experts. All of these are valuable skills for their future and confidence builders.



4-H began a new year 9/1/2021 and we are planning more animal projects and will be encouraging the kids to participate across as many project categories as they have time or interest.

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is open to new members age 5 - 19. We meet Wednesday evening and to chores on weekends

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



2021 Summer Camp Reflection

It is the middle of September and all the summer camp activities of 2021 have now come to a close—giving us time and the opportunity to reflect about our amazing summer. After over a year of virtual programming we were beyond grateful that 2021 in-person summer camp programs got approved. There were some changes from our past camps, however, regardless of these changes we came together, tried new things, and had an amazing time exploring, learning, and supporting each other!

[READ MORE](#)

MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Leadership Program 2021

This summer our MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Leadership Program along with our Summer Camps. This program offers teens a chance to enrich, mentor, and lead campers while gaining valuable leadership and life skills. This summer, our teens were even more critical in helping us adapt our summer camps in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Want to learn more about

this program? Continue with our blog article below.

[READ 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](#)



Opportunities and Spotlights

MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner

Looking for a fun and educational activity to do with your kids? We've got you covered with our seasonal activity in MSU Tollgate's Kid's Corner. Do you have dried beans at



home? Soak them and follow along with this activity to predict and identify the parts of a seed.

[GET THE ACTIVITY](#)



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



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