



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY | Extension

# MSU Tollgate Farm December 2021

## Upcoming Events

- [Holiday Lights at the Farm:](#) December 16-20
- [Wild Winter Break Camp Feb 21-22nd & STEAM Break Camp March 28-April 1st:](#) Registration Coming Soon!
- [2022 Tollgate Farm Camp Registration:](#) Registration Coming Soon!
- [Stewards Teen Leadership Program:](#) Registration Open!
- [Steward Sustainability Leadership Institute:](#) Registration Open!
- [MSU Dairy Store Cheese Boxes:](#) Pre-purchase today!
- [December Produce Share:](#) Now Available!
- [Lamb and Goat Meat Sales:](#) Now Available!
- [Perspectives: Culturally-Responsive Place-Based Education Virtual Panel Discussion Series:](#) First Thursdays of the Month: February 3rd: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- [MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Vegetable Gardening Series 2022:](#) Second Saturdays, 10 AM
- [Educational Programs for School and Community Groups 2022:](#) Reserve your Visit Today!
- [Virtual Educational Programs for School and Community Groups 2022:](#) Sign up Today!
- [Maplefest:](#) March 5-6th, 2022
- [Send a Goat Shouts:](#) All Year Long

## Holiday Lights at the Farm



## Join us for Holiday Lights at the Farm! December 16-20th

Holiday Lights at the Farm Sponsored by [ITC](#) December 16-20th, come celebrate the holiday season with a cruise through MSU Tollgate Farm! Guests will enjoy the farm from the comfort of their cars as they view unique holiday light displays from volunteers, sponsors, and community organizations. Add to the fun by purchasing cookies and hot chocolate for your drive around the farm. MSU Dairy Store cheese boxes are also [available for purchase](#). All proceeds will contribute directly to supporting the farms educational programming.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

- Lambing and Kidding are Just Around the Corner!
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## Opportunities & Spotlights

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## Upcoming Events



### Registrations Coming Soon for Wild Winter Camp and S.T.E.A.M. Break Camp!

Don't waste your school breaks staying inside-- join us outside as we embark on adventures learning and exploring with camp friends at the farm. A typical camp day will include making yummy and nutritious snacks, caring for our farm animals, sowing seeds, and investigating the natural world of field, forest, and pond. Our camps fill up quickly, so register early.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Summer Camp 2022 Registration Coming Soon!

Join us for a summer of farm adventures. Our farm and nature-based camps will provide your camper with a unique summer experience with opportunities for hands-on animal experience, cooking, and gardening. With eight weeks and fifteen themes to choose from, there is a camp suited for everyone. Learn something new; develop your horsemanship skills; be a citizen scientist; study water quality; milk a goat; catch a fish; paddle a canoe, and so much more. Our camps fill up quickly, so please register early!

[LEARN MORE](#)



Registration is OPEN for the Tollgate Stewards Teen Leadership Program!





What could be more fun than spending part of the summer outdoors working with kids all while learning to be a stronger leader? The Stewards-in-Training (SIT) program is the start of the progressive [Tollgate Stewards Teen Leadership Program](#). Stewards-in-Training 13-14 years of age learn by doing as they participate in farm camp as part camper, part helper. Stewards, ages 15-19, are the next step on the ladder of responsibility as they take on more leadership roles at camp. SITs and Stewards assist educational leaders with camp activities and serve as role models for campers. By being a steward or SIT, teens gain a deep understanding and knowledge of the farm as they earn community service hours and develop skills which will strengthen their academic and work careers.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Teens Taking Action: Tollgate Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute

High school youth from across metro Detroit have banded together to form the [Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute](#), an extended youth environmental leadership experience for ages 13-19. This in depth SSLI learning experience encompasses youth voice, research, outdoor learning, leadership roles at camp, youth adult partnerships, a mentorship model, and capstone sustainability action projects designed by SSLI candidates to bring about positive change. These strong young leaders are making SSLI come to life! SSLI stewards are seeking the help of sponsors to help further their work. Interested in learning how you can support their efforts? Email Ellen Koehler at [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu). For youth interested in joining us, register below.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



MSU Dairy Store Cheese Boxes

are Back!



Purchase your 2021 MSU Dairy cheese gift box featuring three classic favorites. Boxes make a great addition to any holiday celebration or a great gift. Each box contains a ½ lb block of MSU made cheddar, sharp cheddar and grass-fed white cheddar (1 ½ lb total). All proceeds will support the replanting of the MSU Tollgate Farm rose garden.

Pick up on December 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 during Holiday Lights at the Farm. Additional pick-up times can be scheduled starting after December 16th. Contact [tollgate@msu.edu](mailto:tollgate@msu.edu) to set-up a pick-up time.

**BUY AT THE FARM STORE**

## Calling All Veggie Lovers! The Sustainable Agriculture Program has one Last Opportunity for Fresh Local Vegetables in 2021

The December Produce Share offers seasonal goodies like winter squash, carrots, garlic, and honey, all sourced from local farms. If you've been interested in joining the CSA, this would be the perfect opportunity to sample what it is like to be a Tollgate CSA member! This is a one-time share celebrating the end of the 2021 season and the goodness of winter vegetables.

The perfect pairing to local veggies is a Tollgate Farm raised chicken! Add one to your order to pick up with your share.

Pickup is at Tollgate Farm on Tuesday, December 21, from 3–6 pm. Preorder yours today at our Farm Store. Shares are limited; order yours today!



**BUY AT THE FARM STORE**



## MSU Tollgate Meat Sale: Lamb and Goat Meat Available

MSU Tollgate Farm raised meat is the perfect addition to your holiday celebration or week night dinner! All of our lambs and goats are pasture-raised on our farm in Novi, MI. Whether you are new to eating lamb/goat or already a fan, our meat won't disappoint!

Supply is limited, so get your favorite cuts



before they're gone! All of our meats are frozen, so they must be picked up at the farm.

**BUY AT THE FARM STORE**



## Holiday Gift Idea: MSU Tollgate Farm HomeGrown Vegetable Gardening Series 2022: Second Saturdays, 10 AM

Looking for a special gift for that certain someone this holiday? If they love growing their own food or hope to learn how to do so, consider giving the gift of lifelong learning with the 2022 MSU Tollgate HomeGrown Gardening Second Saturday Series for new and experienced vegetable gardeners. Each session offers practical tips and the knowledge and expertise of educators from MSU Extension and beyond. Some sessions are fully remote and others are hybrid, which means the participant can choose to visit the farm for an in person program or zoom in from home. Sessions are recorded so that participants can also choose to view the recordings at their convenience. Register for the full series or choose individual sessions. Whether for you or a friend or family member, the MSU Tollgate HomeGrown Gardening Series makes a great gift!

**REGISTER HERE**

## Perspectives: Culturally Responsive Place-based Education Series

Formal and non-formal educators are invited to join us for this virtual panel discussion series to explore ways to better incorporate the perspectives of the many communities we serve. Educators will have a chance to deepen their teaching practice in an online space for open conversation and community.

**February 3: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. EST**  
**Disability and Place-Based Education in and Beyond the Classroom**

What does place-based education and outdoor education look like for disability communities? How can all educators better incorporate these perspectives into our teaching? Join us for a panel discussion moderated by Miriam Furlan Brighente, PhD, Doctoral student in Educational Studies at Eastern Michigan University and Program



Associate at [Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition \(SEMIS\)](#), with panelists Mark and Deb Prentiss co-founders of [Rising Stars Academy Post Secondary](#), Jason DeCamillis, a doctoral candidate at Eastern Michigan University and teacher consultant at Washtenaw ISD, and Patrick Smith, Director of Camping at [North Star Reach](#).

Register for one or more sessions. Recorded sessions are available to registrants. SCECHS are available for teachers. Fees help cover costs and provide stipends for panelists. Group discounts are available for 10 or more.

**REGISTER HERE**



## MSU Tollgate Farm Visits 2022: Educational Programs for School and Community Groups

Designed for diverse audiences and a variety of ages, school and community programs at MSU Tollgate Farm are interactive, educational, and fun. Aligned with education standards, our outdoor farm visits allow visitors to get to know life on the farm up close and personal. Students use the process of science to investigate phenomena taking place as they make connections to classroom learning. Opportunities exist for place-based action projects that encourage learners to make a positive difference in their world. To learn more about MSU Tollgate Farm visits or schedule an in-person farm visit for your class or group, click the button below or email Ellen Koehler at [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu).

**SCHEDULE YOUR FARM VISIT**

Interested in one of our virtual Learning Fresh from the Farm series for your class? Select program series are available in weeklong or weekly virtual formats.

**SCHEDULE A VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

Tollgate strives to provide opportunities for youth and adults of all income levels and welcomes all participants to experience farm-based experiential learning. The goal of the Tollgate financial aid process is to provide as many youth and adults as possible the opportunity to enrich learning and broaden their experiences. To learn more about how



## Maple Sugaring is Just Around the Corner

We love nothing more than to share our maple sugaring season with you. This 2022, we have two options to experience the sweet season, Maplefest 2022 on March 5-6th (save the date!) and maple sugaring school and community programs. Late February through March, we bundle up and trek out to the sugar bush with school and community groups for this hands-on program that investigates one of nature's sweetest treats. From tapping to tools to tasting, discover one of Michigan's best treasures. Explore the regional history of maple sugaring as you take a wagon ride to explore the sugar bush, the source of sap, and how to tap a maple. Visit the sugar shack as we investigate the science involved in making syrup and sample the results of the process firsthand! To schedule your program, click the button below or email Ellen Koehler at [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu). Stay tuned for more details on Maplefest 2022!

**SCHEDULE A PROGRAM**



## Goat Shout-Outs are a Unique Way to Share Holiday Cheer!

Stumped on what to get family or friends this holiday season? Send a message to a loved one or friend 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 holidays from our herd to yours!" or "Happy Birthday Jack. You are no longer a kid!", 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

**Lambing and Kidding are Just**

## Around the Corner!

The Tollgate 4-H club members look forward to end of year when we use a veterinary ultrasound to check the pregnancy status of the small ruminants on the farm. Sheep were checked mid October and the goats were checked in early December. This was a hands on activity with our members getting a chance to use the wand and to count babies on the screen. The happy news is that we anticipate around 10 lambs and 17 kids. It's looking like quadruplets for Sage the goat, certainly an over achiever!



Lambs are expected to arrive in January and kids are expected in March. Interested in joining the Tollgate 4-H Club? Find more information on their website below.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Oakland County  
Youth & Families

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY Extension

December 2021

**Create new traditions during the holidays that will last for generations**

What is culture? Dictionary's definition is "the sum of attitudes, customs and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another. Culture is transmitted, through language, material objects, ritual, institutions, and art, from one generation to the next." Often, people think of culture as a particular ethnic group.

Everyone has their own way of going through life. Take a look at your own culture and those around you, and maybe create some new traditions. By better understanding your own culture, hopefully you can understand and appreciate those around you.

Winter holidays are full of cultural traditions. All those traditions got started somewhere. Many times, the origin of those ideas have been lost when the people who create them pass on. Holidays are a great time to create new traditions with your friends and family. Here are some potential ideas to try:

Create a new decoration or ornament every year. You can add it to your own home or give them away as gifts and expand your tradition to other families. Creating the decorations and displaying them year after year can be a great holiday tradition. If you start this tradition, writing the year on the decoration can allow future generations to see how long the tradition has been going on.

Many traditions involve lights, but how about trying the opposite? Watch the sun go up or come down (or both) on the longest night of the year. You could spend this day with absolutely no electric lights. The family can play games, sing songs or play musical instruments without use of electricity.

Try foods from around the world. Shop online or in ethnic stores to taste things from other traditions. The advantage of doing this during the holidays is that with many people around, probably someone will like the new food, even if it doesn't have universal appeal.

Do you have any candy leftover from Halloween or homecoming parades? Usually, this is the stuff that no one likes anyway. Use

## 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

### Now Hiring! Event Coordinator & Transaction and Event Assistant at MSU Tollgate Farm

Join the MSU Tollgate Farm Team! We are now hiring for the following positions:

#### Event Coordinator (751705)

This position will coordinate private rental events, farm stand sales, public outreach events, and other business ventures needed to support the farm financially. Additionally, the position will process financial transactions such as invoicing, purchase orders, reimbursements, disbursement vouchers, and complete accompanying tracking and





reporting.

### Transaction and Event Assistant (751926)

This position will support the administrative and hospitality aspects of the educational programming and rental operations. Primary responsibilities include working rental events, including set-up and clean-up of buffets. The position will also be responsible for essential financial transactions for the farm and provide administrative support to the Farm Director. This is a part time on-call position that will work up to 20 hours per week depending on rental schedule with some consistent hours for administrative support. Scheduling takes places on an as needed basis and is dependent on seasonal program and rental needs.

To learn more or apply for one of these positions, click the button below and search the job posting number listed above.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### A Summer Job Opportunity Like None Other!

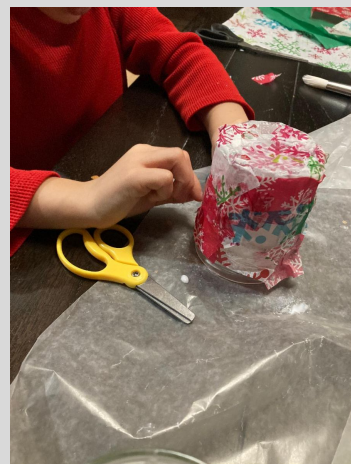
Come join our amazing summer camp team and positively impact the lives of the youth that we serve, as you spend your summer teaching, playing, and learning in the great outdoors. To learn more or apply for one of these positions, click the button below and search the job posting number 753007.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Winter Solstice Lantern

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. Celebrate the Winter Solstice by crafting a lantern for a Solstice winter hike.

[GET THE ACTIVITY](#)





## Rent MSU Tollgate Farm for your Next Event or Meeting

The MSU Tollgate Conference Center and historic barn are available for your next business meeting, bridal or baby shower, or private luncheon. Our event catering staff are available to meet all of your needs. If you are looking for a unique venue, Tollgate is the perfect choice for your special event or business meeting! Interested? Give us a call at 248-347-3860 ext 235.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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



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