



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU Tollgate Farm October 2021

Upcoming Events

- [Evenings in the Garden:](#) October 28, November 4 & 11: 6:30-8:30 PM
- [Fall Farm Stand & Wagon Rides:](#) October 23, November 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
- [Perspectives: Culturally-Responsive Place-Based Education Virtual Panel Discussion Series:](#) First Thursdays of the Month, Starting November 4: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- [Santa Visits and Holiday Farm Stand:](#) December 4-5: 12- 5 PM
- [School to Farm Visits: In Person Visits Resume at MSU Tollgate Farm](#)
- [MSU Tollgate Steward Sustainability Leadership Institute:](#) Begins Fall 2021
- [Decorators Needed For Holiday Lights at the Farm:](#) December 16-20th
- [Goat Shouts Are Back!](#) All Year Long

News & Announcements

- [Tollgate Farm 4-H Club Welcomes New Members](#)
- Fall Updates from the Sustainable Agriculture Team
- [Interested in Volunteering at Tollgate?](#)
- [October Oakland County 4-H Newsletter](#)



Pumpkins Galore: Pumpkinfest 2021!

MSU Tollgate Farm was host to over 3,400 visitors, volunteers, and exhibitors the weekend of October 2-3, 2021! Many smiles and the sounds of laughter and happy voices greeted those who came to celebrate fall on the farm at our annual harvest festival. Historic baseball, a u-pick pumpkin patch, educational exhibits galore, music, harvest story time, farm animals, fishing, delicious snacks, and lots of children's activities filled the farm for a fun community event.

It is through the generous support of our sponsors that MSU Tollgate Farm is able to make a powerful positive difference in the lives of others. Adults and kids are able to participate in place-based STEM programs and camps with the help of funds raised through the MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest. Kudos to lead sponsors [Vibe Credit Union](#) and [Barton Malow](#) as well as our key area sponsors [Weingartz](#), [Ascension](#), [The Goddard School of Novi II](#), [94.7 WCSX](#), and [Great Lakes Ace Hardware](#).

So many dedicated volunteers help bring Pumpkinfest to life by serving in a variety of roles as part of the Pumpkinfest team. Teens and

Opportunities & Spotlights

- [MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Leaf Chromatography](#)
- [Rent MSU Tollgate Farm for Your Next Event](#)

adults brought their enthusiasm and energy to help in the pumpkin patch, children's area, concessions, and welcome center, as well as every aspect of the festival. We sincerely thank our special Pumpkinfest volunteers for their time and support.

We also thank our in kind donors for their generous support. We are able to provide a hospitality center extraordinaire for our hard-working volunteers and staff through the help of the following:

- Wixom Meijer
- George Samra State Farm
- Novi Coffee and Tea
- Novi Home Depot
- Leo's Coney Island Commerce Township
- California Pizza Kitchen Novi
- Noodles and Company Novi
- Panera's Novi Road
- Panera's 12 Mile and Halsted
- Buffalo Wild Wings Orchard Lake Road
- Honey Baked Ham of Novi
- Jersey Mike's Subs of Novi
- 2 Booli Farmington Hills
- Jet's Pizza of Novi
- Kerby's Coney Island of Novi
- Grazing by Way
- La Vie

Because of the sheer dedication, hard work, and contributions of our amazing volunteers, in kind donors, sponsors, and staff, Pumpkinfest 2021 was a success. Thank you to all who worked together to create something larger than any one of us could have accomplished on our own. We look forward to seeing you all at the Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest 2022!



Upcoming Events

Pumpkinfest 2021 Survey: We Need YOUR Feedback!

Did you attend Pumpkinfest 2021? Please take a few moments to fill out our survey and let us know about your experience. Your feedback is appreciated and helps us improve year after year!



[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

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 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. Younger siblings 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 23, November 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. Cash and credit will be accepted onsite.

[VISIT THE FARM STORE](#)

Fall 2021 Evenings in the Garden are switching back to a zoom format. \$15 per session. Session will be recorded and available after the sessions.

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



Perspectives: Culturally-Responsive Place-Based Education Virtual Panel Discussion Series

MSU Tollgate Farm is hosting a virtual professional development panel discussion series for formal and non-formal educators about learning to better incorporate the perspectives of those with whom we work in schools and educational programs. Moderators and panelists from each community provide a chance for educators to deepen their teaching practice in a safe online space for open conversation and community. Please share with your formal

and non-formal educator friends. SCHECHS are available for teachers.

Perspectives: Culturally-Responsive Place-Based Education will begin November 4th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, with a session on indigenous perspectives & experiences of maple sugaring especially as they connect to schools and place-based education centers.

Upcoming sessions include:

- November 4 – Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives and Experiences of Maple Sugaring in Place-based Teaching and Learning
- December 2 - Incorporating Black Perspectives in Place-Based Teaching and Learning
- February 3 – Disability and Place-based Education In and Beyond the Classroom
- March 3 - Engaging with LGBTQ+IA Communities in PBE in Formal and Non-Formal Settings
- April 7 - A Latinx Lens: Incorporating Latinx Perspectives through Place-Based Educational Programming
- May 5 -Incorporating Asian Principles, Practices, and People in Community- and Place-Based Learning

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Santa Visits and Holiday Farm Stand: December 4-5: 12- 5 PM

Meet Santa on the Farm December 4-5 from 12-5 PM. \$10 per person (age 2+) admission includes visiting with Santa, wagon-ride, and meeting the goats (who needs elves when Santa has goats). Registration required.

No admission needed to purchase drinks, snacks, poinsettia, holiday wreaths, and other farm products. Masks required indoors.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Learner-Centered Farm Visits for Schools and Community Groups

Come explore the forest, fields, pond, and barns at historic Tollgate Farm as you investigate science phenomena in this living laboratory. Using the process of science and collaborative learning, get to know the farm as you and your students engage in student-



directed standards-aligned STEM investigations. Contact koehle43@msu.edu for more info.

School and Community Programs include:

- Winter on the Farm and the Mystery of Energy (February through March)
- The Science and History of Maple Sugaring (Late February - March)
- Embryology (April - early June)
- From Sheep to Sweater (Mid-April - May)
- Spring into Farming (April - May)
- The Journey of Water (Late April – early June)
- Plants and Their Partners (Late April – early June)
- Water and Land: The Connection (Late April – early June)
- Ecosystem Exploration (March – early June)
- Harvest Farm Ecology (Fall)
- Trees Program (Fall)

A Tollgate financial aid process is [available](#) for schools. For more information email [Ellen Koehler](mailto:Ellen.Koehler).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute For Ages 13-19

So, what is this sustainability thing really all about? How does a young leader create positive sustainability outcomes? What does it mean to be a good steward at home, at school, at the farm? How do all careers and fields of study encompass sustainability? Join us as we explore answers to these questions and expand our ability to make a positive difference in the world around us. This fun, challenging leadership summit is for teens ages 13-19 who love adventure. A strong addition to your college application, SSLI is an in-depth leadership experience which includes a systems-thinking approach, a mentorship model, leadership roles at camp, an outdoor wilderness team-building experience, a campus visit, a capstone sustainability action project, and a certificate of completion. Interested in learning more? Email koehle43@msu.edu. Registration coming soon.

LEARN MORE



Decorators Needed for Holiday Lights on the Farm 2021:

December 16-20th



MSU Tollgate Farm 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 3-15th. 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.

[LEARN MORE](#)

We aren't Kidding Around! Goat Shout-Outs are the Best for your Special Occasion

Send a 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 Welcomes New Members

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is open to new members. Come and learn about livestock and poultry. The club focuses on the farm as a business, funding our activities through sales of products our members make. Participation in the Oakland County Fair and



Michigan State Fair is also encouraged

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](#).

Fall Updates from the Sustainable Agriculture Team

The Sustainable Agriculture Program wrapped up the final distribution of our 20-week Summer CSA on October 6th. We had another great summer with our members! On October 13th we started our 8-week Fall CSA. While the Summer CSA is highlighted with tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, summer squash and cucumbers, the Fall CSA has a focus on storage vegetables like onions, winter squash, potatoes, parsnips, beets and carrots. Interested in joining us for the 2022 Summer CSA? Email MSUE.TollgateCSA@campusad.msu.edu to be put on the waitlist. Registration will launch early 2022.

In addition to harvest for the CSA, the crew is busy readying the farm for winter. All of the summer crops like tomatoes and peppers have been pulled and composted, our caterpillar tunnels have been deconstructed, our irrigation is rolled up, and we are deep into planning for next season. In the coming weeks we are looking forward to the last big project of the 2021 Season, planting garlic!



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.

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

October 2021

FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHES

Written by [Janice Schmitt](#)

Food safety tips for back to school lunches

Back to school is a very busy time in households with preschool or school-age children. Even amidst the stress of morning hustle, it's important to remember that children who eat well do better in school. So not only is morning breakfast critical for kids heading off to school, so is what goes in your child's lunch box.

Now that school is back in session, chances are you may pack a cold lunch some of the time. Keeping those nutritious foods safe from bacterial growth is a challenge, though. A significant amount of time passes from early morning when the lunch leaves your home until your child's lunch time at school. Keeping perishable foods cold during this entire time is critical to preventing bacterial growth. Michigan State University Extension recommends these tips to help keep those [packed lunches safe](#):

- Always start your lunch packing and food prep with clean hands and clean surfaces to reduce the risk of contamination. Get your child involved in packing their lunch, and ensure that everyone washes their hands for at least 20 seconds before beginning. This will decrease the spread of bacteria.
- Perishable foods — such as leftovers, casseroles, soups, meats, moist sandwiches, eggs, dairy products and vegetables — must be kept cold below 40 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent bacteria from multiplying and contaminating food.
- Add a cold source to your child's lunch. Use an insulated cooler bag, or consider freezing part of the lunch such as water bottles, yogurt, pudding, applesauce or a 100 percent juice box, and pack it next to the perishable food right before your child leaves for school.
- Use an insulated lunch bag. Empty and wash the bag each night after use.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables under running water and dry them before adding them to the lunch box.
- Pack lunches the night before and store them in the refrigerator to keep them cold and safe. This also makes the morning rush easier.
- If a refrigerator is available at preschool or school, remind your child to put their lunch inside.
- Remind children not to eat any foods leftover from lunch after school on the bus or at home if they have not been kept cold since lunch time.

Also remember if packing safe lunches isn't convenient in your household, school lunches provided by the school are a helpful and free or low-cost option. If you would like to know if your child is eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals, contact the school food service director or your school principal.

Opportunities and Spotlights



MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Leaf Chromatography

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. Ever wonder why leaves change color in the fall? Find out about the hidden hues that hide inside leaves with this fun experiment.

GET THE ACTIVITY



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.