



NETWORK

Bringing Knowledge to Life!

MAY 2014

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

4-H SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

Thirteen 4-H Scholarship were awarded this year. Each of the candidates provided a written essay and were interviewed by a panel of judges.

Congratulations to:

Amelia Arting—earning the Marie Seibarth Memorial Scholarship \$400.00.

Nick Beaudrie and Hannah Haise—earning the Charles Knabus Memorial Scholarship \$500.00 each.

Ian Darling and Daniel Henes—earning the Larry See Memorial Scholarship \$500.00.

Ashley Epoch—Schuon Memorial scholarship for Small Animals \$500.00.

Piper Hopple—Schuon Memorial Scholarship for Large Animals \$500.00.

Danielle Himburg and Alexandra Reau—The Academic Scholarship—\$250.00 each.

Skylar Keith—Nancy Robbins Memorial Scholarship—\$300.00.

Charlie Martin—Robert Manwell Memorial Scholarship—\$500.00.

Paxton Kreps and Toni Piedmonte-Lang—the Larry Kreps Memorial (in memory of Grandpa Larry Kreps and Larry Kreps III) \$500.00.

WOOPS

Our apologies to Karissa Lomas – In last month's Network I wrote her sister's name for winning the Mark of Excellence Award this year. You should read the wonderful essay she wrote. It is truly an inspiration to read and a great testimony to the 4-H program. **Congratulations Karissa!**

HEADS UP!

**Our county email (msue58@msu.edu)
will be changing soon.**

**Our new email will become
msue.monroe@county.msu.edu**

Monroe County,
Michigan State University
and
Monroe County
Conservation District

This publication is provided to
assist you in receiving the in-
formation necessary to enhance
the quality of life for you and
your family

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For more information, visit our website at www.msue.msu.edu/monroe

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.

CATHERINE ACERBONI,
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TREE WATERING TIPS

DNR forester Kevin Sayers offers the following tips for maintaining healthy trees in this time of drought stress.

“Drought stress might not kill trees outright, but it weakens them and makes them more susceptible to other problems such as winter injury or secondary disease and insect problems later. It’s important to recognize some common symptoms of drought stress on trees and how to provide needed care. Being proactive with watering will help ensure these trees survive until adequate rainfall returns.”

Symptoms of drought stress:

- In deciduous trees, leaves may curl or droop, turn brown at the margins, fall prematurely and exhibit early autumn coloration.
- In evergreen trees, needles may turn to yellow, red and eventually brown.
- In severe or prolonged droughts. Leaves may drop prematurely or become brown and remain attached. Twigs or entire branches may experience dieback.

When watering trees, do:

- Prioritize the plants that need watering first and most often. Newly planted trees should be a priority, as should high-value trees.
- Provide long, slow soaking to saturate the soil.
- Water newly planted trees weekly and established trees every two to three weeks.
- Water under the tree’s dripline (from the trunk to the edge of the tree canopy).
- Provide 1 inch of irrigation per week (depending on recent rainfall) using the following methods:
- Sprinkler: Place an empty container or rain gauge nearby to measure about one inch of irrigation.

- Hand watering via hose: let water run slowly until the ground is saturated 10” or 12” deep and moist near the base of small trees or at various points under the dripline of large trees.
- Five-gallon bucket: Most newly-planted trees need 5 to 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter (at knee height) each week.
- Soaker or trickle hoses: Saturate the soil under the dripline to at least 10” or 12” deep.
- Use mulch to help retain soil moisture and save water. Apply 3” to 4” of organic mulch under the tree canopy, but not touching the trunk.

Don’t

- Water during the middle of the day. Most of the water applied at the hottest and most windy time of day is immediately lost to evaporation.
- Use mist sprinklers, As much as 70% of water may be lost to evaporation.
- Water frequently and lightly. This may help the lawn stay green, but is ineffective for most trees.
- Use fertilizer. Fertilizer salts can cause root injury when soil moisture is limited.

Taken from Michigan Arbor Day Alliance



Monroe Conservation District Seed Sale

Friends membership discount 5% on orders \$500.00 or less.

For prices call Gene Brost 734.770.1764

Miscellaneous Forage Mixes

Waterway Mix 40-50lb/ac

50% tall fescue

50% Perennial Ryegrass VNS

Soilbuilder Blend 10-12lb/ac

60% Mammoth Red Clover

30% yellow Blossom Sweet Clover

10% Alsike Clover

N-Vest® Cover Crop Mixes

Groundbreaker Mix 30-35lb/ac

Austrian Winter Peas, GroundHog Radish

Crimson Cover-All Mix 17-20lb/ac

Crimson Clover, GroundHog Radish

NutriBuilder Mix 21lb/ac

Bruiser Annual Ryegrass

Crimson Clover

GroundHog Radish

Forager Mix 109lb/ac

Jerry Oats

Winter Rye

Appin Turnips

Deer & Wildlife Mixes

Forage Oats & Wildlife Sunflowers

Buck Forage Oats 50# bag 100-120lbs/ac

Charisma Forage Oats 50# bag 75lbs/ac

(grows taller, later, and healthier plants than Buck)

Sunflower, Peredovik food plots, 5-19lb/ac

Wild Game Mix 35-50lb/ac

30% German Foxtail Millet

20% Hybrid Pearl Millet

5% Buckwheat

5% Peredovik Sunflower

25% Hyb. Grain Sorghum

10% Korean Lespedeza

5% Jumbo Ladino Clover

CISCO Annual Crops

Austrian Winter Peas 30-40lb/ac

Barley, Spring - **Excel** 48lb/ac

Canadian Field Peas, Packer

Milkmaker Triticum/Pea Mixture 50/50 100-120 lb/ac

Partner Pea/Oat Mixture 75/100 lb/ac

Radish, GroundHog 5-8 lb/ac

Radish, Soilbuster 5-8 lb/ac

Rye, Winter – Graze King 90 50 #bag

Triticale, Spring – Galaxy – 50# bag 100-120 lb/ac

Miscellaneous Seeds

Turnips, Appin Forage 3-5 lb/ac

Turnips, Barkant 3-5 lb/ac

Turnips, Pasja Forage 3-5 lb/ac

Turnips, Purple Top 2-3 lb/ac

Alfalfa, grass and clover varieties upon request



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THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF BEING A PARENT

PARENTING IS THE HARDIEST BUT MOST
REWARDING JOB YOU WILL HAVE!

Parenting is the hardest but most rewarding job you will have! It can be tricky. Often, our children are hard to understand. Sometimes, no matter how hard we try, it seems that everything we do just doesn't work. By learning more about children at each age and stage as well as talk with other parents, we can learn new techniques to make us more effective as parents.

There are two qualities that are most important for children and adults to develop. The first quality is to be strong. Children need to learn decision making, responsibility and trustworthiness. In return they will be better prepared to handle difficult situations. The second quality is to be kind. Learning to love and be loved, to care about others, and respectfulness will create a positive conscious. These qualities can be taught and modeled on a daily base just by being aware that this is your ultimate goal you wish to accomplish with your parenting.

So what are some things you can do to develop that strong and kind child? Make sure you create a world that is safe and predictable. Children need to have an environment where they can explore and experiment with safe limits. For example, childproof your home so that they can explore safely and you can limit the number of "no's" said in the home. As your children get older, surround them with good role models that give them opportunities to try new things with safe boundaries appropriate to their age. With these opportunities children will find that the important people in their lives are there consistently and treat them with respect.

If children are to become a kind, loving person, they need to see their world as a caring and sensitive place. When parents take the time to understand their children's needs and are helpful, this creates a loving environment. Get into the habit of telling each other you love them at least once a day. Take the time to use common courtesies and as well as teach them. If your home environment is unkind and selfish, where everyone is out for themselves, children will do what they need to do to survive. Often these behaviors are not loving and kind.

Michigan State University Extension offers a parenting program, Nurturing Families that is offered across the state. The object of this program is to create an atmosphere in families' homes that are strong and caring. For classes in your area you can go the MSUE calendar of events.

When reviewing how we are doing as parents, we can ask ourselves two basic questions: Am I helping my child develop into a strong person by setting reasonable rules and consistently enforcing them? And am I helping my child develop into a caring person by being loving and sensitive?

Your hard work will pay off. Reading about parenting, taking parenting classes and talking with parents who parenting techniques you admire will help you be more effective. It does time and effort but well worth the joy it will bring as you watch them grow up to be healthy and happy adults.

FREE TESTING

PRESSURE CANNING TESTING IS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR FREE.

Feel free to either call for an appointment to have yours tested or you may drop off the canner lid and gauge and we will call you once it has been tested.

Go to <http://nchfp.uga.edu/> for up to date food preservation information.



UTILITY COMPANIES OFFER MORE THAN ENERGY

UTILITY COMPANIES OFFER A NUMBER OF SERVICES RELATED TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION.

Most, if not all, of the Michigan utility companies offer a number of services related to energy efficiency and conservation. By visiting utility company websites, homeowners and renters may be surprised to see what is offered in the spirit of saving money and energy.

The two largest utilities in the state, DTE Energy and Consumer Energy, offer a number of services for their customers. These services range from rebates to energy audits. Here is a rundown on what they have to offer.

DTE Energy has rebate offers to recycle old appliances or for purchasing ENERGY STAR® appliances. Their site also offers many tips, calculators and videos on how to more effectively conserve energy in homes and or apartments. Home audits and consultations are another service that DTE Energy provides. These audits range from an online audit to an opportunity to hire a professional energy auditor. Currently, DTE Energy is offering free in-home audit consultations to their customers. This consultation may include ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs, water-saving faucet aerators for kitchen and bath, water-saving showerheads, and water heater pipe wrap depending what services they provide.

Consumer Energy offers rebates similar to DTE Energy. They have a Home Energy Analyzer that customers may use to understand their usage.

A consortium called, Efficiency United, has been created to offer energy efficiency and conservation services for customers of smaller utilities. Efficiency United consists of eighteen Michigan utility providers which offer the following energy conservation and optimization services. The consortium offers education about using energy resources more efficiently, promotes cost-effective solutions, and gives rebates for reducing energy use.

Take some time to visit a utility company website. These treasure troves of information share many suggestions for saving money through more efficient use of energy and wiser conservation practices.

Other websites that provide information on energy efficiency and conservation programs:

<http://www.michigansaves.org/>

http://www.extension.org/home_energy

MSUE RESOURCES

Toll-free Lawn & Garden Hotline

888-678-3464

Monday – Friday

9-12 noon and 1-4:00 pm

Staffed by advanced MSUE Master Gardeners

Ask an Expert

Widget on Gardening in MI

(www.migarden.msu.edu)

Staffed by MSUE MGs and staff

Accessible 24 hours / day



Gardening in Michigan Website

www.migarden.msu.edu

Resources:

Videos
Internet gardening programs
Tip sheets
MSUE Home Gardening News
Upcoming programs

Soil Test Self-Mailer / Interpretation Website

Self-Mailer: <http://bookstore.msue.msu.edu/>

Interpretation Website: <http://www.msusoiltest.com/>



**PARENTING
AND
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMS
SPRING 2014**

**NURTURING
PARENTING
ONGOING CLASS**

Every Tuesday
11:30 am—12:30 pm

Arthur Lesow
Community Center
120 Eastchester
Monroe, MI 48161

COST: FREE

Pre-register required
734 240-3179

Certificate of completion is
awarded once six classes are
completed.

**BUILDING
STRONG
ADOLESCENTS:
SETTING LIMITS
WITH TEENS**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
6:30 am—8:30 pm

MSU Extension—Monroe
963 S. Raisinville Rode
Monroe, MI 48161

COST: \$5 per person

Pre-register required
734 240-3179

WINNIE WEBB
Breastfeeding Peer
734 240-3178
webbw@anr.msu.edu

**MOTHER
TO
MOTHER
PROGRAM**

Breastfeeding



**Makes a Healthier
World**

FATHERS HOLD KEY TO BREASTFEEDING SUCCESS

In the National Initiative for children's Healthcare Quality (NICH), March 14th newsletter, a new article discusses the important roll of fathers in breastfeeding success. The article highlights the Dallas, Texas Peer Dad Program. The following is an excerpt of this article by Kristie Velarde.

A woman's decision to breastfeed typically occurs long before labor and delivery – sometimes even before she is pregnant. But her commitment to carry through frequently hinges on the opinion of someone often overlooked in breastfeeding education – the baby's father.

Studies have shown that mothers typically decide to bottle feed because they have uncertainty about having enough breast milk supply and concerns about their ability to breastfeed when returning to work. One major concern, however, is a mother's perception of the father's attitude toward breastfeeding.

"If the father is indifferent, she will breastfeed some of the time, but when the father is pro-breastfeeding, she will breastfeed almost all of the time, says Muswamba Mwamba, IBCLC, a peer dad coordinator at the City of Dallas Woman, Infants and Children Program (WIC).

A father's participation in the decision to breastfeed, his awareness of the health benefits for mom and baby and his approval are critical to a mother breastfeeding after leaving the hospital, particularly for women with lower incomes. Studies have shown that when men are informed about the benefits and skilled in ways to support the mother, outcomes improve.

That's why the city of Dallas is investing resources in programs that include fathers in breastfeeding education, such as its Peer Dad Program. The Peer Dad initiative pairs future fathers – identified through women receiving services in the clinic – with WIC-trained peer mentors, all fathers of breastfed babies whose partners were enrolled in WIC. The peer dads are trained to inform, coach and offer support, focusing on prenatal education and support after hospital discharge.

To get breastfeeding assistance in Monroe County please contact Winnie Webb, BF Peer Counselor at 734 240-3178.

MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION

Flower cards will be sold for \$25.00 – now at Deb's Flowers. There are some still available.

Spring Fling – May 6, 2014 – Eat at 6:00 pm. This year's Spring Fling will be held at the Ida United Methodist Church. Speaker will be Helen Lauterwassar. Our theme is "Tea Party". Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. We will be collecting your recipes for our 2014 Fair Cookbook. Don't forget to bring yours!

Officers Election for Council will be held in May. Running so far; President – Betty Curley, Vice-President – Maggie Lee, Secretary - ?, Treasurer – Barbara Zieski

2014 Monroe County Fair – We will have a small table in the Women's building to sell our new cookbooks.

Bras for Hancock – Several bags of gently used bras were donated to this program.

Our April lesson was given by Rosemary McCrea on how to create a Soup Cozy.

Lesson for our May meeting will be by the Fellowship Friends.

Next meeting date is May 20th. REMEMBER, the time has changed for this meeting. We will be meeting at 10:00 instead of 10:30.

JUDY S. SEE
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PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Junior Livestock takes great pride in marketing good quality meat. In order to continue to insure our customers with a good product, they ask that one person from each family attend the meeting. This is the last in the Quality Assurance Meeting for members who will be selling Beef, Sheep or Swine at the 2014 Monroe County Fair. All members attending will be given the PQA test. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 6th at 7:00 p.m., at the 4-H Activity Center. Reservations are not required, but attendance will be taken. Everyone who attends will be eligible for the Monroe County JLA Member Card.



EXPLORATION DAYS ORIENTATION

It's hard to believe. There aren't going to be many 4-H members left in Monroe during Exploration Days. We have a wonderful problem; this year we have been able to again reach a large number of 4-H members and leaders to attend Exploration Days. Staff, both professional and volunteer has been working steadily to get your options and return your materials.

We have scheduled an orientation, which all delegates **MUST ATTEND**. The meeting, which will also include chaperone responsibilities, will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday June 4th at the Activity Center on the Fairgrounds. At this meeting you will get your room assignments, arrange for your transportation and cover the rules, which be part of the 2014 Exploration Days.

We will discuss how members are assigned to adult chaperones, and will welcome the input of both adults and members, as the schedule is determined. Again this year we have high expectations of our delegates and chaperones and we want to prepare them so they go to Michigan State to have a good time, learn some new skills and have a positive experience.

It is very important that all members are in attendance and that parents understand the rules and requirements for both Exploration Days and the Slow Spokes.

ARE YOU A SLOW SPOKER?

If you are planning on riding your bike to Michigan State - then you need to know the following information.

Practice Rides - The practice rides have been set for this year. The first ride was being held on May 17th and the second ride will be June 1st.

You can get all of the information at mcslowspokes-69ask@wiggiomail.com. If you have never ridden on the Slow Spokes it is mandatory that you attend one or both of these sessions. Both of these rides will be for 50 miles and will cover different roads. Please call the 4-H Office if you have questions. The planning committees are setting the routes. Practice rides are important as they not only determine if you are in shape, but also is your bike ready for a 127-mile ride! You **MUST** wear a helmet on all 4-H rides.

Keep in mind – that you are expected to ride, rain or shine - plan on doing the first ride if possible, and then if it rains, you at least have a back-up date. If you plan on the second ride and it rains – you get wet!

FAIR ENROLLMENTS

School may not be over, but you **MUST** think FAIR already. Your Community Leader has received all of the materials for members to complete in order for them to exhibit at the 2014 Fair. Members should complete all of the paperwork and return it to their leaders, no later than June 13th. It is the responsibility of the Community Leader to submit all registrations from their club. If you have questions, please call the Extension Office, the Fair Superintendent that works with the areas in question, or your Community Leader. Remember - **Use the back pages from the premium catalog - THE PAGES WITH THE CLOVERS. We have tried to make the premium catalog easier to read and understand.** All 4-H pages have small clovers on the top of each page; these indicate the 4-H divisions. The classes in the front of the premium catalog are the Open Classes and if a member registers for 4-H using open numbers they will not receive premium and entries will not appear in the judging books.

BROILER CHICKS

Monroe County 4-H members will have until May 7th to order Broiler Chicks for exhibition and sale at this year fair. The Broiler workshop will also be held on May 7th— beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center. You will have the opportunity to meet the poultry superintendents and learn first hand what is expected to raise a potential champion pen for the 2014 fair.

It will work well for you to order your chicks and get instructions on how to successfully raise a market project for the fair. The chicks this year are \$1 .25 each and will be picked up at Hachman's in Temperance. Chicks not picked up will be sold. Members will also be able to get the guidelines for completing the broiler project when the chicks are picked up. You may also order chicks by contacting Barbara Siebarth, Poultry Superintendent. 269-2178

Small animal project members are reminded that they are required to attend one Small Animal Workshop each year. If you have not ordered your ducks yet you can also them at this meeting. Ducks are \$2.75 each.

4-H ROYALTY

The youth who are chosen as the 4-H Royalty have found that they are asked to represent the 4-H Program and the other 4-H members many times throughout their reign. Delaney Preston, Daniel Henes, Dominique Milkovich, and Noah Doederlein, have taken on some major responsibilities and continue to be excellent examples of the Monroe County 4-H Program and its outstanding youth.

The selection of the 4-H King and Queen has been happening about as long as the 4-H Program has been active in the County. This will be the 21st year that we have had a Prince and Princess to share the responsibilities.



As we begin the search for new 4-H Royalty, please be aware of the following rules:

- King and Queen - Candidates must be between the ages of 13 to 19 years of age. Members who will reach their 20th birthday in 2014 are not eligible to run.
- Prince and Princess - candidates must be between the ages of 9 and 12. Their major responsibility will be to reign at Kid's Day.

Members selected to represent their club or Association must be currently enrolled in the club they will represent. Interviews will be held on Tuesday evening, July 15th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. Members will also have the opportunity to be in the Monroe County Fair Parade, and to be a part of the royalty festivities at the Fair on Thursday evening.

A club may select as many candidates as they would like to have represent them. Clubs are encouraged to select candidates for King, Queen, Prince and Princess. Many clubs will present their candidates with a banner, which proclaims them as royalty. All clubs are encouraged to recognize members in this way.

Please submit your candidate's names on the special form provided in your Fair Packet or call the Extension 4-H Office by July 10th with the names of your nominees.

MARKET LIVESTOCK TAGS

If one of the project animals loses a tag, please call your superintendent immediately.

Beef -Gary Drodtt – 734-269-2276

Sheep – Larry Hammons - 734-856-4902

Swine - Ray Kuehnlein - 734-242-0613

The market specie superintendents are going to do random checks of beef, sheep and swine projects this year. Approximately five to six facilities will be visited for each species

SHARE – THE – FUN

In April 4-H members began competing for the privilege to perform at the County Share-the-Fun Program. After seeing several exceptional acts, we were guaranteed that the program on Friday evening, May 2nd would be very enjoyable. The County Share-the-Fun will be coordinated by the Bedford District Leaders Association and was held at the 4-H Activity Center on the La-Z- Boy Stage. We would like to congratulate the acts and the emcee winner that was awarded that evening.

Our members have learned poise, self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, and teamwork - in addition to other skills, as they participated in the Share-the-Fun activity.

The emcee winner, from Custer District – was Brianna Linkfield

Winning acts included

Treasure Hunters – “Island Parody”

Elisabeth Brockman - “Castle on the Cloud”

Claudia Paddy – “It’s Called Love”

Alexis Fisher – Bandstand Booger

Raisinville Wranglers – “The Missing 4-H Project”

4 – H GRADUATION

If you are graduating this year from high school, we would like to invite you and your parents to a 4-H Open House on Monday, May 13th at the 4-H Activity Center. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. the guests will enjoy a buffet luncheon; some fun activities and each graduate will receive a small token gift to recognize their accomplishments.

Invitations have been mailed. Reservations are required. Each senior is asked to bring a copy of his or her senior picture so that it can be displayed on the bulletin board. If you have not received an invitation just call the office and make a reservation. We need reservations by May 9th.



MONROE COUNTY CLOVER DAYS !

The Monroe County 4-H Council has planned an exciting three days for Monroe County 4-H members and for county youth who would like to explore what 4-H is all about on July 9th, 10th, and 11th.

“Each day will be different and will offer youth a variety of experiences.

Wednesday and Thursday the schedule will be from- 10:00 – 2:00. Crafts, games, and fun activities will be part of the first two days. All registered members will get lunch at noon.

The schedule will change on Friday – starting at 2:00 and going to; 5:00 with a snack in the afternoon. At 5:30 a dinner will be served for the whole family, followed by entertainment by the campers and a recognition program for participants.

The program is open to youth who are 7 and older as of January 1st of 2014. The cost is \$10.00 for all three days, or \$5.00 for each day if you cannot attend all three days. The dinner on Friday evening will be \$2.00 per person, for each non-participant.

Registrations must be received by June 15th. Registrations are available at the 4-H Office. Questions – call Judy at the 4-H Office 734-240-3174.

BUY A BRICK

Did you place a Brick in the 4-H Walk last summer? It's not too late to leave a permanent symbol of your support of the 4-H Program. The 4-H Council will again be taking orders bricks for this year's dedication program, at the opening of Fair.

An 8"x8" brick, with up to five lines of engraving costs \$150. The standard 4"x8" brick will cost \$100 and have three lines.

Forms may be picked up at the 4-H office and will be accepted until mid-June. This is a wonderful gift for alumni, families or 4-H supporters. The "Walk" is already becoming a piece of history, as people pause to remember before entering the Activity Center.

What a great way to recognize a 2014 graduate.

FITTING AND SHOWING CLINIC

Read carefully - we have some exciting things happening at the 2014 Fitting and Showing Clinic. The program will benefit anyone who is interested in Market Livestock, all Small Animals as well as Goats, Cats and Dogs. You will get some expert help on preparing your animals for Fair, how to better develop your showmanship skills and everything you've always want to know about the Master Stockman and Skill-a-thon Programs. This year's event will be held on the fairgrounds.

The Junior Livestock Board and the superintendents will provide information for your beef, sheep and swine projects. We are privileged to be able to bring expert advice as well as the expertise of our superintendents to you this year. You will be provided with hints, see some live demonstrations, and answer your questions, to better prepare you for fair.

LARGE LIVESTOCK

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. -SWINE - Livestock Arena

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. - SHEEP - Livestock Arena

7:30 – BEEF– Livestock Arena

Information will also be available for the Master Stockman Program this year.

SMALL ANIMALS

6:00 – 6:45 RABBITS– Small Animal Building – bring your rabbit for hands on experience

You will also have the opportunity to have your rabbits tattooed at this time, in the Small Animal Building. They are asking for a donation of \$1.00 per animal for tattoos – rabbits not having permanent tattoo's this year will not be allowed to exhibit at fair

6:45 – 7:30

POULTRY

7:30

CAVY AND POCKET PETS

7:00 P.M.

GOATS

Dairy Barn

DOGS

The dogs will be having a demonstration in front of the 4-H Fair Office. This will be an excellent way to find out about the dog program

CATS

Will be having a demonstration in the Crafts II Building.

Refreshments will be available.

JUNIOR SUPERINTENDENTS NEEDED

Looking for a **JOB**? 4-H members 11 and older, are needed to serve as Junior Superintendents for the 2014 Fair. Like any other job, you must take your responsibility seriously, arrive on time, and stay till the work is done. Your duties will consist of preparing the exhibit area, assisting with check-in, and working with judges, helping to prepare the displays and releasing the exhibits at the close of fair.

Junior superintendents need to make a commitment that they will be available to help when needed and that they are willing to work the time and put forth the necessary effort to do an effective job.

Junior superintendents will be identified by name tags and ribbons which designate them as part of the official 4-H volunteer Fair Staff.

Applications must be completed and returned to the Extension Office by May 15th. Each member must take the responsibility to submit their own application. Group applications by the community leader will not be accepted. In addition to the traditional assignment, many youth are needed to work in Old Macdonald's Nursery. Please check if you are willing to work a position different from your choice. Members who do not submit an application or are not requested, will not serve in a Junior Superintendent role this year.



JUNIOR SUPERINTENDENT APPLICATION

Name _____ age _____

Address _____ City _____ MI, Zip _____

Phone _____

Choice of areas

☐ Educational
☐ Communications
☐ Small Animals

☐ Crafts
☐ Horticulture and Crops
☐ Horse

☐ Office
☐ Large Livestock
☐ Human Resources

DR. LINA RODRIGUEZ
SALAMANCA
Commercial Vegetable
Crop Educator
517 927-2561

FARMERS SHOULD DELAY SPRING MANURE APPLICATIONS UNTIL FIELD CONDITIONS IMPROVE

ALLOWING FIELDS TO DRY OUT BEFORE APPLYING MANURE WILL REDUCE COMPACTION AND ALLOW FOR NORMAL CROP GROWTH AND PRODUCTION. MANURE STORAGE NEARING FULL CAPACITY NEED TO BE MONITORED AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED UNTIL FIELD CONDITIONS IMPROVE.

Posted on April 10, 2014 by Jerry May, and Shelby Bollwhan, Michigan State University Extension

I once hired a retired contractor to help me with a large project. As we worked together I learned he had many inappropriate sayings but once in a while he would present one worth remembering. "Take your time, you'll get more done," was one of his more useful sayings.

We have all seen it. Soil conditions weren't quite right when the neighbor farmer started working in the spring then all summer long the tire tracks of the tillage tractor can be picked out angling across the field as the crop growing over the tracks is stunted and behind the rest of the field. Those compacted tracks will also show up at harvest in reduced yield and in subsequent years as the farmer tries to rebuild the field's soil structure.

Spring 2014 is having a hard time coming. We are well into April but fields are still saturated and snow banks still exist in many places. Spring field work is being put on hold while everyone is hoping better weather will be just around the corner. Once fields begin to firm up and dry out, long hours will be put in trying to make up for lost time.



Spring manure application is one of the most challenging farming practices. Large tractors pulling heavy manure spreaders across soft fields, if rushed, will lead to compacted soils and reduced yields. The negative impacts of soil compaction are well documented and are accepted throughout production agriculture. But given today's large equipment, is it possible to spring apply manure without the negative consequences of soil compaction? Research from the University of Wisconsin encourages allowing soils to dry out before starting spring manure applications.

Using eight different sites across four Wisconsin counties, researcher Greg Sanford and his team tested the impact of manure application made under acceptable field conditions. Each site consisted of three treatments: manure, farmer check and compaction only. Manure was applied using either tractor drawn tankers (4,600 and 5,700 gallons) or a truck mounted tank (4,000 gallons) with maximum axle weights ranging from 19,880 to 30,955 pounds. The farmer check and compaction only treatments received commercial fertilizer to meet crop nutrient needs. Manure was applied at 12,000 gallons per acre and additional nitrogen supplied based on the results of pre side-dress nitrate tests. The compaction only treatment consisted of driving across the plot with the loaded manure spreader the same number of trips as was required for the manure application at that site. Sanford and his team reported no yield differences between the three treatments and concluded that when applying manure on relative dry soils, compaction from manure spreaders does not significantly impact yields.

My contractor's clever remark is particularly applicable this spring. Being patient this spring by allowing fields to dry out prior to starting manure applications will be rewarded in the fall with higher yields and improved soil structure.

Manure storages nearing full

Last December's early onset of winter weather combined with heavy snow cover and a late spring may mean some manure storages are nearing full. Farmers faced with limited additional manure storage capacity may find two previously posted Michigan State University Extension news articles worth reviewing. Both "Avert and prevent manure storage spills during this rainy season" and "Manure structures should be monitored during extreme wet weather conditions" contain helpful suggestions on managing near full manure storages under unfavorable conditions.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO MANURE SPILLS – ARE YOU PREPARED? PART 1

WITH SPRING-LIKE WEATHER FINALLY ARRIVING IN MOST PARTS OF MICHIGAN, LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ARE LOOKING TO GET IN THE FIELD TO SPREAD MANURE BEFORE PLANTING SEASON ARRIVES.

Posted on April 10, 2014 by Shelby Bollwahn, Michigan State University Extension

There are no simple solutions to a manure spill, but thinking through your specific situation, and monitoring daily can help prevent, or at least minimize, the environmental risks and potential regulatory issues. Due to the long, harsh winter in addition to a late starting spring livestock producers are quickly realizing that there may be a shorter than normal window to spread manure prior to planting. Michigan State University Extension recommends that all farms have an emergency response plan in place to deal with potential manure spills this spring. It is important to discuss the emergency plan, location of the emergency phone list and the expected responses with the entire farm crew.

Writing down your emergency response plan will help you respond quickly and effectively in the case of a manure spill. Essentially, if a plan has been written down on paper and shared appropriately, the custom applicator crews or farm employees are more apt to remember it and use it in the case of a manure spill. Also, a written emergency response plan demonstrates responsible preparation to state agency staff (MDARD and MDEQ) and may reduce the cost of remediation and clean-up. There are three important components to an emergency response plan: emergency contact list, plan of action and site maps.

Emergency Contact List

It is important to write down the emergency phone numbers in the order that they should be called. For example, you may need to contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hot Line at 800-405-0101, your county sheriff or local police, neighbors, backhoe contractors, EMS, county engineers, county road commission and drain commission and commercial applicators. Be sure to consider including contacts necessary to obtain permission to enter the neighboring property to contain a manure spill or notification of downstream water users. Include your own farm information on this contact list and post the information at each livestock facility site, the office, the owner or manager's place of residence and frequently used vehicles or tractors. Cell phones are also a great tool for storing emergency contacts – just make sure that all of the information is updated on a regular basis.

Plan of Action

The plan of action details the necessary procedures to control, contain and clean-up a manure spill. In order to effectively react to different manure spill situations, you will need to plan for each of these specific situations. Consider planning for spills that may occur on the farmstead or production site, en route to the manure application site or in the field during application. For example, an emergency response for a ruptured pipe at headquarters may be different than the response to a manure spill on the roadway. Part 2 of this MSU Extension News article series will go in depth on the Four C's of Manure Spill Response.

Site Maps

The last component for an emergency response plan is to include sketched site maps of livestock facility locations, surrounding areas within a one mile radius of the facility and each field on which manure is applied. Aerial photos work well as a base for field maps and should be available at your local United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center or available on-line through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey. Field maps should pinpoint manure application setback distances and any designated public use areas, watercourses, property boundaries, field access roads and gates. The following are things to consider marking on any of your site maps: buildings and fixed equipment, catch basins, electrical service boxes, manure storage structures and pump-out ports, valves, pumps, etc., open drains, slope direction and drainage patterns, tile intakes, tile outlets, water main connections and shut-off valves and water wells (include abandoned/unused). It is also a good idea to include directions to get to the field from the livestock facility written or typed on each field map.

For more information, emergency plan templates can be found on the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program website.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

WHERE DOES WORRYING ABOUT FOOD SAFETY IN FRESH PRODUCE END FOR THE GROWER?

MOST GROWERS WORRY A LOT ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE FOOD THEY GROW AND WHERE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY LIES. THIS ARTICLE AIMS TO POINT OUT WHERE THE WORRY MAY NOT MATCH UP WITH THE GROWER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD SAFETY.

Posted on May 5, 2014 by Phil Tocco, Michigan State University Extension

Fresh produce growers who are food safety certified often sweat over the integrity of their product all the way to the consumer. Though this is understandable, there are more clearly defined points where responsibility shifts to another party in the event of a recall. It is important to be aware of these points, even if to only sleep a little easier during the harvest season.

When a grower has direct control or custody over the produce, it is the grower's responsibility to maintain the safety of the produce. Once the produce leaves the control or custody of the grower, the grower is not technically responsible any longer for maintaining the safety of the produce.

For instance, if a grower contracts an individual to transport produce from the field to a packing facility, then the grower no longer is responsible for the safety of the produce. If the grower owns the truck that does the transportation to the packing facility, then the grower is still responsible for the crop until it is received at the packing facility.

It is important to emphasize that just because a grower is not responsible for the produce after it leaves their care, due diligence must be taken if an imminent risk exists to contaminate the produce. If a truck pulls up to transport produce to a packing facility that hasn't been washed or does not have a temperature log if it is necessary, the grower's due diligence would dictate refusal of the truck, even though the safety of the produce would no longer be the responsibility of the grower. After all, if there is a problem with the safety of the product, it isn't just the shipment or their business that suffers. The whole industry loses during a food safety outbreak.

If you would like more information on implementing good food safety practices in your operation, contact the Michigan State University Extension Agrifood Safety Work Group at gaps@msu.edu or 517-788-4292.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

SMART GARDENING: A NEW INITIATIVE HELPING GARDENERS BECOME ENVIRONMENTALLY SAVVY AND SMART

SMART GARDENING FROM MSU EXTENSION IS A CAMPAIGN TO HELP NOVICE AND EXPERIENCED GARDENERS ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT REAL-LIFE TECHNIQUES IN THEIR YARDS AND GARDENS TO SAVE TIME, MONEY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Posted on April 9, 2014 by Rebecca Finneran, Michigan State University Extension

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Integrated pest management (IPM) has long been a hallmark of Michigan State University Extension programs, but gardeners often cannot unravel the volume of information that comes their way. Bombarded with tips from commercial producers, garden writers and the Internet, knowing which information to trust can lead a gardener to be wary. Smart gardening helps people adopt simple, proven, university-researched tactics in their own backyards.



MSU Extension educators employ many methods to help folks learn about being a smart gardener. A quick look at the Gardening in Michigan website tells the “smart” story. Three overarching themes guide the smart gardening initiative:

1. Smart soils
2. Smart lawns
3. Smart plants

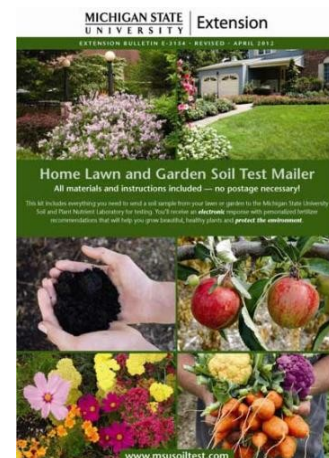
Smart soils

Being a smart gardener starts from the ground up. The first step towards smart soil is to take a soil test. Determining nutrient needs and pH can help you reduce the amount and type of fertilizer you use by accurately matching the fertilizer to the plant’s needs. This might be a fertilizer specifically designed to provide nutrients to your soil over time (slow-release) or one that is formulated without an element such as phosphorous. Either way, a soil test helps you make very intentional choices for a healthy soil and environment. MSU Extension now provides a self-mailer soil test kit that can be obtained online. Simply go to www.msusoiltest.com to order. Then follow the simple directions on the package. Information from the sample you mail from your mailbox will be returned to your e-mail with customized recommendations for the type of plants you wish to grow.

Other ways you can encourage a smart soil is by avoiding compaction and not “over-tilling,” a practice that is detrimental to the living component of your soil. Employing the benefits of organic matter and organic mulches will help nurture the soil’s natural ability to provide nutrients over the course of the season.

For more information on smart soils, see our tips sheets on:

- [Healthy soils](#)
- [Compacted soils](#)
- [Soil test](#)
- [Fertilizer basics](#)
- [Reducing phosphorus](#)



Smart lawns

So, how can we help our lawns be “smart?” Research has shown that the practice of raising your mowing height and returning clippings benefits the turf in a variety of ways that can reduce both pesticide and water use. Longer grass blades allow the turf plant to produce a substantially deeper root system, making it thriftier and more resilient. Reduced need for pesticides such as grub control and weed control and reduced need for water are lasting benefits.

Another technique is to think about having a low maintenance lawn. Grass varieties uniquely suited for the site can enable lawn owners to back off of practices that are common to a high maintenance lawn. In shady sites, perhaps removing turf altogether is the best solution. Turf alternatives for both sun and shade can be massed together to make a nice grown cover or even colorful perennial border.



For more information on smart lawns, see our tip sheets on:

- [Low maintenance lawns](#)
- [Shady lawn alternatives](#)
- [Mow high](#)
- [Mulch leaves](#)
- [Smart watering](#)

Smart plants

Plants that need little or no intervention from us are pretty darn smart! In practical terms, this might mean using plants that don't require as much water such as a succulent groundcovers or simply a plant that is naturally adapted to Michigan's “feast or famine” growing conditions. Plants native to Michigan or the surrounding Midwest region are particularly adapted to our climate and soils, making them a “smart choice” for the garden. Native plants are also supportive of healthy ecosystems where pollinators will thrive.

For more information on smart plants, see our tip sheets on:

- [Drought-tolerant plants](#)
- [Water-smart landscapes](#)
- [Native plants](#)
- [Lakefront plants](#)
- [Smart trees and shrubs](#)



From the buzz of pollinators to the roar of the mower, smart gardening will help you save time, money and the environment!

For more information on a wide variety of smart gardening articles, or to find out about smart gardening classes and events, visit www.migarden.msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

MAY / JUNE

4-H

May

5/1/14	Mandatory May 1st Meeting Leaders receive Fair Materials	7:00 pm
5/2/14	Ag Awareness Day Fairgrounds	8:00 am
5/3/14	Sheep & Pig Tagging Pigs—Livestock Arena Sheep—Glenn Stock Arena	8:00 am
5/5/14	Youth Leadership Board Extension Learning Center	6:00 pm
5/5/14	4-H Council Extension Learning Center	7:30 pm
5/6/14	Swine Workshop 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/7/14	Broiler Workshop 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/8/14	Shooting Sports MANDATORY MEETING 4-H Activity Center	6:30 pm
5/10/14	Recognition for State Awards Delegates And Mark of Excellence 4-H Activity Center	1:00 pm
5/12/14	Horse & Pony Board 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/13/14	Graduation Celebration RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 4-H Activity Center	6:30 pm
5/14/14	Junior Livestock Association Extension Learning Center	7:00 pm
5/15/14	REAACT 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/16/14	Horse MANDATORY MEETING 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/16-18/14	Horse & Pony Clinic Fairgrounds	
5/17/14	Slow Spokes Practice Ride I	
5/17/14	Caprine Council Dance 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/18/14	Rabbit, Cavy & Pocket Pet Show Educational Building—Fairgrounds	9:00 am
5/20/14	C.S.I. 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
5/28/14	Teen Ambassadors 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm

4-H

June

6/1/14	Slow Spokes Practice Ride II	
6/2/14	4-H Council Extension Learning Center	7:30 pm
6/4/14	Exploration Days Meeting 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
6/5/14	Poultry Pick-up Hackman's, Temperance MI	1—3:00 pm
6/7/14	Horse MANDATORY MEETING 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
6/9/14	Fitting & Showing Clinic Fairgrounds	See Schedule Article
6/14/14	Cat Show 4-H Activity Center	9:00 am
6/15-17/14	Slow Spokes leave Maybee Co-op	10:00 am
6/16/14	Fair Enrollments Leaders Turn-in 4-H Activity Center	1—7:00 pm
6/18-20/14	EXPLORATION DAYS MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY	
6/21/14	Garage Sale Fairgrounds	9—4:00 pm
6/24/14	C.S.I. 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm
6/25/14	Teen Ambassadors Extension Learning Center	7:00 pm
6/26/14	Horse MANDATORY MEETING 4-H Activity Center	7:00 pm

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

May

5/6/14	Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center	11:30 am
5/13/14	Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center	11:30 am
5/13/14	Building Strong Adolescents Extension Learning Center	6:30 pm
5/20/14	Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center	11:30 am
5/20/14	MCHE Council Extension Learning Center	10:00 am
5/27/14	Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center	11:30 am

HORTICULTURE

May

5/17/14	MCMGA Extension Learning Center	10:00 am
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STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to Noon, and 1:00pm to 5:pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170.

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HEATHER HAMPEL Family Nutrition Program Instructor <i>hampel@anr.msu.edu</i>	240-3171	JUDITH S. SEE 4-H Program Coordinator <i>seej@anr.msu.edu</i>	240-3174
DENISE KOHLER Family Nutrition Program Assistant <i>denise_kohler@monroemi.org</i>	240-3176	MATT SHANE District Coordinator <i>shanemat@anr.msu.edu</i>	517-264-5308
DIANE MICHAUD Secretary <i>diane_michaud@monroemi.org</i>	240-3182	PATTI WARTINGER Secretary <i>warting3@anr.msu.edu</i>	240-3184
LINA M. RODRIGUEZ SALAMANCA M.S. Vegetable Educator <i>rodri408@msu.edu</i>	517-927-2561	WINNIE WEBB Breastfeeding Peer <i>webbw@anr.msu.edu</i>	240-3178

Though Extension has recently reorganized our structure, Extension professionals are still located in communities across the state and are still working to address Michigan's most pressing needs through four broad-themed areas; greening Michigan, agriculture and agribusiness, children and youth, health and nutrition. If you would like to learn more about these program areas, you can read about them in a document called "Carrying Out the Land-Grant Mission" that can be found at www.msue.msu.edu To locate MSU Extension Staff across the state by name or area of expertise go to: <http://people.msue.msu.edu>

