



**NETWORK**  
*Bringing Knowledge to Life!*

NOVEMBER 2013

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**I DARE YOU AWARDS GIVEN**

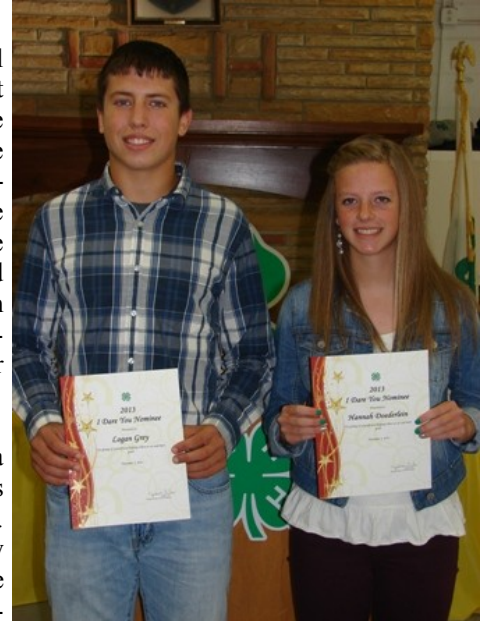
At the November 3th Youth Recognition Program many of the older youth ere recognized for their outstanding leadership skills.

Nominated for the prestigious, “I Dare You” Award were Adam Henes, Charlie Martin, Hannah Doederlein, Logan Grey, Piper Hopple, Emily Kittendorf, Hannah Haise, Sam Beaudrie, Nick Curiston, Elliot Wollam, Ian Darling, Hannah Haise, and Alexi Garbo.

The “I Dare You” Award is presented each year to the most outstanding youth within the 4-H Program. Sponsored by the Monroe County 4-H Council, the award recognizes youth who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and challenges themselves to continue to grow and share those skills as they grow up and out of the 4-H Program. This year the award was presented to Hannah Doederlein and Logan Grey. Both recipients have won numerous awards, demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and serve as excellent role models.

Hannah is a Junior at Airport High School while Logan is in his Sophomore year at Dundee. Both have been involved in the State Awards Program. Hannah is active with New Horizons and Teen Ambassadors and enjoys showing her rabbits. She has won a State Award for Sewing. She rides with the Slow Spokes, and traveled to both Toronto and Washington DC with 4H. She is also a member of Youth Leadership Board, Teen Ambassadors and her home club –Raisinville Wranglers.

Logan is sophomore at Dundee and is a member of Youth Leadership Board. His home club is also Rainsville Wranglers. He was recently elected to be the new President for Teen Ambassadors. He rides with the Slow Spokes and his favorite project is poultry. He also traveled to Toronto and Washington DC and will be delegate to National 4-H Congress along with Hannah.



Continued on page 8

Monroe County,  
Michigan State University  
and  
Monroe County  
Conservation District

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

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## WOOD ENERGY USERS

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OK, wood is a good alternative to fossil fuel. So, who buys wood to produce energy? How many companies use wood? How much wood is available to new energy companies? How much wood grows in Michigan?

The answers may be more complicated than you think and the data are sometimes difficult to assemble and compare. So, be aware that the numbers in this article are tentative but, nonetheless, probably paint a reasonable accurate picture.



There are many kinds of wood energy producers, although most of them use wood energy for internal purposes. Also, there are three basic uses of energy: space heating, electricity generation, and transportation fuels. The use matters.

We tend to hear more about wood-using electric utilities and pellet manufactures. Michigan has seven utility companies that produce energy using wood, at least in part. These companies consume about 2.9 million green tons of wood to produce about 182 megawatts of electricity, if they could run at full capacity, which they don't. Only one of those utilities is a combined heat and power plant,

which are more efficient users of any feedstock. There are plans for another two or three wood-using utilities in Michigan.

Michigan has about ten pellet manufactures, with a couple in the planning stages, and one that's currently idle. Pellets come in different shapes and sizes, can be specific to a particular end-user, and can be made from various woody materials. The big Renewafuel facility, near Gwinn, may produce around 150,000 tons of produce each year. The target consumer is an electricity generating utility in Marquette. Roughly estimated, current Michigan pellet manufacturing uses about 750,000 green tons of wood each year.



Pulp and paper mills have been producing electricity and heat from wood for decades. The wood for energy might come to about four million green tons, much of it residues from the pulping process.

Add another million green tons for the proposed Frontier Renewable Resources ethanol facility in the east end of the Upper Peninsula. At this time, there are no other proposed cellulosic ethanol plants in Michigan. Although, a biorefinery has been proposed near Alpena.

About 55-60 of Michigan's forest industries use wood for heat, electricity generation, or both. Much of that feedstock consists of residues from their manufacturing processes as well as other residual wood material. The equivalent amount of wood, in rough terms, is about 1.2 million green tons.

About 55 wood-fired boilers heat commercial buildings, schools, resorts, health



care facilities, and a range of other places. They burn about 150,000 green tons of wood each year.

Lastly then, are the unknown number of outdoor and indoor wood stoves used by homeowners across the state, that consume an unknown quantity of firewood.

Altogether, with a few rough napkin calculations, Michigan uses about nine million green tons of wood each year for energy production and then more for wood products. Much of the energy wood is from logging or wood manufacturing residues.

By comparison, Michigan grows about 26 million green tons of wood each year, beyond the annual harvest. New energy proposals might burn another two million green tons, from that 26 million green tons. Statewide there is little chance that the current number of proposed wood energy facilities will compromise the quality of Michigan forests.

However, wood is not harvested on a 'statewide' basis. Harvest is geographically uneven, along with the distribution of various forest types that have different harvest schedules. That's why the 'woodshed' for each new facility needs to be assessed, which is not a simple proposition.

Additionally, ownership patterns and owner willingness to harvest are huge factors. There may, indeed, be large volumes of wood accumulating each year, but if the owners won't sell wood, then it won't be available for use. Getting answers to this availability question is the more serious problem. . . not the moderate sized dent increased harvest might put into our large annual growth.



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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## CREATING AND EMBRACING FAMILY VALUES

FAMILY VALUES ARE THE BACKBONE TO A HEALTHY FAMILY



Family values are the foundation that guides us. They are created from the morals, integrity and rules on how we live our life. These values dictate how we parent, manage money, deal with relationships and more. Many human development specialists and studies have written on the importance of family values and morals. Values teach what the household believes is right and wrong.

Parents and caregivers can do a number of things to pass on the family values to their children. For family values to work they need to have worth and value to everyone in the household. They are about teaching and if you are not practicing what you preach, then you are creating a double standard. For example, if “no swearing” is a rule then you should not swear. If you tell your children one thing and then you do the opposite, you have just decreased the worth of the moral or value. The chances of your children adopting that moral or value will become less.

Family rituals are another meaningful way to create family values. These rituals can be as simple as eating a meal together every day, celebrating birthdays, holidays or other special life events. Family values are shared by having discussions about current events or situations your child is exposed to in everyday life. Try not to isolate your child too much. Gradually, expose them to different situations in society and help them learn how to deal with conflicting values. You then can have great conversations on how everyone has different sets of values and morals.

Values give families a guide on how they live their life. It influences decision making, relationships, influences judgment and behavior. As parents and caregivers, family values protect our kids against making hurtful decisions in the future.

Take some time as a family and think about what your family morals and value are and embrace them to the fullest. Michigan State University Extension offers the Nurturing Parenting Program that covers the topic of family morals and values. To find a class near you visit: <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/managing-relationships>

URL for more information (optional):

<http://www.drbilldoherty.org/parenting.php>

<http://www.search-institute.org/>

## WILLPOWER AND MONEY

STRONG WILLPOWER IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL MONEY MANAGEMENT.

Willpower is one of the best tools you have to help do the right thing when it comes to money. Accomplishing financial goals often requires choosing between now or later and needs and wants. Making the right choice demands self-discipline necessary to turn down passing pleasures in favor of the long term goals you want to accomplish.

Willpower has major effects on your finances; from controlling your little splurges to helping you decide whether you should purchase the car with all the bells and whistles. So what are the signs of weak financial willpower and self-discipline?

1. Avoiding making decisions: When our willpower is low we tend to take the path of least resistance, hence we avoid making decisions that might be financially prudent.
2. Ignoring the relationship between price and quality: When you're shopping, you are making constant decisions to purchase or not to purchase. You also face the decision between quality and price. Example might be is a \$40 pair of jeans better than a \$100 pair of jeans? Because of this choice, shoppers need to figure out where the increase of price out weights the improvement of quality. When willpower is low a shopper will only look at one factor, either to go with the cheapest option, no matter the poor quality or go with the most expensive no matter how absurd it is.
3. Being easily manipulated by sales pitch: The more decisions a person is asked to make the more likely they were to accept the options offered or recommended to them. Good salespeople know this trick and will use it.
4. Making short-sighted decisions about money: You would think that if you were given the option between \$4000 now \$8000 within two weeks later, the obvious better choice would be the \$8000. When people's willpower is depleted or weak, they generally chose the instant cash. A great example of this are tax refunds and refund anticipation loans.

So what are some ways to strengthen your willpower to help make good financial decisions? Monitor yourself. Become aware of your tendencies. Are you utilizing your money to reach the financial goals you have created? Track how you spend your money regularly to see if you are using your funds impulsively. This will tip you off on the times you are at your weakest. Michigan State University Extension offers money management programs that will teach techniques on creating a spending plan and ways to find money to save. For more information on go to [www.mimoneyhealth.org](http://www.mimoneyhealth.org).

For additional information and resources go to:

[www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org)

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/willpower.aspx>

<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2011/12/29/a-conversation-about-the-science-of-willpower/>

## PARENTING PROGRAMS

FALL 2013

### 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.

get the facts

ACA

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT  
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from your health insurance?Why do I  
need health  
insurance?What do I  
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Join MSU Extension experts for a live, online webinar. Webinars will be held on Mondays. The same information will be provided at each of the following times:

- » 9 – 11 a.m.
- » 3 – 5 p.m.
- » 6 – 8 p.m.

**Farmers, self-employed people and small business owners:**

Join us Mondays from noon to 2 p.m.

**Visit [aca.msue.msu.edu](http://aca.msue.msu.edu) to see which topics we'll cover each week.**

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To participate, log on to:

**[connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance](http://connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance).**

Click "Guest" and type in any name. (You will be anonymous. No information is collected during the discussion.)

Don't have a computer with a high-speed connection? Visit your local library for access.

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## PEER COUNSELOR ASSISTANCE RESULT IN HIGHER DURATION RATES OF BREASTFEEDING

### Breastfeeding



**Makes a Healthier  
World**

One of the most highly effective preventative measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant and herself is to breastfeed.

In 2012, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, only 16 percent of American children were exclusively breastfed through 6 months (only breast milk, no formula or solids), 47 percent of children received any breastfeeding at 6 months.

Research out of Michigan State University has shown that support of a peer counselor has a dramatic increase in breastfeeding rates and mom's success at breastfeeding with instruction and duration of breastfeeding as you can see from the chart below.

The Mother to Mother program participants have exceeded breastfeeding time compared to the state of Michigan except at 6 months. Monroe County WIC program in collaboration with Mother to Mother provides several different breastfeeding classes and have a free loan program of electric pumps to assist moms who return to work or school.

There is a 24 hour warm line at WIC (734-240-7901) for mothers to ask questions and Winnie Webb, the breastfeeding peer takes calls daily after hours and on weekends. Free home visits are available for those who need assistance to breastfeed. This collaboration between WIC and Mother to Mother has resulted in mothers and babies enjoying a longer breastfeeding experience and healthier life!

	Ever Breastfed	Any Breastfed to 6 months	Any Breastfed to 12 months	Exclusive (no formula or foods) 6 months
Mother to Mother	98%	41%	26%	19%
State of Michigan	79%	48.5%	24%	17.9%

The Healthy People 2020 objective is:

- 60.6% breastfed at 6 months
- 34.1% breastfed at 12 months
- 25.5 exclusive at 6 months



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## MITTEN TREE

The 4-H Mitten Tree will be returning to the 4-H Office for another visit. Many clubs have already purchased mittens, hats, and scarves to decorate the tree.

These warm decorations will make many children's Christmas happier and their winter much warmer.

Pat Webb will be placing the tree in the lobby of the Extension office in November and it will remain until December 10th.

Pat and her volunteers will then wrap each of the items and deliver them to youth across the county who will appreciate the generosity of the 4-H members, friends of Extension and the 4-H clubs.

Bring your mittens to the office or to any 4-H activity or meeting.

## I DARE YOU CON'T

Both take their responsibilities very seriously, always willing to help, have input, and encourage others.

Both were on the planning and implementation committee for Clover Days the past two years. Two tremendous leaders, they encourage others, offer support, get everyone involved and serve as excellent role models for our program.

Both 4-H'ers are excellent examples of what "I Dare You" means. Hannah and Logan have dared to share beyond what is expected and to involve others in their goals and ideas. The Monroe County 4-H Program is proud to recognize all of the nominees for their outstanding accomplishments. Each member nominated has the ability to move forward and lead the way, so that others may follow.

## KIDS DAY

This year Kids Day featured a "Zoo" Theme as the Teen Ambassadors planned an afternoon of fun, and recognition for our young 4-H members. Two hundred and sixteen members were nominated for the 2013 "All Star" Award.

Over two hundred members, parents, leaders and families attended the event this year. Even with the cool weather the afternoon was a success. They ran through mazes, had their faces painted to look like animals, enjoyed crafts, various games and refreshments.

The afternoon activities concluded with the announcement and the presentation of the certificates for the 2013 "All Stars" Each member was presented with an appropriate certificate and a neck Medal to help them remember the experience. Dominique Milkvolich, 4-H Princess and Noah Doederlein, 4-H Prince served as emcees for the event.

Congratulations to each of the "All Stars" and to the Teen Ambassadors for planning and the 4-H Council for providing support for the recognition of each of the members. Members who did not attend the ceremony may pick up their award at the 4-H Extension Office.





## 4 - H LEADERS BANQUET

The 2013 4-H Leader Banquet is in the process of being planned so we hope you have the date on your calendar to attend. Friday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.

The committee would like you to start thinking about “What can we do to keep our 4-H moving forward.

We are sure that you have some positives that each leader has that would affect the program and the lives we touch. The committee has planned a fun evening, with prizes, great food, an opportunity to recognize some of our outstanding leaders and to conclude the evening by saluting Monroe Bank & Trust and the many people that bring so much community strength to our program.

We realize that the banquet is in the middle of the Holiday Season, but hope that you value the friendships you have made through 4-H to come and celebrate the successes that we have experienced in 2013 together.

Invitations will be mailed in November to all leaders enrolled during the past year. Encourage your leaders and spouses to come – together we can speed into 2014 and make it the best year ever for Monroe County 4-H.

## SMALL ANIMAL NEWS

At the recent Small Animal Annual Meeting new members were elected to the board. Elected to the 2014 Board are:

### Representing Poultry

Tabatha Lajiness  
Ashley Epoch  
Logan Grey  
Delaney Preston

### Representing Cavies and Pocket Pets

Kayleigh Adams  
Amelia Arting

### Adult elected to a three year term

Maureen Spotts

### Representing Rabbits

Daniel Henes  
Alexi Garbo  
Carter Paddy  
Claudia Paddy

Also recognized at the annual meeting were the 2012 Master Stockman winners for the Small Animal Program

### Rabbits

Carter Paddy  
Daniel Henes  
Sarah Henes  
Sarah Wachowicz  
Ashley Teets  
Delaney Preston  
Hannah Vincent  
Paige Sweet

### Cavies

Kayleigh Adams  
Amelia Arting

### Pocket Pets

Willow Biggs  
Craig Lajiness  
Kayleigh Adams

### Cats

Claudia Paddy

### Poultry

Logan Grey  
Annalyse Auxter  
Benjamin Kittendorf  
Matt Rinaldi  
Samantha Beaudrie  
Aidan Martin

### Dogs

Rachel Breitner

### Over-all Master Stockman winner for 2012

Carter Paddy

## NEW HORIZONS DELEGATES 2014

Although July and November 2014 seem far away, the delegates for the Monroe County New Horizons Citizenship Program are well on their way to earning money for the trips.

New Horizons is a countywide citizenship and leadership experience for 4-H'ers. The members submitted applications to be accepted into the program. They have already begun to work to earn funds for both the Washington and Toronto experiences for next year. They will have the opportunity to meet with national, state and local officials, as well as attending governmental meetings. Members will also be volunteering their skills to develop a better understanding of 4-H Citizenship. We have also expanded the New Horizons Program to include youth who want to attend National 4-H Congress.

### 2014 New Horizons Delegates are:

Hannah Doederlein  
Samantha Beaudrie  
Rayleigh Adams  
Fleshier Clark  
Jessica Marimpietri  
Courtney Baumann  
Logan Grey  
Courtney Post  
Savannah Ray  
Kerrie Kraftchick  
Courtney Beaudrie  
Annalysee Auxter

Felicia Clark  
Michael Ammerman  
Dyane Paxton  
Brianna Ray  
Matt Rinaldi  
Celina Castelnero  
Drew Cousino  
Sarah Houpt  
Dane Diesing  
Blaze Wilson  
Delaney Asbridge

## SPAGHETTI DINNER AND HOLIDAY AUCTION

If you want to enjoy an evening of good food and lots of fun, plan on attending the Council Spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction, November 23th at the 4-H Activity Center. The dinner will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 and the cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 10.

We already have several wonderful items for the Auction. This year Larry Hamblin will begin the auction at 6:30 p.m. 4-H Clubs and organizations have been donating items or creating themed baskets and boxes for your bidding enjoyment.

If you would like to donate an auction item, work, or perhaps bring a dessert for the dinner it would certainly be appreciated. This year, co-chairs Wendy and Rick Rozanski and have also planned a Silent Auction – so sharpen your pencils and come ready to bid.

The auction is a great place to do your Holiday Shopping!

## STATE AWARDS

Members who are interested in being a part of the State Awards for 2014 need to plan on attending a workshop to be held on January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Learning Center.

Members will be given copies of the forms and guidelines, we will discuss potential areas they may be interested in and have some hands on experiences as we begin to work toward completion of the application.

Completed award forms will be due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Monroe County 4-H members who will be 13 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and have not reached their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2014 are eligible to apply, a member may win up to two state awards.

There is a new application this year – so if you are interested you or a parent need to attend.

Members who are 11 and 12 may compete for State Recognition in the Mark of Excellence Essay Contest. Two 4-H members will be chosen from Monroe County for this award. The criteria for this award will also be discussed at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Scholarships for Exploration Days will be given to all Regional State Award winners and to our Mark of Excellence winners.

## CLUBS RECOGNIZED

Each year the County Awards Committee takes the opportunity to recognize clubs in the county that have made outstanding contributions to their members, the community and the 4-H organization.

This year the clubs were recognized with a CD/DVD Case.

### OUTSTANDING CLUBS:

Raisinville Wranglers	Faithful Friends
REACT	Dundee Achievers
Country Kids	Treasure Hunters
Rockin' Ranchers	Bedford Goating Years
Teen Ambassadors	

Each of these clubs were recognized on November 3rd at the Youth Recognition Program at the Activity Center.

## 2013 MISS MONROE COUNTY OUTSTANDING TEEN

**COURTNEY LYNN BAUMANN**

### FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT MONROE COUNTY 4-H—"AG AWARENESS DAY"

WHERE: NUTRITION EXPLOSION  
1208 S. TELEGRAPH ROAD  
MONROE MI 48161

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013

TIME: 11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Miss Monroe County Outstanding Teen—Courtney Baumann—will be serving up healthy shakes from 11:00 am—2:00 pm—and half the proceeds will go to "AG AWARENESS DAY!!"

LINA RODRIGUEZ  
SALAMANCA  
Vegetable Educator  
517 927-2561

## FARMERS, MOTORISTS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Mike Staton, Michigan State University Extension

According to the **Michigan State Police**, more than 150 traffic collisions involving farm equipment have occurred in the state each year since 2006. On average, 167 collisions involving farm equipment have occurred causing 44 injuries and four fatalities each year in Michigan. Some counties have more of these types of events than others due to the number of farms, number of motorists and the terrain. Annual collision statistics for individual counties can be obtained online at the **Michigan State Police Traffic Crash Statistics** webpage.

Collisions involving farm equipment can be prevented. Whether you are a motorist or a farmer, please do your part to make our public roads safer by implementing the practices listed below. This is a shared responsibility for everyone.



### Recommendations for motorists

- Slow down immediately when you first see farm equipment ahead of you on the roadway. Farm equipment usually travels less than 25 miles per hour. It takes less than seven seconds for a car traveling at 55 mph to crash into the back of a tractor 400 feet away.
- Be patient and wait for an opportunity to safely pass farm equipment. The tractor or combine operator will probably be aware of your presence and will try to accommodate if possible as traffic begins to back up.
- Drive defensively when approaching on-coming farm equipment. Impatient motorists may pull out suddenly to pass the farm equipment and enter your lane.
- Be on the alert when you see amber flashing lights ahead in either lane.
- Be prepared to stop at railroad crossings when following a vehicle towing an anhydrous ammonia tank. Anhydrous ammonia tanks look like the large propane gas tanks used by rural homeowners.

### Recommendations for farmers

- Always mount a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem to all tractors, combines and implements transported on public roads.
- Never use white lights on the rear of the tractor when driving on public roads. If you don't have a rear red light, have an escort vehicle follow within 50 feet of the tractor or implement of husbandry.
- Always use flashing amber warning lights on public roads.
- Check to see if traffic is backing up behind you and consider how to let traffic pass. Consider pulling over to the shoulder when it is safe for your vehicle.
- Use turn signals or proper hand signals to communicate your intentions to motorists.
- Never travel left of the center of the road after dark, during poor visibility or when approaching the top of a hill or a curve.



## SOYBEAN SUDDEN DEATH PREVALENT IN 2013

OCTOBER 3, 2013 CATEGORY: CROPS  
 BY MARTIN CHILVERS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PLANT  
 PATHOLOGY AT MSU



*Sudden Death Syndrome is making its way across southern lower Michigan.*

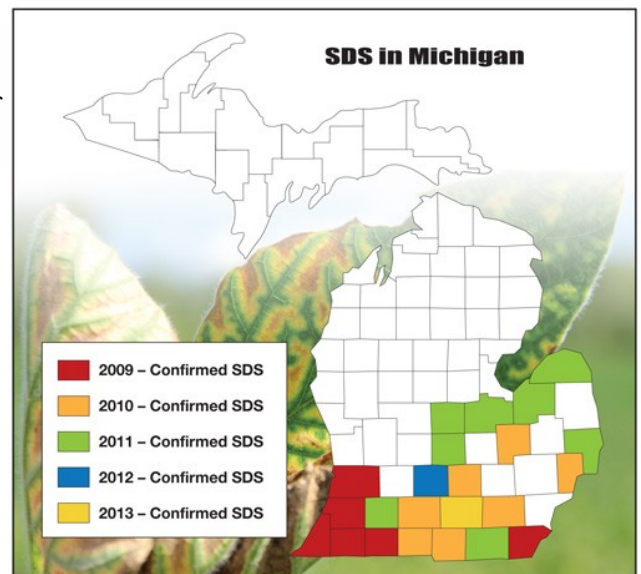
Soybean growers, particularly those in southern Michigan, may have noticed the rapid onset of soybean sudden death during August. The disease soybean sudden death syndrome (SDS) is caused by the soilborne fungus *Fusarium virguliforme*. Foliar symptoms of the disease initiate as yellow spots which progress to general yellowing and death of leaf material between the veins. Leaves of infected plants can also prematurely drop. However, the hidden side of this disease is below ground. Typically the disease shows up during late soybean reproductive stages, but can show earlier.

During the year the SDS fungus infects the roots, causing root rot. The fungus never moves above the soil line, but produces a toxin that the plant takes up into the foliage, causing leaf symptoms.

There are other diseases which can easily be confused with SDS, so it is recommended that a plant sample including roots be submitted to MSU Diagnostic Services ([www.pestid.msu.edu](http://www.pestid.msu.edu)). One disease that can be easily confused with SDS is Brown Stem Rot (BSR). However BSR can be distinguished by splitting the stem. BSR affected plants will have brown pith in the center of the stem, whereas SDS affected plants will have white pith, but will be off-white to light brown within the tap root, indicating decay.

Foliar fungicides are not effective against SDS as the fungus remains in the root system. Currently available seed treatments have also not demonstrated efficacy in reducing SDS, however there is a seed treatment in the works from Bayer Crop Science that is showing some promise.

Management options for SDS are relatively limited. Studies have demonstrated that rotating to corn does not significantly reduce the amount of SDS fungus in the soil. However, a study conducted at Iowa State University has shown that a more diverse rotation can potentially reduce the disease. The researchers found that by incorporating a third year into the rotation away from corn and soy into either alfalfa or alfalfa and red clover significantly reduced the amount of SDS that developed in the subsequent soybean crop. More research is needed in this area and we hope to secure funding to examine the potential for cover crops and extended rotations in managing SDS.



In managing SDS, growers should avoid moving soil by using proper sanitation, such as washing down equipment, particularly between farms. There are also many other diseases and pests that can be moved through contaminated soil, so it is best to play it safe. Soybean varieties vary greatly in their resistance to SDS, although no varieties are completely resistant. For information on resistant varieties, check with your local seed dealer and later this year, check the MSU varieties trials website (<http://www.psm.msu.edu/VarietyTrials/>). Always manage for Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN). Although SDS can occur without SCN, it appears as though heavy SCN pressure can exacerbate SDS. Improving drainage, soil structure and reducing compaction can also help to alleviate SDS severity.

*Source: Martin Chilvers is Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Michigan State University.*

## THE FAB FOUR OF FALL HOUSE INVADING INSECTS

MEET THE BEETLES, BUGS AND FLIES THAT COULD BE INVADING YOUR HOME THIS FALL: THE MULTI-COLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLE, THE BOXELDER BUG, THE WESTERN CONIFER SEED BUG AND THE CLUSTER FLY.

As the days grow shorter and the nights colder, a certain cadre of insects slowly and methodically makes their way to our houses. These insects spend the winter as adults and it is critical to their well-being that their little bodies don't freeze. This is called overwintering. They gravitate to the south and west sides of many homes because these are the warmest sides of the building. They crawl upwards until they can find a tiny crack or crevice to squeeze into. Some end up in your living area. Other unlucky ones attempt to spend the winter under a piece of siding or corner molding. They go to sleep, never to wake again. Others are more successful and end up in the wall cavity between the outside and the inside wall. They are aiming for the correct side of the insulation to give them a winter's snooze where the temperatures are perfect to dream the winter away.

In January or February, several days of sunshine will warm their sleeping area. They awake and groggily try to find their way back to the shining leaves. Often, they make a wrong turn and end up on the window sill or wandering aimlessly on the wall. The four insects discussed in this article make their presence known across Michigan in various numbers each fall and sometimes in the winter. They do not do any house damage unless the person who finds them squashes or crushes them in a fit of pique. They can stain fabrics, but whose fault is it? Suck them up with a vacuum to avoid an unsightly spot. Michigan State University Extension educators and Master Gardeners answer similar questions each fall as the temperatures drop and insects drop in.

Often, these insects seem unfazed by various insect sprays. As they are going into dormancy for the winter, they don't seem particularly affected as their metabolism slows. The best method if too many are making past your doorstep and into the house is to look at caulking, weather stripping and door sweeps, especially on those two most vulnerable sides.

### Multi-colored Asian lady beetle

The multi-colored Asian lady beetle insect is relatively new to Michigan in the last decade or so. They voraciously feed outdoors of mainly aphids. When handled roughly, this beetle can ooze an orange, bad smelling liquid from its leg joints. They come in a variety of colors from pale tan to a brilliant red-orange and can have no spots, many spots or large or small spots. The black and white markings directly behind the head identify these guys.



**Boxelder bug**

Boxelder bugs are associated with boxelder trees. They can fly, so the trees don't have to be on your property. They are dark gray or black with red edges on the wings and body edges. There is a red V made by the wing edges in the middle of the back.

**Western conifer seed bug**

Western conifer seed bugs can be found in areas where evergreens are that are old enough to produce cones. They feed on the gooey goodness inside of the conifer seeds. To many people, the shape of the body resembles squash bugs or stink bugs. In the picture below, look at the lower part of the hind leg and notice how it is wide. That identifies this seed bug.

**Cluster fly**

Cluster flies are found in groups which give them the "cluster" name. They are parasites of earthworms when they are juveniles and free-living as adults. They can be incredibly slow moving when found when they are going into or coming out of dormancy.



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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).

Lady beetles. Photo credit: Patrick Voyle

## FALL 2013 PESTICIDE TRAINING AND REVIEW SESSION

There will be one Pesticide Training and Review class in Monroe County this fall for farmers or commercial pesticide applicators. These classes are a chance for certified pesticide applicators to review the Core Pesticide Manual or to receive re-certification credits.

The class will be held on Thursday, November 14 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the 4-H Activity Center on the Monroe County fairgrounds. Three pesticide re-certification credits have been granted in the categories of Private Core, Commercial Core, Commercial 1A, 3A and 6.

Interested persons can register at the Monroe County Extension office or can simply register at the fairgrounds the morning of the class. The cost to participate is \$10 per person. The class is designed for persons wishing to review pesticide educational information prior to taking exams or to receive credits in lieu of taking a renewal exam. For more information, contact Ned Birkey at [birkey@msu.edu](mailto:birkey@msu.edu) or 734-260-3442.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will have staff in Monroe County to administer new or renewal pesticide examinations the afternoon of Thursday, November 14. The exams will be given at the Monroe County Extension office, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe. Persons interested in registering for exams can only do so at the MDARD web site.

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2013

4-H

November

- 11/2/13 Explorer Program 10:00 am  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/3/13 Youth Recognition 2:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/4/13 4-H Council 7:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/11/13 Horse & Pony Board 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/20/13 Teen Ambassadors 6:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/21/13 REAACT 7:00 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/23/13 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 pm  
Holiday Auction 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 11/25/13 Small Animal Board 7:00 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/26/13 Middle Managers 6:30 pm  
Applebee's—Dundee

**11/28-29/13 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS  
OFFICE CLOSED**

December

- 12/2/13 4-H Council 6:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center
- 12/12/13 Fair Board Annual Meeting 7:00 pm  
4-H Activity Center

**12/24-25/13 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS  
OFFICE CLOSED**

**12/31/13/- 1/1/14 NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS  
OFFICE CLOSED**



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

November

- 11/4/13 "Who gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" 1:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/4/13 Building Strong Adolescents Class 6:30 pm  
Extension Learning Center
- 11/9/13 MCHE Meeting 10:00 am  
Extension Learning Center

HORTICULTURE

November

- 11/9/13 MCMGA Recognition Brunch 10:00 am  
Extension Learning Center





## STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am—noon and 1:00—5:00 pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170. Service is also available at the lobby counter during these hours. On Wednesday and Friday, staff may only be reached via their direct lines which are noted below.

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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](http://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>

