**MARK OF EXCELLENCE**

We offered the opportunity to have our 11 and 12 year old members write a short essay on the topic, “Because of 4-H I Can……” Five members turned in outstanding essays, giving the selection team a hard time to chose who will be representing Monroe County at Exploration Days.

**Congratulations to:**

Katie Sweet – Whiteford Workers  
Katrina Lomas – Faithful Friends

Their outstanding essays – will be placed at the State 4-H Office, Michigan 4-H Foundation and Kettunen Center. We may even see parts of their essays published.

Also submitting excellent essays were:

Anna Hutchison – Maybee Muskrats  
Makenna Wickenheiser- Treasure Hunters  
Ethan Harbough- City Slickers

All five of these members will be asked to read their essays at County Share-the-Fun in May. The two winners will be given a $40 scholarship from the council to help defray the expenses for Exploration Days. The other three will each receive a $25 award to help pay for them to attend Exploration Days.

**EXPLORATION DAYS**

On the first day of registration for this popular activity we registered 68 youth. That is many more than most counties send to this fun, educational activity. From June 18-20 Monroe county youth and adults will be living in the dorms and attending classes on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University.

We have until May 19 to submit registrations so it is still not too late. Call or come into the 4-H Office to pick up the materials so that you can be a part of this experience. Many scholarships are being offered to make it affordable for everyone.

Don’t forget – you can also ride your bike, as your transportation to get to Michigan State for Exploration Days. Call the 4-H Office for details.
MONROE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPRING CONSERVATION PLANTS

FUNDRAISER

A friendly reminder to pickup trees, shrubs, hostas, lilies or whatever else you may have ordered on;
Friday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Location; Monroe County Fairgrounds Far West Merchants building; enter off of M-50.

Extra stock will also be sold at this time.

The post card reminders should have been mailed by now, please remember to bring these with you to pickup.

Please keep in mind that we only accept cash and checks.

See you there and let’s hope for some warmer weather!

BLACKBERRY AND RASPBERRY PLANTS

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR PLANTS?

FOUR IMPORTANT STEPS

1. Choosing a Site
When putting in a garden, wind protection, sunlight, drainage, and existing landscaping are all considerations. As a general rule, berries require full sun for ripening. Soil must have good drainage but should also be able to hold some moisture.

Extra Steps:
- Blackberries can also be staked using the hill-method
- Trellising will aid in the ripening and harvest of raspberries

2. Choosing a planting date:
If soil temperatures are above 55° it’s okay to plant. Dormant plants are never well suited for summer planting, and most will tolerate some light frost after planting. You must plant within days of picking up your plants.

3. Your Soil pH
- Having your exact soil pH before planting is the most important step. Testing and adjusting your pH to optimum levels is the easiest way to get ready for spring. (Monroe MSU Extension can help you with this).
- A planting in the wrong pH will fail to thrive. Note that any addition of organic material will change the soil pH, especially wood chips, sawdust, leaves or yard clippings. The ideal pH levels for blackberry and raspberry plants is 6.5-6.8.

4. Getting the Ground Ready
- As soon as your soil is dry enough to work, it is a good idea to rake the area free of winter debris and turn the soil. If the soil has never been gardened, thorough and early sod removal is necessary.
- Avoid planting in soils where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, or raspberries have previously been. These crops may harbor soil pathogens, which may affect your new plants. It is better to start in fresh ground.
Spacing
- 18” to 24” apart for red and yellow raspberries; 20” – 24” for black raspberries
- 3’ - 4’ apart for blackberries
- Recommended 8’ to 12’ between rows depending on machinery

Irrigation
- Soak in water using Agri-gel™ (TerraSorb™ root gel) for 1 to 2 hours before planting
- Water thoroughly after planting
- 1” to 2” rainfall or equivalent per week

Fertilization
- Before planting add ½ to ¾ pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet
- Commercial growers should use 500 pounds per acre
- An additional 1 pound of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet can be applied in July of August and in early spring in following years

Weed Control
- Regular cultivation is necessary during growing season
- Roots are shallow - don’t cultivate more than an inch deep
- Mulching during establishments can help control weeds
- Contact MSU Extension for chemical recommendations

Trellis
- We suggest plants are supported by a trellis
- Trellising keeps canes upright and fruit off the ground
- A trellis makes picking easier, and maintains good aeration, thereby reducing disease control

Other Tips
You can do pre-fertilization, either with common 10-10-10 type of commercial fertilizer or an organic method, but only use a little bit. Over fertilizing can lead to weak or “burnt” plants, so more is not always better. The advantage of packaged fertilizers is that they are of consistent strength and come with guidelines printed on the label.

- Do not mulch brambles beyond the first year
- Do not mow down summer-bearing raspberries; they fruit on 2 year-old canes.
- Caution should be taken to prevent the roots from being planted to deep.
- Choose a sunny location with deep loamy soil. Heavy silts and clay soils should be avoided because of poor growth and lower yields, or should be formed into raised beds to provide adequate drainage. Good drainage and an adequate supply of moisture are essential.
TREES AND DROUGHT

BY ANDY HENRIKSEN

Drought affects trees in a variety of ways depending on many conditions. Water stress may kill a tree or, more commonly, predispose it to a wide variety of ailments. Some of these ailments may not become visible for several years.

Root systems draw water from the soil. That water moves throughout the tree to maintain chemical reactions in the living cells. As trees respire, water is expelled and “leaks out” through small pores in the leaves, twigs, branches, and trunk.

During dry periods, the larger humidity difference inside and outside the tree causes increased water loss. Higher temperatures accelerate cell metabolism, which requires additional amounts of water. The response to water stress involves closing the many small pores and drawing more water from the soil.

As soil moisture becomes increasingly low, maintaining an adequate water balance in living tissues becomes more difficult. Sandy or coarse soils dry out quicker. Loamy soils hold more water longer, but much of it becomes unavailable to small roots due to the physical chemistry of water and very tiny soil particles.

The inability of a tree to maintain an adequate water balance is called water stress. A moderate amount of stress may slow growth or cause premature autumn color change. More stress might first result in death of leaf tissue. Browning leaf edges due to water stress is called leaf scorch. Conifers may drop older, less efficient needles. Excessive water stress can kill mature trees, and very young trees that have less developed root systems.

After a drought breaks, the impacts are not over. More commonly, the weakened condition allows a number of pests and pathogens to more successfully attack tree tissues. Trees whose leaves are eaten by gypsy moths or budworms, in combination with a drought, are a higher risk of damage or death. Water stressed pines attract park beetles, which can kill trees, especially red pine.

The introduction of fungal pathogens during these weak periods can have a longer lasting impact. For example, an Armillaria fungus might enter water stressed roots. Over several years, that fungus might grow and eventually kill the tree.

The drought impact on trees can be very localized. Sometimes, a single tree within a group will die, often seen in plantations. Death might be in the year of the drought or it might be a couple years later.

Soil structure can be highly variable resulting in other local impacts. A tree growing above a large boulder or over a hard pan might die, while its neighbors may recover. Small clay pockets, fissures in bedrock, micro topography, and sandy pockets contribute to local variability that can spell survival or death for a water stressed tree.

Extremely wet years can lead to future drought problems as well. In cool, wet summers, higher water saturation levels in the soil force tree roots to grow closer to the surface in order to obtain enough oxygen, and sometimes kill roots further down. That new root growth near the surface becomes more vulnerable to soils dried out by the following years’ drought. Many tamaracks and other shallow-rotted tree species can die because of this type of extreme wet-dry cycle.

Competition for scarce soil water becomes intense during dry periods. Most trees simply cannot out-compete grasses and herbs for water. We normally think of competition for light, but the underground battle for water and nutrients can be more important to the long term survival of trees. Because of this, proper weed control is an important factor in minimizing drought problems.

Any time drought is combined with other health issues, trees are at higher risk of damage and death. Drought can tip the scales for trees simultaneously facing an insect attack, a disease, or damage from home construction, laid cable, paving, lawn mowing, etc. Conversely, trees weakened by drought may fall victim to opportunistic insects and diseases several years ahead.
Ideally you should strive to provide newly planted trees with about one inch of water once per week (including rain). In heavy clay soils, you can increase the amount of time between waterings, and on well-drained sandy soils, you should water more often. Usually after a few years, the roots will become fairly well-established and should be able to get most of the water they need on their own. However, in serious drought conditions (2 to 3 rainless weeks or more), the above “one inch of water” rule is still a good idea.

The other water-related concern is over-watering. It’s not uncommon for trees to die in drought years because they were watered too much. It’s generally a good idea to let the soil dry out a bit between watering (i.e. the week between watering). This will cause the roots to grow some, as they “look” for more water. It also prevents suffocation due to saturated soils. Trees need to be able absorb both water and air through their roots, something that becomes difficult if trees are watered too often.

If you’ve planted a large number of trees that are out of range of the garden hose, consider placing a few 55 gallon barrels in the back of a pickup with a spigot and a hose attached near the bottom. This way one person can drive down the tree rows, while a second walks behind the truck with the hose.

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.

Also we have “So Easy to Preserve” food preservation books available at the MSU Extension Monroe County office for $30.00 plus tax.

TAKE A VACATION!

VACATIONS ARE GOOD FOR YOU – PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

My husband and I recently returned from a 14 day vacation to New Orleans and the Gulf side of Florida. It was wonderful! Our goals were to experience Mardi Gras, get WARM and rest. I have always been re-energized after taking a vacation. Research shows that my husband and I are doing the right thing. Yet many people lose vacation days every year. By not getting away from everyday routine and work, people are missing out on many benefits. So what are these benefits?

Let’s begin with the health benefits. By taking a vacation or staycation, it allows your body to replenish and repair itself. This time away from the everyday grind will provide an opportunity to decrease and/or remove stressors. If stress is not managed it causes our immune system to weaken. We sleep less. Mentally, we become more irritable, depressed, and anxious; our memory capacity decreases and we make poor decisions. The break provides our bodies and minds the opportunity to regenerate and in return we gain a healthy perspective of our situation in a positive way.

To assist with this, Michigan State University Extension offers a stress management program called RELAX that will give you additional ideas on how to manage stress and anger in a positive way. To find classes near you, go to the MSUE calendar of events.

Many of the best ideas are generated away from the job. Without work pressures, we tend to think clearer; especially when we turn off all the electronic gadgets. With the added benefits of not dealing with deadlines, email, phone calls etc. our brain refreshes and become more efficient. In return, this allows us to be more creative.

The Vacation Deprivation study found that there are productivity benefits as well. Employees that take vacations feel better about their jobs and are more productive. The study found that employees that don’t use their vacation often are physically present but not there mentally. The bottom line is that they are not contributing.

It has been one week since I returned to work and I can tell the difference. I feel rested and relaxed. So, do yourself, your family and your employer a favor, take time for a vacation/staycation. It will do your mind and body good!
IT’S REFUND TIME — MANAGE IT WISELY!

PLAN FOR SMART USES OF YOUR TAX REFUND TODAY.

This is the time of year that many of us dread and love at the same time. Completing your income taxes can be frankly “a taxing time” for some households but for others it can mean a potential financial windfall. My experience over the years is that if you don’t have a plan in place that windfall can be gone before you know it.

To get the most out of your tax refund you need to develop a plan. You will likely feel much better if you use your tax refund wisely to make the greatest impact on your family’s financial health. There are many different saving strategies. One that I share with participants in my money management classes is the “a third, a third, a third rule.” Basically, you use a third for saving, a third to pay down debt and a third to enjoy yourself. Another rule I have seen is to allocate 80 percent of your refund to improve your financial situation and the remaining 20 percent to enjoy or to make a special purchase.

Let’s talk a little more about ideas to improve your financial situation. I have already mentioned paying down debt. This can happen in many different ways. One is to pay down credit card debt if you are carrying a balance. Paying down credit card debt will save you money. If your credit card charges 18% interest, paying down the debt will eliminate or reduce the cost you are paying in interest. Once you do this try to pay your credit card bill in full every month to eliminate the interest cost.

Another idea is to put aside part of the refund for big occasional expenses like holidays, birthday gifts or special events that may be coming up in the near future. Create a new savings account - such as a vacation account - with these funds, then plan to make monthly deposits to this account. This will help avoid using credit cards and accumulating debt because now you have the funds put aside for these special events or goals.

Open an emergency savings account. Have the saving account easy to access so the funds are available for unexpected expenses. The biggest challenge is to be disciplined enough to only use the funds for an “emergency” such as fixing your car or replacing your washing machine or paying an unanticipated medical bill.

Lastly, consider adding to your retirement savings. A small deposit can make a big impact on your retirement account.

Regardless of what you decide to do with your tax refund, creating a plan will assist you to make the most of your money. For more ideas, visit Michigan State University Extension and www.mimoneyhealth.org.

URL for more information:

http://www.extension.org/pages/18179/split-your-tax-refund#.UwUlQfdW1g

How to Start a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan

MSU Extension Food Safety Team
and MSU Product Center
Workshop for Michigan Entrepreneurs

Thursday, April 22, 2014
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
MSU Extension - Monroe Co.
963 South Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI 48161
MSUE Instructors: Micah Loucks & Jeannie Nichols

Training focuses on:
The Michigan Cottage Food Law guidelines
Making your business profitable
Foods permitted to sell
Food safety procedures for a safe product
Production • Labeling • Packaging
Storing & transporting your products

Cost is $20.00 and includes a certificate of participation available upon completion of training for display at your booth

Register online at:  http://events.anr.msu.edu/cottagefoodmonroemay2014/

For more information contact Jeannie at 517-439-9301 or e-mail her at nicho115@msu.edu

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Jeannie Nichols at 517-439-9301 by April 15, 2014 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

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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.

RELAX: ALTERNATIVES TO ANGER FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Tuesday April 15, 2014
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

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

COST: $5 per person

Pre-register required
734 240-3179

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
IS BREASTFEEDING SAFE IF MOTHER IS EXPOSED TO RADIATION?

Breastfeeding provides hydration, nutrition, infection protection, comfort, and security in time of disaster, such as the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. But are women exposed to even low levels of radiation at risk of passing along the radiation in breast milk? Ruth Lawrence, MD, Editor-in-Chief of Breastfeeding Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine, answers the question, “Is it safe to breastfeed in light of the potential for radiation exposure?” in the editorial entitled, “Disasters at Home and Abroad.”

Yes, she concludes; in fact, breastfeeding is “safer than formula and contaminated water. The best thing a lactating woman can do is continue to breastfeed.” Dr. Lawrence advises that women take the recommended dose of potassium iodide, if such measures are deemed necessary. Breastfed infants under the age of 3-4 months will receive a sufficient dose in the breast milk, but older and larger infants will need one direct dose of potassium iodide.

Breastmilk can be tested with a meter.

Water and cows milk are no safer from radio-active contamination than mothers milk, nor do they provide other important protections for the infant and child. In this time of concern, it is still important to remember that mothers milk is still far more reliable than any substitute.


MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION COUNCIL

Our Spring Fling will be held Tuesday, May 6. The theme will be A Tea Party with speaker Helen Laulerwassar.

It will be at the Ida United Methodist Church hall. Please bring a dish to share and your place setting. Bring miscellaneous recipes to share.

Flower cards are still available for Deb’s Flower shop. Please contact Betty Webb at 241-6238.

A charter member of the Ostrander Group, Elizabeth McCrea passed away January 31, 2014. She was a member since 1949. Elizabeth was 94 years old.

Lesson for March – Healthy Mac’ n Cheese!

Next meeting will be April 15, 2014 at 10:30am.

We are always accepting new members. Please contact Betty Webb at 241-6238.
**FAIR NOTES**

Fair is coming really fast – and we want to make sure that everyone is ready for it – so read the following notes:

- Premium Catalog will not be published in the Monroe Evening News – Families will need to get the catalogs from their community Leaders or at the 4-H Office.
- Pre-fair Meeting for community leaders - Thursday May 1st – 7:00 p.m. Activity Center - every club needs to have someone in attendance
- Monroe County Fair – July 27th though August 2nd
- Premiums – You will be receiving premiums this year for everything but Market Livestock – the Fairboard will be paying $3.00 for a blue ribbon, $2.00 for red and $1.00 for white
- Thanks to HEARTT, and the work of Katie Seitz and her crew, money is being raised to pay for the ribbons and rosettes for the 2014 Fair. It is not too late to donate if you want to be a part of keeping the tradition alive.
- All Fair registrations MUST be turned in by your leader on June 16th at the Activity Center. Registrations are only accepted between 1:00 and 7:00 on that day.
- As a 4-H Family it is your responsibility to get the fair registration papers to your leader ahead of the deadline – Registrations will only be taken on June 16th, from your leader – individuals cannot bring in their own forms.

**4-H ROYALTY**

Many clubs are already selecting the members who will represent their clubs as part of this year’s Royalty at the Fair and for other 4-H programs – throughout the year.

Candidates for Prince and Princess must be 9-12 years old.

King and Queen representatives must be between 13 and 18.

Remember to choose your candidate based on their 4-H age.

A form to submit members’ names will be included in the Leader’s Fair packet.

All names must be submitted to the 4-H Office by July 7th.

Interviews will be conducted at the 4-H Activity Center on July 15th.

**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 Tuesday, May 13th at the 4H Activity Center.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. the guests will enjoy a buffet luncheon; some fun activities and each will receive a small token gift to recognize their accomplishments.

Invitations will be mailed. Reservations are required.

Seniors are asked to bring a copy of their senior picture so that it can be displayed on the bulletin board. Seniors who attend will also be asked to complete a simple survey so that a graduation display can be created for fair.

**4-H SCHOLARSHIPS**

A reminder!

Applications for all scholarships are due on April 15th. The interviews for all candidates will be held on April 15th beginning at 7:00 pm. Cash scholarships will be awarded to 4-H members who are high school seniors or college freshmen, who are currently enrolled in the Monroe County 4-H Program.

Applications are available from the Extension Office... Please call to have applications mailed.

Awards are made directly to the student after the completion of their first semester of school and their grades are submitted to the Extension 4-H Office.
WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

**Broiler Workshop**

The popular Broiler Workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th at the 4-H Activity Center. The workshop will begin at 7:00 p.m. This will also be the final day to order your broilers and ducks for the 2014 fair. Orders will be accepted at the meeting. Cost for broilers this year will be $1.25 each. The broiler chicks will be picked up at Hachman’s, in Temperance. Chicks are due to arrive in mid June.

The SAA is going with a new breed of ducks this year, it will only take seven weeks to raise them, so you can also order ducks on the 7th – they will be $2.75 each.

To order chicks either attend the meeting or call Barbara Siebarth at 734-269-2178 or 419-350-9482.

**Sheep and Swine Tagging**

Members must own their lambs and hogs by May 3rd and have them tagged on Saturday, May 3rd at the fairgrounds. Tagging will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 pm.

Sheep will be tagged at the Glen Stock Arena, if you just are bringing in lambs use Dog Pound Road, If you are bring both pigs and lambs on the same load then take them to D lot. Watch for signage – the board is taking precautions because of the PED problem.

During the tagging the superintendents has the opportunity to evaluate the animals and give many members some extra one-on-one advice to help strengthen their project. It is very important for members to monitor the health and weight of their animals to insure that they are in the best possible condition at Fair time.

Many of the animals will have tags when they are purchased, but they must have the official Monroe County JLA tag to be eligible to show. If you have questions, please contact the 4-H Office or the livestock superintendents.

This year we will also be requiring a vaccination for swine for the N3H2 virus. If your breeder gave the shots please bring the signed card from the breeder – If the pigs have not had the shots you will be required to get your first shot that day and return May 17th for the second shot. The cost will be $5.00 for the first pig and three dollars for all the others from the same farm.

Members may tag up to six lambs or six pigs. The Junior Livestock will insert the first three tags free; each animal tagged beyond the first three will cost $1.00 each, to cover the cost of the tag.

We are also asking families to complete an Animal Locator Card. The superintendents will randomly select about six farms to visit their animals, based on the information on the card.

If you have questions, need help, or your animal loses a tag, please call your superintendent immediately.

- **Beef** – Gary Drodt – 734-269-2276
- **Sheep** – Larry Hammons – 734-856-4902
- **Swine** - Ray Kuehnlein - 734-242-0613
SHARE - THE - FUN

This year we have three Spring Achievements to allow members to compete for the privilege to perform at the County Share-the-Fun Program. If the acts are as good as what we have seen in the past, we can guarantee that the program on Friday evening, May 2nd will be very enjoyable.

The County Share-the-Fun is being coordinated by the Custer District Leaders Association and will be held at the 4-H Activity Center on the La-Z-y Boy Stage. The top five acts from each district and the emcee winners will be provided with applications to insure their spots for the evening.

Come and enjoy this evening of learning by doing. Our members have learned poise, self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, and teamwork - in addition to other skills, as they participate in the Share-the-Fun activity.

SPRING ACHIEVEMENTS PLANNED

Check Dates

The Airport Spring Achievement will be held on April 5th at the Activity Center. Check with your leader for details on how you can be involved. Custer and Dundee have combined to create a Spring Achievement on April 26th, which will also be held at the Activity Center. Bedford District will host their Spring Achievement on Saturday, April 12th.

Adults and teens interested in judging should contact the District President or the 4-H Office. Many evaluators are needed to give the members a positive experience.

STATE AWARDS DELEGATES

Congratulations to the 18 Monroe County 4-H Members that accepted the challenge of completing a State Award Application for this year's competition. It is a difficult process to complete, but the satisfaction and pride you get from a job well done is just one of the rewards. The following members are awaiting word to see if they will be competing at the next level.

Representing Monroe County:

Joe Ferrara
Carter Paddy
Kayleigh Adams
Brad Chapman
Amelia Arting
Kerrie Kraftchick
Hannah Doederlein
Evan Hackett
Alexis Garbo

Matthew Rinaldi
Kelsey Yarger
Annalyse Auxter
Claudia Paddy
Karlie Lokuta
Lauren Pier
Kody Sargent
Paige Sweet
Sarah Wachowicz
The popular Mini-expo was a huge success again this year. Members were taught everything from beautiful jewelry, to drop cords, baskets, and food preservation.

A big THANK YOU, to Sarah Lewis who recruited all of the tremendous volunteers, who gave up their day to teach the 4-H members. We had 200 4-H members and volunteers.

Over 32 different sessions kept everyone busy, and as they left proudly carrying their completed projects, plans were being made to take what they had learned to make a similar project, using those techniques.
**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
MSUE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WORKSHOP

MARCH 24, 2014 LENAWEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU.

The workshop will cover the Affordable Care Act and how it affects farms, small businesses and individuals. The Affordable Care Act is far-reaching legislation that covers every business, industry and individual. There are no loopholes that provide any type of exemption. There are many layers to the Affordable Care Act, this will be a broad overview of the basics within the three hour presentation. This presentation will include a hands-on activity to help participants determine whether they need to comply with the ACA.

No cost but registration is required by 3/21/2014.

For more information and to register visit http://goo.gl/qRTYDc

2014 FARM BILL FACT SHEET IS AVAILABLE NOW.

What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Act), also known as the 2014 Farm Bill, was signed by President Obama on Feb. 7, 2014. The Act repeals certain programs, continues some programs with modifications, and authorizes several new programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Most of these programs are authorized and funded through 2018.

To access the fact sheet go here: http://goo.gl/ycJn7p

VEGETABLE GROWER'S GUIDE TO ORGANIC CERTIFICATION RELEASED

The National Young Farmers Coalition has released the Vegetable Grower's Guide to Organic Certification, for any vegetable farmer who embraces the philosophy of organic agriculture but isn't yet certified. The guide addresses some of the challenges to certification and helps farmers explore the decision for themselves. The guide is free to download.

More information can be found here: http://goo.gl/aTsMPs

MICHIGAN MARKET MAKER LOOKING FOR TRANSPLANTS, OR TO BECOME A SUPPLIER? THIS IS THE TOOL FOR YOU!

CONNECTING WILLING MARKETS AND QUALITY SOURCES OF FOOD FROM FARM AND FISHERIES TO FORK.

Whether you are a producer looking for customers, a consumer looking for locally produced food or a business owner looking for a local supplier, MarketMaker can help you.
MarketMaker is a platform that seeks to foster business relationships between producers and consumers of food industry products and services. Farmers can use MarketMaker to offer or find agricultural products (transplants, produce etc.).

In addition to business listings, MarketMaker includes a plethora of useful tools, including a comprehensive interactive database of food industry marketing and business data. This database is free for all to use, and with the powerful search engine that MarketMaker offers, it is easy to search for a specific demographic market in which to sell your products.

For those of you who are on-the-go, MarketMaker has made a mobile version of the site available, called FoodSearcher.

**MSU VEGETABLE NEWS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED**

**Food safety**
Food safety when growing melons on your farm March 14, 2014 Phil Tocco

Cantaloupes and other melons were evaluated nationally by the FDA in the summer 2013 for potential food safety hazards.

**Irrigation**
Indiana and Michigan Water Use Reporting – Meeting the requirement.

March 14, 2014 Lyndon Kelley

Agricultural water users in both Indiana and Michigan with the capacity to pump 70 gallons per minute or more need to report their water use by April 1.

**HEADS UP!**

Our county email (*msue58@msu.edu*)

will be changing during the last week in April.

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

We will remind you again in the May issue of the e-NETWORK.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>APRIL / MAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4-H</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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</table>
| 4/3/14 Sheep Workshop  
4-H Activity Center | 5/10/14 State Awards Banquet  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/5/14 Airport Spring Achievement  
4-H Activity Center | 5/12/14 Horse & Pony Board  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/6/14 Rabbit & Cavey Workshop  
4-H Activity Center | 5/13/14 4-H Graduation Celebration  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/7/14 4-H Council  
Extension Learning Center | 5/15/14 REAACT  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/12/14 Bedford Spring Achievement  
4-H Activity Center | 5/16/14 **Mandatory Horse Meeting**  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/14/14 Horse & Pony Board  
4-H Activity Center | 5/16-17/14 Horse Clinic  
Fairgrounds |
| 4/15/14 Scholarship Applications due before  
Extension Learning Center | 5/18/14 Rabbit & Cavey Show  
Far West Merchant Building  
Fairgrounds |
| 4/15/14 Scholarship Interviews  
Extension Learning Center | 5/20/14 C.S.I.  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/22/14 C.S.I.  
4-H Activity Center | 7/00 pm  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/25/14 **Mandatory Horse Meeting**  
4-H Activity Center | 7/00 pm  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/26/14 Dundee/Custer Spring Achievement  
4-H Activity Center | 7/00 pm  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/26/14 Beef Showmanship Clinic  
Livestock Arena—Fairgrounds |  |
| 4/27/14 Beef Show  
Fairgrounds |  |
| 4/29/14 Middle Managers  
4-H Activity Center |  |
| 4/30/14 Teen Ambassadors  
4-H Activity Center |  |
| **May** |  |
| 4/1/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 5/26/14 Building Strong Adolescents  
Extension Learning Center |
| 5/1/14 **Mandatory May 1st Meeting**  
Leaders receive Fair Materials |  |
| 5/2/14 Ag Awareness Day  
Fairgrounds |  |
| 5/3/14 Sheep & Pig Tagging  
Pigs—Livestock Arena  
Sheep—Glenn Stock Arena |  |
| 5/5/14 4-H Council  
Extension Learning Center |  |
| 5/6/14 Swine Workshop  
4-H Activity Center |  |
| 5/7/14 Broiler Workshop  
4-H Activity Center |  |

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE**

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<tr>
<th><strong>April</strong></th>
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| 4/1/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/8/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/15/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/15/14 MCHE Council  
Extension Learning Center | 10:00 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/22/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 4/29/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |

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| 5/6/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |
| 5/13/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class  
Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am  
4-H Activity Center |

**Note:** The events are listed with their respective dates, times, and locations. The document provides a clear overview of the activities planned for April and May.
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.

TERRY CLARK-JONES
Extension Educator
clarkjon@anr.msu.edu

ALLEN RUSSELL
Family Nutrition Program Assistant
russe414@msu.edu

HEATHER HAMPEL
Family Nutrition Program Instructor
hampel@anr.msu.edu

JUDITH S. SEE
4-H Program Coordinator
seej@anr.msu.edu

DENISE KOHLER
Family Nutrition Program Assistant
denise_kohler@monroemi.org

MATT SHANE
District Coordinator
shanemat@anr.msu.edu

DIANE MICHAUD
Secretary
diane_michaud@monroemi.org

PATTI WARTINGER
Secretary
warting3@anr.msu.edu

LINA M. RODRIGUEZ SALAMANCA M.S.
Vegetable Educator
rodri408@msu.edu

WINNIE WEBB
Breastfeeding Peer
webbw@anr.msu.edu

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

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

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<tr>
<td>5/20/14 Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>4/3/14 Pesticide Training &amp; Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/20/14 MCHE Council</td>
<td>4/3/14 MDA Pesticide Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
<td>12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
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HORTICULTURE

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