



NETWORK

Bringing Knowledge to Life!

FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2

EXPLORATION DAYS

The books announcing the 2014 Exploration Days will be mailed to our office March 7th. If you would like a book mailed to you, please contact the 4-H Office so we can add your name to the mailing list.

The 4-H Council has again agreed to provide scholarships to those members who meet the council criteria. Last year the Council provided over \$10,000 in funds to help our delegates enjoy this statewide activity. All delegates who accept scholarships this year will again be expected to be part of a council fund raiser, so that next year the funds will still be available for delegates. Watch the Network so you are aware of when and where your services are needed.

The Exploration Days Book will be on line, at the Michigan 4-H website, beginning February 21st - If you want to be the first to know the details, check your computer. <http://4h.msue.edu/4h/registrationbook>

RIDE WITH THE SLOW SPOKES

We're sure you have heard about the group of 4-Hers who ride their bikes to East Lansing each year. For the last 41 years, Monroe County 4-H members and chaperons have ridden the 126 miles to Michigan State. Sound hard? It really isn't. The trip is made over three days, with overnight stops at Manchester and Leslie. Some parents ride, others drive vehicles to haul equipment and pick up tired bikers and broken bikes.

If you would like to be a part of, or find out more about the trip, please attend the 2014 Slow Spokes Planning Meeting to be held at the 4-H Activity Center on March 18th. Scott Weisler, group coordinator, will begin the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Questions will be answered and the group will begin the planning process for the 2014 experience. Everyone is welcome. This is a fun activity, which will give you the opportunity to make many new friends. The practice rides, the trip, and Exploration Days all combine for a great experience.

The Council will be offering \$35.00 scholarships, to members who meet the criteria. These scholarships will help members with the costs of the trip. Registration material will be available at the meeting.

This year we will again be planning our own celebration event at Michigan State University, so plan ahead if you would like to be on that committee. This would be a good leadership opportunity for some of our members to be involved with.

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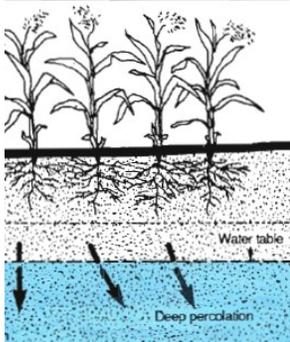
For more information, visit our website at www.msue.msu.edu/monroe

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Most groundwater in Michigan is within 30 feet of the soil surface.



Environmental Use Precautions for the Herbicide Atrazine

December 29, 2011

Table 1. Trade names of atrazine containing herbicides. From 2012 MSU bulletin E-434, *Weed Control Guide for Field Crops*.

| |
|---|
| Atrazine (numerous trade names) |
| Bullet |
| Bicep II Magnum |
| Bicep Lite II Magnum |
| Breakfree ATZ |
| Breakfee ATZ Lite |
| Callisto Xtra |
| Cinch ATZ |
| Cinch ATZ Lite |
| Degree Xtra |
| Expert |
| Field Master |
| Fultime |
| G-Max Lite |
| Guardzman Max |
| Harness Xtra |
| Keystone |
| Keystone LA |
| Lariat |
| Lexar |
| Lumax |
| Parallel Plus |
| Marksman |
| Shotgun |
| (101 atrazine containing products are registered in MI) |

Keeping Atrazine out of Ground-water and Surface Water:

Herbicides containing atrazine:

- May not be mixed or loaded within 50 feet of perennial or intermittent streams and rivers, lakes or reservoirs.
- May not be mixed or loaded within 150 feet of any private well (MI requirement).
- May not be mixed or loaded within 800 feet of any public well unless protective site features are present. See MAEAP technician for additional information.
- Cannot be applied within 66 feet of the points where field surface water runoff enters perennial or intermittent streams (includes surface drains) and rivers or within 200 feet of lakes or reservoirs.
- May not be applied within 66 feet of any standpipe unless field is no-tilled or the herbicide is immediately incorporated.
- May not be applied at an application rate that exceeds 2.0 pounds of atrazine active ingredient (a.i.) per acre per application, and the total pounds of atrazine applied must not exceed 2.5 lbs a.i. per acre per year.
- Follow all labeled use restrictions.

Factsheet credits:

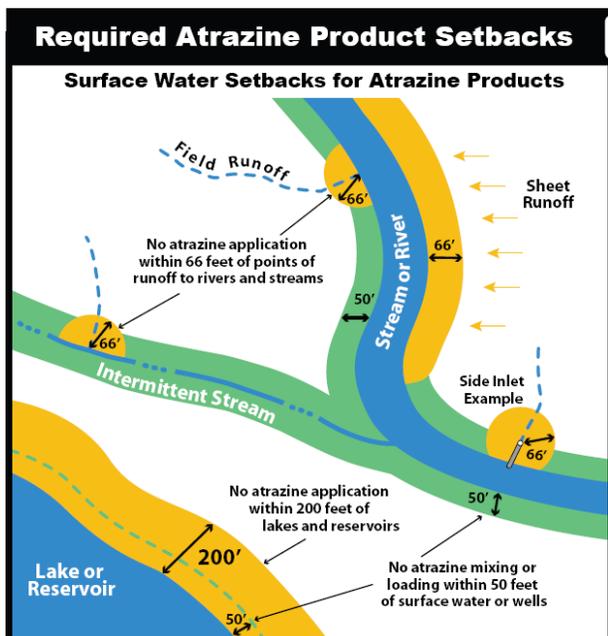
Michigan State University Extension

Michigan Dept Agriculture and Rural Development, Minnesota and Kentucky Departments of Agriculture, Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

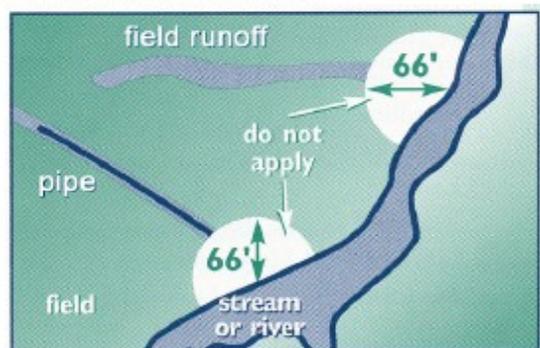
This factsheet is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement or bias against those not mentioned.

Please direct any questions to Monroe Conservation District MAEAP Technician, Tim Kwiatkowski.

Phone: 734.241.7755 Ext 106 or email him at: Tim.Kwiatkowski@mi.nacdnet.net



Do not apply atrazine within a 66-foot arc measured from any point where field surface water runoff enters a stream or river.



Environmental Use Precautions for the Corn Herbicide Acetochlor

February 2012

Table 2. Trade names of acetochlor containing herbicides. From 2012 MSU bulletin E-434, *Weed Control Guide for Field Crops*.

| |
|--|
| Breakfree |
| Breakfree ATZ* |
| Breakfree ATZ Lite* |
| Degree |
| Degree Xtra* |
| Field Master* |
| Fultime* |
| Harness |
| Harness Xtra* |
| Keystone* |
| Keystone LA* |
| Surpass |
| Surestart |
| Topnotch |
| TripleFLEX |
| Warrant |
| (34 acetochlor containing products are registered in MI) |

*Also contains atrazine.

Keeping acetochlor out of Groundwater and Surface Water:

- Do not apply acetochlor within 150 feet of any well if the depth to groundwater is less than 30 feet **and** you have sands with less than 3% organic matter, loamy sands with less than 2% organic matter, or sandy loam with less than 1% organic matter.

NOTES:

Virtually all groundwater in Michigan is within 30 feet of the soil surface.

Virtually all sandy soils farmed in Michigan have less than 2% organic matter, some less than 1%.

- Do not mix or load within 150 feet of any private well (MI requirement not listed on label).
- Do not mix or load within 800 feet of any public well unless protective site features are present. See MAEAP technician for additional information.
- Do not apply acetochlor under conditions which favor runoff or wind erosion of soil containing this product.
- Do not apply to highly compacted, frozen or snow-covered fields.
- Follow all labeled use restrictions.

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"SOFT SKILLS" ARE IMPORTANT!

DEVELOPMENT OF "SOFT SKILLS" IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE "HARD SKILLS" OF A DEGREE, CERTIFICATION, OR TRADE.

More and more information is being shared on the lack of "soft skills" that people have. Examples of soft skills are the ability to communicate, getting along with others, good attitude, self-motivated, thinking creatively to name a few. Often these skills are not developed or underdeveloped because we (parents, caregivers and educators) concentrate more on academics than on social skills. Yet, many of us have interacted with someone who lacks "soft skills" and understand the problem. An online survey done on the behalf of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, found that potential employers feel strong social skills are as important as their education. Parents, caregivers and teachers all have the opportunity to develop "soft skills".

We know that the most significant time for children to develop social skills are during the early years. Providing opportunity to hone these skills is very important so here are some ideas of how you might do that and what social "soft" skills they will develop.

Provide opportunities for kids to play together. This will develop conversation skills and offer chances to build teamwork. As adults, we need to learn to stay back and observe. Too often, we (adults) have a tendency to jump in and children don't have the occasion to learn how to work together.

Provide opportunities for kids to make up games and rules. With all the media venues available to children today, making up fun games has almost disappeared. When kids have created games and rules it provides them a chance to negotiate rules that will work for everyone involved. It is a teachable moment to learn how to compromise.

Learn to follow rules. Boy, this is a big one for anyone! Rules are there for a reason. We may not like them or agree with them but they help develop sound ethics.

Provide opportunities for exploration. When children are provided with chances to explore different places and things this opens up creative thinking and problem solving. Taking children camping or to the city or country lets them see how a place is different from what they know. Create an art box filled with all kinds of art supplies for them to generate whatever is in their minds eye. For adults, this means thinking outside of your box to provide these opportunities and often you will learn and open your mind to new things.

Michigan State University Extension provides a parenting education program called "Nurturing Parenting" that provides information on how to develop "soft skills". For a class near you go to the Family tab of the MSUE website.

By providing these opportunities, you will increase children's abilities to have great conversations, be more innovative and creative, strong teamwork skills and understand how to problem solve. As they become adults, having these skills will increase their prospects for employment.

URL for more information (optional):

<http://nieer.org/resources/policyreports/report7.pdf>

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/reports_and_working_papers/working_papers/wp2/

http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/2013_EmployerSurvey.pdf

ALL ABOUT FOOD: FROM FARM TO FORK CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 12, 2014 8:30-4:00
 FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

<http://www.macombfood.org/all-about-food-conference.htm/>

BETTER PROCESS CONTROL SCHOOL SLATES SPRING COURSES

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Food processors who must comply with U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations on safe processing and canning can enroll in the required certification courses at Michigan State University this spring. The Better Process Control School will run March 17-21.

The classes will take place at the MSU Crop and Soil Science Teaching and Research Center (the Agronomy Farm) at 4450 Beaumont Rd., East Lansing.

FDA regulations require that all container closure inspectors and operators of retorts, processing systems, and aseptic processing and packaging systems work under the supervision of an individual who has received necessary certification from an approved school. The MSU Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and the Grocery Manufacturers Association Science and Education Foundation sponsor the Better Process Control School. The school offers supervisors two- and four-day courses, followed by certification testing. Registration fees include tuition, a textbook, lunches and refreshment breaks.

The Acidified Foods Course is March 17-19. The cost for this course is \$410 per person. **The Acidified Foods and Low-Acid Canned Foods Course is March 17-21** and costs \$770 per person (\$695 per person when two or more people from the same company register together). The low-acid canned foods session will take place only if there are at least 15 people registered.

A brief study session will be held at the end of each lecture and its related discussion period before the closed-book exam for each subject.

Participants taking the final exam must pass with a grade of 70 percent or above to earn a certificate, which they will receive within four weeks after the class.

Reimbursement (minus a \$100 processing fee) is available for anyone who must withdraw from the class, provided notification is made by Feb. 28. After this date, no refunds are made, but a substitute from the same company may take the original registrant's place.

A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees at the Candlewood Suites in Lansing, Mich., for \$89 per night if reservations are made by Feb. 28. To book rooms, call 517-351-8181 and indicate that you are with the Better Process Control School or book online at Better Process Control School.

To enroll in the course or view the class schedule, visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/bpcs2014/>

For more information, contact Jennifer Labun at 517-884-7351, or sibsonje@anr.msu.edu

IT IS FAFSA SM TIME!

PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO FILLING OUT THIS IMPORTANT APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID.

Preparation is the key to filling out this important application for financial aid. For those of you doing the application for the first time, the FAFSA [sm](#) website is extremely helpful and will give you detailed information on how to successfully fill out the form.

To make this job go smoothly it is important to have all the necessary documents. The application will ask you to use income information from the year prior to the school year you are applying for financial aid. As an example, if you are applying for financial aid for 2014-15 school year, you will need to use income tax information from 2013. As soon as you and/or your family has completed the 2013 income taxes, complete and submit the FAFSA [sm application](#).

If you have questions as you complete the FAFSA sm application, help is at your finger tips. If you apply at “FAFSA on the web”, there is "Help and Hints" on the right hand side of the web page directly related to the question you are currently completing. You also have the opportunity to chat live with technical support by hitting the" help" icon. This assistance is avialable in english and spanish. Another option is to contact the finacial aid office of the school you plan to attend or currently attend.

For first time applicants, it is important to know what schools you are interested in attending. Most schools use the FAFSA sm to determine what finacial aid package they will offer you. The online application allows you to list up to ten schools and the paper application allows up to four. It is recommended that if you have an state school as one of your options to list them first. Typically by mid-spring, the schools you listed will send you a letter or email with what type of financial aid they will provide you by attending their school.

Many people have shared that it is not worth filling out the FAFSA sm because they will not receive any funds due to their income. I encourage them regardless. Many scholarships use FAFSA sm to determine awardees, and often you are eligible for financial aid when you assumed otherwise. Also finacial situations change and if this happens your opportunities for assistance will be easier to obtain if you have already filled out the application.

For more tips and suggestion on completeing the FAFSA sm application go to FinAid which has many useful suggestions on how to maximaze your options. Michigan State University Extension also has a helpful website- mimoneyhealth.org that will give you information on fiancial management to give you a great start as you move to the next chapter of your life.

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

<http://www.finaid.org/fafsa/fafsa.phtml>

PARENTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS WINTER 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.

ACA – SMART CHOICE WEBINARS

Mondays

Consumers:

3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Small Business Owners and Farm Own-
ers

12:00 noon

COST: FREE

Log in at:

[wttps://connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance/](https://connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance/)

Click “Guest” and type in any name.
(You will be anonymous. No informa-
tion is collected during the discussion).

get the facts

ACA

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
IN MICHIGAN

How much
can I afford?

Not sure what to expect
from your health insurance?

Why do I
need health
insurance?

What do I
need and
want?

Why is it
important?

How much
will it
cost?

What are
my choices?

SMART
CHOICE
HEALTH INSURANCE®

Learn how to make the Smart Choice.

Join us live online to learn how you can get the most out of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Individuals and families:

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 to see which topics we'll cover each week.

JOIN US!

To participate, log on to:
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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Go to www.MyFreeTaxes.com/MSUExtension

You'll need:

- W2s, 1099s, and other tax forms.
- Social Security or Individual Tax Information Numbers (ITIN) for everyone in home.
- Bank routing and account numbers (for direct deposit)
- Childcare provider name, address and Tax ID
- Name, address and phone number of landlord (for renter's credit)

LIVE UNITED



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

Get started, log on to www.MyFreeTaxes.com/MSUExtension

RECEIVE MONTHLY ONLINE DIGEST ON YOUR FAVORITE TOPICS!

MSU Extension has a number of online digests that you can register to receive on a monthly bases. To sign up for a digest go to www.msue.msu.edu and pick a category page you are interested in. (example: Lawn and Garden- Community Garden or 4-H – Healthy Youth). On the left side of the screen you will see a button labeled “Sign up for MSUE News.” Simple click this button, register your email and wait for your digest!

If you would like to receive more than one digest, you will have to select “Sign Up for MSUE News” on each category page you would like to receive a digest on.

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MOTHER
TO
MOTHER
PROGRAM

Breastfeeding



Makes a Healthier
World

BREAST MILK IS GOOD FOR THE BRAIN

Researchers using magnetic resonance imaging have added to the evidence that breastfeeding leads to increased rates of brain development in infants.

The study, published in NeuroImage, found that compared with babies who received formula, breast-fed infants had increased development in white matter regions of the brain, including areas associated with planning, social and emotional functioning, motor ability and language. The differences were linked to better performance on tests of motor development and visual acuity.

The scientists studied 133 healthy children ages 10 months through 4 years in three groups: exclusively breast-fed, exclusively formula-fed, and those fed a combination of formula and breast milk. The more breast milk and the less formula the babies had, the greater the increases.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1053811913005922>

Article taken from *BREASTFEEDING Connections*

The Mother to Mother Program offers free breastfeeding information, encouragement and support to low income clients.



MONROE COUNTY HOME MAKERS OF EXTENSION

The Monroe County Homemakers of Extension met on January 21 at 10:30 am. Reports were given on cookbooks, flower cards, Christmas lunch, Christmas tree at the Museum and baskets for the 4-H auction.

Next month we will set up a Nominating committee for officers for the upcoming year. The election will be held in May.

Barbara Zieski taught a lesson this month on making pot holders. Next month's lesson will be presented by Juanita Alt.

Thank you cards were received from a couple of members and the Salvation Army Shelter for our donation of linens.

A thank you is being sent to Bob Yount for constructing our tree for the museum.

Next meeting is February 18, 2014 at 10:30 am in the Extension Learning Center.

New members are always welcome. Contact Betty Curley 734 241-6238.

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AG AWARENESS DAY

We are already planning the 2014 Ag Awareness Day for, Friday, May 2nd; over 1,300 2nd and 3rd graders from across the county have already registered for the day's activities.

We are now hunting for volunteers, both teens and adults who would be willing to man stations, teach, work as guides, pack bags, scoop ice cream, or help with the set-up and clean-up.

If you would like to be a part of this event, please call the 4-H Office. It is a wonderful way to educate a great many youth about agriculture and 4-H all at the same time.



POULTRY UPDATE

- A member may only exhibit four pens in the Small Animal Barn, with the exception of Cavies and Pigeons. The four pens include all rabbits and poultry exhibited by the same member.
- A member may only sell two market pens in the sale. This would include market rabbits, broilers, rosters, turkeys, ducks and geese.

Purchasing Birds?

Broilers will be bought in a group order, with order needing to be placed with the Small Animal Association by May 4. Broilers will cost \$1.50 apiece this year.

- Roasters need to be bought between April 15th and May 4th
- Geese between April 15th and May 4th
- Turkeys - any time after February 1st
- Ducks will be bought in a group - orders due by April 1 – cost per duckling will be \$2.50 each
- Your animals will do the best if purchased using these guidelines.

It should also be noted that Broilers and Market Ducks will require the records that have been used in the past. Market rabbits, turkeys, geese and roasters will require a simple card, which must be turned in when the animal is brought to fair. The card can not be entered as a record keeping project.

BEEF WORKSHOP

The season has begun to attend workshops and learn the new rules and the new techniques available for preparing to exhibit your animals. The Junior Livestock Program requires members to attend every two years. But to keep up to date in the fast changing world of livestock and fair, it would be best if someone from your family attended each year.

The beef workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. In addition to a guest speaker the superintendents will discuss in detail the show rules. The Master Stockman program will be highlighted as well as other opportunities for 4-H Beef exhibitors. We have 75 steers registered for the 2014 fair. Refreshments will be served.

EXPLORERS

What are the opportunities that will be available to our 7 and 8 year old 4-Hers at the 2014 Fair?

An Explorer, will have many opportunities to exhibit at the 2014 fair. Explorers may enter any project except Market livestock and Achievement Booths. All Explorers will be evaluated and awarded a Special Ribbon for each project entered. On Thursday afternoon, at 4:00 p.m. all Explorers will be recognized with an award, which will be followed by a parade. Check out the opportunities that they will have. All the new addition of classes for 2014 will be open to Explorers.

Let's make Explorers part of our club and not try to make them feel like outsiders. As the club works together on a craft or leadership development program, include the Explorers so they can exhibit their skills at fair too.

4 - H SCHOLARSHIPS

The Monroe County 4-H Program will be awarding nine different sets of scholarships again this year to high school seniors, and members and leaders who are currently attending classes. Applications are available in the Extension 4-H Office and are due on April 15th. All interviews for the 4-H scholarships will be conducted on April 15th at the Extension Office.



Larry Kreps Memorial Scholarships - This scholarship was created in 1996 to honor the memory of Larry Kreps, Sr, and now also honors Larry Kreps III. These scholarships are awarded to members who have been active in the areas of beef, sheep and swine.

Mark Schuon, Jr. Memorial Scholarship - Scholarships will be awarded this year in memory of Mark Schuon, Jr. The awards are given to a member who exhibits beef, sheep or swine. A second scholarship is given to a member exhibiting poultry or rabbits.

Charles Knabusch Memorial Scholarship - Since 1998 this scholarship has been given to 4-H youth who excel in 4-H work, leadership and citizenship. This annual award is presented in memory of Charles Knabusch. Applicants must have attended Monroe County Schools.

Paul McGuire Memorial Scholarship - the Dog Program Committee will again present this scholarship this year. It has been established in the memory of Paul McGuire, and will presented to 4-H members who has excelled in the 4-H program.

4-H Academic Scholarship - This endowed scholarship will be presented for the tenth time this year. These awards will go to 4-H seniors who have provided leadership to the 4-H program, and who have given back to the program.

Robert Manwell Memorial Scholarship – Robert Manwell was a quiet leader who made a big difference to the youth he touched and had a big impact on the entire youth program. Robert believed in volunteering and sharing his skills in any way possible. This scholarship will be given to a 4-H member or leader who has been involved in community service. Any 4-H member or leader who is pursuing higher education may apply for this scholarship.

Marie Siebarth Memorial Scholarship – Mrs. Siebarth was a 4-H leader for over 40 years. Her family had an interest in the dairy project but Marie had exhibited poultry at the fair, and served many years as a foods superintendent. Her memory will live as her scholarship is awarded each year.

Larry See Memorial Scholarship – Larry was a 4-Her as a youth and also leader. This will be the first year to present this award. He believed in the program and also in today's kids.

All applicants for the scholarships will need to complete a form and meet with the evaluators for a formal interview. Interviews will be scheduled for April 15th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Learning Center. Recipients will be chosen by the committee and award certificates will be presented to the to the scholarship winners at their High School Honors Programs, or at other appropriate programs. Questions may be directed to Judy See.

Suzanne and Wayne Lennard Scholarship – An additional scholarship is also available to students who are enrolled in the crops program at Michigan State University. This scholarship was established by the Lennard Family in memory of their parents. Applications for the Lennard Scholarship are due to the 4-H Office also on April 15th.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP BOARD

Many clubs and organizations are electing officers to lead them through the 2014 Program Year. Congratulations to the youth who have been newly appointed to lead the Youth Leadership Board. This is the organization that will be providing the leadership for the Officers Training on February 25th, and who will be in charge of activities such as the fair dance and Clover Days.

These members represent all of the organizations and the 4-H Council. Participation on this board allows them to learn and teach parliamentary procedure to their organizations, to become more aware of the many opportunities that are available to Monroe County 4-H members and in turn share these opportunities with members across the county.

Ron Bash, Council President, also announced the recipient of the 2013 Presidents Award for the YLB. This year the award was presented to Melissa Woelmer for her outstanding leadership in programs and the 2013 Clover Days Program.

MARK OF EXCELLENCE

2014 will be the fifteenth year that Michigan 4-H will recognize 11 and 12 year old 4-H'ers from Monroe County at Exploration Days. Two youth will be chosen, based on their essays. The delegates will be provided with a partial scholarship from the 4-H Council to allow them to attend Exploration Days.

Members who would like to compete in the "4-H Mark of Excellence" are encouraged to write a 500 word essay on "Because of 4-H I can ...". The essays will be judged and the best two will be submitted for recognition at the State level. Winning essays will be displayed at Exploration Days, at Kettunen Center and quotes will be used in various 4-H publications.

Check with the Extension Office for complete details. Entries, including a signed release form, are due in the 4-H Office by March 1st. Previous winners are not eligible.



STATE AWARDS

Don't forget the State Award Portfolio's for members 13 and older are due in the 4-H Extension office on or before March 1st. Hard copies are available in the 4-H Office and the forms and instructions can be downloaded from the following web site. <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/staward.html>. The Mark of Excellence information is also available at the same website. If you need help, please call Judy at the office.

Meetings have been planned for February 2nd, 9th and 16th at the Extension office, beginning at 2:00 p.m. to help you complete your form. The form has been changed this year and must be submitted electronically. **Don't forget – you have access to the computer lab.**

Clubs - Don't forget that you can send a team of members, (three members, thirteen and over) to compete - let the state know what you are accomplishing in Monroe. The club forms are also available by calling or looking on the web site.



LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Junior Livestock Association is again offering a **Sheep Quality Assurance Program**. 4-H Families, who attend this short informational program, will find that it will focus on how to raise a good quality lamb carcass for the 2014 Fair. Feeding, care, selection and showmanship tips will be a part of the meeting. The Junior Livestock Association is making a commitment to our youth and to your buyers to raise and sell a quality animal. The program will be held on April 3rd beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.



Swine Quality Assurance - Our longest ongoing workshop is our Pork Quality Assurance Workshop which has guaranteed the quality of our 4-H Pork for many years. This year the workshop will be held on May 6th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. Members who were not certified last year must attend. New members who have not shown that species must attend the workshop to make them eligible to exhibit at the fair.

MINI-EXPO

Don't forget to call the office to receive a flyer for Mini-Expo. This year's activity is scheduled for March 15th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the 4-H Activity Center. The registration flyer will describe the classes and the small fees. Classes fill quickly so call the office immediately so that your 4-H'ers can attend. This year's sessions include many new sessions:

Sara Lewis is heading up the committee this year.

This will be an opportunity to make several projects for display at Spring Achievement or the Fair. **Class sizes are limited.**

GARAGE SALE MARCH 29TH

As you begin Spring Cleaning, think of 4-H. We are seeking items for another Garage Sale – March 29th. Good, clean salable items should be brought to the office or the Activity Center any time prior to that date.

The 4-H Program is again partnering with the Fair Association to make Monroe County's biggest Garage Sale and to earn money towards the fair ribbons. This is a win – win project – you get rid of those unwanted items and 4-H members get the ribbons they enjoy.

This year we will be having three Garage Sale – the second one will be June 21st – it will not only be in the Expo Center and Activity Center it will be outside on the fairgrounds and in the Exhibit Buildings.



LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

Beef Workshop - March 6th at 7:00 pm at the Activity Center

Poultry Workshop - March 12th at 7:00 pm at the Activity Center

Sheep Workshop - April 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Activity Center

Rabbit Workshop - April 6th at 2:00 pm at the Activity Center

Tagging of sheep and Hogs - May 3rd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Fairgrounds

Swine workshop - May 6th at 7:00 pm at the Activity Center

Broiler Workshop - May 7th at 7:00pm at the Activity Center

Rabbit and Cavy Show - May 18th at 9:00 am at the Far West Merchant building

Fitting and Showing Clinic - June 9th at 6:00 pm at the Fairgrounds

LINA RODRIGUEZ
SALAMANCA
Vegetable Educator
517 927-2561

WHAT TO DO WITH ICE-COVERED TREES

MOVE DAMAGED TREES WHEN IT'S SAFE AND NECESSARY; OTHERWISE BEST BET IS TO LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.

Posted on December 26, 2013 by Bert Cregg, Michigan State University Extension, Departments of Horticulture and Forestry

The Dec. 21-22, 2013 ice storm brought unprecedented levels of ice damage throughout the Midwest and beyond. As hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents look out at the ice-ravaged landscapes one of the most common questions is “What do I do with these ice-covered trees?”

The answer depends on several factors.

First, is the tree or limb touching or near a power line? If so, stay at least 25 feet away and contact your local utility. Because of the volume of calls you may have to go through an automated system but make sure to stay with the process so the utility is aware of the situation and can get it in the queue.

Second, does the tree have to be moved? If the tree or limb is blocking a road or driveway, then it may be necessary to move the downed tree or limb. In the current storm we are seeing trees that may be covered with an inch of ice or more. This makes a potentially dangerous situation even more so. Do not attempt to work around limbs that have broken off and hung up in a tree crown or limbs that are partially broken off. These can break off without warning with devastating force. Contact a professional tree care provider to deal with overhead limbs down on trees.

In most cases the safest course of action at this point is to let nature take its course. The heavy ice accumulation has been hardest on broad-leaved, deciduous trees, particularly those that had decay or other defect. For those trees the damage is done. These trees can be cleaned up later when the ice is gone and it is safer to work around the trees.

Many people are concerned about trees, particularly birches, which were bent over by the weight of the ice accumulation. Often these trees will be able to recover once the ice melts. Many homeowners are tempted to try to shake the tree or break the ice off. In the current storm, the ice coating is very thick and difficult to remove. Attempting to remove it may cause more damage and breakage than simply leaving the tree alone. Unless there is a compelling reason otherwise, the safest course is to let the tree recover on its own.

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).



A heavy layer of ice coats this small branch. Photo credit: Bert Cregg



Damaged hickory tree. Photo credit: Bert Cregg, MSU



Bent over birch tree. Photo credit: Bert Cregg, MSU

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2014 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

LOOKING TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR PEST MANAGEMENT SKILLS? REGISTER NOW TO ENSURE YOUR SPOT AT THIS PIONEERING WORKSHOP DESIGNED TO SERVE SPECIALTY CROP, FIELD CROP AND LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS.

Posted on November 14, 2013 by Erin Lizotte, Michigan State University Extension

Michigan State University Extension is pleased to announce that the third annual Integrated Pest Management Academy will be held February 18-19, 2014, at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, Michigan, located just outside of East Lansing, Michigan. The 2014 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy is a two-day workshop packed full of information to help you improve your IPM practices on your farm and take advantage of all the great resources MSU has to offer.

The presenters at this program include a number of MSU's best and brightest research and Extension faculty, offering a rare opportunity to hear from experts working in a variety of disciplines and cropping systems at a single event. The first day of the program will cover fundamental topics including: IPM strategies for disease and insect control; promoting and protecting pollinators; alternative weed control strategies; pesticide basics; the impacts of weather on pesticides; invasive pests; and IPM resources from MSU. On the second day of the workshop, participants opt into two, half-day sessions focused on the topic of their choice. This year, the day two sessions include the following options.



Morning Sessions

Soil health: What is it, Why is it Important, and How Can it be Managed?

Soil is one of the most important, but often the ignored component of successful plant production. Understanding the importance of soil management and how soil interacts with nutrients, water and pesticides will be explored during this session. Attendees are encouraged to bring soil test results to get a personal recommendation for their site and crops. This is a cross commodity session, everyone's welcome.

Landscape Design and IPM: Getting it Right from the Start

Many landscape plant problems are rooted in poor design or poor plant selection. This session will feature a discussion on landscape design, placement and selection of ornamental plants and their implications when dealing with pest management in landscapes. This session may be of interest to landscape professionals or backyard enthusiasts.

Stewardship of Pesticides in Michigan Field Crops

Farmers use many tools to manage weeds, insects and diseases in their cropping system. Still, chemical controls are often favored for their ability to provide efficient and effective crop protection. This session will offer an overview of the many pesticide options available to field crop producers, discuss their modes of action and highlight management strategies that can be used to limit the development of pesticide resistances as well as practices that can be used to manage pest populations that already exhibit resistance.

Hops: Getting Started

The morning hop session will cover an introduction to hops, soils and site selection, understanding soil and tissue testing, variety selection, trellising, irrigation and establishment costs.

Afternoon Sessions

Hop Management

The afternoon hop session will cover planting and training hops, fertilizer and nutrient requirement, common insect mite and disease problems, scouting for insects and diseases, weed management, and harvesting and processing hops.

Ecologically Base Fruit Pest Management

Growing fruit can be an input-intensive, challenging endeavor. Session participants will learn about ecologically sound preventative pest actions, pest management approaches, and horticultural practices that can help lessen the challenge of growing fruit.

Managing Pests in Diverse Vegetable Rotations

Michigan growers produce a wide diversity of vegetables at many different scales, which are challenged by a sometimes overwhelming diversity of insect, disease and weed pests. This session aims to introduce cultural, chemical, mechanical and biological approaches – that can be used to manage pests in an economically and environmentally sound way.

Solving the Puzzle: IPM Planning and Implementation for Real-world Field Crops Systems

Integrated pest management makes sense on paper, but how do you fit this broad philosophy into a real-world cropping system? In this session we will discuss how to develop a farm IPM plan that encourages pest management decisions that focus on maintaining efficiency and maximizing profitability. In addition, a panel of farmers will share with participants how they have successfully incorporated IPM principles into their farm plans.

Emerging Pest Problems of Michigan Landscapes

New of invasive pests can cause significant economic and ecological damage. This session will review current and potential pest problems to Michigan landscapes such as oak wild, hemlock woolly adelgid, thousand canker disease, Asian longhorn beetle and more.

Registration

The cost of this event is \$225. Please note that snacks, lunch and parking are included. Participants also receive a notebook with program material and a complimentary IPM related MSU bulletin. Michigan pesticide recertification credits will be available; the exact number will be based on session selection, but participants can expect at least six credits (private or commercial core available).

For more information on the program, a full agenda or registration, visit <http://bit.ly/ipmacademy14> . To register by phone, contact Betsy Braid at braidbet@msue.msu.edu or 517-884-7081.

This program was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 TO FIND DEPENDABLE INFORMATION FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

BY; JIM ISLEIB, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
/ UPDATED: 01/02/2014

When beginning farmers have questions, they have lots of places to seek answers: a local Extension educator, an experienced neighbor or family member, a business selling farm supplies, a wholesale purchaser or farm market manager, or maybe even Google. The nation-wide university Extension system is an excellent source of unbiased, research-based information on a wide variety of agricultural topics.

Everything from minimizing soil compaction to selecting adapted pepper varieties can be found online. If you want to limit your search to information from universities and other educational institutions, be sure to add the phrase "site:.edu" when searching. If you want to ask a question online, try the eXtension "Ask an Expert" function available on the Michigan State University Extension website. Your question will be directed to someone likely to provide a helpful response. Check out the recent article "Finding accurate information on the Internet" by MSU Extension educator Faith Cullens.

Another option is to seek more formal learning opportunities. Some of these are available as online classes or "webinars." MSU Extension educators conducted beginning farmer webinars in 2012 and 2013. There were three general webinars offered in 2012 including sessions on farm business basics, animal-based enterprises and plant-based enterprises. You can access the 2012 beginning farmer webinars online.

The five webinars conducted in 2013 included:

- Getting started with Grazing
- Getting started with Grass-finished Beef
- Getting started with Field Crops and Hay
- Getting started with Field-grown Vegetables
- Getting started with Hoophouses

MSU Extension is offering the 2014 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series beginning Jan. 20, 2014, including weekly webinars through early April on topics of interest. Separate registrations are available for each event through the MSU ANR Events Management System. Check the events page a few weeks prior to the webinar you wish to attend. High speed Internet is needed and a \$10 fee is payable online or by mailing in a registration form and receipt.

MSU Extension 2014 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series

(All webinars begin at 7 p.m. eastern time)

- Getting Started With Soil Improvement On Your Farm – Monday, Jan. 20, 2014
- Getting Started With Selling To Restaurants – Monday, Jan. 27, 2014
- Getting Started With Organic Vegetable Pest Control – Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014
- Getting Started With Selling To Schools And Hospitals – Monday, Feb. 10, 2014
- Getting Started With Selling At Farmers Markets – Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014
- Getting Started With Hops – Monday, Feb. 24, 2014
- Getting Started With CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) – Monday, March 3, 2014
- Getting Started With Organic Field Crops – Wednesday, March 12
- Getting Started With Expanded Vegetable Production – Wednesday, March 19
- Getting Started With Basic Business Records – Monday, March 24
- Getting Started With Hoophouses – Date to be announced

Additional webinars will be offered later in 2014.

Contact Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator, at isleibj@anr.msu.edu with any questions.

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

4-H

February

| | | |
|---------|--|---------|
| 2/1/14 | Communications Day Extension Learning Center | 9:00 am |
| 2/2/14 | State Awards Workshop 4-H Computer Lab | 2:00 pm |
| 2/3/14 | 4-H Council—Committee Meetings Extension Learning Center | 6:00 pm |
| 2/3/14 | 4-H Council Extension Learning Center | 7:30 pm |
| 2/9/14 | State Awards Workshop 4-H Computer Lab | 2:00 pm |
| 2/10/14 | Horse & Pony Meeting Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/16/14 | State Awards Workshop 4-H Computer Lab | 2:00 pm |
| 2/18/14 | New Horizons Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/18/14 | 4-H Middle Managers Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/19/14 | 4-H Town Meeting <u>EVERY CLUB MUST HAVE AN ADULT PRESENT</u> 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/20/14 | REAACT Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/25/14 | 4-H Officer training Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 2/26/14 | Teen Ambassadors Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |

March

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| 3/3/14 | 4-H Council Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/6/14 | Beef Workshop 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/8/14 | Horse Tack Sale 4-H Activity Center | 10:00 am |
| 3/10/14 | Horse and Pony 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/12/14 | Poultry Workshop 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/15/14 | Mini-Expo <u>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</u> 4-H Activity Center | 9:00 am |
| 3/18/14 | Slow Spokes 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/20/14 | REAACT 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |

4-H

March

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|---------|---|---------|
| 3/25/14 | CSI 4-H Activity Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/25/14 | Middle Managers Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/26/14 | Teen Ambassadors Extension Learning Center | 7:00 pm |
| 3/29/14 | Garage Sale Monroe County Fairgrounds | 9:00 am |

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

February

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| 2/4/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 2/11/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 2/18/14 | MCHE Council Extension Learning Center | 10:00 am |
| 2/18/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 2/25/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |

March

| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| 3/4/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 3/11/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 3/18/14 | MCHE Council Extension Learning Center | 10:00 am |
| 3/18/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |
| 3/25/14 | Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class Arthur Lesow Community Center | 11:30 am |

HORTICULTURE

February

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|---------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 2/15/14 | MCMGA Extension Learning Center | 10:00 am |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------|

March

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|---------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 3/29/14 | 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.

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| TERRY CLARK-JONES Extension Educator <i>clarkjon@anr.msu.edu</i> | 240-3170 | ALLEN RUSSELL Family Nutrition Program Assistant <i>russe414@msu.edu</i> | 240-3175 |
| 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>

AGRICULTURE

February

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|---|---------|
| 2/3/14 MSU Basic Grain Marketing On-Line Workshop Farm Bureau Office, Ida | 7:00 pm |
| 2/5/14 MSU Basic Grain Marketing On-Line Workshop Farm Bureau Office, Ida | 7:00 pm |
| 2/18-19/14 3rd MSUE IPM Management Academy Okemos, MI | |
| 2/21/14 MSU Winter Crops Management Meeting Cabela's, Dundee, MI | 9:00 am |

March

| | |
|--|---------|
| 3/6/14 Pesticide Training & Review 4-H Activity Center, Monroe Fairgrounds | 9:00 am |
| 3/6/14 MDA Pesticide Exams Extension Learning Center | 12:45pm |
| 3/6/14 Farm Bureau Farm Safety 4-H Activity Center, Monroe Fairgrounds | 1:00 pm |
| 3/17/14 Irrigation Workshop Cabela's, Dundee, MI | 9:00 am |

