PRE-FAIR MEETING

Fair is coming really fast! Are you Ready? It’s time for the leaders to come to the Pre-fair Meeting and gather all of the information to allow your members to exhibit at the 2014 Monroe County Fair. This year’s meeting will be held on Thursday May 1st 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center on the Fairgrounds.

All registration material for the fair will be provided to each club. The General Superintendents and members of the 4-H Tech Committee will be on hand to bring you up to speed on the new classes and new schedules.

Many handouts will be available to allow you to explain to your members, how these programs and others will operate. ALL CLUBS MUST BE REPRESENTED and all members and leaders must have completed enrollments and volunteer agreements on file for the April 1st deadline to be eligible.

In addition to the announcements on Fair, information will be provided on how to purchase a brick in the “Walk of Support”, the fair theme and perhaps building a float for the parade, and what will be exciting for the 2014 fair.

The community leaders or their designated person must submit completed fair forms on June 16th. It is extremely important that members get all of the information to their leaders in time for them to submit the forms. Registrations for fair will only be accepted on June 16th, between 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.
COME VISIT US DURING THE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday April 5, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
MB&T Expo Center, Monroe Fairgrounds

We will come equipped with a rain barrel for display, a tree to test your knowledge on what tree belongs to that leaf, or can you identify the bird…

Materials will be offered on backyard habitats, pollinators and a host of other conservation minded information…

Books, bat houses, plant markers and a natural mosquito repellent will be available for sale…

Hope to see you at this year’s EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Look for the POLLINATOR display
TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The Monroe Conservation District’s annual spring tree and shrub fundraiser is going now.

Deadline to order is March 21, so don’t delay.

If you haven’t already received your catalog, one may be obtained by going on the district’s website at www.MonroeCD.org then to products, or you can visit us at 1137 S Telegraph Rd, Monroe (by Secretary of State) or give a call at 734.241.7755 ext. 3 and we will be happy to mail you one.

Many of the trees and shrubs that we offer are native to Michigan. They are selected for their ability as windbreaks, cover and/or a source of food for wildlife, soil stabilization and water loving trees for those low laying areas. On the decorative side of things we have locally grown day lilies and our hostas come from Monroe as well. We also offer a host of conservation minded items for sale including bat houses, plant markers, all natural mosquito repellent that really works, weed mats, rain barrels and much more.

The pickup date for this year’s sale will be on Friday, April 18 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday, April 19 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Pickup is located in the Far West Merchants building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

THINK SPRING!
TAKING CARE OF YOU—THE PARENT

REPLACE YOUR STRESS WITH CALM.

Have you ever had a day when everything went wrong? Days like those make it hard to be patient, caring and loving. It can be difficult to parent effectively when you are tired, frustrated, angry person. Stressful days are inevitable but learning to manage the stress is possible.

Everyone has a bad day. Some of us have more than others. One of the first steps to managing stress is recognize what causes you the most stress. Take a minute to make a list of as many things that cause your stress. This list might include lack of money, lack of time, whining, nagging, as examples. By creating a list this will make you more aware of what triggers your stress.

When stress builds up, it can result in anger, headaches, discouragement, depression, stomach-aches, fatigue and other “no-good” feelings. The next step in managing stress is to think about how stress affects you. Think about what are some of your reactions and feelings when you feel stress. If one of the feelings you have is helplessness, be especially aware of what you do. Often this feeling becomes so overwhelming that we stop trying to problem solve.

So what can you do to deal with the stresses in your life? There are many things you can do that can help you manage stress in a positive way. Think about the things you truly enjoy doing and list them out. My next question to you is “how often do you take the time to do these things?” If you are not doing them often, start making the time to do them now! Filling your life with things you love to do is the first step towards managing stress effectively. This will be very different from person to person so take the time to find what works best for you.

Suggestions for dealing with stress might be to recognize that you are not able to “fix” everything at once. Another might be to drop the stress you cannot change and tackle the ones you can. Replace stressful thoughts with pleasant ones. Think about what you do have instead of what is not going well or what you don’t have.

Lastly be sure you are taking care yourself. Are you eating healthy, exercising frequently and relaxing regularly? Make time in your schedule to keep yourself healthy. In order to be the best parent you can be, you need to take of yourself!

When stress is not managed well it often turn into an anger issue. Michigan State University Extension offers a program called RELAX: Alternatives to Anger that will give you more strategies to manage stress and anger in a constructive way. Start taking care of you-the parent today!

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!

Subsidize your education cost by applying for scholarships!
You can only get scholarships if you apply! Do it today!

Many people miss out on opportunities for free money by not taking the time to apply for scholarships that are available. They are free monies available that does not need to be paid back. They are offered by schools, employers, endowments, companies, non-profits community organizations, religious groups etc.

Most scholarships are merit-based. They are awarded based on certain standards that are set by the entity awarding the scholarship. These standards can be based on academic, special talents, traits or interest, financial needs or a combination.
Often scholarships are geared towards a particular group. For example they could be for women, high school seniors, children or employees of a company sponsored scholarship, military families. Never assume that you might not be eligible.

The amount of a scholarship will vary. Some may cover your tuition, some are one time awards and others may be renewable. Any opportunity you have to apply will be worth the chance that you can reduce the cost of your education.

You can find scholarships to apply for in several different ways. Start at your school. The school counselors will have a listing of available scholars for your local community. Another location to check is the public library. Checking online is another option but you need to proceed with caution to make sure the scholarship information and offers are legitimate. You should never have to pay to find scholarship opportunities. studententaid.edu has a great site on avoiding scholarship scams.

Many scholarships use FAFSA sm to determine awardees, and often you are eligible for financial aid when you assumed otherwise. If you have not completed your FAFSA form yet make it by March to complete. Also financial situations change and if this happens your opportunities for assistance will be easier to obtain if you have already filled out the application.

Michigan State University Extension has a great financial management website to get you started on creating a good plan as you begin this next chapter of your life. Good luck!

https://fafsa.ed.gov/
http://www.finaid.org/

**MSU EXTENSION HELPS MICHIGAN RESIDENTS TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE CHOICES**

Contact: Sean Corp., 517-884-7083, corpsean@anr.msu.edu

EAST LANSING, Mich. – More Michigan consumers than ever are faced with having to make difficult health insurance choices – many for the first time. Through a series of free, unbiased educational programs, Michigan State University Extension hopes to help people make smart health insurance decisions for themselves and their families.

To help people understand the confusing and complex health insurance landscape, MSU Extension is hosting a series of weekly “Smart Choice” educational webinars and launching a new website to explain changes in the insurance landscape. The classes are free and open to the public. A current list of upcoming webinars can be found at aca.msue.msu.edu, which are held every Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. through March 31.

Brenda Long, an MSU Extension educator, is spearheading the effort.

“We aren’t going to push people to any particular plan,” she explained. “Our goal is to help people understand this complex issue and arm them with the information they need to make their own decisions. This is one of the most important decisions people make, and they will be dealing with concepts they are often unfamiliar with.”

Long and her colleagues will help participants analyze their insurance needs, learn important terms and concepts, compare health insurance plans and figure out what fits into their budgets. The aim is to help participants become confident in taking the next steps in signing up for insurance, either through a private insurance broker or directly through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

“Our Smart Choice program gives people the necessary information to successfully get the answers and coverage they need, either through a local certified application counselor or the federal healthcare.gov site,” Long said.

Organizations that provide health or community assistance, or employers looking to provide education for their employees can also contact MSU Extension directly at healthinsurance@anr.msu.edu and request information about setting up an in-person training session.

For more information about the Affordable Care Act, the Health Insurance Marketplace, and how both affect the people, families and businesses in Michigan, visit aca.msue.msu.edu.
Take control of your health insurance decisions!

Learn how to make the Smart Choice

Not sure how to shop for or choose health insurance?

MSU Extension educators are trained to help you make the best health insurance decision for yourself and your family. Through this online workshop people will learn how to:

- Learn important terms and concepts
- Compare health insurance plans
- Understand available resources
- Take the next step in purchasing health insurance

JOIN US!
To participate, log on to: connect.msu.edu/healthinsurance
Click “Guest” and type in a name. (You will be anonymous.)
Don’t have a computer with a high-speed connection? Visit your local library for access.

Visit aca.msue.msu.edu for more information on the Smart Choice workshops and more.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. AnRc 2-6-14
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
11:30 am—12:30 pm

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

COST: $5 per person

Pre-register required
734 240-3179
Infant Feeding During Disasters

Breastfeeding matters because...

- It can be impacted if stopped for even a short period of time. Breastfeeding cannot be put on hold until the disaster is over.
- It can help protect against respiratory diseases & diarrhea, which can be fatal to displaced families.
- Breast milk is available all the time without needing other supplies.
- It protects infants from the risks of using contaminated water supplies during a disaster.

Barriers to breastfeeding during a disaster

- Lack of lactation support, whether it is a new mother or a mother with a newly-weaned baby.
- Being away from home - displaced or having to relocate.
- Being separated from people who usually support the mother.
- Lack of privacy, security, comfort, dim lights & quiet in emergency shelters.

Breastfeeding benefits

- Breastfeeding Mothers: Reduce their risk for:
  - Ovarian cancer
  - Breast cancer
  - Type 2 Diabetes

- Breastfed Infants: Have a reduced risk of:
  - SIDS
  - Lower respiratory infections
  - Type 2 Diabetes
  - Asthma
  - Obesity

- Workforce & environmental: Infants have less illness so mothers miss less work. Less trash & plastic waste compared to formula & bottle supplies.

Communities who promote breastfeeding:

- Could save $13 billion annually.
- Prevent 1,000 deaths per year (for 10% of women for their babies first 6 months of life)

How responders can help

- Provide water & food for breastfeeding mothers.
- Ensure access to healthcare providers with lactation experience.
- Assure mothers that breastfeeding can provide sufficient nutrition for babies when other foods aren’t available.
- Keep families together.
- Create safe locations for pregnant & breastfeeding women.
- As a last resort, ready to use infant formula in a disposable cup should be the alternative.

For more information visit http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr

References:

Breastfeeding Makes a Healthier World

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

The popular Workshop is returning on March 15th at the 4-H activity Center. There are just a few openings left so contact the office right away. We are looking forward to creating some exciting projects for both Spring Achievement and Fair.

Thank you to the 4-H council for sponsoring the event, to Sara Lewis for chairing the event and to all of the leaders who volunteered to teach. We have some exciting projects and are looking forward to the completed projects.

SPRING ACHIEVEMENTS PLANNED

We will be experiencing three Spring Achievements this year. Bedford - April 26th, Custer and Dundee have combined and will host their Achievement on April 12th at the Activity Center. The Airport Spring Achievement will be held on April 5th also at the Activity Center.

Each district will still have the opportunity to send five acts and two emcees to the county share – the Fun which is scheduled for May 2nd.

We anticipate having the forms and information on the new council website in the very near future - forms will not be mailed to the leaders.

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

JOIN 4-H TODAY!

All clubs must submit all new member and leader enrollment forms by April 1st. The spring enrollment Packet may be turned in at the pre-fair meeting on May 1st at the Activity Center.

For families that have not already identified a club, you may contact the Extension 4-H Office and we will help you find the perfect match for your interests. All new members must meet the April 1st deadline to be eligible to show at the 2014 Monroe County Fair. Please call the Extension 4-H Office immediately for help.

Leaders who are requesting a fair pass for this year must have a complete set of Volunteer forms on file in the 4-H Office. They must also have taught members who are exhibiting in that project area at the fair.

Members and leaders who have questions concerning their current enrollments should contact their community leader.

AG AWARENESS DAY

On May 2nd, 1300 2nd and 3rd graders will converge on the Monroe County Fairgrounds, to learn more about agriculture. They will do this as they listen to 4-H, FFA, and other volunteers talk to them about animals, plants, farm equipment, farming in general, crops and a wide variety of safety topics, which can be made interesting for young students.

We are searching for volunteers to teach sessions, to guide groups of students, to help set-up and take down, to pack bags for the youth to take back, scoop ice cream, and even provide drinks. If you would like to be a part of this activity, call the 4-H office. We’ll give you the complete details and sign you up for a fun day, working with kids.
PEDAL YOUR WAY OR RIDE THE BUS!

Are you looking forward to the 2014 Exploration Days and the campus of Michigan State University? You can get there one of two ways. You can pedal your way, with the Slow Spokes, or you can take the bus, that the Council provides for the trip.

The Slow Spokes trip gives members the thrill of arriving on campus, fresh from 129-mile bike ride and ready to attend the many classes and workshops that make-up Exploration Days.

Exploration Days will be held on the campus of Michigan State University from June 18th -20th. The bikers will travel from Sunday, June 15th to Tuesday the 17th. The price tag will be $170.00 for Exploration Days and an additional $50.00 for the bike trip.

The good news is that many scholarships have been pledged to support our members and enable them to attend. The Junior Livestock and the Small Animal Association, along with the Horse and Pony Board will each be providing scholarships to any of their members who exhibited at the 2013 Fair. The 4-H Council will provide $55.00 scholarships to members who are attending for the first time. If you took the opportunity before, the Council will offer you $45.00 to encourage you to return. If you do decide to bike an additional $35.00 from the Council will be provided for your trip. The Council requests that members who accept scholarships must have participated in the 2013 Candy Sale or Spaghetti Dinner. In addition to these scholarships several $40.00 Michigan State University Scholarships will be available and some of the districts and local clubs encourage their members with scholarships. There are many opportunities for members to lower their costs to attend this exciting activity.

The organizational meeting for 4-H’ers interested in being a part of the year’s ride is March 18th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. Members and parents will talk about the trip, expectations from members, where you will stay, and what needs to be taken. The members will also plan practice rides.

Option books for Exploration Days are available on line beginning February 17th. The best options fill fast – so get your registrations in early. Registration must be made by May 1st and all fees must be paid at the time of registration.

Adults are needed for chaperones and to help fill the many roles on campus. Parents, leaders, alumni, all adults are encouraged to attend and help the youth experience college life. We will encourage adults to attend and chaperone by only charging you $85 to attend – adults may take classes too.

BEEF SHOW

The Beef committee has completed the plans for the 2014 Beef Show. It will be held on Sunday April 27. On Saturday evening they will be holding a Fitting and Showing Clinic, at the fairgrounds, it will begin at 6:00.

- Exhibitor will enter the grounds through D Lot.
- The show will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.
- Cost will be $20.00 per animal and will be payable at registration.
- Classes will include both Showmanship and market classes – Showmanship will be a jackpot show and will cost each exhibitor $5.00 to enter.
- Awards will be given.
- Registration information is available at www.Blanchettbeefpreview.com
- Lunch will be available on the grounds.
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.

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.
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to three outstanding Monroe County 4H members who were recently awarded scholarships.

Daniel Henes was presented a $500 scholarship from the Great Lakes State Fair competition. Daniel is currently a student at MCCC and plans to complete his bachelor degree at Michigan State University.

Claudia Paddy and Annalyse Auxter were named as winners MSU Pre-College Achievement Scholarship. This is a $2,000 award if they attend Michigan State University. Selection for the scholarship is based on academic ability, demonstration of extra-curricular and community service experience, demonstration of leadership and teamwork skills, ability to overcome obstacles.

All of these 4-Hers are very active Monroe County 4H Members. Daniel has won a State Award in the Rabbit projects and Claudia and Annalyse have completed the application this year to be part of the awards program.

STATE AWARDS – MARK OF EXCELLENCE

We had an outstanding group of members who completed their State Award applications by the March 1st deadline. Watch the Network for the list of members who will be representing Monroe County at Exploration Days.

The Mark of Excellence topic this year is “Because of 4-H I Can….” Two essays will be selected by the committee to represent Monroe. Each State Award delegate and Mark of Excellence Delegate will be provided with a $40.00 scholarship to help him or her cover expenses for their trip to Exploration Days.

SPRING LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

We are offering a variety of educational activities this spring. Please read carefully and make reservations when required so that you can be a part of the experience.

**Beef Quality Assurance** - Members who are showing beef for the first time in 2014 and members who did not attend the Beef Workshop in 2014 are **REQUIRED** to attend the meeting on March 6th. This workshop will focus on how to raise a good quality beef carcass for the 2014 Fair. Feeding, care and showmanship tips will all be a part of the evening activities. All members attending will be given a BQA Card. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Activity Center on the fairgrounds.

**Sheep Quality Assurance** – April 3rd. The Junior Livestock Association is offering a Sheep Quality Assurance Program to help 4-H Families, understand how to raise a lamb for competition at 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. Any new members must attend this workshop, if you exhibited but did not attend in 2013 it is required that you attend in 2014. The program will begin 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.

**Sheep and Swine Tagging** - We have already had many calls as to when the board will be tagging sheep and swine for the 2014 Fair. The tagging date will be May 3rd from 8:00 – 12:00 at the fairgrounds. From that date on all animals must be in the possession of the member till the fair.
When a weed and a crop belong to the same family, it is difficult to achieve acceptable weed control because effective herbicides can injure the weeds and the crop. This is why it is common for growers to struggle to control weeds from the nightshade family in tomatoes and peppers; all these plants belong to the family (Solanaceae).

The herbicide active ingredient halosulfuron (Sandea) is an herbicide labeled in sweet corn that is effective controlling nutsedge when applied post emergence. However, this particular herbicide has rotational restrictions that range from 8 to 36 months before vegetables and other crops can be planted. For example, 15 to 18 month are needed before cole crops can be planted, and 8 to 12 months before any solanaceous crops can be planted.

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND FARM SAFETY MEETING**

will be held in MSUE Lenawee office on March 14, 2014. The meeting will assist the Ag employer in understanding issues and regulations impacting their employees and farm. The afternoon program will feature the training Series “Updating Farm Safety Plans: Promoting a Safety and Health Management System for Agriculture” (3 RUP credits). Registration is $30 by February 28, 2014, and $35 after that date. Cost include lunch and materials. For more information visit [http://events.anr.msu.edu/SEAglabor](http://events.anr.msu.edu/SEAglabor) or call MSU Extension Lenawee office 517 264 5300 or send an email to rodri408@msu.edu.

**2014 IRRIGATION WORKSHOP**

will be held in Dundee on March 17, 2014. All irrigators are invited, including growers of field crops, fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals (2 RUP credits). Early registration is $50 per person by March 10, onsite registration is $75 per person. Registration includes lunch and materials. For more information visit [http://events.anr.msu.edu/irrigatio](http://events.anr.msu.edu/irrigatio) or call MSU Extension Lenawee office 517 264 5300 or send an email to rodri408@msu.edu.

**FIELD CROPS WEBINAR SERIES IS BACK!**

Growers, consultants and agribusiness professionals are invited to attend six online programs addressing key field crop production and pest management points for 2014. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage systems in the coming season, and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agriculture experts. The live webinar programs can be viewed independently online at no cost. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit will be available through each event for application to one of the following categories: Private Core, Commercial Core, or Field Crops.

All programs will be held Monday evenings 7pm-8pm EST
February 24th- Small Grain Production, Martin Nagelkirk and Jim Isleib, MSUE
March 3rd- Corn Stover as Feed and Fuel, Dennis Pennington, MSUE
March 10th- Corn and Soybean Fungicides, Dr. Martin Chilvers, MSU
March 17th- Bt Resistance in Corn Rootworm, Dr. Chris DiFonzo, MSU
March 24th- Herbicide Resistance Mgmt, Dr. Christy Sprague, MSU
March 31st- Alternative Forages/Cover Crops, Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU

Visit [events.anr.msu.edu/fieldcropswebinars2014](http://events.anr.msu.edu/fieldcropswebinars2014) to register and access connection information. Contact James DeDecker (989-734-2168 or dedecke5@msu.edu) for more information.
LANDOWNER OIL AND GAS LEASING AND MICHIGAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY EDUCATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2014, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Registration opens at 6:30 pm)

Sponsored by Exeter Township, Monroe County Farm Bureau, Lennard, Graham and Goldsmith Attorneys and the Monroe County Agriculture Advisory Council

Ida Township Hall, 3016 Lewis Avenue, Ida, MI 48140

In the last two years there has been increasing interest in leasing mineral rights in the State of Michigan and the U.S. This interest in leasing to produce oil and natural gas can lead to a significant income opportunity for landowners. Can the lease you are offered be negotiated to improve income and reduce impacts to your existing operations? How is the oil and gas industry regulated to insure energy is produced safely in Michigan?

MSUE is sponsoring a public meeting for landowners to educate them on the following topics:

- Regulation of the Michigan oil and gas industry
- Advances in drilling technology
- Environmental and economic considerations for mineral owners
- Understanding and negotiating the standard oil and gas Lease

Welcome and Introductions
Ned Birkey, Spartan Agricultural Consulting

Understanding the standard oil and gas Lease
Curtis Talley Jr., Michigan State University Extension Farm Management Educator

- What does the language in the oil and gas lease mean?
- Should I be concerned about the lease language when I am getting a bonus payment?
- What is a non-development lease?
- What options are there to accepting the oil and gas “standard” lease
- Protecting groundwater quality in the lease

The Department of Environmental Quality Role in Regulating the Michigan Oil and Gas Industry
Bill Mitchell, Kalamazoo District Geologist MDEQ/RMD - Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals

- Michigan oil and gas well construction requirements
- Hydraulic fracturing in Michigan
- Environmental considerations and regulations

Question and Answer Period
Ned Birkey moderator

All speakers and attorney Marty Kamprath of Lennard, Graham and Goldsmith will be present to answer questions. For questions related to the program information contact Ned Birkey at 734-260-3442. To reserve your seat please contact the Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170 or Monroe County Farm Bureau at 734-269-3275. Pre-registration is encouraged so that ample handouts will be available, but not required.

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NEW FARM BILL INCREASES FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTING ON-FARM ENERGY CONSERVATION

The new Farm Bill increases funding for energy conservation practice implementation. MSU Extension programs target dairy farmers who want to implement energy conservation practices to reduce energy costs.

Posted on February 23, 2014 by Charles Gould, and Al Go, Michigan State University

On-farm energy conservation emerged a clear winner in the new Farm Bill. Congress appropriated more dollars than the previous Farm Bill to assist farmers and ranchers in implementing energy conservation measures. A brief overview of each program in the Farm Bill with energy conservation funding is as follows:

Rural Energy for America (REAP) Program

With significant carryover funding from FY2013, a $3.5 million increase in the FY14 omnibus appropriations bill, and a $250 million mandatory funding expansion in the five-year Farm Bill, the Rural Energy for America (REAP) program is expected to issue a Notice of Funding Availability for FY14 applications. Mandatory funding of $50 million per year has been designated and the application process has been simplified and streamlined. Though feasibility studies were removed as eligible project costs, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects can still receive up to $500,000 in grants and/or up to $5 million in loan guarantees. REAP will employ three tier levels of awarding projects - projects costing $80,000 or less, from $80,000 up to $200,000, and projects larger than $200,000.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program went into effect in December 2013. It will receive $250M in year 1. This program will be run through the Rural Utilities Service and will provide low-interest loans to rural electric coops who will in turn lend it to cooperative members to implement energy conservation measures. Rural electric cooperative members will need to lobby their association to pursue these funds.

Value-Added Producer Grant
The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) is also in the Rural Development Title and is funded at $63M. VAPG has expanded its focus to include renewable energy and energy efficiency associated measures.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Program

EQIP in the Conservation Title has conservation practices that fund energy audits and efficiency upgrades. The typical EQIP application process must be followed to take advantage of these conservation practices and energy conservation must be recognized as resource concern.

Rural Energy Savings Program

The Rural Energy Savings Program is included in the Rural Development Title and is authorized at $75M per year with discretionary funding. Because it is funded with discretionary funding, it will be very difficult to get this program funded each year.

A series of workshops will be offered by Michigan State University Extension around the state on March 11-13. The purposes of the workshops are twofold: first, to help dairy farmers learn how they can reduce their energy expenses and second, provide information that will enable dairy farmers to gain access to utility rebates and federal dollars to implement recommended energy conservation practices. MSU studies have shown, on average, a potential of 40 percent reduction in energy expenses when recommended energy conservation practices are implemented for farms and rural businesses (see Table 1). To learn more about the workshops, including registration information, visit the Energy Conservation: Impact on the Bottom Line registration page.
Recent developments on the renewable energy front are underscoring the value of energy efficiency in the move to a cleaner, less expensive energy future. Improved efficiency should be the option of first choice for meeting the nation’s growing energy demands. As the nation’s farms, ranches and forestlands strive to meet 25 percent of our energy needs by 2025 with renewable resources, including solar power, wind energy, biomass, biofuels, hydropower and geothermal energy, more efficient use of energy will make that renewable energy goal easier to reach.

For more information about the energy conservation workshops contact Charles Gould at 616-994-4547 or gouldm@msu.edu. For more information on energy conservation programs in the Farm Bill contact Al Go at 517-353-0643 or goaluel@egr.msu.edu.

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

Table 1. Average Energy Efficiency Saving - Michigan Farm Energy Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homestead Operation</th>
<th>Average % Energy Cost Savings</th>
<th>Average Pay-back (Yrs.)</th>
<th>Average Energy Saved ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>$8,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>$33,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Crops**</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>$7,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Dry- ing**</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>$15,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation**</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>$14,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs**</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>$4,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef**</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>$1,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Processing/Marketing</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>$8,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Business</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>$26,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals Ave. (225)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>$13,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Field Operations not included.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/3/14</td>
<td>4-H Council</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6/14</td>
<td>Beef Workshop</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8/14</td>
<td>Horse Tack Sale</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11/14</td>
<td>Poultry Workshop</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/14</td>
<td>Mini-Expo</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16/14</td>
<td>Horse and Pony</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/14</td>
<td>Slow Spokes Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/14</td>
<td>Junior Livestock Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20/14</td>
<td>REAACT</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/14</td>
<td>Middle Managers</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26/14</td>
<td>Teen Ambassadors</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/29/14</td>
<td>Garage Sale</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/14</td>
<td>Small Animal Association</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/14</td>
<td>Sheep Workshop</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3/14</td>
<td>Airport Spring Achievement</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6/14</td>
<td>Rabbit &amp; Cavey Workshop</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7/14</td>
<td>4-H Council</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12/14</td>
<td>Dundee/Custer Spring Achievement</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/14/14</td>
<td>Horse &amp; Pony Board</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/14</td>
<td>Scholarship Applications due before</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/14</td>
<td>Scholarship Interviews</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/25/14</td>
<td><strong>Horse Mandatory Meeting</strong></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/11/14</td>
<td>Poultry Workshop</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/14</td>
<td>Mini-Expo</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>4-H Activity Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/14</td>
<td>RELAX</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/22/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/29/14</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Ongoing Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to Noon, and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170.

### STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN RUSSELL</td>
<td>240-3175</td>
<td>Family Nutrition Program Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:russe414@msu.edu">russe414@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUDITH S. SEE</td>
<td>240-3174</td>
<td>4-H Program Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:seej@anr.msu.edu">seej@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATT SHANE</td>
<td>517-264-5308</td>
<td>District Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shanemat@anr.msu.edu">shanemat@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATTI WARTINGER</td>
<td>240-3184</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warting3@anr.msu.edu">warting3@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINNIE WEBB</td>
<td>240-3178</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Peer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webbw@anr.msu.edu">webbw@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://people.msue.msu.edu)

### HORTICULTURE

#### March

- **3/29/14** | MCMGA | 10:00 am |
  - Extension Learning Center

#### April

- **4/26/14** | MCMGA | 10:00 am |
  - Extension Learning Center

### AGRICULTURE

#### March

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