EMILY KITTENDORF APPOINTED TO THE STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL!!

For the first time ever, Michigan 4-H has a State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC). The council is made up of 12 youth from around the state that have “proven themselves to be great leaders through applications, reference checks, and interviews. Youth on the SYLC will cultivate a language for talking about Michigan 4-H programming as a whole, to serve as active ambassadors of 4-H, sharing their experiences and providing input for statewide outreach and events/program planning. They will also serve as an additional resource in their regions for 4-H staff, and general community members who might be interested in participating or volunteering with 4-H”. Congratulations to Monroe County’s own Emily Kittendorf for being appointed to your new role.

LAST CALL FOR NEW CLUBS!!

All clubs must submit new member and leader enrollment forms, as well as, turn in all spring enrollment packets by April 1st. Call Patti at the 4-H office for more information.

If you are new to the 4-H community and looking for a club, you may contact the 4-H office and we will help you find a match for your interests. All new members must meet the April 1st deadline to be eligible to show at the 2015 Monroe County Fair.

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 the project area at the fair.

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

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

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
BLACKBERRY AND RASPBERRY PLANTS
ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR PLANTS?
FOUR IMPORTANT STEPS

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

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

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

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

4. Getting the Ground Ready
• As soon as your soil is dry enough to work, it is a good idea to rake the area free of winter debris and turn the soil. If the soil has never been gardened, thorough and early sod removal is necessary.
• Avoid planting in soils where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, or raspberries have previously been. These crops may har-
bor soil pathogens, which may affect your new plants. It is better to start in fresh ground.

Spacing
• 18” to 24” apart for red and yellow raspberries; 20” – 24” for black raspberries
• 3’ - 4’ apart for blackberries
• Recommended 8’ to 12’ between rows depending on machinery

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

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

Weed Control
• Regular cultivation is necessary during growing season
• Roots are shallow - don’t cultivate more than an inch deep
• Mulching during establishments can help control weeds
• Contact MSU Extension for chemical recommendations
**Trellis**
- We suggest plants are supported by a trellis
- Trellising keeps canes upright and fruit off the ground
- A trellis makes picking easier, and maintains good aeration, thereby reducing disease control

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

- Do not mulch brambles beyond the first year
- Do not mow down summer-bearing raspberries; they fruit on 2 year-old canes.
- Caution should be taken to prevent the roots from being planted to deep.

Choose a sunny location with deep loamy soil. Heavy silts and clay soils should be avoided because of poor growth and lower yields, or should be formed into raised beds to provide adequate drainage. Good drainage and an adequate supply of moisture are essential.

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**Summer Raspberry Trellis**
T-bar trellis for raspberries that supports 2 wires 12” apart at 3 ‘- 4’ above the ground

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**Black Raspberry & Blackberry Trellis**
T-Trellis4-Wire is best trained to a four-wire trellis. The laterals are *wrapped* around the wires.
Michigan State University Extension- Monroe County will be offering a six-week, two-hour series on Monday evenings beginning March 9 through April 13, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Parents and caregivers of young people ages 9 to 16 will be able to improve their family relationships through better communication and understanding. The name of the program is “Building Strong Adolescents” which focuses on the development of teens and identifies ways parents can help their teens succeed. Participants will learn skills to promote positive growth.

Topics include teen development, setting limits, using consequences, building independence and encouraging self-esteem, school success and positive friendships. How to talk about difficult topics like alcohol, drugs and sex and helping teens prepare for the future are also covered. By the end of the program parents and caregivers will be aware of ways to surround teens with positive relationships.

The cost of the series is $30 per person or couple and will be held at the Monroe County Extension office, 963 S. Raisinville Rd. Monroe, MI 48161. Preregistration is required; please call 734-240-3179 by March 6, 2015.

Monroe, MI – Michigan State University Extension (MSU) Extension – Monroe County will be offering a two part educational program on homeownership. This seminar will equip participants with valuable information about the home-buying process that will help them navigate the technicalities and avoid costly mistakes. The classes also fulfill requirements

The classes will be held on Thursdays, March 12 and 19, 2015, 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Monroe County Extension office, 963 S. Raisinville Rd. Monroe, MI 48161. Topics to be covered will be: steps in the home-buying process; costs of homeownership; importance of good credit; how to determine how much house you can afford; mortgage loan basics; how to maintain your investment; current programs available to assist in purchasing a home.

MSU Extension is a HUD and MSHDA approved housing agency. Participants that complete this six hour course will receive a certificate of completion that fulfills the requirement for some of the state and federal programs available.

Pre-registration is required by calling 734-222-9595. For more information call Terry Clark-Jones, Extension Educator and Certified Housing Counselor, at 734-240-3179.
## Parenting

**Parenting On Your Own**

Nurturing Parenting
Every Tuesday
11:30 am to 12:20 pm
ALCC
120 Eastchester
Monroe, MI 48161

**Pre-register**

**Cost:** Free

## Home Education

**Home Ownership Education**

Thursday, March 12 & 19, 2015
6:00 to 9:00 pm
MSU Extension office
963 S. Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161

**Pre-register by calling:**

734-240-3179

**Cost:** Free

## FREE HUD Certified

Foreclosure Prevention Intervention Counseling

Call for an appointment:

734-240-3179

## Building Strong Adolescents Parenting Program

Mondays
March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6, 13 & 20, 2015

6:30 to 8:30 pm
MSU Extension office
963 S. Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161

**Pre-register by March 6th**

**Cost:** $30 per person or couple for series
TEACHING SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ABOUT MONEY MANAGEMENT

KIDS WHO ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A SPENDING PLAN AND IMPLEMENT IT ARE MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP GOOD JUDGMENT ABOUT MONEY.

Just don’t hand money to your children. Use it to teach the basic money skills they need for life.

Children who are given the appropriate opportunities to make a spending plan and implement it are more likely than others to develop good judgment about money use and learn to accept the consequences of their decisions. Below are some tips and ideas for parents to use with their school age children to gain knowledge on financial management.

Children often learn the best by doing. Let them be involved in the buying process. In the store, give children a choice of three items and accept their choice. Then, let them go to the sales clerk and pay for the item.

- Suppose your child has just made a bad decision about spending their money. If he or she is unhappy, don’t give them more money! We all learn from our mistakes.
- Help your child understand the link between jobs and money. Family members work because the family needs or wants food, clothes, toys, etc.
- By giving your children chores to do, without pay, they learn that they are part of the family and share in the house workload.

School age children learn to read, write, and play by experience. They can also learn about money management through experiences.

- Children can reinforce math skills by making change.
- They are ready to help with the family shopping (making lists, tracking expenses in the store)
- Older children can help balance a checking account and address envelopes to pay bills or if you do it electronically show them how it is done.
- Discuss reasons for buying, or not buying, family and household items.
- Let children be a part of family, money decisions. Ask them: “What do you think?”
- Give children opportunities to earn money.
- Do not pay for good grades, chores or good behavior. These should be expected.

An allowance is a child’s share of family income to be used as the child chooses. Allowances help children gain experiences in handling money and making decisions about how it should be spent. With you, children decide how much allowance they should receive. You can determine this by:

- Keeping records of money used during the week for lunches, bus fares, other school expenses and entertainment. Or sit down with your child and draw up an expense account deciding what items the child will pay for.
- Help the child develop a simple record to track income and expenses.
- The allowance can be paid weekly/biweekly.

Michigan State University Extension has released a new toolkit for homeowners who are experiencing or have previously experienced foreclosure. This toolkit will equip these individuals and families with tools to help them recover their financial stability, in the case that a recovery of their home is not possible. The toolkit is available to download free at MIMoneyHealth.org.

https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html#MSES
http://extension.udel.edu/factsheet/helping-your-child-learn-to-manage-money/
SIBLING RIVALRY BETWEEN TWEENS AND TEENS

SIBLING RIVALRY IS A NORMAL PART OF LIFE BUT HOW PARENTS HANDLE THE RIVALRY IS KEY.

Learn keys to handle sibling rivalry with tweens and teens.

When children reach the ages of eight to twelve years old (8-12 years old) sibling rivalry starts to ramp up partly due to the fact that they are getting physically stronger and more opinionated. As the siblings become more independent, this can lessen the arguments but also can become more difficult for younger siblings to accept.

So what are parents and caregivers to do to help improve their older children’s relationships? When brothers and sisters fight there typically is no specific cause. The rivalry occurs for a number of different reasons. It could be status in the family, attention and/or ownership of material things. So here are some tips to help encourage happy, healthy sibling relationships as they become older.

- Respect each child’s unique traits and individuality- For example, instead of buying all the kids the same thing or signing them up for the same activities, consider buying them something unique to their personality or ask for their input.
- Avoid comparing! This is easier said than done but very important to try not to do. This can make siblings angry, resentful and insecure. When praising, try to stick to describing the action you are pleased with rather then compare it to another sibling.
- Set ground rules- Make sure the tweens and teens understand what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior when it comes to interacting with each other. Also make them aware of the consequences if they misbehave.
- Don’t take sides- Encourage your kids to settle their own differences. Sometimes it may be necessary to act as the mediator. Consider helping them devise a solution through problem solving. Be careful not to overact. This can reinforce the rivalry.

Sibling rivalry is a fact of life. There will always be disagreements. How parents and caregivers use these opportunities is the key. In learning how to deal with rivalry, tweens and teens can learn how to be cooperative, a good team player, problem solve and negotiate. Most of all they will likely become adults that will be more tolerant of others as well as generous.

Michigan State University Extension offers a multitude of classes and resources on parenting, conflict resolution and violence prevention. For programs near you go to: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events.

http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/sibriv.htm
http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/sibrivalry/what_do_you_think.html
http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/childrens-health/in-depth/sibling-rivalry/art-20046568
Are You Buying a Home?

A homeownership seminar from MSU Extension will equip you with valuable information about the home-buying process that will help you navigate the technicalities and avoid costly mistakes.

You will learn:

- The advantages of homeownership
- The steps in the home-buying process
- The costs of homeownership
- The importance of good credit
- How to determine how much house you can afford
- Mortgage loan basics
- How to maintain your investment
- Current programs available to assist in purchasing a home

Two-Part Homeownership Education Program

Thursdays-Feb. 12 & 19, 2015 6:00 to 9:00 pm
MSUE - Monroe office, 963 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI 48161

To register call 734-240-3170

Michigan State University Extension is a HUD and MSHDA approved housing agency.

If you need accommodations, please contact the organizer two week in advance of the event so that we can make arrangements.
Building Strong Adolescents

Parents and caregivers of young people ages 9 to 16 will be able to improve their family relationships through better communication and understanding. Building Strong Adolescents focuses on the development of teens and identifies ways parents can help their teens succeed. Parents will learn skills to promote positive growth.

Topics include teen development, setting limits, using consequences, building independence and encouraging self-esteem, school success and positive friendships. How to talk about difficult topics like alcohol, drugs and sex and helping teens prepare for the future are also covered. By the end of the program parents and caregivers will be aware of ways to surround teens with positive relationships and opportunities that are important for a successful future.

Mondays - March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 & 13, 2015
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Monroe County Extension Office, 963 S. Raisinville Rd

$30 per person or couple

Preregistration by March 6, 2015, 734-240-3179

www.msue.msu.edu

See “Programs” under the Family topic

1-888-MSUE4MI

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**PRE-FAIR MEETING**

It’s getting to be that time of year once again, and fair will be here before we know it. The Pre-Fair Meeting is the time for Leaders of each club to be provided with all registration material required to allow your members to exhibit at the 2015 Monroe County Fair. This year’s meeting will be held on Thursday May 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.

The General Superintendents along with the 4-H Tech Committee will be on hand to bring you up to speed on the new classes and new schedules. **ALL CLUBS MUST BE REPRESENTED** and all member and leaders must have completed enrollments and volunteer agreements on file for the April 1st deadline to be eligible.

Community leaders or their designated person must submit completed fair forms on June 15th. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that all members get all of the information to their leaders in time for them to submit the forms. Registration for fair will only be accepted on June 15th, between 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.

**4-H EXPLORATION DAYS**

4-H Exploration Days is a program held in June on the campus of Michigan State University that brings together nearly 2500 youth (ages 11-19) and chaperones from all across the state. It is a program that is designed to increase youth’s responsibilities, confidence, independence, accountability, problem solving, decision making and time management skills. **4-H Exploration Days registration runs from mid-March through April 30th.** Registration and payment must be submitted through the Monroe County MSU Extension office only and is due no later than April 27th. The book is currently available online at [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_exploration_days/registration_book](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_exploration_days/registration_book). Hardcopies will be available on March 9th. For any further questions please call the 4-H Extension Office.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Exploration Day meeting is June 10th @ 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center.

**7TH ANNUAL TOM BLANCHETT MEMORIAL BEEF PREVIEW SHOW**

The 7th annual Tom Blanchett Memorial Beef Preview Show will be held on Sunday April 26, 2015 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The show “gives the exhibitor’s an opportunity to gain helpful information to better themselves and their project.” Part of their proceeds will be donated towards Pancreatic Cancer Awareness.

For additional information please contact them at Blanchettbeefpreview@yahoo.com or check them out on Facebook: Blanchett Beef Preview Show.
2015 SPRING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mark your calendars, the 2015 Spring Achievements are near. Bedford District is scheduled for March 27-28th, Custer and Dundee have once again combined and is scheduled for April 11th, and Airport District is scheduled April 18th. All Spring Achievements will be held at the 4-H 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 April 24th.

Adults and teens interested in judging at any of these events should contact the District President or the 4-H office.

SPRING LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

Beef Quality Assurance – Members showing beef for the first time in 2015 and members who did not attend the Beef Workshops in 2014 are REQUIRED to attend the meeting on March 5th. This workshop will focus on how to raise a good quality beef carcass for the 2015 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 at the 4-H Activity Center.

Sheep Quality Assurance – Members showing sheep for the first time in 2015 and members who did not attend the Sheep Workshops in 2014 are REQUIRED to attend the meeting on April 2nd. This workshop will focus on how raise a lamb for competition at the 2015 fair. Feeding, care, and showmanship tips will all be part of the meeting. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the 4-H Activity Center.

Swine Quality Assurance – Members showing pigs for the first time in 2015 and members who did not attend the Swine workshops in 2014 are REQUIRED to attend the meeting on May 5th. This program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the 4-H Activity Center.

Sheep and Swine Tagging – Will be held on May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fairgrounds. From that date on, all animals must be in the possession of the member till the fair.

LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Workshop</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef Workshop</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbit/Cavy/Pocket Pet Workshop</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep Workshop</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Activity Center</td>
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<td>Fitting &amp; Showing Clinic (Beef)</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep and Swine Tagging</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>9 am-1 pm</td>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Workshop</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broiler Workshop</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Small Animal Barn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbit and Cavy Show</td>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitting &amp; Showing Clinic (Sheep, Swine, Small Animal)</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Fairgrounds</td>
</tr>
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GARAGE SALE

Our spring Garage Sale has been scheduled for Saturday March 21st at the 4-H Activity Center. We will be collecting donations at the 4-H Office until the March date. We will also take any baked goods for our bake sale. All of the money raised will help pay for our fair ribbons.

PLEASE REMEMBER: We do not accept clothing. Please contact the 4-H office if you have any other questions.
OFFICER TRAINING

The 2015 Officer Training will be held on March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Extension Office. This training is open to all 4-H members that are involved or have an interest in becoming an officer in the future.

This is a hands-on workshop that offers training in running an effective meeting, and parliamentary procedure. This training is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged, for those with a passion to lead. Please RSVP the 4-H Extension Office by March 25th.

MINI-EXPO

The popular workshop will be returning on March 14th at the 4-H Activity Center. There are only a few openings left so contact the office ASAP. The deadline for registration is March 4th. This is a great opportunity to create some exciting projects for both Spring Achievement and Fair.

A special THANKS to the 4-H Council for sponsoring the event, and to Janis Seitz for chairing. To all of the leaders and volunteers, we could not do it without you, and we sincerely thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MONROE COUNTY WINNERS AT THE 2015 4-H RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW

**Breed Winners:** Huston Schafer, Ashley Walcaybock, Claudia Paddy, Amelia Arting, Shelby Spaulding, Ben Comstock, Caleb Comstock

**Meat Class Winners:** Adam Henes, Sarah Henes

**Gold Clover Showmanship Contest:** Cavy Top Five: Shelby Spaulding

BROILERS & DUCKS

It’s getting to be that time of year that we need to be thinking about ordering our broilers and ducks. The cost of broilers for 2015 is $1.25 each and must be ordered no later than April 1st. The cost of ducks for the 2015 is $2.75 each and must be ordered no later than May 6th. To order, or for more information please call Barbara Siebarth at 419-350-9482 or Susan Arting at 734-649-4117.

2015 FAIR THEME CONTEST WINNER

Every year the Monroe County Fair Board chooses a theme for the annual fair. Congratulations to Krazy Kids 4-H Club for winning this year’s Fair Theme prize. “Fair Fun in 2015”
PLANT PATHOLOGISTS WILL PRESENT THE LATEST INFORMATION FOR PREDICTING AND MANAGING WHITE MOLD IN SOYBEANS.
BY MIKE STATON, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

The cool and wet weather that occurred during the 2014 growing season created ideal conditions for white mold development in soybeans. Although the disease was prevalent throughout Michigan, the Thumb region experienced the greatest losses, with some fields yielding less than 20 bushels per acre. To deter such losses in the future, the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and Michigan State University Extension are cooperating to hold a White Mold Management in Soybeans educational meeting to help soybean producers in the Thumb area gain a better understanding of white mold and how to manage it in soybeans. The program will be held Friday, March 6, 2015, from 8 – 11:30 am at the Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 3775 South Reese Road, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

Presenters from North Dakota State University and MSU will cover the following topics:

- Predicting the risk of white mold on the basis of environmental conditions.
- Managing white mold in soybeans – a North Dakota and global perspective.
- Michigan white mold research results and management recommendations.
- Equipping and operating sprayers for foliar fungicide applications

Participants will earn two pesticide recertification credits.

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee is covering all costs, so there is no charge for the program. However, pre-registration is requested by registering online or calling 810-648-2515 ext. 301 before noon on Wednesday, March 4th.

Coffee, donuts and educational materials will be provided.

This article was produced by the SMaRT project (Soybean Management and Research Technology). The SMaRT project was developed to help Michigan producers increase soybean yields and farm profitability. The SMaRT project is a partnership between Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

FARM BILL: MISSED THE MSUE FARM BILL MEETING OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the website http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/farm_bill
You can find more information, including Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) resources such as:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing until April 29. Beginner farmer webinar
A new series of Beginning Farmer Webinars is currently open for registration. visit the 2015 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series Event page for more information and to register.
Feeding our corps, protecting our water in a changing climate
February 3, 2015. Tim Harrigan. Providing nutrients to crops is essential to farming practice, but is there a way to control water runoff with better on-farm management tools?

MSU Extension News replaced CAT Alerts
January 28, 2015. Ben Phillips. The old CAT Alert system is still in place, but its name has changed to Michigan State University Extension News.

Your feedback on Food Safety Modernization Act impact needed
February 4, 2015. Phil Tocco. Will the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) cost you money? Will it add to your overloaded schedule with additional paperwork and recordkeeping requirements? Will facility upgrades need to be made to come into compliance? Speak up in an anonymous survey.

Revised Core Pesticide Applicator (RUP) study manuals
January 30, 2015. John Stone. The National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual has been revised and a new edition released. This is the study manual Michigan uses to certify Private (RUP) and Commercial Pesticide Applicators and Registered Technicians by examination.

Key strategies for long-term success on your farm
February 9, 2015. Dennis Pennington. Commodity markets have adjusted over the last 12 months, have you? Here are 10 strategies for long-term success on your farm.

Michigan State University Extension articles are published online (http://www.msue.msu.edu). To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit http://bit.ly/MSUENews. To contact an expert in your area, visit http://expert.msue..;msu.edu or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).
March

3/2/15 Youth Leadership Board
Extension Learning Center
6:00 pm

3/2/15 Horse & Pony By-Laws Committee
Extension Learning Center
6:30 pm

3/2/15 4-H Council
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/3/15 Steer Hoof Trimming
Monroe County Fairgrounds
TBD

3/4/15 Poultry Workshop
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

3/5/15 Beef Quality Assurance
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

3/5/15 Dundee District
Ida High School
7:00 pm

3/6-8/15 Dog Board Camp
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

3/9/15 Horse & Pony
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/10/15 Custer District
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/11/15 Slow Spokes Meeting
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

3/12/15 Fair Board
Fair Office
7:00 pm

3/14/15 Mini Expo
4-H Activity Center
9:00 am

3/15/15 Horse & Pony Tack Sale
MBT Expo Center
10:00 am

3/16/15 Horse & Pony Rules & Regulations Committee
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/17/15 Airport District
Bob Evans
7:00 pm

3/18/15 Junior Livestock Association
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/19/15 REAACT
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/19/15 Fair Advisory Board
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/20/15 Set-up for Garage Sale
4-H Activity Center
TBA

3/21/15 4-H Garage Sale
4-H Activity Center
9:00 am

3/23/15 Small Animal Association
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

3/24/15 CSI
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

3/25/15 Teen Ambassadors
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

March

3/26/15 Officers Training
Extension Learning Center
6:30 pm

3/27-28/15 Bedford Spring Achievement
4-H Activity Center
TBD

April

4/1/15 Rabbit, Cavy, Pocket Pet Workshop
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/2/15 SQA Sheep Quality Assurance
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/3/15 **GOOD FRIDAY**
OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON

4/6/15 4-H Council
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

4/9/15 Fair Board
Fair Office
7:00 pm

4/11/15 Custer & Dundee Spring Achievement
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/13/15 Horse & Pony
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/15/15 Shooting Sports
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

4/16/15 REAACT
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/18/15 Airport Spring Achievement
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/20/15 Horse & Pony Royalty
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/20/15 Fair Advisory Board
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

4/24/15 County Wide Share the Fun
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/25/15 Custer Make It & Take It
4-H Activity Center
8:30 am

4/25/15 REAACT - Earth Day
Monroe County Expo Center
9:00 am

4/25/15 Beef Fit / Show Clinic
Fairgrounds
6:00 pm

4/26/15 Beef Preview Show
7:00 pm

4/28/15 CSI
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

4/29/15 Teen Ambassadors
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm
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 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERRY CLARK-JONES</td>
<td>240-3170</td>
<td>Extension Educator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clarkjon@anr.msu.edu">clarkjon@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARRYL DIAMOND</td>
<td>240-3188</td>
<td>4-H Program Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diamon44@anr.msu.edu">diamon44@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEATHER HAMPEL</td>
<td>240-3171</td>
<td>Family Nutrition Program Instructor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hampel@anr.msu.edu">hampel@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENISE KOHLER</td>
<td>240-3176</td>
<td>Family Nutrition Program Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:denise_kohler@monroemi.org">denise_kohler@monroemi.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARA LEWIS</td>
<td>240-3174</td>
<td>4-H Program Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:seitzsa1@anr.msu.edu">seitzsa1@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIANE MICHAUD</td>
<td>240-3182</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diane_michaud@monroemi.org">diane_michaud@monroemi.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINA M. RODRIGUEZ SALAMANCA M.S.</td>
<td>517-927-2561</td>
<td>Vegetable Educator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rodri408@anr.msu.edu">rodri408@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN RUSSELL</td>
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<td>Family Nutrition Program Assistant</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>517-264-5308</td>
<td>District Coordinator</td>
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</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. To locate MSU Extension Staff across the state by name or area of expertise go to: http://people.msue.msu.edu

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/3/15</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9/15</td>
<td>Parenting of Adolescents</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
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<td>3/10/15</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/12/15</td>
<td>Home Ownership Education</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
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<td>3/16/15</td>
<td>Parenting of Adolescents</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
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<td>3/17/15</td>
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<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/19/15</td>
<td>Home Ownership Education</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<td>3/23/15</td>
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<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Extension Learning Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/24/15</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class</td>
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March

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/30/15</td>
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April

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/6/15</td>
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<td>4/7/15</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class</td>
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<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/13/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/14/15</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
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<td>4/21/15</td>
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<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/28/15</td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class</td>
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<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center</td>
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