Fitting and Showing Clinic June 10, 2013

Read carefully - we have some exciting things happening at the 2013 Fitting and Showing Clinic. The program will benefit anyone who is interested in Market Livestock, all Small Animals as well as Goats and Cats and Dogs. You will get some expert help on preparing your animals for Fair, how to better develop your showmanship skills and everything you’ve always want to know about the Master Stockman and Skill-a-thon Programs. This year’s event will be held on the fairgrounds.

The Junior Livestock Board and the superintendents will provide information for your sheep and swine projects. We are privileged to be able to bring expert advice as well as the expertise of our superintendents to you this year. You will be provided with hints, see some live demonstrations, and answer your questions, to better prepare you for fair.

LARGE LIVESTOCK
6:00—6:30 pm—SWINE - Livestock Arena
6:30—7:30 pm—SHEEP - Livestock Arena

Information will also be available for the Master Stockman Program this year.

SMALL ANIMALS
6:00—6:45 pm—RABBITS – Small Animal Building – bring your rabbit for hands on experience.

You will also have the opportunity to have your rabbits tattooed at this time, in the Small Animal Building. They are asking for a donation of $1.00 per animal for tattoos – rabbits not having a permanent tattoo this year will not be allowed to exhibit at fair.

6:45—7:30 pm—POULTRY
7:30 pm—CAVY and POCKET PETS
7:00 pm—GOATS—Dairy Barn
7:00 pm—DOGS—In front of the fair 4-H Office

The dogs will be having a demonstration in front of the 4-H Office. This will be an excellent way to find out about the dog program.

6:30 pm—CATS—in the La-Z-Boy Pavilion.

Refreshments will be available.

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

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
Edible landscaping offers an alternative to conventional residential landscapes that are designed solely for ornamental purposes. Edible landscapes can be just as attractive, yet produce fruits and vegetables for home use. One can install an entirely edible landscape, or incorporate simple elements into existing yards and gardens.

What is edible landscaping?
Edible landscaping is the use of food-producing plants in the constructed landscape, principally the residential landscape. Edible landscapes combine fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, vegetables, herbs, edible flowers and ornamental plants into aesthetically pleasing designs. These designs can incorporate any garden style and can include anywhere from 1-100% edible species.

Why landscape with edibles?
There are many reasons to incorporate edible plants into the residential landscape. These include:
- To enjoy the freshness and flavor of home-grown, fully ripened fruits and vegetables
- To control the quantity and kind of pesticides and herbicides used on the foods you consume
- To save on grocery bills
- To grow unusual varieties not available in stores
- To get outside, interact with the natural world, and have fun

History of edible landscaping
Edible landscaping is as old as gardening itself and has undergone a recent revival. Ancient Persian gardens combined both edible and ornamental plants. Medieval monastic gardens included fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal herbs. Plans for 19th century English suburban yards, which modeled themselves after country estates, often included edible fruits and berries. The edible components of residential landscapes were largely lost in this country to the now familiar shade trees, lawns, and foundation plantings. In the past two decades, however, there has been a revival of interest in edible landscaping, thanks to the work of early pioneers such as Rosalind Creasy.

How to landscape with edibles
Like all plants used in the landscape, edible plants grow best in certain conditions. Many (but not all!) fruits and vegetables do best where they receive at least 6 hours of full sunlight a day. Most also like well-drained soil. Parts of your yard that satisfy these conditions are good places to start an edible landscape. To perform a complete makeover on these areas, consult the books recommended
below for a full design process. To start simply, consider a one-for-one substitution. Where you might have planted a shade tree, plant a fruit tree. Where you need a deciduous shrub, plant a currant or hazelnut. Where you have always had chrysanthemums, plant bachelor's buttons—you can eat them. Edible plants come in nearly all shapes and sizes and can perform the same landscape functions as ornamental plants. Figure 2 shows how a small area, about 25 by 25 feet, can be planted almost entirely with edibles that have ornamental value and appear to be a decorative garden. The list can be changed to suit individual taste or local garden conditions.


Figure 2. Suggested plant list for most Ohio/Michigan conditions:

1. Ornamental cabbage in fall; violas in spring
2. Edging of pot marigolds
3. Sweet woodruff (shade tolerant)
4. Marjoram
5. Daylilies
6. Lingonberries (evergreen & shade tolerant)
7. Iris or garlic
8. Iris or chives
9. Dill
10. Ornamental hot pepper
11. Butterfly weed
12. Bell peppers
13. Variegated leaf sage
14. Stepping stones with creeping or lemon thyme
15. Blueberries
16. Cherry tomatoes
17. Honeyberry
18. Red Currant
19. Dwarf crabapple
20. Black currant
21. Cherry plum
22. Dwarf apple
23. Dwarf pear
24. American plum
25. Chokecherry
26. Red raspberries
27. Oregon grape-holly
28. Gooseberry or Elderberry
Here are some more ideas for edible landscapes:

- Put pots of herbs on the patio
- Include cherry tomatoes in a window box or hanging basket
- Build a grape arbor
- Grow nasturtium, violas, borage, or calendula and include flowers in salads
- Eat your daylilies
- Plant a fruit tree in the corner of your yard
- Grow Red-jewel Cabbage
- Plant colorful pepper varieties (e.g., Lipstick, Habanero) alongside flowers
- Tuck lettuce, radishes, or other short-lived greens into a flower bed
- Replace a barberry hedge with gooseberries
- Put basil together with coleus in a planter
- Try yellow or "rainbow" chard
- Grow chives around the mailbox
- Train raspberries up your fence

Won't it take a lot of work?

Many common ornamental plants can survive with minimal care. Most edible plants, however, require a certain amount of attention to produce well. They may require a little extra watering, pruning, fertilizing, or pest management. The time required, however, need not be exorbitant. To care for a fruit tree, for instance, may take only a few hours a year, while the yield could be enormous. It is best to treat edible landscaping as a hobby and not a chore. You may find yourself checking on your plants more than they strictly require, just because you want to see how they're doing. If you are concerned about being overwhelmed, just start small.

Conclusion

The possibilities for edible landscaping are endless. By incorporating just one—or many—edible plants into a home landscape, you can develop a new relationship with your yard and the food you eat.

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CONFRONTING STUDENT LOAN DEBT—PART IV - KNOW YOUR REPAYMENT OPTIONS

TAKE STEPS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS

This article is the fourth in a series about “Confronting Student Loan Debt”. The first three articles discussed identifying what type of student loans you might have, locating who is servicing your loan and understanding the terms of your loan. This article will discuss what options may be available to repay your student loan.

In the last couple of years the federal government has increased the options available to assist borrowers to successfully fulfill their obligations. Standard and graduated repayment plans have been the typical repayment options. Both repayment plans are for federal loans. On the standard repayment plan, payments are a fixed amount of at least $50 per month. You have up to 10 years to pay back the loan and will pay less interest. On a graduated repayment plan, the payments are lower at first and then increase, usually every two years. You also have 10 years to pay the loan back.

New repayment options include: Extended Repayment Plan, Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR), Pay as You Earn Repayment Plan, Income-Contingent Repayment Plan, and Income-Sensitive Repayment Plan. All of these plans are for federally backed student loans only.

The Extended Repayment Plan allows you to pay over 25 years and may be set up as fixed or graduated payments. In order to qualify for this repayment plan you must have more than $30,000 in loans.

The Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR) is based on income and family size. Typically, IBR payments will be less than 10% of the borrower’s income. The payments will change as the borrower’s income changes. IBR will also forgive any remaining debt after 25 years of qualified payments. Understand that the IRS will treat forgiven loan amounts as taxable income and you will receive a 1099.

The Pay as You Earn Repayment Plan allows you to have a maximum monthly payment that is 10% of your discretionary income. The payment will never be more than the amount you would be required to pay under the Standard Repayment Plan. Payments will adjust as income changes. If your monthly payment doesn’t cover the interested accrued, the Federal Government will pay the interest for you up to three consecutive years. After 20 years, balances on qualified loans will be forgiven.

On the Income-Contingent Repayment Plan, payments are calculated each year and are based on the borrower’s adjusted gross income, family size, and the total amount of the loan. The repayment plan also adjusts as income changes. After 25 years, balances on qualified loans will be forgiven.

The Income-Sensitive Repayment Plan allows for monthly payments to be based on the borrower’s annual income. The payments change as income changes and this program will forgive any qualified loan balance after 10 years.

For the Federal Perkins Loan the repayment plan options are different then other federal student loans. Check with the school you attended while receiving this loan for more information on Perkins Loan repayment plans.

The next article will be the fifth and final article on the series of “Confronting Student Loan Debt”. The topics of consolidation, deferment, forbearance, and forgiveness of student loans will be discussed.

Michigan State University Extension has additional information on student loans and other information on financial management.

For additional information and resources on student loans go to: www.finaid.org  http://studentaid.ed.gov  or  www.ed.gov
THE POWER OF LISTENING IN FAMILIES

WHEN WE LISTEN, WE ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM.

Just because a person acts like they hear a message does not necessarily mean that they really “heard” you. One of the key ways to reduce family conflict and to improve family communication is to polish our listening skills. When we listen well to family members, we encourage them to talk about what is most important to them. It’s all too easy to get careless about really listening in families. Sometimes we assume that we know what the other person means or we pretend to listen while we do something else. Below are five things to remember about listening.

1. **Listening requires that we be attentive.** Paying attention and putting aside what we are doing shows the person speaking that we intend to listen to them. Often it is difficult to be attentive to them and set aside our own opinions, thoughts, and conclusions until we have heard what the speaker wants to say.

2. **Listening requires an attitude of openness and respect for what our family member is saying.** We may disagree, but by being willing to really hear what the other person believes communicates that we respect the other person.

3. **Listening requires both hearing words and sensing feelings.** We can check that we got the other person’s message and meaning by repeating what we heard. This gives the speaker a chance to make sure that we heard both what they say and how they feel.

4. **Listening requires that we verify that we heard what they said and feel, not that we necessarily agree.** This lets the speaker know that we value and respect their thoughts and feelings. It validates them and their self-esteem.

5. **Listening is difficult when strong emotions are present.** Just being with a family member who is listening, even when our spouse, child, or parent is not quite ready is a good first step to take. Sometimes they will come back later to tell us more about the issue. A gentle touch or hug can show support when we don’t know what to say.

By remembering these five listening tips, we can reduce conflict and increase healthy family communication.

To find more tips on listening and other communication tips go to:


http://ag.udel.edu/extension/fam/fm/issue/communicationskills.htm

To contact an expert in your area, visit people.msue.msu.edu, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

PROGRAMS

**NUPTURING PARENTING ONGOING CLASS**

Tuesdays 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Arthur Lesow Community Center
120 Eastchester
Monroe MI 48161
Pre-registration requested
734 240-3179

**Cost: FREE**

**HOW TO START A SUCCESSFUL COTTAGE FOOD BUSINESS IN MICHIGAN**

Thursday, May 9, 2013 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Monroe County Michigan State University Extension
963 S. Raisinville Road
Monroe MI 48161
Register on line at http://events.anr.msu.edu/cflmonroemay2013

**FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOP**

Thursday, July 18, 2013 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
More information to be announced in June e-NETWORK
How to Start a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan

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

Thursday, May 9, 2013
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
MSU Extension - Monroe Co.
963 South Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI 48161
MSUE Instructors: Micah Loucks & Jeannie Nichols

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

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

Register online at: http://events.anr.msu.edu/cflmonroemay2013/

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

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Jeannie Nichols at 517-439-9301 by May 1 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE BREAST FEEDING INITIATIVE

Breastfeeding still less common for black babies.

While more black mothers are breastfeeding their babies, they’re still far less likely to do so than Hispanic or white women, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In 2000, about 47 percent of black mothers started to breastfeed, compared with about 72 percent of whites and nearly 78 percent of Hispanics. In 2008, nearly 59 percent of black mothers started to breastfeed, compared with about 75 percent of whites and 80 percent of Hispanics. The findings suggest that black mothers may face unique challenges and require additional, targeted support to help them breastfeed.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6205a1.htm?s_cid=mm6205a1_w

On Monday, April 15th a new public education program called “It’s only Natural” was presented by Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin.

It specifically focuses on African American women to raise awareness of the importance of and benefits associated with breastfeeding and provide helpful tips. This outreach was developed to provide practical informative and emotional support from peers. It also gives tips and education about how to implement it into their own lives.

The Mother to Mother program is a part of the Breastfeeding Initiative (BFI) through Michigan State University Extension. This free program offers pre and post natal care to low income families through phone calls and home visits as well as a series of Breastfeeding and nutrition classes taught at the Monroe County Health Department WIC office.

For more information please contact Winnie Webb, Breastfeeding Peer at 734 240-3178 or webbw@anr.msu.edu

MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION

- June 11th at 1:30 pm in the south meeting room of the Extension office – Lesson “Living Green” There is a $1.00 registration fee due by May 30th. Sent to Barbara Zieski, 9107 Plank Road, Maybee MI 48159

- Maggie Lee asked for donations to Mercy Memorial Pediatric Department. They would like books, crayons, soft blankets.

- Mary Stienhauser said Salvation Army Monroe Family Shelter is in need of twin size sheets and blankets, towels, wash cloths, and non perishable foods. Donations can be delivered to 815 E. First Street or brought to a Council meeting.

- The date has been set for Rally Day. September 24th. Carleton Study Group in charge and will have more information at a later date.

- Next Council meeting is May 21st at 10:00. Fellowship Friends will be doing the lesson.
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On April 16th 4-Hers who had applied for Scholarships were interviewed and scholarships were awarded. Graduating seniors will be recognized at their school’s Honors Program. Congratulations to each 4-Her who applied and will be recognized.

Larry Kreps Memorial Scholarship – in memory of Larry Kreps Sr and Larry Kreps III
$500 awarded to: Melissa Woelmer and Emily Oley

Mark Schuon Memorial Scholarship – In memory of Mark Schuon
$500 Awarded to: Elliot Wollam and Jeff Ryder

Charles Knabusch Memorial Scholarship – in memory of Charles Knabusch, President -Laz-y Boy
$400 awarded to –Ian Darling and Katlyn Monday

4-H Academic Award – an endowed scholarship in honor of Judy See
$350 awarded to Delaney Preston and Tara Peschke

Paul McGuire Memorial Scholarship – In memory of Paul McGuire
$350 awarded to Brandi Miller and Leesa Rodgers

Robert Manwell Memorial Scholarship – in memory of Bob Manwell
$350 awarded to Michelle Thibault and Daniel Henes

Marie Siebarth Memorial Scholarship – In memory of Marie Siebarth
$300 awarded to Trisha Fazekas and Ashley Epps

Nancy Robbins Memorial Scholarship – in memory of Nancy Robbins
$300 awarded to Nicole Frommann

4-H Council Scholarship
$200 awarded to Phil Doederlein, Michael Ammerman, and Tawney Johnson

These scholarships can be collected after the student completes a semester and brings a transcript to the 4-H Office.

USED TACK SALE

For the eighth year in a row we will have a used tack sale for both small and large livestock. Bring any items that you would like to sell – already priced.

You can donate the sale of the item to the Association of your choice or you can donate 20% of the sale to the Association and receive the remaining profit for yourself. This was very successful last year. We had equipment, clothes, feeders, cages, feed pans, show sticks, etc.

We would appreciate it if you would have your items available by 5:30, so our buyers will have an opportunity to look over the items, prior to the start of the clinic.

Already brought in for sale is a beef fitting chute and several lab coats that can be used in Small Animal Showmanship and exhibiting.

BROILER CHICKS AND MARKET DUCKS

Monroe County 4-H members will have until May 8th to order Broiler Chicks for exhibition and sale at this year’s fair. The workshop will also be held on May 8th – beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Activity Center. You will have the opportunity to meet the poultry superintendents and learn first hand what is expected to raise a potential champion pen for the 2013 fair. It will work well for you to order your chicks and ducks and also get instructions on how to successfully raise a market project for the fair.

The chicks this year are $1.50 each, and the ducks are $2.00 and will be picked up at Hachman’s in Temperance. Chicks not picked up will be sold.

Members will also be able to get the guidelines for completing the broiler project when the chicks are picked up. You may also order chicks by contacting Barbara Siebath, poultry Superintendent. 269-2178

Small animal project members are reminded that they are required to attend one Small Animal Workshop each year.
MARKET LIVESTOCK TAGS

Members who are showing Sheep and Swine at the 2013 fair must have their animals tagged on Saturday, May 4th between 8:00 a.m. and noon at the fairgrounds. Members may tag up to six lambs or six pigs. The Junior Livestock will insert the first three tags free; each animal tagged beyond the first three the cost will be $1.00 each, to cover the cost of the tag.

Members showing pigs this year must bring proof of vaccination for the H2N3 virus to tagging – If you don’t have proof that your pigs have been vaccinated you will have to pay $5.00 for the first pig and $1.00 each for all of your remaining pigs. You will also have to return with your pigs on May 18th to receive the second shot.

During the tagging the superintendents has the opportunity to evaluate the animals and give many members some extra one-on-one advice to help strengthen their project. It is very important for members to monitor the health and weight of their animals to ensure that they are in the best possible condition at Fair time. If you have questions, need help, or your animal loses a tag, please call your superintendent immediately.

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

The market specie superintendents are going to do random checks of beef, sheep and swine projects this year. As you tag your animal you will need to complete a locator card so that the superintendent can visit them at the identified location. Approximately five to six facilities will be visited from each species.

EXPLORATION DAYS ORIENTATION

It’s hard to believe. There aren’t going to be many 4-H members left in Monroe during Exploration Days. We have a wonderful problem; this year we have been able to again reach a record number of 4-H members and leaders to attend Exploration Days. Staff, both professional and volunteer has been working steadily to get your options and return your materials.

We have scheduled an orientation, which all delegates MUST ATTEND. The meeting, which will also include chaperone responsibilities, will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5th in the Activity Center on the Fairgrounds. At this meeting you will get your room assignments, arrange for your transportation and cover the rules, which will be part of the 2013 Exploration Days.

We will discuss how members are assigned to adult chaperones, and will welcome the input of both adults and members, as the schedule is determined. Also each youth delegate should bring a recent picture which will be attached to an ID sheet which your head chaperones will assemble. This will help them identify in the event you get lost on campus.

Again this year we have high expectations for our delegates and chaperones and we want to prepare them so they go to Michigan State to have a good time, learn some new skills and have a positive experience.

It is very important that all members are in attendance and that parents understand the rules and requirements for both Exploration Days and the Slow Spokes.

PRACTICE INTERVIEWS FOR STATE AWARDS

All State Award Delegates mark your calendar to participate in a practice interview on Wednesday Evening May 29th at 7:00 at the Extension Office. We are very proud of the excellent set of books that we are submitting to MSU but we need to prepare for the interviews.
ARE YOU A SLOW SPOKKER?

If you are planning on riding your bike to Michigan State - then you need to know the following information.

Practice Rides - The practice rides have been set for this year.

The first ride was being held on May 4th and will be leaving from White Park at the corner of Consear and Douglas, in Bedford Township – they will be leaving at 8:00 am.

The second ride will be held on May 19th. The second ride will leave from Munson Park in Monroe. This ride will leave at 10:00 am and you will eat lunch in Milan.

If you have never ridden on the Slow Spokes it is mandatory that you attend one or both of these sessions. Both of these rides will be for 50 miles and will cover different roads.

Please call the 4-H Office if you have not received a postcard notifying you of starting time and location for each ride. The planning committees are setting the routes. Practice rides are important as they not only determine if you are in shape, but also is your bike ready for a 127-mile ride!

You MUST wear a helmet on all 4-H rides.

Keep in mind – that you are expected to ride, rain or shine - plan on doing the first ride if possible, and then if it rains, you at least have a back-up date. If you plan on the second ride and it rains – you get wet!

FAIR ENROLLMENTS

School may not be over, but you MUST think FAIR already. Your Community Leader has received all of the materials for members to complete in order for them to exhibit at the 2013 Fair.

Members should complete all of the paperwork and return it to their leaders, no later than June 12th. It is the responsibility of the Community Leader to submit all registrations from their club. If you have questions, please call the Extension Office, the Fair Superintendent that works with the areas in question, or your Community Leader.

Remember - Use the back pages from the premium catalog - THE PAGES WITH THE CLOVERS. We have tried to make the premium catalog easier to read and understand. All 4-H pages have small clovers on the top of each page; these indicate the 4-H divisions.

The classes in the front of the premium catalog are the Open Classes and if a member registers for 4-H using open class numbers they will not receive a premium and entries will not appear in the judging books.

MONROE COUNTY CLOVER DAYS!

The Monroe County 4-H Council has planned an exciting three days for Monroe County 4-H members and for county youth who would like to explore what 4-H is all about.

July 10th, 11th and 12th. Members attending this year will be experiencing a “Circus” theme. Each day will be different and will offer youth a variety of experiences.

Wednesday and Thursday the schedule will be from 10:00 – 2:00. Crafts, games, and fun activities will be part of the first two days. All registered members will get lunch at noon. The schedule will change on Friday – starting at 2:00 and going to; 5:00 with a snack in the afternoon. At 5:30 a dinner will be served for the whole family, followed by entertainment by the campers and a recognition program for participants.

The program is open to youth who are 7 and older as of January 1st of 2013. The cost is $10.00 for all three days, or $5.00 for each day if you cannot attend all three days. The dinner on Friday evening will be $2.00 per person, for each non-participant. Registrations must be received by June 17th. Registrations are available at the 4-H Office.

Questions – call Judy at the 4-H Office 734-240-3174 or Patti or Diane at 734-240-3170.
**4-H Royalty**

The youth who are chosen as the 4-H Royalty have found that they are asked to represent the 4-H Program and the other 4-H members many times throughout their reign. Katie Seitz, Nick Beaudrie, Claudia Paddy and Zane Piedmonte-Lang have taken on some major responsibilities and continue to be excellent examples of the Monroe County 4-H Program and its outstanding youth.

The selection of the 4-H King and Queen has been happening about as long as the 4-H Program has been active in the County. This will be the 21st year that we have had a Prince and Princess to share the responsibilities.

As you begin the search for new 4-H Royalty, please be aware of the following rules:

**King and Queen** - Candidates must be between the ages of 13 to 19 years of age. Members who will reach their 20th birthday in 2013 are not eligible to run.

**Prince and Princess** - Candidates must be between the ages of 9 and 12. Their major responsibility will be to reign at Kid’s Day. Members selected to represent their club or Association must be currently enrolled in the club they will represent.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday evening, July 16th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. Members will also have the opportunity to be in the Monroe County Fair Parade, and to be a part of the royalty festivities at the Fair on Thursday evening.

A club may select as many candidates as they would like to have represent them. Clubs are encouraged to select candidates for King, Queen, Prince and Princess. Many clubs will present their candidates with a banner, which proclaims them as royalty. All clubs are encouraged to recognize members in this way.

Please submit your candidate’s names on the special form provided in your Fair Packet or call the Extension 4-H Office by July 11th with the names of your nominees. 734 240-3170.

**Share-the-Fun**

In April 4-H members began competing for the privilege to perform at the County Share-the-Fun Program. After seeing several exceptional acts, we guarantee that the program on Friday evening, May 3rd will be very enjoyable.

The County Share-the-Fun will be coordinated by the Airport District Leaders Association and will be held at the 4-H Activity Center on the La-Z-Boy Stage. The acts and the emcee winners will be announced in the June Network but if you want to be the first to know come to the show on the 3rd.

Our members have learned poise, self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, and teamwork - in addition to other skills, as they participated in the Share-the-Fun activity.
**4-H GRADUATION**

If you are graduating this year from high school, we would like to invite you and your parents to a 4-H Open House on Monday, May 13th at the 4-H Activity Center.

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

Invitations have been mailed. Reservations are required. Each senior is asked to bring a copy of his or her senior picture so that it can be displayed on the bulletin board. If you have not received an invitation just call the office and make a reservation.

**BUY A BRICK**

Did you place a Brick in the 4-H Walk last summer? It’s not too late to leave a permanent symbol of your support of the 4-H Program. The 4-H Council will again be placing bricks into the walk this spring and early summer.

An 8”x8” brick, with up to five lines of engraving costs $150. The standard 4”x8” brick will cost $100 and have three lines.

Forms may be picked up at the 4-H office and will be accepted until mid-June. This is a wonderful gift for alumni, families or 4-H supporters.

The “Walk” is already becoming a piece of history, as people pause to remember, before entering the Activity Center. What a great way to recognize a 2013 graduate.

**2013 FAIR PIN**

“Livin’ the Dream in 2013” and to help remember that dream you will need to purchase an official fair pin. This year’s pin will be a great way to bring back pleasant memories of another fun summer and fair. The multi-colored cloisonné’ pin will be available by July 12th. Orders may be sent to the Extension Office, include $5.00 per pin ordered. Checks should be made out to the Teen Ambassadors. Only a limited number of pins have been ordered.
Irrigation system uniformity is the ability of an irrigation system to apply even amounts of water to all areas within an irrigated field. In simple terms, if the producer’s goal is to apply one inch of irrigation water, the system will apply one inch of irrigation water in each area. Areas of the field that receive under or over the goal will receive under or over the goal for all applications, multiplying the error.

Sprinklers that over and under apply water by 40 percent will receive 0.6 inches (if under) or 1.4 inches (if over) of irrigation water each time the system attempts to apply one inch of water. By the end of the season, areas requiring eight inches of irrigation water will receive 4.8 inches (if under) or 11.2 inches (if over) of irrigation water. To compensate for the lack of uniformity, producers often apply enough water to prevent drought symptoms in the under-watered areas, leading to over application in parts of the field.

By improving system uniformity, producers can reduce overall water use. Using the example discussed above, if 100 pounds per acres of nitrogen is applied through the irrigation system some areas will receive 60 pounds and others 140 pounds.

Irrigation system uniformity evaluation is conducted by sampling the output from a system and identifying areas of the sprinkler package that need improvement. Many machines operate at about 75 percent uniformity, making 10 -15 percent improvements in efficiencies achievable. Most common correction is made in the zone of interface between the end gun and the sprinkler package water supply. With proper adjustment of the end gun and a careful match between water supply volume/pressure and the sprinkler package requirements, almost all center pivot irrigations can achieve a 90 percent rate of uniformity of application or higher.

As a Michigan State University Extension irrigation educator, I have worked on the issue of application uniformity for almost two decades. During that time, I have found very little system uniformity performance differences between newer systems and older systems. In Michigan and Indiana, equipment wear is minimal. The issue of low performance is more likely to be depend on whether the system was assembled correctly when installed and if the sprinkler package was designed for the water supply volume and pressure actually delivered to the system.

MSU Extension, working in cooperation with the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, has been teaching technicians, producers, agency personnel and farm employees a procedure for evaluating irrigation system uniformity since 2004. Several Conservation District offices offer these evaluations as a service to irrigators. To learn more about the procedure, view example results from previous training or download the Irrigation system uniformity spreadsheet visit our website.

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).
REPAIRING YOUR FLOOD-DAMAGED FIELDS

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR RESTORING PRODUCTIVITY IN FLOOD-DAMAGED AREAS.
POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2013 BY PAUL GROSS, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Heavy rains and flooding have left many farm fields in need of physical repair before spring planting and full production. Flood waters erode exposed soils, leaving deep gully’s, drifted crop residue, brush and building materials, as well as an assortment of other types of debris. In addition, this debris may be plugging your drainage systems. Along with debris, the flood waters may have deposited sand and silt drifts that could vary from just a few inches to nearly a foot deep.

The first step is to assess damages and prioritize repairs. Evaluate field conditions for moisture before you start. Flooded soils can be slow to dry out. When field conditions allow:
- Remove the larger debris.
- Check tile outlets and tubes for obstructions.
- Check for plugged risers and breathers.
- Check for holes or broken tiles.

Drifted crop residue that is greater than 4 inches should be spread in a thin layer before incorporating. Residue less than 4 inches can be incorporated with tillage. When incorporating large amounts of plant material, consider the additional nitrogen demand that will be caused by decomposing plant materials in those areas.

In areas where the flood water left sand and silt, drifts that are less than 2 inches may be successfully mixed into the soil with normal tillage. Deposits 2 to 8 inches can be incorporated with a chisel plow, moldboard plow or other aggressive tillage tool. When deposits are deeper than 8 inches, other types of earth moving equipment may be necessary to uniformly spread soil across the field.

In areas where the running water caused gully erosion, repair will be necessary. Shallow erosion may be repaired with tillage. Deeper erosion may require some type of earth moving equipment for proper land leveling. Be cautious using the drifted sand and silt when filling the eroded gully’s unless you can place topsoil over the top. The sand has very little water-holding capacity and is very likely to erode quickly in another severe rain event.

Fertility and soil health are also a concern when areas of fields are flooded. Soil microbiology can change as a result of flooding. Consider soil testing and proper fertilization in these areas, especially if the areas are a larger percentage of the field. If these areas are consistently subject to this type of erosion, consider grass waterways and cover crops for a long-term solution.

Patience will be critical this spring. Taking the time to properly repair any flood damage that occurred might just be what is needed to keep everyone out of the fields and allow them to dry out enough for optimal planting. Michigan State University Extension is an excellent resource for information on soil testing and fertility.

All photos: Paul Gross, MSU Extension

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).
### 4-H

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/1/13</td>
<td>6/15/13</td>
<td>4-H Spring Enrollment Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4-H Spring Enrollment Meeting 7:00 pm Monroe County Fairgrounds 8:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ag Awareness Day 9:00 am</td>
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<td>Monroe County Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/3/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>County Share-The-Fun 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>4-H Activity Center Michigan State University 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4/13</td>
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<td>Sheep &amp; Swine Tagging 8:00 am</td>
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<td>Monroe County Fairgrounds 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Monroe County 4-H State Awards Recognition 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>4-H Activity Center 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>4-H Council 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/8/13</td>
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<td>Broiler Workshop 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Monroe County Fairgrounds 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>4-H Graduation Recognition 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Horse &amp; Pony Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>4-H Activity Center 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/15/13</td>
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<td>Junior Livestock Association 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/19/13</td>
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<td>Rabbit Show 9:00 am</td>
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<td>Far West Merchant Building Monroe County Fair 9:00 am</td>
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<td>5/20/13</td>
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<td>Small Animal Association 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/21/13</td>
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<td>C.S.I. 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/22/13</td>
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<td>Youth Leadership Board 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/29/13</td>
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<td>Teen Ambassadors 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>5/30/13</td>
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<td>State Award Practice Interviews 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 7:00 pm</td>
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### HORTICULTURE

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<tr>
<td>5/11/13</td>
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<td>MCMGA Work and Learn 9:00 am</td>
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<td>Extension Demonstration Gardens 9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/18/13</td>
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<td>MCMGA Meeting 10:00 am</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/20/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beekeepers 6:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>5/23/13</td>
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<td>MCMGA Work and Learn 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Demonstration Gardens 6:00 pm</td>
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### FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

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<tr>
<td>5/7/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Class 11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arthur Lesow Community Center 11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/9/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>How to Start a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/21/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>MCHE Board 10:00 am</td>
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<td>Extension Learning Center 10:00 am</td>
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### June

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<tr>
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<th>4-H Council 6:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/3/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-H Activity Center 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/5/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Exploration Days Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/8/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing Derby—Everyone welcome FREE Waterloo Park—Monroe 8:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/10/13</td>
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<td>Horse &amp; Pony Board 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/10/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-H Activity Center 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/10/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fitting &amp; Showing Clinic Monroe County Fairgrounds 6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN RUSSELL</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</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