MONROE COUNTY MSU EXTENSION 4-H ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Matt Shane – MSU Extension District Coordinator

Over the last several months MSU Extension has been working with the Monroe County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and Administration, the Monroe County 4-H Council, and Monroe County Farm Bureau to develop a staffing plan for the 4-H program. During this process Judy See announced her retirement at the end of 2014. There was a strong desire to have the new 4-H staff have a time of transition with Judy to keep the program moving forward. Therefore the Monroe County BOC approved funding for two MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinators, one starting in October 2014 and the other beginning in January 2015. MSU Extension also committed a half-time 4-H Educator (Janelle Stewart) to work in Monroe County from July 2014 through February 2015 to help with the transition and support the new Program Coordinators as they learn their roles. The result of these efforts is a dynamic team of individuals determined to make sure that the change in 4-H staff goes as smoothly as possible.

In early September candidates were interviewed for the first of the Program Coordinator positions. We are pleased to announce that the strength of the candidate pool allowed us to fill both positions. Darryl Diamond will begin his position as Monroe County 4-H program Coordinator on October 13th and Sara Lewis will begin her position as Monroe County 4-H Program Coordinator on January 5th. Darryl will be making a move to Monroe County from Ingham where he grew up as a 4-H member in the Ingham County 4-H program and served additional seven years as a fair board member. Sara grew up as a 4-H member in Monroe County and currently serves as a volunteer in the program. Be sure to watch upcoming issues of the Network for more detailed introductions of both Darryl and Sara.

LEADER LEARNING FAIR

There are still a few openings for the popular Leader Learning Fair. The date this year is October 18th and it will begin at 9:00 am. Brenda Chandonnet and Connie Ammerman, are Co-Chairman of the event this year. They have put together an amazing agenda of activities. The cost is $10 – and includes all materials, lunch and snacks. Reservations must be received by October 9th. Call the office if you need a flyer mailed.
2014 Monroe County Food Day

The most important ingredient in Food Day is YOU!
Sunday, Oct. 12 • 1-4 p.m.
St. Mary Organic Farm
610 W. Elm Ave., Monroe, Michigan

Come learn about healthy, affordable food produced locally in sustainable ways. You will discover the rich bounty of nutritious food resources available right here in Monroe County!

Learn about planting and harvesting local crops, incorporating good nutrition and personal fitness into daily habits, methods of food preservation, and how bees, butterflies and other insects help to keep our gardens and orchards blooming.

Food Drive: Bring canned goods to support The Lord’s Harvest Pantry. Check out more family activities at www.greatstartmonroe.org

Eat REAL. Eat HEALTHY. Eat LOCAL.

The Monroe County Intermediate School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status or familial status in its programs, activities or in employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Elizabeth J. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Legal Counsel, 1101 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe Michigan 48161, Telephone: 734.242.5795, ext. 1200.
Everyone has personal belongs that contain meaning to them or other members of their family. So the questions becomes “What happens to these things when you die?” and “Who decides who gets what?”. Planning for the transfer of personal property is just as important to plan for as the transfer of titled property. Even if you don’t have title property, everyone had personal property that needs to be dealt with. Consequently, this becomes a challenge for the person who owns the property and possibly, family members who may be left to make decisions when a family members dies.

This issue is frequently disregarded until a crisis occurs. It is often assumed to be a minor issue or a matter that just takes care of itself. However, research on the subject indicates otherwise. The transfer of non-titled property is an issue that affects individuals regardless of their financial worth, heritage or cultural background.

Individuals fail to plan ahead to include non-titled property as part of this decision-making process. What surprises many is that the transfer of personal property can create more challenges then titled property. These challenges can be: items have different meaning to different family members, sentimental value attached to an item is the more important issue verse monetary value, family member’s perception of “fair” is different, and communicating about the process can be difficult.

There are no right formulas or solutions available to transferring person property but there are factors to consider. One factor is understanding the sensitivity of the issue. Each family member will have a different feeling about the subject. Another factor is to define what you want to accomplish when distributing your personal items. Third factor is to determine what fair means in the context of the family.

An additional task is to identify what each family member is interested in receiving and match that up to your wishes to transfer. Decided what distribution option you would like to utilize and the pros and cons of each. Lastly, have a plan in place in case of conflict.

University of Minnesota Extension has a resource called “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” This is a great resource to assist in transfer of non-title personal property. This process can be a time to rejoice a person’s life, share memories, and a way to continue family traditions. Plan now to add this to your estate plan.

For more information go to:
www.mimoneyhealth.org;
http://www.extension.org/personal_finance

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

FREE TESTING

PRESSURE CANNING TESTING IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE.

Feel free to either call for an appointment to have yours tested, or you may drop off the canner lid and gauge and we will call you once it has been tested.

Go to http://nchfp.uga.edu/ for up to date food preservation information.

Also we have “So Easy to Preserve” food preservation books available at the MSU Extension Monroe County office for $15.00 plus tax.
DISPEL STEPFAMILIES MYTHS

MYTHS ABOUT STEPFAMILIES CAN BE STUMBLING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS.

Stepfamilies are more complex than first families and can operate differently in many ways. Many people are not aware of these differences and often fall for the many myths that surround stepfamilies. Often these myths strongly influence the way members of stepfamilies adjust to their new family. Becoming aware of these challenges and myths is one way to start off on the right path of becoming a successful stepfamily.

Myth #1 - Love instantly occurs between the children and stepparent. Fact: recognize that establishing relationships take time and that it doesn’t happen overnight.

Myth #2 - Older children are capable of handling the transition. Fact: research indicates the older the child or adolescent the longer the transition process.

Myth #3 - Children of divorce and remarriage are negatively affected. Fact: although it takes time, most children do recover their emotional equilibrium.

Myth #4 - Stepmothers are mean. Fact: this myth is based on fairy tales. This negative perception impacts stepmothers in a very personal way. Research tells us that stepmothers have the most difficult role in the step families.

Myth #5 - Adjustment occurs quickly. Fact: because stepfamilies are complicated, it takes time for members to get to know each other and create a relationship. Typically the adjustment period is about four years.

Myth #6 - Children adjust to divorce and remarriage if one of the biological parents withdraws. Fact: children will always adjust better if they have access with both parents. This means being able to see the nonresidential parent and to think well of him or her. Exception to the rule would be those rare instances of parental abuse or neglect.

Myth #7 - Stepfamilies form easier after a parent dies. Fact: people need time to grieve the loss of a loved one, and a remarriage may “reactivate” unfinished grieving.

Myth #8 - Part-time stepfamilies are easier. Fact: relationships take time (as mentioned in Myth #1). It may take longer for part-time stepfamilies to build that positive relationship.

Myth #9 - In the beginning it is important to establish the stepparent-stepchild relationship. Fact: it is more important to strengthen the couple relationship. This relationship creates the step family. Time invested in marital relationship will strengthen the family.

Myth #10 - There is a legally recognized relationship between stepparent and the stepchild. Fact: many do not realize that legally a stepparent does not and cannot authorize many things for stepchildren.

The more stepfamily members understand about this transition into a new family dynamic, the quicker a positive relationship will be developed.

For more stepparenting information go to:
http://www.stepfamilies.info/
http://www.extension.org/parenting
Source: Smart Steps: For Adults and Children in Stepfamilies
MOTHER TO MOTHER PROGRAM

Our programming year runs from October 1 through September 30. The Mother to Mother program enrolled 127 women and served an additional 123 who did not choose to enroll.

Forty classes were held with 151 participants. Of the enrolled mothers, 35 breastfed for a year. Fourteen of those used no formula. Also, 14 of those enrolled were first time mothers.

Research has proven that mothers who have breastfeeding peer support enjoy a longer more satisfying experience nursing their babies … Not to mention the babies love it too!

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

Breastfeeding Makes a Healthier World

MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION

MCHE Council met 9-16-14 at the Monroe County Extension Learning Center at 10:30 am.

Discussion was held about opening a Facebook page for MCHE. Flyers went out to the groups for input and the decision will be made at the next meeting.

The 2015 fund raiser will be the Flower card with Deb’s Flowers again this year. The cards will be available after the October council meeting and start in January.

Rally Day plans are in place for Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 6:00 pm. We will meet at Ida United Methodist Church. Please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. The Sweet Adeline’s will entertain us at 7:00 pm. Membership recognition and officer installation will follow.

Council is asked to bring items to the October council meeting to make baskets up for the 4-H auction.

Next meeting is October 21, at 10:00 am.

Respectfully yours,

Betty Curley 241-6238

We are always accepting new members!
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

The 4-H Clover is the second most recognized symbol in the world and during National 4-H Week – you will see it displayed across Monroe County.

Many of our 4-H clubs are creating displays to better inform the public what 4-H is all about. 4-H has made a tremendous impact on our community, and will continue to make a difference to future generations.

Let’s get this story out. The 4-H Council is encouraging clubs to create these displays in a store window, a church, school or library. Perhaps you could paint a store window, which tells your club’s 4-H story. Clubs who create a display, and submit a picture to the 4-H Office by October 31st, will be given a $25.00 award. We will try to include many of these pictures, and all club names in the December Network.

THE BANQUET SCENE

The banquets, recognizing the tremendous success of the 4-H Youth, have all been excellent this season.

The Dog Recognition Dinner in early September was a huge success. Wonderful food, a great job of recognizing their outstanding members, followed by the awarding of door prizes. Superintendent Lorie Shaw and Deb Mattes helped the youth plan and present the banquet.

The Junior Livestock Banquet was again held in the Activity Center this year, with a capacity crowd. Emily Kittendorf was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. The meal was prepared by Wendy and Rick Rozanski. JLA members who had champions at fair, showmanship and lamb lead winners were recognized during the afternoon activities.

Also announced were the Beef Herdsmanship winners for 2014. This award is sponsored by Blanchett Farms, Masserants Feed and Grain, Albring Farms and Gary and Barb Drodt.

Election results from the meeting has the following elected to the 2015 JLA Board. Charlie Martin, Presley Kreps, Emily Kittendorf, Dane Diesing, Kyle Motylinski, Hannah Haise, Shelby Bruckner, Courtney Baumann and Noah Sampson.

A turkey and beef dinner with all of the trimmings was the order of the day for the Small Animal Association. A crowd, including many buyers assembled for the evening activity. Monroe Bank and Trust was present to distribute checks to the 4-H’ers who sold in the sale. Tabatha Lajiness was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. The board did a wonderful job of recognizing their buyers and the members who had earned Champion and Reserve Champion awards. The Small Animal Master Stockman awards will be presented at the October 20th, Small Animal Annual Meeting. The evening was concluded with door prizes being awarded to the buyers.
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark November 22nd on your calendar – take your family to dinner and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. The Council will be sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction. The program will take place in the Activity Center with the meal beginning at 4:00 p.m. - the first items will be auctioned off beginning at 6:30 p.m. but dinner will be served until 7:00 p.m. Cost for the meal is $6.00, kids 10 and under $3.00. This year we will also have a Silent Auction so you will be able to start bidding on some items as early as Friday.

How can clubs and individuals be involved? Wendy and Rick Rozanski are chairing the auction. They are also seeking donations from families, businesses, and individuals for the evening activities. That prize winning 4-H project, or that Christmas gift from Aunt Rose may be someone else’s treasure. Clubs will also be challenged to donate something unique that will get the bidding going. The club and district with the highest selling items, will receive half of the price back for their treasury. Special activities will also be held for the kids, with the items they want to buy.

Items may be brought to the Extension Office any time during regular business hours. Arrangements can be made for pick-up of large items.

Desserts are needed to round out the meal. Families are encouraged to bring fancy desserts as well as the traditional cookies and cupcakes. That good 4-H cooking guarantees an excellent end to a perfect meal.

KIDS DAY

We have 132 young 4-H members registered for Kids Day and this year it is going to be a fun event. Activities will be set-up inside the Activities Center and members and their families will be able to not only observe but also get involved in a variety of fun activities it will be a fun, learning experience for everyone.

As usual for Kid’s Day the program will conclude with refreshments and awards for the outstanding All Stars that will be there representing the clubs.

Don’t forget – Sunday October 5th - 2:00 – 4:00 at the Activity Center on the fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome!

2014 YOUTH RECOGNITION

The date for the 2014 Fall Recognition Program has been set. Please mark Sunday, October 26th as the day to recognize all of the special achievements of our members for this past 4-H year.

At 2:00pm, members, parents, leaders and friends will gather in the Activity Center to recognize and congratulate the 4-H members who completed County and Older Teen Award Forms, the members of the New Horizons Program, this years State Award Winners and delegates, Scholarship Winners as well as the Key Club Awards and to recognize this years “I Dare You” recipients.

Everyone is invited to the program.

The 2014-2015 New Horizons Delegates will be providing refreshments for the program.
MASTER STOCKMAN NAMED

For the thirteenth year the program continued to grow as members completed enough divisions to be eligible to compete. This year, 4-H’ers between the ages of 9 and 19 not only exhibited their animals and competed in showmanship, they gave speeches and demonstrations, tried their hand at livestock judging, experimented with photography, created animal science exhibits, worked with record keeping, made Promotional Posters and participated in the Skill-a-thon.

Congratulations to these outstanding youth, their willingness to experience something new and be willing to take the challenge has helped to earn a cash award.

Overall Master Stockman for 2013 was Piper Hopple, who competed in Beef and Swine and earned the highest score of any Master Stockman this year. Piper earned $200 for her work.

Champion Master Stockman
Piper Hopple

Winning in the divisions were

**Intermediate Beef**
- Jacob Luty
- Colton Aikens-Jaworski
- Charlie Hileman

**Senior Beef**
Piper Hopple

**Junior Division Sheep**
- Cale Piedmonte-Lang
- Levi Couch
- Joseph Liedel
- Lilly Anderson
- Anthony Vandermeer
- Ross Thomas

**Intermediate Sheep**
- Zane Piedmonte-Lang
- Taylor Fietz
- Kerrie Kraftchick
- Leah Thomas
- Erin Thomas

**Senior Sheep**
- Antonia Piedmonte-Lang
- Bethany Martin
- Hannah Haise
- Emily Oley
- Baily Ott

**Intermediate Swine**
- Gregory Liedel
- Matt Rinaldi
- Ben Preston
- Mary Leidel
- Konner Wood

**Senior Swine**
- Emily Kittendorf
- Steven Rinald
- Michelle Thiabault
- Delaney Preston
- Kyle Wood

**Junior Swine**
- Brooke Iott
- Ty Luty
- Karis Thomas
- Hunter Schafer

BEEF CATTLE SALES

Michigan State University has published a list of Cattle Sales for those members who may be hunting for a steer for next year's fair.

This list is available on line at [http://www.canr.msu.edu/ansckids/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/ansckids/) when you get to the site click on Upcoming Events.

If you don’t have access on line – please call the 4-H Extension Office and a copy will be mailed.

Cattle must be in the member’s possession by January 1, 2015.
SMALL ANIMAL ANNUAL MEETING

Members enrolled in the Small Animal Project are encouraged to take part in the annual meeting schedule for October 20th. The association has planned the meeting so that members, parents, leaders and interested buyers, who have an interest in small animals can have input into the direction of the association.

The meeting will be held on Monday, October 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the 4-H Activity Center. A discussion will be held on ideas for the 2015 auction. Suggestions are welcome to improve both our show and sale. Election of new directors to the governing board will also be held. Any 4-H’er, 14 and older with an interest in rabbits, poultry or cavies is encouraged to run for a seat on the board. One adult position will also be on the ballot.

The meeting will include refreshments. A recognition portion of the meeting will include presentations to the 2014 Board and awarding of the MasterStockman awards.

Reservations are not required.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Want to get ahead of the rush? We have an item that just might fill the bill for a variety of gift giving needs.

A 4-H Brick - For that special person who has everything, give them the lasting gift of a brick in the 4-H Walk of Support.

The 4-H Council will be cutting and placing additional bricks in the spring. Special Presentation Cards will be available for bricks that are purchased to be given as gifts. The cost of the brick is $100 for a 4x8 or $150 for an 8x8 or $250 for 16x16 granite.

If you would like further information, please contact the 4-H Office.

MITTEN TREE

Fall has arrived so winter cannot be far behind. It seems like fair was just over and we are planning for another year. To get ready for winter we are again preparing to decorate the Mitten Tree. Pat Webb, project chairman will set up the tree in November in the lobby of the Extension Office. We encourage all clubs, families and interested community members to donate, hats, scarves and mittens to decorate the tree. Traditionally we not only decorate the tree we heap baskets full of the colorful items around the tree.

Items should be to the Extension Office by December 9th as on that day the tree will come down. The elves will arrive and each parcel will be wrapped in preparation for the children who will be receiving the items. The gifts are distributed to youth across the county. Several packages are also given to schools that continue the distribution throughout the winter to youth who come to school and need warm mittens, hats or scarves.

This is a very easy community service project, but one that brings much enjoyment to the warm hands and heads that benefit from the gifts.

LEADER BANQUET

Because we are not getting good attendance at Leader Banquet – because of the Holidays – we will be moving the banquet to March – Watch for your invitation.

GARAGE SALE

The Fair Board is going to let us be a part of the Fall Garage Sale on October 25th – but we need STUFF to sell. The garage sale pays for our fair ribbons. You can bring your donations any time either to the Activity Center or to the office. Remember – We do not take clothes.
The 2014 farm bill contains new farm programs that will require complex decisions by farmers and landlords in late 2014 and early 2015. While many of the specific rules for these decisions have not yet been released by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), producers and landlords should be aware that there are actions that should be taken now to prepare for the decisions that must be made during the coming months. This paper will examine these upcoming decisions and the actions that should be taken as soon as possible to prepare for these decisions.

The three major decisions for farmers and landlords in the 2014 Farm Bill

The 2014 farm bill includes three decisions that farmers and landlords will be required to make in 2014 and 2015:

1. **Updating Program Yields:** Owners will be permitted to update their program yields based on the farm’s actual production yields from 2008-2012.
2. **Reallocating Base Acres:** Owners will be permitted to reallocate their base acres based on the farm’s actual planted acreage from 2009-2012.
3. **ARC Programs versus PLC Program:** The Direct and Countercyclical Payments (DCP) that were used under the 2008 farm bill have been eliminated. Producers (landowners and tenants) will be permitted to choose between the new Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs that replaced the DCP program.

Though many details on these decisions are not yet available, some important steps in preparing for these decisions can now be taken and some important deadlines are now in place. In addition, the process of collecting information for these decisions should begin now. The final timeline for owner/producer decisions has not yet been announced, but a general timeline is available. Owners will have an opportunity to update program yields and reallocate base acres during the late summer and fall of 2014. Decisions on the ARC/PLC programs are likely to be required during late 2014 and early 2015.

2014 Farm Bill Decisions: What to do ASAP

In August 2014, the FSA started the process of implementing the 2014 farm bill by sending to owners and producers a letter with each farm’s “Reported Commodity Crop History Summary” that provides each farm’s recorded base acreage, program yields and 2009-2012 planting history. **This information will be a key factor in making decisions during 2014 and 2015.** Owners and producers should do the following as soon as possible to prepare for the upcoming year:

1. **Review** the FSA letter and Reported Commodity Crop History Summary and inform FSA within 60 days of the letter’s date if the information is incorrect.
2. **Begin now** to collect information on the farm’s actual planting history during 2009-2012 – how many acres of each crop were planted on the entire farm during each year from 2009-2012?) and the farm’s actual yield history (what was the yield per acre for each crop planted on the entire farm during each year from 2008-2012?). Evidence from all sources (sales receipts, crop insurance records, etc.) should be collected retained (NOTE: FSA has not yet announced the rules regarding the information required for program decisions. Consequently, all information that could prove helpful in proving actual planted acreage or actual yields could be helpful).
3. **Communicate** with your tenants and/or your landlords. The upcoming decisions will affect the program benefits that a farm collects during 2014 to 2018. **All parties have a common interest in making the best possible decisions for the farm, so good communication and cooperation between landlords and tenants will be beneficial for all parties involved.**

4. **Stay informed** about the upcoming deadlines for decisions in late 2014 and early 2015. Read all emails and newsletters from your local FSA office and consult with your local FSA office and with your tenants or landlords about these decisions.

5. **Be patient but be alert.** The farm bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President at a relatively late date, and the FSA has a major challenge in implementing the new programs in the 2014 farm bill. Landlords will need to become informed about program options and key deadlines and cooperate with tenants. Tenants can often have numerous landlords that they will need to consult and enrollment dates could fall during peak work periods. The new programs are likely to require some complex decisions in late 2014 and early 2015. Landowners and tenants should stay informed about program deadlines and program options to cooperate in the best possible decisions for each farm.

**A special ASAP note for winter wheat producers in Michigan**

Producers of covered commodities (corn, wheat, and soybeans in Michigan) will be eligible for the new “Supplemental Coverage Option” (or SCO) beginning with the 2015 crop. The SCO is a form of crop insurance that provides an additional form of coverage for the deductible of the producer’s underlying crop insurance policy.

The SCO can be purchased as an endorsement to any of the Yield Protection, Revenue Protection, or Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion policies. The Federal Government pays 65 percent of the premium cost for SCO. For example, assume a grower buys a Revenue Protection policy with a 75 percent coverage level (this is the “underlying policy”). The underlying policy covers 75 percent of the expected crop value and leaves 25 percent uncovered as a deductible. Since the underlying policy is Revenue Protection, SCO will also provide revenue protection, except that SCO payments will be determined at a county level. Thus, if the underlying policy is a Revenue Protection policy, the SCO Endorsement begins to pay when county average revenue falls below 86 percent of its expected level. The full amount of the SCO coverage is paid out when the county average revenue falls to the coverage level of the underlying policy (in this example, it the underlying policy level is 75 percent).

As noted above, producers of covered crops (corn, wheat and soybeans in Michigan) will be required to elect either the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) commodity programs for the 2014-2018 crop years. This will be a one-time irrevocable decision that will be required in late 2014 or early 2015. Producers who elect to take the PLC program will be eligible to purchase SCO coverage. Producers who elect the ARC program will not be eligible to purchase SCO coverage.

SCO coverage will be available for the 2015 crop year’s winter wheat. Producers must make a crop insurance coverage decision for fall-planted crops (including SCO) by the sales closing date (generally Sept. 30, 2014). Producers who applied for SCO for their winter wheat for 2015 may elect to withdraw coverage on any farm where they later elect the ARC program for winter wheat by the earlier of their acreage reporting date or Dec. 15 without penalty. If producers withdraw SCO coverage for a farm by the earlier of their acreage reporting date or Dec. 15, they will not be charged a crop insurance premium for SCO. In order to withdraw coverage without penalty, producers must notify their agents of their intended election for ARC by the earlier of their winter wheat acreage reporting date or Dec. 15. This is a one-time exemption that is only allowed for the 2015 crop year’s winter wheat to coordinate with ARC program sign-up rules.

Details on the SCO program are available at the USDA Risk Management Agency website as well as a calculator for SCO coverage. A map of the availability of SCO for winter wheat is available on the USDA website

Michigan State University Extension advises winter wheat producers to consult their crop insurance agent to discuss options and deadlines under the Supplemental Coverage Option.

Additional information and useful tools can be found at the Michigan State University Extension Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) website.

This article was published by **Michigan State University Extension**. For more information, visit [http://www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu). To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit [http://bit.ly/MSUENews](http://bit.ly/MSUENews). To contact an expert in your area, visit [http://expert.msue.msu.edu](http://expert.msue.msu.edu), or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).
SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION UPDATE

NEW WEBSITE OFFERS GROWERS AND PRACTITIONERS ACCESS TO CURRENT NUTRIENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES AS WELL AS PRODUCT PERFORMANCE AND TOOLS TO MAXIMIZE RETURN ON SOIL FERTILITY AND PLANT NUTRITION INVESTMENTS.

by Kurt Steink, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences

Navigating the world of fertilizers and fertilizer management can be a bit confusing to say the least. A new website, soil.msu.edu, is now available to assist with making timely soil fertility and plant nutrition decisions. Our goal is to provide science-based research and extension information that improves crop production, increases the ecological efficiency, and incorporates progressive nutrient management strategies for production agricultural systems.

Some of the latest research results in corn, wheat, sugarbeet, soybean and potato cropping systems, as well as events from around the state of Michigan, will be updated regularly. Topics including 4R nutrient stewardship, applied agronomic research, cover crops, soil health and microbial activity are currently being researched and will be updated as results come in. Other useful topics that may be found include:

- Registration information for field days
- Useful tools including the updated and always available Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator, the MSUFertilizer Recommendation Program, and Growing Degree Day Tracker.
- Access to Michigan State University Extension bulletins, articles and papers including the MSUnutrient recommendations for field crops and vegetable crops in Michigan.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING STADIUM TO POTATO TUBERS

ACHIEVE OPTIMUM COVERAGE WITH STADIUM ON POTATO TUBERS ENTERING STORAGE BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES.

by Willie Kir, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences; David Ross, Syngenta Crop Protection; and Phillip Wharton and Nora Olsen, University of Idaho

Potatoes are susceptible to a variety of storage pathogens, including Fusarium dry rot (Fusarium sambucinum), silver scurf (Helminthosporium solani), late blight (Phytophthora infestans), Pink rot (Phytophthora erythroseptica), Pythium leak (Pythium ultimum) and black dot (Colletotrichum coccodes). Current recommendations for potato storage diseases include sanitation and exclusion as the primary controls for these pathogens in storage facilities. Few fungicides are registered for direct application to tubers for control of these important pathogens and few compounds are available for potato tuber treatment in storage, including chlorine-based disinfectants such as sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite and chlorine dioxide.

Several commercial storage products, like Phostrol (sodium, potassium and ammonium phosphates) and Storox (hydrogen peroxide/peroxyacetic acid mixture), are registered for control of storage pathogens. Recently, Stadium, a new product from Syngenta Crop Protectio was registered for use as a pre-storage treatment for management of Fusarium dry rot and silver scurf in storage. Stadium is a three-way mixture of azoxystrobin (Quadris), fludioxonil (Maxim) and difenoconazole (Inspire) and the application rate is 1.0 fluid ounces per 20 cwt (ton) of potato tubers carried in 0.5 gallon H2O per ton of tubers. Results from trials at Michigan State University and the University of Idaho show that Stadium provided effective disease control.

To continue reading this article visit http://goo.gl/ayqw1 or http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/guidelines_for_applying_stadium_to_potato_tubers_
OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

4-H

October

10/1/14  JLA  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

10/2-8/14  National 4-H Week  

10/5/14  Kid’s Day  
   4-H Activity Center  
   2:00 pm

10/6/14  4-H Council  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:30 pm

10/11/14  Make-It Take-it Craft Day  
   4-H Activity Center  
   9:00 - 2:00 pm

10/13/14  Horse & Pony Board  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

10/16/14  REAACT  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

10/18/14  Leader Learning Fair  
   Reservations Required  
   4-H Activity Center  
   9:00 am

10/20/14  Small Animal Annual Meeting  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

10/22/14  New Leader Orientation  
   Extension Learning Center  
   6:00 pm

10/25/14  Garage Sale  
   Monroe County Fairgrounds  
   9:00 am

10/26/14  Youth Recognition  
   4-H Activity Center  
   2:00 pm

10/28/14  CSI  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

10/28/14  4-H Fair Advisory Board  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

10/29/14  Teen Ambassadors  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

10/31/14  4-H Week Club display pictures due  
   Extension Learning Center  
   5:00 pm

November

11/3/14  4-H Council  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

11/8/14  Horse Banquet  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

11/9/11  Horse & Pony Board  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

11/13/14  REAACT  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

11/16/14  Goat Banquet  
   4-H Activity Center  
   7:00 pm

11/18/14  CSI  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

11/19/14  Teen Ambassadors  
   4-H Activity Center  
   6:00 pm

November

11/21/14  Set-up for Spaghetti Dinner  
   4-H Activity Center  
   9:00 am

11/22/14  Spaghetti Dinner & Auction  
   Dinner  
   4:30 - 7:00 pm  
   Auction  
   6:30 pm  
   4-H Activity Center

11/24/14  Small Animal Association Board  
   Extension Learning Center  
   7:00 pm

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

October

10/6/14  “Smart Choice for Health Insurance” and  
   “The Health Care Law: Things You Need to Know”  
   Extension Learning Center  
   3:00 pm

10/7/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

10/14/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

10/21/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

10/28/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

November

11/7/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

11/14/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

11/21/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

11/28/14  Nurturing Parenting Class  
   Arthur Lesow Community Center  
   11:30 am

HORTICULTURE

October

10/18/14  MCMGA Meeting  
   Extension Learning Center  
   10:00 am

November

11/8/14  MCMGA Recognition Brunch  
   Extension Learning Center  
   10:00 am
STAFF AND MSUE RESOURCES

The Monroe County MSU Extension office is open to the public on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to Noon, and 1:00pm to 5:pm. The office staff may be accessed via the main phone line at 734-240-3170.

<table>
<thead>
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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

HEADS UP!
Our county email (msue58@msu.edu)
Has changed!
Our new email will be msue.monroe@county.msu.edu