SPAGHETTI DINNER

The 4-H Council has scheduled the popular Spaghetti Dinner and auction for Saturday, November 22nd. The dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:00 pm and the auction will start promptly at 6:30 pm. The event will take place in the Activity Center, at the fairgrounds.

Tickets may be purchased at the door, at $6.00 for adults and $3.00 for youth 10 and younger.

Wendy and Rick Rozanski, along with their committee are using a Christmas theme again this year to decorate and create crafts and gifts to be auctioned. They are encouraging clubs and organizations to prepare an auction item so that every group is represented.

The District that earns the most money for their item will have 50% returned to the District. The Club or Organization item that brings the most money will also have 50% of the items price returned to the club.

The auction is a fun event with the opportunity to buy some special Christmas presents at a reasonable price.

Youth and adults who enjoyed the Council Scholarships at Exploration Days are reminded to bring a donation.

This is a great activity for a family night out. Its fun, good food, and very entertaining allowing you to spend as little, or as much as you want to bid.
A FREE RESOURCE FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

Denise Crissman has returned as the Educational Coordinator for the Monroe Conservation District using the EnviroScape as a great interactive tool to teach students about the sources of water pollution and ways to prevent it. The model is a complete miniature community with a farm, a housing plan, a construction site, a factory, a sewage treatment facility, a timbered out forest, a golf course, a roadway, and a connected lake, river and stream.

Together, she and the students use various materials to pollute the model. The students can actually see how anything that goes into our environment affects it. Children are fascinated by the realism of the model and the opportunity to participate in the demonstrations. The presentation takes approximately 1 hour.

Denise begins with talking about what a watershed is and how our lives depend on clean water. They talk about why they need water and all the ways they use it in their lives. She encourages the students to answer questions about Earth, the water planet. How much is surface water? How much is fresh water? What are the three properties of water? Why Michigan is called the Water Wonderland?

They look at the map of the River Raisin Watershed and follow the layout of the river to Lake Erie. They discuss the hydrologic or water cycle and talk about surface water and ground water. Then they discuss non-point and point sources of pollution. Denise lets the students use paper, foil, tissue and toothpick pieces to pollute the EnviroScape with trash. They use cocoa powder for loose soil, chocolate syrup for oil and sludge, green sprinkles for herbicides and fertilizers, red for pesticides and yellow for salt on the roads and driveways.

After everyone has had a chance to "pollute with permission", they create rain with spray bottles of water and the students can see how the polluted water runs off the land and into the stream, river and lake. The result is very dirty looking brown water filled with trash. They then talk about how they can't swim in the water, how it affects the plants and fish and how it also gets into our groundwater. At the end of the presentation they talk about ways to prevent pollution such as recycling, disposing of trash properly, sharing rides, pulling weeds, natural alternatives to pesticides and environmentally safe cleaners, contour plowing, planting vegetation and trees, etc.

They also talk about water conservation such as using less, fixing leaks, turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, and turning off lights when leaving a room to name a few. Denise encourages them to think of their own ways to conserve water and energy.

The students enjoy the participation in this hands-on activity and it gives them a real feel for how our everyday activities affect our environment and our water quality. Hopefully it makes them think about it more and maybe actively take part in keeping our water clean and abundant.

To schedule a presentation or for more information, please call the district office at 734.241.7755 ext. 101.
Gardening – “What on Earth am I Doing?” Workshop

Saturday, September 27th, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
963 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI

A variety of topics and speakers will present on:

- Cover crops for small backyard gardens
- Pollinators- what and how
- The benefit of native bees/bee houses
- Native Plant gardens design – wetland, upland, sunny and shade, what goes where

Light refreshments available
Door prizes

$15 per person, $7 each additional family member
$10 for friends of Monroe Conservation District
$7 Master gardeners

Please register by September 12th
(Only cash or check please)

Contact: Catherine Acerboni/Monroe Conservation District 734-241-7755 Ext. 101 or Judith Holcomb/Lenawee Conservation District 517-263-7400 Ext. 101
For a complete listing of plants available and an order form go to www.monroecd.or or www.lenaweeconservationdistrict.or or call the office and one will be mailed to you.
CARING ADULTS, STRONGER TEENS

PARENTS CAN STRENGTHEN THE ADULT CONNECTIONS IN THEIR TEENS’ LIVES TO PROMOTE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

A network of responsible and caring adults, in addition to parents, provides important resources that contribute to healthy adolescent development. Adults such as neighbors, youth workers, advisors and leaders of youth organizations, coaches, business people, teachers, and religious leaders can serve as positive role models for teens.

Teens need a diverse and helpful team of caring adults who get involved in their lives. Caring adults, other than parents, play a vital role in providing teens with a different perspective and guiding their participation in constructive activities. They also help teens develop a consistent sense of boundaries and responsibility.

By helping integrate teens into the larger community, adults promote positive character traits related to helping others and caring about social issues. Unfortunately, our society is age-segregated and offers few outlets for teens to practice adult behaviors and roles. Many teens lack a sense of connection with the adult community and are left to struggle with problems on their own or with each other. Parents who advocate on behalf of all teens in their community greatly enrich their teen’s own social environment and enhance the quality of life for families.

Every interaction with a responsible, caring adult can provide a teen with affirmation, appropriate boundaries, constructive time use, and belonging. Parents play an important role in helping their own teens form positive connections with neighbors, relatives, employers, youth leaders, mentors, community leaders, ordinary citizens, and other caring adults. Parents can 1) identify positive contacts, 2) make introductions and invitations, 3) personally get to know various adults, and 4) get to know the adults involved with their teens.

Parents can also make important contributions to their communities, helping create a vital and healthy environment for all teens. They can begin by assessing what their own groups and workplaces are doing for youth and /or work with other concerned people to set goals and create ways to reach out to youth.

To find more tips and benefits on asset building in adolescents go to:
http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets
http://www.parentfurther.com/

“SMART CHOICE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE” AND “THE HEALTH CARE LAW: THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW”

A JOINT COLLABORATION OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND AARP MICHIGAN

Michigan State University Extension and AARP Michigan have teamed up to offer consumers across the state “facts only” information about the Personal Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), including expanded Medicaid coverage in 2014, and how to become one’s own expert shopper and consumer for health insurance. What’s vitally important is that this two-hour, two-part presentation is in plain English.

Workers and families who are selecting their health insurance, perhaps for the first time, will learn what the terms used in healthcare coverage mean, what types of healthcare coverage are now available to them, and how the Healthy Michigan plan now entitles most individuals and families earning within 133-138% of the Federal Poverty Level to Medicaid benefits.
MSU Extension’s Educators will present “Smart Choice: Health Insurance,” which provides basic understanding of insurance terms and types of coverage. But it does not stop there. Smart Choice explains how individuals and families can figure out how to price specific insurance coverage options to fit within their budgets and household priorities—in other words, how to review their household budgets to find the right coverage for themselves and those who depend on them.

The second presentation, by AARP trained volunteers, briefs audiences on the basics of the Affordable Care Act—how it improves Medicare, creates affordable markets of private insurance, expands Medicaid coverage and expands or improves healthcare services for many groups of people, including children up to the age of 26, women, small businesses, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. These services, in many cases, will cost less because tax credits for healthcare coverage have been expanded.

In a nutshell, the MSU Extension/AARP program:

- Translates health insurance language into plain English
- Breaks down the different types of health insurance plans on the market
- Explains what “in-network” and “out of network” services are
- Nails the price differences between the types of health insurance and their trade-offs in non-covered “out of pocket” charges
- Shows participants how to evaluate their existing household spending on health services, medications, and supplies
- Constructs an overall household budget which not only reveals what your current spending priorities may have been, but possibly reveals where room might exist within your means to afford health insurance, and to find what priority that can hold within household spending objectives

Together, MSU Extension and AARP, which are both non-partisan and non-profit organizations, hope to reach as many people as possible, especially those with financial concerns, with the facts—not rumors or misinformation—about what the Affordable Care Act is and how it can help them—in language that’s clear, not confusing.

A session will be held locally on Monday Oct. 6, 2014 at MSU Extension, 9673 S. Raisinville Rd. Monroe, MI from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. To register, call 734-240-3179 or email clarkjon@anr.msu.edu. For more information on Smart Choice, visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/affordable_care_act_roadmap.

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.

NURTURING PARENTING ONGOING CLASS

Every Tuesday
11:30 am—12:30 pm
Arthur Lesow
Community Center
120 Eastchester
Monroe, MI 48161
Cost: FREE
Pre-registration required
734-240-3179

Certificate of completion is awarded once six classes are completed.
3-Hour Deaf-HOH Class
Home Food Preservation:
Making Jams & Jellies with & without sugar
Friday, September 26, 2014
9 am to 12 pm
*Interpreters will be present.*
Washtenaw MSU Extension, lower level (free parking)
705 N. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Learn the hot water bath canning technique of home food preservation. This hands-on workshop will teach participants food safety related to canning, basics of food preservation, canning jams and jellies.

Costs: $20 per person includes all supplies and food for canning demonstration.
Please register online at http://events.anr.msu.edu/foodpres9262014/

Questions? Email: haramin2@anr.msu.edu
AUGUST WAS BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

The Breastfeeding Initiative celebrated World Breastfeeding Week August 1st—7th.

Peer counselors throughout Michigan created a great video to share their thoughts about breastfeeding.

This video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQC5aOueOmo&feature=youtube

BREASTFEEDING TESTIMONIALS

Thanks to Winnie and the Mother to Mother Program I have now breastfed my son for 18 months, no supplements—ever! I tried to breastfeed my other two very unsuccessfully. My daughter refused and my other son refused to latch properly and had my nipples bleeding. Now with Noah, Winnie came to my house and showed me a few tricks on latching. From that day on I never had a problem. I am so blessed to have had this experience with my son. It’s been wonderful and I wish I would have contacted Winnie after I had my daughter. Thanks to Winnie and the Mother-to-Mother Program for making this a wonderful, pain free experience!

Thanks to the Mother to Mother Program I successfully breastfed my son David for his first year of life. Being able to call Winnie at any time of the day was a life saver. I got a hold of her when I had questions about increasing my supply when I thought it was low and when the amount I pumped was decreasing. Having the extra help and support was amazing. I’m very grateful to have been a part of the Mother to Mother program.

MONROE COUNTY HOMEMAKERS OF EXTENSION

- FAIR - We enjoyed our week and sold a lot of our Cookbooks! We still have some cookbooks left for sale at $3.00
- FLOWER CARDS - We still have a few cards left for $15.00.
- RALLY DAY - Tuesday, September 30th. We will eat at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. Entertainment will be Sweet Adelines at 7:00 pm. Installation of office will also take place at this event.
- DONATIONS - We will be donating $250.00 to each of the following charities; Salvation Army, Red Cross, New Beginnings, God Works, Lord’s Pantry, and Dundee Caring & Sharing.

Respectfully yours,
Betty Curley

We always welcome new members. Please call Betty at 734241-6238.
I DARE YOU AWARD

Members and Leaders are encouraged to nominate outstanding 4-H members for the “I Dare You” Award. This award is presented to a guy and a girl who goes out of their way to provide leadership to a program, involves others and dares themselves to step outside the box. The members are nominated with a written nomination that tells why you feel they are deserving of the award. The nomination letters will be given to all of the nominees to allow them to know how they are appreciated.

COUNTY AWARDS AND OLDER TEEN AWARDS

All members 11 and older can apply for county or Older Teen Awards. The form will be available by contacting Judy at seej@msu.edu and it will be emailed or it can be mailed or picked up at the 4-H Office. Every member that applies will be recognized with at least one medal. The forms are due back to the office by September 15th and the committee will be meeting that evening to choose the recipients of this year’s medals.

KEY CLUB AWARD

Members 15 and older may apply for a Michigan Key Club Award. This award goes to 1% of the enrollment in a county program. This form is also due September 15th. Members earning this award are given a piece of 4-H jewelry or a tie tack.

FALL BANQUETS AND EVENTS

Junior Livestock Banquet - September 7 - 3:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

Small Animal Banquet - September 22 - 7:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

Kids Day - October 7th - 2:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

Youth Recognition – October 26th 2:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

Small Animal Annual Meeting – October 20 7:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

Leader Learning Fair – October 18th 9:00 am 4-H Activity Center

Horse and Pony Banquet – November 8th 7:00 p.m. 4-H Activity Center

4-H Spaghetti Dinner and Holiday Auction - November 22nd 4-H Activity Center

THANKS!!!

The cooks, Cindy, Karen plus Tom and Mike – would like to thank you for all of the time and effort that you gave to make the 4-H Dining Hall again have a profitable year. As prices increase for food products it becomes more difficult to serve a reasonably priced product and still make money.

It was an excellent week, and with the new system in the kitchen it was even a little cooler and certainly safer. Workers came out of the kitchen happy, tired and feeling that their time was spent supporting the 4-H program and our youth.

Having a crew of volunteers that the clubs put together and combining them with our outstanding kitchen staff, we can be successful, make the public happy and have funds to support our 4-H Programs.

Thanks for a job well done!
FALL ACTIVITIES

National 4-H Week

October 2nd thru the 8th will be a reason for 4-H members and leaders across the United States to celebrate. As part of the nations largest youth program and having the Clover as the second most recognized symbol of an organization, we have many reasons to celebrate. 4-H has made a tremendous impact on our community, and will continue to make a difference to future generations.

How can you be a part of the celebration?

Club displays

The 4-H Council is encouraging clubs to put a display in a store window, church, school or library for National 4-H Week. Perhaps you could paint a store window, or create a display in a window or at the library which tells your clubs 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.

It is required this year to have more than a poster - to earn your award.

Kids Day

To kick off the new 4-H year and to salute all of the youth from 7 to 11 years old, who made outstanding achievements this year, the 4-H Council and the Teen Ambassadors will host “Kid’s Day” with a special program to help our younger members celebrate their great success.

A Science Blast, with food and recognition, will be a part of the two hour program. Activities will start at 2:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome. The program will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Activity Center on October 5th.

Leaders - don’t forget to nominate your younger members for “All Star Awards” - every member nominated will receive an award.

Leader Learning Fair

We have a committee of volunteers formed by the Council planning a Leader Learning Fair for October 18th – beginning at 9:00 am at the Activity Center.

The cost for registration is $10.00 and will include lunch, and dessert and door prizes. The daylong event will feature a variety of crafts and Educational seminars.

The council is underwriting the cost to help our leaders learn some new activities to teach to their club members. Contact the 4-H office or go to monroecounty4H.com for more details.
Want to know how your food gets from the farm to your table every night? Breakfast on the Farm will answer that question.

The final Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) for 2014 will be Sept. 6 at Uphaus Farms in Washtenaw County. This event is a free family-friendly event that gives consumers and farm neighbors a firsthand look at modern food production. Uphaus Farms is a family-owned and operated beef cattle feedlot located at 14324 Pleasant Lake Rd., five miles north of Manchester. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to noon.

Lyndon Uphaus is the owner and operator of Uphaus Farms, along with his family, Ann, Sarah and Katy. Uphaus Farms has been in operation for 139 years, spanning six generations. The family cares for around 1,000 beef animals annually, in addition to growing 600 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. The farm houses a grain handling facility and uses ethanol byproducts as a food source for their cattle.

“We want to give the public a chance to get on a working farm and see the equipment, animals and facilities it takes to operate a farm,” Lyndon Uphaus said.

Those attending the Washtenaw County event will be able to enjoy a home-cooked breakfast featuring Michigan-grown and produced menu items before setting off on a self-guided farm tour featuring numerous educational exhibits for all ages. There will be a chance to see the feedlot, the grain-handling center and farm machinery, and to learn about all the jobs that must be done every day on a farm. Volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions or share their firsthand expertise about farming. You will be able to easily identify them by their BOTF T-shirts.

“We are not afraid to show people what we do and how we do it on our farm,” Uphaus said. “So many people are generations removed from farm life; BOTF gives them a chance to return. We want people to see that our animals are raised and well cared for in a humane way and also in a clean environment.”

The event is free, but tickets are required to eat breakfast. Tickets are available from the following businesses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrian</td>
<td>Lenawee County Farm Bureau, Lenawee County MSU Extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor</td>
<td>Downtown Home and Garden, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center, Nicola’s Books, Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, Washtenaw County MSU Extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton</td>
<td>Wayne County Farm Bureau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea</td>
<td>Chelsea District Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>Clinton Public Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter</td>
<td>Dexter Mill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida</td>
<td>Monroe County Farm Bureau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>All Jackson County libraries, Jackson County MSU Extension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>Linda’s Diner, Manchester District Library, Wacker Oil &amp; Propane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>Milan Public Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>Saline District Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Creek</td>
<td>Read It and Reap Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockbridge</td>
<td>Stockbridge Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tecumseh</td>
<td>Living in Lenawee Realty Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ypsilanti</td>
<td>All Ypsilanti district libraries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Breakfast on the Farm is a statewide Michigan State University Extension program. More than 150 local volunteers help organize each event. In addition to the Washtenaw County Breakfast on the Farm, two other breakfast events have taken place in 2014:

- July 19, hosted by Crandall Dairy Farms LLC, Battle Creek (Calhoun County).
- Aug. 16, hosted by De Grins Oer Dairy Farm, Blanchard (Mecosta County).

The statewide sponsors for the 2014 BOTF events are the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Corn Growers Association, Crystal Flash, Dairyland Seed Co., Farm Bureau Insurance, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, the Kroger Company, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, the Michigan Wheat Program, Northrop Trucking Inc., Pioneer Brand Products and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

For more information about the Washtenaw County Breakfast on the Farm or other BOTF events, visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com, or contact Ashley Kuschel at kuschela@anr.msu.edu or Nancy Thelen at thelenn@anr.msu.edu.
2015 BREAKFAST ON THE FARM
HOST FARM APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

The 2014 Breakfast on theFarm programs will soon be completed, and it is time for interested farm families to apply to host a 2015 event.

Posted on August 29, 2014 by Nancy Thelen, Michigan State University Extension

The 2014 Breakfast on the Farm programs will soon be completed, and it is time for interested farm families to apply to host a 2015 event.

Since the inaugural Michigan State University Extension Breakfast on the Farm program was held in 2009 at Dutch Meadows Dairy in St. Johns, more than 58,800 visitors and volunteers have participated in the 28 programs held throughout Michigan. Twenty-two of the host farms have been dairy farms, two were beef farms, one was a crop farm, one was a dairy and potato farm, one was a dairy and sheep farm and one was an apple operation. The 2014 host farms offered a diversity of types of farms, ranging from a dairy farm to a beef feedlot and crop farm and a dairy farm that also has a sheep flock.

Breakfast on the Farm is a Michigan State University Extension program that is guided by a statewide advisory council and the events are made possible through local partners, generous statewide and local sponsors and many local volunteers. Host farms are selected by the advisory council through an application process. In an effort to reach consumers throughout Michigan, the council strives to have events in diverse geographic areas. Extension staff will offer guidance from the early planning stages through the event.

Breakfast on the Farm showcases a selection of Michigan farms and introduces the non-farm public to the life and business of modern agriculture through a fun and educational event that emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship, food safety and good animal care practices. The educational farm tours provide the public an opportunity to see modern, non-commercial farm operations first-hand. With only 1.8 percent of the population providing food for the other 98 percent, there is a large information gap about how today’s modern farms operate. Host families realize the importance of opening their farm to teach consumers about modern farming and building trust in agriculture production. As programs are completed, host families are very glad that they provided an opportunity for consumers to learn about farm life and educate them about agriculture. Many of the attendees write thank you notes or leave comments such as, “Amazing and educational” or “I was amazed at how uninformed I was until I came today” or “Great experience – I will go home and have a large glass of milk and not be concerned at all” or “This was the best farm visit I have ever taken part in – it was hands on, level appropriate, and very well presented in all respects”.

The Breakfast on the Farm connection increases consumer confidence in Michigan food products, increases the consumers understanding of agriculture as a whole, and increases the amount of food products they purchase. Data from past surveys show that approximately 45 percent of the attendees have not visited a modern farm in twenty years or more. Another 33 percent of the visitors have only been on a farm one to five times in the last twenty years. The data is also showing that Breakfast on the Farm is connecting to the consumers by increasing their confidence in Michigan food products by 78 percent. Follow-up surveys of attendees have also shown that 20 percent of the households attending a Breakfast on the Farm program at dairy farms have increased their consumption of dairy products. This educational program has helped to provide information and experiences for thousands of participants who have changed their attitudes about modern food production as a result of attending a BOTF.

Information on past events is available at Breakfast on the Farm. Interested host farms are also encouraged to attend the final 2014 breakfast on September 6 at Uphaus Farms to experience the program. The application and a checklist to guide interested host farms are located at Contact Us! If you would like your farm to be considered for a 2015 event, please complete the application and submit it to your local MSU Extension educator for approval and submission to the program organizers by September 15, 2014. The advisory council will review all applications and notify applicants in October of farms selected for a 2015 event. The deadline for potential host farm applications has been moved up to allow more time for the farms to plan for a parking area and crop rotations.
For more information about the program visit www.breakfastonthefarm.com or if you have specific questions or would like additional information or a visit to discuss the program and tour your farm, contact the program organizers Ashley Kuschel at kuschela@anr.msu.edu or 586-469-7616 or Nancy Thelen at 734-222-3825 or thelenn@anr.msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit 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).

PROPER MANURE MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK OR HORSE FARMS

USING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CAN HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. THESE PRACTICES CAN ALSO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR ANIMALS AND INCREASE YOUR FARM’S PROFIT.

Posted on August 19, 2014 by Shelby Bollwahn, Michigan State University Extension

What is considered a small farm?
A 3,000 head beef feedlot? A 30,000 head free-range turkey operation? A dairy with 50 head? Or maybe a stable with 10 horses? There really is no right answer to this question. Regionally, there are different perceptions as to what a small farm is. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines a farm as “any operation that produces and sells, or could sell, at least $1,000 worth of agricultural production.” Did you know that 59 percent of farms in the United States sell less than $10,000 worth of agricultural production? There are more than 1 million operations selling less than $5,000 worth of production. If you look at the numbers you’ll note that a lot of agricultural production comes from small farms. Small farms may include animal feeding operations (those with fewer animals than the confined animal feeding operation threshold), small scale commercial production or hobby farm enterprises (horses or show/heritage/exotic breeds of livestock).

Why is manure management important on small farms?
Small farms are different than large farms, the challenges of managing manure nutrients are different but the principles are the same. Small farms may have fewer animals and sometimes several animal species on the same farm. Those farms could also have limited acreage and possibly lack the equipment necessary for spreading manure. Michigan State University Extension recognizes the positive and negative impacts of manure. Manure is a valuable resource on the farm as a great source of nutrients for crop production and it can help to improve soil health. Most farm owners do not realize the value of the manure that is produced on their farms. When not managed properly, manure can pollute the environment. This includes ground or surface water pollution due to Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Carbon (organic matter). Mismanaged manure can contribute to air quality concerns (dust and odor), pathogens in water supplies and presence of vermin.

Small farms can choose to spread or store manure.
There are two options for small farms when it comes to managing manure. Option one is to collect the manure and bedding daily, load it in a spreader and spread it on cropland, hayland or pasture. This option is time consuming and has to be done regardless of soil moisture, weather or time of year. Option two is to stockpile or store the manure for a period of time. In this case, the manure could be spread or hauled away, and utilized at a later time. Even though the number of livestock may not be large, enough manure will be generated to pose a problem if planning is not done. For example, a 1,000 pound horse can produce approximately 50 pounds
of manure per day. If kept in a stall, it may require 15-20 pounds of bedding per day. Manure in addition to bedding will have a volume of 203 cubic feet per day. In total, a stalled horse will require the removal of 60-70 pounds of waste per day. That results in 12-13 tons of waste per stall per year. The annual stall waste from one horse will fill a 12 foot by 12 foot stall about 6 feet deep, according to eXtension Stall Waste Production and Management. The capability to store manure reduces or eliminates the need to spread manure on a daily basis. Manure storage facilities also allow the farm owner to store the manure until it can be removed and used by other farmers, gardeners or landscapers.

Part 2 of this series will focus on options for storing manure on small farms.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit 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).

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

MSU EXTENSION IS NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY ONLINE, A SERIES OF ONLINE PRERECORDED WEBINARS. COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE CORE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MICHIGAN APPLICATORS.

Posted on November 1, 2013 by Erin Lizotte, Michigan State University Extension

Looking to learn more about integrated pest management (IPM)? Then check out the Integrated Pest Management Academy Online. These series of on-demand webinars created by Michigan State University Extension are designed to help Michigan growers identify pest management resources and understand IPM basics. Registration is not required and they are available for free. Simply visit http://bit.ly/ipmwebinars at your convenience and view one or all of the prerecorded webinars. Viewers can earn up to four pesticide recertification credits. A computer with Internet connectivity, a web browser and speakers are required.

The following webinars are currently available for viewing.

Introduction to Integrated Pest Management: Learn about the history of pest management, the evolution of IPM and the tenets that define implementation in the field.

Integrated Pest Management Resources: Learn about IPM resources available from Michigan State University and MSU Extension.

Entomology 101: In this compact session on insects, learn the vocabulary to help you properly identify insects and better understand the role of insects in the world.

Plant Pathology 101: This introductory webinar covers the basics of plant pathogens and introduces viewers to some popular control methods.

Soil Science 101: This webinar highlights the importance of soil characteristics and their potential impacts on agricultural producers.

Plant Science 101: Learn the basics of plant anatomy and physiology—particularly handy for those who struggle with weed identification.

Pesticides 101: An introduction to mode of action, pesticide resistance and factors that impact efficacy.

Insect Scouting in Fruit Crops: This primer offers a fruit-specific module on how insect scouting occurs in the real world.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte attaylo548@msu.edu to make arrangements. Requests will be fulfilled when possible.

This program is supported in part by North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension (NCR-SARE).

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit 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).
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

4-H

September

9/2/14 4-H Council
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

9/4/14 Post Fair Meeting
Mandatory for Leaders
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

9/7/14 Junior Livestock Banquet
4-H Activity Center
3:00 pm

9/8/14 Horse & Pony Board
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

9/22/14 Small Animal Association Banquet
4-H Activity Center
7:00 pm

9/24/14 Teen Ambassadors
Extension Learning Center
7:00 pm

October

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

10/7/14 Kid’s Day
4-H Activity Center
2:00 pm

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

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

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

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

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

September

9/2/14 Nurturing Parenting Class
Arthur Lesow Community Center
11:30 am

9/9/14 Nurturing Parenting Class
Arthur Lesow Community Center
11:30 am

9/16/14 Nurturing Parenting Class
Arthur Lesow Community Center
11:30 am

9/23/14 Nurturing Parenting Class
Arthur Lesow Community Center
11:30 am

9/30/14 Nurturing Parenting Class
Arthur Lesow Community Center
11:30 am

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

HORTICULTURE

September

9/20/14 MCMGA Meeting
Extension Learning Center
10:00 am

9/27/14 “What on Earth am I Doing” Workshop
Must Register by 9/12/14
Monroe County Conservation District
Extension Learning Center
9:00 am

October

10/18/14 MCMGA Meeting
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>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Extension or Program</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN RUSSELL</td>
<td>Family Nutrition</td>
<td>240-3175</td>
<td><a href="mailto:russe414@msu.edu">russe414@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Assistant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUDITH S. SEE</td>
<td>4-H Program</td>
<td>240-3174</td>
<td><a href="mailto:seejf@anr.msu.edu">seejf@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATT SHANE</td>
<td>District Coordinator</td>
<td>517-264-5308</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shanemat@anr.msu.edu">shanemat@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Nutrition Program Assistant</td>
<td></td>
<td>240-3176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIANE MICHAUD</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>240-3184</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warting3@anr.msu.edu">warting3@anr.msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Educator</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINNIE WEBB</td>
<td>Breastfeeding Peer</td>
<td>240-3178</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

HEADS UP!

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