

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### MSU Extension News Bulletins 1-16-08



#### MACOMB COUNTY

#### Cooperative Extension Service

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*Michigan State University,  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture, and Macomb  
County Board of  
Commissioners  
cooperating.*

*MSU is an affirmative-  
action, equal-opportunity  
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#### **Class helps agricultural producers get grants**

Agricultural producers in Macomb County interested in applying for USDA grant funds are encouraged to attend a free informational session about USDA grant programs, offered by Macomb County MSU Extension (MSUE).

The program covers eligibility criteria, application and evaluation processes, matching funds, resources available to develop grants and other requirements of the USDA Rural Development's Value-Added Producer Grant Program.

Representatives from the MSU Product Center also will discuss what grants are available, what "value added" means and how the MSU Product Center can help.

The program runs from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30 at the Macomb County MSUE offices, 21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12, in Clinton Township.

For more information or to register, call 586-469-6440.

#### **4-H Future Entrepreneurs club seeks members**

Macomb County youths, ages 14-19, interested in learning what it takes to start and run a business are encouraged to participate in the 4-H Future Entrepreneurs Club.

Club members will experience fun and educational activities, learn about financial and entrepreneurial literacy, increase their knowledge of business and get to work with local business owners.

– more –

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The club's objective of starting a business this year requires additional members who are serious about starting a business.

Club meetings run from 6:15-7:45 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the MSU Extension offices, 21885 Dunham Road (entrance E) in Clinton Township.

For more information or to become a club member, call 586-469-7432.

### **Class offered for food, agriculture and natural resources business owners**

Macomb County food, agriculture and natural resource business owners looking to start or re-invent a business can attend "Business Planning for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Entrepreneurs," a program offered by Macomb County MSU Extension (MSUE).

The seven-week program covers business planning, marketing research, legal issues, financial management and other related topics. Participants also will learn to research online and write business plans.

Classes run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, Feb. 8 through March 28 (no class on March 21) at Davenport University, 71180 Van Dyke Ave. in Romeo.

Costs for the class are \$150 for the first student and \$75 for each additional business partner. The price includes lunch, a business planning guide, course materials and handouts on program topics, and a free USB-compatible flash drive.

Registration for the program is required by Jan. 25 and a brief interview is required to ensure the program fits the participants' needs.

For more information or to register, call 586-469-6440.

### **Winter Wonderland Discovery Walk offered by Macomb MSUE**

Ever wondered what happens to woodland plants and critters during the winter? Join Jo Burgess on her "Winter Wonderland Discovery Walk" as she discusses the hidden gems of the winter forest.

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The program runs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Burgess Shadbush Nature Center, 4101 River Bends Drive in Shelby Township.

It is open to everyone although children under seven are not recommended. There is a \$5 charge for anyone over 15 years of age (those under 15 are free).

Participants are encouraged to dress warm (boots, hats and gloves) and bring a camera. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served after the walk.

Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 586-469-6440.

For more information on any of the Macomb MSUE community programs including Children-Youth-Family, Agriculture and Natural Resources or Community and Economic Development, please call 586-469-5180, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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