

CANR tent focuses on family futures

For the sixth year at Ag Expo, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) is sponsoring a tent that provides stimulating educational sessions, opportunities to learn about CANR programs and fun activities for families. And ice cream. Free ice cream. MSU Dairy Store free ice cream. It doesn't get much better than that.

This year's tent theme is Family Futures. Exhibits, educational sessions and activities will explore how CANR programs, including MSU Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), contribute to a strong, prosperous, healthy future for Michigan's families. Easy to find, the CANR tent is a large, white tent on the northern edge of the Ag Expo grounds.

The UDIM Stage, sponsored by United Dairy Industry of Michigan, will start the day's activities at 9:30 each morning with a presentation on wind energy by MSU professor Steve Harsh. A session on succession planning, presented by the Fraleigh Law Firm, will take place each day at 1:15 p.m. Cooking demonstrations at 11:45

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a.m. every day will include a showcase of Michigan produce used in raw food recipes, such as green smoothies and zucchini spaghetti. Sessions on using kitchen incubators for developing food products, youth entrepreneurship and square-foot gardening are also on the stage's schedule (see the show schedule on page 8-9 for dates and times).

Parents and students interested in learning about areas of study within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and job opportunities in one of Michigan's few growing job sectors can talk to representatives from the college's undergraduate

programs office and the CANR Alumni Association. Other programs represented in the tent include Biosystems Engineering, the Institute of Water Research, Kellogg Biological Station, MSUE, MAES, Project GREEN, the MSU Product Center, the Michigan AgrAbility Project, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Enviro-weather, Institute of International Agriculture, Integrated Pest Management, Department of Entomology, Demmer Shooting Sports Center, Department of Animal Science and the Animal Agriculture Initiative.

MSUE's Bulletin Office will offer many of its most popular publications for sale, some at show-discount rates. And for help not found in a Bulletin Office publication, the Plant Doctor booth provides a place to bring personal plant problems for "diagnosis" by a Master Gardener or horticultural specialist.

For the fourth year, the MSU Dairy Store will offer six-ounce samples of ice cream in a variety of popular flavors, including 4-H Forever and Sesquicentennial Swirl. Through a generous sponsorship from the MSU Dairy Store, the ice cream is available to tent visitors at no charge, but visitors are asked to make a modest donation to the CANR Alumni Scholarship Fund. Those donations have amounted to several thousand dollars over the past three years.

Nothing goes better with ice cream than birthday cake, which has become another tradition of the CANR tent. University Archives & Historical Collections is celebrating its 40th anniversary and will serve cake on Tuesday after a brief presentation at 1 p.m. The booth will feature an exhibit focusing on documenting family histories and family farms for future generations. At 1 p.m. Wednesday, CANR will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ag Expo with a short presentation, followed by cake.

Families find the CANR tent a welcome place to stop during their Ag Expo visit. The children's craft area has great hands-on activities, and many exhibitors offer engaging activities for youth and adults and a variety of giveaways or drawings. Youth who complete an Ag Expo "birthday card" by visiting participating booths will receive a fun prize. A shady seating area just behind the CANR tent offers a place to sit and relax for a few minutes, enjoying a dish of ice cream.

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