
EXTENSION NEWS

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December 2020

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EXTENSION CALENDAR DECEMBER 2020

December 8—10, 2020	Great Lakes Expo Registration: glexpo.com
December 9, 2020	Thumb Ag Day Virtual program offering pesticide applicator credits
December 16, 2020	IPM Crop Pest Management Update Virtual program offering pesticide applicator credits
December 24-25, 2020	MSU Extension Office closed for Christmas Holiday
December 31- January 1, 2021	MSU Extension Office closed for New Year's Holiday



*Happy
Holidays*

*From the Oceana MSU Extension
Office Staff*

Ben Werling
West MI Vegetable Educator

GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND FARM MARKET EXPO GOES VIRTUAL December 8 –10, 2020

For the past 19 years the Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market Expo has been held in Grand Rapids. Because of this year's unprecedented circumstances we are holding the event online! It will be an unforgettable event. We invite you to participate in the first ever Virtual Great Lakes Expo, December 8 - 10, 2020. Over three days, you will be able to visit with experts in our virtual tradeshow, network with other professionals, enjoy the awards page and poster sessions and take in the education program. The education program includes sessions on fruit crops, vegetable crops, other specialty crops, greenhouse crop production and marketing, farm marketing ideas and operations, farmers' markets and organic production and marketing. There will also be sessions covering diversity of general interest topics, including food safety and labor. During the Virtual Trade Show, exhibitors will be showing a variety of products and services for growers, greenhouse and farm marketers. Exhibitors include farm equipment companies, seed companies, nurseries, fertilizer and farm chemical manufacturers and suppliers, packaging equipment and container companies, and greenhouse-specific suppliers. The trade show also includes an area for exhibitors offering products specifically for Farm Markets. Many state and federal agencies also exhibit, updating attendees on current programs and regulations.

Pesticide applicator and certified crop advisor credits will be offered for most sessions.

For registration and session information visit the Great Lakes Expo website at glexpo.com

TAX FORMS & EMPLOYER HIRING FORMS

For those in need of 1099's, W-2's or other tax related forms, Oceana MSU Extension has a supply of the 1099's and W-2's with their respective transmittals available. There are a few various other tax related forms as well. You may also access the Internal Revenue Service website at <http://www.irs.gov> for a variety of other tax related forms that can be either printed or saved to your computer. We do not have the postage budget to mail these forms. Due to reduce office hours during the pandemic, if you are interested in getting supply of the forms please call the office at 231-873-2129 and leave a message or email Kathy at walicki@msu.edu. We will work to figure out the best way to get you the forms you need.

Oceana MSU Extension will again have packets of hiring forms (W-4's, New Hire Form and I-9) available for growers in need of them. The first packet is complimentary and will cover 5 employees. For additional packets there will be a \$5 charge. All forms are quality enough to allow you to make copies. Hiring Packets will be available after January 15th. Again, we encourage you to please call the office and leave a message or contact Kathy through email for hiring form packets.

OFFICE HOURS DURING PANDEMIC

Since March 2020, Michigan State University has encouraged staff to work remotely when possible during the pandemic. At times Oceana County has restricted staff from working in the offices when they can work remotely as well. When existing or new Statewide Executive Orders are put in place, please understand that staff may not be in the office physically, but are available to assist you through phone messages (231-873-2129) and email. Phone messages are checked several times a day and staff can always be reached via email at the following addresses:

Ben Werling—werlingb@msu.edu
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Hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be back to a new normal and can resume in-person interaction.

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION CREDITS & EXAM PROCESS FOR 2021

As the end of the year approaches many farmers and agribusinesses are looking for information on RUP* credits and testing. The following information should help you in answering questions as they come in.

RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE (RUP) Credits

Private or commercial pesticide applicators whose RUP licenses expire at the end of 2020, or private applicators whose certification expired last year and due to Covide-19 could not take the exam, have until December 31, 2020 to renew by credits. Even though there are no face-to-face meetings, there are opportunities for applicators to get credits on-line yet this year. See the following page for a listing of credit courses put together by Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension IPM Educator.

MDARD RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE EXAMS

It is uncertain at this time if in-person exam dates will be scheduled for this spring, however MDARD has resumed in-person pesticide certification exams on a limited basis. Stringent safety protocols have been implemented at the exam sessions including temperature screenings, requiring the proper wearing face coverings, and strict social distancing. To register, visit the website at <https://www2.mda.state.mi.us/OPES/Welcome.aspx>. Metro Institute also continues to offer computer-based certification exams at testing centers across the state.

Michigan pesticide applicator recertification credits available online before the end of the year

With the COVID-19 pandemic impacting in-person programming, [Michigan State University Extension](#) and our partners are happy to offer a number of remote opportunities for pesticide applicator credits.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy

6 Private Core, Commercial Core, 1A or 1B credits on demand

The Desire to Learn IPM Academy (https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/agriculture/integrated_pest_management_academy) is an interactive, online program designed to provide a comprehensive and convenient learning experience. It offers growers the flexibility to earn pesticide recertification credits on their own schedule from the comfort of their own home and at a very affordable price.

The course is a combination of videos, resources and interactive content that features many MSU experts. The Desire to Learn platform is easy to use and includes an excellent, full service help center with technical support. The total cost of the course is \$10, payable online at the time of registration. Upon course completion, certified pesticide applicators in Michigan can request six credits (1A, 1B, Commercial Core or Private Core). Pesticide credits will be recorded based on the date of request, so growers needing a few more credits in 2020 have until Dec. 31 to complete the course and make their request. Participants can also print a certificate of completion. The course may be repeated annually for credits or as many times as desired for review.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte at taylo548@msu.edu. All videos include closed captioning.

Hop Production in Midwest and Eastern North America

4 Private Core, Commercial Core or 1B credits on demand

The last decade has seen a rapid expansion of hop acreage outside the traditional North American production regions. To assist prospective hop producers in understanding the challenges and complexity of hop production, the Great Lakes Hop Working Group has developed a comprehensive introductory course focused on production in reemerging regions including the northern Plains, Great Lakes and Northeast.

This online, on-demand hop production course provides detailed and comprehensive presentations and resources that address all aspects of hop production from economic considerations to postharvest handling. The course was developed for beginner or prospective hop producers but could also be utilized by more experienced hop growers.

The cost to register is \$50 and includes all course content. To register visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/hop-production-in-midwest-and-eastern-north-america-online-course-now-available>

Pesticide recertification credits are available for Michigan applicators upon completion (four Private Core, Commercial Core or 1B credits). A certificate of completion is available upon completion of all course work.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte at taylor548@msu.edu. All videos include closed captioning.

Thumb Ag Day 2020

3 Private Core, Commercial Core or 1A credits for attendance on Dec. 9.

Join MSU Extension field crops educators along with MSU experts for this free Virtual Thumb Ag Day, featuring a variety of topics including soil compaction, commodity outlook, soybean fungicides and nitrogen in wheat. For more information, contact Bob Battel at battelro@msu.edu or 989-672-3870, or Phil Kaatz at kaatz@msu.edu or 810-667-0341. To register visit: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/TAD2020/>

Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update

4 RUP credits for attendance on Dec. 16.

MSU Extension will host the 2020 Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update on Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Normally held at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, we are moving the program to an online format this year. The audience will include farmers, agribusiness representatives, retail sales and service professionals, and private crop consultants. Out-of-state participants are also invited to attend. Learn more and register visit: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/ICPM2020>

Taking the Pesticide Applicator Test?

Michigan private pesticide applicators looking to review the Core applicators manual before completing the pesticide applicator test with MDARD now have access to a [free online review with MSU Extension](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/pesticide-review-for-private-applicators) at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/pesticide-review-for-private-applicators>.

To purchase the Michigan Pesticide Applicator Core Manual, visit the [National Pesticide Safety Education Center](https://npsecstore.com/collections/msu-additions) website at <https://npsecstore.com/collections/msu-additions>

For more information on current MDARD testing opportunities, contact MDARD directly at 800-292-3939. MSU is also launching a more interactive online review this winter, so stay tuned for that as well.

Mailing List Update

It is that time again to update our mailing list. We have enclosed the mailing list update form and would ask that you please take a few minutes to provide us with your mailing information and areas of interest. If you could return the mailing list form either via mail, fax (231-873-3710) or email at walicki@anr.msu.edu, before March 1st, we would appreciate it. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call. We are required to show that we have requested updates to our mailing list to maintain our bulk mailing permit.
