
EXTENSION NEWS

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Website: www.msue.msu.edu/oceana

February 2021

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Pesticide Certification & Exam Process 2021
- Sustainable Farming Webinar
- Oceana Asparagus Day
- Mailing List Update—final request
- Office Hours during Pandemic
- My Connected Community
- Upcoming Programs offering Pesticide Applicator Credits

EXTENSION CALENDAR WINTER 2021

February 15- March 22, 2021	Field Crop Webinar Series
February 16, 2021	Back to Basics: Christmas Tree Production Insect Management Webinar 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
February 23, 2021	Back to Basics: Christmas Tree Production— Keeping the Customer Satisfied— Understanding and Managing Needle Retention 12:30 p.m.—2 p.m.
February 23, 2021	2020-2021 Produce Safety Grower Training Course
March 3, 2021	Sustainable Farming Webinar Mason-Lake, Manistee, Muskegon, Newaygo & Oceana Conservation Districts & MSU Extension 9 a.m.—12 noon
March 11, 2021	Oceana Asparagus Day (virtual) 9 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
March 17, 2021	Michigan Cottage Food Law Webinar 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Ben Werling
West MI Vegetable Educator

UPDATE ON PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION CREDITS & EXAM PROCESS FOR 2021

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has been working with Metro Institute to develop an online testing option that applicator can use to renew their license in the convenience of their own home. It appears this new online platform is available. Below are some of the guidelines that must be followed if someone is interested in renewing their license by the online platform.

If an applicator clicks on the Metro Institute link, the new online testing option will appear with instructions to sign-up MDARD does not have a direct link for this new service. Applicators sign up, pre-pay, and schedule the time for their exams through Metro. All exam times are scheduled a week or so out, and later in the afternoon and evening because Metro is based in AZ and that's where the proctors are.

A laptop computer with a camera for portability works the best as part of the login and pre-test checks, the proctor has the test taker use the computer camera to show them the room, desk area, and surroundings (360 degree video check) where they are testing, they take a photo of the person taking the exam and a photo of their Drivers License. Then while the exam is being taken they are watching the applicators head movements and eyes. The applicator never see's the proctor and all communication is via a chat box onscreen. Applicators will know at the end of the exams if they passed or not.

Just a reminder each applicator has to pay the State fee for certification, either \$50 (private applicators) or \$75 (commercial applicators), and the Metro per-exam fee of \$55 each exam.

For anyone interested in taking the computer based test at a testing center through Metro Institute the closest testing center in our area is West Shore Community College. Test takers will still register through the MDARD site and Metro Institute link but can select the testing center option. A 2-hour block of time is allowed for the exam and fees mentioned above apply.

You may call MDARD direct at 1-800-292-3939 with your questions. If you are unsuccessful in talking with someone from MDARD, you may contact the Oceana MSU Extension Office at 231-873-2129. Kathy has been in contact with MDARD representatives and seems to have a pretty good understanding of the process.

Applicator Renewal Dates:

A certified or registered applicator credential with an expiration date of December 31, 2019 is considered valid until June 30, 2021. A qualified certified or registered applicator who renews a credential with an expiration date of December 31, 2019, shall be issued a credential that is valid until December 31, 2022. A certified or registered applicator credential with an expiration date of December 31, 2020, is considered valid until June 30, 2021. A qualified certified or registered applicator who renews a credential with an expiration date of December 31, 2020, shall be issued a credential that is valid until December 31, 2023.

An applicant who desires to renew his or her credential by seminar shall earn all renewal credits (Private—16 credits; Commercial Core —8 credits, each Commercial Category —8 credits) before the expiration of the credential, except that an applicant with a credential that expired on December 31, 2019 or December 31, 2020 who wishes to renew his or her credential by seminar, shall earn all renewal credits before June 30, 2021.

Sustainable Farming Webinar

A Virtual Webinar Hosted by the
Mason-Lake, Manistee, Muskegon, Newaygo
& Oceana Conservation Districts
in Partnership with MSUE

- 9:00 **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Introduction– Videos**
Jamie VanderZanden, MAEAP Technician, Mason-Lake & Manistee CD
- 9:10 **Backflow Prevention for Spray Buildings and Irrigation:**
Dan Busby, MAEAP Verifier, MDARD
- 9:20 **Pesticide Jug Recycling, MAEAP Cost-share Opportunities**
Lynda Herremans, MAEAP Technician, Oceana CD
- 9:30 **Integrating Cover Crops into your Farming Operation**
Christina Curell, Cover Crops and Soil Health Educator, MSUE
Alex Svoboda, MAEAP Technician, Osceola-Lake CD
Jack Thornton, Grower
- 10:00 **Nutrient Management: Myth-busting Phosphorus in your Field**
Sarah Fronczak, Environmental Management Educator, MSUE
- 10:25 **Break—MAEAP Video**
- 10:35 **Water Quality: Where MAEAP & FSMA Produce Safety Overlap**
Jordan DeVries, Produce Safety Technician, Newaygo CD
- 10:55 **Michigan Managed Pollinator Protection Plan and Pollinator Stewardship**
Ana Heck, Apiculture Extension Educator, MSU
- 11:30 **MAEAP: Forest, Wetlands and Habitat**
Symon Cronk, MAEAP Technician, Newaygo & Muskegon CD
- 11:45 **NRCS Conservation Cost Incentive Program Summary**
Jerry Kass, Technician, Mason-Lake CD
- 11:55 Wrap Up

Below is the link to the registration for this meeting!

<https://forms.gle/jYPN22Xb3mR7fYUW6>



**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 3, 2021**

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

**Agenda Approved For
MAEAP Phase 1 Credit**

**3 RUP Credits
Approved for Private
or Commercial Core**

For more information call :
Mason-Lake CD (Jamie)
(231) 757-3707 x5
Oceana CD (Lynda)
(231) 861-5600 x5
Newaygo CD (Symon)
(231) 519-2513

2021 VIRTUAL OCEANA ASPARAGUS DAY

MARCH 11, 2021

9:00 a.m.—9:15 a.m.	Log in and how to get pesticide credits
9:15 a.m.—9:45 a.m.	USITC 201 investigation update and lessons from trade actions in the blueberry industry <i>Rex Schultz, Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee</i>
9:45 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m.—10:40 a.m.	A UK perspective on varietal performance <i>Claire Donkin, Global Plant Genetics Ltd</i>
10:40 a.m.—10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.—11:15 a.m.	The New MI Asparagus Marketing Campaign <i>Full Tilt Marketing</i>
11:15 a.m.—11:20 a.m.	Break
11:20 a.m.—11:40 a.m.	Asparagus Beetle Update <i>Jennifer Zavalnitskaya, Michigan State University</i>
11:40 a.m.—11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m.—12 noon	MACMA Asparagus Update <i>Norm Myers, Michigan Agriculture Commodity Marketing Association, Asparagus Division</i>
12 noon—1 p.m.	Break for lunch
1:00 p.m.—1:05 p.m.	Introductions
1:05 p.m.—1:25 p.m.	Managing root rots of asparagus <i>Dr. Mary Hausbeck, Michigan State University</i>
1:25 p.m.—1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30 p.m.—1:45 p.m.	The MAEAP Program <i>Dan Busby, Michigan Department of Agricultural & Rural Development</i> <i>Lynda Herremans, Oceana Conservation District</i>
1:45 p.m.—1:50 p.m.	Break
1:50 p.m.—2:10 p.m.	Asparagus Nitrogen Management <i>Dr. Zack Hayden, Michigan State University</i>
2:10 p.m.—2:30 p.m.	Asparagus Research Farm Update <i>John Bakker, Michigan Asparagus Research Farm</i>

There is no charge for this program. Restricted Use Pesticide and Certified Crop Advisory Credits have been requested.

REGISTRATION WEBSITE: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/OceanaAsparagusDay2021/>

MAILING LIST UPDATE—FINAL REQUEST

This will be the final time we will be enclosing the mailing list update for 2021. Please return your update no later than March 1st to assure that you will not be deleted from the mailing list. We have several names on the list that have not been updated in over 4 years (some as far back as 2009). You may return your mailing list form either via mail, fax (231-873-3710) or email at walicki@msu.edu. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 231-873-2129.

NOTE: If we have not received your mailing update within the last 4 years, there will be sticker on the outside of your newsletter indicating an update is needed to remain on the newsletter mailing list.

OFFICE HOURS DURING PANDEMIC

Since March 2020, Michigan State University has encouraged staff to work remotely when possible during the pandemic. Currently, Toni has returned to the office to provide service on Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.—3 p.m. (closed between 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. for lunch). MSU staff have not been granted permission to return to the office on a regular basis, 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
Toni VanBergen—vanberg2@msu.edu

Kathy Walicki—walicki@msu.edu
Sarah Schaner—schaner4@msu.edu

Hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be back to a new normal and can resume in-person interaction.

MY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Oceana County Economic Alliance is leading Connect Michigan's Connected Community Engagement Program for our county. The goal is to assess and document the current status of broadband in our area. Data collected will be used to develop a Broadband Technology Action Plan to expand and improve broadband service for all who live and work in Oceana County.

The Community Broadband Assessment survey at www.myconnectedcommunity.org/oceana-county/ will be open through Spring 2021. A report of survey results and recommended implementation steps will then be presented to the community.

We know the need is great and we must document it in order to bring improvements. Lack of adequate and affordable internet service negatively impacts our economy and our quality of life. Slower speeds of less than the standard 100 mps and higher costs of more than an average \$100 per month keep students, seniors, families and businesses from thriving. Oceana County community members are asked to take the survey at www.myconnectedcommunity.org/oceana-county/ for each role they serve in the county as a resident, employer, school representative, government and/or organization representative.

Can't access the survey online?

Visit any Oceana County library to complete the survey online or to pickup a printed survey. Completed printed surveys should be mailed or dropped off to the Oceana County Economic Alliance, 844 Griswold St., Hart, MI 49420

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy

5 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) (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). 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 taylor548@msu.edu. All videos include closed captioning.

Back to Basics: Christmas Tree Production

Christmas tree operations run the gamut from small choose and cut farms to large-scale wholesale operations. Regardless of the size or type of farm, however, a good working knowledge of their overall production system is essential to help growers avoid problems before they start and give them a leg up on trouble-shooting issues when they arise. In this webinar series, experts from MSU and around the country will examine the fundamentals of Christmas tree production from understanding soils and site selection to managing pests and diseases during the rotation to ensuring maximum needle retention for the end customer. This program will provide newer growers with the foundation they need to gain confidence in their decision-making and will provide the 'old hands' a much-needed review as well as updates on research and emerging issues.

Feb. 16, 2021 12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m. (2 Michigan Pesticide credits for Private Core, Commercial Core or Category 3B.)
Insect Management: Avoiding the pesticide treadmill - Cliff Sadof, Purdue University

Feb. 23, 2021—12:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m.
Keeping the customer satisfied: Understanding and managing needle retention - Gary Chastagner, Washington State University

Cost: Free

To register: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/back-to-basics-christmas-tree-production>

2020-2021 Produce Safety Grower Training Course - February 23, 2021 via Internet

February 23, 2021 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Michigan State University Extension will host the Food and Drug Administration-defined FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training course (FSMA=Food Safety Modernization Act) online. Those interested in learning about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP's), produce safety, co-management, and the FDA FSMA Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule are invited to participate.

****Please note: These trainings are intended for growers and relevant stakeholders in the state of Michigan.** If you are not a Michigan resident and/or do not farm in Michigan, you are welcome to attend a training, however, space is limited. At least one supervisor from the farm must complete a farm food safety training equivalent to the standardized curriculum recognized by the FDA. This program satisfies that requirement. **Please note that because this course is not provided "in person," a course monitor has been appointed to verify participant engagement and attendance via video for this entire course. Per the requirements of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, course participants are only eligible to receive the PSA/AFDO Certificate of Course Completion if their presence during all of the PSA modules can be confirmed by the course monitor.** The certificate of course completion will be issued at a later date when proof of attendance has been verified, and all paperwork has been reviewed.

Registration deadline: Two weeks before the event. **Preregistration is required and course materials will be mailed to the address you provide during registration. All participants must be in possession of the course materials in order to attend the online event.** For more information and to register visit: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2020-2021-produce-safety-grower-training-course-february-23-2021-via-internet>

Virtual Pest and Crop Management Update 2021

The MSU Extension Field Crops Team will be hosting the Virtual Pest and Crop management Update meetings in six regional meetings. **Each meeting will feature topics relevant to local concerns.**

MSU Specialists will present their latest research and findings during these virtual meetings. Registration is required for each of the meetings. The cost of each meeting will be \$15.00 per person.

The 2021 MSU Weed Guide will be **mailed after your event. You should receive the Weed Guide in 2-3 weeks** compliments of the Michigan commodity group, Michigan Wheat, Michigan Corn, and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

The 2021 MSU Field Crops Weed guides will be available to participants and shipped to you. 3 RUP and CCA Credits will be available for each meeting!

UP/Northern MI - Friday, January 15, 9 a.m. - Noon EST

Topic areas will include:

- Oats and Other Small Grains - Dennis Pennington
- Corn Silage Management - Dr. Manni Singh
- Grass Hay Management - Dr. Kim Cassida
- Dry Bean Production - Scott Bales
- Managing Wildlife Damage - Dr. James DeDecker

SE Michigan - Tuesday, January 26, 9 a.m. - Noon EST

Topic areas will include:

- Plant Diseases in SE MI - Dr. Marty Chilvers
- Wheat Management - Dennis Pennington
- Soil Fertility - Dr. Kurt Steinke
- Weeds in Corn - Dr. Erin Burns
- Managing Insects - Dr. Chris DiFonzo

SW Michigan - Friday, January 29, 9:00 a.m. - Noon EST

Topic areas will include:

- Plant Diseases in SW MI - Dr. Marty Chilvers
 - Weeds in Soybeans - Dr. Christy Sprague
 - Soil Fertility - Dr. Kurt Steinke
 - Weeds in Corn - Dr. Erin Burns
 - Insect Management - Dr. Chris DiFonzo
-

Michigan Cottage Food Law

March 17, 2021 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Zoom Webinar

Learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan's Cottage Food Law. This two-hour workshop combines education about the Michigan Cottage Food Law and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully. Michigan Cottage Food Law allows residents to manufacture foods in home kitchens and store those products at home. Topics include preparing, packaging, labeling, storing, and transporting cottage foods.

To register: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-cottage-food-law-march-17-2021-10-a-m-12-p-m-est>
