

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates December 2022

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates - whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed - please send me an email or call the office.

2022 Pesticide Applicator Renewal Packets

Renewal packets for pesticide applicators whose credentials expire on December 31, 2022, were sent out via U.S. Postal Service the week of October 9. Detailed instructions on how to complete the renewal process were included in the packet. Renewal applications must be completed and returned to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), along with the appropriate fee (\$50 - Private; \$75 - Commercial; \$45 - Registered Applicator) to maintain your certification/registration status.

Applicators renewing by recertification seminar credits must complete all approved training sessions by December 31, 2022. A list of MDARD-approved seminars can be found [here](#). A list of seminar credits earned during your renewal period can be found at the bottom of your renewal application or on the [Applicator Credit Report](#). Please note, the Applicator Credit Report has the most up-to-date credit information.

Applicators renewing by exam must schedule pesticide applicator certification exams by one of the following methods:

- [Metro Institute Testing Centers and Online Exam Opportunities](#)
- [Core Review and Paper-Based Core, Fumigation, or Aerial Standard Exam Opportunities](#)

Important: Applicator certification/registration is not considered valid unless a completed application and fee payment are received by MDARD. Printouts of passed exam results, along with a copy of completed renewal application, and copy of check or money order used for fee payment, may be used as a temporary credential until new certification card is received. More information on pesticide applicator certification and registration can be found at the [MDARD Certification Web Page](#).

Important #2: If your license expires at the end of this year and you have earned enough credits to recertify, any additional “extra” credits will not carry forward to the next registration cycle. For example, if you are a private applicator and have earned 16 credits over the past three years, and you attend a meeting later this month and get 5 more credits, those extra 5 credits cannot be applied toward your new certification. Credits earned starting January 1, 2023, will count toward the next cycle.

USDA Supports Military Veteran’s Transition to Farming

Are you a military veteran interested in farming? USDA offers resources to help you:

- **Fund Your Operation:** USDA’s Farm Service Agency offers a variety of [funding opportunities](#) to help agricultural producers finance their businesses. Certain funds are targeted for veterans and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- **Conserve Natural Resources:** USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service offers [conservation programs and expert one-on-one technical assistance](#) to strengthen agricultural operations now and into the future. Veterans may be eligible for a cost share of up to 90 percent and advance payments of up to 50 percent to cover certain conservation practices.

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- **Manage Risks:** USDA is here to help you prepare for and recover from the unexpected. Veterans who are beginning farmers may be eligible for reduced premiums, application fee waivers, increased insurance coverage, and other incentives for multiple [USDA programs that support risk management](#).

USDA wants to ensure that veterans transitioning to agriculture have the resources needed to succeed. While USDA offices are currently closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct business, please contact your local USDA Service Center. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus. If you're a new farmer, you can also reach out to your [state Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator](#).

New NRCS Website

The new Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS website has key features that include:

- It's been designed using the U.S. Web Design System, so you'll see a certain "family resemblance" among USDA and other federal websites, including farmers.gov.
- It's accessible (or 508 conformant), meaning the site is designed for use by people with disabilities.
- It's mobile responsive, meaning that it should work on a phone or tablet as easily as on a desktop computer.

Be sure to check out:

- [Guides and Instructions](#)- Search by resource type, NRCS program, natural resource concern, and state.
- [Getting Assistance](#)- Learn more about available technical and financial assistance and how you can get support online as well as with the NRCS at your local Service Center.
- [Conservation by State](#)- Find information on NRCS programs, services, and other information in your state.

If you can't find something that you used to find on the website, [contact NRCS](#) for help.

MSU Soils Lab Update and Kit Refunds

Customers who have purchased residential or commercial soil test kits from an Extension office or shops.msu.edu will be eligible for refunds **November 18, 2022**, through **June 30, 2023**. These refunds will only be processed by campus staff and will not route through the Extension offices. To receive a refund, return the unused kit to your local Extension office and provide some basic information. MSU Extension staff will collect your information using an online form and submit the refund request electronically on your behalf. You should expect the refund within four weeks.

The MSU Extension soil testing transition team is working hard behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition to a new system for both residential and commercial customers. It may not seem like it should be difficult, but they are dealing with: working with an outside lab for analyses; working with a third-party vendor to process lab results through current MSU fertilizer recs, including updating those recs according to the 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat and Alfalfa; how to implement a new test kit system for both residential and commercial customers; and how to integrate county Extension offices and ag educators so you get personalized service if needed. The new system is being piloted currently, and we expect rollout by spring 2023.

2022 Census of Agriculture is Here

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture at agcounts.usda.gov. If you missed it or prefer paper, the paper questionnaires will follow sometime this month.

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The ag census is the nation’s only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and territory. By completing the survey, producers across the nation can tell their story and help generate impactful opportunities that better serve them and future generations. It is a powerful voice for U.S. agriculture.

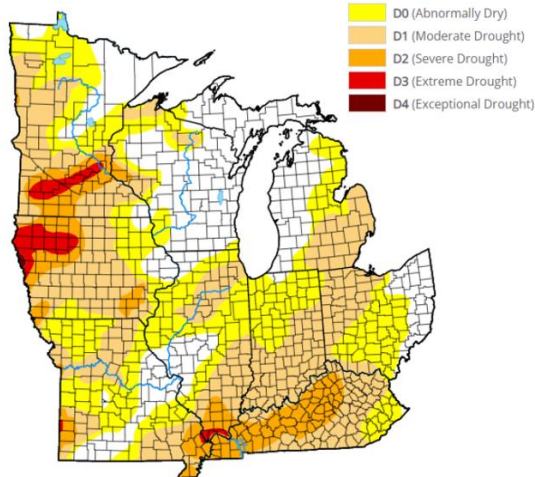
You need only respond once, whether securely online or by mail. The online option offers timesaving features ideal for busy producers. All responses are due **Feb. 6, 2023**. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census. Changes for 2022 include new questions about precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions. For the latest news and updates about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

Weather and Crop Update

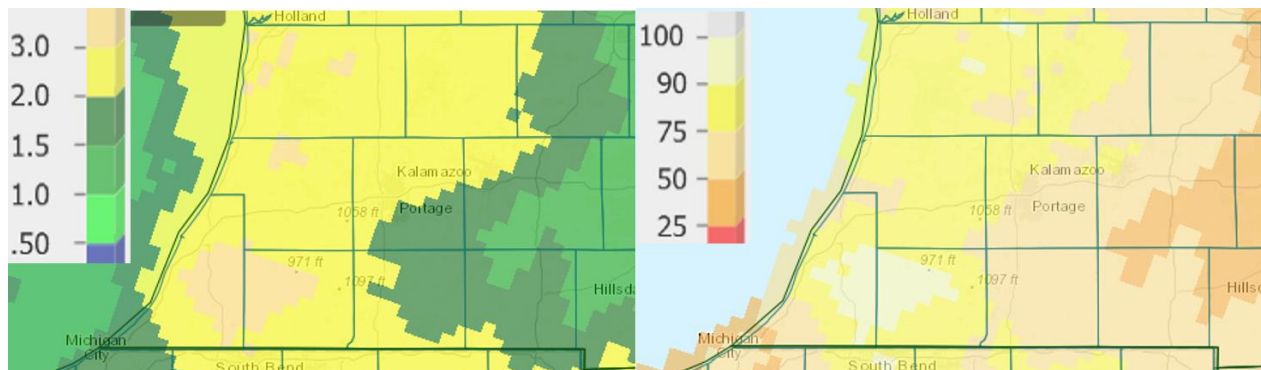
Weather

Temperatures for the entire state were above normal - 1-3 degrees above normal in the southwest region - for the month of November. Both the 6-10 day and 8-14 day outlooks call for below-normal temperatures through the middle of December.

Precipitation was between 0-2 inches below normal in the region for November. Dryness continues to be a concern for many parts of the Corn Belt, including the eastern half of the Lower Peninsula. The forecast for the coming week calls for minimal precipitation, and the medium-range outlooks call for normal to below-normal chances of precipitation through the middle of the month. All ENSO models predict another La Niña winter like last year. For Michigan, that theoretically means a wetter than normal winter, although last winter’s La Niña conditions resulted in near normal both temperatures and precipitation.

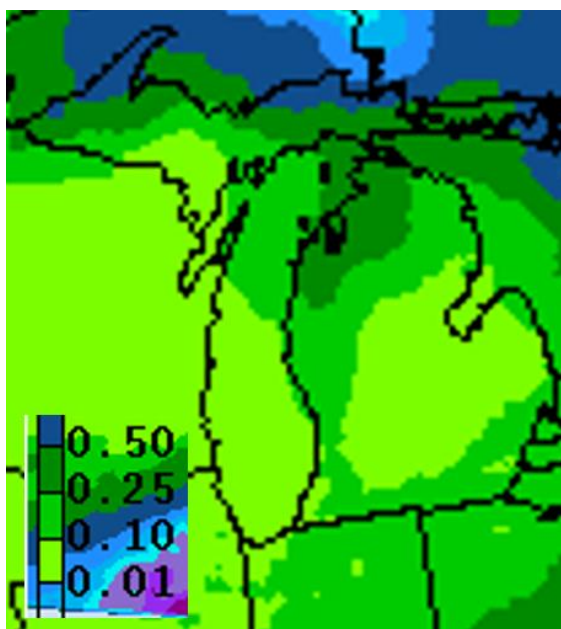


Drought monitor released November 29.

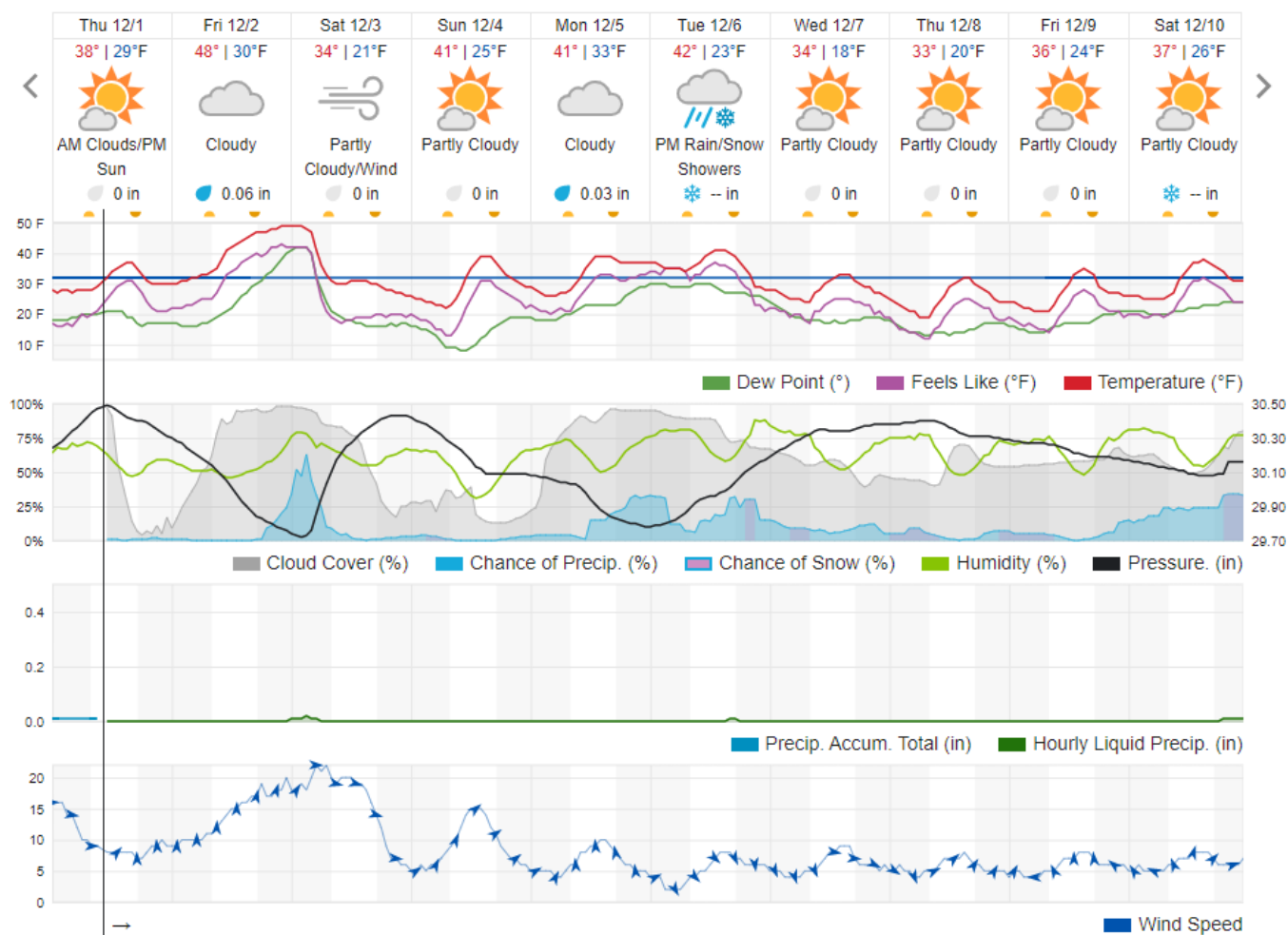


Precipitation totals (left) and percent of normal (right) for the past 30 days as of December 1.

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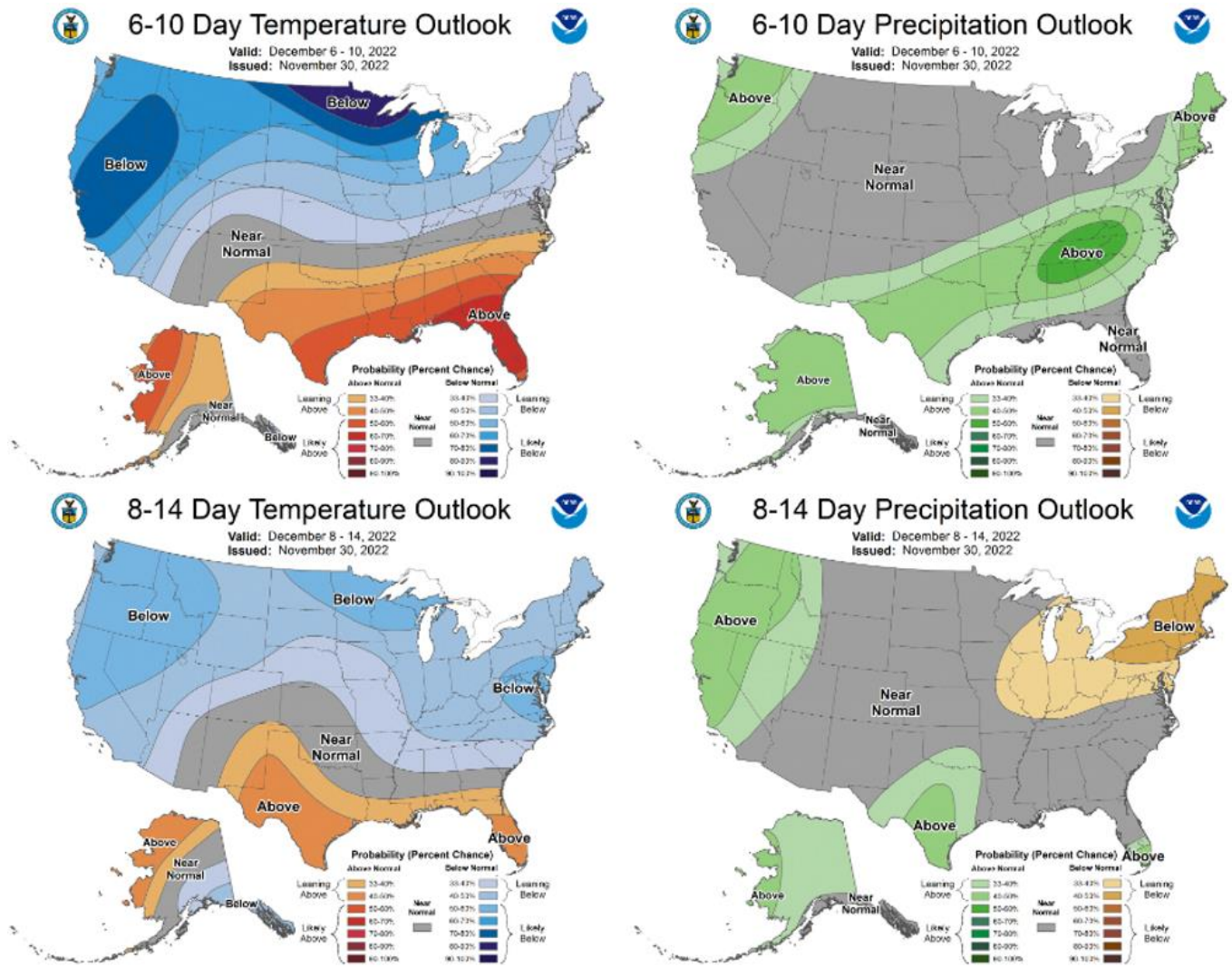


Precipitation forecast for Dec 1-8.

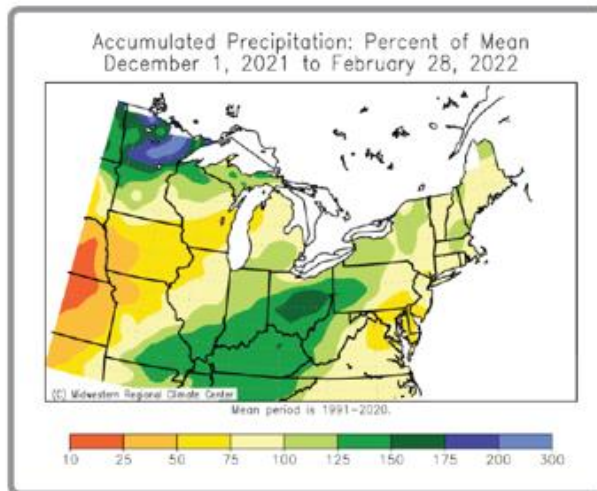
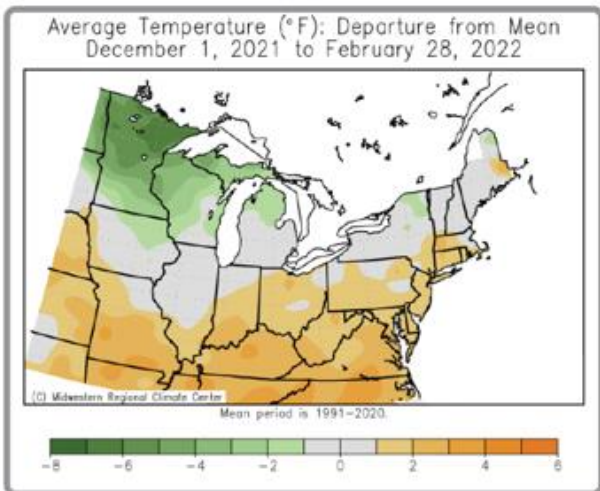
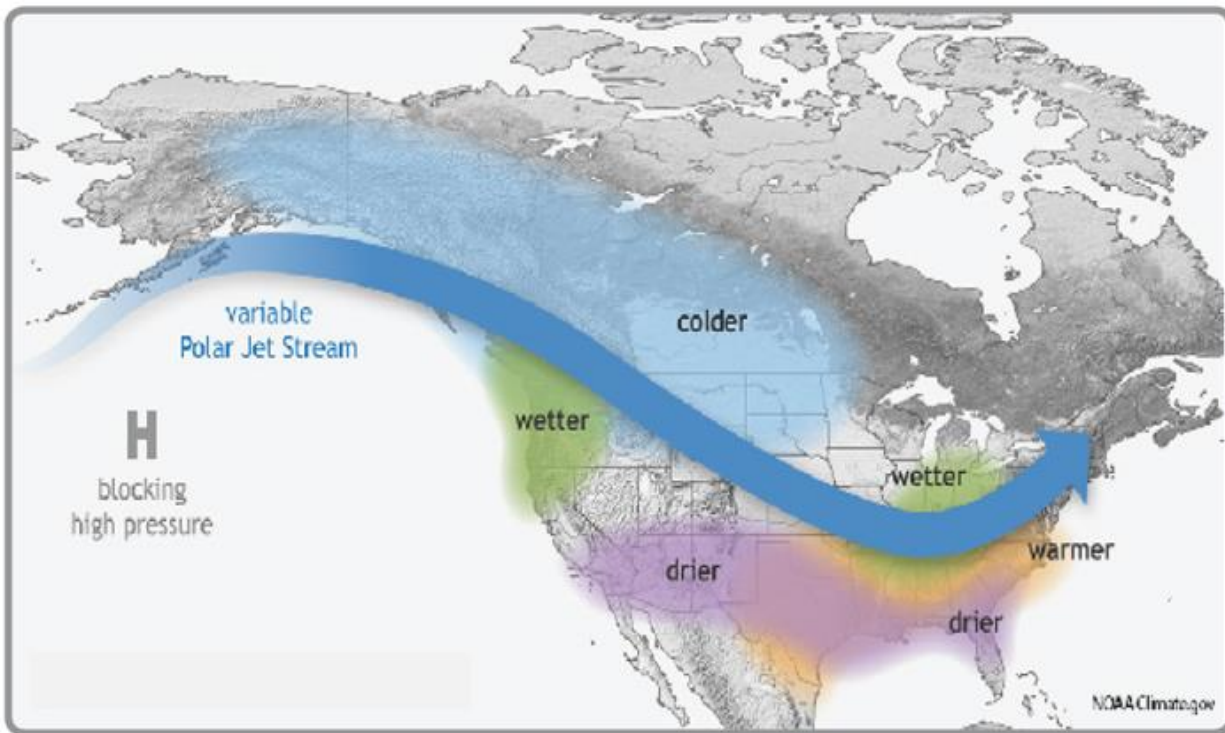


The 10-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to www.wunderground.com.

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The 6-10 day (Dec 6-10, top) and 8-14 day (Dec 8-14, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).



A typical wintertime LaNina pattern for lower Michigan (above) would include a wetter than normal winter. The La Nina event last winter resulted in normal temperatures (lower left) and roughly 25% greater precipitation (lower right) than normal for southern Michigan.

Crops and Pests

Corn is 95% harvested in Michigan, which is 13% above the 5-year average and 7% above last year, according to the USDA Crop Report. The **wheat** crop is rated at 67% good to excellent with an additional 27% fair.

Winter Calendar
Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

- Dec 6-8** **Great Lakes Fruit and Veg Expo.** Grand Rapids. <https://glexpo.com>. Variety of **RUP** credits available

- Dec 13-14** **Indiana Certified Crop Advisor Program.** Indianapolis, IN. Register online. <https://indianacca.org/Registration>

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Dec 16	Michiana Irrigation Association Winter Workshop. 8:30am-3:30pm. Das Dutchman Essenhaus, 240 US-20, Middlebury, IN. Contact Deanna Mumby (mumbyde@yahoo.com) or Lyndon Kelley (kelleyl@msu.edu) to register. 5 RUP, 4 CEU
Dec 19	Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update. 9am-4pm. MSU Livestock Pavilion. Offered in-person and virtually. Cost is \$65 in-person (\$80 at door) or \$35 online, both include 2023 MSU Weed Control Guide. Register by Dec 11. https://events.anr.msu.edu/icpmu22 . 6 RUP, 5.5 CEU
Jan 4-5, 2023	Ohio Organic Grains Conference. Founder's Hall at Sauder Village, 22611 State Rt. 2, Archbold, OH. Register online. https://go.osu.edu/organicgrainsreg
Jan 10-11	MABA 2023 Winter Conference & Trade Show. Lansing, MI. https://www.miagbiz.org/events/winter-conference . Virtual RUP seminars held Dec 15-16 for those registered by that date.
Jan 12	Michigan Soybean Regional Meeting. 8:45am-12:30pm. GreenMark Equipment, 16700 Heimbach Rd., Three Rivers, MI. Free, registration requested. Contact Mike Staton (staton@msu.edu , 269-673-0370, ext. 2562) with questions. 1 RUP
Jan 17-19	Fort Wayne Farm Show. https://www.tradexpos.com/fort-wayne-farm-show
Jan 23	MSU Extension Pest and Crop Management SW Regional Update. 9am-3pm. Dowagiac Conservation Club, Dowagiac, MI. Cost is \$40. Register online. https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023CropandPestManagement . 5 RUP, 5 CEU
Jan 25-26	Great Lakes Crop Summit. Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. http://www.greatlakescropsummit.com . Variety of RUP and CCA available
Jan 26	Purdue's 2023 Crop Management Workshop. West Lafayette, \$80, or virtual, \$50. http://www.purdue.edu/conferences/Crop . No MI RUP , 5.5 CEU
Feb 1-2	Southwest MI Hort Days. Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center, 1100 Yore Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI. Contact Renee Tinkey at 269-944-1477 ext. 201 or tinkeyre@msu.edu for info.
Feb 6 +	Field Crops Webinar Series Begins. 7-8pm Monday evenings through March 27. Cost is \$20/person for 8-week series. Register at https://events.anr.msu.edu/FCWS23 . Contact Eric Anderson (eander32@msu.edu , 269-359-0565) with questions. 1 RUP, 1 CEU per live session
Feb 7	MSU Extension Pest and Crop Management SE Regional Update. 9am-3pm. Old Mill Museum, 242 Toledo St, Dundee, MI (5 min from Cabella's). Cost is \$40. Register online. https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023CropandPestManagement 5 RUP, 5 CEU
Feb 15-18	Louisville Farm Machinery Show. https://farmmachineryshow.org
Feb 20	Branch County Farmers Day. 8am-12pm. Dearth Center, 262 S Sprague St, Coldwater, MI. Call Branch County Extension office (517-279-4311) for more details. https://events.anr.msu.edu/bcfd23 . 3 RUP, 3 CEU
Feb 20	In-Person Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing. 8am-2pm. Dearth Center, 262 S Sprague St, Coldwater, MI. Pesticide training+testing session offered concurrently with the BCFD. Only testing session scheduled this winter in south-central MI. Must attend both training and testing. Core exam only, no categories, no RUP credits. Cost is \$25 for training, separate fee paid to MDARD for licensing. Register online. https://events.anr.msu.edu/mdardsepcore
Feb 22	MI Wheat Annual Meeting. Frankenmuth, MI. https://miwheat.org
Mar 6	Michiana Irrigated Corn and Soybean Production Workshop. 8:30am-4pm. Blue Gate Restaurant, Shipshewana, IN. Register online at https://events.anr.msu.edu/mics2023 . Call Purdue Extension (260-636-2111) for information. 2 RUP, 5 CEU
Mar 7-9	MSU Drainage Design Workshop. https://www.egr.msu.edu/bae/water/drainage/drainage-workshops
Mar 9-11	Commodity Classic. Orlando, FL. https://commodityclassic.com
Mar 23	In-Person Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing. 8am-2pm. MSU Southwest MI Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI. See details from Feb 20 entry. https://events.anr.msu.edu/mdardsepcore

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

YEAR-END TAX PLANNING IS VALUABLE FOR GOOD YEARS, BAD YEARS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Farmers should consider adopting solid tax planning strategies that maintains consistent taxable income across multiple years.

QUARTERLY GRAIN MARKET UPDATES AND MARKETING STRATEGY MEETINGS AVAILABLE IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Come learn about current market trends and principles to help you markets your grains.

MANURE ANALYSIS PROVIDES ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF PLANT AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 10, 2022

The plant nutrient content of manure depends on animal species, feeding program, storage facilities and other factors.

LEGACY OF THE LAND

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Through the MDARD/FRSAN Legacy of the Land grants, MSU Extension can help you navigate stress and challenges to make sound decisions for your farm.

LOWER COSTS WITH AN INPUT PURCHASING PLAN

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Intentional planning improves buyer decision making.

MINDFUL MANURE APPLICATION

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Reducing the risks associated with winter manure application.

FREE ONLINE FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COURSE OFFERED IN NOVEMBER 2022

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Farm Money Matters: Farm Business Management is a unique online course consisting of eight self-paced modules and four producer Zoom meetings. At the end of the course, you will develop an action plan to apply concepts learned to your farm.

CHECKLIST FOR IRRIGATION WINTERIZATION

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Proper winterization gets irrigation off to a good start for next year and lessens winter equipment damage.

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