

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update December 2024

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 an email or call the St. Joseph County Extension office.

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## MSU Extension Offices will be closed December 23, 2024 - January 1, 2025

## Corporate Transparency Act Information - Articles and Webinars

The deadline to file beneficial ownership for the Corporate Transparency Act is January 1, 2025. According to LARA, less than 10% of Michigan businesses that need to report have filed so far. Not sure if you need to or how to file? Check out the article "or join for a **free webinar December 3** at 6:00 pm. The webinar will provide a brief overview of the act and walk through an example filing online. There will also be time for discussion and to answer questions. [Register here](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted afterwards on the MSU Extension website.

## Michiana Irrigation Association Winter Irrigation Workshop

The Michiana Irrigation Association will host a winter irrigation workshop on Friday, December 13, from 8:30am-3:30pm at the Blue Gate Restaurant in Shipshewana, IN. Cost is \$60, which includes MIA dues and lunch. Pre-registration is required. Contact Deanna Mumby at 269-998-1177 or Lyndon Kelley at 269-467-5511.

## Pesticide Testing and WPS Training in Spanish and English at the Great Lakes EXPO December 12

Registration is open for the Pesticide Safety and Worker Protection training happening at GLEXPO 2024 on December 12. Participants will be able to take the MDARD RUP test in the afternoon as well as receive required EPA WPS training. Check out [this article](#) for more information.

## Michigan's New Earned Sick Time Act

Did you know that Michigan's new sick leave law will impact *all* farm employers?

Join December 5 at 10:00 am for a webinar on the new Earned Sick Time Act taking effect in Michigan early next year. We will discuss the provisions of the law and how farmers will need to comply with the law. We will also have Rich Stup from Cornell University discuss how New York farmers adapted to a similar law. [Register here](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted afterwards on the MSU Extension website.

### MSU Extension offers webinar on Michigan's new Earned Sick Time Act

The Earned Sick Time Act takes effect on 2/21/2025. Learn what this means for your business, including:

- How sick leave will accrue
- When employees can use sick leave
- Requesting documentation from employees
- Notification requirements
- Penalties for noncompliance



## MSU Extension Scouting School 2025 to be held in SW MI



MSU Extension Scouting School will be held in SW MI in 2025. This is the second year of the program, and it will rotate locations in Michigan each year. Don't miss having it so close by this upcoming year!

Scouting School is spread across three dates. The first day, May 14th, will be a full day of scouting basics and hands-on scouting. Scouting reference and field materials will be distributed. Day two, June 18th, will be a morning session about diseases and insects, and the final day, July 16th, will also be a morning session and include scouting in the field. On each date, participants will interact with MSU Extension specialists and/or educators. This group will be a cohort for all sessions, and a group-wide chat will be created for in-season support and pest identification. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants to ensure hands-

on participation. Cost is \$150/person, which includes lunch on the first day and materials. For more information or to register, [click here](#). Reach out to me (Nicolle Ritchie, [ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu) or 269-858-8739) with questions.

## The 2024 SW MI Season in Review

It's important to keep good records of the different challenges and opportunities from each growing season. This article provides an overview of the 2024 weather, irrigation, and crop happenings in southwest Michigan. Overall, 2024 was punctuated by warmer-than-normal temperatures and earlier-than-normal crop stages and pests. In many cases, you may have had a different experience, pressure or timing than those mentioned below. If so, note that and keep it in your records to help you respond to future crop challenges.

Read the full season review here: [The 2024 southwest Michigan field crops season in review](#)

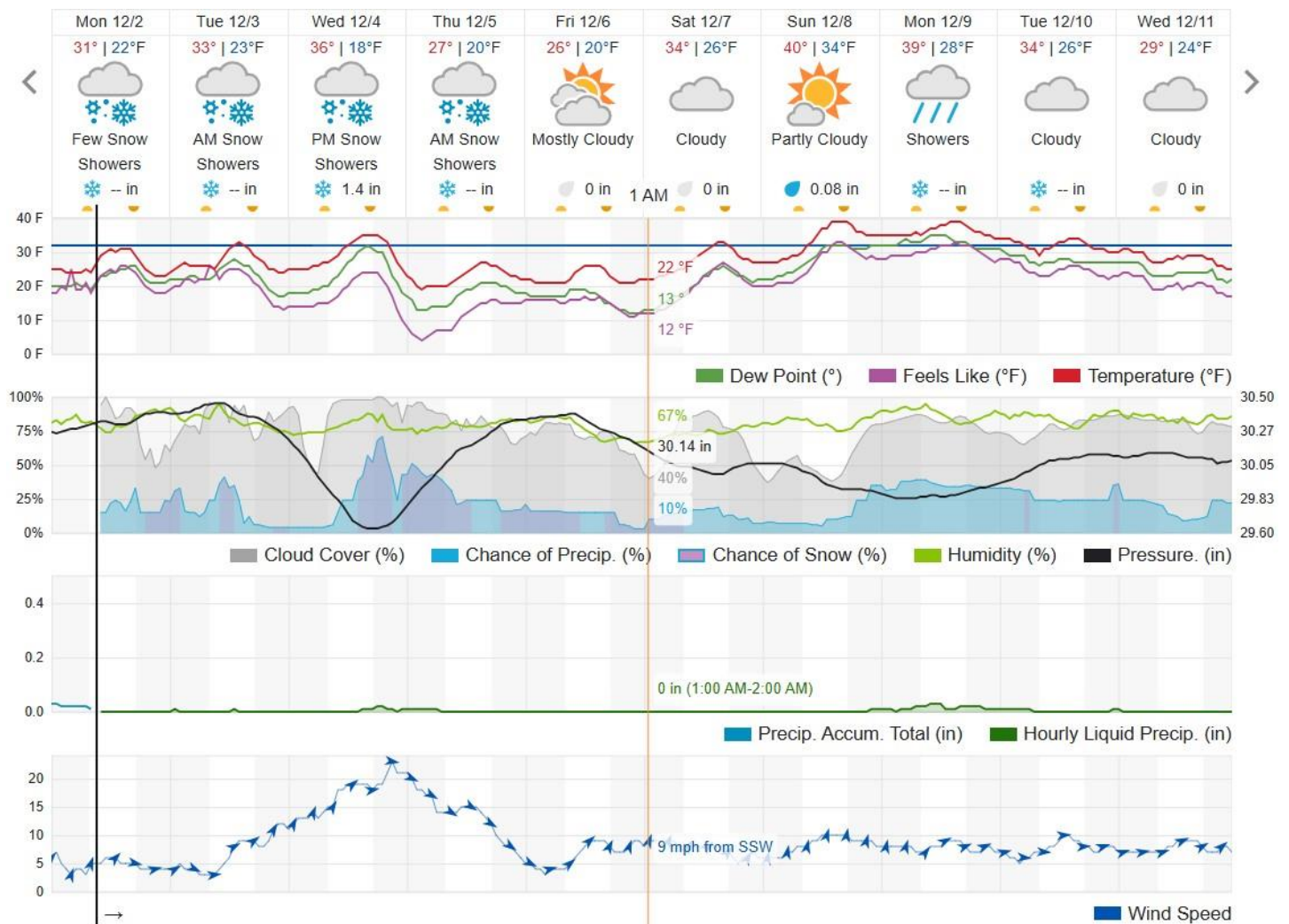
# Harvest Update

Harvest is over for 2024. Congratulations to everyone on finishing up the growing season! Thank you to all who allowed me to ride along on operations, visit your farms, scout fields, place traps, and more this year! I have learned so much from you. Thank you for all you do!

Working in agriculture is a difficult, often thankless, job with long days, tough decisions, and tight margins. As we enter the “off” season, I hope you can find time between fixing equipment, spreading fertilizer, recordkeeping, continuing education, etc. to rest and recover. MSU Extension has resources for [managing farm stress](#) for farmers and those around them. As always, if there’s anything I can do to help make your lives easier or connect you to MSU Extension specialists or resources, please don’t hesitate to reach out: 269-858-8739 or [ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu).

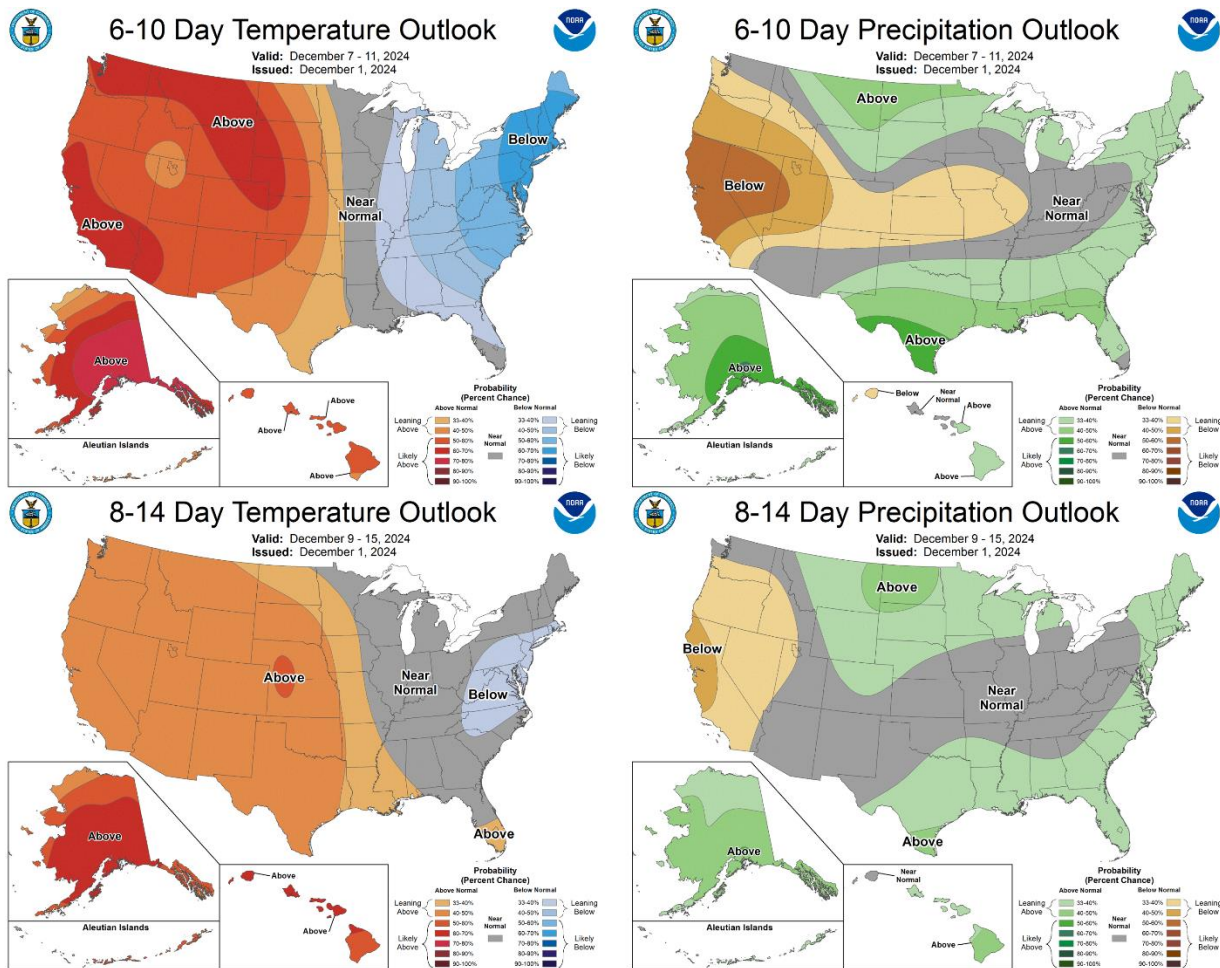
# Weather Update

The first snowfall of the season arrived November 21, but it didn’t stick around for long. The past few weeks have seen several days with precipitation, and temperatures have started to decrease. In the past week, snow fell throughout the region, and a winter weather advisory was present in the western-most counties. The forecast shows cold temperatures and snow flurries this week with potential significant snowfall on Thursday.



Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to [wunderground.com](http://wunderground.com).

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The 6-10 day (Dec 7-11, top) and 8-14 day (Dec 9-15, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

## Calendar

[Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.]

- Dec 3** [Marketing & Input Strategies #2 - Farm Policy and Risk Management Series](#). 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Identifying your crop price and input needs are all part of maximizing yield potential and secure profits. In these repeat sessions, speakers will discuss current market conditions and optimal strategies for putting your farm plans into action. Online via Zoom.
- Dec 3** [Filing by the Deadline for the Corporate Transparency Act: Discussion and Filing Tips](#). 6-7pm. Online via Zoom. Join us for this webinar on tips for filing under the Corporate Transparency Act, an overview of the Act, and discussion of who needs to file. No cost.
- Dec 5** [Michigan's New Earned Sick Time Act: What Farmers Need to Know](#). 10 am. Online via Zoom. We will discuss the provisions of the law and how farmers will need to comply with the law. We will also have Rich Stup from Cornell University discuss how New York farmers adapted to a similar law. No cost.
- Dec 11** [Organic Transition Workshops at Great Lakes EXPO](#). 9:00 am- 10:30 pm. Grand Gallery Overlook GH, DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. This session will connect you with new and experienced organic farmers and help you get started on an organic plan for your farm. Included in registration for GLEXPO, which is \$110.

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- Dec 12** [Pesticide Safety and Worker Protection Safety Training 2024 in English and Spanish.](#) 8:00 am- 3:00 pm. Great Lakes Expo, 303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. The Pesticide Safety and Worker Protection Safety classes will be held on December 12 during this year's Great Lakes Expo in both English and Spanish. The event will feature a full day of educational sessions tailored to pesticide handlers, farm owners and managers. The training is free, but space is limited.
- Dec 13** [Michiana Irrigation Association Winter Irrigation Workshop.](#) 8:30am-3:30pm. Blue Gate Restaurant, 105 E. Middlebury Street, Shipshewana, IN. Cost is \$60, includes MIA dues and lunch. Pre-registration required. Contact Deanna Mumby at 269-998-1177 or Lyndon Kelley at 269-467-5511.
- Dec 17** [Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update for Agribusiness 2024.](#) 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. MSU STEM Building, Rooms 1130 and 1202 642 Red Cedar Rd East Lansing, MI 48823. An update of best management practices geared toward agribusiness representatives, retail sales and service professionals, and private crop consultants. Cost: \$75 in-person (early registration) or \$45 for online.
- Jan 7-8, 2025** [MABA Winter Conference.](#) Lansing, MI. Michigan Agri-Business Association conference and tradeshow.
- Jan 9-10** [Ohio Organic Grains Conference.](#) Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, OH. Registration by Dec 6 is \$140, after Dec 6 is \$175, includes 2 days of programing, meals, materials and access to all exhibitors/sponsors.
- Jan 10** [Purdue's Top Farmer Conference.](#) 8am-4pm. Beck Agricultural Center, 4550 US-52, West Lafayette, IN *or* online. Surrounded by farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing experts, and a group of your peers, the conference will stimulate your thinking about agriculture's future and how you can position your farm to be successful in the years ahead. Cost is \$150 regardless of format, register online.
- Jan 13** [Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing.](#) 8am-5pm. Allegan County Human Services, Allegan. Cost is \$25 for morning training payable to MSU, cost for testing dependent on license type. Morning training session is required before afternoon testing, only core and standards exams (no commercial categories) offered. Other locations and dates available. Register online. **4 RUP**
- Jan 21** [Michigan Soybean On-farm Research Program Update.](#) 8:30am – 1pm. GreenMark Equipment, Three Rivers. 9am – 1pm. Results of the 2024 soybean on-farm research projects will be presented. Participants will also learn about historical climate trends that are impacting our growing season in Michigan. Lunch provided by the Michigan Soybean Committee. Cost is free. **2 RUP**
- Jan 21** [2025 Farm Bill Commodity Program #1 - Farm Policy and Risk Management Series.](#) 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm. These sessions will help agricultural producers explore their options for 2025 Farm Bill commodity programs. Online via Zoom. *Note: these sessions are contingent on existence of commodity programs based on passage of a new Farm Bill or extension of the 2018 Farm Bill.*
- Jan 22** [Michigan Manure Summit.](#) 9:30am – 4pm. Okemos. Updates on the science and best practices of manure management. Cost for farms and for-hire manure application firms: \$50 for one person or \$20/person for multiple. Non-farm or for-hire manure applicators: \$100 for one person or \$75/person for multiple. Lunch provided.
- Jan 24 & 31** [Planning for Profit: Marketing and Production Budget Workshop.](#) 9am-3pm. Kalamazoo Valley Community College Culinary and Allied Health Building Room CAH223, 418 E. Walnut Street, Kalamazoo. Learn tools to maximize your profit by choosing the crop and market mix that works best for your farm.
- Jan 29-30** [Great Lakes Crop Summit.](#) 9am-3pm. Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel, Mt. Pleasant.

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- Feb 5**      **[2025 SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update](#)**. 9:00 am- 3:00 pm. Dowagiac Conservation Club, 54551 M-51 North, Dowagiac, MI 49047. Participants of the Crop and Pest Management Update Meetings will hear MSU Extension specialists present the latest recommendations for managing weeds, diseases, insects, and nematodes and receive a copy of the updated bulletin E-434 "Weed Control Guide for Field Crops". Cost: \$40.
- Feb 11**      **[2025 Farm Bill Commodity Program #2 - Farm Policy and Risk Management Series](#)**. 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. These sessions will help agricultural producers explore their options for 2025 Farm Bill commodity programs. Online via Zoom. *Note: these sessions are contingent on existence of commodity programs based on passage of a new Farm Bill or extension of the 2018 Farm Bill.*
- Feb 17**      **[Branch County Farmers Day Educational Sessions](#)**. 8am-12pm. Branch Area Career Center, Coldwater. These sessions will focus on different aspects of field crops management. RUP credits have been requested. No cost.
- Feb 17**      **[Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing](#)**. 8am-5pm. Branch Area Career Center, Coldwater. Cost is \$25 for morning training payable to MSU, cost for testing dependent on license type. Morning training session is required before afternoon testing, only core and standards exams (no commercial categories) offered. Other locations and dates available. Register online.

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 27, 2024

- [MICHIGAN IRRIGATION TEAM COMING TO GREAT LAKES EXPO 2024](#) - Speakers at the Great Lakes Expo irrigation session will share information on managing irrigation and improved irrigation practices. Attendees will be introduced to the MSU Irrigation Scheduling App and can receive help with app setup.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 26, 2024

- [MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION TO HOST 2024 INTEGRATED CROP AND PEST MANAGEMENT UPDATE](#) - Get the latest research-based recommendations on improving farm profitability, managing weeds, pests and diseases, and 2024 production year research review.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 25, 2024

- [IRRIGATION WELL RECORD BULLETIN](#) - Bulletin about keeping and maintaining records on well conditions.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024

- [VOLUNTEER POTATO RISK IN MICHIGAN](#) - Learn more about the risks and management of volunteer potatoes.
- [YOUR VOICE MATTERS: HOW FARMERS CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF AGRABILITY](#) - The Quality of Life Survey evaluates the effectiveness of the AgrAbility project nationally, and shows that participants have a higher quality of life than those who do not work with AgrAbility.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024

- [HERBICIDE PLAN FOR THE 2025 SEASON](#) - Update for field crop farmers on RUP credit opportunities, Bulletins Live! Two and herbicide strategies for the 2025 season.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 14, 2024

- [REGISTER NOW FOR MICHIGAN SOYBEAN COMMITTEE'S ON-FARM RESEARCH UPDATE MEETINGS IN JANUARY 2025](#) - Michigan Soybean Committee and MSU Extension invite soybean growers to attend regional meetings to hear results from 2024 on-farm soybean research trials.

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### PUBLICADO EL 14 DE NOVIEMBRE, 2024

- [ENTRENAMIENTO SOBRE LA SEGURIDAD DEL MANEJO DE LOS PESTICIDAS Y LA PROTECCIÓN DEL TRABAJADOR OFRECIDO EN INGLÉS Y EN ESPAÑOL 12 DE DICIEMBRE EN GREAT LAKES EXPO 2024](#) - Por la tarde, los participantes podrán tomar el examen RUP de certificación para la aplicación de Pesticidas de Uso Restringido de MDARD y también podrán recibir la capacitación sobre el Estándar de Protección al Trabajador requerida por la EPA WPS.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 13, 2024

- [COMPOST CAN INCREASE THE WATER HOLDING CAPACITY IN DROUGHTY SOILS](#) - Compost has the ability to increase water holding capacity of soils and can be a beneficial soil amendment in agricultural applications.

### PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 22, 2024

- [MOLE DRAINS: A CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO SUBSURFACE TILE DRAINAGE](#) - Learn how mole drains can improve drainage performance and increase crop yield in heavy clay soil.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2024

- [BAD YEARS CREATE TAX PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES](#) - Playing the long game in tax planning can minimize your overall tax liability.
- [MSU EXTENSION OFFERS WEBINAR ON MICHIGAN'S NEW EARNED SICK TIME ACT](#) - The Earned Sick Leave Act will impact all Michigan farms, regardless of size.
- [TAX PLANNING IS A VALUABLE TOOL FOR REDUCING YOUR TAX LIABILITY](#) - Farmers should consider adopting solid tax planning strategies that maintains consistent taxable income across multiple years.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 11, 2024

- [EPA'S VULNERABLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN MAY IMPACT PESTICIDE APPLICATORS IN MICHIGAN](#) - Pesticide applicators may experience label changes aimed at protecting particularly vulnerable endangered species.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 08, 2024

- [FARM FINANCIAL WELLBEING WORKSHEET](#) - MSU Extension has developed a [Financial Wellbeing Worksheet](#) where you may input summary information and you will automatically get a Scorecard that will show you a quick color-coded picture of your financial well-being.
- [UNDERSTANDING FARM FINANCIAL WELLBEING](#) - Skilled farm decision-making considers overall farm and household wellbeing, of which finances are an important component.

### PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 05, 2024

- [NEGOTIATING REASONABLE LAND RENT IN TIMES OF LOW MARKET PRICES](#) - How can you, the farm manager, help your landowners understand the impacts of lower prices and high input costs on profits?

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