

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates December 2019

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.

December Calendar Sneak-Peak

There are several important deadlines and meetings coming up this month. Below is a snapshot of those dates - check out the calendar below for more information.

- December 6 2019 Market Facilitation Program sign-up deadline.
- December 6 2018 Farm Bill Meeting in Coldwater
- December 10 2018 Farm Bill Meeting in Three Rivers and Dowagiac
- December 13 RUP Core Training and Testing in St. Joseph County
- December 13 Michiana Irrigation Association Annual Meeting
- December 17 Stored Grain Management Training for Farmers/Commercial Applicators in Lansing
- December 18 2019 Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update in Lansing
- December 18 RUP Core Manual Review in Benton Harbor

MSU Extension Forage Guide Available

The MSU Extension Forage Guide is now available as a free download at [Forage Connection](#), on the Extension page, under Establishment. The forage team has been working on this guide for over a year, and it contains a wealth of knowledge from forage experts at MSU and around the country.

Soybean Seedling Diseases Webinar December 6

Soybean seedling diseases are a major yield-reducing factor in soybean production. In 2017 alone, it was estimated that over 50 million bushels of grain were lost in the U.S. as a result of seedling diseases, and nearly two million bushels were lost in Ontario, Canada. As weather patterns—such as the one much of the grain belt experienced in summer 2019—continue to become more variable, the potential for soybean seedling diseases will continue to increase. This means that farmers and agronomists need to be more prepared to properly diagnose and manage seedling diseases.

To adequately prepare growers for the potential challenges in future growing seasons, [Alison Robertson](#), Iowa State University professor and extension field pathologist, will host a free webinar titled “[Seedling disease of soybean and using seed treatments to reduce losses](#)” on Friday, December 6, 2019, at 9 a.m.

CT/10 a.m. ET, and [registration is required](#). Sponsored by the United Soybean Checkoff, Robertson will share datasets, science-backed management techniques, and additional resources available to stakeholders to help make more economical decisions in soybeans in the field.

Signup for Market Facilitation Program Through December 6

Signup is ongoing through December 6, 2019 for the [Market Facilitation Program](#) (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July.

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops were planted in 2019. A producer’s total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. View [payment rates by county](#). St. Joseph = \$50, Branch = \$57, Calhoun = \$53, Kalamazoo = \$51, Cass = \$54, Van Buren = \$49, Berrien = \$60.

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

Will Leaving Corn in the Field to Dry Until Late Spring Be a Viable Option?

MSU Extension field crops educator Bruce MacKellar and farm management educator Roger Betz have written [a very timely article](#) for those who still have corn standing in the field. The table below is just one resource they share to help farmers make the decision of whether to harvest wet and pay more to dry or to leave it standing over the winter and incur possible losses.

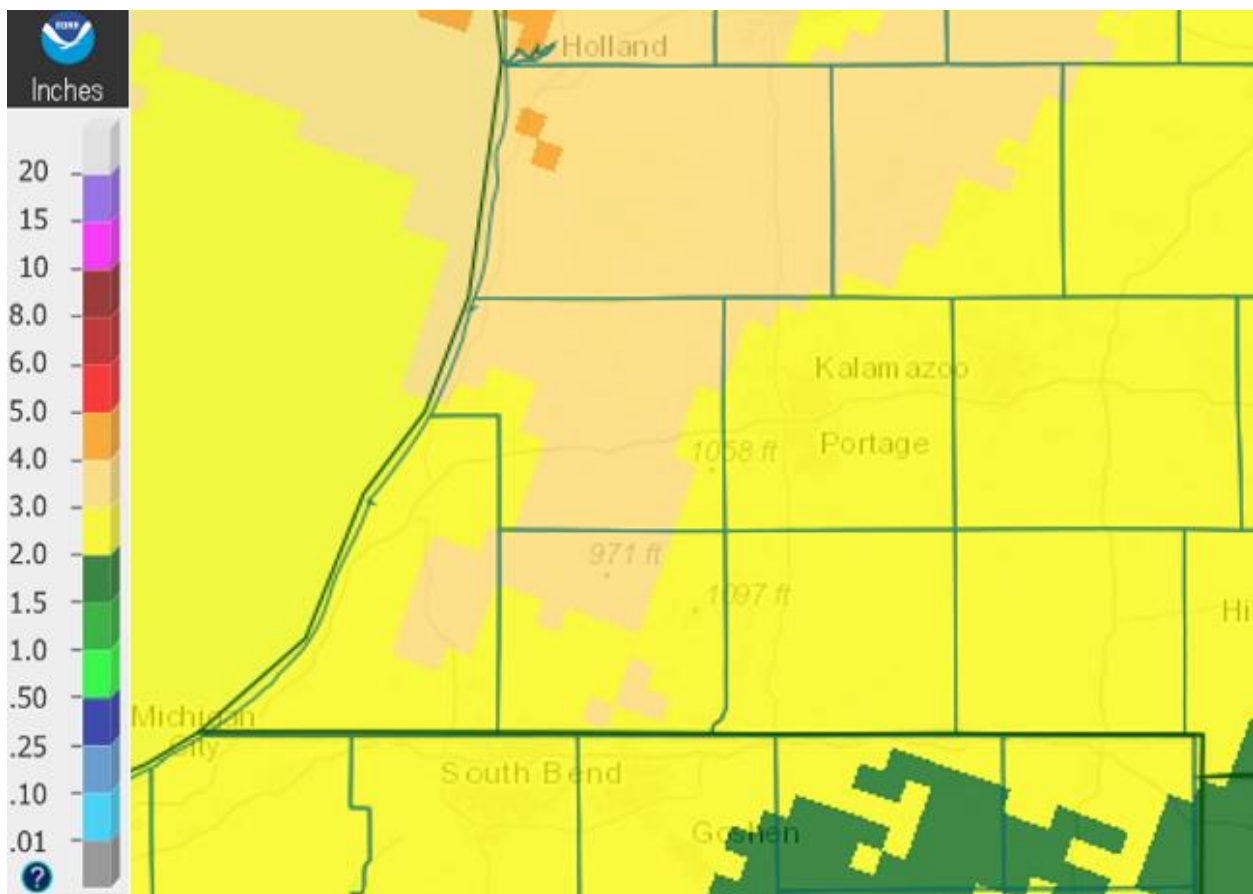
Table 1. Corn yield losses over winter, 2000 and 2001.

Year	November	December	January	February	March	April
2000	No loss	45%	58%	59%	65%	38%
2001	5%	5%	9%	19%	7%	10%
Mean	3%	22%	32%	37%	32%	24%
Moisture	37%	28%	27%	23%	20%	15%

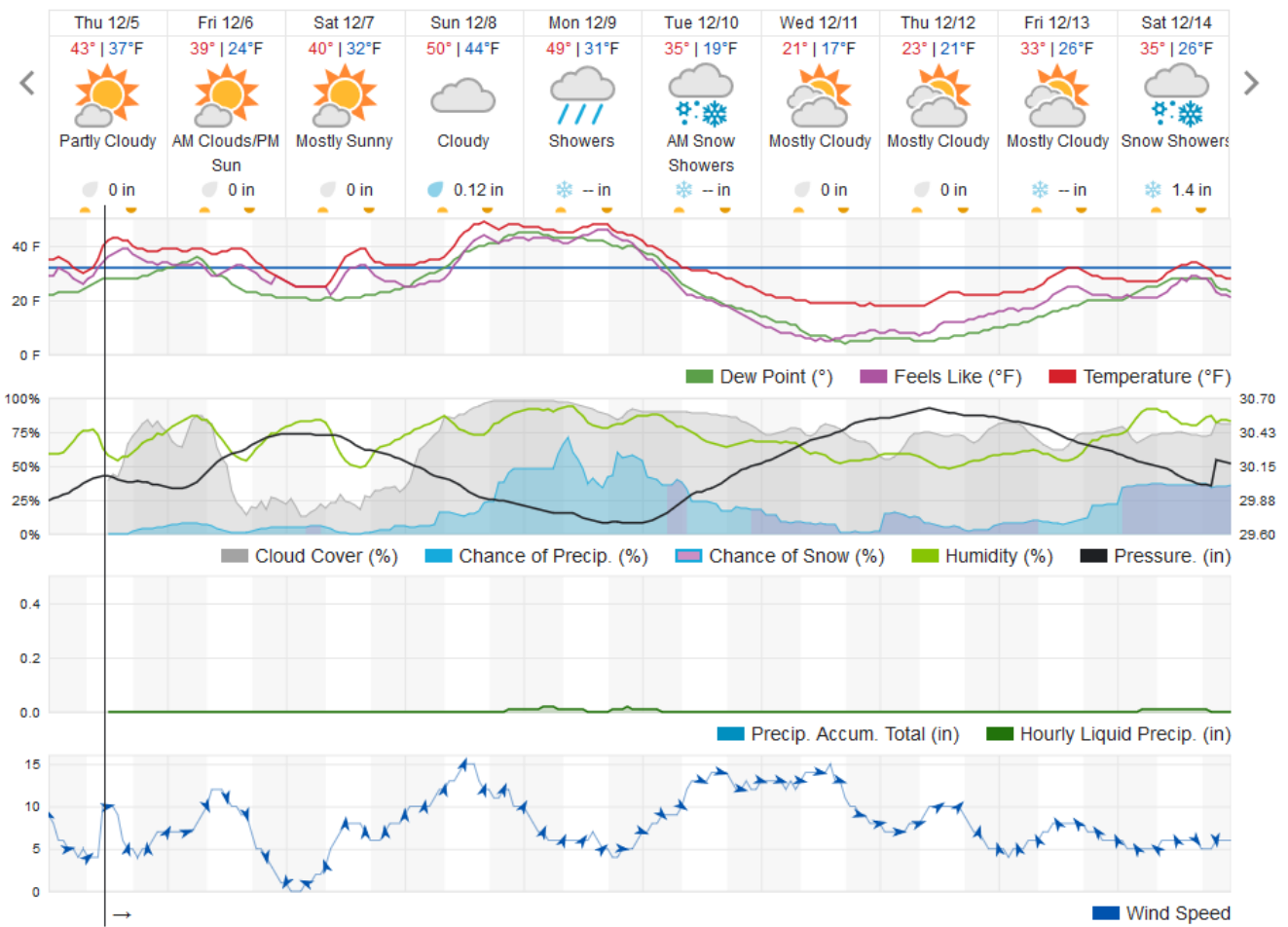
Weather and Crop Update

Precipitation in the southwest/south central region was below normal for November which allowed more fields to get harvested after a wet October. According to the most recent USDA crop progress report, 33% of corn in Michigan is still standing in fields—that is not true in much of our region, but that was definitely true according to what I saw on a recent drive up to Mt. Pleasant. Only 15% of soybean in Michigan is still in the field which is only 12% behind where we are on average at this time.

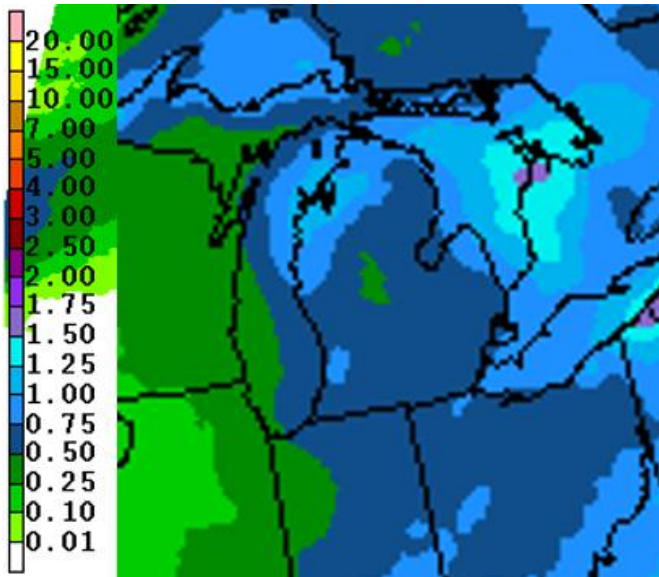
According to the latest NOAA predictions, there will be no significant impacts from El Niño or La Niña this winter. We will have cooler and wetter than normal conditions this coming week, but overall the forecast for December is for warmer than normal temps and higher than normal precipitation. The three month outlook, for what it's worth, calls for higher than normal precipitation but no direction on temperature.



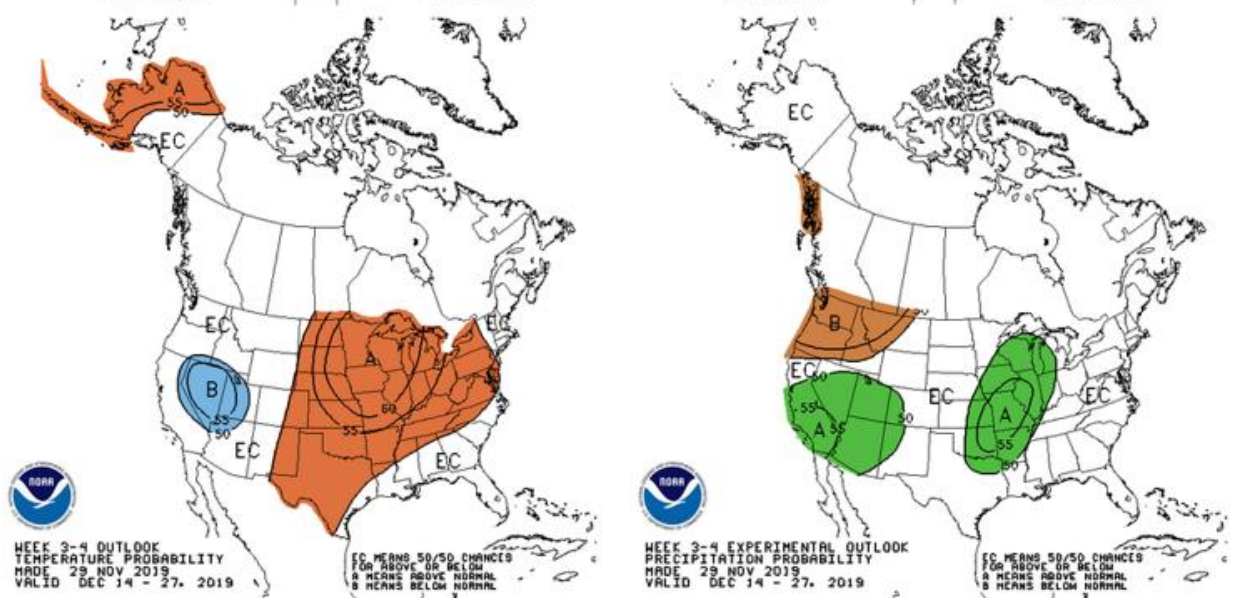
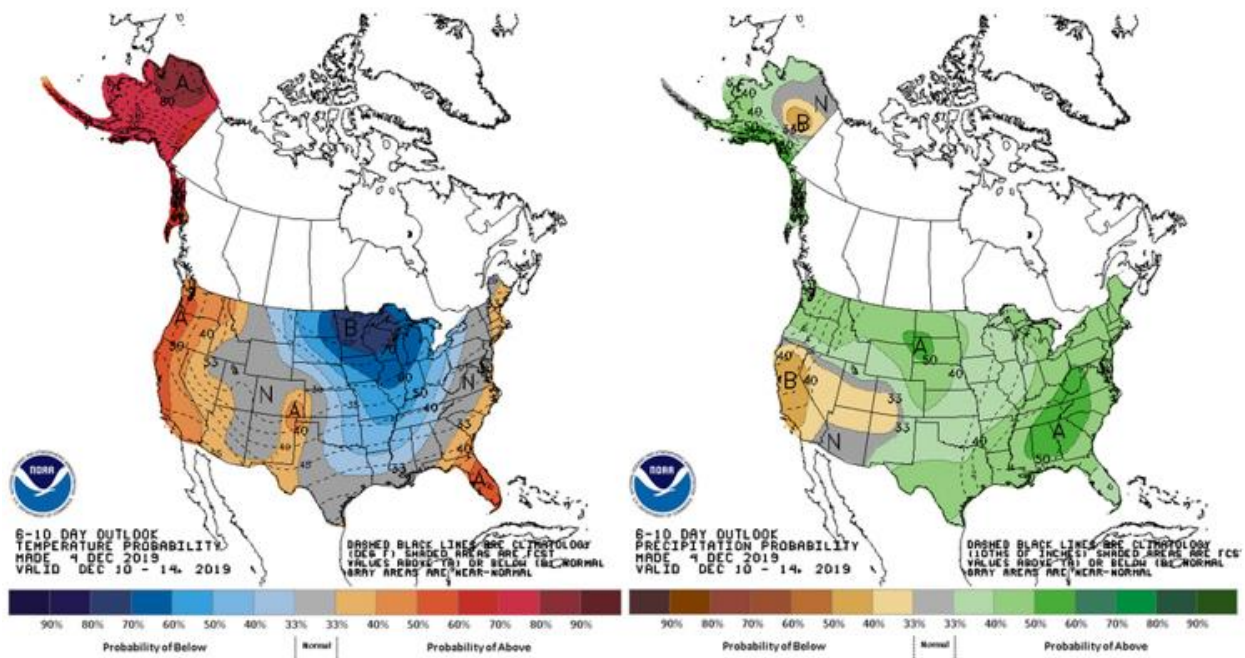
Rainfall totals in November—a relatively dry month, especially compared with October.



The 10-day forecast for Centreville according to wunderground.com.



Forecast for precipitation totals for the week ending Dec. 12, 2019. Most of that precipitation is expected Monday through Tuesday next week.



National Weather Service 6-10 day outlook (Dec. 10-14, top) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right) forecasts colder and wetter than normal conditions for this coming week. The 3-4 week outlook (Dec. 14-27, bottom) forecasts warmer and wetter than normal for our region.

Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

December 6 [2019 Market Facilitation Program sign-up deadline](#). Contact your local FSA office with questions.

December 6 [Soybean Seedling Diseases Webinar](#). 10-11am. A free webinar presented by Alison Robertson, Iowa State University professor and extension field pathologist, and sponsored by the United Soybean Checkoff. Register online to receive the meeting link.

- December 6** **Making the Most of the 2018 Farm Bill Commodity Provisions.** 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Branch Area Career Center, 366 Morse St, Coldwater, MI. The MSU Extension Farm Management team is planning regional meetings to thresh out the 2018 Farm Bill and what the changes have meant and will mean for farmers. Dr. Jim Hilker and Roger Betz of the farm management team will be present to answer your questions. No cost, register online.
- December 10** **Making the Most of the 2018 Farm Bill Commodity Provisions. TWO**
LOCATIONS: 1) 10am - 12pm. GreenMark Equipment, 16700 Heimbach Rd, Three Rivers, MI. **2)** 2 - 4pm. Southwest Michigan College - Mathews Library/Conference Center 629A, 58900 Cherry Grove Rd, Dowagiac, MI. The MSU Extension Farm Management team is planning regional meetings to thresh out the 2018 Farm Bill and what the changes have meant and will mean for farmers. Dr. Jim Hilker and Jon LaPorte of the farm management team will be present to answer your questions. No cost, register online.
- December 13** **RUP Core Training and Testing – St. Joseph County.** 8:30am - 12pm. St. Joseph County Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. A review of the Core Pesticide Applicators Manual to prepare for the MDARD Pesticide Applicators Certification Exam. Call the Extension office (269-467-5511) to reserve your seat. Cost is \$20/person. Those taking the exam will need to sign up on MDARD's website and bring a separate check. Three RUP credits available to those with a non-expired pesticide applicator license.
- December 13** **Michiana Irrigation Association Annual Meeting.** 8:30am - 3:00pm. Blue Gate Garden Inn, Shipshewana, IN. The most comprehensive discussion of irrigation-related issues in Michigan and Indiana with 10 speakers from university, governmental and industry on issues of irrigation management, economics, regulation and potential environmental impact. \$35/person includes dues to MIA and lunch. Flyer and registration form available by contacting MIA (mumbyde@yahoo.com or kelleyl@msu.edu). Mail in registration form and check by December 6. Call 269-998-1177 for more information.
- December 17** **Stored Grain Management Training for Farmers/Commercial Applicators.** 9:00am-3:30pm. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing, MI. Participants will learn information about basic grain storage concepts, stored grain insect identification and management, fumigant regulations, fumigation practices, fumigation safety procedures and selecting, using and maintaining required safety equipment. By completing this class, participants will earn enough recertification credits to renew their private or commercial applicator fumigation standard and be able to purchase and apply fumigants in Michigan. The cost of the workshop is \$65 per person (includes lunch and materials). Registration deadline is December 13, 2019.
- December 18** **2019 Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update.** 8:30am-12:30pm. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing, MI. Michigan agribusiness, pesticide sales and service professionals, crop consultants, and farmers. Cost is \$60/person (includes refreshments, lunch and handouts including the 2020 MSU Weed Control Guide and other bulletins). Register online by Dec. 16. Seven RUP and six CCA credits available.
- December 18** **RUP Core Manual Review – Berrien County.** 9am - 4pm. Berrien County Extension office, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI. Cost is \$25 (cash or check). To register, call the Berrien County Extension office (269-927-5674) or register online.
- January 6** **Making the Most of the 2018 Farm Bill Commodity Provisions. TWO**
LOCATIONS: 1) 10am - 12pm. Berrien RESA, 711 St Joseph Ave, Berrien Springs, MI.

2) 2 - 4pm. Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S Paw Paw St, Lawrence, MI. The MSU Extension Farm Management team is planning regional meetings to thresh out the 2018 Farm Bill and what the changes have meant and will mean for farmers. Dr. Jim Hilker and Jon LaPorte of the farm management team will be present to answer your questions. No cost, register online.

January 10-11 **Midwest iHemp Expo.** Lansing, MI. Sponsored by iHempMichigan. MSU specialists and educators working on industrial hemp will present 2019 research findings.

January 13-15 **MABA Winter Conference.** Lansing Center, Lansing, MI.

January 22 **SMaRT Annual Review.** GreenMark Equipment, 16700 Heimbach Rd., Three Rivers, MI. 8:45am-12:30pm. The Michigan Soybean Checkoff program is covering all costs, but online pre-registration is requested to ensure an accurate count for lunch and materials. Contact Mike Staton (staton@anr.msu.edu, 269-673-0370, ext. 2562) with questions.

January 29-30 **Great Lakes Crop Summit.** Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

January 31 **Ag Action Day.** 8:00am-4:00pm. Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 W O Ave, Kalamazoo, MI. \$35/person includes lunch and all educational sessions. Two RUP credits per field crops session applied for. Register online.

February 10 **MSU Extension Pest and Crop Update.** 8:30am-3pm. Dowagiac Conservation Club, 54551 M 51 N, Dowagiac, MI. \$30/person includes lunch, snacks, and the 2020 Weed Guide. RUP and CCA credits applied for. Register online.

February 10 **Field Crops Webinar Series Begins.** 7-8pm Monday evenings through March 30. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems in the coming season and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agricultural experts. Participants can register for single sessions (\$5 each) or the entire 8-week series (\$20). One RUP credit will be available for each live session. Register online. Contact Eric Anderson (eander32@msu.edu, 269-467-5511) with questions.

February 14 **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **Branch County** MSU Extension Office, 570 Marshall Road #C Coldwater, MI. A review of the Core Pesticide Applicators Manual to prepare for the MDARD Pesticide Applicators Certification Exam. Call the Extension office (517-279-4311) to reserve your seat. Cost is \$20/person. Those taking the exam will need to sign up on MDARD's website and bring a separate check. Three RUP credits available to those with a non-expired pesticide applicator license.

February 28 **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **St. Joseph County** MSU Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. See Dec. 13 entry for details.

April 6 **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **St. Joseph County** MSU Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. See Dec. 13 entry for details.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Final call to register for 2019 Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 5, 2019

The Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update on Dec. 18, 2019 will highlight new MSU pest management recommendations and year-end certification credits.

Soil pore structure key to carbon storage

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 5, 2019

A window to the microbial world of carbon cycling

Michigan Field Crops podcast gets “In the Weeds”

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 4, 2019

MSU Extension field crops team releases In the Weeds, a new podcast to provide convenient education to critical issues facing Michigan field crop farmers.

New label denoting bioengineered ingredients will soon appear on food items in 2020

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 4, 2019

Starting in 2020, consumers will start to see labels for genetically modified foods on store shelves.

Soybean seedling disease and using seed treatments to reduce losses

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 2, 2019

The Crop Protection Network presents a webinar on Dec. 6, 2019, by Alison Robertson from Iowa State University on soybean seedling diseases and using seed treatments for management.

Will leaving corn in the field to dry until late spring be a viable option?

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 22, 2019

The key factor to consider in deciding whether to leave corn in the field until spring is to assess the risk of yield losses by leaving corn in the field.

Stored grain management training available for farmers and commercial applicators

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Participants will learn on-farm grain storage tips and earn enough recertification credits to renew their private or commercial applicator fumigation standard without retesting.

Population study on soybeans

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019

What was the effect of planting population on soybean yield in Sanilac County this year?

Farm Bill 2018 – It’s decision time

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 18, 2019

MSU Extension and FSA to host meetings across the state.

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast recordings are available for viewing online

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast recordings cover topics on crop management, integrated pest management and soil and fertility management.

How do I find pesticide education resources, review manuals and applicator tests?

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Use these frequently asked questions to find Worker Protection Standards (WPS) resources, purchase pesticide applicator review manuals, and sign up for MDARD pesticide applicator test.

Should producers chase after yield?

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 13, 2019

American farmers continually strive for higher yields. Something encouraged by the current pricing structure of raw agricultural products, but is chasing yield necessarily a good thing?

Recommendations for selecting hay and pasture forages for Michigan

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Selecting forage species and mixtures for hayfields and pastures may seem overwhelming. Let this new bulletin help you make decisions.

Five compelling reasons to attend the Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update on December 18

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019

The 21st annual Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update for Agribusiness will feature 2020 MSU crop and pest recommendations, on-farm research data and pesticide certification credits.

New CAFO permit released

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Read more about some of the changes the new CAFO permit addresses and when public meetings will be held.

Training for innovative online tools for conservation planning

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2019

A look at what is to come for agricultural professionals using new online tools for conservation planning and implementation.

Recommendations for a late soybean harvest

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Overcome the challenges associated with a late soybean harvest.

7 Things to know about samurai wasps, a natural enemy of brown marmorated stink bugs

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2019

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is controlled in its home region of Asia by samurai wasps. The wasps are now found in the United States and could help control BMSB in Michigan.

Eric Anderson

Michigan State University Extension

Field Crops Educator - St. Joseph County

612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032

(269) 467-5510 (Office)

(269) 467-5641 (Fax)

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