

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update December 1, 2025

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.

### Contents:

- Announcements
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- [MSU Extension Digest Briefs](#)

**ATTN: St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office will be closed December 24 through Jan 4**

## “Farming Funnies”



We can all use an occasional laugh to make it through the long nights and short days of winter. If you have a funny story or picture to share, feel free to send it my way!

Winter is a big time for equipment maintenance. One of the best ways to help reduce pesticide spills is to keep equipment maintained and clean. Don't play in the major leaks— work on your sprayer during the winter and inspect it regularly throughout the season.

## Follow SW MI Field Crops on Facebook

NEW: We have a Facebook page for all things corn, soybeans, wheat/small grains, hay, and commercial potato in southwest Michigan. Please follow and have your ag friends/family follow, too. [Visit Facebook](#)

## FREE Fumigation Webinar TOMORROW

Join us virtually for a two-hour webinar (and 2 fumigation credits) on respirators and pests targeted by grain bin and soil fumigation! The webinar will be Dec 2 from 6 to 8 pm. Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Fumigation2025/>

## FREE Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop THIS THURSDAY

**1 RUP credit available.** The workshop is free to attend, but **please pre-register** so we have accurate counts for lunch and materials: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/GrainMarketingWorkshop2025/>



### Topics covered

- Cost of production
- Marketing
- Marketing decision process
- Contracts
- Return on investment of crop protection products

**1 RUP credit has been requested**

### December 4

9:00 am - 2:00 pm,  
lunch provided

### LOCATION

Van Buren MSUE Office  
57418 CR 681, Suite A,  
Hartford, MI 49057

Contact us: **Nicolle Ritchie**      [ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu)      269-858-8739  
**Jon LaPorte**      [laportej@msu.edu](mailto:laportej@msu.edu)      269-414-6418

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## How does irrigation affect yield under drought conditions?

This year, Michigan has seen wide variability in precipitation; some areas had enough rain, while others have struggled with drought. To better understand how irrigation affects yield under these conditions, **the [Michigan State University Extension irrigation team](#) is looking for cooperators willing to share yield data from irrigated fields and non-irrigated areas.**

Participants will need to provide:

- Yield data for both irrigated and non-irrigated areas, such as dry corners.
- Estimates of rainfall amounts and irrigation applied.

This information will be used strictly for research purposes. If you'd like to participate or get more information, please fill out this [form](#) or contact [Angie Gradiz](#).

## Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update for Agribusiness Dec 19

This December, embark on a quest to change your clients' field crops fate. Hear from MSU experts on the latest research-based pest, disease, and fertility management recommendations. **5 RUP and 5.5 CCA** credits available.

**ADVENTURE AWAITS...**



**AT THE MSU CROP &  
PEST MGMT UPDATE  
FOR AGRIBUSINESS**

Join us December 19 | 8:30 am to 4 pm

<https://bit.ly/icpmu25>

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## Save the Date! SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update Jan 22 in Dowagiac

The annual regional Crop and Pest Management Update will be held Jan 22, 2026 at the Dowagiac Conservation Club. **Four RUP credits (1A and Private) available.** More information and register online here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026CropPestUpdate/>

### SW MI 2026 Crop and Pest Update

#### TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:30 am: Check-in/Registration  
9:00 am: Welcome and commodity update  
9:15 am: Pesticide Strategies, *Nicole Ritchie*  
9:45 am: Marketing, *Jon LaPorte*  
10:15 am: Break  
10:30 am: Weed Update for Corn, *Erin Burns*  
11:15 am: Weed Update for Soybeans, *Christy Sprague*  
12:00 pm: Lunch  
12:45 pm: Insect Update, *Chris DiFonzo*  
1:15 pm: Disease Update, *Marty Chilvers*  
2:00 pm: Wheat, *Dennis Pennington*  
2:45 pm: Wrap-up, evaluation and credits

\*Agenda may be subject to change\*

#### PROGRAM DETAILS

Date: January 22, 2026  
Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Location: Dowagiac Conservation Club, 54551 M-51 N,  
Dowagiac, MI  
4 RUP and CCA credits have been requested

#### REGISTRATION

Cost: \$40  
Pre-registration open through January 15

#### CONTACT

Van Buren County MSU  
Extension at 269-657-8213  
or  
[msue.vanburen@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.vanburen@county.msu.edu)

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## Save the Date! Soil Fertility Workshop 2 on Feb 5 in St. Johns

This workshop goes more in depth on soil fertility and nutrient management. It is intended for people who already understand the basics. Key topics include nitrogen, nutrient interactions, micronutrients, sulfur, economics of nitrogen, and a Q&A. Read more about it in [this article](#), or [register online here](#).

YOU'VE HEARD OF

**ON A**

BUT HAVE YOU HEARD OF

**WITH**

SOIL FERTILITY WORKSHOP 2  
Feb. 5, 2026 | 9 am to 3 pm  
Clinton County Smith Hall  
[bit.ly/fert26](http://bit.ly/fert26)

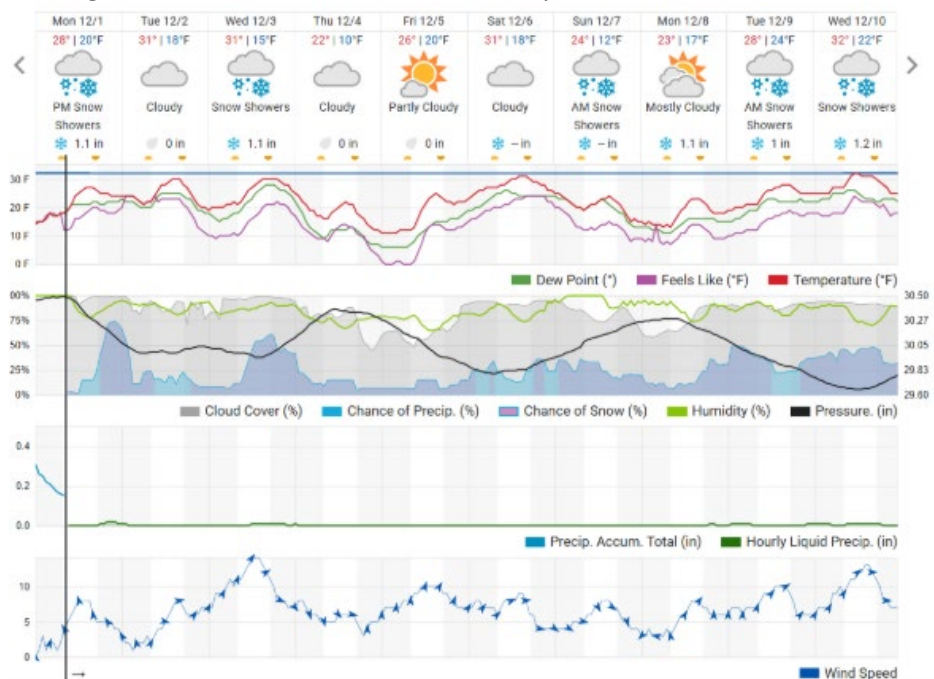
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The graphic features a cartoon elf holding a box, a fertilizer bag, and a photo of a man. The text is arranged in a circular layout with a green background.

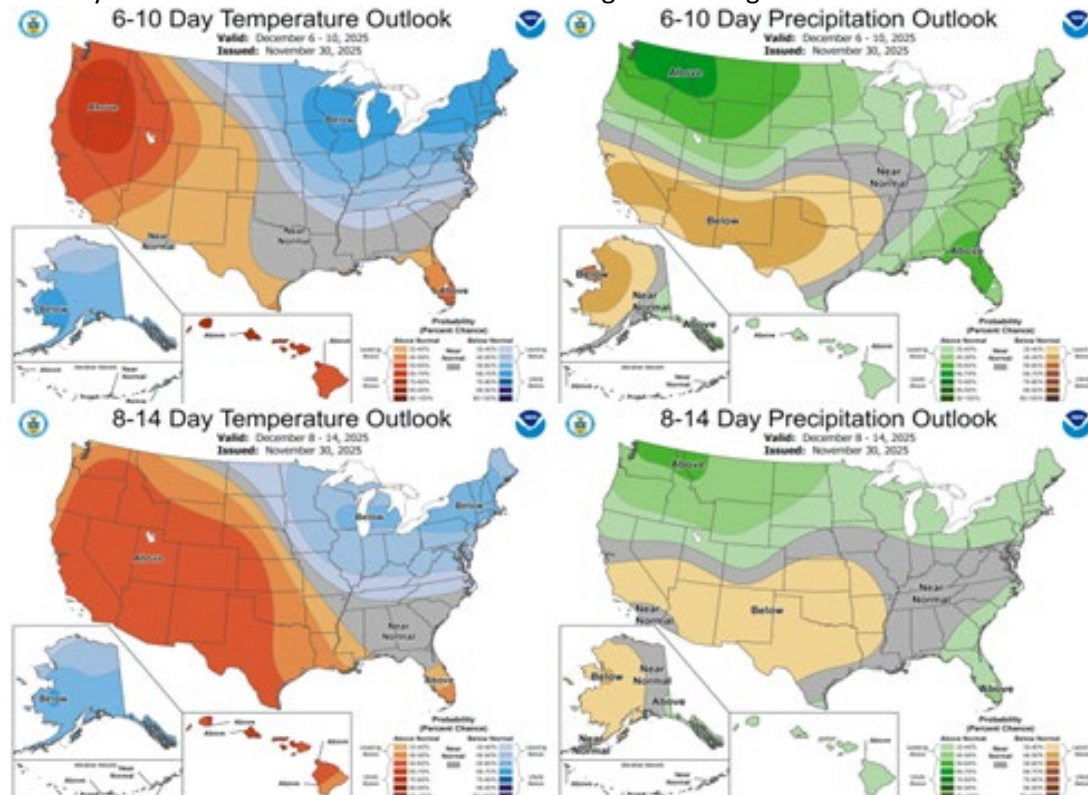


## Weather Update

A snowstorm hit much of the Midwest this past weekend, with snow accumulation in southwest Michigan varying from 4 inches to 12 or more. With the snowfall, temperatures dropped, and that is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, so the snow will stick around for a little while. Some snow showers are expected throughout the week, although snow accumulation will be relatively low.



Ten-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to wunderground.com.



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

## Calendar

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

- Dec 2**      **Fumigation: Respirators and Pests.** 6-8 pm. Online via Zoom. Fumigation education presented by MSU Dept of Medicine and Field Crops educators. FREE. **2 RUP (Fum, Core)**
- Dec 3**      **Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing-- Hillsdale.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Hillsdale County MSU Extension Office. MSU Extension, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program, and MDARD PPPMD are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. \$25/person. **RUP**
- Dec 3**      **Pesticide Safety Webinar Series: The RUP Credit Clinic.** 10 am-2 pm. Online via Zoom. MSU's Pesticide Safety Education Program offers virtual training series for applicators and ag professionals. \$17/2 credits, \$30/4credits. **2-4 RUP.**
- Dec 4**      **Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop.** 9 am-2 pm. Van Buren County MSU Extension Office. This in-person workshop will provide hands-on education on grain marketing. More details to come. **1 RUP/CCA**
- Dec 11**      **2025 GLEXPO Pesticide Applicator Review and Testing – English & Spanish.** 8:30 am – 3 pm. DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Core Review and Testing offered in English and Spanish. **RUP/CCA**
- Dec 19**      **Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update for Agribusiness.** 8:30 am-4 pm. MSU STEM Building. Join us to learn about the latest research on crop and pest management. \$75/person for in-person if registered by 12/12 (\$85 after). \$45 for online, must register by 12/17. **5 RUP, 5.5 CCA**
- Jan 5**      **Pesticide Safety Webinar Series: The RUP Credit Clinic.** 10 am-2 pm. Online via Zoom. MSU's Pesticide Safety Education Program offers virtual training series for applicators and ag professionals. \$17/2 credits, \$30/4credits. **2-4 RUP.**
- Jan 6**      **Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Update 2026 - Southwest.** 9 am-1 pm. GreenMark Equipment, Three Rivers. Michigan Soybean Committee and Michigan State University Extension invite soybean growers and agribusinesses to attend regional meetings in January 2026 to hear results of the 2025 soybean on-farm research projects. **1 RUP.**
- Jan 7**      **Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Update 2026 - West.** 9 am-1 pm. Blauw Farms, 2876 13th St, Shelbyville, MI. Michigan Soybean Committee and Michigan State University Extension invite soybean growers and agribusinesses to attend regional meetings in January 2026 to hear results of the 2025 soybean on-farm research projects. **1 RUP.**
- Jan 13**      **Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing-- Hart.** 8:30 am-3 pm. MSU West Central Michigan Research and Extension. MSU Extension, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program, and MDARD PPPMD are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. \$25/person.
- Jan 22**      **SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Dowagiac Conservation Club. Regional meeting with latest research on crop and pest management. **4 RUP/CCA**
- Jan 27**      **Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing-- Benton Harbor.** 8:30 am-3 pm. SW MI Research and Extension Center. MSU Extension, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program, and MDARD PPPMD are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. \$25/person. **RUP**

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- Feb 5**      **Soil Fertility Workshop 2.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Clinton County Smith Hall, St. Johns. Intermediate soil fertility and nutrient management workshop. More details to come.
- Feb 5**      **Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing-- Adrian.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Lenawee County MSU Extension Office. MSU Extension, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program, and MDARD PPPMD are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. \$25/person. **RUP**
- Feb 16**      **Pesticide Applicator Core Review and MDARD Core Testing-- Coldwater.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Branch Area Career Center. MSU Extension, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program, and MDARD PPPMD are offering an in-person Core Manual review class followed by Core pesticide applicator certification testing. \$25/person. **RUP**
- Feb 16**      **Branch County Farmers Day.** 8am-12 pm. Branch Area Career Center. Join us for educational sessions. Free. **RUP**

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

### **MSU research helping drive Michigan's dry bean industry**

**Published on December 1, 2025**

Michigan State University AgBioResearch scientists are working closely with dry bean growers and industry organizations to address challenges from the field to the finished product.

### **MSU PSEP launches Pesticide Safety Webinar Series: The RUP/CCA CEU Credit Clinic to support Michigan applicators and certified crop advisers recertification**

**Published on November 21, 2025**

The MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) introduces a new webinar series offering Michigan pesticide applicators RUP credits and up-to-date training on safety and regulations, with CEU opportunities available for certified crop advisers.

### **Winter Wheat Staging and Management Guide**

**Published on November 21, 2025**

In-field guide for winter wheat scouting.

### **Why the Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update should be on your winter meeting calendar**

**Published on November 20, 2025**

Check out these top five reasons to attend the MSU Extension Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update on December 19, 2025.

### **Bulletins Live! Two resources from Michigan State University Extension**

**Published on November 20, 2025**

MSU Extension and the Pesticide Safety Education Program have developed a number of resources to help pesticide applicators navigate the Bulletins Live! Two system and comply with federal endangered species regulations.

### **MSU researcher honored with prestigious Soil Science Research Award**

**Published on November 17, 2025**

MSU AgBioResearch scientist Bruno Basso was recently awarded the Soil Science Research Award from the Soil Science Society of America.

### **The 2025 IR-4 Food Use Workshop prioritizes new solutions for specialty crop growers**

**Published on November 14, 2025**

Growers and researchers prioritize new pest control options for the 2026 IR-4 field program.

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### **The Mobile Irrigation Lab is on the move**

**Published on November 14, 2025**

Michigan State University's Mobile Irrigation Lab offers on-farm evaluations of flow rate, system pressure and application uniformity to identify inefficiencies and recommend improvements that boost water- and energy-use efficiency.

### **Bad years create tax planning opportunities**

**Published on November 13, 2025**

Playing the long game in tax planning can minimize your overall tax liability.

### **MSU Extension launches new beginning farmer resource at Great Lakes Expo**

**Published on November 13, 2025**

The Beginning Farmer Resource and Decision-Making Guide is a new jointly created resource from MSU Extension and USDA.

### **Tax planning is a valuable tool for reducing your tax liability**

**Published on November 13, 2025**

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



*Nicolle Ritchie*

*Michigan State University Extension*

*Field Crops Educator - St. Joseph County*

*612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032*

*(269) 858-8739 (Cell)*

*(269) 467-5510 (Extension Office)*

*[ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu)*

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