

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update November 13, 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
- 2025 Season in Review
- [Weather Update](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [MSU Extension Digest Briefs](#)

## “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!



## FREE Fumigation Webinar Dec 2

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/>

## Sign up now for the FREE Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop Dec 4 in Hartford

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/>

### BEYOND THE BIN GRAIN MARKETING WORKSHOP



#### 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      269-858-8739  
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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 have been requested. Watch for an article with all the details soon!

**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>

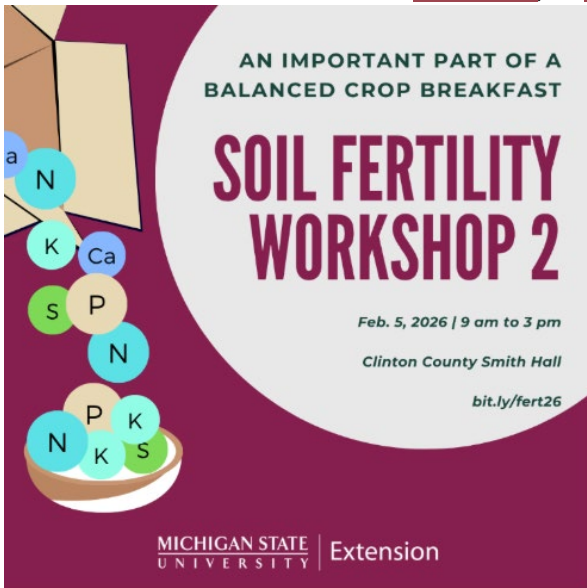
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## Save the Date! SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update Jan 22 in Dowagiac

The annual regional Crop and Pest Management Update will be held Jan 22, 2026. More details to come.

## 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](#).



## 2025 Season in Review



“It’s important to keep good records of the different challenges and opportunities from each growing season. Records serve as a reference for future seasons and can help you learn from past mistakes (or wins), adapt and respond to future challenges. This article provides an overview of findings in southwest Michigan. Overall, 2025 had few pest challenges and mostly weather-related challenges. 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.

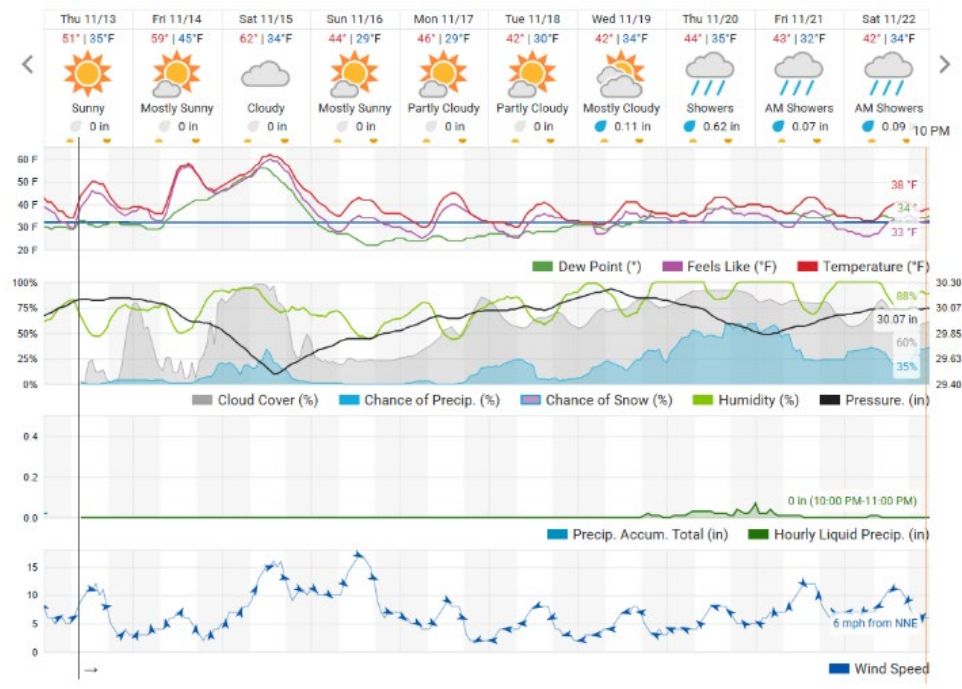
### Weather

The 2025 season was considerably warmer and drier than normal. Potatoes started planting in mid-March. Early-season cool temperatures benefited potatoes and winter wheat but delayed corn and soybean planting. Corn particularly was stunted, yellow and delayed from the early-season cool temperatures and cloudy days exacerbated by smoke...” **Read the full article:** [The 2025 southwest Michigan field crops season in review](#).

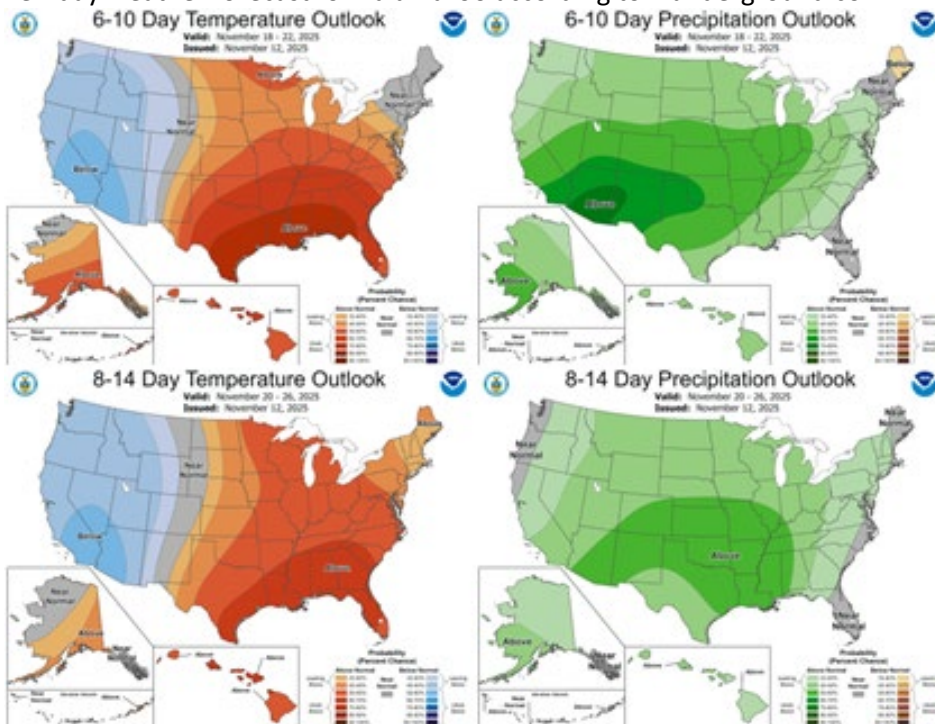


## Weather Update

Snow fell over the past weekend and even stuck around for a couple days. It has since mostly melted off, and warm temperatures up to around 60F are expected for Friday and Saturday. After that, temperatures will drop again, and a significant rainfall is forecast for next Thursday.



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



The 6-10 day (Nov 18-22, top) and 8-14 day (Nov 20-26, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

## Calendar

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

- Nov 18**     **Farm Accounting Software Options Workshop.** 3-6 pm OR 6-9 pm. AgroLiquid, 3055 W. M-21, St. Johns. Managing farm finances can be challenging. This workshop can help you select the right accounting software for your farm. Learn more about some of the popular software packages, and try them for yourself. FREE. Please pre-register.
- Dec 1**     **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 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. **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. Blaauw 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.

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – November 13, 2025 - 7

- Jan 22** **SW MI Crop and Pest Management Update.** 8:30 am-3 pm. Cass County. Regional meeting with latest research on crop and pest management. More details to come. **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**
- 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

### **Insights from Michigan agricultural professionals to advance farm conservation**

**Published on November 12, 2025**

Through focus groups and surveys, a new MSU Extension report outlines some priority questions agricultural, conservation and agribusiness professionals in Michigan have about conservation practices.

### **Stored grain and soil fumigation meeting set for December 2**

**Published on November 12, 2025**

Spend a couple hours of your evening learning about all the basics and safety concerns surrounding grain bin and soil fumigation and get enough credits to renew your fumigation standard.

### **Think ‘Beyond the Bin’ at this free grain marketing workshop on December 4**

**Published on November 11, 2025**

The Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing workshop will take a hands-on approach to covering foundational marketing principles. One RUP credit is available.

### **Elevate your market prices with Grain Gains**

**Published on November 10, 2025**

Grain Gains: An Introduction to Grain Marketing is a new online course from MSU Extension.

### **Grow your expertise at the 2026 Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Training**

**Published on November 10, 2025**

Join MSU Extension for a one-day soil fertility and nutrient management training.

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – November 13, 2025 - 8

### **Pesticide applicator core review, MDARD testing and RUP credits offered in Sterling on December 5**

**Published on November 10, 2025**

Participants will review the core manual and take the core pesticide applicator test on Dec. 5 in Sterling, Michigan. Private and commercial core, fumigation and aerial standard tests will be available. Participants can receive four core RUP credits.

### **Thinking about reconditioning overly dry soybeans?**

**Published on November 6, 2025**

There are a few factors to consider when looking to raise moisture levels of soybeans during storage.

### **The 2025 southwest Michigan field crops season in review**

**Published on November 5, 2025**

Each growing season brings its own unique opportunities and challenges. This article summarizes the weather, pests and learnings from the 2025 crop season in southwest Michigan.

### **Essential irrigation winterization tips before freezing temperatures hit**

**Published on November 3, 2025**

A few preventive steps this fall can make all the difference next season. Learn how to prepare your irrigation system for winter.

### **Bulletins Live! Two Tracker Report available now**

**Published on October 30, 2025**

To raise awareness of pesticides currently impacted by the new EPA Bulletins Live! Two pesticide label directive, Michigan State University Extension will be generating a Bulletins Live! Two Tracker Report twice a month.

### **Recordkeeping System for Crop Production**

**Published on October 27, 2025**

A system for keeping records for pesticide application, nutrient application, manure application, animal burial and composting, irrigation and employee training.

### **Adventure awaits at the 2025 Integrated Crop and Pest Management Update for Agribusiness**

**Published on October 23, 2025**

This December, embark on a quest to change your clients' field crops fate by listening to the latest research on pest and crop management. Five RUP and 5.5 CCA credits are available.

### **Apply now for SARE Partnership Grants and SARE Professional Development grants**

**Published on October 23, 2025**

Two grant programs support farm educators and agriculture professionals to address sustainable agriculture issues through collaboration with farmers or train-the-trainer projects.

### **Seed selection goes beyond yield and disease resistance**

**Published on October 21, 2025**

New resources from MSU Extension can help you choose the right seed for your farm.

### **Winter canola planting progress across Michigan**

**Published on October 21, 2025**

Canola planting kicks off in Michigan! Read more for updates from the field on canola crop progress, insect pests and crop disease.

### **Session de Revisión, en inglés y español, para Aplicadores de Pesticidas y Examen de MDARD en La GLEXPO 2025 — 11 de diciembre, 2026**

**Published on October 20, 2025**

Al final de la sesión, tome el examen de MDARD para obtener la licencia o si ya la tiene obtenga los créditos RUP para renovarla.



### **MSU PSEP launches Pesticide Safety Webinar Series: The RUP Credit Clinic to support Michigan applicator recertification**

**Published on October 16, 2025**

The Michigan State University Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) announces its first webinar series running from fall through winter, helping Michigan pesticide applicators earn RUP credits and stay current on safety and regulatory topics.

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