

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update

October 16, 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.

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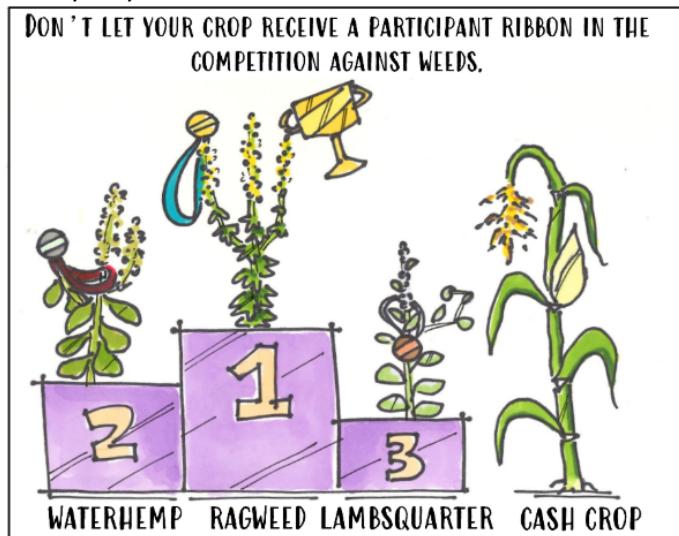
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FREE Soybean Oil Content Testing - Only 3 kits left!

If you're still running beans and would like an opportunity to test your oil content for free, contact me (Nicolle Ritchie at 269-858-8739 or ritchi67@msu.edu)! All you have to do is collect a 2 lb sample of soybeans, put them in the provided mailer, and send them off. No postage required. Results will be returned to you later this year, probably around December. This is part of an ongoing project with the University of Minnesota. They will ask for your variety and a couple of other crop details, and they use this information to map oil content in soybeans based on variety and location. I have 3 kits left and would like them all to be used this year, so if you're interested, let me know!

“Farming Funnies” Debut Today

Winter is coming, and we can all use an occasional laugh to make it through the long nights and short days. For the winter months, this newsletter will feature a “Farming Funnies” section of ag-related humor. If you have a funny story or picture to share, feel free to send it my way!



MSU Labor Conference Nov 5

Attend the 3rd annual MSU Farm Labor Conference at the MSU University Club in Lansing on November 5th. The conference will feature speakers from academia, industry, and government to provide insights into challenges farmworkers and farm employers are facing and discuss potential solutions. The event is free, and lunch is included. Please pre-register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/FarmLabor>

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/>

Save the Date! Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop Dec 4

More details to come!



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

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Jon LaPorte

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MICHIGAN STATE
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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. If you have a request for specific topics, **please reach out to me within the next month**. I can't guarantee they'll make it onto the agenda, but I'll do my best.

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](#).

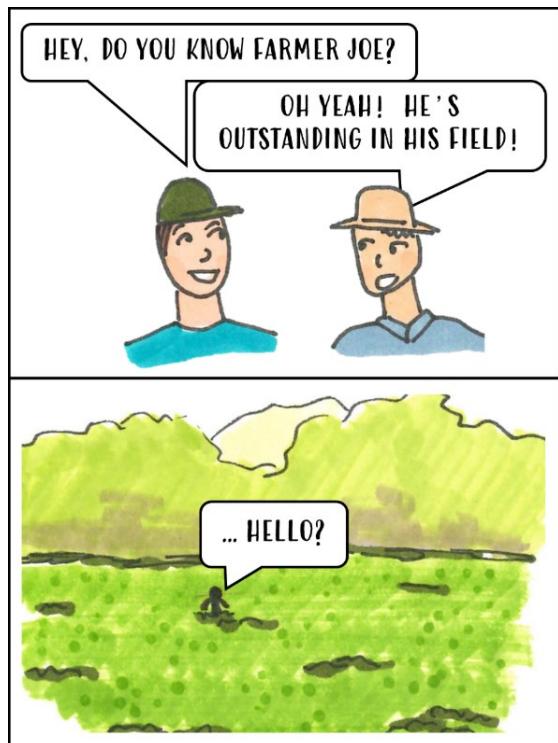


Field Crops Update



Soybean harvest is nearly finished, as is **seed corn**. **Commercial corn** harvest has begun and made some decent progress in the past week. The cool weather has been good for **potato** harvest. Fall tillage and **winter wheat** and cover crop planting continued.

Farming Funnies

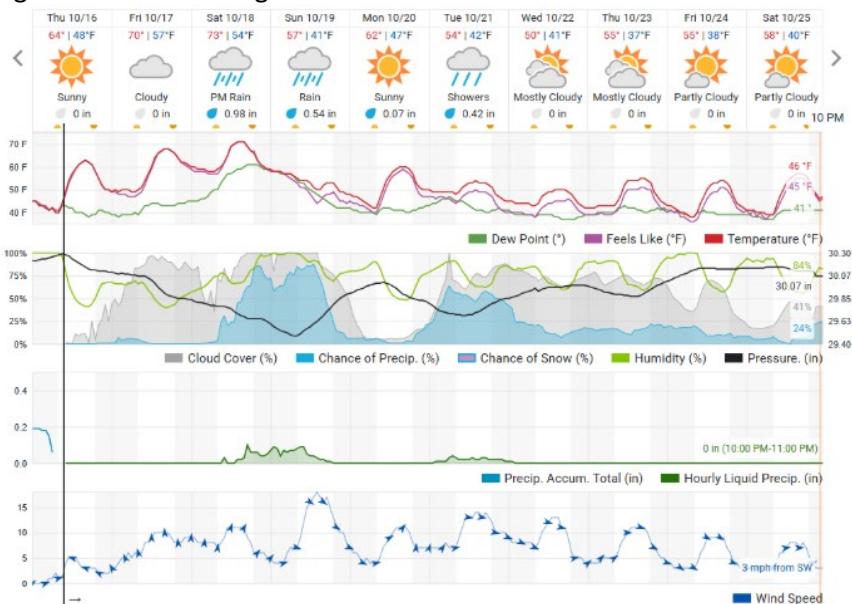


Thank you to so many of you for being outstanding *and* out standing in your fields! Take advantage of opportunities to learn something new this winter as you review the past season's outcomes, catch up on the reading you didn't have time for over the summer, and attend educational programs.

Some local programs you won't want to miss this winter are the Beyond the Bin Grain Marketing Workshop on Dec 4 at the Van Buren County MSU Extension Office and the annual Crop and Pest Management Update held at the Dowagiac Conservation Club on Jan 22. Also, **if you are in Allegan county or north of it, there will be a Crop and Pest Management Update held in Fremont on Feb 20, 2026.**

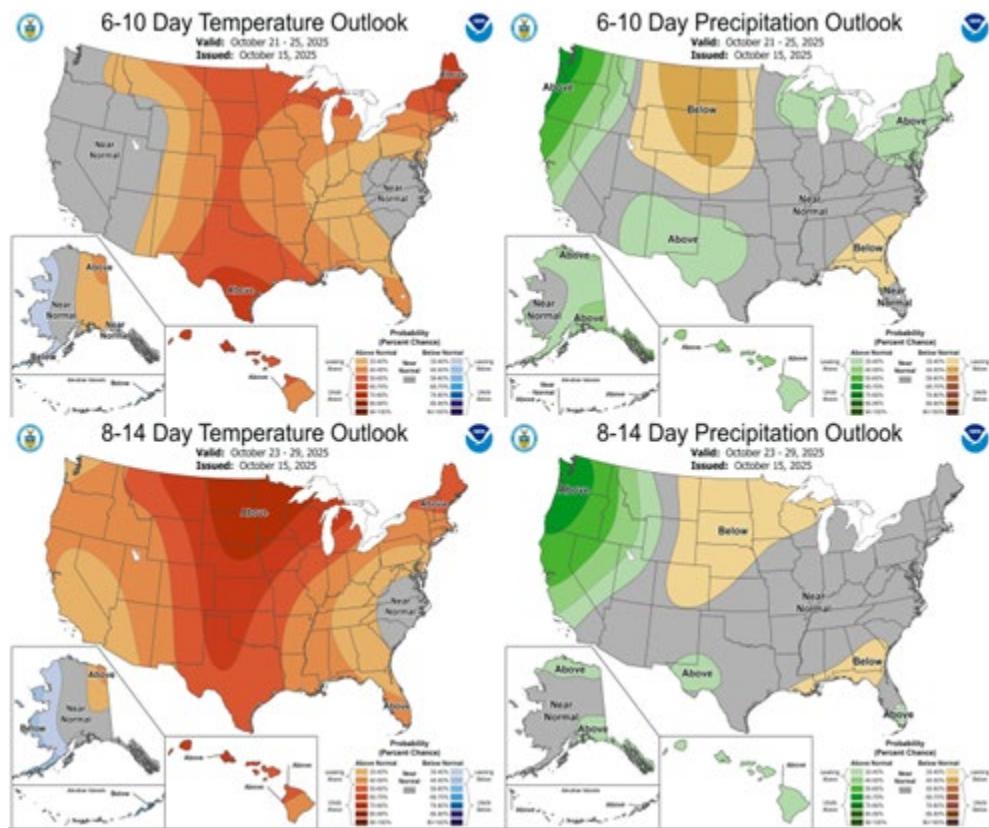
Weather Update

Rain early last week brought with it cool temperatures. Some scattered precipitation fell this week, which is a good first step to replenishing soil moisture. However, after the hot and dry season, we will need more precipitation to fully catch up. Rain is expected this weekend and early into next week. Temperatures will drop to the 50s during the day and hover right around 40F at night.



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

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The 6-10 day (Oct 21-25, top) and 8-14 day (Oct 23-29, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

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

Oct 21

[**2025 Michigan Agricultural Credit Conference**](#). 8 am. Molecular Plant Sciences Building, MSU Campus. The conference provides agricultural lenders, agribusinesses, policymakers, and other interested parties with updates on the economy and agricultural industries in Michigan. Hear from experts about agricultural policy, commodity outlooks, and much more.

Nov 5

[**Farm Labor and Michigan Agriculture Conference**](#). 9 am. MSU University Club. The conference seeks to investigate labor challenges that domestic agricultural employers and employees are facing, discuss potential solutions, and provide agricultural stakeholders with information and resources to help address these challenges. While there is no charge for attending, pre-registration is required.

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 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**

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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 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. 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

[Best practices for buying farm inputs](#)

Published on October 14, 2025

Lower your risk while maximizing your cash.

[Elevate your market prices with Grain Gains](#)

Published on October 13, 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 October 13, 2025

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

[2025 GLEXPO Pesticide Applicator Review and MDARD Testing offered in English and Spanish, December 11](#)

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Published on October 9, 2025

Register now for the Pesticide Core Review Training at GLEXPO 2025 on December 11. Participants can take the MDARD RUP test in the afternoon in English or Spanish and earn RUP credits. Don't miss this opportunity!

Why test soil in the fall?

Published on October 9, 2025

Compared to spring, fall is an ideal time for soil testing. Here's why.

Beyond resistance, why is horseweed a headache for managers?

Published on October 9, 2025

Michigan State University researchers study the factors that affect horseweed's remarkable ability to develop as a winter or summer annual weed.

Interseeding cover crops into corn and soybeans in Michigan: Lessons learned

Published on October 9, 2025

Michigan farmers have found creative ways to get cover crops in earlier. Here are some interseeding tips we have learned from trial (and some error).

Michigan Pesticide Applicator Core Review Sessions, RUP credits and MDARD testing for winter 2025 through spring 2026

Published on October 7, 2025

Essential information and frequently asked questions regarding the certification process, recertification options and the upcoming Michigan Pesticide Applicator Core Review Sessions with MDARD testing.

Changes to billing of nematode testing for Michigan soybean growers

Published on October 6, 2025

The Michigan Soybean Committee will discontinue the funding for nematode analysis at the end of 2025.

Precision Agriculture: Soil mapping and measuring with a data-driven approach

Published on October 3, 2025

Digital tools make it easier to visualize how soil properties vary across our fields. Recent research suggests that using management zones to highlight these spatial patterns can help us understand field variations and how to better manage them.

Apply now for SARE Partnership Grants and SARE Professional Development grants

Published on October 2, 2025

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

Overview of Lady Bird Deeds in Michigan

Published on October 2, 2025

Explore the use of a Lady Bird Deed for your estate.



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