

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update June 4, 2026

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
- Crop and Pest Update
- Irrigation and Water Use Update
- [Weather Update](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [MSU Extension Digest Briefs](#)

## Looking for a Few More Acres This Year? ~10-acre Field Near Niles, MI Available

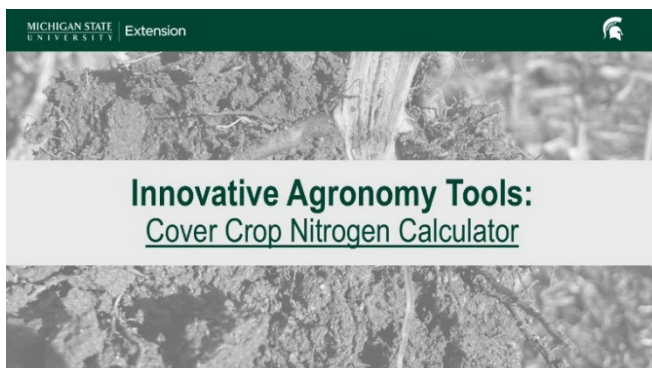
This field has a narrow entrance, so it requires small equipment. The field is located northeast of where Weiser Rd meets Portage Rd. It is an unirrigated, principally sandy loam soil. Reach out to me ([ritchi67@msu.edu](mailto:ritchi67@msu.edu) or 269-858-8739 for more details).

## Water-Up and Water In

Irrigation provides the opportunity to improve production and profits while reducing risks. Irrigators have the advantage of applying water to help with germination and emergence and incorporate herbicides and nutrients. When rainfall is limited, irrigation can prevent early-season drought. Read more at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water\\_up\\_and\\_irrigate\\_in](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water_up_and_irrigate_in)

## NEW Mini-video Series Highlighting Free Agronomy Tools Online



The [Innovative Agronomy Tools Mini-video Series](#) highlights several free tools and resources on equipment, farm business, on-farm research, pesticides, pests, soil health and fertility, and weather. Being able to innovate and adapt is important for farm success, but it can be overwhelming to make changes. A good tool or resource should make your life easier in some way. It might inform decision-making, simplify calculations or analyze and organize data in a practical way. It should be user-friendly, affordable and reliable or trustworthy. This series is not an exhaustive list but a starting point.

## Protecting the Farm: Medicaid and What Farmers Should Know -- Webinar June 17 at 12 pm

The MSU Extension Farm Business Management Team is hosting another lunch-and-learn [webinar](#) on Wednesday June 17, “Protecting the Farm: Medicaid & What Farmers Should Know”, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Attorney Libby Sanderson will join us to discuss how to transfer a farm while ensuring long term care coverage for the exiting generation. Planning ahead is critical, particularly for farm owners hoping to qualify for Medicaid funding; attend this webinar to learn about the major issues and basic strategies used for Medicaid planning within farm estate transfers. Libby practices law with [Sarah’s Law Firm](#), which is focused on estate planning, including farm transfers. Register at <https://pears.io/events/msuext/6997/> today! The webinar will be recorded and put up on the MSU Extension website afterwards for viewing anytime. For more information contact Chris Bardenhagen at [bardenh1@msu.edu](mailto:bardenh1@msu.edu) or 231-256-9888.

## Montcalm County Potato Field Day August 6 from 9:45 am to 1 pm

MSU Extension and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission would like to invite all producers, agribusinesses, and community members to join us for the Potato Field Day at the Montcalm Research Farm!



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN POTATOES  
MICHIGAN POTATO INDUSTRY COMMISSION

### GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY AT THE MONTCALM COUNTY FIELD DAY

HANDS-ON EDUCATION ON IRRIGATION AND STORAGE HANDLING. THEN ENJOY A COLD DRINK, DIG THROUGH POTATO VARIETIES, AND LEARN ONE-ON-ONE FROM PEERS AND RESEARCHERS DURING DIG’N’DRINKS (NEW!).

**MONTCALM RESEARCH CENTER**  
8 AM-1 PM (LUNCH INCLUDED)  
1:30-3:30 PM MPIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING (OPTIONAL, DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP HALL)  
AUGUST 6, 2026

# Food-Grade Grains Field Day June 17 at Kellogg Biological Station

**What:** Food-grade Grains Field Day: Highlighting the Steps from Field to Mug, Spoon & Jug

**When:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (lunch included at noon; optional field tour & discussion on canola from 1-3pm)

**Where:** MSU's Kellogg Biological Station, 9693 N 40th St., Hickory Corners, MI 49060

**Registration:** Required, no fee. Registration closes June 3 or up to 100 participants. [Register here.](#)

**Credits:** RUP & CCA credits are pending approval.

**Food:** is catered from Zingerman's Bakehouse and Field & Fire



## INTERESTED IN GROWING CANOLA?

Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Food Grade Grains Field Day, hear from the experts on what they have learned so far about growing winter canola in Michigan.



**KELLOGG BIOLOGICAL STATION**  
9693 N 40th St., Hickory Corners, MI



**JUNE 17, 2026**  
**12:00PM - 3:00PM**  
Lunch 12 - 1pm, field tour 1 - 3pm

## REGISTER BY JUNE 3

This link takes you to the Food Grade Grains field day registration. Select any of the sessions you would like to attend.

[forms.gle/5UvvyuUkeCiAicK48](https://forms.gle/5UvvyuUkeCiAicK48)



## Event Highlights

**Canola agronomy** ◀  
with Brain Caldbeck (Rubisco Seed) and Brook Wilke (MSU)

**Market update** ◀  
from ADM

**Farmer perspective** ◀  
Hear from canola farmers



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Contact Christine Charles with questions at [char122@msu.edu](mailto:char122@msu.edu)

## MSU Enviroweather is Now an App!

Access MSU Enviroweather from the comfort of your own phone with the new app. Check out this video to see how to use Enviroweather—both the app and the website: [Innovative Agronomy Tools: Enviroweather](#).

## Host a Refrigerated Trailer for Deer Management at No Cost to You

Your deer management activities can help Michiganders in need! All deer will be processed and donated to Michigan food banks. If you farm in Branch, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties and interested in hosting a trailer this summer **please contact Dave Laing at (269) 858-8167**.



**Farmers: Donate Venison with a Refrigerated Trailer\***

Courtesy of the Hunters Feeding Michigan program, farmers can reserve refrigerated trailers at no cost to donate harvested deer. All deer will be processed and donated to Michigan food banks, at no cost to you. Your deer management activities can help Michiganders in need!

**Free Trailer Reservation Includes:**

- ✓ Trailer drop-off and pickup at farm
- ✓ Processing of donated deer
- ✓ Venison distribution to local food banks



**If you farm in Branch, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph or Van Buren Counties and interested in hosting a trailer this summer please contact Dave Laing at (269) 858-8167**



**Monetary donations for deer processing can be mailed to:**  
330 Marshall St., Suite 103, Lansing, MI 48912  
Payable to: Food Bank Council of Michigan  
Memo: Hunters Feeding Michigan



\*Due to added disease testing costs, trailers will not be provided in counties of known Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine



## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – June 4, 2026 - 6

**Winter wheat** is mainly at Feekes 10.5.4 (kernel watery ripe) and moving into Feekes 11.1 (kernel milky ripe). Some **true armyworm (TAW)** larvae are in wheat fields. The threshold for TAW after heading is 2 or more larvae per square foot. If heads are being clipped, action is recommended. In most cases, TAW populations are below threshold. Stripe rust was confirmed in the Thumb over the past week.



Flowers are beginning to open on early-planted **potatoes**. Most potatoes are still at tuber initiation, while a few fields emerged only recently. **Potato leafhopper (PLH)** is a concern in both potatoes and **alfalfa** this time of year. PLH is an especially difficult pest because visible symptoms (referred to as hopperburn) don't appear until after it is too late to correct them.

**Alfalfa** and **forage** cutting and baling continued, with great progress made during the dry week we had. As fields start to regrow, keep an eye out for PLH and a reoccurrence of earlier pests from this season, such as alfalfa weevil. Some growers have reported TAW in alfalfa.



## Irrigation and Water Use

Early corn and soybean crops are currently using approximately 0.14 to 0.50 inches of water per week, depending on crop growth stage, weather conditions, and location. Potato water demand remains substantially higher, with early vegetative potatoes using approximately 0.7 inches of water per week and potatoes in the tuberization stage requiring up to 1.4 inches per week.

Rainfall is forecast across much of the region this week; however, amounts are expected to vary, and some locations may not receive enough precipitation to fully meet crop water needs. Producers are encouraged to monitor rainfall in their fields using rain gauges and to regularly assess soil moisture within the crop root zone. Irrigation decisions should be based on both recent rainfall and available soil moisture to ensure adequate water is available for crop growth while avoiding unnecessary irrigation applications.

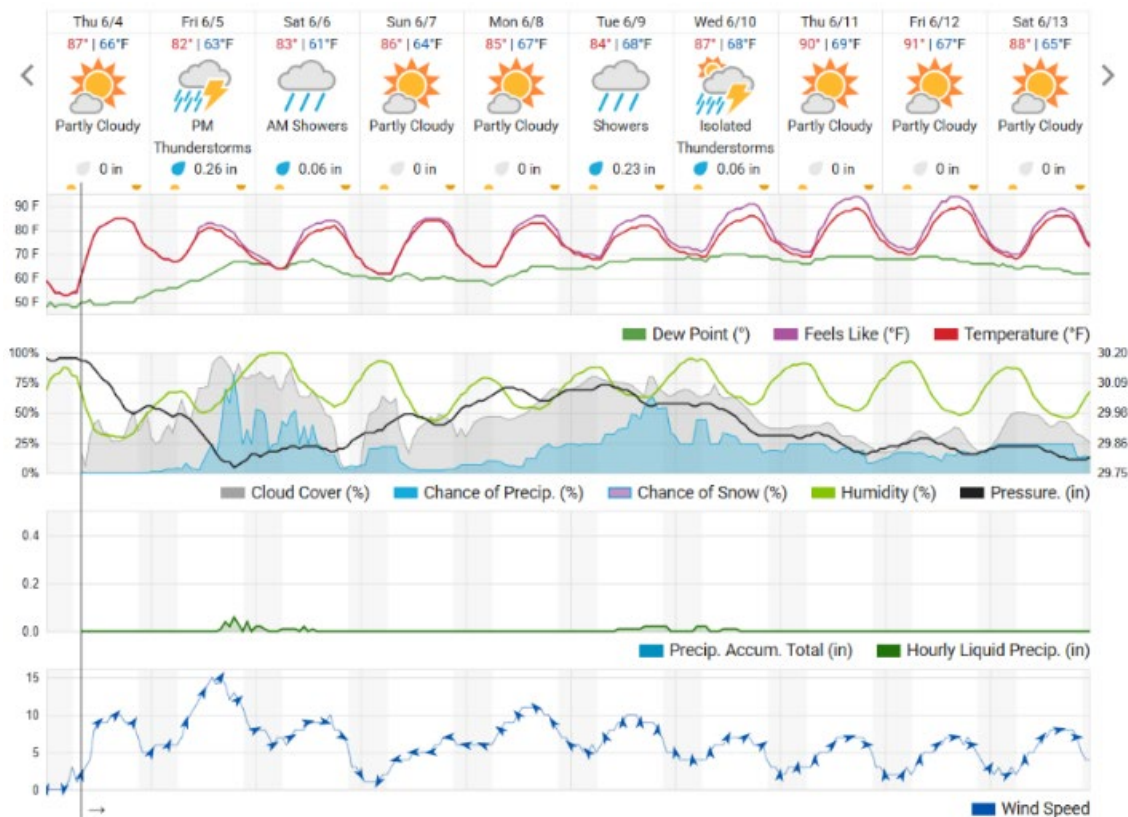
## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – June 4, 2026 - 7

This year, [weekly crop water use updates](#) will continue to be shared through the SW MI Crop Updates, and for added convenience, updates will also be sent through direct email and text messages. Sign up [here](#). If you would like to see an additional location included in the report, please contact Angie Gradiz at [gradizme@msu.edu](mailto:gradizme@msu.edu) or 531-249-4956.

Estimated weekly crop water use for field crops in Michigan (in/week)					
Week of June 1 - 7					
Crop	Growth stage	Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
		Reference ET	1.36	1.41	1.36
Corn	V2	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
	V4	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25
Soybeans	VC	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
	V1	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28
	V2	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.55
Potato	Early vegetation	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.69
	Tuberization	1.36	1.41	1.36	1.38

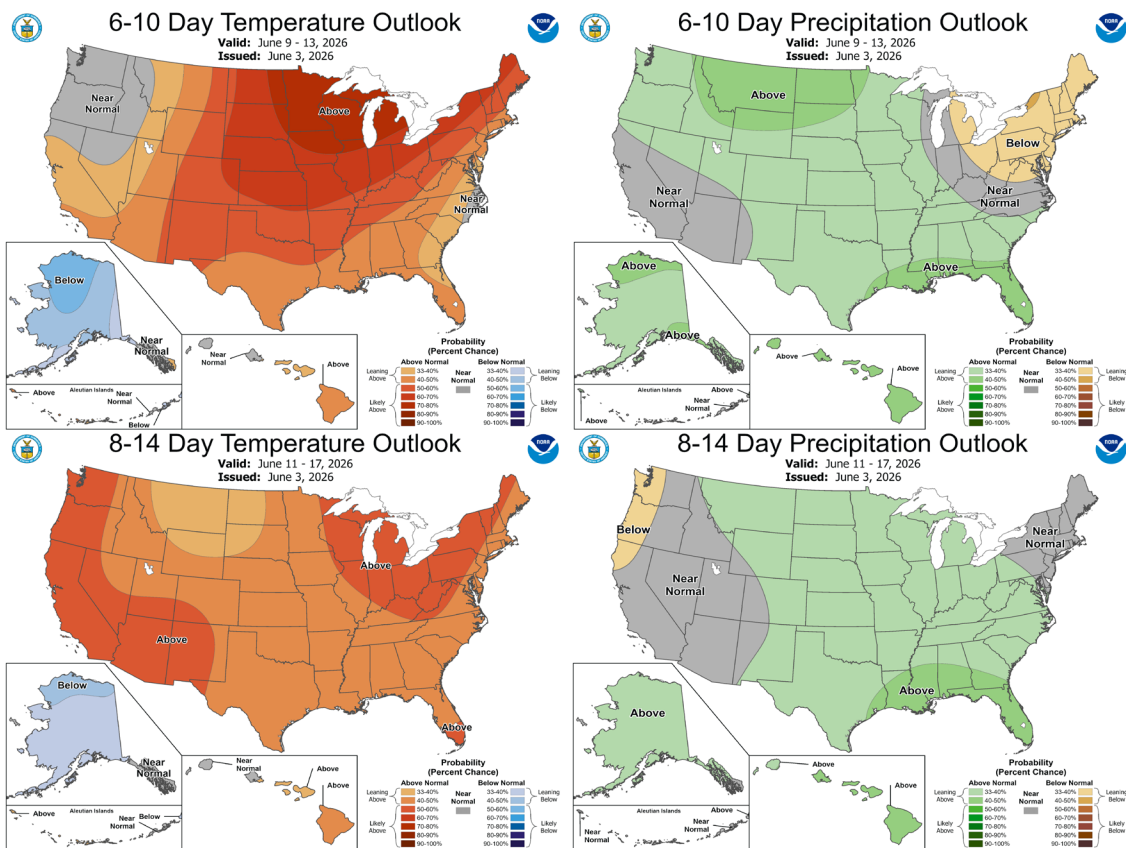
## Weather Update

No precipitation fell over the past week, and temperatures were warm but not too hot. Overall, it was a good week for field work, although some emerged crops are showing symptoms of drought stress. Rain is expected over the next 24 to 48 hours and again early next week. As the wind shifts, pests from farther south that travel on air currents (such as leafhoppers and aphids) may make their way up to Michigan.



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

# Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – June 4, 2026 - 8



The 6-10 day (Jun 9-13, top) and 8-14 day (Jun 11-17, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

## Calendar

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

- Jun 11**      **[Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Herbicide Resistance Update.](#)** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Jun 17**      **[Food Grade Grains Field Day.](#)** 9am-1pm. Kellogg Biological Station. This event will touch on relevant information for farmers, millers, maltsters, food manufacturers, brewers, distillers, CPGs, researchers, and those invested in improving food-grade grain production and processing in the Upper Midwest. Free, but **registration capped at 100 participants. Register by June 3. RUP/CCA**
- Jun 17**      **[Canola Crop Walk \(Part of Food Grade Grains Day\).](#)** 1-3pm. Kellogg Biological Station. As part of the Food Grade Grains Day, the Canola Crop Walk will feature canola agronomy, market update, and perspectives from canola farmers. Free, but **registration capped at 100 participants. Register by June 3.**
- Jun 17**      **[Protecting the Farm: Medicaid and What Farmers Should Know.](#)** 12-1pm. Online via Zoom. Attorney Libby Sanderson will join us to discuss how to transfer a farm while ensuring long-term care coverage for the exiting generation. Learn about the major issues and basic strategies used for Medicaid planning within farm estate transfers.
- Jun 18**      **[Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Hot Topics!](#)** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – June 4, 2026 - 9

- Jun 25**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Corn and Soybean Disease Mgmt.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Jul 9**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Irrigation Mgmt Considerations.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Jul 16**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Insect Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Jul 23**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Field Drainage and Water Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Jul 30**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Late Summer and Fall Cover Crops.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Aug 6**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Hot Topics!.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Aug 6**      **Montcalm County Potato Field Day.** 8:45 am-1pm. Montcalm Research Center. Hands-on education on irrigation and storage handling. Then enjoy a cold drink, dig through potato varieties, and learn one-on-one from peers and researchers during Dig’n’Drinks (new!). **RUP**
- Aug 13**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Nematode Management.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season. **1 RUP**
- Aug 20**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Establishing New Hayfields.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.
- Aug 27**      **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series – Irrigation Investment Economics.** 7-8 am. Online through Zoom. The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series is a weekly webinar for farmers, agribusiness professionals and anyone interested in agriculture to prepare for potential issues and navigate any concerns during the growing season.

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

### [Bulletins Live! Two Tracker Report available now](#)

**Published on June 2, 2026**

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.

### [Wheat scouting and management considerations](#)

**Published on June 2, 2026**

The 2026 Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series continues June 11 with guest speaker Dennis Pennington, a wheat systems specialist at Michigan State University.

### [Michigan's annual wheat field day returns June 16](#)

**Published on June 2, 2026**

The Michigan Wheat Program's annual summer field day will be Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the MSU Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center.

### [Presenting MI Farm Link: Connecting Farmers to Farmland recording now available for viewing online](#)

**Published on June 1, 2026**

Watch the recorded webinar to learn more about MIFarmLink's website and resources.

### [Water-up and water in: Irrigation can improve production and profits while reducing risk](#)

**Published on May 29, 2026**

Irrigators have the advantage of applying water to help with germination and emergence and incorporate herbicides and nutrients. When rainfall is limited, irrigation can prevent early-season drought.

### [Wheat Watchers Week of May 25, 2026](#)

**Published on May 28, 2026**

See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

### [Southwest Michigan field crops update – May 28, 2026](#)

**Published on May 28, 2026**

First cutting of hay and forages began in earnest. Wheat has mostly finished flowering and is entering early kernel fill.

### [Thinking about a new way to assess soybean stands?](#)

**Published on May 28, 2026**

New and more efficient ways to assess soybean stands would increase the likelihood of getting stand counts done when needed. How do high-tech options compare with the tried-and-true manual counts?

### [From Phosphorus to Partnerships: Solutions for healthier lakes](#)

**Published on May 28, 2026**

How farmers, municipalities and community members can help reduce harmful algal blooms.

### [Introducing weekly crop water use reports for irrigation scheduling](#)

**Published on May 28, 2026**

Weekly crop water use reports provide irrigators with data-driven recommendations on the amount of irrigation water needed to meet crop water demands and support efficient irrigation scheduling decisions.

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update – June 4, 2026 - 11

### [Weather - Enviroweather](#)

**Published on May 26, 2026**

Enviroweather helps users make pest, plant production and natural resource management decisions in Michigan by providing a sustainable weather-based information system.

### [Don't overspend on early corn emergence problems](#)

**Published on May 26, 2026**

Early corn decisions could cost or protect profit.

### [Research findings highlight new opportunities for saturated buffer placement](#)

**Published on May 26, 2026**

Field evidence suggests saturated buffers can be effective across a wider range of slopes and channel conditions than previously assumed.

### [The 2026 MSU Weed Tour is June 24](#)

**Published on May 22, 2026**

Join Michigan State University to view the latest in corn and soybean weed control research.

### [Southwest Michigan field crops update – May 21, 2026](#)

**Published on May 21, 2026**

Wheat is at Feekes 10.5 (flowering). Corn, soybeans and potatoes continued to emerge.

### [Regenerative agriculture in action: Grazing in cropping systems](#)

**Published on May 21, 2026**

While regenerative practices aim to improve soil, water, nutrient cycling and biodiversity—and strengthen farmer and community well being—they also come with challenges. Learn key insights on how to navigate and implement these different principles.

### [What if you have poor control of alfalfa weevil?](#)

**Published on May 21, 2026**

There are many reasons why alfalfa weevil control is poor this season.

### [Wheat Watchers Week of May 17, 2026](#)

**Published on May 21, 2026**

See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

### [MSU AgBioResearch, MSU Extension announce 2026 field days across Michigan](#)

**Published on May 20, 2026**

Statewide events will showcase MSU research and connect producers, landowners and industry professionals throughout the year.



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