

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates August 1, 2022

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.

### FINALIZED - MSU Extension On-Farm Research Field Day August 22



The third-annual MSU Extension On-Farm Research Field Day has been set for August 22<sup>nd</sup> in St. Joseph County. The field day will be held in the field (go figure) near 54060 Parkville Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093 ([GPS 42.012231, -85.547951](https://www.google.com/maps/place/54060+Parkville+Rd,+Three+Rivers,+MI+49093/@42.012231,-85.547951,15z)) on Aug. 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. including lunch. The event is open to all those involved and interested in the agricultural community in the region. The cost is FREE thanks to the generous support of the Michigan Soybean Committee. [Online registration](#) is required by Aug. 15 to secure your seat and lunch, but walk-ins will also be welcome (lunch not guaranteed).

The event begins at 8 a.m. with check-in and a light breakfast, and the first presentation will begin at 8:30 a.m. The morning will conclude with a taco bar lunch and a short presentation about Land Conservancy. Continuing education credits will be available—two RUP, four CCA and MAEAP Phase I.

### Agenda

- Welcome, Michigan Soybean Committee Update – Eric Anderson, Mark Seamon
- Reducing Soybean Harvest Losses – Mike Staton

- Irrigation Uniformity & USDA NRCS Irrigation Project Update – Younsuk Dong, Lyndon Kelley
- Weeds Are Bad, Crops Are Good – Erin Burns and Juliano Sulzback
- Break
- 2022 Disease Management Update and Questions – Marty Chilvers
- Managing Vole Damage in Soybean – Eric Anderson
- Cover Crop Experiences, Soil Health and Rainfall Simulator – Brook Wilke, Henry and Ricardo Miller
- Lunch & Land Conservancy Considerations – Henry Miller

**REGISTER NOW** to reserve your seat and lunch. If you are not able to register online, you can call the St. Joseph County Extension office at 269-467-5511 and the office staff will assist you.

## Farming Kalamazoo Loam Soils?

A team of researchers from Colorado State University has reached out to me to identify farmers in our region who specifically are farming on Kalamazoo loam soils or a similar soil series. They are working with other universities across the country to write a grant proposal for a project looking at soil organic matter (SOM) gradients. The overarching goal of the project is to assess how differences in SOM moderate crop responses to waterlogging and drought. They are combining national-scale crop yield data with observations of long-term field sites and a greenhouse study to identify how changes in SOM can improve crop yield resilience to water stress.

**What do they want from you?** They would need to collect information on various aspects of field management over the last 5-10 years and also pull soil samples from your field(s) to measure SOM.

**What do you get in return?** They would provide soil organic carbon and total nitrogen analyses from any preliminary sampling, and an additional suite of soil health indices if the project is funded.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact me ([eander32@msu.edu](mailto:eander32@msu.edu)) soon. The researchers will be submitting their proposal later this summer.

## Self-Paced Online Courses in Agriculture

MSU Extension is offering four different self-paced online courses on various topics in agriculture. They are offered via the Desire to Learn (D2L) platform. To register for these courses, you will need to create an account, sign in with your email/password, and complete the registration process. To watch a video tutorial, demonstrating an overview of the registration process, click on the following link: [Online Course Registration Video Tutorial](#). Step-by-step instructions are below.

1. STEP #1: Create your MSU Guest Account/Community

- ID and Password: [Create Your Account](#).
2. STEP #2: Login to the registration system with your Community ID and Password
  3. STEP #3: Follow the instructions to register for the course. Upon registration, you will receive a receipt and instructions for accessing the course.

### **Finding Financial Success in Uncertain Times**

This course is designed to help producers identify the uncertainties that exist within the farm business and how to achieve financial success through planning for and reacting to that uncertainty. Cost is free.

### **Soil Health School**

In this course, you will learn about the soil that holds us up and sustains us. This course will: Give you the basics of soil properties, help you solve the problems in your fields with soil health principles, introduce the importance of soil health to your community at large, and help you implement soil health testing in your fields. Cost is \$25.

### **Nutrient Smart Plus**

In this course, you will learn information regarding the relationship between nutrient management, environmental health, and economic sustainability for field crops growers. Each unit has a mix of content from videos to articles to websites. We hope you enjoy learning more about nutrient management and can use it to make changes for the better in your business and in the world. Cost is \$25.

### **Integrated Pest Management Academy**

This self-paced course features university experts and a full-service help center with technical support and support materials to learn how to easily navigate the course. Current topics include: An Introduction to IPM, IPM Resources at MSU, Plant Science, Soils 101, Identifying and Conserving Natural Enemies, Conserving Pollinators, Using Enviroweather to Assist IPM Program Decisions, Scouting in Greenhouses, Scouting in Perennial Crops, and Scouting in Vegetable Crops. Upon course completion, certified pesticide applicators in Michigan can request 6 credits (1A, 1B, Commercial Core or Private Core). Participants can also print a certificate of completion. Cost is \$10.

## **Emergency Relief Program Deadline Extended**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will indefinitely extend the deadline for producers to return the pre-filled applications for Phase One of the Emergency Relief Program (ERP). A new deadline will be announced after the last Phase One applications are mailed and provide at least 30 days following the mailing.

Continuing to build on the initial mailing of pre-filled applications in May, the Department will continue using existing information in USDA and crop insurance files to send additional pre-filled applications starting this week for potentially eligible [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) (NAP) participants. Once applications from eligible NAP producers are returned, these producers are expected to receive about \$105 million in ERP payments for eligible losses from 2020 and 2021 disasters.

While most crop insurance customers that may be eligible for ERP Phase One received the pre-filed applications in May, there are some who should expect to receive a form in August including:

- Producers who had an eligible loss in 2020 that had been recorded in the crop insurance records as a 2019 loss (e.g., prevented planting claims); and
- Producers with policies that required additional information before being able to calculate an indemnity for 2021 losses (producers with 2020 losses would have already received that application). Policies that required additional information include Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO), Stacked Income Protection Plan (STAX), Margin Protection Plan (MP) or Area Risk Protection Insurance (ARPI).

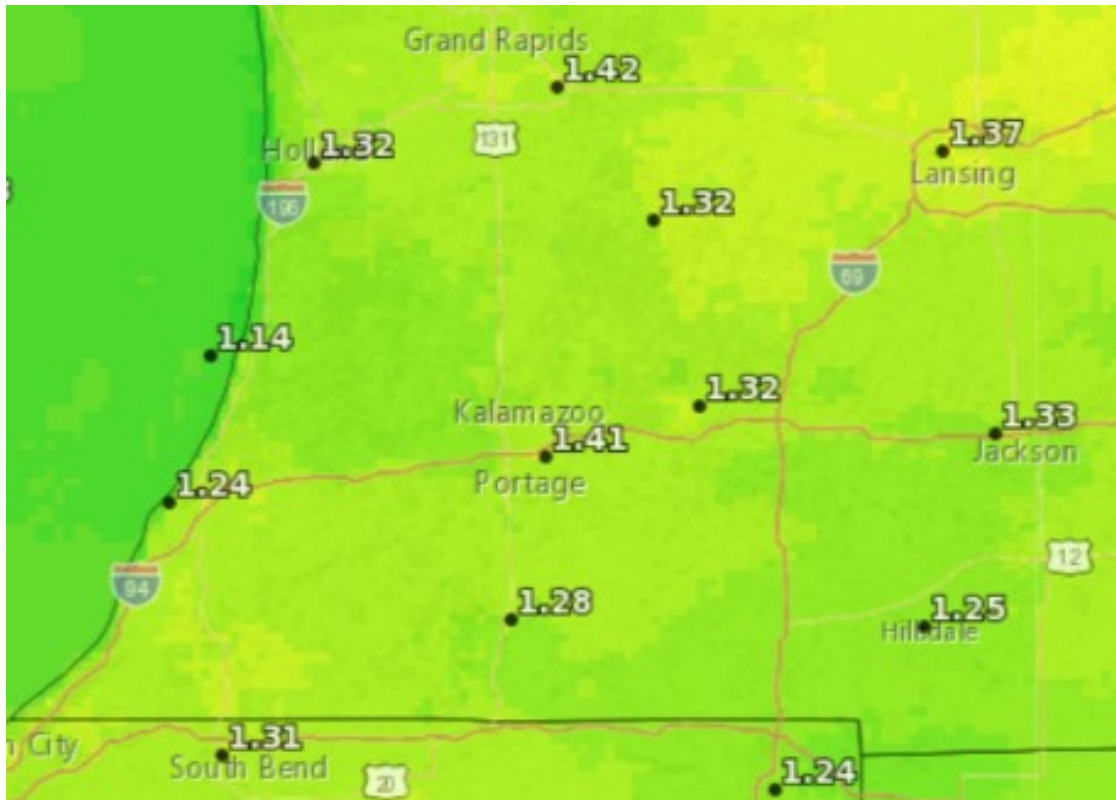
For more information on ERP eligibility, program provisions for socially disadvantaged or historically underserved producers as well as Frequently Asked Questions, NAP applicants can visit FSA's [Emergency Relief webpage](#) and program [fact sheet](#).

## Weather and Crop Update

### Weather

Temperatures the last week of July were 2-4 degrees above normal on average in the southern tier of counties and considerably warmer than that in eastern Michigan. We picked up 218 growing degree days (GDD, base 40 for alfalfa) or 148 GDD<sub>50</sub> (for corn and soybean) last week. The forecasted reference evapotranspiration (FRET) rate was 1.4-1.5 inches for the week ending August 5. The forecast eerily predicts the addition of the same number of GDD's—218 GDD<sub>40</sub> or 148 GDD<sub>50</sub>—in the coming week. There is high confidence in both the 6-10 day and 8-14 day outlooks for above-normal temperatures during the first half of August.



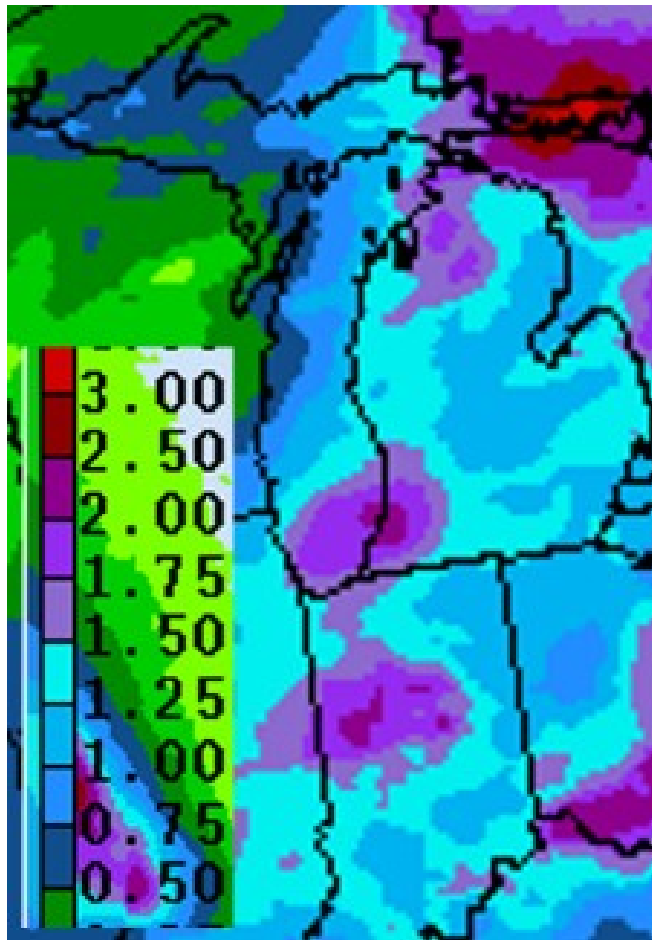


Weekly forecasted reference evapotranspiration rate for the week ending August 7.

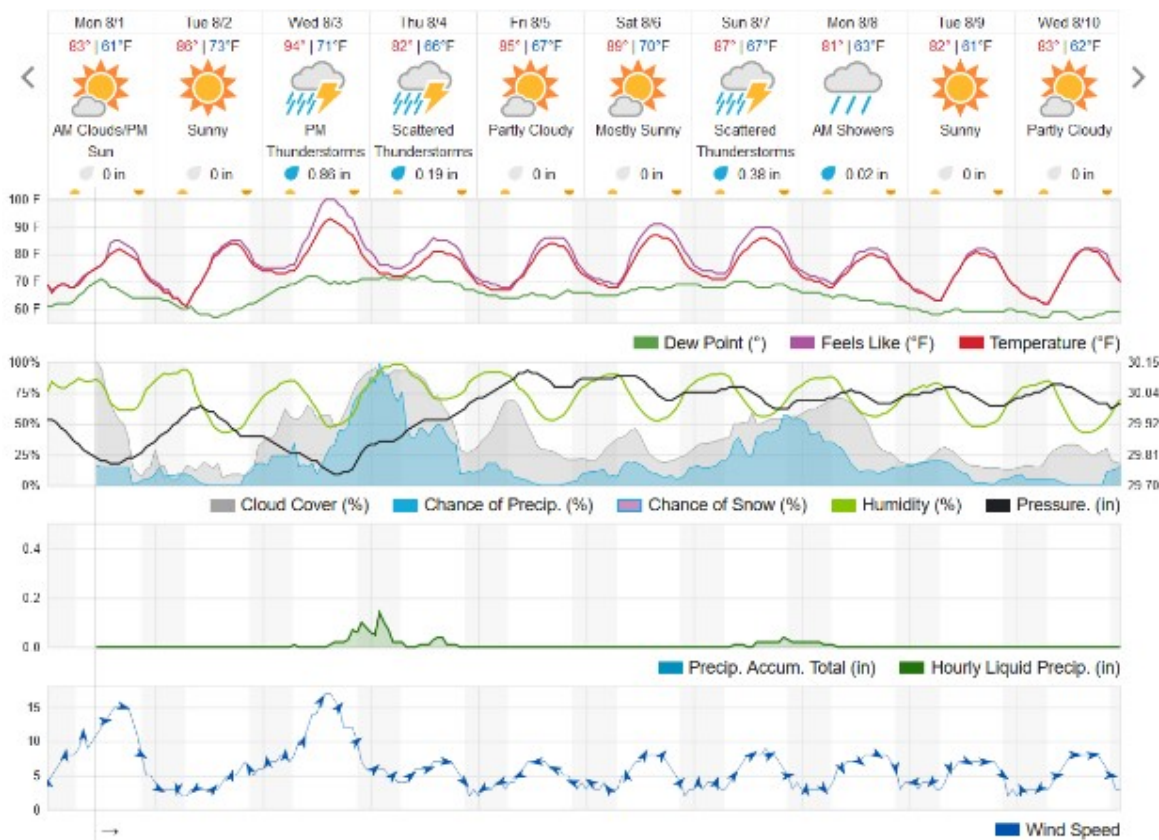
Precipitation was meager during the last week of July with less than a tenth of an inch for most of us. Most of the region was wetter than normal over the entire month of July though with rainfall totals of 0.5 inch to as much as 4 inches more than normal. The medium-range outlooks call for slightly below-average chances of precipitation during the first half of August.



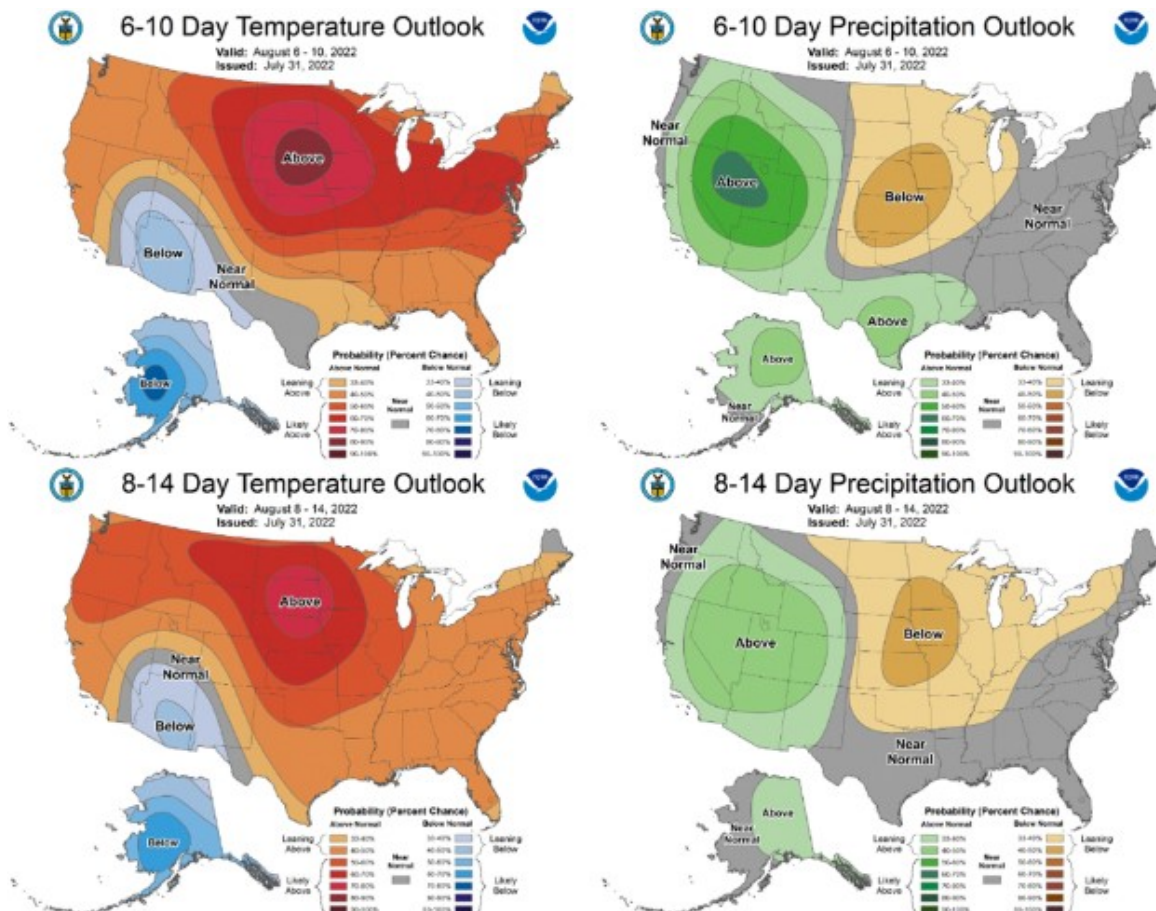
Precipitation totals from the past 7 days (left) and percent of normal for the past 30 days (right) as of August 1.



Precipitation forecast for August 1-8.



The 10-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to [wunderground.com](http://wunderground.com).



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

## Crops and Pests

**Corn** and **soybean** continue to progress and look very good throughout the region where timely rainfalls have been received. The earliest corn fields have reached the blister stage (R2) while later-planted fields are still pre-tassel. Soybeans are straddling full flower (R2, open flower at one of the two uppermost nodes) and beginning pod (R3, 3/16 inch or longer appear at one of the four uppermost nodes) in most fields although earlier-maturing fields have reached R3 already. Note: when staging reproductive-stage soybean, begin counting the nodes starting with the first mature trifoliate, i.e. the one just below the newest trifoliate with leaf edges no longer touching. Canopy closure has occurred in most fields which will keep the crop below the canopy humid and moist longer each morning. This will increase the risk of diseases but will also help to ensure that spider mites do not erupt with the hot weather on the way.

**Diseases.** Tar spot in corn has only been confirmed in Lenawee County in the southeast so far this year, and risk is medium to high in St. Joseph, Branch and Hillsdale counties according to the Tarspotter app. As heavy morning dews and foggy weather become more common in August, the risk for the disease to take off will increase. Soybean foliar diseases have begun to show in some fields with more dense canopies. Frogeye leaf spot, Septoria brown spot and possibly early signs of



SDS have been found thus far. Scouting prior to R3 will help to determine which fungicides are needed to control existing diseases and those that historically are a problem in a given field.

An interesting wheat disease call came in this week with a recently harvested field. The heads in large sections of the field were black which is a common symptom of sooty molds that are caused by a number of opportunistic saprophytic fungi. Though the disease does not usually infect kernels or impact yield, or produce toxins, this field experienced severe kernel degradation and reduced yield. If you suspect a disease in your wheat fields, we encourage you to collect samples of the affected plants and send them to the MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics lab—the Michigan Wheat Program covers the cost of the lab analysis.

**Irrigation.** Corn from V16 through beginning dent has a Kc of 1.2 and will require 1.5-1.7 inches this week. Soybeans at R2 (full bloom, Kc=1.1) will use 1.4-1.5 inches, and early fields that have reached R3 (beginning pod, Kc=1.2) will use 1.5-1.7 inches.

**Insects.** Western bean cutworm (WBC) moth trap counts held steady in some traps and dropped off in others last week. However, traps in central Michigan are reporting trap counts of 200-300, likely due to the storms that came through that region on July 23<sup>rd</sup> that largely missed our region. Trap counts in northern Indiana were hit-or-miss with some increasing over the previous week while others held steady or dropped off. Overall, counts throughout Indiana either remained low or decreased, so it appears that the peak flight time for WBC to our south was during the week of July 14-20 this year while peak flight in southern Michigan was over a wider range between July 6-19. No fall armyworm moths were captured last week, but heading into August is when we would expect to see an increase in activity.

Moth captures for WBC in south-central Michigan.

	<b>5-Jul</b>	<b>12-Jul</b>	<b>19-Jul</b>	<b>26-Jul</b>
WBC1	1	12	7	4
WBC2	1	25	16	8
WBC3	0	6	4	7
WBC4	2	33	32	5
WBC5	10	109	114	57
WBC6	2	23	24	28

**Insect identification and management** was the topic of last week's [MSU Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast](#) with field crop entomologist Chris DiFonzo. There are no major insect concerns currently, so she took the opportunity to discuss how to identify several species and some of the main scouting and management highlights of each. Identifying insects is important for many reasons,



including being able to select an effective insecticide but also knowing which insects are problematic along with their treatment thresholds as well as which insects are beneficial.

Western bean cutworm scouting is particularly important with fields that are at different growth stages than those in the vicinity as females will target pre-tassel fields to lay eggs. Your later-planted field may end up being a “trap crop” for this species. Moth trap counts are not an indicator of intensity of infestation potential in corn as they are with dry beans, but they help to know when peak flight times occur. Once the female moths lay eggs (generally on the ear leaf or 1-2 leaves higher), the eggs will change color from white to brown to dark purple/black as the larvae develop. The management threshold is 5% of plants with an egg mass, and this number is cumulative. In other words, if you scout 100 plants in a field this week and find 3 egg masses, then find another 3 egg masses out of 100 plants next week, you have reached the threshold for that field. The eggs you saw last week will have hatched in 5-7 days, so scouting every 7 days will ensure that you are not double-counting. DiFonzo stresses that when tank mixing an insecticide with a fungicide, time the application that makes the most sense for the fungicide as insecticides are typically cheaper and the timing a bit more forgiving.

DiFonzo also discussed potato leafhopper in alfalfa, corn rootworm, grasshoppers, various stink bugs, and soybean aphids while fielding questions from the audience. If you were not able to join the session, the recordings will be closed-captioned and available at the [Field Crops Virtual Breakfast](#) webpage and the MSU Extension Field Crops Team social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Spotify](#), [YouTube](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

**Aug 3**      **[St. Joseph/Branch Counties MAEAP Summer Farm Field Day](#)**. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. R& D Equipment, 12508 Broadway Rd Three Rivers.

**Aug 4**      **[Virtual Breakfast – Alfalfa Planting Recommendations with Kim Cassida](#)**. 7-8am. This hour-long broadcast from the MSU Extension Field Crops Team will run throughout the cropping season and feature a brief weather forecast and a presentation from a MSU specialist or educator on a timely topic. One RUP and one CCA credit will be available with each session. Cost is free. Register to receive the link that will be used throughout the season.

**Aug 11**      **[Virtual Breakfast – Combat Excess Water in a Changing Climate with Ehsan Ghane](#)**. 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.

**Aug 18**      **[Virtual Breakfast – Carbon Market Update with Matthew Gammans](#)**. 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.

**Aug 22**      **[MSU Extension On-Farm Research Field Day](#)**. 8:30am-1:00pm. Near 54060 Parkville Rd, Three Rivers, MI 49093 ([GPS 42.012231, -85.547951](#)) Credits available: 2 RUP, 4 CCA and MAEAP Phase I. Register by Aug. 15 to

secure your seat and lunch, but walk-ins will also be welcome (lunch not guaranteed).

**Aug 25** [Virtual Breakfast – Hot Topic Q&A session](#). 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.

**Aug 25** [2022 MSU Tile Drainage Field Day](#). 9am-3:30pm. 13000 Bird lake Rd Camden, MI. Field demonstrations and speakers addressing demo of a water-gate valve, installation of a water control structure, nutrient placement, cover crops, saturated buffers, and more. Cost is free, lunch is provided, register online.

**Aug 26** [Prairie Strips and Soil Health Field Day](#). 1-3PM. Edward Lowe Foundation, 58220 Decatur Rd, Cassopolis, MI. Learn about the benefits of prairie strips on soil health within agricultural settings. The event is free and open to the whole family and will include a soil pit demonstration, optional wagon tour of prairie strips and refreshments. For more information about this event, [click here](#).

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

### SHOULD DAIRIES UTILIZE GRASSES TO INCREASE FORAGE NDF DIGESTIBILITY?

PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 1, 2022

**Blending grasses in alfalfa fields can increase forage NDF digestibility, but is it a profitable decision?**

### ONLINE FARM STRESS TRAINING IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PUBLISHED ON JULY 28, 2022

**Online course to better equip farmers, their families, and the agricultural community with tools and resources to help in stressful times**

### MYCOTOXINS IN MICHIGAN SILAGE CORN: STATUS AND LESSONS LEARNED

PUBLISHED ON JULY 28, 2022

**Silage corn remains unidentified for mycotoxin issues. A three-year MSU project identified occurrence of mycotoxins in silage corn along with contributing factors and strategies to minimize these issues.**

### ATTEND THE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CROP PRODUCTION AND IRRIGATION RESEARCH FIELD DAY

PUBLISHED ON JULY 27, 2022

**Research efforts and current recommendations in irrigated corn and soybean production and pest management will be discussed at a field day in St. Joseph County on Aug. 22, 2022.**

### MAEAP FIELD DAY IN ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ON AUG. 3, 2022

PUBLISHED ON JULY 27, 2022

**The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program in Branch and St. Joseph counties is hosting a field day focused on irrigation and water stewardship.**

### GRAIN LABEL CLAIMS

PUBLISHED ON JULY 15, 2022

**Whole grains must include the entire grain seed - bran, germ, and endosperm. When whole grains are cracked, crushed, rolled, extruded, and/or cooked, they still contain naturally occurring nutrients found in the original intact grain.**

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