

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Update May 2, 2024

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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Last Chance(s) for In-Person Pesticide Applicator Testing

There will be testing on Monday, May 13 at Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville and on Wednesday, May 15 at the MSU Extension Hillsdale County Office in Hillsdale. [Click here](#) for more information and to register for testing.

Wheat Virus Survey

Viruses of wheat can impact production and yield. MSU graduate student Keeley Satterfield of the Field Crops Pathology Program in partnership with the Michigan Wheat Program will be conducting a wheat virus survey to understand the prevalence of viruses across Michigan's wheat producing areas. Thank you to those of you who have reached out to her already. **She is still in need of one (1) field in Branch County, one (1) in Cass County, and two (2) in St. Joseph County.** If you have wheat fields in any of those counties and are interested in having your field or fields sampled, please click on the link below and complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/5juFfUbdUqMyagvQ9>

Summer Deer Program: Breaking News - Ken Kesson, DNR Biologist

The Wildlife Division and the [Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger](#) program have come together to develop a new deer donation program. From May through the end of August, participating farmers in Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph counties can sign up to host a refrigerator trailer for their farms for a one-week period. Farmers and designated shooters harvest, per normal, and then put them in the refrigerator trailer field dressed. A DNR representative will clean out the trailer and deliver the deer to a processor weekly. DNR will pay for all processing and the meat will then be packaged and returned to a local food bank.

This program has great potential to help Deer Damage Clients that need an avenue for storage and a mechanism to use problem animals and also affords them an opportunity contribute to something greater in providing much needed food resources for the local community. The sign-up list will fill up quickly so the sooner farmers reach out and sign up for a week the better. See the [flyer](#) for more information, including Ken's contact information if you have further questions.

MICHIGAN Sportsmen Against Hunger

SHARE YOUR HARVEST

- Harvest**
Full all your summer shooting permits by donating your harvested deer towards the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program.
- Refrigerated Trailer**
Partner with us by requesting a refrigerated trailer to be delivered to your farm at no cost. The trailer will be used to store harvested deer until processing.
- Positive Impact**
All donated deer are processed at no cost and donated to local food banks. Your contribution will help fight hunger in Michigan.

1 DEER = 160 SERVINGS

RESERVE TODAY!

Ken Kesson - DNR Biologist
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Field Crops Update

Soybean and corn planting halted early this week but picked up yesterday and is expected to continue until rain hits. Close to 10% of soybeans have been planted, and corn is about half that. By and large, fields have been too wet for cultivation and planting. With only short windows to plant this week, MSU Extension soybean specialist Mike Staton warns not to “mud in” the crops. Make sure that the soil is sufficiently dry before planting. Compacting the soil will not help the crop. He encourages maximizing planting capacity. In some cases, this means tending multiple pieces of equipment (precision planter, box drills, etc.) if you can.



Most **winter wheat** is at Feekes 8, meaning the last leaf, or flag leaf, is emerging but has not yet formed the ligule, although they are well on their way to Feekes 9, and some have already reached Feekes 9, which is when a ligule is visible on the flag leaf (see photo). Feekes 8-9 are important management stages for fungicide applications. The flag leaf is a huge photosynthetic contributor to grain fill, so diseases or insects that affect it are particularly harmful.

Potato planting halted over the weekend and most of the week, only picking up again yesterday. A good day or two is all that is needed to finish planting; however, with significant precipitation in the forecast, opportunities to plant over the next week may be limited.

Crops and Pests



Alfalfa weevil is feeding in Southwest Michigan. With the possibility for an early cutting low in most fields, some insecticide applications have been going out. Scout your fields for larvae and signs of feeding. Both lighter and more severe feeding are shown in this picture by Lyndon Kelley, MSU Extension. Early damage appears as small holes in the upper unfolding leaves. Severe damage has a lacy appearance in the upper leaves. MSU insect specialist Chris DiFonzo encourages picking areas and rating how many stems have feeding. It is likely that your eyes will be drawn to more severe damage, so make sure to choose representative spots in the field. At 12-16", an insecticide should be applied if there are 2 or more larvae per stem. At 16" or taller, the threshold for treatment is 4 alfalfa weevil larvae per stem, and the recommended control is early cutting in order to preserve beneficial biological controls in the canopy. As plant height increases, the economic impact of alfalfa weevil decreases, so take plant height into account in addition to larvae populations when deciding to treat or not.

Black Cutworm moths are present in the state. Bucket traps in Berrien (near Berrien Springs) and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

Date	Berrien	Centreville	Sturgis
4/8	0	2	1
4/15	0	12	4
4/22	0	16	3
4/29	4	10	3
Total	4	40	11

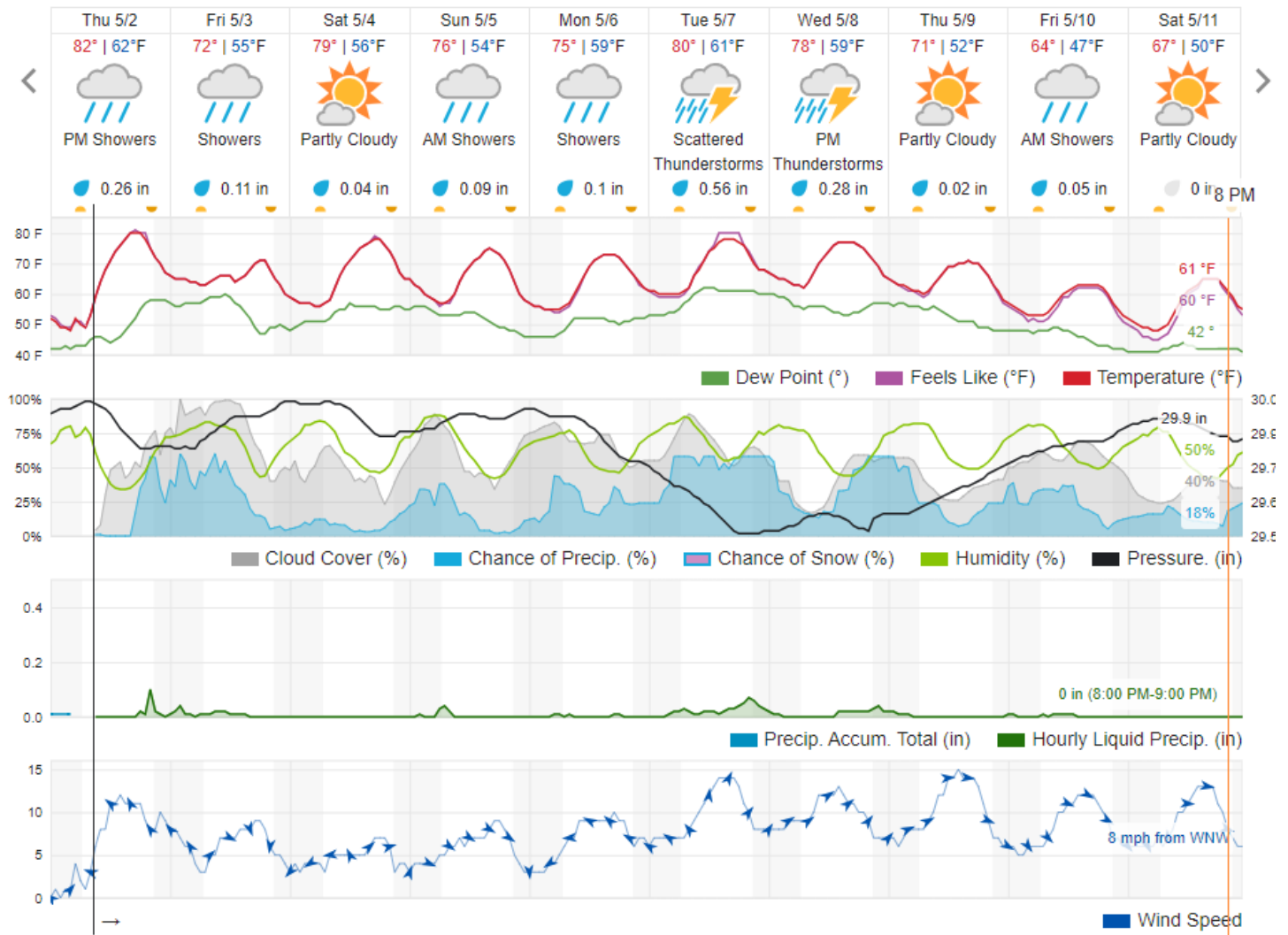
True Armyworm moths are present in the state with significant flights in Sturgis. Bucket traps in Berrien (near Berrien Springs) and St. Joseph Counties have caught the following:

Date	Berrien	Centreville	Sturgis
4/8	0	0	0
4/15	1	0	0
4/22	0	0	14
4/29	0	0	20
Total	1	0	34

Weather Update

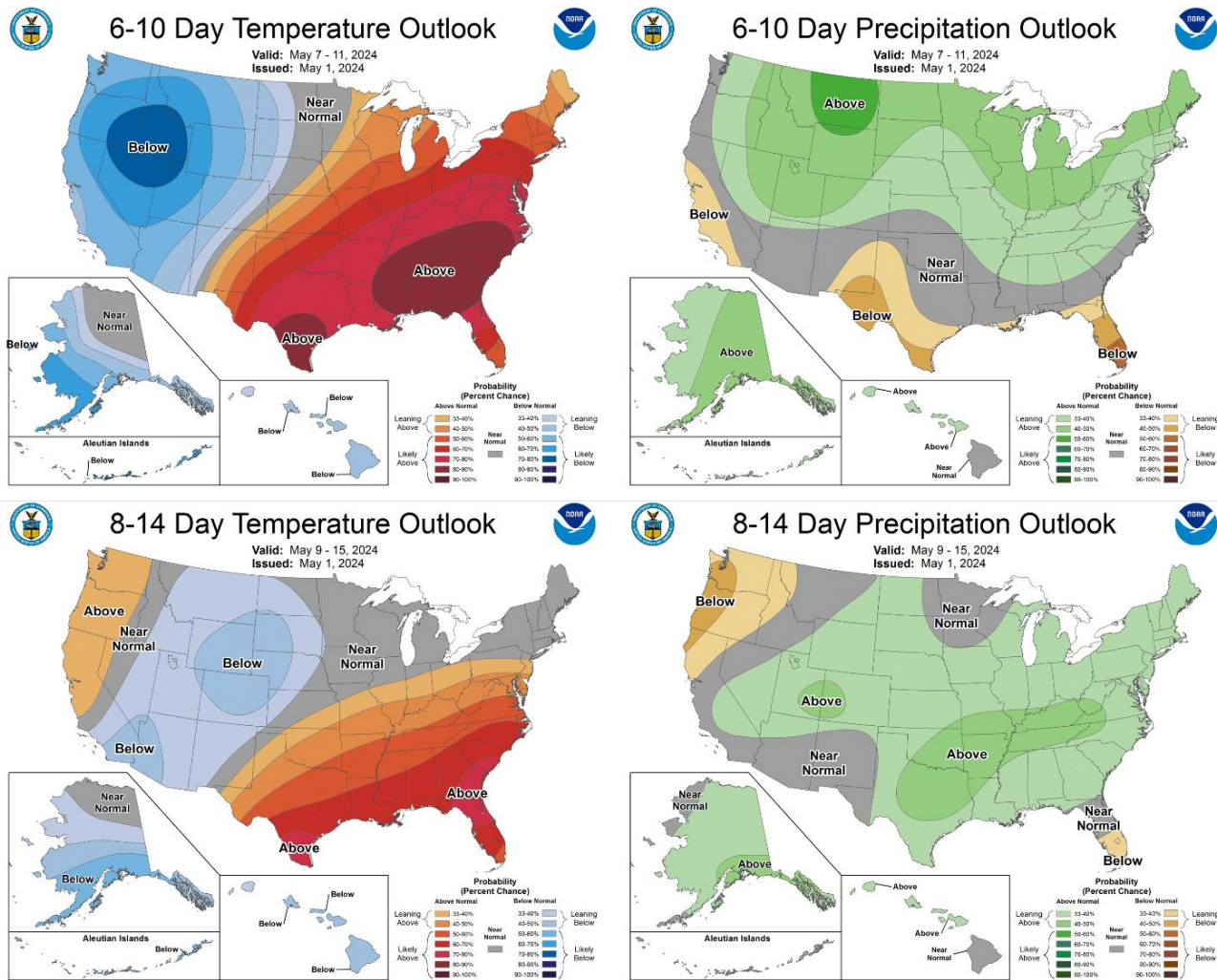
This week is expected to be wetter and warmer than normal. Two big weather systems will be passing through Michigan this week, one starting tonight into tomorrow, and the other expected to hit late Monday and run into early Wednesday. Both will bring cloudiness and significant (0.25" - 0.5" or more) precipitation. Southern Michigan will possibly receive more rainfall than the rest of the state. Temperatures will continue to be about 5 - 8°F above normal.

For a weekly weather outlook from MSU's Jeff Andresen, join the free [Virtual Breakfast](#) meeting every Thursday through September 19. The weather update starts around 7:15 am (after the weekly topic).



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

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The 6-10 day (April 23-27, top) and 8-10 day (April 25-May 1, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Calendar

(Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.)

- May 2** **St. Joseph County Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** 2:00 pm. Households (no businesses) can dispose of electronics, hazardous waste, paint/stain, paper, and tires to the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds. Be aware that some items require fees. No explosives, grills, glass, plastics, Styrofoam, waste oil, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners will be accepted. Contact finance@stjosephcountymi.org for more information.
- May 9** **Virtual Breakfast: Managing Corn and N After Waterlogging.** 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 13** **In-Person Pesticide Review and Testing.** 8:30am. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Glen Oaks Community College. MDARD will administer testing for pesticide application certification following a mandatory four-hour review (cost for review is \$15). Lunch will be provided.
- May 16** **Virtual Breakfast: Post Weed Control Management.** 7:00am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.

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- May 18** [Kalamazoo Garden Festival](#). 9:00 am. Kalamazoo Expo Center. Come join the Southwest Michigan Master Gardeners at the Kalamazoo Garden Festival! This event will feature vendors, educational workshops and much more. The event is free for participants to attend but registration by May 15 is required.
- May 23** [Virtual Breakfast: Dry Bean Planting Options](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- May 30** [Virtual Breakfast: Wheat Fungicide Recommendations](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 6** [Virtual Breakfast: Sprayer Setup](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 13** [Virtual Breakfast: Irrigation](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 19** [Food-Grade Grains Field Day](#). 9:00 am. Kellogg Biological Station. The Food-Grade Grains Field Day will highlight the steps to growing food-grade grains from the field to mug, spoon, and jug! At each stop presenters and attendees will discuss the agronomic, processing, and end user quality needs and considerations for the specific grain. Lunch is included.
- June 20** [Virtual Breakfast: Wild Weather for Hay](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 27** [Virtual Breakfast: Insect Update Beneficials and Corn Borer](#). 7:00 am. The weekly online program provides timely, relevant information to keep field crop farmers and consultants up to date with rapidly changing crop conditions, pests, diseases and environmental conditions during the growing season. Register once for entire series online.
- June 27** [Rebel Pastures Pasture Walk](#). 6:00 pm. Rebel Pastures is a first generation, regenerative farm in Rockford, MI that focuses on animal and soil health. Realizing farming is one big experiment, they've used several methods to raise animals and grow pasture and are looking forward to sharing them at this pasture walk.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

PUBLISHED ON MAY 02, 2024

- [SAVE THE DATE FOR A FOOD-GRADE GRAINS FIELD DAY JUNE 19](#) - Highlighting the steps from the field to mug, spoon and jug!
- [WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF APRIL 29, 2024](#) - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.
- [PRICE CHECKING YOUR GRAIN MARKET STRATEGIES](#) - Have you reviewed your market strategies and are they keeping up with changes in the market environment?

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 29, 2024

- [MICHIGAN AGRABILITY TO HOST REGIONAL WORKSHOP](#) - Michigan AgrAbility and the National AgrAbility Program are teaming up to offer an assistive technology professional training in Ann Arbor July 16-18, 2024.

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PUBLISHED ON APRIL 26, 2024

- [EQUIPPING AND OPERATING SPRAYERS TO CONTROL INSECTS AND DISEASES IN SOYBEANS](#) - Controlling insects and diseases in soybeans can be challenging because they commonly start in lower, hard-to-reach parts of the canopy. This article will help you maximize insect and disease control in soybeans by equipping and operating your sprayer properly.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 25, 2024

- [WHEAT WATCHERS WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2024](#) - See how the wheat crop is progressing across the state this week.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 23, 2024

- [MSU RELEASES NEW GRAIN MARKETING DECISION TOOL](#) - Designed for both first time and seasoned marketers, the MSU Grain Marketing Evaluation Tool uses current information to help analyze market conditions.
- [PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION IN-PERSON REVIEW AND CORE TESTING IN CENTREVILLE ON MAY 13](#) - A mandatory core review will precede the pesticide applicator certification testing. Private and commercial core and the fumigation and aerial standard tests will be available.
- [AGR MAKES RECORD CONTRIBUTION TO AGRABILITY](#) - MSU's Alpha Gamma Rho Tau Chapter's record-breaking \$34,000 donation to Michigan AgrAbility represented the proceeds of their annual Beef Preview Show, marking the fraternity's continued commitment to supporting farmers with disabilities.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 22, 2024

- [MSU GRAIN MARKETING EVALUATION TOOL](#) - The MSU Grain Marketing Evaluation Tool is designed to aid farm managers in understanding the fundamental principles involved in marketing grain. Designed for both first time and seasoned marketers, the evaluation tool uses current information to help analyze market conditions.
- [COVER CROP TERMINATION](#) - Developing a termination strategy for cover crops is an essential part of the planning process to ensure there is no interference with the planting or management of the subsequent cash crop.
- [NEW AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROGRAM FUNDS FOUR PROJECTS](#) - Each project will be supported at roughly \$1.25 million over three years.

PUBLISHED ON APRIL 18, 2024

- [TERMINATING CEREAL RYE TO PREVENT YIELD LOSS IN CORN AND SOYBEANS](#) - Clearing up the confusion about when to terminate cereal rye in corn and soybean.

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