

MICHIGAN STATE
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EXTENSION



News and Notes

Clinton County MSU Extension and Conservation District

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In This Issue...

New dairy educator
Interim DC named at NRCS office
Manure Field Day 2008
Meeting on New Water Use Legislation
2008 Farm Bill – conservation title
Conservation Reserve Program – Critical Feed Usage
CRP / SAFE ---- State Acres for wildlife Enhancement
Upper Maple River Watershed Planning Project
Receive Emergency Farm Loans
Watch for Soybean Aphids
Slurry seed cover crops
Crop Advisory Team Alert
Subscribe to The Scoop
Subscribe to News & Notes

Events & Happenings

CD Board Meeting – July 22, 8:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, St. Johns.

CD Board Meeting – August 26, 8:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, St. Johns.

Sixth annual MSU Crop Diagnostic School - July 18, at MSU.

Limited enrollment, pre-registration is required on line at www.msuweeds.com \$125.00 or questions: email Sandie Litchfield at litchfi9@msu.edu or 517-355-0271 ex. 1104

Manure Field Day – August 19, 1 – 4 p.m., intersection of Marshall and McNeil Roads

Meetings on New Water Use Legislation – 4 Michigan Locations, August 13, 18, 21 or 22. See article for details

Soybean Hotline

Toll-Free

888-201-9301

New dairy educator joins Clinton MSU Extension staff

After a nationwide search, Faith Cullens has joined the Clinton MSU Extension staff as a dairy educator, providing educational programming to farmers in Clinton, Gratiot and Shiawassee counties. Cullens replaces Dann Bolinger, who resigned to accept a position in private industry.

A Michigan native, Cullens has spent the past three years serving dairy farmers in Wisconsin for Cargill Animal Nutrition. She brings strong dairy nutrition experience to her new Extension assignment.

“I am excited to be back in Michigan, particularly mid-Michigan, where the dairy industry has a statewide reputation for excellence,” says Cullens. “I look forward to meeting dairy farmers face-to-face over the next several weeks.”

Cullens is in the process of conducting a series of on-farm visits and establishing a local advisory committee.

Cullens received her bachelor's degree in zoology and animal science from MSU and her master's degree in Animal Science, with a dairy production emphasis, from the University of Florida.

She can be reached at cullensf@msu.edu <<mailto:cullensf@msu.edu>> or by calling 989-224-5249.

Interim DC named at NRCS Office

Jason Kimbrough, District Conservationist has accepted a DC position for the Traverse City USDA Service Center, effective June 23rd. We will miss Jason and wish him success in his new position. Matt Soehnel, NRCS Soil Conservationist, will be serving as acting DC until a permanent St. Johns DC is selected. In the meantime, "business as usual" will continue here at the field office. Jean Gagliardo, Soil Conservationist and Joe Woodruff, CTAI Soil Conservationist continues to provide conservation assistance to the residents of Clinton County.

We look forward to working with you.

Manure Field Day 2008

August 19, 1 – 4 p.m.

Intersection of Marshall Road. and McNeil Road. in Northern Clinton County.

Looking for alternative forms of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium? Looking for ways to expand your land base? In a world of ever-changing commodity prices, input costs and rising feed cost, we see a silver-lining – manure! Manure has a tremendous nutrient value and it is produced locally. Managing manure can be a little tricky, but the benefits are great.

Soil testing, manure testing, application rate, method and timing are all key to recognizing the most value from a manure application. This year's Manure Field Day will feature speakers that address the value of manure as well as the best ways to manage manure to keep the nutrients in the rootzone and out of the water. We will feature transport and application methods, including variable rate application. We will also feature several manure types.

Join us for field demonstrations and great tips on retaining manure nutrients for crop production. Manure Field Day 2008 is August 19, from 1 – 4 p.m. at the intersection of Marshall and McNeil Roads in northern Clinton County.

This field day is the beginning of a two year project. In 2009 we will revisit this field to see what nutrients are available for the crop and how decisions made in the fall impacted fertility.

This program is a part of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and is co-sponsored by MSU Extension, Dennings and Associates, Thelen Farms, and John & Donna Ballinger.

Informational Meeting on New Water Use Legislation

MSU Extension will host informational meetings on the new water use legislation in four locations in Michigan. This meeting is to help expand understanding of the new water use legislation. Enrolled Senate Bills 212, 723, 727, 858, 859 and 860 and enrolled House Bills 4343, 5065, 5066 5067, 5069 and 5073 signed by Governor Granholm on July 9, 2008.

Lyndon Kelley, Extension Educator on irrigation will review the background. Michigan DEQ will discuss the new legislation including who needs to register and who will need to get permits. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool will be presented by Steve Miller, MSU Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering.

Choose from one of the following locations:

August 13, 9 a.m. to noon
104 East Main Street
Fremont Area Library
Fremont MI

August 18, 9 a.m. to noon
Tuscola ISD/Technology Center
1401 Cleaver Road
Caro, MI

Kalamazoo Valley Community College,
Room 8580
Kalamazoo, MI

August 22, 9 a.m. – noon
MSU Extension Office
705 N. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI

For more information contact Lyndon Kelly at 269-467-5511 or Steve Miller at 517-353-4456.

2008 Farm Bill – conservation title

The Conservation Title of the 2008 Farm bill is now law. Details of the how the new Farm Bill will affect NRCS Programs will be available soon. This Farm Bill includes a strong Conservation Title. It reauthorizes all the agency's main conservation programs. Watch the [NRCS website](#) for updated items on these programs.

Michigan NRCS will likely have an EQIP sign-up by the end of September. More information about this possible EQIP sign-up should be coming out shortly. If you are interested in participating in this program please contact the NRCS staff here in St. Johns. 989-224-3720 ext.3 We can work with you to develop a Conservation Plan that addresses the resource concerns you may have at your operation, and prepares your operation for program participation when funds become available.

Conservation Reserve Program – Critical Feed Usage

On May 27th the USDA announced that certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage could be eligible for haying or grazing. This activity shall not occur until after the primary nesting season is over. The earliest date haying or grazing can occur is August 1. All haying or grazing shall be completed before November 10th 2008 which is also the deadline for 2008 requests. The acreage must be 120 feet from a stream or permanent water body. The landowner must request a contract modification to allow this critical feed use. A flat rate fee of \$75 dollars is charged for this modification. There is no rental payment penalty for this use. If hay is removed only 50% of the eligible acres may be harvested. If grazed at least 25% of the field must remain ungrazed. Natural Resources Conservation Service will determine the proper stocking rate to attain this level. Any CRP Landowner interested in this Critical Feed Use modification to their contract; Please contact the Farm Service Center for an appointment to discuss this matter. 989-224-3720 this is a 2008 only practice.

CRP / SAFE ---- State Acres for wildlife Enhancement

There is a new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program project planned for Michigan - Clinton County. "Southern Michigan Diverse Grassland Creation SAFE" is the name of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Practice that may have eligible lands in Clinton County. The primary goal of this program is to provide within 5 years 7,500 acres of diverse native grassland habitat for a variety of rare or declining species. Cost share is available to establish mosaics of short-grass prairie, tall-grass prairie, and oak savanna. The 10 to 15 contracts include maintenance, yearly rental payments, and sign up bonuses.

Signups for this practice will be available JULY 1.

Anyone interested in this practice please contact your FSA office to set up an appointment.

Upper Maple River Watershed Planning Project

The Clinton Conservation District is working on a Watershed Management Planning project in the Upper Maple River Watershed which encompasses portions of Clinton, Gratiot, and Shiawassee counties. The Maple River is one of six major tributaries of the Grand River which eventually flows into Lake Michigan. The area of focus known as the Upper Maple River Watershed is made up 16 smaller sub-watersheds and cover approximately 498 square miles in total. Portions of the Maple River State Game Area, the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area, and Sleepy Hollow State Park all fall within the Watershed. The Cities of Ithaca, Fowler, and St. Johns are located inside the watershed

as well as the villages of Maple Rapids, Ovid, Elsie, Perrinton, and Ashley.

There are several partners and participants involved in this project in addition to the Clinton CD including: Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber, Inc., Wetland and Coastal Resources, Shiawassee and Gratiot CDs, all three counties' Drain Commissioners, MSU Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Regional Educational Services Association (RESA), the Clinton Co. GreenSpace Commission and the Friends of the Maple River.

The focus of the watershed management planning project is to identify non-point source pollution. Non-point source pollution occurs when a pollutant such as pathogens, nutrients, or sediment winds up in the drains, streams, and rivers at non specific points at irregular occurrences. Examples of non-point source pollution include; fertilizers on lawns that get washed into streams during rain events, soil from agricultural fields that erodes and washes into drains, and oil and salt on city streets that get washed into stormwater drains and carried into rivers.

The goal of the project is to identify what water quality problems exist in the watershed and how they can be addressed. This will be accomplished through monitoring and analysis of the watershed, reviewing various community policies and ordinances, and educating residents of the watershed about water quality concerns. As this data is compiled a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) will be developed. Once the WMP is written it will be submitted for approval from the DEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The next step after the WMP is approved is to apply for implementation funds. These funds will enable us to carry out the watershed improvement techniques outlined in the WMP.

Volunteer efforts are needed to assist with monitoring and outreach in this two year project aimed at improving water quality and bringing awareness to the communities, businesses, and producers in the watershed. Hopefully, together we can bring people to realize that their actions at home, work, and on the farm have impacts on the watershed. If you want to participate in the Upper Maple River Watershed Management Planning Project, or just want more information, contact John Switzer of the Clinton Conservation District at (989) 224-3720 ext 3 or visit our website www.clintonconservation.org.

Decision Allows Farmers to Receive Emergency Farm Loans

East Lansing, MI, June 26, 2008 -- In a continuing effort to assist the agricultural industry in Michigan, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces the designation of 60 counties in Michigan as agricultural disaster areas, making farmers in those regions immediately eligible for USDA/FSA physical loss emergency loans.

60 Michigan Counties have been designated as a natural disaster area due to storms with tornadoes, hail, and high winds that occurred from June 6 through June 15, 2008.

USDA designated 60 counties as disaster areas. The counties are Alcona, Allegan, Antrim, Arenac, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clare, **Clinton**, Crawford, Eaton, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Leelanau, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Ottawa, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, Wayne Washtenaw and Wexford.

This designation makes qualified farm operators in primary and contiguous disaster counties eligible for low-interest physical loss EM loans from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have until February 25, 2009, to apply for the loans to help cover part of their losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merit, taking into account the extent of loss, ability to obtain other credit, security available and repayment ability.

Watch for Soybean Aphids

Soybean Aphids have been spotted, but populations are low and stable. Now is a critical time to scout for Aphids in soybean fields.

Dry conditions increase the impact of aphid feeding. Earlier-infested (early July), late-planted (June) and potassium deficient fields are at greater risk for yield loss if aphid infested.

Natural enemies can hold populations in check, so it is important to scout and don't spray until the aphid number

reach the threshold of 250 aphids/plant (vegetative through R5) and numbers are increasing. Spraying too early may result in spraying more than once to maintain season long control.

For more information contact the MSU Extension office for a copy of Insect, Nematode and Disease Control in Michigan Field Crops – 2008.

One pass manure application and cover crop

Looking for an efficient way to apply manure to corn silage ground and plant a cover crop? My guess is you hadn't given it much thought.

Corn silage ground is a great place to apply manure, however there is very little residue on the field and once the manure is incorporated there is even less. This leaves the soil, rich in nutrients, open and vulnerable to erosion until a crop is established the following spring.

Recent work at Michigan State University showed excellent stands of wheat and cereal rye can be achieved in untilled corn silage ground with a new process that combines seeding, manure application and aeration tillage in one sustainable and efficient operation.

The slurry seeding was done with a slurry tanker (3000 gal) equipped with a rear-mounted rolling-tine aerator (12 ft; Aer-Way) and sub-surface deposition slurry distribution system. The seed was placed in the spreader tank where bypass flow provided tank agitation and seed mixing. Drop tubes placed the seed-laden slurry in the fractured and loosened soil behind each set of rolling tines. No additional tillage or soil firming was used.

The slurry-seeded treatment provides a uniform cover that suppressed weed growth.

During a recent visit to the Great Lakes Manure Handling Expo in Ohio, I visited with a researcher from the Ohio State University that was adding rye seed to manure that was being applied by a drag hose system. Again a good cover crop was established.

One pass manure application and cover crop establishment to fields that have low crop residue and will be open all winter makes good sense. It holds the soil and holds the nutrients for the next crop.

For more information of slurry seeding, read "[Stabilizing Nutrient-Rich Farm Land with Slurry-Enriched Seeding of Cover Crops after Corn Silage](#)", Tim Harrigan Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. You may also request a copy of this paper through Clinton County MSU Extension.

Crop Advisory Team Alert – be the first to know!

The Crop Advisory Team (CAT) Alert newsletter offers pest management advice from March to September; the newsletter highlights concerns that may be happening on your farm or nursery. With five editions available, there is something for everyone. You can choose from landscape and nursery, fruit, field crops, vegetables or greenhouse, as well as whether to read a print or Internet format.

If you have a computer, you can read for free by picking your edition at: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/aboutcat.htm>

To receive e-mail notices of the Crop Advisory Team Alert visit <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/field-cat.htm> and register.

If you would rather have a print subscription, it only costs \$35 and includes all issues regardless of when you subscribed in the season. For more information or a subscription form, please call 517-353-4703 or visit our web site listed above.

The Scoop

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