

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



# News and Notes

## Clinton County MSU Extension and Conservation District

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### Events & Happenings

**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** - Backflow Prevention and Boom Sprayer Calibration Workshop - Smith Hall, Clinton County Fairgrounds, See article for details.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** - Upper Maple River Watershed Planning public meeting - Fulton Township Hall, 3425 W. Cleveland Rd Perrinton, MI.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to Noon** – Breakfast on the Farm - Dutch Meadows Dairy, Tony & Patti Jandernoa Family, 3427 N. Wacousta Rd St. Johns.  
[www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com](http://www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com)

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, demonstrations at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.** - Profitable Environmental Options for Livestock Producers, MSU Beef Farm. See Article for details.

**July 21 & 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Ag Expo at the corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road. For more information, call 800-366-7055.

## Thelen named Clinton County MSU Extension Director

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Marilyn Thelen was promoted within Michigan State University (MSU) Extension to Clinton County Extension Director.

Thelen joined MSU Extension in 2001 and has worked in the areas of field crops, value added as well as the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

In addition to her duties as director, Thelen will continue to work with agricultural producers and businesses on a variety of programs, including field crops and economic development. “I am truly honored to offer leadership to the office,” she said. “I look forward to expanding my interactions with the numerous clients our office serves in Clinton County.”

MSU Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical needs, issues and opportunities in regard to agriculture and natural resources around Michigan. The organization serves all 83 Michigan counties. For more information about MSU Extension, visit the MSU Extension Web site at [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu) or contact your county office by calling 989-224-5240.

## Backflow Prevention and Boom Sprayer Calibration Workshop

### MAEAP Phase I Educational Program

MSU Extension and the Clinton County Groundwater Stewardship Program is hosting a MAEAP Phase I Education Workshop covering Backflow Prevention and Boom Sprayer Calibration. The workshop will be held at Smith Hall in the Clinton County Fairgrounds on May 27th, 2009 from 9:30 am - 4:00 p.m. The cost of the event is \$25 and will include lunch and workshop materials.

The program will have multiple presenters including Ron Holben, an environmental consultant who will talk about backflow prevention, rules and regulations related to cross connections, protective methods, and common cross connection hazards. John Murphy, an agricultural farm equipment supplier and educator, and Roberta Dow and Christina Curell, MSU Extension educators will talk about Boom Sprayer Calibration. This will cover information on drift management techniques and equipment as well as sprayer calibrations and a field demonstration.

Attendees will be eligible for MAEAP Phase I Educational Credits, which are required for MAEAP verification. You may pay at the door, but please contact Christina Curell at 231-592-0792 to register by May 22. Questions about the program can be directed to John Switzer at the Clinton Conservation District at 989-224-3720 x 3.

## Public Meeting set for Upper Maple River Watershed Planning Project

The second of 3 regional public meetings is set for Tuesday, June 16th, from 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the Fulton Township Hall, 3425 W. Cleveland Rd., Perrinton, MI. A cooperative effort of government, business, educators, citizen groups, and landowners, have been actively working on a Watershed Management Planning project in the Upper Maple River Watershed which encompasses portions of Clinton, Gratiot, and Shiawassee counties.

The meeting content will report the progress of the project and also enlist feedback from the participants through an interactive presentation. While each regional meeting will take place in one of the 3 participating counties, we urge all interested parties to attend meetings regardless of location, since the meetings content will be progressive during the course of the 2 year activity, with new materials being introduced and discussed.

For more information, contact the Clinton Conservation District at (989) 224-3720 ext 3.



Bring your non-farm neighbors to Dutch Meadows Dairy, Tony & Patti Jandernoa Family, 3427 N. Wacousta Rd., St. Johns on June 20<sup>th</sup> for **Breakfast on the Farm**. Guests will be served a free breakfast showcasing Michigan's agriculture including pancakes and sausage, blueberries and strawberries, milk, apple cider, ice cream and lots more! Breakfast is served from 9 am to noon.

Tickets are required for the free Breakfast. Tickets are available at Clinton Co. MSU Extension and Farm Bureau offices, L&L Food Stores, St Johns Library, St Johns Mancinos, and Scoopy Doo's Ice Cream in DeWitt.

Many volunteers are needed to run this event. If you are interested in helping, please call Faith at 224-5249.

For more information go to [www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com](http://www.BreakfastOnTheFarm.com) or call:

Clinton County MSU Extension 989-224-5240 or Clinton County Farm Bureau 989-224-9536

**Bring the whole family for a free pancake breakfast and tour of a modern dairy farm!**

## Water Soil Erosion – A resource concern to consider in Michigan

Edwin Martínez-Martínez - District Conservationist – USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Email: [edwin.martinez@mi.usda.gov](mailto:edwin.martinez@mi.usda.gov)

Michigan – The Great Lakes State offers exceptional values to the nation in terms of life support, economy values, recreation, agriculture, industry, wildlife habitat, weather conditions, and climate effects among others. For this reason it is important to preserve and protect the water quality in rivers and streams that drain into the Great Lakes. A resource concern that could have an impact on the Great Lakes over a long term period is soil erosion. Soil sedimentation coming from agricultural lands, urban lands and bare soils could have a negative impact on water bodies. Soil erosion will affect water quantity and quality due to

continue accumulation and transport of nutrients and sediment loads to potential sites. Snow accumulation followed by high temperatures and/or high intensity rain events can alter the rates and timing of melting runoff and produce a negative impact on soils (fertility and structure), rivers, streams, lakes and water reservoirs (water storage capacity).

During the past weeks we have seen the effects of soil erosion in Clinton County due to frequent rain events; erosion on farm land, loss of top soil, efficiency loss in some sediment control structures, flooding and sedimentation. Several erosion and flooding concerns have been brought attention to the Clinton County USDA-NRCS Service Center. If you think that soil erosion may negatively affect our water resources in terms of water quantity and quality it is time to take action and address this environmental issue. Some conservation practices that could help in protecting soils from erosion are: crop rotation, crop residue, crop cover, incorporation of organic matter to soils, buffer strips, grass waterways, rock chutes, and basin sediment traps.

## Field Crops CAT Alert

You will notice a new look when you visit the Field Crops CAT Alert page this year, but you will still find the same great information. The Field Crops CAT Alert provides in-season crop and pest management advice. Several articles are re-printed from this publication. If you want to get the most current advice subscribe to receive e-mail notification or visit the website at <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/fieldcrops.htm>

Information on how to subscribe is at the end of this newsletter.

## When to Switch to a Short Season Hybrid

Kurt Thelen, Crop & Soil Sciences

Reprinted From Field Crops CAT Alert

The extreme wet weather this planting season has delayed corn planting relative to past years across much of the state. It is important to exercise patience when deciding when to restart field operations following periods of rain. Jumping the gun and compacting soils has the potential to be more detrimental to crop yield and profits compared to delaying planting a few more days.

Research has shown that under average Michigan conditions, it generally pays to switch to a short season hybrid in late May. The basis for the cost effectiveness of switching to a short season hybrid is primarily in the ability to harvest dryer grain in the fall. The optimum time to pull the trigger on the switch to a short season hybrid will vary from year-to-year depending on weather conditions, but it is generally around the third to fourth week of May for much of Michigan

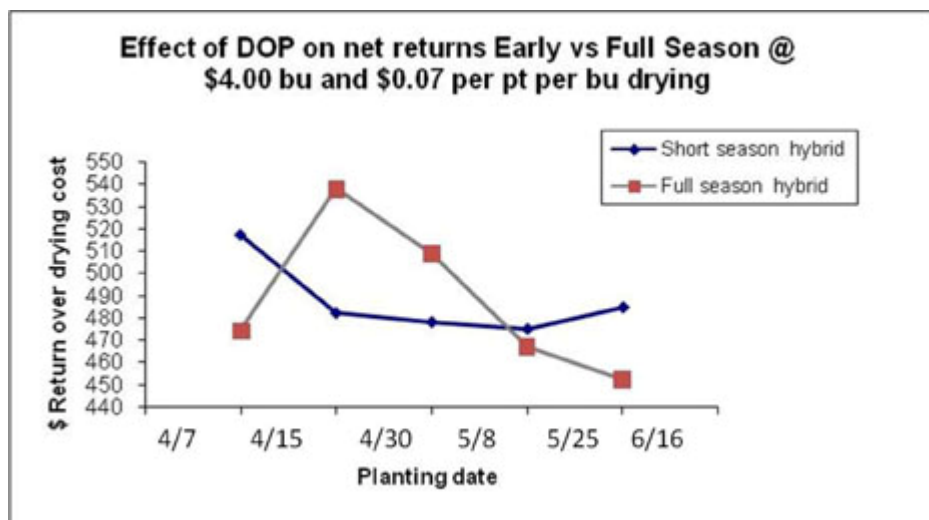


Figure 1. Corn grain value over drying costs (\$/acre) for a short season and full season hybrid as affected by date of planting (DOP). Corn yield data is from East Lansing. Calculated corn grain price was \$4.00 bu. and drying costs were assumed to be \$0.07 per bu. (dried to 14.5% M).

## Wheat Diseases Management

Much of the wheat has gotten a slow and somewhat variable start due in part to the cool, wet spring. Even so, wheat is progressing and soon we will be seeing wheat diseases and determining if it will pay to treat.

MSU has on-line resources available at [Wheat Disease Resources](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/wheatdiseases.htm) <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/wheatdiseases.htm>.

You will find information on Foliar Diseases in wheat including a link to a fungicide efficacy table for treatment of wheat diseases. The section on Fusarium Head blight includes a comprehensive document on control and management including links to prediction models. In addition, there is information for the MSU Wheat variety trials.

These are great tools to have at your fingertips as our wheat continues to develop. If you do not have access to the web, contact the MSU Extension office for materials or assistance.

## Weeds not controlled prior to soybean emergence can reduce yields

Christy Sprague, Crop and Soil Sciences

Reprinted From Field Crops CAT Alert

Driving around the state, I have noticed several no-till fields that still have carpets of winter annual and some newly emerged early summer annual weeds, like common lambsquarters and giant ragweed. With the wet conditions keeping many growers out of the field, soybean planting is occurring at a slower pace and once conditions are favorable many growers may opt to plant first and apply a burndown later. It is extremely important that weeds that are currently in fields be controlled prior to soybean emergence. Ideally, these weeds should have been controlled prior to planting, but because many of these fields have already been planted it is important to control these weeds prior to soybean emergence. Timely burndown herbicide applications in no-till soybean fields are critical to protecting soybean yield.

Over the last several years, there has been the tendency for growers to plant their soybeans into a weedy mess and not worry about applying their burndown herbicide until later or to wait until most of the summer annual weeds have emerged before making their first postemergence glyphosate application. These delayed burndown applications can reduce soybean yield, by inhibiting soybean emergence and growth. Also by delaying these applications, weeds become larger and can often times can be tougher to control. Many times dense weed populations (or mats) can even interfere with planting. Competition from these early-season weeds can reduce soybean yield by as much as 16 percent (8.3 bu) (Figure 1). This reduction in yield can lead to as much as a \$90 per acre loss in revenue at the end of the season with current soybean prices (\$10.80). There is also some thought that these mats of winter annual weeds can serve as hosts for early-season insect pests that can then transfer over to soybean once they emerge.

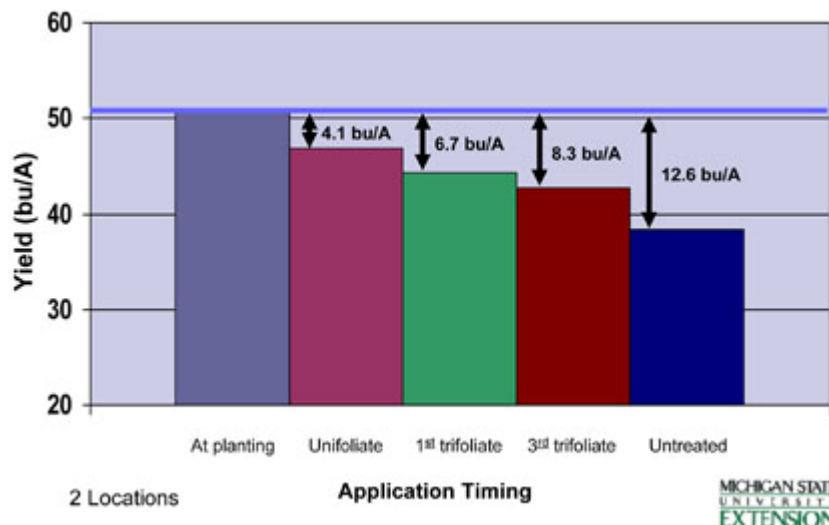


Figure 1. Soybean yield due to delayed burndown herbicide applications. Applications of glyphosate (0.75 lb ae/A) + AMS were made at planting, at unifoliate soybean, V1 (1-trifoliate), and V3 (3-trifoliate) soybean .

**Remember early control of these weeds is important.** If a burndown herbicide application can not be made prior to planting, it should be made shortly thereafter. Any delays in these applications can reduce soybean yield. A complete listing of burndown herbicides and their effectiveness ratings can be found in Table 2D of the 2009 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops (E-434) at: Remember with some of these treatments, especially treatments that contain 2, 4-D ester (1 pt/A), there needs to be a minimum of seven days before soybean can be planting. See comments and label precautions on the safety of applying certain burndown herbicide treatments after soybean have been planted.

## Watch for Potato leafhoppers and other pest from the south

Christina DiFonzo, Entomology

Reprinted From Field Crops CAT Alert

Recent weather patterns brought moisture from the south. These southern patterns also often bring an added gift of insects, including potato leafhopper, some of the grain aphids, black cutworm, and armyworm. These insects can literally rain out overnight on a storm front. Black cutworms and armyworms in particular will find a smorgasbord of low growing weeds when they land in Michigan fields in May. Caterpillar infestations start on these weeds, and then move to emerging crops. Be sure to walk fields after emergence to detect stand problems early.

## Looking for a great summer project

– help track Western Bean Cutworm

We have a limited number of kits available for training the Western Bean Cutworm (WBC). This is a great summer project that will give you data on the extent of WBC in your area.

Key points for the trapping program are:

- Start trapping no later than June 16, so monitoring can begin before adult moths emerge.
- Traps are made from one-gallon milk jugs – instructions come with the kit.
- Check traps 1-2 times per week.
- Fluid in traps is dilute antifreeze – top off and/or clean as needed.
- Call with trap numbers.
- Data will be compiled for the state and posted on the WBC website and the Field Crops CAT Alert.

If you are interested in being a part of this project, contact Marilyn Thelen for a trap kit and reporting instructions. 989-227-6454.

## 2009 Michigan Soybean Hotline

Allagan, MI –Michigan soybean growers will be able to access timely crop and pest management information through a toll-free, soybean hotline sponsored by Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Soybean Checkoff. The hotline can be accessed by dialing **(888) 201-9301**. Growers will hear a recorded greeting directing them to select from six subject areas: insects, diseases, weeds, agronomic information, soybean cyst nematodes and the Michigan Automated Weather Network. Callers can listen to multiple topics without redialing the toll-free number. If you don't receive the information you need from the hotline, please call your local Michigan State University Extension office.

The updates and recommendations for each topic area will be recorded by Michigan State University Extension specialists.

The messages will not be updated on a set schedule. Instead, they will be updated as needed to provide Michigan soybean growers with timely crop and pest management information for improving soybean yields and farm profitability. Some areas will be updated more frequently than others. For example, if soybean aphids reach damaging population levels this season, the insect extension will be updated frequently from late-June through mid-August to provide the latest scouting and control recommendations.

## New Soybean Resources Available Online

Twenty-one new or revised soybean fact sheets covering timely topics such as diagnosing soybean emergence problems and improving weed control in no-till soybeans are available at the Soybean 2010 website <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/soybean2010/>. We have also included links to soybean management websites from Michigan State University, Iowa State University, Ohio State University, Purdue University, University of Missouri and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

## Don't Run Off Before Learning About Runoff at Ag Expo

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Before putting your cattle out to pasture, come to Ag Expo at Michigan State University (MSU) and learn how to make simple improvements that can enhance your environmental profile and add to your bottom line.

Mat Haan, project coordinator at the MSU Kellogg Biological Station Pasture Dairy Research and Education Center, will discuss ways to reduce runoff from pastures and show farmers how a constructed stream crossing can save both time and money.

“Spending a little extra up front can save a lot of money in the long run,” Haan says. “When cattle have to pass through a stream, they need a solid walkway to prevent excess silt and sediment from entering the water supply.”

Silt and sediment in the water supply not only affect the surrounding areas but can affect drinking water, other animals and the environment. Haan says something as simple as managing grass height can not only reduce runoff from pastures but also provide benefits to the soil and improve forage production.

The event, “Profitable Environmental Options for Livestock Producers,” will feature demonstrations at 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. July 21—the first day of the annual Ag Expo at MSU. It’s all happening at the Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Center, at 3200 Bennett Rd., Lansing, less than a mile from the main Ag Expo site. Transportation to the center will be available from Ag Expo, and there is also parking at the center.

“Our goal is to have special programming for livestock producers but not to monopolize their time,” explains Natalie Rector, MSU Extension nutrient management educator. “We want to make sure that visitors have plenty of time to talk to our experts and tour the Ag Expo grounds.”

But Rector warns that the event will take place only on the first day of Ag Expo—July 21.

“If you come on July 22 or 23, you’re going to miss it,” she cautions.

Ag Expo features commercial farm equipment from throughout the Midwest and several Canadian provinces on the 35-acre main exhibition site and the 40-acre field demonstration area, as well as educational exhibits from several MSU colleges and departments. It runs from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. July 21 and 22, and 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. July 23. Admission to the grounds and parking at Farm Lane and Mt Hope Road are free. For more information about Ag Expo, call 800-366-7055.

Ag Expo is sponsored by the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

## Updated Crops Record Book Available

To meet current producer needs, the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program and Michigan State University Extension have updated Extension Bulletin E-2342, Record-keeping System for Crop Production. The new bulletin is available free of charge from your Groundwater Technician or local MSU Extension office.

The new bulletin is designed to be kept in the tractor or truck cab to record production activities as they occur. For those producers that maintain computerized records, the record book entries can then be entered into their computer record, as time permits.

- Keeping records meets the requirements of various state and federal regulations.
- Complete and accurate records help demonstrate your protection of soil, water and other environmental resources. Records will help you analyze the performance of your farm's cropping system.
- Records may provide liability protection in the event of a complaint or lawsuit concerning your farming operation.
- Complete records demonstrate conformance with Michigan Right-to-Farm guidelines and are needed for Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) system verification.

The bulletin is supported by funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

## Funding Available For Organic Agriculture

USDA recently announced that \$50 million will be available for a new initiative to encourage more organic agriculture production. Funding for the initiative is being made available as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special program to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under general EQIP.

Nutrient management is among the minimum core conservation practices that will be required. States are directed to consider using any appropriate practice that meets the resource concern on a particular operation.

Applications received from organic producers or producers in transition to organic farming will be accepted under this initiative between May 11 and May 29. Applications will be ranked at that time.

The 2009 Organic Initiative will be administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Interested producers should visit the nearest USDA Service Center to determine eligibility. Additional information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/)

## Subscribe to Field Crops CAT Alert

Follow these instructions to receive a brief e-mail announcement when a new issue of MSU's Field Crops CAT Alert newsletter is posted at this web site. The announcements are sent through an automated system called a listserv.

### Directions to sign-up (subscribe) for the free listserv:

Send the following one line e-mail message to [listserv@list.msu.edu](mailto:listserv@list.msu.edu):

subscribe fieldcat (your first and last name)

For example, if your name was Jane Smith, you would type: subscribe fieldcat (Jane Smith)

You will receive a confirmation e-mail asking you to click on an Internet link in order to complete your subscription. This ensures that the address came with your permission.

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