

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Field Crops Newsletter

*By Ned M. Birkey, MSU Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources
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Winter Wheat Farmer Meeting

Winter wheat is an important agronomic crop for southeast Michigan. Farmers need to keep up with markets, agronomic practices and recommendations for pest control. Tuesday, February 12, 2008 will be a Wheat educational meeting at Cabela's, from 9:30am to 3:00pm. The registration fee is \$20 if paid by February 8, or \$30 at the door, payable to the Monroe County Extension office. This meeting is co-sponsored by MSU Extension, OSU Extension, BASF, Syngenta, DuPont, Bayer CropScience, Nabisco and Chelsea Milling Company.

Topics include:

- Future Wheat Variety Needs of Nabisco
- Update from Chelsea Milling
- MSU Wheat Breeding Program Update
- Top Ten Wheat Production Practices
- Wheat Pest Management from an Industry Perspective
- Cleaning the Combine for Grain Quality
- Federal Grain Inspection Service and Wheat
- Nutrient Needs of Wheat

Interested farmers can register by calling the Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170. Pesticide re-certification credits have been applied for.



2008 Washtenaw County Agriculture Banquet

The annual Washtenaw County Agriculture Banquet, sponsored by the Dairy and Livestock Council and MSU Extension, will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer Road, Chelsea. The menu includes prime rib, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, vegetables, fruit cups and pie. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Washington Street Show Choir. The ticket sale deadline is March 15th. Tickets are available at agri-businesses throughout the county and from any of the Dairy and Livestock Council members. You are welcome to contact the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office at 734-997-1678 for more information on the ticket sales.

Pesticide Training and Testing Sessions

Persons who buy or apply restricted use pesticides in Michigan must have a current certification from the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Certification means that this person has some level of experience and training to properly handle, mix and apply pesticides safely. Rules on this were initiated with the 1976 revision of the Federal Insecticide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), enacted in 1947.

The County MSU Extension Service, as a part of Michigan State University, the land grant university of Michigan, is responsible to provide training of private and commercial applicators. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers the certification and other parts of the program on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For the 2008 winter meeting “season” the Washtenaw County Extension Service will offer trainings on:

Thursday, March 6 from 12:30 to 4:00pm

Friday, March 14 from 12:30 to 4:00pm

These sessions will also cover the Core Pesticide Manual and will offer core pesticide re-certification credits. There is a \$10 charge to participate and the training will be held at the MSU Extension Office classroom at 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor. Persons interested in participating in these educational sessions must pre-register by contacting the Washtenaw County Extension Office at 734-997-1678.

The MDA testing will be held at the Washtenaw County Extension Office on:
Wednesday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Anyone wishing to take the exam in Washtenaw County must register in advance with the Washtenaw County Extension Service. This can be done by phone at 734-997-1678.

The Monroe County Extension Service will also offer morning training and review sessions on:

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

All of the above morning training and review session will be offered from 9:00am to 12:30pm. There is a \$10 charge to participate. Core pesticide re-certification credits will be requested for all of these meetings. These two sessions will be held at the 4-H Activity Center at the Monroe County fairgrounds. Topics will vary for each session and interested farmers or commercial applicators could attend all three sessions to earn

re-certification credits or simply for an educational review. Over the three sessions, the entire Core Manual will be reviewed. Personnel from MDA will be present in the afternoon to administer examinations. Anyone wishing to participate in either the morning review sessions or the afternoon examinations in Monroe County, need to register in advance with the Monroe County Extension Service. This can be done by phone at 734-240-3170. For more information or directions, contact Ned Birkey.

Comprehensive Core Pesticide Training Class

A Comprehensive Core Pesticide Training class will be offered to private and commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, February 27 at Cabela's. This newly designed class will cover the entire Core Pesticide Manual, in one class, and will provide participants with 8 pesticide re-certification credits.

This one-time class will cost \$75, payable to the Monroe County Extension Office, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI 48161. The class will begin at 9:00am and end at 4:30pm. Coffee and rolls will be provided but lunch is not provided in the fee. Attendance is limited to the first 30 persons who register with payment. Participants will not need to purchase a Core Training Manual for the training. A very limited supply of manuals is available at the Monroe and Washtenaw County Extension offices.

Persons who wish to become a certified pesticide applicator in Michigan must apply with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, who will be present at the meeting. Persons with a current certification in Ohio can certify in Michigan because of a reciprocity agreement between the two states, and only need to complete the application process and do not need to take any tests.

Exams will be not be offered on the February 27 training date, but MDA will be administering exams in Monroe County on March 5 and April 2 and in Washtenaw County on March 19. Persons can also take exams at the MDA Regional office in Southfield. All exams are on an appointment basis and can be made by contacting the extension office for the respective date or MDA.

Farm Emergency Farm Bureau Class

Farm tractors, trucks, all-terrain vehicles and pesticides represent significant hazards to farmers in southeast Michigan. Accidents, spills, equipment-related injuries, broken bones, bleeding and burns can happen without warning to involved in the day to day activities of farming.

The Monroe County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee and the Monroe County Extension Service are offering a Farm Emergency Preparedness class on Wednesday, March 5, from 1:00 to 4:00pm at the Extension office in Monroe. This class will be worth two pesticide re-certification credits.

This year's program includes; Evaluating Preparedness and Response Principles, Hazard Assessment, Emergency Plan Elements, Farm Fatality Assessment, Tractor Overturns; Prevention and Protection, ATV's as Tractors, Fit Testing for Pesticides and other Chemicals and Rules of the Road. Of these topic areas, each Safety Seminar will be pertinent to local crops and issues such as transportation, electrical, large equipment, bin entry/ confined space, pesticide use, local first responder training, written safety plans and many other available topics.

Interested farmers can register free of charge with the Monroe County Farm Bureau office in Ida, phone 734-269-3275. For more information, contact Richard or Mary Janssens, Monroe County Farm Bureau P&E co-chairs through the Farm Bureau office.

WINTER AND WINDBREAKS

With winter snow and wind already here, farm and rural residents of Washtenaw County should be thinking about a windbreak planting. A well designed, well maintained windbreak would be appreciated for its usefulness and beauty, with a wildlife habitat as a side benefit. The benefits of a windbreak or shelterbelt can be to provide protection for the home, wildlife habitat, esthetics, energy conservation, recreation and livestock protection.

A poorly planned windbreak may deposit snow on buildings, roads, lanes, livestock feeding areas, or contribute to soil wetness problems. Improper selection of plant species for the soils at the site may result in poor survival, slow growth and plant or tree stress.

A windbreak is a barrier composed of trees and shrubs that redirects and modifies the force of the wind. Height, density and orientation are the major factors determining the protection a windbreak provides, but other factors such as width, cross-sectional shape, length and composition are also important.

A windbreak can be planted almost any time during the growing season, but to enhance its chances for survival, spring planting is recommended. The Washtenaw County Conservation District sponsors a spring tree sale and annually sells thousands of trees and shrubs. Contact the Washtenaw Conservation District at 734-761-6722 to receive a tree order form.

Species selection may reflect the landowner's purpose for establishing the windbreak. Energy conservation requires the use of dense vegetation, most likely coniferous species. Windbreaks should be 75 to 80 percent dense for best protection. The minimum density for an effective farmstead windbreak is 65 percent. Species with a high density rating, such as spruce, fir and arborvitae, have densities of 90 percent. Two rows should provide sufficient density, but an additional row is recommended to fill any gaps that might occur between trees.

Pines have a different branching pattern than the spruces or firs. During their early development, pines tend to be compact and provide a density of about 85 percent. However, as they increase in age, the branches begin to thin out and density drops to 40 to 65 percent.

It is not a good idea to plant the entire windbreak to one species. Monocultures can encounter serious problems with disease and insect pests, and they lack variety in texture and color. On the other hand, trees of the same species and growth habits should be planted within the same row.

For more information about windbreaks or shelterbelts, contact the Washtenaw County Conservation District.



2008 Winter Meeting Calendar

Monroe County Extension 734-240-3170
Washtenaw County Extension 734-997-1678

By Ned M. Birkey, EANRA, 734-260-3442

Friday, February 8, 2008 Center for Excellence Agronomic and Outlook meeting, Lenawee Christian Center, Adrian. Register with Lenawee Conservation District at 517-263-7400. **RUP.**

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 Wheat Farmer Meeting 9:00am to 3:00pm at Cabela's. \$20/ \$30 registration fee. Register to Monroe County Extension office. 7324-240-3170. **RUP.**

February 13-16, 2008 National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, Ky.

February 21-22, 2008 Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH. 419-422-3851.

February 21 and 28, 2008 Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Short Course, Bavarian Inn Restaurant, Frankenmuth. \$60. For more information, contact Phil Kaatz at 810-667-0343.

February 27, 2008 Comprehensive Core Pesticide Training. \$75. 9am to 4pm at Cabela's. **8 RUP.** Register with Monroe County Extension.

February 28-March 1 2008 Commodity Classic, Nashville, Tn.

Friday, February 29 Balancing Animal Agriculture and Communities \$115. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, MSU. Contact Faye Watson for more information at 517-353-3174.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 Pesticide Training and Review meeting 9:00am to 12:30pm at 4-H Activity Center at Monroe County fairgrounds. \$10 fee. MAEAP Phase 1 meeting. Register to Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170. **RUP.**

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 M.D.A. Pesticide Examinations 1:00 to 4:00pm at 4-H Activity Center at Monroe County fairgrounds. \$ fee. Register to Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 Farm Bureau Farm Emergency Training Class 1:00 to 4:00pm at the Monroe County Extension Office. **2 RUP.**

Thursday, March 6, 2008 Pesticide Training and Review 12:30 to 4:00pm at Washtenaw County MSU Extension office. \$10 fee. MAEAP Phase 1 meeting. Register to Washtenaw County MSU Extension at 734-997-1678. **RUP.**

Friday, March 14, 2008 Pesticide Training and Review 12:30 to 4:00pm at Washtenaw County MSU Extension office. \$10 fee. Register to Washtenaw County MSU Extension at 734-997-1678. **RUP.**

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 Spray Clinic, Butch Lincoln farm, Jackson County. MAEAP Phase 1 meeting. Details to come yet. **RUP.**

Wednesday, March 19, 2008 9:00am and 1:30pm M.D.A. Pesticide examinations. Fee. Call Washtenaw County MSU Extension at 734-997-1678 for reservations.

Thursday, March 27, 2008 Washtenaw County Agriculture Banquet, 7:00 pm at Chelsea High School. Tickets must be purchased by March 15 from local agri-businesses and council members.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 Pesticide Training and Review meeting 9:00am to 12:30pm at 4-H Activity Center at Monroe County fairgrounds. \$10 fee. Register to Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170. **RUP.**

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 M.D.A. Pesticide Examinations 1:00 to 4:00pm at 4-H Activity Center at Monroe County fairgrounds. \$10 fee. Register to Monroe County Extension office at 734-240-3170.

