

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Agriculture Newsletter

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MSU Extension Bulletins Available

Now that a new year has arrived, we have some 2011 MSU Extension bulletins of interest to field crop and vegetable farmers. Bulletins will be in stock at the Monroe and Washtenaw County Extension office, depending upon the demand. All bulletins are tax deductible for commercial farmers.

- E-154 2011 Michigan Fruit Management Calendar \$20.00
- E-312 2011 Insect, Disease and Nematode Control for Commercial Vegetables \$10.00
- E-431 2010 Michigan Corn Hybrids Compared. Free.
- E-433 2011 Weed Control Guide for Vegetable Crops \$5.00
- E-434 2011 Weed Control Guide for Field Crops \$12.00
- E-2947 2010 Michigan Soybean Performance Report. Free.

Farmers can also order bulletins directly from the MSU Educational Materials Distribution Center by going to the following website;
www.emdc.msue.msu.edu . Bulletins with a charge can be ordered and paid for with a credit card.



Bulletins

MSU IPM "Agronomy Day" Meeting at Cabela's

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 will be an MSU IPM "Agronomy Day" educational meeting at Cabela's. This meeting is sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, with financial support provided by DuPont Crop Protection, Bayer Agri Science and Valent USA Corporation.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide new and up to date corn and soybean information to farmers in southeast Michigan. Registration will cost \$20 to those who pre-register by January 14 or \$30 at the door. Registration for the Cabela's meeting can be made by mailing payment to the Monroe County MSU Extension office, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI 48161.

The topics to be presented will include:

- 2010 Soybean Cyst Nematode Survey and SCN Management Update by Dr. George Bird
- Soybean Weed Control and non-GMO Soybean Weed Control by Dr. Christy Sprague
- C.U.R.E. and Early Planting Soybeans by Mike Staton
- New Product and Label Update by Randy Ettema, DuPont Crop Protection
- Corn Weed Control Update by Dr. Wes Everman
- New Product and Label Update by Dennis Clark, Bayer Agri-Science.
- Western bean cutworm and Soybean Aphid Update by Dr. Chris DiFonzo.
- New Product and Label Update by Chris Kropf, Valent USA Corporation
- Soil pH Management and Lime Utilization by Dr. Darryl Warncke

For more information or directions, contact Ned Birkey at 734-240-3172 or 734-260-3442.

OSU Corn/ Soybean Day

Ohio State University will be holding a Corn/ Soybean Day educational program on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at Founder's Hall at Sauder Village, Archbold, OH. Farmers attending from Michigan can hear a terrific program and earn 4 pesticide re-certification credits or Certified Crop Advisor credits.

The cost is \$20 if postmarked by January 17 to: OSU Extension Fulton County, 8770 State Route 108, Suite A, Wauseon, OH 43567. The cost is \$30 at the door. This has been a very informative meeting with speakers that normally Michigan farmers do not hear. The lobby and surrounding area have been filled with exhibitors ranging from chemical companies to banks.

Registration starts at 8:30am, with the program running from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The program includes the following topics and speakers:

- Insects to be scouted in 2011 by Greg LaBarge of OSU Extension.
- Managing Wheat for Yield and Quality by Pierce Paul of OSU Extension.
- What is going on with the Weather and What to expect for 2011 by Jim Noel, NOAA/ NWS/ Ohio River Forecast Center.
- Risk and Reward in Nutrient Management by Robert Mullen, OSU Extension.

For more information, contact the Fulton County OSU Extension office at 419-337-9210.



2010 Michigan Soybean Yield Contest and Kip Cullers

Thursday, January 13, 2011 will be a fascinating soybean meeting featuring the farmers who hold the Michigan and world soybean yield contest records. This educational meeting is free of charge and open to all soybean farmers in Michigan. However, registration is limited to the capacity of the room. Please call the Saginaw County MSU Extension office to register at 989-758-2500.

The program will start at 9:00am with coffee and rolls. Dr. George Bird of Michigan State University will then report on the 2010 survey of Michigan counties with Soybean cyst nematodes. He will be followed by a presentation from Kip Cullers, farmer from southwest Missouri, who set a new world record for soybean yield at 160.6 bushels per acre.

The afternoon program will feature Tom Green, who set a new high yield in the Michigan Soybean Yield Contest at 96.16 bushels per acre. Mike Staton will show data from the 2010 yield contest and a summary of what the top farmers have done over the past five years of the contest. This will be followed by awarding all five of the class winners for the 2010 Michigan soybean yield contest.

Pioneer Seed Company, which had soybean varieties of two of the five winners, will be on hand with a display. Other companies who had soybeans entered have been invited as of this article being written.

For more information about this important meeting, contact Ned Birkey at birkey@anr.msu.edu or 734-240-3172 or 734-260-3442.

Soybean Informational Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 will be an informational meeting about current soybean topics of interest to farmers. The meeting will be free of charge and held at Cabela's in Dundee, MI. All area soybean farmers are invited and welcome to attend.

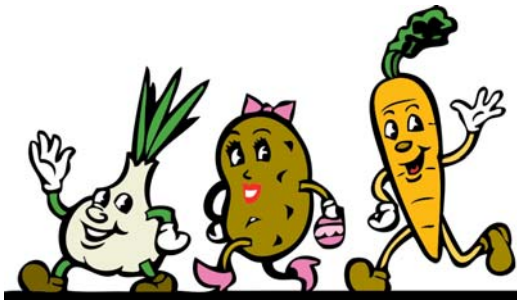
Discussed will be soybean planting populations, foliar fertilizer, insecticide and fungicide treatments as well as Soybean cyst nematodes and Sudden Death Syndrome. The meeting will start with registration at 9:00am and will include a walleye dinner at noon.

To register, contact the Monroe County MSU Extension office at 734-240-3170. For more information, contact Ned Birkey at 734-240-3172 or 734-260-3442. Pesticide re-certification credits will be available.

Vegetable Extension Coverage for 2011

Farmers who raise fresh market and processing vegetable in Washtenaw County should contact Hannah Stevens for any Extension assistance this year. Hannah is based in Macomb County and is covering Monroe, Wayne and Washtenaw counties for MSU Extension in the area of Commercial Vegetables.

Dr. Dan Pavuk, who was doing this job last year, has left the position. At this time, there are no plans to refill his position because of budget cuts. Farmers can contact Hannah at 586-469-6440. Her email address is; stevensh@anr.msu.edu and her office mailing address is; 21885 Dunham, Suite 12, Clinton Township, MI 48036.



2011 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 24 at 7 p.m. at the Manchester High School. The ticket sale deadline is March 10, 2011. Tickets will be available in early February 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.

Great Lakes Cover Crops Initiative

Cover crops are an essential part of successful conservation agriculture. Some of the benefits to using cover crops include:

- Increased nutrient cycling
- Increased crop yields
- Decreased soil erosion
- Increased soil fertility
- Increased soil quality
- Pest control
- Weed control
- Increased drought resistance

Farmers wanting to learn more about cover crops should plan to participate in a Cover Crop Workshop on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at Cabela's. The cost is \$25. The Workshop will cover:

1. Nutrient Cycling and Soil Ecology
2. Benefits of Cover Crops
3. Cover Crop Rotations
4. Economic Benefits of Cover Crops
5. Choosing Cover Crops/ Resources
6. Cover Crop Problem Solving
7. Cost Share Program Questions and Answers

Interested farmers should mail the registration fee to: Conservation Technology Information Center, 3495 Kent Avenue, Suite J100, West Lafayette, IN 47906. For more information, contact Florian Chirra, Extension Educator at Ohio State University Extension, Williams County, Ohio at chirra.q@cfaes.osu.edu or 419-636-5608.

2010 Disaster Declaration for Washtenaw County

US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has made a 2010 Disaster Declaration for a number of Michigan counties, including Washtenaw. Farmers who had a ten percent yield loss on one crop of significance, are eligible for the Supplemental Revenue or SURE program. Fundamentally SURE works in concert with crop insurance to provide an additional 15 percent coverage on a whole farm (all crops combined) calculation. Farmers did not need to collect on crop insurance to be "in-the-money" on SURE. SURE covers all crops including fruits, vegetables, grains, forage crops, perennials, ornamentals, greenhouse, nursery and other horticultural crops.

Farmer Wheat Meeting at Chelsea Milling Company

Farmers who raise red or white wheat may be interested in an educational meeting to be held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 hosted by Chelsea Milling Company. There will be a morning meeting, lunch courtesy of Chelsea Milling Company and then an afternoon tour of their new and remodeled facilities. Chelsea Milling Company is located at 201 West North Street, Chelsea, MI 48118-0460.

Advanced registration is \$5, payable to the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Service. On-site registration will be \$25. Coffee and "home-made" cinnamon rolls will be available at 9:00am. The educational meeting will begin at 9:30 in the new 88 seat auditorium at Chelsea Milling.

The Chelsea Milling Company "Jiffy Mix" latest addition is a multipurpose building that provides space for research and development, pilot plant, a demonstration kitchen, a historical exhibit and a welcome center. In addition the company built six more grain silos in 2010 with a 300,000 bushel capacity for wheat.

Registrations should be mailed to the Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, 705 North Zeeb Road, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645. For more information about the meeting, contact Ned Birkey, birkey@anr.msu.edu or 734-260-3442.

Wheat Check-off Proposal

Washtenaw County farmers raised 972,000 bushels of wheat in 2009, with a county average yield of 67.5 bushels per acre. In Michigan, soft red and soft white wheat is a \$400,000 business.

There is a core group of farmers and industry persons who have started working on a wheat check-off program for Michigan. Of the 42 states where farmers grow wheat, Michigan is the 16th largest and the only major wheat state without either a checkoff or a wheat grower's association. Michigan currently has 9 commodity groups with a checkoff program; apples, cherries, asparagus, potatoes, dry beans, onions, sugar beets, corn and soybeans. A checkoff program is a farmer board organized and authorized to promote their members' production and fund critical research.

Two efforts are now underway. First is a petition to gather at least 200 signatures to ask the Michigan Director of Agriculture to appoint a temporary program drafting committee. This group drafts the procedures, rules, checkoff amount and other guidelines that then comes to a vote of wheat farmers.

The second effort is a pledge form in which farmers can pledge a dollar amount to help fund the cost of holding a vote to approve or disapprove this checkoff. If there are enough signatures, and if enough money is raised to hold a referendum vote, then one prediction is that Michigan wheat farmers will vote in late June.

In order to pass and establish a wheat checkoff, the referendum vote must confirm the proposal by both popular vote and by a majority of production represented by those who voted.



January - March Agriculture Calendar

- January 13, 2011 Michigan Soybean Yield Contest Results Meeting, 9am to 3pm, Bavarian Inn Restaurant, Frankenmuth. Free, but reservations necessary by calling 989-758-2500. Kip Cullers will be the featured speaker.
- January 18, 2011 MSU IPM "Agronomy Day" program at Cabela's. \$20 reservation fee payable to the Monroe County MSU Extension office. 5 RUP.
- January 19, 2011 Michigan Soybean Association annual meeting in Lansing. RSVP: January 4, 2011 to 877-769-6424.
- January 20, 2011 Washtenaw County Conservation District Annual meeting.
- January 27, 2011 OSU Corn/ Soybean "Agronomy Day" meeting 8:30am to 3:30pm at Founder's Hall at Sauder Village, Archbold, OH. \$20 registration fee if postmarked by January 17, \$30 at the door. 4 Michigan RUP.
- January 27, 2011 Monroe County Conservation District Annual Meeting.
- February 1, 2011 Michigan Corn Grower Association annual meeting, Lansing.
- February 2, 2011 MSU Corn and Soybean Research meeting, Kellogg Biological Station, Kalamazoo. Free but reservations by calling 269-445-4438. RUP.
- February 3, 2011 MSU Corn and Soybean Research meeting, Dearth Community Center, Branch County 4-H Fairgrounds. Free but reservations by calling 517-279-4311. RUP.
- February 8, 2011 Soybean Information Meeting, 9am to 3pm at Cabela's. Free, but reservations to Monroe County MSU Extension at 734-240-3170. RUP.
- February 15, 2011 Great Lakes Cover Crop meeting at Cabela's. \$25 reservation fee to Conservation Technology Information Center. 765-494-9555.
- February 15-16, 2011 Winter Potato Conference and MSU Variety Day. Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn Suites. 517-669-8377.
- February 19-20, 2011 32nd Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association Conference, Granville, OH. 614-421-2022.
- March 1, 2011 Pesticide Core Review class at Washtenaw MSUE office. 9am to 4pm. \$40 fee. 6 RUP.
- March 1, 2011 Environmental Management on the Farm, Hillsdale ISD. \$40. Contact Natalie Rector at 269-967-6608.
- March 2, 2011 Pesticide Core Review class at Monroe MSUE office. 9am to 12 noon. \$25 fee. 3 RUP.
- March 2, 2011 MDA Pesticide Exams at Monroe MSUE office. 1-4pm. Call 734-240-3170 to reserve a spot.
- March 3, 2011 MDA Pesticide Exams at Washtenaw MSUE office. 9am and 1pm. Call 734-997-1678 to reserve a spot.
- March 10, 2011 Monroe County Farm Bureau and MSU Extension Farm Safety meeting.
- March 24, 2011 Washtenaw County Ag Banquet, Manchester High School, 7 p.m.