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Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent

[Bill Klein](#)

Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

December 3, 2012

Click on the highlighted links and you will find a flyer announcing the [Whole Farm Planning: Workshop for Farmers and Grazers](#) to be held **December 11th** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center and another brochure for the annual [Small Farm Conference](#) to be held Saturday, **January 26th** at the Grayling High School.

Hope you find these programs of interest....

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

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Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 12-03-12

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December 11, 2012

2012 PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION REVIEW AND TEST

MSU Extension is providing two pesticide review programs for producers preparing for the MDARD Core Pesticide Applicators Certification exam. The 4-hour review covers the 12 chapters of the National Pesticide Applicators Certification Core Manual. The review is held in the morning and the MDARD exams are given that afternoon. Four Recertification/RUP credits in either Private or Commercial Core are also available for those already certified and seeking renewal by seminar credits.

Reviews are scheduled for **December 13th** at the NW Horticulture Research Center (NWMHRC) and **December 14th** at the Banks Township Hall in Ellsworth. The review session will run from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm in both locations. The sessions will be taught by John Stone, Coordinator of the MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program.

We recommend participants read and study the Core Manual before attending the review. Copies may be ordered from the MSU Extension Bookstore: www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu, or 1-517-353-6740. County Extension and the NWMHRC may also have copies available. Please call ahead for availability.

Registration cost for these programs is \$30. Interested producers are encouraged to register on-line at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/events/index.cfm>. Scroll down the page to find the registration link. The on-line registration system allows producers to pay by credit card or mail in a check. Registering on-line helps us prepare for the number of people planning to attend. If paying at the door, please make checks payable to *Michigan State University*.

Lunch is on your own.

The MDARD pesticide applicator certification exam will follow the review session starting at 12:30 pm. Seats for the MDARD exam must be made in advance on line at: www.michigan.gov/pestexam, or by calling 1-800-292-3939. The cost of the review session is separate from the MDARD exam fee. Those taking the exam must bring a separate check made payable to: *State of Michigan*. The cost for the Private exam is \$50.00 and the Commercial exam is \$75.00. As of October 1, if you served in the military and were "honorably discharged", bring a copy of Form DD214 to the exam session and the **private** applicator certification fee will be waived.

For directions or meeting location information, please contact:

December 13th, NW Hort. Center: Jackie Baase at 231-946-1510

December 14th, Bank Township Hall, Ellsworth: Antrim County MSU Extension at 231-533-8818

For program content of recertification credit information, please contact:

John Stone, Coordinator, MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program

Email: stonejo2@msu.edu

Phone: 517-353-5134

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2013 TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL

Registration is now open for the 2013 MSU Tree Fruit IPM School! Attached is a brochure containing details about the meeting and a registration form:

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday through Friday, February 13-15, 2013** at the Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids. The two and a half day program will cover a variety of topics (for more info on program content, please refer to the brochure), but the motto this year is BE NIMBLE.

The \$210 registration fee will cover breakfast, breaks, and lunches on Wednesday and Thursday, breakfast and breaks on Friday, the classroom facilities, the travel expenses and honorarium for non-MSU speakers, and a binder containing all the

materials associated with the course. Attendees will be able to gain credits toward pesticide applicator recertification. Dinner will be on your own. Lodging is separate (see below). Carolyn Devereaux in the Entomology business office will be handling the registrations. Checks should be made payable to Michigan State University. Registration forms and payment should be post-marked by **January 29, 2013** and sent to:

Attn: Carolyn Devereaux
Tree Fruit IPM School
Michigan State University
288 Farm Lane, Rm 243 Natural Science Bldg.
East Lansing, MI 48824

Because we need to have accurate counts for catering, room set up, materials, etc., to discourage late registration, after January 29th the registration fee increases to \$310.

The nearby Holiday Inn Downtown is providing a block of rooms for lodging. The following link will take you directly to the Holiday Inn website for booking reservations associated with this event online:

Link: [MSU Tree Fruit IPM School](#)
Please use Group Code: MSU

Or you can call the hotel directly to reserve a room at [\(616\) 235-7611](#) - either way, **reservations must be booked by January 29th** to guarantee the room rate of \$100/night double occupancy or \$110/night for triple or quad occupancy plus 15% room tax.

Lastly, yes, there will be another IPM Pub Quiz, organized by Nikki Rothwell! [Click Here to see the brochure](#) for additional information and registration form.

2013 IPM ACADEMY

Michigan State University is offering fruit growers a new two-day workshop that focuses on integrated pest management practices and pushes the boundaries of traditional ag programming. The 2013 Integrated Pest Management Academy (IPMA13) will take place February 19-20 at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, Michigan. IPMA13 will address the weather challenges of the 2012 production season with the help of Dr. Jonathan Comstock from the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University. Dr. Comstock will address shifting weather patterns and the related impacts affecting agricultural producers. Dr. Comstock is a climate change expert and is co-author of both the Agriculture and Ecosystems chapters of the recent [NY ClimAID Report](#), which looks at climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies. Michigan State University experts will also be on hand to discuss irrigation, frost protection, and changing weather patterns in Michigan.

On the second day of the event, participants will opt into two, half-day sessions on the topics of their choice. Morning sessions include Apple and Cherry IPM, Deciduous Tree IPM, Scouting Techniques for Field Crops and Forages, and Vegetable IPM. Afternoon sessions include Check it Out, MSU Resources for Hops, Saskatoons and Chestnuts, Conifer IPM, Emerging Issues in Field Crop Pesticide Resistance, IPM in Small Fruit Crops, and Vegetable IPM. For more information on what these sessions include, please visit <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=IPMAAcademy2013>.

Participants will receive a notebook with program material and a complimentary IPM-related MSU bulletin. Michigan pesticide recertification credits will be available. The cost of this event is \$225; please note that snacks, lunch and parking are included. Lodging is not included but special rates are available. Registration is open December 3 through February 12, but space is limited so to learn more and register today by visiting <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=IPMAAcademy2013>. For more information, or to request a paper registration form, please contact Erin Lizotte at taylo548@msu.edu or call 231-944-6504.

This program was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MSU EXTENSION GROWING MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OFFERS LONG-TERM VIEW FOR FARMERS, AG PROFESSIONALS

Whether it's wacky weather or government regulations, agriculture's changing climate continues to challenge Michigan farmers. That's why Michigan State University Extension is hosting the Growing Michigan Conference.

Posted on **December 7, 2012, MSU-E News**, by **Mindy Pratt**, Michigan State University Extension

There's no doubt that agriculture plays a vital role in Michigan's economy. In April 2012, Michigan State University researchers announced that the food and agriculture supply chain shows the industry contributes an estimated \$91.4 billion to Michigan's economy—an increase of nearly 50 percent from 2004 to 2010.

Whether it's wacky weather or government regulations, agriculture's changing climate continues to challenge Michigan farmers. That's why [Michigan State University Extension](#) is bringing together farmers and agricultural professionals with interests in various major agricultural commodities to learn more about the changes on the horizon. [The Growing Michigan Conference](#) will take place Jan. 24, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Mich.

This one-day conference is jam-packed with timely information from MSU educators and nationally renowned speakers that will help Michigan producers maximize their farms' potential.

"We are looking forward to having knowledgeable speakers presenting to such a diverse agricultural audience," said Dale Rozeboom, MSU professor and Extension specialist. "So often we have great speakers at our individual winter commodity meetings. This conference allows people from all ag sectors to come together in one setting, hear the very best speakers and get the latest information on a variety of important topics."

During the conference, MSU professor and veterinarian Julie Funk will discuss how reemerging food safety issues could affect Michigan agriculture and how improved diagnostics can help producers protect their commodities. A team of MSU specialists will discuss strategic and global perspectives on feed availability, volatile feed costs and price received, variable feed quality, increasing on-farm storage capabilities, exports and a structurally changing global feed industry.

Bernie Erven, of The Ohio State University, will talk about recruiting, hiring and keeping topnotch labor. His presentation will focus on hiring the right candidate to ensure a successful outcome.

Producers can learn how to incorporate and effectively apply precision ag technology to gain efficiencies and increase farm profits during a presentation by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Joe Luck.

Donald Reicosky, soil scientist emeritus at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service will discuss how producers can manage soil to improve infiltration and water-holding capacity. Reicosky's past research involved describing crop response and water use on conventional tillage and no-till systems with and without irrigation. His more current work focuses on tillage and residue management in cropping systems.

A producer panel during lunch will discuss the morning session topics; a panel at the end of the day will discuss lessons learned from the challenging 2012 growing season. Several Michigan farmers will address management practices they had in place that helped them respond to the variable growing conditions of 2012.

"Producer panels really help to bring the information home to where production takes place," Rozeboom said. "We're planning this year to take time in the conference to evaluate how labor, food safety, efficient use of technology, securing animal feeds, and above- and below ground crop management are included in practical strategies for the future. If we stay aware of what is happening and what may be coming, then we will be able to make wise transitions in our farming business plans."

The conference registration fee is \$50 and includes lunch. You can register electronically by visiting <http://bit.ly/MSUGrowing>, or you can contact Megghan Honke at honkemeg@msu.edu or 517-353-3175, ext. 229.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

2013 NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW

If you haven't already, please mark your calendar for the 2013 NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show to be held January 21-22 at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI. Details will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

ENERGY OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM SAVES DOLLARS FOR MICHIGAN FARMS

The Energy Optimization energy efficiency program provides rebates to eligible farmers across Michigan.

Posted on **December 7, 2012**, **MSU-E News**, by **Charles Gould**, and Al Go, Michigan State University Extension

The [Energy Optimization](#) energy efficiency program provides rebates to eligible farmers across Michigan to better manage their energy use and save money. Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) are straightforward and rebates are plentiful (see chart). Rebate availability depends on participating utilities (see map) and are updated/modified annually.

Energy Conservation Measure	Rebate (restrictions apply)
Low-energy Livestock Waterer	\$50/unit
Barn Exhaust Fan	\$2 per blade inch
Barn Circulation Fan	\$2 per blade inch
Commercial Electric Water Heater for Dairy Milk House	\$250/unit
High Performance T8 Fluorescent Lights	\$2-20 per fixture
High Bay Light Replacement (i.e., T8 or T5HO linear fluorescent lights)	\$20-50 per fixture
CFL bulbs	\$1-4 per bulb
LED light bulbs	\$8 per lamp
Lighting Occupancy Sensors	\$15-30 per sensor
Split system Air Conditioning	\$10 per ton
Central Packaged Rooftop AC	\$10 per ton
Variable Frequency Drives	\$60 per hp up to 40 percent of project cost (limitations apply)
Commercial Refrigeration	Varies. See non-lighting application

Compressed Air	Varies by utility.
Custom Rebates (i.e., irrigation pump speed controls, irrigation pressure reduction, efficient milk harvesting and cooling equipment, dusk to dawn outdoor lights, etc.)	\$0.05 per annual kWh saved up to 40 percent of project cost (limitations apply)

A key aspect of the Utility Energy Optimization program is what is called “custom rebate” options. This means that farmers with a certified farm energy audit who use the custom rebate option get paid per kWh or BTU of calculated savings for each Energy Conservation Measure that is implemented or going to be implemented. The payoff is much larger than the per-piece table values listed above. With a custom rebate option you can use options (proven and available) and you are not limited to the Energy Conservation Measures on the list. To maximize rebates, [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu) recommends doing a custom rebate option. It is worth the \$500 buy-in required for a certified farm energy audit. Some utility companies even cover the \$500 buy-in cost.

The items and rebates listed in the table are usually the same for all utility companies as these items and rates are approved by the [Michigan Public Service Commission](http://www.mpsc.state.mi.us), however customers need to go to their utility company web page and verify this. For agriculture, most utility companies will allow farms on a “residential” utility rate to avail themselves of the commercial rebates as well. However, farmers need to verify this with their utility company.



Additional key points about the Energy Optimization program:

Energy Optimization program staff are available to assist businesses with custom rebates.

Businesses may also qualify for a variety of other Energy Optimization program rebates. View a [rebate summary](#).

There are also many [residential Energy Optimization programs](#) such as getting in-store discounts on CFL bulbs to rebates on new energy efficient furnaces and appliances. There is even a free [online home energy audit tool](#) that shows what energy-saving steps homeowners can take right away. Rebate checks are issued 6-8 weeks after the project and paperwork are completed.

[Twelve cooperative and municipal utilities](#) are part of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) collaborative and offer **Energy Optimization** programs.

For more details about Energy Optimization programs, call 877.296.4319 or visit michigan-energy.org, or contact Charles Gould at gouldm@msu.edu or Al Go at goaluel@egr.msu.edu.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

NEW PARTNER IN CONSERVATION

Area farmers have gained a new ally in conservation with the addition of Jessica Rasch at the Grand Traverse Conservation District. Jessica grew up a sixth generation farmer on a large apple orchard in West Michigan. Jessica earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Grand Valley State University. For the past seven years, Jessica has been involved in research trials with Michigan State University's Tree Fruit Entomology Department. During these trials she has emphasized Integrated Pest Management practices targeting moths using insecticides and pheromone mating disruption. Jessica has worked directly with growers in west Michigan as a liaison for these trials by providing support and building a connection based on trust and common goals. She is an excellent resource and is looking forward to providing Northern Michigan growers assistance in advancing sustainable agriculture and protecting our natural resources through the MAEAP program. Jessica can be reached at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, 231-941-0960x23

WATER USE REPORTING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Growers who have the capacity to pump 70 gallons per minute or greater are required to report their water use to the state on an annual basis. Growers who have been reporting this use are likely now aware that MDARD has moved to an online water use reporting system for the 2012 reporting season. Growers will need to add in their well information into the online system, but this will save growers from having to re-enter basic well data every year. Local Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Technicians are available to assist growers with setting up the online reporting. Garrett Coggon, and Jessica Rasch, based out of the Grand Traverse Conservation District, can assist growers with transitioning to the new reporting system. Growers interested in assistance, or learning more about the MAEAP program can contact Garrett or Jessica at: 231-941-0960x22.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktrv>

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Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

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<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
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Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

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Bill Klein
Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

December 28, 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/21-22** [NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show](#)
Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Acme, MI - [Room Rate Brochure](#)
- 1/26** **14th Annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference**
Grayling High School
Register online at: www.smallfarmconference.com
- 2/11** **Wholesale Success: A Farmer's Guide to Food Safety, Selling, Postharvest Handling, and Packing Produce**
NWMHRC
Register online at: www.mlui.org/getfarming
- 2/13-15** [MSU Tree Fruit School](#)
Grand Rapids

PASSING ON THE FARM: PLANNING FOR FARM TRANSITION

If you are considering passing on your farm to the next generation, you will want to learn about some of the strategies involved. Please join us on **Wednesday, January 9th, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center where speakers will be covering:

Working with family members on estate planning
Guidance on transfer tax, legal issues
How a conservation easement may figure in to your succession plan
Success stories

Cost: \$10 Individual, \$15 Couple, \$20 Family up to 4, \$10 additional family members. Lunch is included.

Presenters are Scott D. Harvey, Esq; Ellen Fred, Esq; Van Varner, MSU Extension (retired); Annie Shetler, SBTDC; a farmer panel; and others.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Jim Sluyter at 231-889-0199, jimsluyter@mlui.org or visit www.mlui.org/getfarming

Workshop Partners – MSU Extension, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge, New FARM Program, NW Council of Governments, NW MI Small Business & Technology Development Center, NW Farm Bureau, Food & Farming Network, USDA, The Leelanau Land Conservancy, Conservation Partners

2012 INSECT ACTIVITY AND ITS EFFECTS ON 2013 FRUIT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS: PART I - CODLING MOTH

The 2012 weather significantly affected the fruit, but also had an impact on insect levels. Let's explore how codling moth levels and management may be impacted for the 2013 fruit season.

Posted on **December 17, 2012, MSU-E News**, by **Larry Gut**, Michael Haas and Peter McGhee, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology

Mention the summer of 2012 to a Michigan fruit grower and talk turns somber in a hurry. The frost injury and drought that occurred will be talked about for many generations. Hopefully, we will never see another loss of crop like that in our lifetime.

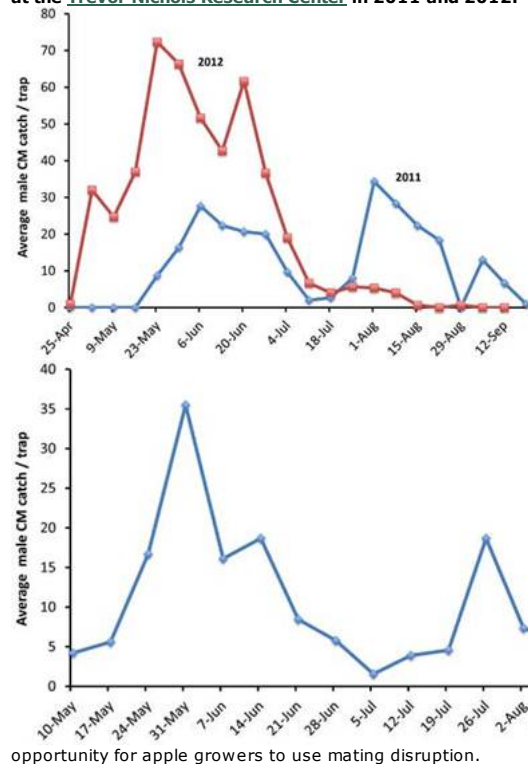
From a strictly entomological point of view, it was an unusual season, also. It has not occurred in the memorable past that so few, if any, insecticides were applied in a single season. Many growers started the season with their insect management program in place but walked away from it early after the frost took its heavy toll.

The effects of this unusual occurrence will be felt in the upcoming season and perhaps in seasons beyond. Pest insects and beneficial insects alike have been impacted. What are the implications for some of our primary insect and mite pests and beneficials; what can we expect in 2013? These are the questions that will be addressed in a series of articles that look to the upcoming growing season from an entomological perspective.

The dark clouds of 2012 have passed and there's no telling what looms on the horizon with respect to weather. Despite the unpredictability, it's time to shift our gaze from last season's problems and look toward the new season with the knowledge that, at least entomologically speaking, there is good reason to be encouraged.

Our review starts with a look at the key pest of Michigan apples: codling moth. This past season we conducted research in many orchards around the state. Trapping and fruit inspections revealed that codling moth activity varied across the state's apple producing regions. In the southwest and southeast, codling moth had an early but robust first generation flight as illustrated by catch in pheromone traps at the [Trevor Nichols Research Center](#) (Fig. 1). Weekly catches of moths in traps were fairly high with a distinct peak period of activity. Unlike in a typical year, however, there was essentially no second generation flight. This was not surprising, as the spring frosts had removed nearly all of the fruit – the food source for first generation codling moth larvae.

Figure 1. Average weekly codling moth captures in pheromone-baited traps at the Trevor Nichols Research Center in 2011 and 2012.



Codling moth also had an early and fairly robust first generation flight in the Fruit Ridge area and in west central Michigan (Fig. 2). Unlike the southern portion of the state, however, codling moth was able to mount a second generation flight as well. Although fruit loads ranging from only 10 to 40 percent of a crop were devastating to growers, for codling moth they were a plentiful food source. Some growers maintained a summer codling moth management program and protected their fruit from injury. Others, however, did not apply insecticides in the summer and, in many cases, wormy fruit were not hard to find.

Figure 2. Average weekly codling moth captures in pheromone-baited traps in orchards in the Fruit Ridge area, 2012.

Apple growers can benefit by reflecting on 2012 codling moth activity in their region and on their farm when implementing 2013 codling moth management programs. In the southwest and southeast, there is a good chance that codling moth activity will start late due to the expected narrowing of the emergence time, and be atypically low in 2013. This provides some unique management opportunities.

As always, growers benefit greatly by monitoring for codling moth using pheromone-baited traps. A late start to the flight would mean that spray timings could be delayed. For example, the first larvicide (e.g., Altacor, Belt, Delegate) may not be warranted until 350 or even 400 degree-days post-biofix. This could mean that only a single treatment may be required to achieve first generation codling moth control. Low codling moth pressure would also provide an ideal

opportunity for apple growers to use mating disruption.

Applying hand-applied MD dispensers at a high rate of 300 to 400 per acre may be all that is needed for codling moth control. And for those who want to save money, low codling moth pressure provides an opportunity to use a lower rate of 200 dispensers per acre and apply supplemental insecticides if trapping indicates they are needed. The options above also are likely valid for apple growers in other regions that maintained a summer codling moth management program in 2012.

The challenges will be quite different for growers that had a second generation codling moth flight and wormy fruit in 2013. Monitoring with pheromone traps is always the best start to a codling moth management program. The anticipated early and robust codling moth flight would mean that growers need to respond with insecticide treatments at optimal timings as described in a May 31, 2011, [Michigan State University Extension](#) article, [Early first generation codling moth management options for 2011](#).

Growers also should consider implementing a pheromone-based management program, as insecticides alone may not provide enough control under high codling moth pressure. Applying hand-applied MD dispensers at a high rate of 300 to 400 per acre and applying supplemental insecticides as needed based on moth captures in traps should provide the high level of control that may be required to curtail second generation activity and fruit injury at harvest.

We hope this article helps in planning for the 2013 season. Future articles will review 2012 activity and 2013 management implications for leafrollers, apple maggot, mites and other secondary pests and beneficials.

Dr. Gut's work is funded in part by MSU's AgBioResearch.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

INTERESTED IN STARTING A WINERY? ATTEND THE FEBRUARY WINERY DEVELOPMENT PRECONFERENCE

Prospective winery owners will obtain basic information about starting a winery in Michigan by participating in the one-day winery development conference to be held Feb. 13, 2013 at Michigan State University.

Posted on **December 13, 2012**, MSU-E News, by **Joanne Davidhizar**, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan State University Product Center

With both wine grape acreage and winery numbers hitting all-times highs in Michigan, the state's winery industry continues to grow. To assist potential entrepreneurs in understanding the elements of a successful winery business launch, a one-day winery development preconference will be held February 13 in association with the 2013 [Michigan Grape and Wine Conference](#). The session will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the [Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center](#), East Lansing, MI 48824.

Preconference sponsors, [Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council](#), [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#), and [Michigan State University Extension](#), [Michigan State University Product Center](#), [Michigan State University Institute of Agricultural Technology](#), and [Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance \(VESTA\)](#) will provide basic

information about starting a winery in Michigan. Topics include wine grape suitability, industry trends, business planning, marketing, licensing requirements, local zoning considerations, finance, owner experiences and resources.

Over 85 percent of participants in a 2009 winery development conference lead by these partners were able to learn the specifics of starting a winery and network with successful industry people. These attendees took action toward starting 16 wineries, creating an estimated 121 new jobs and investing \$4.375 million according to a survey report by The [Michigan State University Center for Economic Analysis](#).

Dr. Miguel Gómez of the [Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management](#) at Cornell University is the session's featured speaker. Dr. Gómez will address basic business planning, cash flow, return on investment, and related financial factors for small wineries in the Great Lakes region.

For more information or to register for the session, go to: www.michiganwines.com/conference. The preconference registration fee is \$80 per person or \$100 per person after Feb. 1, 2013. Participants are invited to attend the full conference February 14-15 to further their learning and networking opportunities.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

ANNUAL SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS HELP ENSURE A PASSING SAFETY AUDIT

A properly working sewage treatment system on the farm is critical in preventing contamination to the adjacent fields and essential in passing a food safety audit. Here are a number of food safety considerations regarding inspection of septic systems.

Posted on **December 13, 2012, MSU-E News**, by **Phil Tocco**, Michigan State University Extension

GAP auditors want to know and see that all sewage systems near your production area are not failing. These include septic systems and the storage for any portable toilets you may have near the production area. This is visually inspected for by the auditor, making it important that you know what the auditor will find before the audit takes place.

It is important to know where all septic systems and leach fields are in relation to the production areas. These should be listed and mapped in your food safety manual. Each septic system doesn't have to be checked on a regular basis, but at least once a year prior to the audit is recommended. Septic systems require regular pumping to work effectively. You may wish to keep pumping records such as receipts of pumpings in a separate folder, but handy during the audit in case they are asked for.

Signs of a failing septic system include bands of variable growth in the vegetation over the leach field, seepage on the ground and, ultimately, sewage backing up into the residence. Keep these in mind as you perform a visual inspection prior to the auditor's arrival.

Just as septic systems need regular pumping, so do the portable toilets near the production area. If you contract with a company for pumping services, make sure they have logged when the portable toilets are serviced or maintain receipts of servicing from the company to show the auditor. If you service the toilet yourself, keep a log of when you do it and be prepared to explain what you do with the effluent. In general, it is recommended to dispose of the effluent in non-production areas or a landfill.

If you have specific questions about septic system inspection or have difficulty tailoring GAPs to your farm, contact [Michigan State University Extension's Agrifood Safety Work Group](#) at gaps@msu.edu or 517-788-4292. To obtain more information on septic systems for GAP purposes, ask for guidance document AFSM034-01.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

CLIMATE, WEATHER, AND FARMING: WHAT IS HISTORY TELLING US?

Watching the weather and determining how to manage day-to-day operations is both an art and science for successful farmers.

Posted on **December 19, 2012, MSU-E News**, by **Marilyn Thelen**, Michigan State University Extension

As we finish 2012, a year in which the growing season began with an abnormally warm March, was plagued by a severe drought that impacted much of the corn belt, and ended with farmers reporting both record high and record low yields in corn and soybeans, it is fitting to discuss climate and weather and its impact on our agriculture industry.

Last year, the [Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center](#) (a NOAA-funded collaboration of [Michigan State University](#) and the [University of Michigan](#)) and the [USDA National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment](#) assembled a team of experts to provide input to the [U.S. Global Change Research Program's](#) forthcoming [National Climate Assessment](#). This Midwest Technical Input Team produced a series of reports in 2012, representing the current state of knowledge on what climate change and variability mean to the most critical sectors in the region.

According to the team's report on historical climate trends, weather and climate remain among the most important uncontrollable variables involved in the region's agricultural production systems. This is particularly critical for the Midwest as agriculture is a major player in this region's economy, with over \$200 billion in farm gate value.

Let's begin by discussing the difference between climate and weather. Climate is long-term, based on statistics of observations taken over a large number of years. It is what you can "count-on" in Michigan, for example cool crisp falls, snow in the winter, etc. Weather, on the other hand, is what you get on a day-to-day basis. The abnormally warm March of 2012 was a weather event; this was not typical of Michigan's climate. This article is the first in a series where [Michigan State University Extension](#) will discuss the report as it relates to agriculture in the Midwest. The full report is available on the [Great Lakes Integrated Science Assessment](#) website.

In the Midwest, mean temperatures have increased since 1900 and the rate of increase is greater from 1980 through 2010. Precipitation has also increased since the late 1930s. In fact, the last three decades have been the wettest on record. However, the changes in rainfall and temperature have not been the same in all regions or in all four seasons of the year. In Michigan, annual precipitation has remained the same, but we are getting less rain in the fall and more

precipitation in the winter and spring. Michigan has gotten warmer over the last 30 years as well with the winter and spring temperatures increasing the most.

Whether you are growing a garden, corn or fruit trees, growing season length is an important factor in the success of your operation. In our region, the growing season has been getting longer. Much of the change has been due to earlier springs. As a result, green-up of overwintering crops in the Midwest is occurring 10 days earlier than just a few decades ago [\[ia1\]](#). While the increase in growing season has benefits, there is also a downside. When it gets warm early, perennial plants break dormancy early and are then more vulnerable to freeze.

Rain is necessary for crop growth, but is not easily stored. The frequency and intensity of storms has increased since the beginning of the 20th century. On average, about 30 percent of the annual precipitation total across the region comes from just 10 daily events, and the number of these events has increased in recent decades. For Michigan, we see a range of 24 to 36 percent of our annual rain in just 10 daily events.

This is a summary of what historic data tell us about trends over time for the Midwest and, more specifically, Michigan. More details can be found in the [full report](#).

Watching the weather is still an important part of day-to-day management decisions. However, studying historical trends may provide some insight into longer-term planning.

Learn more about the weather challenges of the 2012 production season as well as shifting weather patterns and the related impacts affecting agriculture producers at the [2012 IPM Academy](#), Feb. 19-20.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

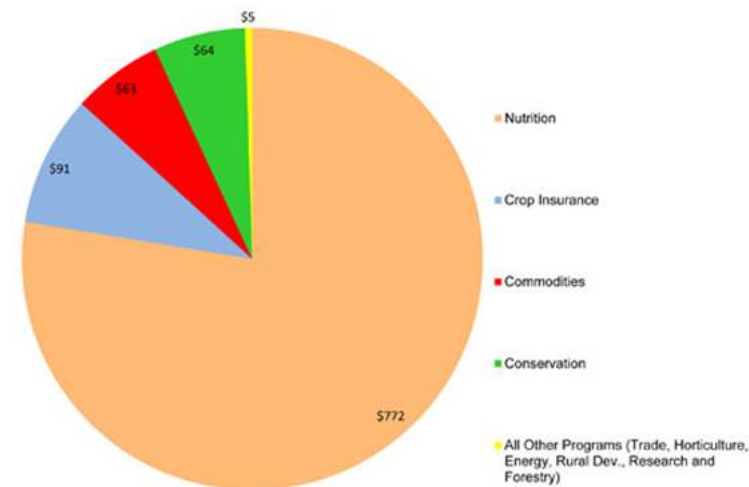
LAST CHANGE FOR A 2012 FARM BILL

Congressional Farm Bill proposals offer significant opportunity for improved programs and bipartisan deficit reduction.

Posted on **December 19, 2012, MSU-E News**, by **James DeDecker**, Michigan State University

The U.S. Farm Bill is multi-billion dollar piece of legislation that governs numerous federal programs related to food and agriculture. Funding authorized by the Farm Bill has a substantial national impact through programs in nutrition (\$772 billion), crop insurance (\$91 billion), commodities (\$63 billion), conservation (\$64 billion) and other areas. This year, the Farm Bill is once again due for renewal.

Baseline of mandatory outlays for Farm Bill Titles (FY2013-FY2022 in billions of dollars)



Reauthorization became a priority when programs under the [Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008](#) began to expire on September 30, 2012. The Senate responded swiftly by approving its version of the new Farm Bill in June ([S. 3240](#)), and the House Agriculture Committee followed suit in July ([H.R. 6083](#)). However, House leaders have refused to put either version of the bill to a vote, citing the need for additional spending cuts. While not unexpected, a stalled Farm Bill is especially frustrating this time because, believe it or not, the majority of Republicans and Democrats largely agree on the changes to be made.

Commodities and crop insurance

Most people concede that farming

is especially risky business that necessitates some type of financial safety net. [Current agricultural commodity programs](#) support farmers through direct and counter-cyclical payments based on commodity production and market prices respectively. [Critics](#) argue that these payments are inequitably distributed, favoring large producers of staple commodities over small, specialty growers. This position is supported by research indicating that since 1995, 74 percent of all commodity payments have gone to just 10 percent of subsidized farms, while 62 percent of U.S. farms did not collect any commodity payments. The Senate and House agree that direct commodity payments should be eliminated from the new Farm Bill at an estimated savings of \$20 billion over 10 years.

There is also consensus that federally subsidized revenue protection programs should be enhanced to compensate. Both proposed versions of the new Farm Bill allocate additional funds (\$5 billion in S. 3240; \$10 billion in H.R. 6083) to the current \$91 billion crop insurance baseline and extend existing disaster assistance programs. Some worry that additional crop insurance subsidies will [encourage production on environmentally sensitive lands](#).

To address this concern, the Senate included a "conservation compliance" amendment in S. 3240 which ties crop insurance premium support to a grower's conservation practices. Many agricultural organizations have [publically opposed](#) this measure, leading the House Agriculture Committee to withdraw a similar amendment from H.R. 6083.

Conservation

Over the years, the conservation title of the Farm Bill has grown to include 23 different programs that pay farmers to either remove land from production or alter their management to enhance the environment. Larger components include the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP), the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP).

These programs represent the most significant source of federal funding for conservation. However, demand for certain programs has declined over time and overlap between others creates redundancy. Both S. 3240 and H.R. 6083 propose to save an estimated \$6 billion through consolidation of existing conservation programs into fewer streamlined options. EQIP, for example, would be reauthorized with 5 percent of its baseline funding dedicated to wildlife habitat enhancement previously covered by the [Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program](#) (WHIP, to be repealed). The most significant cuts in conservation spending proposed are 25 and 22 percent reductions in the CRP and CSP enrollment caps.

While reductions in enrolled acres have the potential to roll-back conservation gains, all parties appear to agree that increased efficiency will save money. More information on conservation programs in the new Farm Bill is available as a recorded [webinar](#) sponsored in part by the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center and [Michigan State University Extension](#).

Nutrition

The largest difference between S. 3240 and H.R. 6083 is in the depth of proposed cuts to the nutrition title, particularly the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP, formally the Food Stamp Program). Both proposed bills include changes to rules regarding the redemption of SNAP benefits, as well as funding to combat benefits trafficking. However, the Senate proposal removes only \$4 billion from the baseline, while the House Committee proposal eliminates additional programs to total \$16 billion in savings. As the largest Farm Bill title (\$772 billion), this disagreement amounts to only 1.5 percent of total nutrition appropriations. Yet, it is this relatively insignificant disagreement that has stalled the Farm Bill. Republican House leaders want more cuts to SNAP; Democrats and the White House do not agree.

Overall, the Farm Bill proposals represent the kind of thoughtful bipartisan give-and-take that has been missing from American politics. Of nearly \$1 trillion in total appropriations, S. 3240 and H.R. 6083 differ by only 1.2 percent (\$12 billion). As farmers stare over the so-called "fiscal cliff" of automatic tax increases and spending cuts, passing a five-year Farm Bill should be prioritized. Doing so would not only ensure a more predictable future for agriculture, but could set a precedent for responsible deficit reduction as well.

References

[What Is The Farm Bill?](#) Congressional Research Service

[The 2012 Farm Bill: A Comparison of Senate-Passed S. 3240 and the House Agriculture Committee's H.R. 6083 with Current Law](#), Congressional Research Service

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NEW ON-LINE WATER USE REPORTING SYSTEM



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER AT
DIRECTOR

November 9, 2012

Dear Agricultural Water User:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has moved to an on-line water use reporting system for the 2012 reporting season. You may access the new online system at <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/wur>. The MDARD system, despite the URL, is separate from the MDEQ water use reporting system used by non-agricultural industries. A common platform with two branches is used to allow information to be integrated directly with the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool and baseline data to more accurately reflect all water use in a given area around the state. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff does not access to the water use reporting system used for agriculture.

Paper reporting forms will not be sent out for the 2012 reporting year. We will not accept reports submitted on 2011 paper forms.

If you do not have computer access at home or business you may go to a county conservation district or Michigan State University Extension office for assistance. There is a tutorial included in this packet and there will be a number of hands-on trainings offered around the state through next spring of 2013. If it is not possible for you to access a computer for reporting, contact the MDARD to be sent a paper form for the 2012 reporting year. Please understand, however, that on-line reporting will be mandatory in 2013. I encourage you to take advantage of the training and assistance that will be available to you for this reporting year as it will be limited for the 2013 reporting year.

Agricultural operations with the capacity to withdraw over 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) are required to report to the state the water withdrawals and water conservation practices used on their farms. Reporting this information is required by Public Act 148 of 2003, now Part 327 of P.A. 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. There is no fee for reporting this information to the MDARD. **The completed report is due April 1, 2013.**

If you meet water use reporting capacity requirements, but you withdraw water for a commercial purpose other than a farm operation, you must report your water use to the MDEQ. For the purposes of water use reporting to the MDARD, farm operations include the commercial production, harvest, and storage of farm products, such as grain and feed crops, forage and sod crops, dairy and livestock, poultry, fruit and vegetables, fish, and nursery stock. Facilities that process agricultural products and landscaping businesses that do not raise their own horticultural stock are *not* considered farm operations for the purposes of water use reporting and should report to the MDEQ. Private well water used for domestic purposes does not need to be reported.

If you installed a new large quantity water withdrawal, surface or groundwater, you must register that system with the state. You cannot register a new withdrawal with your annual water use

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WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

report. You must consult the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) prior to installation of a new or increased capacity withdrawal. Once your new system is approved it will be registered through the WWAT. The MDARD will not accept new registration without proof of WWAT approval. To access the tool directly please go to www.miwat.org.

If you have any questions, need updates on available training around the state or need assistance, please visit the MDARD water-use Web page at www.michigan.gov/waterusereporting or call Abby Eaton at 517-241-3933. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



James Johnson, Director
Environmental Stewardship Division

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:

<http://aqbioreserach.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2012](#)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 12-28-12

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