

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates July 1, 2021

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates—whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed—please send me an email or call the office.

Expired Pesticide Applicators Licenses

This is a reminder that for those whose pesticide applicators license extension expired at the end of June, you will need to make other arrangements to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides until your license is renewed. The following message was sent by MDARD recently to RUP dealers in Michigan.

“The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding restricted use pesticide dealers the extension for selling restricted use pesticides (RUPs) to applicators whose certification expired on December 31, 2019 or December 31, 2020, is ending on June 30, 2021. After June 30, 2021, restricted use pesticide dealers must only sell RUPs to applicators with a non-expired pesticide applicator certification credential. Restricted use pesticide dealers should verify the certification status of the person purchasing RUPs by checking the expiration date on the certification card. Dealers needing assistance with verifying the certification status of a person purchasing RUPs may contact MDARD at 800-292-3939.

Applicators who have renewed their certification by exam or seminar credits but do not receive their certification card by June 30 may purchase a RUP by providing exam result sheets with a passing score (70 percent or better) or seminar record (16 credits for private core / eight credits for commercial core and each category / two credits for fumigation), a copy of the completed certification renewal application, and a copy of the check or money order sent in as the application fee.”

Field Day Planned for August in St. Joseph County

Two years ago I organized a field day showcasing several on-farm research trials being conducted in SW MI. It was held in St. Joseph County and was funded by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. I plan to host a similar event this year, likely around August 17th, with possible topics including: various irrigation research findings; update on soybean inoculation study; tar spot research updates; hemp research; and others. Look for more information in the next edition of this newsletter.

Job Postings with MSU Extension

Field Crops Educator, Tuscola County (posting #715389). This position up in the Thumb mirrors mine. Application deadline is 7/26/2021.

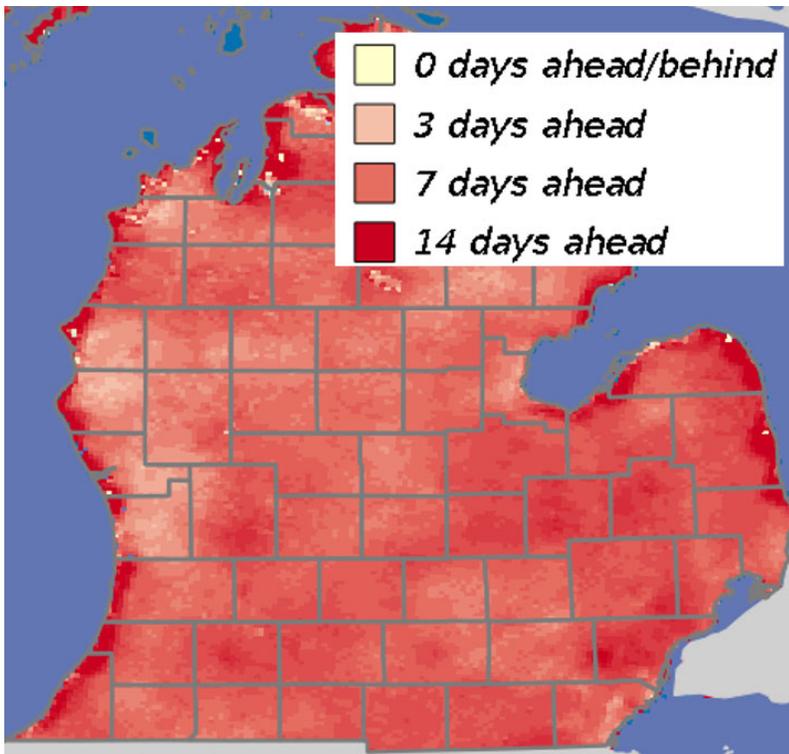
Blueberry/Small Fruit Educator, Van Buren County (posting #715518) Application deadline is 7/27/2021.

Both positions require a masters degree by the date of hire. [Visit http://careers.msu.edu](http://careers.msu.edu) for more details.

Weather and Crop/Pest Update

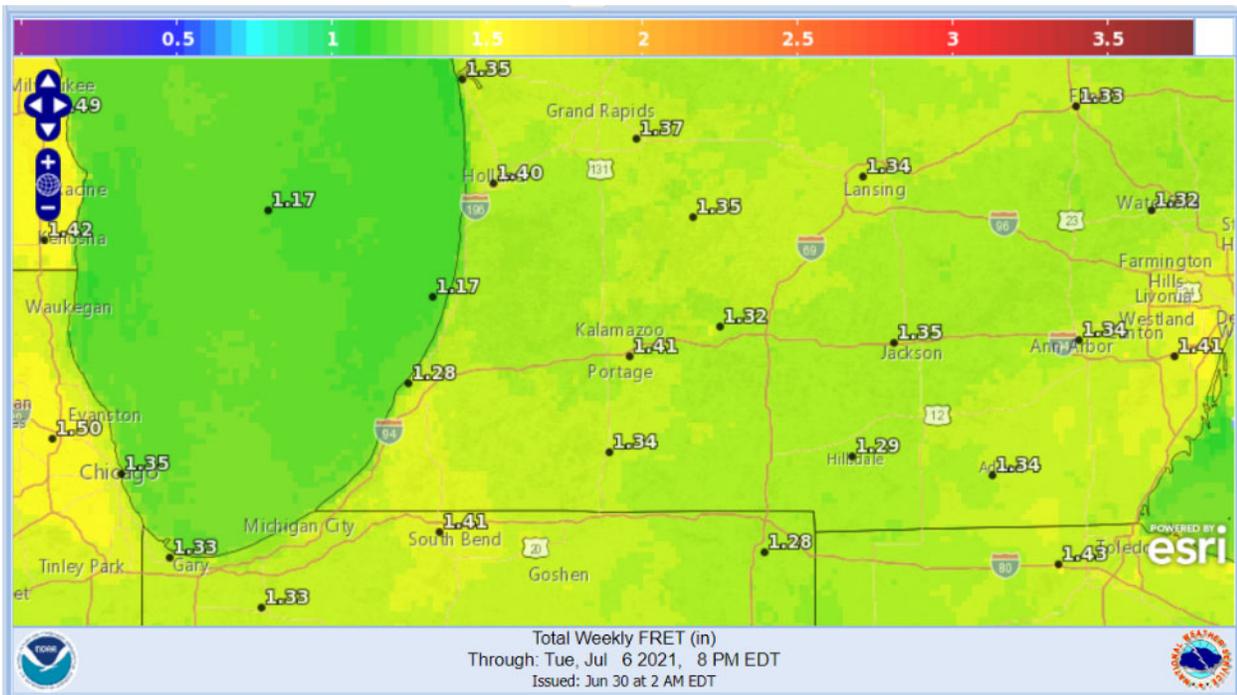
Temperatures in the latter half of June have been near normal, and we are holding steady at roughly one week ahead of normal with respect to heat units. The next week will see near-normal temps, and the weekly crop water use will be approximately 0.2 inches per day. Mid-range forecasts for the first half of July predict warmer-than-normal temperatures.

The main story so far this season has been water, and up until the third week of June, the highlight was the drought. We were 7+ inches behind normal in precipitation since the start of the year before we got the recent rains. With a few inches of rain beginning June 18, most of our region was elevated from D2 to D1 drought according to the June 24 release of the Drought Monitor. However, since then, we have received at least as much rainfall for a total of 4-10 inches over the past two weeks with select “winners” receiving north of 10 inches. Although some of that fell during intense downbursts, most of it was spread out and was able to infiltrate lighter soils just fine. I saw minimal ponding in fields as I was driving around earlier this week in Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Branch counties aside from isolated low spots in a few fields. However, Bruce MacKellar visited several fields further east on heavier ground with significant amounts of standing water. There is little chance of additional rain over the coming week, but mid-range outlooks predict a slight chance of wetter than normal conditions in the first half of July.

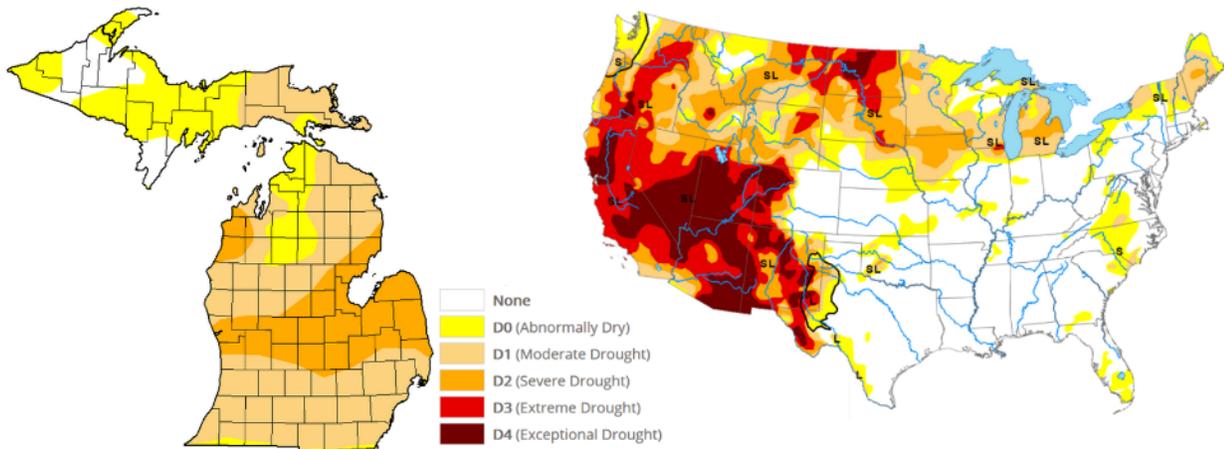


Growing degree day (base 50) accumulation compared with normal from March 1 through June 30, 2021.

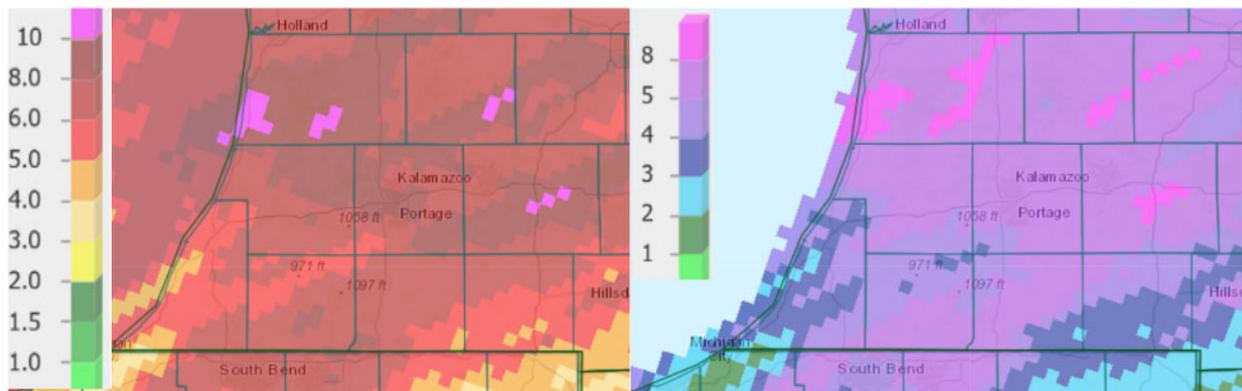
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Total weekly forecasted reference evapotranspiration (FRET) June 30 – July 6.

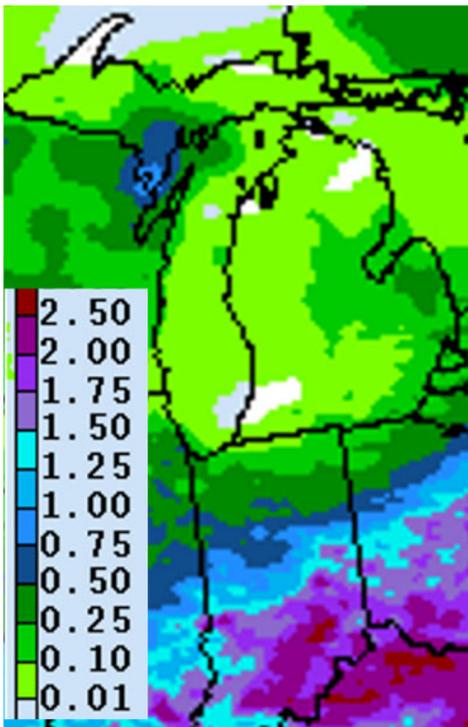


The U.S. Drought Monitor released June 24, 2021.

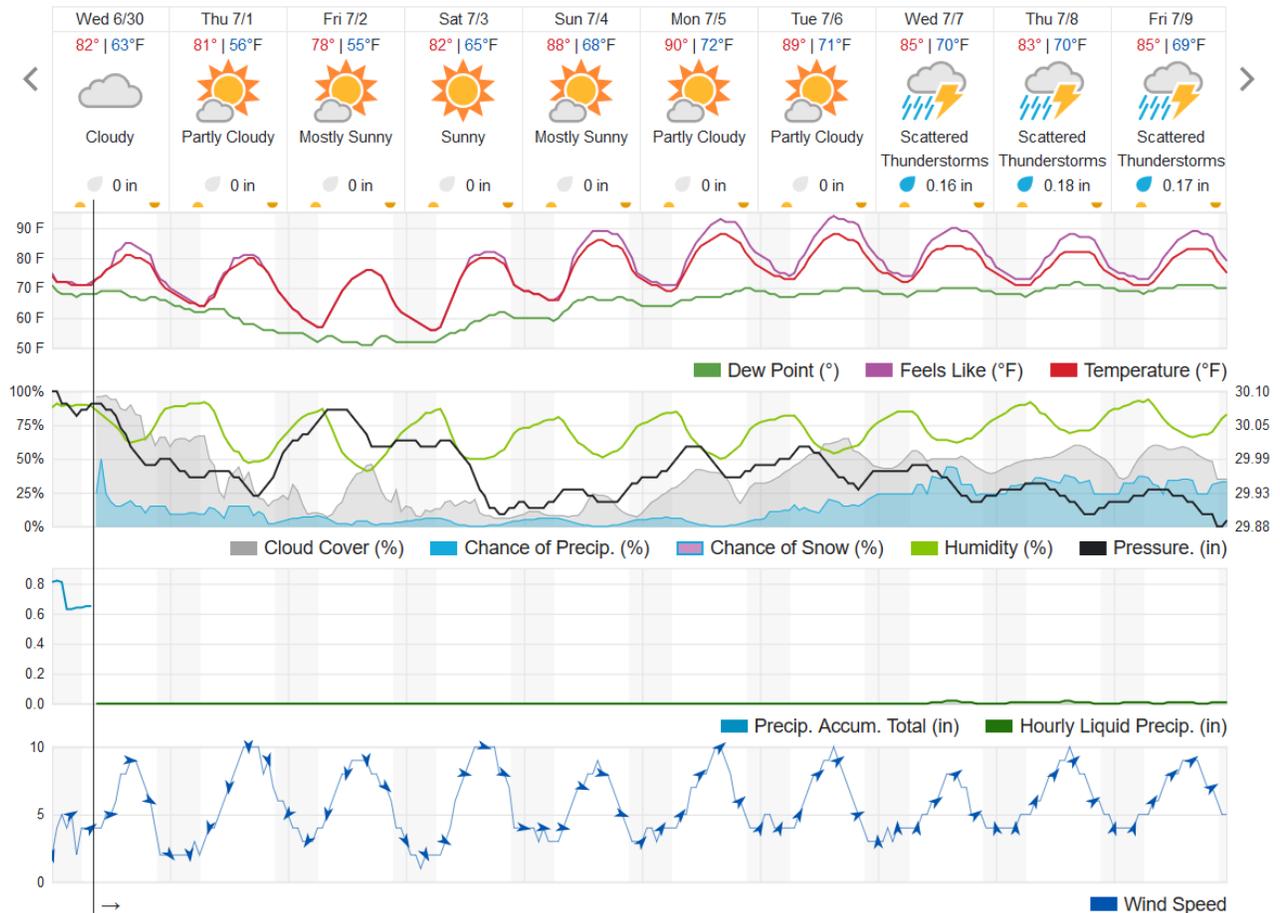


Precipitation totals (left) and departure from normal (right) for the past 14 days as of June 30.

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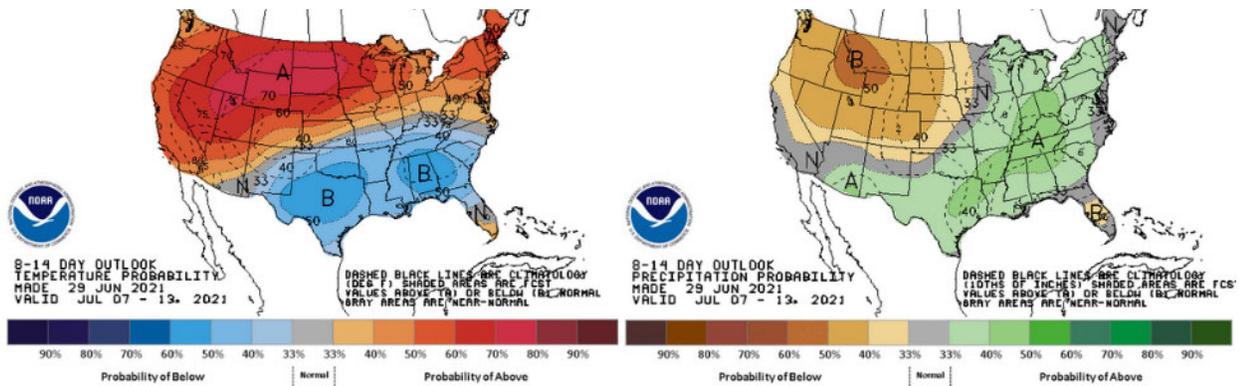


Precipitation forecast for June 30 – July 7.



The 10-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to wunderground.com.

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The 8-14 day outlook (July 7-13) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

Crops and Pests

I have seen wheat lodge in a few fields right after heavy rain and high winds nearly a couple of weeks ago, and I was told that problem was specific to a certain wheat variety. I have seen several cereal rye patches that were being grown for seed that have lodged. Corn and soybeans have responded very well to the rain, and with the warm weather, crop progress is advancing rapidly. Most corn is anywhere from V6-V10 and early-planted soybean have begun flowering (R1), marking one deadline for applying certain herbicides. Being roughly a week ahead in heat units, those harvesting wheat will likely begin in a couple of weeks with earlier-maturing varieties.

Many farmers waited to apply postemergence herbicides, and now that weeds are growing rapidly, control will be more difficult when fields dry out since bigger weeds are harder to kill than smaller ones. For those who planted Enlist soybean, both Enlist (2,4-D choline) and Enlist Duo (2,4-D choline + glyphosate) can be sprayed up through R2. For those who planted RR2 Extend soybean, remember that the window for spraying the approved dicamba products ended on June 30. Liberty can be applied up to R1 in LibertyLink soybean at 32-43 oz/ac, assuming soybean has the LibertyLink trait.

Volunteer corn is also getting tall in soybean fields, and even though we have herbicides that selectively control grasses in soybean, some may have issues with complete control. Clethodim products (SelectMax, others) are the best bet for volunteer corn. Remember that Enlist corn is tolerant of “fop” grass herbicides (quizalofop, fluzifop, etc.) so these will not be effective against Enlist volunteer corn.

For those fields with standing water, plant survival may be an issue. Corn and soybean can typically survive 1-4 days under water, although with warm temperatures like we have seen, we are at the low end of that range.

Another issue with the 2-week wet weather is diseases. With that much rain and high humidity, diseases such as tar spot in corn and white mold in soybean are favored under these conditions. Fungicide applications for white mold should be considered now as early-planted soybean is beginning R1. Endura and Approach are both effective against white mold [according to MSU Extension field crops pathologist Marty Chilvers](#). For tar spot, best management practices continue to include an application of an effective fungicide such as Trivapro, Headline Amp, etc. at VT/R1 to possibly as late as R4. Wheat should be OK, but if there was any foliar infection or head scab infection during flowering, that will spread more rapidly with these wet conditions. Monitor your fields and consider an early harvest if conditions worsen.

As we get closer to corn tasseling, it is time to scout for western bean cutworm. I will be collecting data on 8 traps set in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo counties and reporting trap counts in this newsletter.

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Lodged wheat following a high rain and wind event in mid-June. Photo courtesy of Eric Anderson.



Lodged cereal rye has been a common site around the region in the past few weeks. Photo courtesy of Eric Anderson.



Flooded corn field in northern Van Buren County. Photo courtesy of Bruce MacKellar.

Calendar

Note: Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined.

July 8

- [**Field Crops Virtual Breakfast**](#). 7-8am. Farm Stress with Eric Karbowski. One RUP and one CCA credit available for each live session. No cost to you, register online once for whole season.
- [**Organic Field Day at KBS**](#). 8am-2pm. Kellogg Biological Station, 9702 N 40th St, Hickory Corners, Michigan. This year's Organic Field Day, hosted by Herbruck's Poultry Ranch at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS), will share the latest on soil health research and market trends. Registration is \$20 pre-paid or \$25 at the event. Includes continental breakfast and lunch. Please register by July 2.

July 14

- [**RESCHEDULED MSU Weed Tour**](#). MSU Agronomy Farm, 4450 Beaumont Rd., Lansing. Check-in 8:30am, tour 9:30-11:30 and concludes with lunch. Cost is \$30, includes tour booklet and boxed lunch. All activities will be conducted outside. Pre-registration is required and will close on July 8.

July 15

- [**Field Crops Virtual Breakfast**](#). 7-8am. Drainage Water Quality with Ehsan Ghane. One RUP and one CCA credit available for each live session. No cost to you, register online once for whole season.

July 22

- [**Field Crops Virtual Breakfast**](#). 7-8am. Tar Spot and White Mold with Marty Chilvers. One RUP and one CCA credit available for each live session. No cost to you, register online once for whole season.

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July 29

- **Field Crops Virtual Breakfast**. 7-8am. Pricing Corn, Soybeans and Wheat with Matt Gammons. One RUP and one CCA credit available for each live session. No cost to you, register online once for whole season.

July 12&13

- **Large Truck and Tractor Tire Collections**. 9am-12pm (12th) and 4-7pm (13th). Van Buren County Building & Grounds, 753 Hazen Street, Paw Paw. The Van Buren Conservation District is hosting large truck and tractor tire collections this year at no direct cost to you. Sign up at the link above, you will hear from the recycling coordinator, Emily Hickmott, by phone or email with more details closer to the event. You can also email her at resourcerecovery@vanburencd.org with any questions.

August 24

- **Drainage Tools Virtual Workshop**. 9am-3pm. Learn the basics of using tools to make informed decisions about drainage for crop production and water-quality protection. Cost is free, register online.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 29, 2021

- **MAXIMIZE PROFIT WITH THE NEW DRAIN SPACING TOOL**
Use the Drain Spacing Tool to estimate the optimum tile drain spacing for your farm.
- **ATTEND MICHIGAN'S 2021 DRAINAGE TOOLS WORKSHOP: TOOLS TO INFORM DRAINAGE**
Use tools to make informed decisions about drainage design for crop production and water-quality protection on Aug. 24, 2021.

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 28, 2021

- **2021 MSU WEED TOUR POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 14**
Due to the excessive rain over the past week and the impending forecast for this week, we are postponing the MSU Weed Tour to Wednesday, July 14, 2021.
- **CORN PICKER FOR SILAGE**
Partial Budget decision tool for deciding between silage corn hybrids.

PUBLISHED ON JUNE 21, 2021

- **VIRUSES DETECTED IN MICHIGAN WHEAT**
Act now for diagnosis of wheat streak mosaic virus and wheat spindle streak mosaic virus.
- **USING A COVER CROP MIX FOLLOWING WHEAT**
The Field Crops Virtual Breakfast on July 1, 2021, will feature Dean Baas discussing whether using a cover crop mixture following wheat is a good fit for your farm.

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