

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates August 14, 2020

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.

## MSU Extension Farm Business Management Team Needs Your Input

As the Farm Business Management team begins to discuss programming plans for 2021, they have developed a 3-question survey to ask farmers what business management-related topics they'd be most interested in. Please take two minutes to complete this survey to help guide their efforts.

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b3NS8kZq1Hkb5xr](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3NS8kZq1Hkb5xr)

## Take Action Pest and Weed Management Resources

The latest edition of Take Action updates includes resources as you think about next season and a few you can still use for this season.

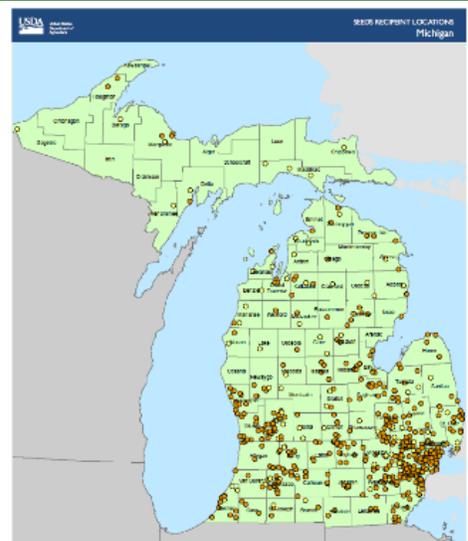
- Updated weed fact sheets available for [giant ragweed](#), [kochia](#) and [horseweed](#).
- New Podcast Episode: [Frogeye Leaf Spot](#)
- [Hurdling Changes in Dicamba Use](#). We've outlined some best practices for applying dicamba and other synthetic auxins.
- [The Big Four Weeds](#). Read how Mark Loux, weed scientist at The Ohio State University, recommends controlling the “Big Four” weeds: waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, giant ragweed and horseweed.

Purdue's weed scientist Bill Johnson also created a video, “[Split Applications Of Soil Residual Herbicides In Corn](#),” to help you prepare for building your program next year.

## Unsolicited Seeds from China Update

It appears our Chinese donors have been pretty busy distributing their packages of goodies to Michigan residents. To date, USDA has received over 1000 packages sent in from people who had received these unknown seed samples. We have had 68 each sent in from people in the 269 and 517 area codes. Just as a reminder, if you do receive one of these packages, don't plant it and don't just throw it away (we don't want whatever this is growing in our landfills either).

Here is the information from USDA: “People across the country have received unsolicited packages of seeds from overseas. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate.”



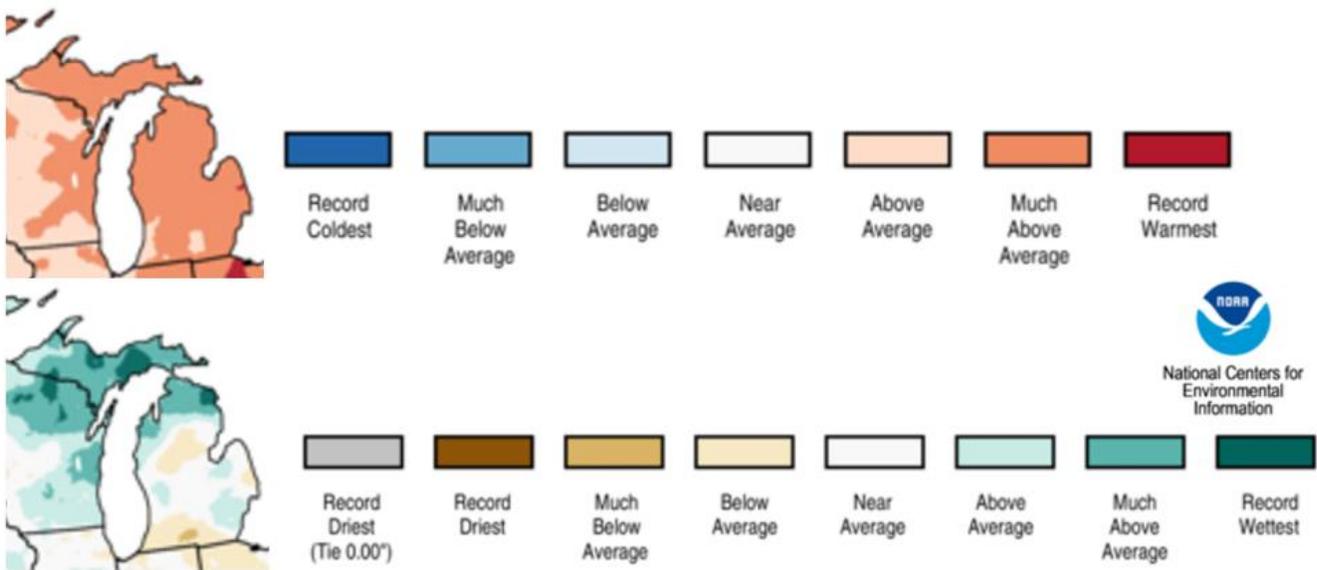
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At least it's nice to see our government agencies working well together. If you receive one of these packages, you can find information on the [USDA-APHIS website](#) about what to do and where to send them. In Michigan ([MDARD](#)), that location is:

USDA APHIS PPQ  
11200 Metro Airport Center Drive, Suite 140  
Romulus, MI 48174  
Attn: USDA Identification Staff

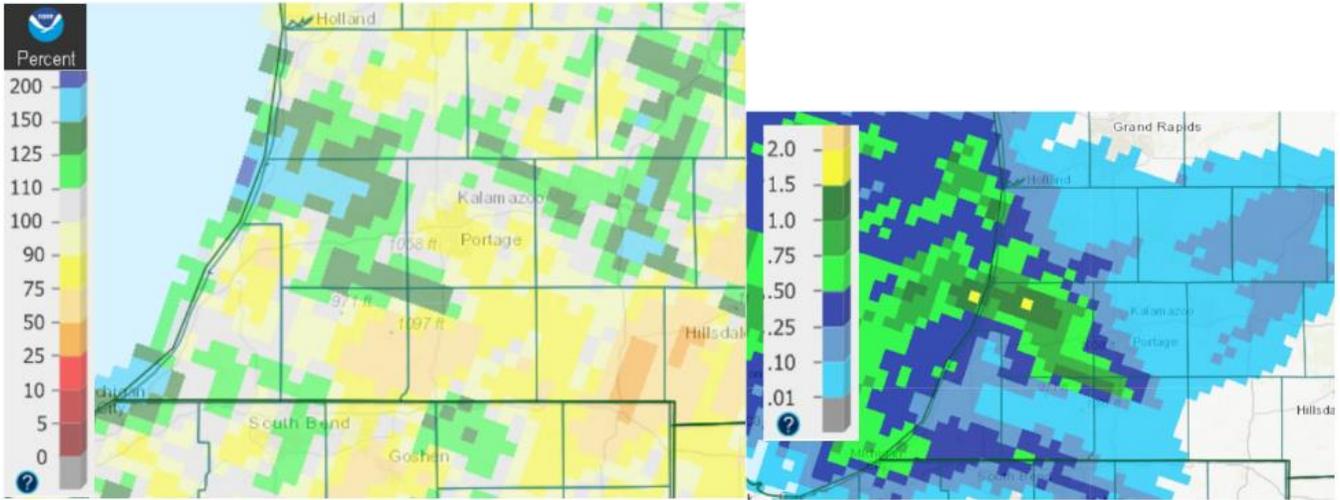
## Weather

July was unusually hot and dry for south central Michigan this year. The average temperature was 4.3 degrees warmer than the 126-year normal. The state overall was wetter than normal only because of the upper third of the state, but we were below normal in our region. The widespread rains that fell at the beginning of August were tremendously helpful with 1.5 inches on average for the region. Those of you who watched the radar this past Monday and expected to receive another needed dose of rain were most likely disappointed as little of that made it this far east after passing over Lake Michigan. Don't be too disappointed though, as it appears we missed the worst of what meteorologists call a derecho event—a cluster of individual, self-perpetuating thunderstorms associated with damaging winds and hail. MSU Extension ag climatologist Jeff Andresen says this is the worst one to hit the Midwest in the past decade...see pictures below. We can't expect more than 0.5 inch of rain in the coming week either—less than 0.25 inch as you move west—according to the National Weather Service. The mid-range forecast is calling for warmer and drier than normal conditions through at least the third week of August.

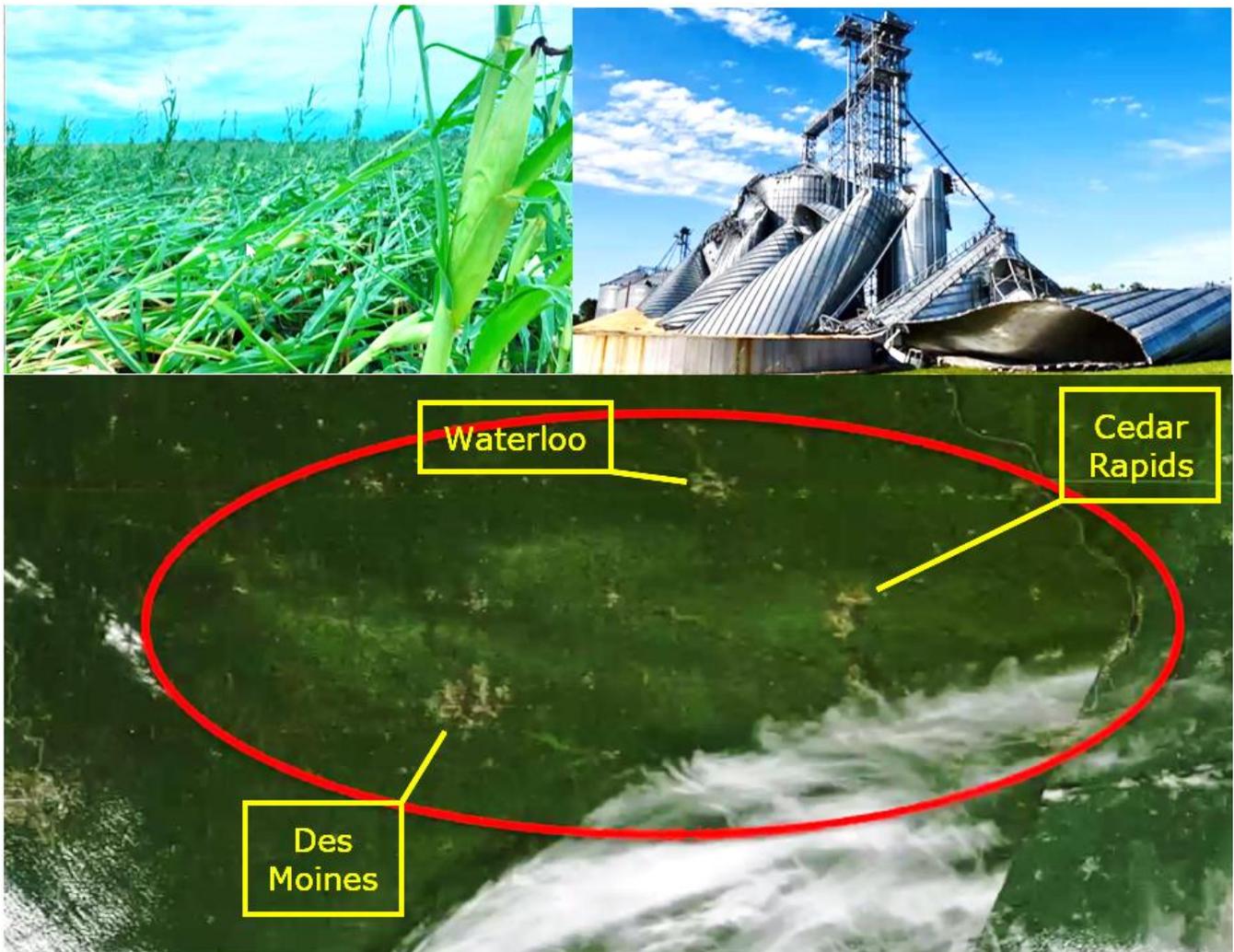


Mean temperature (top) and precipitation (bottom) percentiles for July 2020 as ranked from 1895 to 2020. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest July on record.

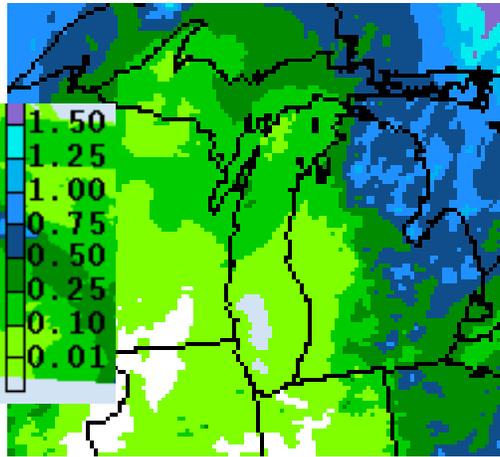
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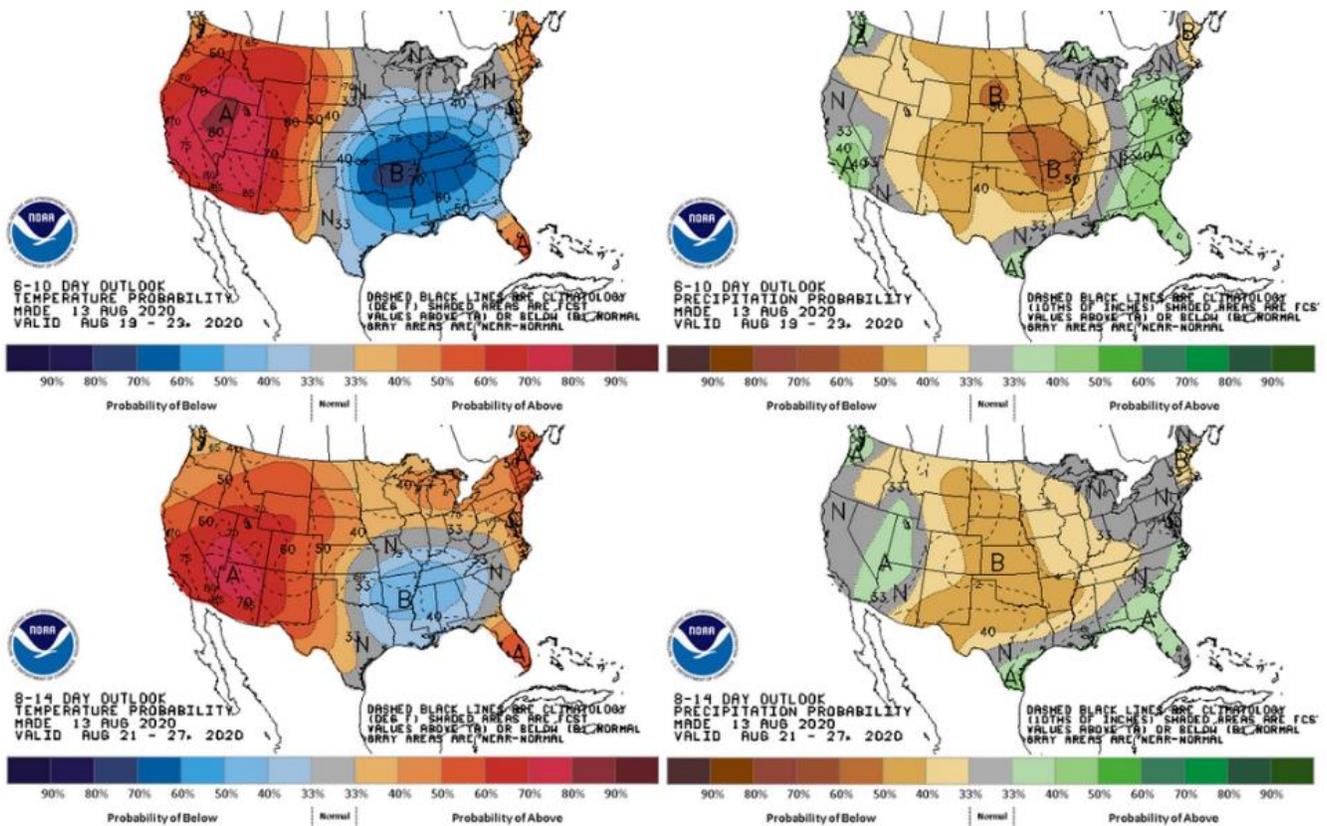
Precipitation percent of normal for the last 14 days (left) and rainfall on August 10 (right).



Flattened crops and even grain bins destroyed during the derecho event on August 10. The scale of the damage was impressive as can be seen by the satellite image in the lower right—the lighter color is flattened corn fields in central Iowa. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of acres were impacted. Images courtesy of Jeff Andresen.



Precipitation forecast for August 14-21.



The 6-10 day (top) and 8-14 day outlook (bottom) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). Cooler than normal temperatures will arrive next week, but these will moderate to warmer-than-normal temps toward the end of the month. All models continue to call for drier than normal conditions for the month.

## Crop and Pest

**Crops.** About a third of early-planted **corn** in Michigan has reached the dough stage (R5) according to the latest USDA Crop Report, but most of the crop is still at the blister (R3) or milk (R4) stages and the latest plantings are still finishing up pollination. The latest USDA estimates for crop condition have been holding steady this past month with 61 percent rated good or excellent and an additional 28 percent fair. Corn that was planted after the early May freeze event should reach black layer by the end of September.

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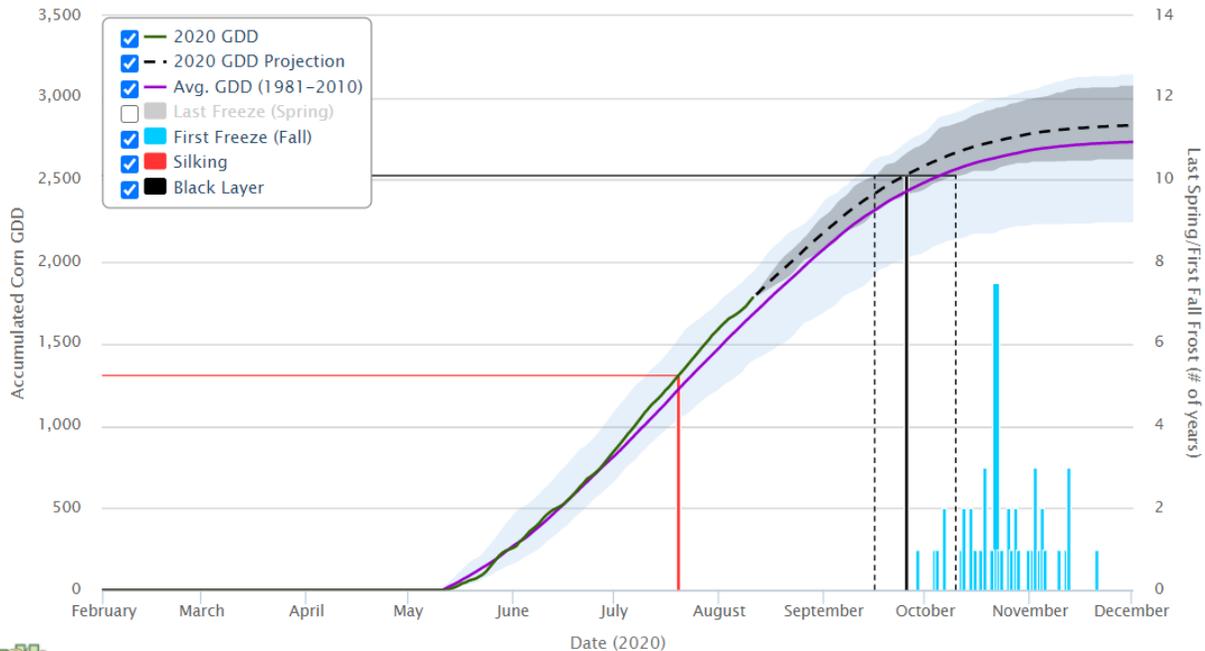
GDD Start:   Comparison Years:  Corn Maturity Days:  Silking GDDs:

Freeze Temperature (°F):  Variation:  Current Day:  Black Layer GDDs:

### Corn Growing Degree Day Tool

Chart Options

Location: 41.95, -85.63 in St. Joseph Co., MI, Start Date: May 12, Maturity Days: 105, Freeze Temp: 28°F, Variation: All Years

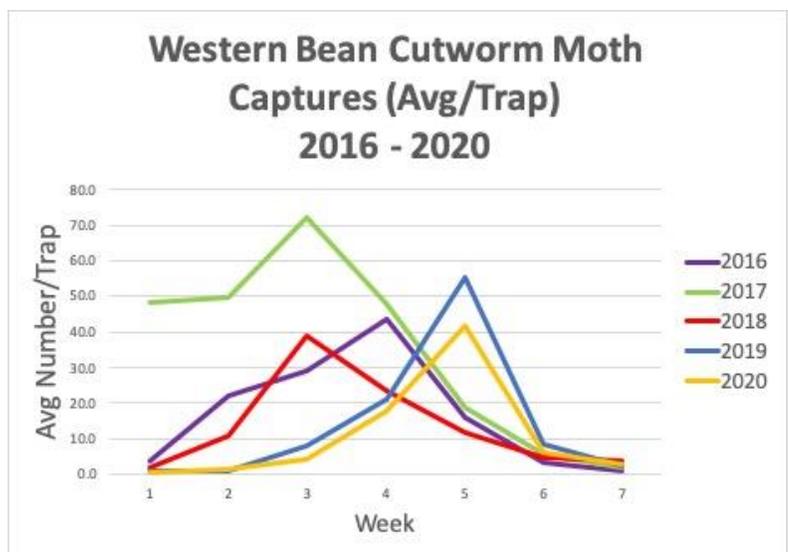


#### Tool Tips:

[U2U Useful to Usable corn growing degree day \(GDD\) tool](#) showing historic first fall freeze date range and expected date of black layer based on the parameters given.

Most **soybeans** have reached beginning pod (R3) or full pod (R4) stage with earliest fields likely at beginning seed (R5, seed is 1/8 inch long in the pod at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem). The USDA crop condition ratings have also held pretty steady for soybean at 73 percent good or excellent and an additional 21 percent fair.

**Pests.** Western bean cutworm (WBC) trap counts have dropped off and are now close to nil. [Purdue's trapping network](#) showed peak flight the week of July 16-22 (see graph) while MSU Extension field crops entomologist Chris DiFonzo says peak flight according to her traps on campus was during the week of July 27. Assuming the moths hit our region around July 23, eggs would have been hatching during the first week of August. Chris says a portion of those larvae would have crawled right into the silks and the rest should have entered silks by now, so essentially all WBC larvae would be feeding in relative security on ear tips. I, however, have yet to lay eyes on my first egg mass this year.



Tar spot reports have not changed since last week, likely because of the continued dry weather. We are nearing the tail end of the timing for an effective fungicide application of . The Corn Disease Working Group, made up of the pathologist from the land grant universities across the country, has put together a useful tool, “[Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases](#)”, that lists effective fungicide options if you are seeing tar spot in your field. Effective fungicides include Headline Amp, Trivapro, and others listed as “G-VG” for tar spot. MSU Extension field crops pathologist Marty Chilvers says that his best guess at a threshold for spraying at this point is when 50% of the plants begin to have any lesions above the ear leaf.

## Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

### August 20+

**MSU Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast.** 7:00-7:30 AM. [Participants must sign up](#) to receive an email notification with instructions for joining the Virtual Breakfast. You only need to do this once and you will receive the Zoom link and call-in phone number, as well as weekly reminders every Wednesday.

The Virtual Breakfast has become one of our team’s flagship outreach programs. Here is the tentative schedule. [RUP credits are now available for the live sessions](#) and **\*\*NEW\*\*** we were able to get approved to offer 1 credit for each live session. If you can’t participate in the live session on Thursdays at 7 a.m., you can view the recorded version at any time. Recordings are closed-captioned and available on the [MSU Extension Field Crops webpage](#) and social media platforms: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

- August 20 - Grain marketing with Aleks Schaefer
- August 27 - Wheat planting with Dennis Pennington
- September 3 - Corn silage mycotoxins with Manni Singh
- September 10 - Industrial hemp with Kurt Thelen

### August 26

- **MSU Extension Soybean Virtual Field Day.** Soybean educator Mike Staton leads the soybean virtual field day with an emphasis on white mold research and outreach. Visit the [Virtual Field Day](#) website to register.

### August 28

- **CFAP Application Deadline.** USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are [now available online](#), and USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications.

### September 2

- **MSU Extension Cover Crop Virtual Field Day.** Sustainable agriculture educator Dean Baas delivers research information on cover crops for this virtual field day. Visit the [Virtual Field Day](#) website to register.

### September 9

- **MSU Extension Corn Virtual Field Day.** 9:00 – 11:00 AM. MSU Extension specialists and educators will focus on tar spot and uneven corn development in this live, interactive program. Visit the [Virtual Field Day](#) website to register.

### September 30

- **Final Date to Update 2020 PLC Yields.** Contact your local USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members for assistance.

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

### **MSU Wheat Program releases wheat performance trial results**

*PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 13, 2020*

Farmers should use data from these trials when selecting wheat varieties to plant on their farm.

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