

Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates January 2020

HAPPY 2020! Here's to a successful year and another opportunity to make advances in your business this season.

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.

2019 Michigan Corn Hybrids Bulletin Available

The 2019 Michigan Corn Hybrids Compared Extension Bulletin E-431 has been posted on the [MSU variety trials website](#). Individual datasets by zone for grain, silage, and conventional hybrids are also available on the webpage. Feel free to pass this link to others who might be interested in the data.

USDA Designates 22 Michigan Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

In December, the [USDA designated 22 Michigan counties](#) as primary natural disaster areas. Producers who suffered losses due to recent weather events may be eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans. Losses due to freeze, excessive rain, and excessive rain, flooding, and flash flooding are included for several counties—and contiguous counties—in southwest and south-central Michigan.

These natural disaster designations allow FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. Contact your local FSA office for more information.

4-H Tractor Operator Program Offered in Cass County

MSU Extension and the Cass and St. Joseph County 4-H Programs will be offering the 2020 Tractor Operator Program (TOP) through 4-H Youth Development. Successful completion of the 4-H TOP provides a certificate of training from the U.S. Department of Labor required for operation of a 20 PTO HP or greater, garden or agricultural tractor, by 14 through 19 year old youth employed on property not owned, leased or operated by a parent or legal guardian. Certification is also utilized by youth who exhibit and participate in local contests, parades and festival activities.

The three-week course will be taught on Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., February 1 - 15, 2020. This schedule includes educational sessions, some driving practice, written and driving tests, and graduation.

We require a minimum of 24 hours of instruction and participants must be 14 years of age by the date of the driving test to be eligible for federal certification. Attendance at all sessions is required for successful completion of the course.

Sessions will be held at the First Baptist Church-Newberg at 13021 Born St., Jones, MI. Cost is \$25 for current 4-H members and \$45 for Non-members. Course fee includes lunch and snacks each day. Due to the generous sponsorship of this program by Midwest Energy and Communications, \$15 will be refunded upon successful completion of the course.

The course will run if the minimum number of participants have registered. Participants must make payment in full (cash or check) at the Cass or St. Joseph County MSU Extension offices and submit all completed paperwork by January 23, 2020 to be registered. Class size is limited to 15 students, so register early! Questions may be directed to 4-H Program Coordinators Hailey Harman (269-445-4438, harmanha@msu.edu) or Eva Beeker (269-467-5521, beekere@msu.edu).

Important USDA-FSA Reminders

CRP Sign-up. USDA opened signup for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on December 9, 2019. The deadline for agricultural producers to sign up for general CRP is February 28, 2020, while signup for continuous CRP is ongoing.

2019 Acreage Reporting. In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific deadlines.

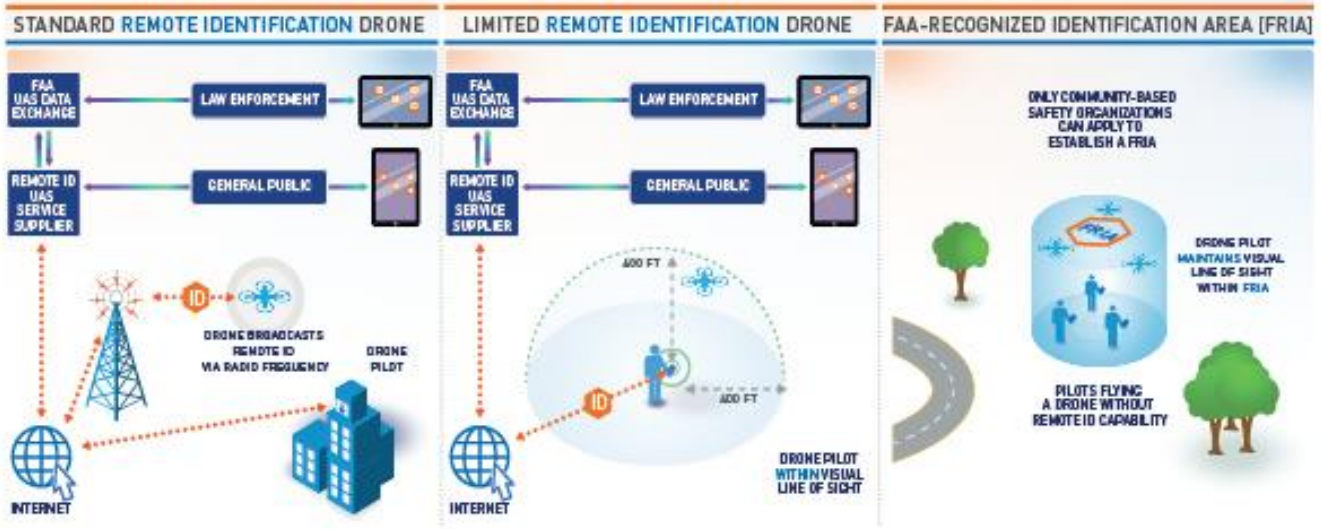
FAA's Remote ID for Drones Proposal

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued the [proposed rule](#) for [remote identification of drones](#). With nearly 1.5 million drones and 155,000 remote pilots registered with the FAA, the ability to provide identification and location is essential to keeping drones safely separated from other aircraft operating in our airspace.

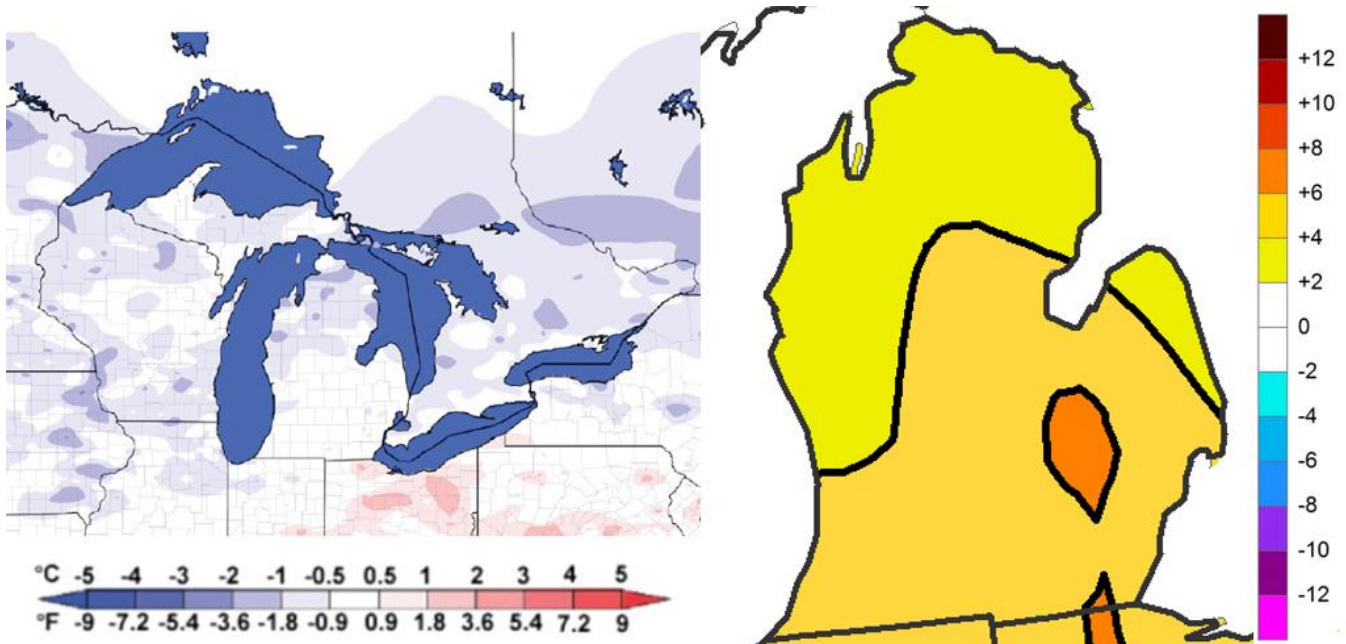
We encourage drone enthusiasts, and anyone interested in aviation safety, to read our [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) now in the Federal Register and provide feedback during the 60-day comment period.

Equipping drones with remote identification technologies would build on previous steps taken by the FAA and the UAS industry to safely integrate operations, including the [small UAS rule](#), which covers drones weighing less than 55 pounds other than model aircraft, and the [Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability \(LAANC\)](#), which automates the application and approval process for drone operators to obtain airspace authorizations.

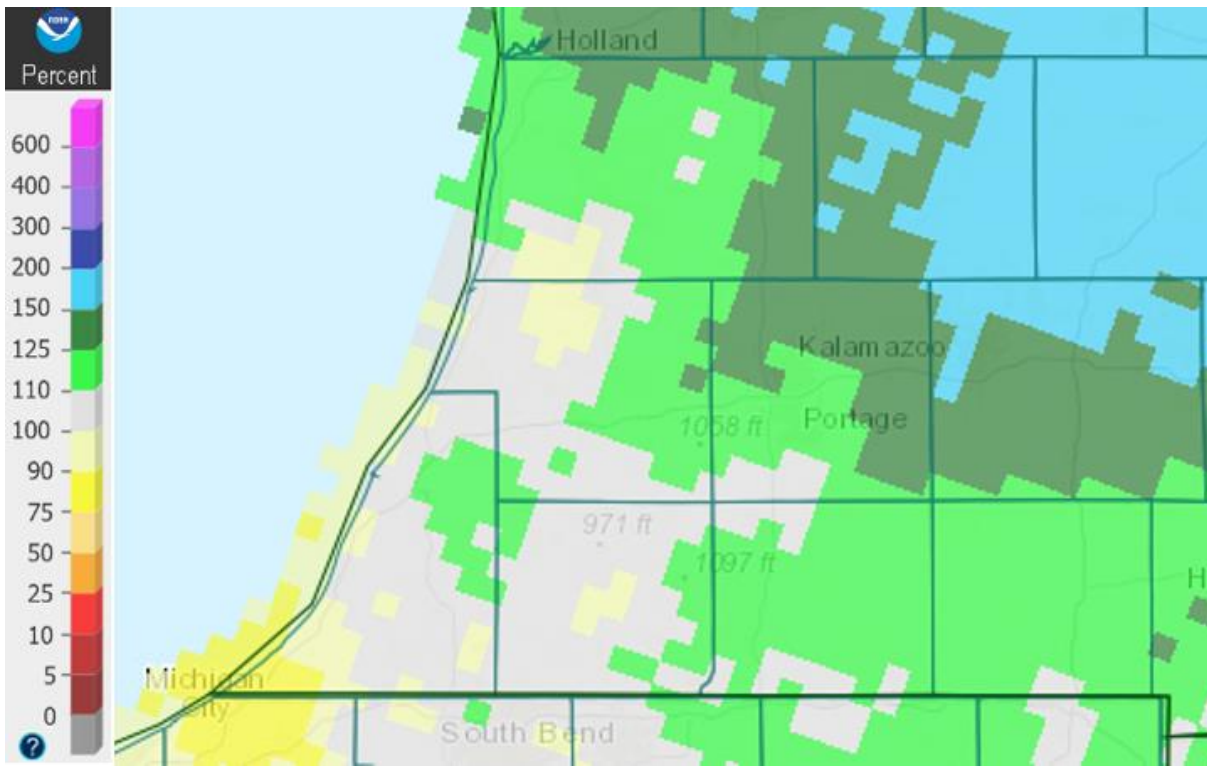
3 Ways of Remotely Identifying



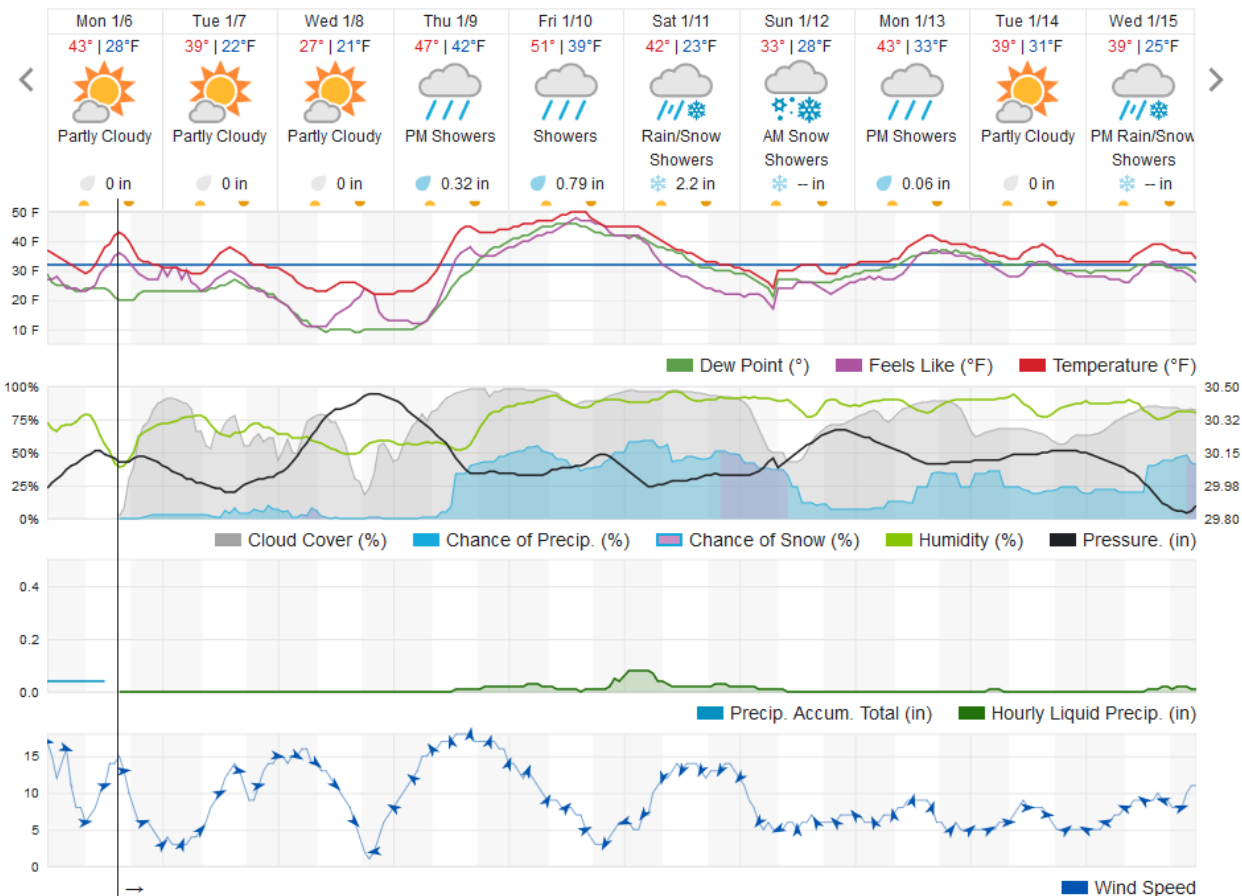
Weather Update



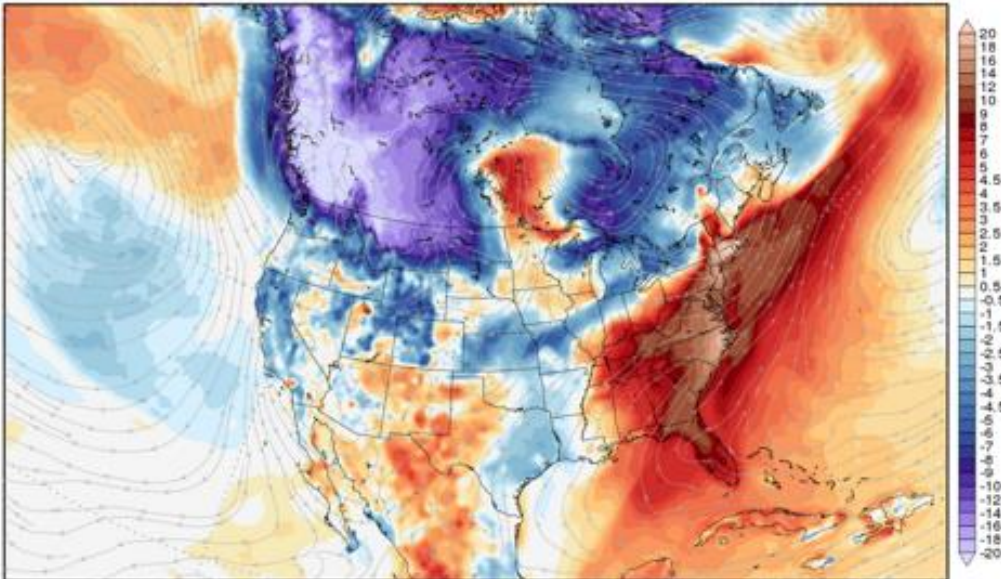
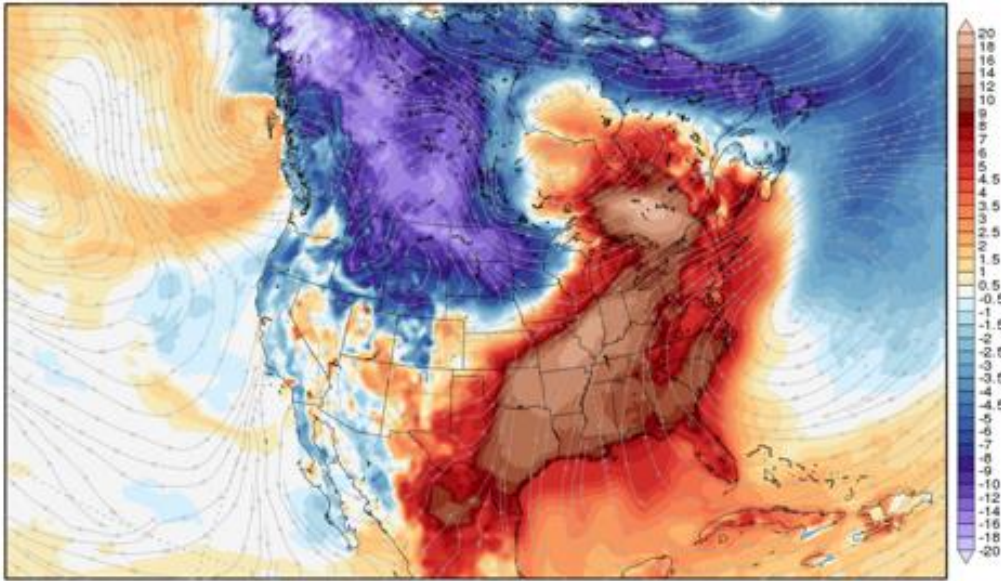
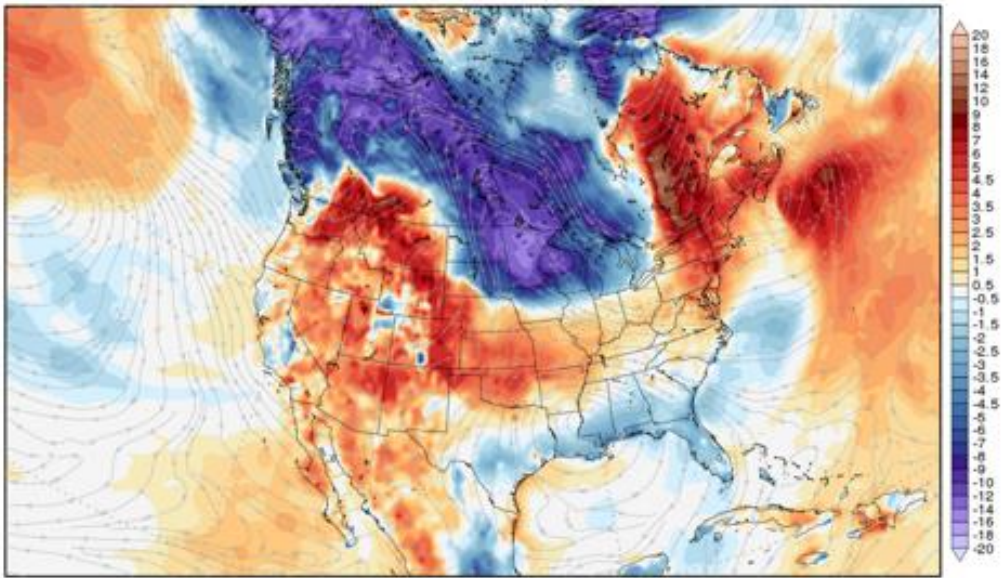
Temperature departures from normal for fall (left) and December (right) 2019. September temperatures were up to 7°F above normal, while October temperatures ranged from 4°F below normal to 5°F above normal in the Great Lakes region. November temperatures were as much as 7°F below normal. Autumn temperatures ranged from 4°F below normal to 4°F above normal.



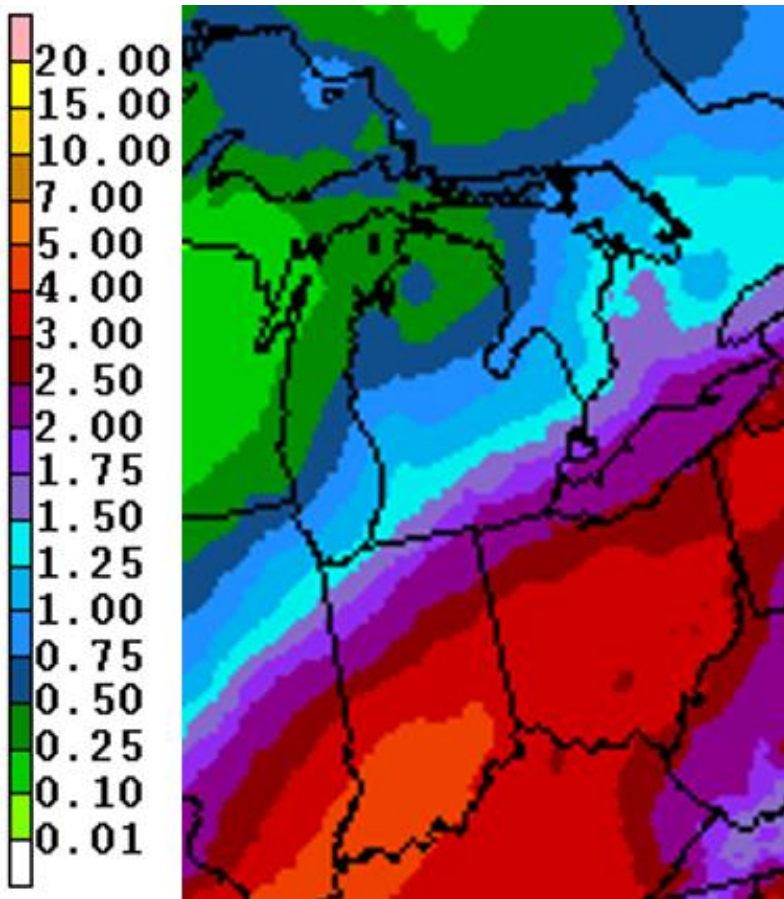
Rainfall totals in the last 30 days—mostly normal to slightly above normal with higher precipitation levels heading toward the center of the state.



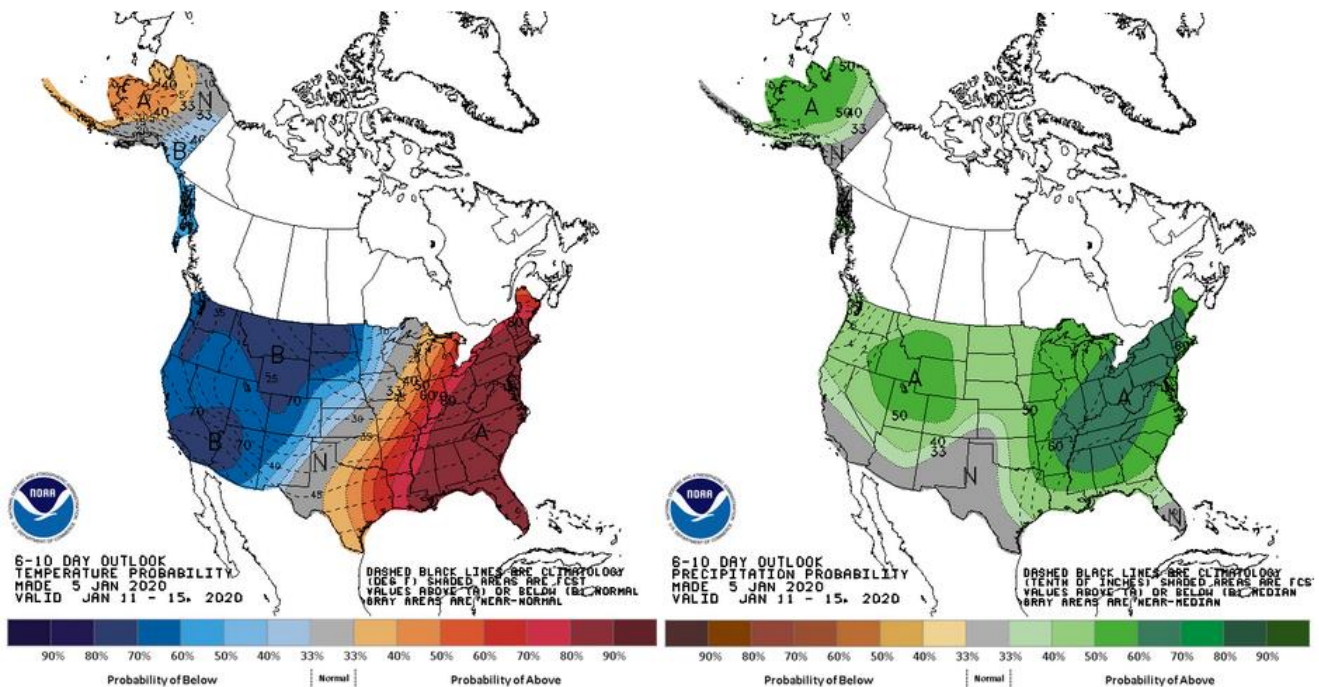
The 10-day forecast for Centreville according to wunderground.com.



Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) departures from normal for January 8 (top), 10 (middle) and 12 (bottom).

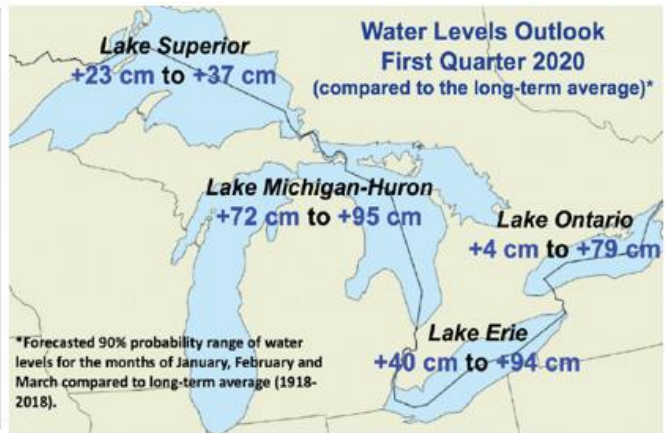


Forecast for precipitation totals for the week ending January 13, 2020. All of this precipitation is expected Thursday through mid-Sunday—mostly rain turning to snow on the weekend.



National Weather Service 6-10 day outlook (Jan. 11-15) for temperature (left) and precipitation (right) forecasts warmer and wetter than normal conditions. The forecast for the remainder of January is similar.

Lake	End of Nov 2019 Compared to:		Change since Sept 1st	
	Average	2018	2019	Average
Sup.	+33 cm	+6 cm	-6 cm	-9 cm
Mich.-Huron	+90 cm	+42 cm	0 cm	-17 cm
Erie	+70 cm	+8 cm	-25 cm	-23 cm
Ont.	+47 cm	+33 cm	-36 cm	-29 cm



Water levels for the Great Lakes at the end of 2019 (left) and forecasted levels for January through March compared with the 100-year average. High water tables and wet conditions persisting into the spring will mean continued challenges for harvesting late-planted 2019 crops and managing weeds in 2019 prevented plant fields.

Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

- January 6** [Making the Most of the 2018 Farm Bill Commodity Provisions.](#) **TWO LOCATIONS:** **1)** 10am-12pm. Berrien RESA, 711 St Joseph Ave, Berrien Springs, MI. **2)** 2pm-4pm. Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S Paw Paw St, Lawrence, MI. The MSU Extension Farm Management team is planning regional meetings to thresh out the 2018 Farm Bill and what the changes have meant and will mean for farmers. Dr. Jim Hilker and Jon LaPorte of the farm management team will be present to answer your questions. No cost, register online.
- January 9, 14** [African Swine Fever 101.](#) 6:00-8:30pm, **TWO LOCATIONS:** **9th** Cass County MSU Extension Office, 120 N. Broadway St. Suite 209, Cassopolis, MI; **14th** Branch County MSU Extension Office, 570 Marshall Rd. Suite C, Coldwater, MI. Experts will discuss how pork producers can prepare for continued production if there would be an outbreak (Secure Pork Supply Planning). MDARD leadership will discuss their role in working with producers in such an event. Cost is free, register online.
- January 10-11** [Midwest iHemp Expo.](#) Lansing, MI. Sponsored by iHempMichigan. MSU specialists and educators working on industrial hemp will present 2019 research findings.
- January 13-15** [MABA Winter Conference.](#) Lansing Center, Lansing, MI.
- January 15** [Beginning Farmer Webinar Series Begins.](#) Wednesdays through Apr. 8, 7-8pm EST. Beginning farmers and others with basic information needs are invited to participate in a series of thirteen online programs addressing crop and livestock production, farm business and marketing. \$5 per webinar or \$32.50 for the full series. Register online.
- January 22** [SMaRT Annual Review.](#) GreenMark Equipment, 16700 Heimbach Rd., Three Rivers, MI. 8:45am-12:30pm. The Michigan Soybean Checkoff program is covering all costs, but online pre-registration is requested to ensure an accurate count for lunch and

materials. Contact Mike Staton (staton@anr.msu.edu, 269-673-0370, ext. 2562) with questions.

- January 27** **Making the Most of the 2018 Farm Bill Commodity Provisions.** 2-4 p.m., Calhoun County, Location TBD. The MSU Extension Farm Management team is planning regional meetings to thresh out the 2018 Farm Bill and what the changes have meant and will mean for farmers. Dr. Jim Hilker and Roger Betz of the farm management team will be present to answer your questions. No cost, register online.
- January 28** **RUP Testing Only. St. Joseph County** Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. Those taking the exam will need to sign up on [MDARD's website](#) and bring a check made out to "State of Michigan" for \$75 (Commercial application) or \$50 (Private application).
- January 29-30** **Great Lakes Crop Summit.** Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI.
- January 31** **Ag Action Day.** 8:00am-4:00pm. Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 W O Ave, Kalamazoo, MI. \$35/person includes lunch and all educational sessions. Two RUP credits per field crops session applied for. Register online.
- February 1-15** **4-H TOP Course.** Saturdays, 8:00am-4:00pm. First Baptist Church-Newberg, 13021 Born St., Jones, Cass County, MI. Tractor Operator Program for 14 through 19 year olds. Cost is \$25 for current 4-H members, \$45 for Non- members, includes lunch and snacks each day. Submit all completed paperwork and pay (cash or check) at the Cass or St. Joseph County MSU Extension offices and by January 23.
- February 5-6** **Southwest MI Hort Days.** Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center, 1100 Yore Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI. Sessions for vegetable tree fruit, grape, blueberry and—new in 2020—hemp will be offered. [Preregister online](#) or by mail (contact Renee Tinkey at 269-944-1477 ext. 201 or tinkeyre@msu.edu for a preregistration application). Preregistration is \$50 per person; registration after Jan. 13 is \$65 per person. Lunch both days is included.
- February 10** **MSU Extension Pest and Crop Update.** 8:30am-3pm. Dowagiac Conservation Club, 54551 M 51 N, Dowagiac, MI. \$30/person includes lunch, snacks, and the 2020 Weed Guide. RUP and CCA credits applied for. Register online.
- February 10** **Field Crops Webinar Series Begins.** 7-8pm Monday evenings through March 30. Participants will learn how to enhance their corn, soybean, small grain and forage production systems in the coming season and have an opportunity to ask questions of MSU agricultural experts. Participants can register for single sessions (\$5 each) or the entire 8-week series (\$20). One RUP credit will be available for each live session. Register online. Contact Eric Anderson (eander32@msu.edu, 269-467-5511) with questions.
- February 14** **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **Branch County** MSU Extension Office, 570 Marshall Road #C Coldwater, MI. A review of the Core Pesticide Applicators Manual to prepare for the MDARD Pesticide Applicators Certification Exam. Call the Extension office (517-279-4311) to reserve your seat. Cost is

\$20/person. Those taking the exam will need to sign up on MDARD's website and bring a separate check. Three RUP credits available to those with a non-expired pesticide applicator license.

- February 17** **Branch County Farmers Day.** 9:00am-3:30pm. Branch Area Careers Center, Coldwater, MI.
- February 24** **Michiana Irrigated Corn and Soybean Production Workshop.** 8:30am-3pm. Blue Gate Restaurant, Shipshewana, IN.
- February 28** **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **St. Joseph County** Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. A review of the Core Pesticide Applicators Manual to prepare for the MDARD Pesticide Applicators Certification Exam. Call the Extension office (269-467-5511) to reserve your seat. Cost is \$20/person. Those taking the exam will need to sign up on MDARD's website and bring a separate check. Three RUP credits available to those with a non-expired pesticide applicator license.
- April 6** **RUP Core Training and Testing.** 8:30am-12pm. **St. Joseph County** MSU Extension Office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI. See Feb. 28 entry for details.

MSU Extension Digest Briefs

Wheat on wheat or not?

PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 6, 2020

Seven things to consider before planting two consecutive years of wheat.

4-H Tractor Operator Program offered in Cass County during February 2020

PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 6, 2020

The 4-H Tractor Operator Program is offered in Cass County in February 2020 and is open to 14-to-19-year-olds in Cass and surrounding counties.

More about the new USDA bioengineering label

PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 3, 2020

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, food products containing bioengineered material will have to be labeled as such.

2020 Soybean Management and Research Technologies on-farm research meetings

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 30, 2019

Results from 2019 Soybean Management and Research Technologies (SMaRT) on-farm research projects will be presented at six programs around Michigan in January 2020.

Preliminary organic non-GMO soybean variety trial results are available

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 20, 2019

For the eighth year, Michigan State University reports results of non-GMO soybeans grown on certified organic farms.

Michigan Family Farms Conference to feature nurturing resilient farms in 2020 and beyond

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 20, 2019

The 17th annual Michigan Family Farms Conference will be Feb. 8, 2020, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

2019 Michigan Soybean On-farm Research Report is available

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 12, 2019

Soybean producers and agribusiness representatives can download the results from 10 different on-farm research projects conducted by MSU Extension and the Michigan Soybean Checkoff.

New Beginning Farmers series offered online by MSU Extension

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 10, 2019

This convenient and affordable online program is designed to provide an overview of potential farm enterprises and business skills for beginners.

Curious or concerned about GMOs? Visit MSU's GMO website for more information.

PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 6, 2019

MSU's GMO website is a regularly updated source for science-based information on GMOs and the genetics, physiology and other aspects related to modern agriculture.

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