

MSU EXTENSION 2016 BEGINNING FARMER WEBINAR SERIES



Join us for any or all of these interactive 2-hour webinars. \$10 registration fee for each webinar. Participate from your home or office computer (hi-speed internet required). Participant interaction through 'live' chat box. All paid registrants receive a URL to recorded webinars following 'live' program.

"Getting started with..."

Malting barley, Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Monday, January 18, 2016, 7-9pm (all times 'eastern time')

The vibrant craft brewing industry in Michigan is responsible for the growing interest in locally sourced malt and hops for Michigan brewers. This session will provide background and basics on producing and marketing high-quality malting barley grain.

Tomato diseases, insects and disorders, Ron Goldy, MSU Extension

Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7-9pm

Tomatoes are one of the hardest vegetables to grow. They are subject to numerous diseases and other issues. This session will help you identify what they might be.

Climate change and agriculture: What do Michigan farmers think?, Julie Doll, MSU Kellogg Biological Station outreach specialist

Monday, January 25, 2016, 7-9pm

Changes in precipitation patterns, temperature, and extreme events have direct and indirect effects on Michigan's field crops. Learn how Michigan farmers are experiencing these changes and actions they are taking in response.

The basics of raising pigs, Tom Guthrie, MSU Extension

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

This webinar will focus on the basics of raising pigs which will include such topics as swine health, housing, nutrition and management of the different phases of production.

Each webinar will run from 7:00—9:00 pm eastern time, log-on early to test connection.

Download the ZOOM webinar application for your device at zoom.us/download

For PC or Mac users: click "Zoom client for meetings"

For iOS users: under "Zoom mobile apps", click "Download in App Store"

For Android users: under "Zoom mobile apps", click "Download in Google Play"

“Getting started with...”

An introduction to edible chestnut production, Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

Monday, February 1, 2016, 7-9pm (all times 'eastern time)

This webinar will cover a review of the current chestnut industry in Michigan, site selection, cultivar selection, cost of production and pest management basics.

The Food Safety Modernization Act: What you need to do, Phil Tocco, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 7-9pm

No matter how big your farm or market garden is, if you sell fruits and vegetables to anyone, you will need to do SOMETHING to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act. This webinar will outline what you need to do, whatever your farm size.

Growing raspberries in high tunnels, Eric Hanson, horticulture professor, MSU Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science

Monday, February 8, 2016, 7-9pm

High tunnels are less expensive, greenhouse-like structures that provide several important benefits to raspberries and possibly blackberries. Learn how tunnels can be chosen and managed for profitable bramble crop production.

New crops for new customers, Ron Goldy, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 7-9pm

Increasing your customer base and determining what to grow can be difficult and confusing but it doesn't have to be. This session will give you tips on where and how to track them down.

Native bees for pollination, Ben Phillips, MSU Extension

Monday, February 15, 2016, 7-9pm

Native bees can be harnessed for pollination services on the farm and in the garden. Because these bees do not make honey, they do not swarm, most of them rarely sting, and do not require heavy lifting from the beekeeper. This webinar explores the possibilities and techniques for keeping solitary cavity-nesting bees, such as leafcutter bees and mason bees.

“Getting started with...”

Integrated pest management resources at MSU, Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 7-9pm (all times 'eastern time)

This webinar will cover the basic tenants of IPM and highlight all of the information, tools and resources available to develop a strong IPM program on your farm. This is a general interest session and will not cover crop-specific pest management recommendations.

Wheat agronomy, Dennis Pennington, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 7-9pm

Learn the basics of wheat production from soil fertility and pest control to seeding rates and planting dates.

Growing cider apples, Bob Tritten, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 7-9pm

This session will focus on growing apples for cider making. Cultural practices, variety selection, storage, and other considerations unique to cider apples will be discussed.

Biosecurity: Protecting farm animal health, Madonna Benjamin, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 7-9pm

The entry of disease to your farm can be devastating to your profits and emotionally debilitating to everyone raising livestock. Biosecurity is not difficult nor isolating, but it is important to prevent disease exposure to your farm animals. Join us for this discussion and you will learn proven biosecurity techniques.

Growing and marketing Christmas trees, Bert Cregg, MSU Department of Horticulture and Forestry and Jill O'Donnell, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7-9pm

Christmas trees can be a profitable crop. Success at growing and marketing Christmas trees begins before you plant your first tree. This session will discuss all the aspects of growing Christmas trees such as; species and site selection, cultural practices, cost of production and marketing options.

Getting your land ready to grow organically – certified or not, Vicki Morrone, Organic farming specialist, MSU Center for Regional food Systems

Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 7-9pm

This program will focus mostly on soil health and getting your farm's soil ready to produce organically. Weeds are the greatest challenge for organic systems so getting the soil rich in nutrients and ready to produce crops that offer good weed competition will be a key part of this program. Beyond soil readiness I will demonstrate the steps to build a farm plan for field crops and one for vegetable systems, Each will demonstrate crop rotations to reduce pests and build soil organic matter and nitrogen. To help address your questions I will invite an organic field crop farmer and an organic vegetable farmer to share real life

“Getting started with...”

Meat goats, Mike Metzger, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 7-9pm (all times ‘eastern time’)

The focus of this Webinar will be raising Meat Goats and will include such topics as health, housing, nutrition and management of the different phases of production.

Basics of insect morphology, Chris DiFonzo, Field Crop Entomology professor, MSU Dept. of Entomology

Monday, April 4, 2016, 7-9pm

Understanding an insect’s form and features will help you tell friends from enemies and determine how to best deal with them. This session will deepen your understanding of insects, both pests and beneficials.

Hay production, Kim Cassida, Forage Extension Specialist, MSU Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science

Monday, April 11, 2016, 7-9pm

This session will cover the basics of growing, harvesting and storing hay for the less experienced farmer. We’ll discuss the various grass and legume species that make up most hay in Michigan, soil fertility needs for hay, harvest timing, equipment needs, storing and selling hay.

Compost production and use for the small and mid-sized farm, John Biernbaum, Horticulture professor, MSU Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7-9pm

Are you ready to include or improve composting at your farm? Learn efficient and effective techniques for making compost, as well as criteria for deciding when and how to use farm-made or purchased compost. Topics will include how to make and use compost for transplant and or containerized crop production and recommendations for vermicomposting.

Specialty cut flower production and handling, Roberto Lopez, Horticulture professor, MSU Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Science

Monday, April 18, 2016, 7-9pm

This session will discuss the cultural practices of growing specialty cuts (non-traditional cut flowers) in the field and in high tunnels. Roberto will also talk about popular species and cultivars that perform well in the Midwest and how to maximize yields of those flowers. Lastly, he will cover postharvest handling procedures and marketing of specialty cut flowers.

Irrigation on small farms, Steve Miller, MSU Dept. of Agricultural Engineering and Lyndon Kelley, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

This session will help you identify an appropriate irrigation system for your crops and what will be needed to build and operate it. Irrigation is not right for every farm, two factors that limit irrigation for many are the availability of enough water and the economic returns for the investment. Overhead and drip irrigation basics will be included. The session will focus on vegetable and fruit production, but will include valuable information for other crops as well.

“Getting started with...”

Accepting food assistance benefits to increase your sales, Amanda Shreve, MI Farm Market Assn. and Kendra Wills, MSU Extension

Monday, April 25, 2016, 7-9pm (all times ‘eastern time’)

Each year, more than 1.6 million Michiganders receive SNAP support to purchase the food they need to keep their families healthy (formerly called Foodstamps and now distributed on the EBT Bridge Card). Being able to accept food assistance benefits like SNAP not only means you are expanding access to healthy, local foods for people in your community, but it also means you have the ability to increase your market sales. Attend this webinar to learn how your farm can become authorized to accept benefits, what equipment will be needed and how you can obtain it, and tips and techniques for promoting that your farm participates.

Selecting a tractor for your small farm, Fred Springborn, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 7-9pm

Aside from land and farm buildings, a tractor is often one of the larger investments made by new farmers. Big, new and shiny may not be your best choice. Old, rusty and untrustworthy may not be a good choice either. Fred will discuss how to determine what you really need to get the job done from both the financial and mechanical points of view, key points to consider when selecting a tractor, and various options for obtaining it.

Select the webinars you wish to attend: (\$10 each)

- FULL WEBINAR SERIES (Half price: 23 webinars—\$115)
- Jan 16, Growing and selling malting barley
- Jan 20, Tomato diseases, insects and disorders
- Jan 25, Climate change and agriculture: What do MI famers think?
- Jan 27, The basics of raising pigs
- Feb 1, An introduction to edible chestnut production
- Feb 3, The Food Safety Modernization Act: What you need to do
- Feb 8, Growing raspberries in high tunnels
- Feb 10, New crops for new customers
- Feb 15, Native bees for pollination
- Feb 17, Integrated pest management resources at MSU
- Feb 24, Wheat agronomy
- Mar 2, Growing cider apples
- Mar 9, Biosecurity: Protecting farm animal health
- Mar 16, Christmas trees
- Mar 23, Getting your land ready to grow organically—certified or not
- Mar 30, Meat goats
- Apr 4, Basics of insect morphology
- Apr 11, Hay production
- Apr 13, Compost production and use for the small and mid-sized farm
- Apr 18, Specialty cut flower production and handling
- Apr 20, Irrigation on small farms
- Apr 25, Accepting food assistance benefits to increase your sales
- Apr 27, Selecting a tractor for your small farm

Register and pay ON-LINE at

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/BegFrmrWeb2016/> **OR**

Complete and return this form with \$10 payment per selected webinar in the form of check or money order, made payable to ‘MSU Extension’

And mail to: 2016 Beginning Farmer Webinar

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PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Questions? Contact Jim Isleib at isleibj@anr.msu.edu or 906-387-2530

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You will receive a URL to connect prior to each webinar.