Michigan grass fed beef production update
Grass fed beef production in Michigan is a growing industry. For many years small producers have been selling and marketing grass fed beef but there were very few places for them to obtain research based information on the process.

Seedless cucumbers are a different pickle
Seedless pickling cucumbers have been slowly making their way into commercial machine-harvested fields over the last decade. Currently, they make up about 12 percent of the processing pickle market in Michigan.

Greenhouse disease management recommendations for 2016 floriculture crops
Greenhouse floriculture growers in Michigan will benefit from the recently updated list of fungicide recommendations developed by Mary Hausbeck and her staff at Michigan State University. This listing provides options for growers with the most common floriculture pathogens.

Anatomy of a successful farm employee meeting
Employee care is a key part of their values and culture: “nobody is working 70 hours a week, anymore”. They want employees to have a life and when they work, to be productive and efficient.

Cover Cropping for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects publication available
Often overlooked is the benefit that cover crops can provide for pollinators and other beneficial insects. The new Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) publication, “Cover Cropping for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects,” can help you get more mileage out of your cover cropping system with the additional benefits for these important insect populations.

Southwest Michigan Irrigation Network Taking Customers for Scheduling
Efficient water use is important for several reasons. Under irrigation leads to decreased yields, but over irrigation lead to nutrient run-off or leaching - an economic loss to the producer and potential environmental threat to water sources. Sign up for irrigation scheduling services.
Ron Goldy, at 269-944-1477 ext. 207, or e-mail at goldy@anr.msu.edu.

2016 Master Citizen Planner Webinar Series
The 2016 Master Citizen Planner (MCP) Webinar Series is designed to offer participants the latest land use updates and information on current topics. Cost per webinar: $20 for Regular Registrants.

Beginning farmer webinar features malting barley, edible chestnuts, hard cider apple varieties and more!
People who are exploring new farm businesses will benefit from participating in the Michigan State University Extension 2016 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series. From February - April 2016, MSU Extension will offer 23 two-hour evening programs that provide valuable start-up information on general and more specific farming topics, including.

Live webinars on plant nutrition for ornamental and Christmas tree growers, February 17, 24
Four live webinars on soil and plant nutrition for field grown nursery stock and Christmas trees will be offered February 2016. Various credits available. Fee: $40 for the webinar series or $15 per session.

Corn Production Practices for Rough Economic Times, February 25
Featured topics will be Corn Marketing and Input Cost, Cost Effective Corn Management, Controlling Insect Pests, Tillage Options for Corn, and When to Plant Corn.
Irrigated Soybean Production Program, February 29
Participants will learn about the latest university recommendations for managing irrigated soybeans. Shipshewana, IN. Fee: $10/person by February 24 (required).

Field Crops Webinar Series 2016, February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28
Growers, consultants and agribusiness professionals are invited to participate in a series of six online programs addressing field crop production and pest management on Monday evenings. One MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credit/session. $15 series; $5/session.

2016 Michigan spring peach meeting scheduled for March 1
Peach growers are always looking for ways to improve their profitability. Benton Harbor. Fee: $25; Peach Sponsor member; $30 others.

Focus on Forages, March 2
Update on forage production at various locations beginning February 8; Allegan March 2. Fee $30 by March 1.

Pesticide Applicator Review and Exam Sessions
Berrien County MSU Extension is hosting pesticide applicator testing and review sessions again this winter. Exam sessions will be April 14, and May 18, 2016. Sign up for the exam sessions and view schedules at Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Cost of the exam is $50 for private applicators and $75 for commercial applicators. The next review session, March 9, begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Berrien County MSU-E office, and is $25 per person. Four Restricted Use Credits have been requested for the review sessions. To sign up for the review session please call the Berrien MSU Extension office at 269-944-4126.

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