Potential sources of labor: Are these in your future plans?
Farms should think about different strategies to fill their labor needs in 2016 and beyond. Consider any and all of these options and strategies to obtain needed workers in the future.

Nitrogen fertilization of the 2016 wheat crop
Growers are making plans for topdressing wheat with nitrogen. Predicting optimum nitrogen rate is difficult, but there are considerations that may help growers arrive at a reasonable estimate.

Root rots: Can you tell the difference?
Root rots can cause similar symptoms on hosts. Here are some tips for scouting in your greenhouse.

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 may 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.

Beginning farmer webinar features Christmas trees, organic certification, 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 March - April 2016, MSU Extension will offer 10 two-hour evening programs that provide valuable start-up information on general and more specific farming topics.

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

Spring Blueberry Kickoff meeting, March 21
Blueberry Kick Off meeting will be March 21, 2016 is a pre-season update for blueberry growers on cultural and pest control strategies for the 2016. Three MDARD Pesticide Recertification credits. Fennville, $5/person.

Preseason fruit IPM meetings March 22 and 24
These preseason meetings are an update for fruit growers on pest and disease control strategies for the 2016 growing season. March 22 in Benton Harbor and March 24 in Lawrence. Two RUP Private, Commercial or 1C credits will be available.

Weekly fruit IPM meetings start April 4
Fruit integrated pest management (IPM) meetings are held for fruit growers in southwest Michigan nearly every Monday at 5pm at the B Jorge’s Fruit Acres Farm in Coloma, April through the end of June.

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.

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