

Michigan State University Extension climate and water webinar debuts March 2012

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Farmers, state and federal agency staff, consultants and agribusiness will be able to receive the latest information on climate, water and agriculture from the comfort of their own home or office. Michigan State University (MSU) Extension will provide free weekly webinars on key topics related to climate variability and change, water and their potential impact on future agriculture production beginning March 2012.

“Michigan agriculture has access to an abundant supply of fresh water, but the amount of water needed to meet the needs of Michigan residents is increasing,” said Jerry May, MSU Extension educator and one of the series’ organizers. “The additional impact of climate variability and change has the potential to add additional challenges to the production of food, fiber and fuel. In the future, access to abundant water may place Michigan at a great advantage to other more arid areas of the country. While water is one of Michigan agriculture’s greatest assets, we need to think about future use of this resource to insure agriculture’s continued access.”

To address these issues, MSU specialist, researchers and Extension educators will lead a series of five webinars covering: farming in a changing environment, water policy, social aspects of water and water availability. Since the webinars are live, viewers will have the opportunity to interact with the presenters and ask questions.

March 9, Farming in a changing environment

- Jeff Andresen, MSU Extension meteorologist
- Julie Doll, Kellogg Biological Station outreach and education coordinator
- Claire Layman, MSU Extension public policy education specialist

March 16, Water – Michigan’s abundant resource

- Lois Wolfson, MSU’s Institute of Water Research aquatic ecologist
- Joan Rose, MSU’s Homer Nowlin endowed chair of water research
- Erin Dreelin, MSU’s Center for Water Sciences associate director
- Andresen

March 23, **World of water policy**

- Patricia Norris, MSU's Guyer-SeEVERS chair in Natural Resource Conservation
- Frank Ruswick, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

March 30, **Social aspects of water**

- Norris
- Dave Lusch, MSU Department of Geography senior research specialist

April 13, **Too much water/not enough water - Adaptation strategies for agriculture**

- Pouyan Nejadhashemi, MSU assistant professor
- Richard Weber, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kerry Robinson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Dave Drullinger, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Ralph Reznick, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

The webinars will take place Fridays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. beginning March 9, 2012 and running through April 13, 2012. A webinar is not scheduled for Good Friday, April 6, 2012.

To learn more about the upcoming webinars visit: bit.ly/MSUEwebinars Participants can register at bit.ly/climatewaterwebinar, or viewers can connect directly at the time of the webinar at connect.msu.edu/climateandwater.

"Registration is not mandatory, but will ensure that participants receive a reminder email 24 hours prior to each webinar," May said.

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