

Michigan Wheat Program February 2013 Article

The Michigan Wheat Program Winter Grower Meeting to be March 6

The Michigan Wheat Program Annual Winter Grower Meeting is coming up March 6 at the Hawk Club House located on the grounds of the Hawk Hollow Golf Club at 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath, Mich. Farmers, industry leaders, related businesses and others interested in the Michigan wheat industry are invited to attend.

The meeting, which includes both a continental breakfast and lunch, is free. Registration is requested. Wheat growers should receive registration forms in the mail. Registration can also be done on the website by visiting www.miwheat.org or calling 1-888-WHEAT01 (1-888-943-2801). Those who register by 5 p.m. on March 1, will be entered into a drawing for door-prizes.

The program, which begins at 9:30 a.m. is designed to share information regarding the new state-wide wheat program and Michigan's wheat industry, and to provide information that may help growers achieve greater profitability.

Dave Hooker, a field-crop agronomist from the University of Guelph, will kick off the day with advice aimed at maximizing yields. His multidisciplinary research has helped him become an expert in genetics, fertility, soil management and pest management, with an eye toward developing science-based solutions for improved wheat, corn and soybean production. He'll focus on high management practices necessary to increase wheat yields in the morning and opportunities for wheat in a crop rotation in his afternoon presentation.

An in-depth discussion about the importance of cover crops from Terry Stiles, territory manager with the Cisco Company will tell growers how to determine the best cover crop for their soil types.

Participants will also learn about the direction of the Michigan Wheat Program from Jody Pollok-Newsom, the group's executive director, and get the national and global perspective from Brett Blankenship, second vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

In addition, Art Loeffler, president of Star of the West Milling Company, will share his insights on the market opportunities for wheat; and Fred Poston, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University (MSU), will discuss how wheat programming fits in with the university's research and outreach mission.

A panel of growers will discuss their method of achieving high yielding wheat.

David Milligan, a Cass City-area farmer and chair of the Michigan Wheat Program will wrap up the day with closing comments about 3:30 p.m.