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“Getting started with...”

The physical labor of farming, Ned Stoller, agricultural engineer, Easterseals Michigan AgrAbility program

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 7pm

Ned will discuss the physical workload of starting a farm...hours per day, days per year, lifting, bending, crawling, carrying, digging, reaching, etc. This is a realistic look at the effort you will face for various farm enterprises and tools to help you work more efficiently, especially if you are not in perfect health condition.

Growing specialty mushrooms, Matt Hall, Midnight Harvest, Traverse City

Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7pm

Matt produces shiitake mushrooms for local sale and has plans to expand into maitake and Lion’s Mane. This webinar will provide valuable insights into small-scale gourmet mushroom production.

Pruning fruit trees, Bob Tritten, MSU Extension

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 7pm

Proper pruning results in improved fruit quantity and quality. Bob will provide an overview of theory and technique for Michigan’s commonly grown tree fruit species.

Soil physical properties for field and hoophouse, Fred Springborn, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 7pm

Fred will address the effects of soil texture and structure on water retention and spring warm-up, and how these soil characteristics can be improved.

Seed Saving, Eric Kampe, Ann Arbor Seed Company

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7pm

Eric will speak from experience about growing and processing vegetable and flower seed, including a look at his seed marketing business.

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Each webinar will begin at 7:00pm eastern time, log-on early to test connection.

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“Getting started with...”

Small farm business start-up, Wendy Wieland, MSU Product Center Innovation Counselor, MSU

Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7pm

Wendy has advised many people wanting to start farm businesses, emphasizing realistic goals. She will address the tough questions about your farm plans, markets, and the reasons why you want to farm.

Small farm meat chicken production, Zac Williams, MSU Dept of Animal Science

Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 7pm

Meat chickens can be a profitable enterprise on a small, diversified farm. Breed selection, growing systems and facilities, nutrition, health and marketing considerations will be discussed.

Pruning small fruits, Steve Fouch, MSU Extension (retired)

Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 7pm

Brambles, blueberries, grapes, saskatoons and other small fruits need proper pruning for plant health and productivity. Steve will cover the basics and get you started right.

Quality hay and pasture, Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7pm

Hay and pasture land doesn’t take care of itself. You, in combination with your animals, need to plan for appropriate management. Jim will provide good farming approaches and common sense to this topic.

Selling to wholesale buyers, Jae Gerhart, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 7pm

Selling to chefs, grocers, distributors, and other wholesale buyers is a great way to increase revenue on your farm. Jae will provide practical tips and important considerations for integrating wholesale into your marketing plan.

Farm financial management: The next step, Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

March 27, 2019, 7pm

This session will build on last year’s novice farm financial management webinars. Frank will focus on tracking cost of production and income by accounts, year-end financial analysis and opportunities for grants.

Cover crop types and uses on your farm, Vicki Morrone, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

April 3, 2019, 7pm

What are cover crops?...and why use them on my farm? Vicki will address cover crop selection, planting times and rates, and potential benefits.
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☐ Jan 23, Growing specialty mushrooms
☐ Jan 30, Pruning fruit trees
☐ Feb 6, Soil physical properties for field and hoophouse
☐ Feb 13, Seed saving
☐ Feb 20, Small farm business start-up
☐ Feb 27, Small farm meat chicken production
☐ Mar 6, Pruning small fruits
☐ Mar 13, Quality hay and pasture
☐ Mar 20, Selling to wholesale buyers
☐ Mar 27, Farm financial management: The next step
☐ Apr 3, Cover crop types and uses on your farm

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