Join us for any or all of these interactive 30 or 60 minute webinars. $5 registration fee for each webinar, 1/2 price for ‘full series’. Participate from your home or office computer (hi-speed internet required). Question & answer session after each presentation. All paid registrants receive a URL to recorded webinars following ‘live’ program.

“Getting started with…”

Seed starting and transplant production, Collin Thompson, MSU Extension and Dr. W. Garrett Owen, MSU Eastern MI Greenhouse Outreach Specialist

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Healthy, vigorous transplants, ready for planting at the right time, are critical for success with many crops. Collin will share his expertise and experience in vegetables. Garrett will focus on flowers.

Reduced tillage vegetable growing, Ben Phillips, MSU Extension

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

The benefits of reducing tillage include improved soil organic matter, water penetration and overall soil health. Ben will share ways that vegetable growers can implement a reduced tillage program.

Managing your farm woodlot, Julie Crick, MSU Extension & Dale Forester, MI Maple Syrup Assn.

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Your woodlot can serve several purposes, providing income, firewood, wildlife opportunities, and recreation. Julie will provide an overview of managing your woodlot to meet your goals. Dale will include aspects of managing maple stands for sap production.

Choosing apple varieties and rootstocks for your new orchard, Amy Irish-Brown, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

With over 7,500 known apple varieties in the world, how do we choose the right one for your orchard? Combine that with hundreds of rootstock selections and it can quickly become very confusing. Each cultivar and rootstock has very unique characteristics that need to be considered before planting a new orchard that could be in place for decades. Amy will help you understand apple cultivars and rootstocks that can be used in a 21st century or hard.

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

Download the ZOOM webinar application for your device at zoom.us/download

PC or Mac users: click “Zoom client for meetings”, iOS users: under “Zoom mobile apps”, click “Download in App Store”
For Android users: under “Zoom mobile apps”, click “Download in Google Play”
“Getting started with...”

Organic matter basics, Vicki Morrone, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems & Dr. Sieg Snapp MSU Soil Scientist

Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Retaining and building up soil organic matter is a key STEP to ACHIEVE good soil health and success with crop production. This webinar will focus on the science and practical methods to improve the organic matter status of your soil.

Fertilizer basics, George Silva, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Crops need nutrients, and fertilizers are needed when soil nutrient levels are deficient. But what do I really need? And what’s the ‘payback’ for the money I spend? Which type of fertilizer should I use, and how much? When and how to apply? George will address these and other questions.

Livestock basics, Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Learn what’s involved with adding an animal enterprise to your farm. Jerry will address the basic requirements for success with cattle, swine, sheep and horses. Bring your questions on other large species.

Raising rabbits, Katie Holcomb, MSU 4-H Volunteer

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

A quick overview on rabbits—breeds, housing, feeding, breeding, and raising. Marketing opportunities will also be discussed. This animal enterprise can fit on a very small farm.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) basics: Am I covered?, Phil Tocco, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

Good practices on the farm will result in safe food for consumers. Be sure you’re doing what you need to do. Phil will introduce the essential concepts of food safety for beginning farmers.

USDA and SARE programs for beginning farmers, Jennifer Silveri, MIFFS & Dean Baas, MSU Extension/MI SARE state coordinator

March 21, 2018, 7pm (60 minutes)

Explore programs intended to assist farmers with financial support. Jennifer Silveri from the Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) will discuss opportunities for beginning farmers through the US Department of Agriculture. Dean Baas will cover the farmer/rancher grant program offered by SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) and offer grant writing tips.
“Getting started with...”

Pest management systems compared, Fred Springborn, MSU Extension

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

Beginning farmers should give serious consideration to the selection of a pest management system that fits their farming system, customer base, and personal philosophy. Fred will compare conventional, organic, and IPM (integrated pest management) pest management systems.

U-Pick farming, Jim Isleib, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

Is a PYO (pick-your-own) farm right for you? Jim will cover advantages/disadvantages, risks and benefits, and what it takes to succeed with a U-Pick farm business.

Farm business basics #1: Simple essentials of farm accounting, Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

Many beginners are not as knowledgeable or excited about the business aspects of farming as they are about the production aspects. Nevertheless, these aspects are critically important for success. Frank will cover the basics of farm accounting at a beginner’s level.

Farm business basics #2: Develop a balance sheet, Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

A good balance sheet provides a snapshot of your farm business as a certain point in time. Comparing from year to year lets you know if you’re making progress.

Farm business basics #3: Calculate farm profitability, Frank Wardynski, MSU Extension

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7pm (30 minutes)

It may not be obvious if your farm is making money or not. In this webinar, you’ll learn how to determine if your farm is actually making a profit.
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Select the webinars you wish to attend: ($5 each)

- FULL WEBINAR SERIES (Half price: 15 webinars—$37.50)
- Jan 17, Seed starting and transplant production
- Jan 24, Reduced tillage vegetable growing
- Jan 31, Managing your farm woodlot
- Feb 7, Choosing apple varieties and rootstocks for your new orchard
- Feb 14, Organic matter basics
- Feb 21, Fertilizer basics
- Feb 28, Livestock basics
- Mar 7, Raising rabbits
- Mar 14, Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) basics
- Mar 21, USDA and SARE program for beginning farmers
- Mar 28, Pest management systems compared
- Apr 4, U-Pick farm business
- Apr 11, Farm business basics #1: Simple essentials of farm accounting
- Apr 18, Farm business basics #2: Develop a balance sheet
- Apr 25, Farm business basics #3: Calculate farm profitability

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Questions? Contact Jim Isleib at isleibj@anr.msu.edu or 906-387-2530

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