



Michigan Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society

ANR Seminar

SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION:

Enhancing Soil and Water Quality

March 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

AgroLiquid Conference Center, 1130 S. Dewitt Rd., St. Johns, MI

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. **Registration, Coffee/Tea and Sponsor Introduction**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Zachary Curtis, President, Michigan Chapter SWCS

9:10 a.m. **Attitudes, Barriers, and Opportunities Towards a More Diverse Agricultural Landscape: Updates for the Diverse Corn Belt Project**
Emily DeaKyne, Diverse Corn Belt Project Manager, Purdue University

10:00 a.m. **Partnering for Sustainability & Resiliency: Bel's Regenerative Agriculture Initiative for Apples**
John Halverson, Purchasing Category Director, Bel Group

10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:50 a.m. **Farmer-Friendly Cover Crop Recommendations to Overcome Barriers to Adoption**
Madelyn Celovsky, Conservation Agronomist Educator, Michigan State University Extension

11:20 a.m. **Michigan Irrigation Trends and Research Trends**
Younsuk Dong, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Michigan State University

11:50 a.m. **Lunch and Sponsor Recognition**

12:40 p.m. **Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program - Scholarship Presentation**
Zachary Curtis, Chair, Scholarship Committee, Michigan Chapter SWCS

12:50 p.m. **Innovative Irrigation and Water Management in the Saginaw Valley**
Robert Mantey, Ed Mantey and Sons, Inc. – Tuscola County
Makenzi Whittum, Ed Mantey and Sons, Inc. – Tuscola County
Farmer 3 - TBA

1:50 p.m. **Break**

2:10 p.m. **Environmental Justice is Essential: Strengthening the Science & Art of Conservation**
Jalonne L. White Newsome, Associate Professor
University of Michigan School of Environment & Sustainability
Environmental Justice Specialization
CEO/Founder, Empowering A Green Environment and Economy, LLC

2:50 p.m. **Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF)**
Application in the Western Lake Erie Basin
Peter Vincent, Environmental Quality Specialist
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy

3:30 p.m. **Wrap-up, Announcements, and Adjourn**
Zachary Curtis

Fostering the science and art of soil and water conservation in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region.