

**PLANT SOIL
& MICROBIAL
SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT**



The Weekly Beet

PSM Office Contact Information / Hours

Effective March 24, 2020 the PSM Administration Offices are closed. During this time of uncertainty, please be patient with any request that you may have placed with a PSM support staff member. Know that PSM support staff will get to your request as quickly as possible.

AnnMarie Guldner	guldner1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Ashley Lathrop	danas@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Brian Horgan	horganb@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Christiina Donley	tymoszew@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Debbie Williams	williade@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Dominic Colosimo	colosi14@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Gina Centeno	centeno@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Lee Duynslager	duynslag@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM
Lisa Bowen	bowenli1@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-4 PM
Mackenzie Graham	graham2@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM
Rachel Esch	eschrach@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	9 AM-5 PM
Sandie Litchfield	litchfi9@msu.edu	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

PSM Meeting Calendar

Please save the dates for the following PSM meetings. An email was sent on July 28th with the Zoom login and password information for each meeting.

- October 9 from 1-5 PM RPT Meeting
- October 23 from 1-5 PM RPT Meeting

Seminars / Webinars

October 9, 2020 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Preparing Agriculture for the Future

Register at: <http://symposium.cropsciences.illinois.edu/>

Call for abstracts information flyer attached.

October 12, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM

2020 Fall Seminar - Plant Pathology

Grace Kenny

Title: *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* control on cucumbers

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

Seminars / Webinars

October 12-15, 2020

Big Data, Safe Food 2020 Virtual Conference

Register by October 10, 2020

<https://ag.purdue.edu/big-data-food-safety-2020/>

October 15, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort 2020 Fall Seminar

Dr. Yamina Pressler, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Title: Soil food web resistance and resilience in the context of land management and restoration

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

October 22, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort 2020 Fall Seminar

Linda Lee, Purdue University

Title: PFAS Characteristics and Fate in Agricultural Operations

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

October 26, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM

2020 Fall Seminar - Plant Pathology

Malini Jayawardana

Title: Host interactions in *Alternaria alternata* species complex strains

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

October 27, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Plant Postdocs announce their 4th webinar

“Preparing ECRs for jobs in industry and the Government”

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/yda3xk9h>

Panelists:

Carola Dowd, CTC Genomics, St. Louis, MO

Rishi Masalia, LeafWorks Inc., Sebastopol, CA

Sarah Turner-Hissong, Bayer Crop Sciences, Chesterfield, MO

Jacob Washburn, USDA-ARS, Columbia, MO

Moderator:

Allison Barnes, NSF-postdoc, North Carolina State University

October 29, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort 2020 Fall Seminar

Dr. Christophe Darnault, Clemson University

Title: Flow and Transport in Agroecosystems and the Natural Environment: Advances and Applications in Soil, Water, Energy and Food Systems

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 537 5357

Passcode: 149423

Seminars / Webinars

November 5, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort Fall 2020 Seminar

Dr. Johannes Lehmann, Cornell University

Title: Soil organic carbon persistence: towards balancing physico-chemical or biological processes

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

November 19, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort Fall 2020 Seminar

Dr. James Kelly, Michigan State University, Emeritus Faculty

Title: 100-plus years of bean breeding research at Michigan State University

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

December 3, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM

PSM/Hort Fall 2020 Seminar

Dr. Maria del Mar Jimenez Gasco, The Pennsylvania State University

Title: Diversity, ecology, and evolution of plant-associated *Fusarium oxysporum*

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

Announcements

PSM Office Coverage

We will be staffing the PSM office for essential needs only (Ex: keys). An appointment needs to be made prior by contacting **AnnMarie Guldner** at either guldner1@msu.edu or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

- Friday, October 16th from 8 AM- 12 PM
 - Wednesday, October 21st from 8 AM-12 PM
 - Wednesday, October 28th from 8 AM-12 PM
 - Wednesday, November 4th from 8 AM-12 PM
 - Friday, November 13th from 8 AM-12 PM
 - Wednesday, November 18th from 8 AM-12 PM
-

Doors to use for PSSB entry

If you have had issues entering PSSB with your card and have been authorized for access, please make sure that you are using only the doors listed below. All other doors to the building have been deactivated for card reader access due to COVID regulations.

- 9-10 are on the east side across from Vet Med along Bogue St.
- 31-32 are on the south side of the corridor that connects Plant and Soil to MPS.

Announcements

Learning opportunities in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Many fall virtual events addressing broadening participation and diversity in STEM are available through SEISMIC (Sloan Equity and Inclusion in STEM Introductory Courses) - check out their upcoming webinars here: <https://www.seismicproject.org/speaker-events-bureau/events/>

Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine Events

No appointment is necessary for the drive-thru events. Download the vaccine consent form and bring it with you. Be sure that you are filling out the form for the same day that you are planning to receive your vaccine. A copy of this form has been attached.

Location: MSU Pavilion on Farm Lane

Hours: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Dates:

- October 14 & 15
- November 11 & 12
- December 9 & 10

Patients are expected to wait 15 minutes after flu shot in approved waiting areas. Expected co-pay under the university prescription benefit is \$0.00.

Miesel lab truck is available for meeting COVID vehicle restrictions

The Miesel lab truck (2017 F-150, 4-door, standard bed with locking cap) is available for other research groups needing to meet COVID-19 restrictions on vehicle occupancy. Reserving the truck will require an account number and we will bill mileage to that account at the standard rate (57.5 cents/mile). There is no daily use fee.

We request that use of our truck is limited to transporting personnel and field samples: no heavy-duty activities or pesticide/herbicide use please.

All drivers must be MSU-approved with current driver's authorization on file in PSM, and be comfortable driving a vehicle of this size.

All use must comply with current MSU COVID-19 requirements for passenger limits and disinfection.

Drivers will be given a hardcopy of the attached form when they pick up keys, and return the filled form when the truck and keys are returned.

To reserve the truck, email the following information to the Miesel lab manager, **Midhun Gelder** (gelderemi@msu.edu), at least one business day before your requested date(s):

- Driver name(s) and phone numbers
- PI name
- Date(s) and hours requested
- Account number to be billed for mileage

Midhun will coordinate key pickup/drop off with the person requesting the vehicle.

We have a light field season this year so I hope our vehicle can help support the teams that are behind or vehicle-limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Announcements

Sign-in/out forms for PSSB and CIPS

The sign-in/out form for visiting PSSB and CIPS will no longer be required because it's largely redundant with the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form. Effective Immediately, you are only required to fill out the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form before you enter PSSB or CIPS. The health screening form provides the critical information for contact tracing in the event of potential COVID case or exposure in the building. The sign-in/out form has been removed from the PSM website. Note: Farms are still requiring sign-in/out form.

The form can be found at this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofRr5465e eclGIAHCZg1x3UtUQU1EWTRBTkZTMzVESEJDTzRPMTBHNEFHVC4u>

The IR-4 Project is seeking an Associate Director for Regulatory Sciences at IR-4 Headquarters at its new offices with North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. This position will oversee the IR-4 Project's flagship Food Program, manage International activities, and assist the Executive Director with administrative functions. Please see <https://lnkd.in/d5-kmX2> for job details. The position will remain open until filled.

The Office for Research and Innovation (R&I) requests applications for the 2020-2021 Discretionary Funding Initiative (DFI). The Discretionary Funding Initiative, funded by the Michigan State University Foundation, provides bridge funds for tenure stream faculty for additional studies needed for resubmission of an unsuccessful, but nearly fundable application to the same program within an agency.

To request funding from this program, faculty should submit a proposal via the grant proposal system (<https://msu.smapply.io>). Applicants will be expected to provide copies of their previous external reviews, if applicable, and describe the work that will be completed in order to address the comments in those documents. The research associate dean of the applicant's college (lead college if appointed in multiple colleges) will review applications, and submit a prioritized list to R&I. Requests for support approved by the research associate deans will be reviewed by R&I.

The maximum award from R&I will be \$25K and will require a 100% (up to \$25K) match from units or colleges. Funds will be available for 18 months, and an activity report will be required at the end of the granting period.

Vehicle Use Policy

MSU travelers are now allowed by MSU Transportation Services to travel with two persons in full size vans large enough to allow six-foot spacing. There are no restrictions on distance traveled. This approval applies to MSU Transportation Services vans and department or project owned vans of similar size.

Please comply with the following conditions:

- 1) The two passengers must remain at least six feet apart while traveling.
- 2) Both the driver and passenger must wear face coverings at all times while in the vehicle.
- 3) Maximize movement of external air at all times. Use ventilation fans with recirculation disabled. Windows may be open if weather allows.
- 4) Disinfect all high-touch surfaces with an EHS approved disinfectant such as 70% ethanol at the conclusion of each leg of the trip.
- 5) Normal travel approvals continue to be in effect.

Funding Opportunities

Bayer Grant 4Ag Crop Protection - 3 RFPs

Purpose: Aid farmers in crop protection

RFP 1: Fighting pests while preserving biodiversity

- Novel approaches and enabling technologies to produce higher-yield crops with resistance to weeds, insects and diseases
- Halo suggested the following units could be interested: Crop Science, Agronomy, Genetics

RFP 2: Reducing chemical input and enhancing soil health

- Novel approaches and technologies that minimize chemical inputs and protect soil health while maintaining crop yields
- Halo suggested the following units could be interested: Agriculture, Chemical Engineering, Plant Breeding

RFP 3: Accelerating precision agriculture

- Digital innovations for measuring agronomic performance and compliance
- Halo suggested the following units could be interested: Agriculture, Data Science, Computer Science

Grant4Ag gift program information:

1. No reporting requirements
2. MSU retains IP/no IP clause
3. Funding is \$5-15k
 - a. Good for small projects, postdocs, grad students
4. Purpose of these grants is to identify research partners for large-scale, longer-term collaborations

Deadline: October 30, 2020

Additional Information: Deepa Srikanta, PhD srikanta@msu.edu

The North Central IPM Center Announces 2021 Request for Applications

The North Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center announces the availability of funding through its Working Group and Critical Issues programs. The Working Group projects will have approximately \$200,000, with a maximum of \$20,000 per award. The Critical Issues projects will have approximately \$100,000 available, with a maximum of \$50,000 per award.

Both the working group projects and the critical issues projects support the North Central IPM Center's mission of improving health, environmental and economic conditions in the North Central region through leadership and cooperation with diverse stakeholders to increase use of IPM solutions. This mission directly accomplishes the goals of the National IPM Roadmap.

Applications for working group projects and critical issues projects should support the Center's priorities, which can be found here. These priorities are based upon the Center's Signature programs and are evaluated annually by regional stakeholders.

Applications must be submitted online and are due by Friday, November 20, 2020, at 5:00 EST. Be sure to download all forms from the online project management system as some forms have been updated. Download the 2021 RFA from the North Central IPM Center website, where there are video tutorials to help you get started. Follow the RFA instructions for submission.

The North Central IPM Center is funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management Program.

Important Updates:

- On Monday, Eat at State announced the food court and Sparty's in the MSU Union [reopened](#). Seating is still unavailable, but you can take out up to 3 containers per access from the food court.
- Tuesday, MSU Libraries [announced](#) it is now offering contactless pickup, using newly installed touchless lockers. Also, the first-floor study space has reopened with extended hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and there are printers and computers available for use.
- University Outreach and Engagement on Tuesday [released a document](#) that outlines the requirements for community and public participants, partners and visitors to engage in in-person, MSU-sponsored activities. These guidelines complement the [MSU Community Compact](#).
- Also Tuesday, President Stanley [sent a message](#) to the Spartan community addressing the [new virtual resources](#) that MSU's Counseling and Psychiatric services offer, the [drive-through location](#) at the MSU Pavilion set up for Spartans to receive flu shots, the decision to prohibit fans in the stadium and tailgating on campus during this football season and the [recent updates](#) to MSU's COVID-19 testing and reporting dashboard.
- This week, University Communications [released](#) a story and student video as part of its efforts to share resources for MSU students to stay virtually engaged. This is the first of three videos that will be released over the next week addressing topics found to currently be most critical among students.
- This week Student Affairs and Services [published a video](#) debunking COVID-19 myths with students.

Spartan Stories and Pride Points:

- Student Maddy Eischer [started a small business](#) making and distributing face coverings to promote public health during the pandemic. She has made and distributed more than 1,200 masks.
- MSU's Dr. Peter Gulick spoke [with PopSugar](#) on using UV light to kill COVID-19 on surfaces.
- MSU alumnus Derek Sanborn has [led his company](#) PatientStudio to provide small health care companies with its patient management software for free during the ongoing pandemic.
- Assistant professor Simone Peinkofer [discussed](#) what holiday consumerism during the ongoing pandemic may look like.

Please remember that Michigan Supreme Court's ruling that Governor Whitmer did not have the authority to declare a state of emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic after April 30, 2020, or exercise emergency powers under the Emergency Powers of Governor Act of 1945, does not change the health directives and orders that MSU has placed. The MSU Community Compact is still intact, and the same health and safety directives. **You must continue to wear face coverings indoors and outdoors on campus, wash your hands, practice physical distancing and limit large gatherings.** Please continue to check the Together We Will website at https://msu.edu/together-we-will/?utm_source=reopening-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=faculty-staff for important information and resources.

Face coverings are a crucial public health measure and help protect others by reducing exposure to droplets if someone is unknowingly infected with COVID-19.

FACE COVERINGS MUST BE WORN BY EVERYONE (including all faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors) indoors and outdoors while you are on property owned or governed by MSU and while participating in MSU-related or MSU-sponsored activities. If you have a medical condition that may prevent you from safely wearing a face covering, you should contact MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to begin the accommodation process.

Exceptions to the requirement for face coverings will be limited.

If you are indoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are in your own place of residence and can therefore properly self isolate.
- You are in a private, single-occupancy office or lab space with a closed door and can reasonably expect other individuals not to enter (but if you leave your private, single-occupancy office or lab space and proceed into a common area or hallway - even if there are no other individuals present - you must wear a face covering)
- You are eating or drinking but still maintaining proper distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others)

If you are outdoors, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are an outdoor worker and can maintain social distance from others (but you will need to wear a face covering outdoors when interacting with others or when unable to maintain social distance)
- You are exercising or engaging in high-intensity activities outdoors (for example, jogging, running, bicycling, or golfing) and can maintain social distance from others

If you are working, exceptions are limited to when:

- You are working in a setting where a face covering may increase the risk of a hazard (for example, the face covering could become wet, the face covering could get caught in machinery or the face covering could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment)
- You can maintain social distance from others
- You have previously consulted with your supervisor to determine the appropriate face covering for your setting

Face coverings should (a) be non-medical grade to maintain supplies for health care use, (b) fit snugly against the side of your face, (c) cover your nose and mouth, (d) be secured with ties or ear loops, and (e) allow for breathing without restriction. Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day at a time, they must be properly hand washed or laundered before subsequent use. Face coverings may vary (for example, disposable non-medical masks or neck gaiters are acceptable).

Please adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as federal and state governmental authorities, in order to protect your own health and the health of the entire MSU community.

In addition to wearing face coverings, you also must take the following personal precautions:

- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good personal hygiene, including washing hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap is unavailable
- Routinely clean and sanitize your workspace and shared equipment

Food and Drink Policy

Food and Drink Policy - Addendum to the PSSB Reopening Plan 7/23/2020

Based on the changing Executive Orders and needs of the MSU community, food consumption will be allowed in PSSB in posted designated areas. Please keep in mind that this change in policy may pose an increased risk of exposure and it is important to observe physical distancing, follow disinfecting protocols and spend minimal time in the room.

To meet these goals and maximize safety, the PSSB building SOP plan has been modified to:

- Note that it is always preferable to eat outside of the building when possible
- Conference and break rooms on the second floor will be open for food consumption. Please limit your time to 30-min to accommodate colleagues/other building occupants.
 - A279 - Horticulture conference room - maximum occupancy is 5
 - A271 - PSM conference room - maximum occupancy is 6
 - A246 - Break room - maximum occupancy is 5
- Maximum occupancy signs will be posted on each door. If the room is fully occupied, please check another designated space. If all conference and break rooms are fully occupied, check back later.
- Masks must be worn in each room unless actually consuming food
- Kitchenettes will continue to be closed. There is no microwave or refrigerator usage allowed.
- Everyone should bring and remove all personal supplies for eating.
- The user is required to disinfect the space before and after each use following EPA approved guidelines (70% alcohol for 5-min; Sani-wipes for 3-min). Disinfectants will be present in the room.
- Snacks and community food to share should not be brought to work.

Information from MSU Payroll Department

MSU Will Not Participate in the Social Security Deferral Program

Per IRS Notice 2020-65 (released August 28, 2020), employers may elect to defer the withholding and payment of the employee share of social security taxes (6.2%) from September 1 through December 31, 2020. The deferral only applies to employees whose compensation is approximately \$104,000 or below.

Please note that this is simply a deferral of taxes - it is not a forgiveness of taxes. Any taxes deferred must be recouped and repaid by the employee through payroll deduction between January 1 and April 30, 2021. This means that instead of having 6.2% Social Security taxes deducted during the January through April 2021 time period, employees would have 12.4% deducted to repay the amount deferred in 2020.

After assessing the overall Social Security deferral plan, MSU has elected to not participate due to the payback burden that will be placed on employees beginning in January 2021. As a result, Social Security taxes will continued to be deducted, as normal. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the payroll department at 517-355-5010 or payroll@ctrl.msu.edu.

New Version Fillable PSMS PDF Time Sheet

Attached to this newsletter is the [new fillable version of the PSMS PDF time sheet, this version replaces all other copies](#). The new time sheet has required fill-in areas (i.e. dates and signatures) and all areas are now fillable or a check box.

PSM Payroll Time Reporting

Due Date Reminders for **biweekly payroll** (includes labor and student)
Reminder: If your employee's time is not submitted, they will not be paid.

- For the October 23rd pay date (for time worked from September 27-October 10) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, October 13th.
- For the November 6th pay date (for time worked from October 11-24) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, October 27th.
- For the November 20th pay date (for time worked from October 25-November 7) your time is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, November 10th.

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment starts on October 1st.

Open enrollment is the annual opportunity for staff members to review their coverage and ensure they have the best benefits for them as we head into the new year. Any changes for the 2021 plan year must be made October 1-31, 2020.

Additional Information: https://hr.msu.edu/open-enrollment/index.html?utm_source=insidemsu-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=standard-promo

MSU Academic Calendar

Fall 2020

October 21	Middle of Semester
November 26-27	Holiday - University Closed
December 11	Classes End
December 14-18	Final Exams
December 24-25	Holiday - University Closed
December 31- January 1	Holiday - University Closed

Fall 2020 Commencement will be virtual. More information will be provided when available.

Send newsletter submissions to AnnMarie Guldner at guldner1@msu.edu
Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM