

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2017 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – January 26, 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/26 *****Whole Farm Revenue Protection Insurance Workshop has been CANCELLED**
- 2/1 – 3 **Tree Fruit IPM School
Make hotel reservation ASAP if you have not already!**
- 2/17 **Worker Protection Standard Outreach Session**
NWMHRC, 1-4 PM (Online registration required)

What's New?

- **IFTA Scholarship for 2017 Winter Meeting in Wenatchee, Washington**
- *****Whole Farm Revenue Protection Insurance Workshop for 1/26 has been CANCELLED**

IFTA Scholarship for 2017 Winter Meeting in Wenatchee, Washington

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation (NWMHRF) Board is offering scholarships for area growers to attend the upcoming 60th annual International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) conference to be held in Wenatchee, WA. This year the scholarship is supported by the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council (\$2000) and matched by the NWMHRC Foundation (\$2000). The Board will sponsor two growers at \$2000 per applicant.

By attending the IFTA annual conference, scholarship recipients will gain valuable knowledge, see new and innovative orchards, learn the latest in tree fruit research, and connect with other fruit tree growers from around the world. The dates for the Intensive Workshop and Conference are February 19-23, 2017.

To apply for this scholarship, interested growers should write a letter of request stating why they would like to attend this meeting. Letters should be addressed and emailed to Adele Wunsch (wunschad@gmail.com), President of the NWMHRF Board and cc'ed to Jenn Zelinski at the NWMHRC (goodr100@msu.edu). Priority will be given to *first-time* applicants of the NWMHRF IFTA scholarship as well as growers new to the fruit industry. Growers from the five counties, Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee, will also be given priority.

Request letters should be sent to the email addresses above by *February 1, 2017 by 5 PM*. The NWMHRF Executive Board will review request letters immediately, and award recipients will be contacted that same day.

Are you ready for changes in the Worker Protection Standards?

Training programs help growers comply with changes to the Worker Protection Standards.

Posted on **January 12, 2017** by [Jill O'Donnell](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

Beginning Jan. 2, 2017, the Federal Worker Protection Standards (WPS) revisions took effect. These changes are designed to provide stronger protections for the nation's two million agricultural workers and their families. Growers will be responsible for taking additional steps when applying pesticides, providing worker and applicator training, new record-keeping requirements, respirator testing and numerous other items. These changes impact all growers' operations, large and small.

The Worker Protection Standards protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers by reducing the risks of injury or illness resulting from contact with pesticides on farms, nurseries and greenhouses. Worker Protection Standards requirements are intended to

inform workers and handlers about pesticide safety, provide protections from potential exposure to pesticides, and mitigate exposures that do occur.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) still has several [Worker Protection Standard Outreach Sessions](#) available to help growers understand changes to the standard and what must be done to be in compliance. All registered participants will receive outreach, training and compliance tools. Please join us at one of the following locations:

- [Jan. 24 in Benton Harbor](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.
- [Jan. 31 in New Era](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.
- [Feb. 17 in Traverse City](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.

Four core recertification credits will be offered.

The cost of the program is \$25 and advanced registration is required. To register for one of these sessions, go to [Worker Protection Standard Outreach Sessions](#).

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

FAQ regarding new Worker Protection Standards changes

Frequently asked questions regarding the new Worker Protection Standards requirements for medical evaluations and fit testing for respirator use.

Posted on **January 17, 2017** by [Heidi Lindberg](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

Under the new Worker Protection Standards, pesticide applicators and handlers will be required to have and document their medical evaluations and fit testing in order to use pesticides that require respirators. The following are frequently asked questions regarding these new changes.

What are the changes to Worker Protection Standards with respect to respirators?

Prior to the changes to the Worker Protection Standards, the employer must provide a respirator and ensure it fits. Under the new Worker Protection Standards requirements that went into effect in 2017, the employer must “provide the handler with a medical evaluation, fit testing and respirator training in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) Respiratory Protection Standard.” Now, employers

must keep records of the completion of fit test, training and medical evaluation for two years.

What sort of [medical evaluation](#) is required for pesticide handlers and applicators according to the new Worker Protection Standards?

The employer must pay for/provide a medical evaluation for employees who will need to be using pesticides requiring a respirator. The medical evaluation needs to occur prior to using the respirator for the first time and if any “significant” changes occur. Employers must identify a licensed health care professional (PLHCP) to do the medical evaluation to ensure the employee is able to perform duties requiring a respirator.

For more information, watch “[Medical Evaluations for Workers Who Use Respirators](#)” by OSHA.

Are pesticide applicators and handlers required to wear respirators?

Yes, pesticide applicators and handlers are required to wear respirators if the pesticide label calls for them to do so. Therefore, applicators and handlers need to have medical evaluation and respirator fit testing prior to use.

Which pesticides require respirators?

Growers should look at the labels of the pesticides they may use during this growing season. The label of the pesticides will state if they require a respirator or not. The requirements will not only vary with the pesticide class and label requirements, but with the application methods (drench, spray etc.).

What is a respirator quantitative/qualitative fit test?

A respirator fit test is a test that ensures the respirator is properly working and protecting the worker when mixing, loading or applying some pesticides. It makes sure the respirator forms a complete seal with the person’s face. The fit test needs to be performed with the same make, model, style and size of the respirator that will be used during work duties. The fit test will also involve a positive and negative pressure check to check the seal of the mask to the user.

What types of respirator fit testing are there?

There are two types of respirator fit tests: qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative fit tests use four OSHA-approved methods using isoamyl acetate, saccharin, bitrex or an irritant smoke to test the fit of respirators. They do not measure the actual amount of leakage into the respirator, but are only based on if the wearer detects a leak. For example, if you are tested using isoamyl acetate, which smells like bananas, and you detect that smell, you know your respirator is not fitting properly.

Quantitative fit tests measures the actual amount of leakage from the respirator and does not rely on your senses of taste or smell as with the qualitative fit testing. It uses a machine for testing. Occupational clinics can perform this type of fit testing.

Either of these fit tests are acceptable for the new Worker Protection Standards. Qualitative fit tests are most commonly used for partial face respirators.

What records are required for fit testing?

Employers must keep the following records of the fit testing for two years:

- Name of handler tested
- Type of fit test performed
- Make, model, size of respirator tested
- Date of fit test
- Results of the fit test (pass or fail for qualitative tests or fit factor, and strip chart recording or other record of the test results for a quantitative fit test)

Annual respirator training recordkeeping:

- Name and signature of handler trained
- Date of training
- Trainer's name
- Training topics

For more information on fit testing, watch "[Respiratory Fit Testing](#)" by OSHA.

To learn more about the types of respirators, watch "[Respirator Types](#)" by OSHA.

To learn more about Worker Protection Standards, read "[Are you ready for changes in the Worker Protection Standards?](#)" by [Michigan State University Extension](#).

Thank you to Craig Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau, for his review.

Michigan Rural Development Fund Grants

MDARD has had lot of growers asking the migrant housing inspectors if there are any grants this year that might go towards new housing. They have found one that seems to fit but growers will need to apply for the grant themselves.

The sustainability of farms is the sustainability of land based industries and having good housing would contribute to farm viability and sustainability.

Learn more about the available grant here:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1570_51684_78392---,00.html

Agricultural Survey Responses Needed – Benzie and Antrim County Growers

Benzie County: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KKDVQB>

Manistee County: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZNQL8FH>

American Chestnuts Today

Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 7:00-8:30 pm

Boardman River Nature Center, 1450 South Cass Road, Traverse City

American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, once ranged from North Florida to Maine and west to the Ohio Valley and was one of the most important trees in the eastern United States. It is one of the world's most popular nut-bearing trees and offers a number of unique qualities. These trees provide strong wood for fence posts, furniture, and homes. The chestnuts themselves were also a very important food source for livestock, wildlife and humans. Fresh chestnuts are much lower in fat than other nuts with a carbohydrate content comparable to wheat and rice, and also contain vitamin C.

In 1904, the chestnut blight (*Chryphonectria parasitica*) was introduced to the U.S. and by 1940 the blight had spread throughout the entire range of the American Chestnut, slowly destroying the once beautiful and bountiful forests and changing the eastern forest forever. Today, a few isolated Chestnuts can be found in Northern Michigan, with the state champion located on the Old Mission Peninsula.

Join Dr. Dennis Fulbright, Professor Emeritus from Michigan State University's Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, as we discuss the return of the Chestnut. Chestnut acreage in the U.S. has increased substantially over the past 30 years with the largest acreages in Michigan. The *Castanea* genus is probably the most valuable tree genus in North America. With 13 species; four large tree species and 9 shrub-like species, there is a chestnut out there for every landscape. Discussion will include all species of Chestnut, their characteristics, the rationale for growing them and the biocontrols and genetic work that has led to species with blight and root rot resistance.

With all of the insect and disease concerns in our forests today, this presentation will

provide some interesting discussion and perhaps some optimism for a future mast producing species in our northern forests.

This event is sponsored free of charge by the Forestry Assistance Program. For more information contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783 or kama.ross@macd.org.



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WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website:

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

60-Hour Forecast:

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Information on apples:

<http://apples.msu.edu/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports:

<http://news.msue.msu.edu>