

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2017

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – March 21, 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3/21	Viticulture Educator Candidate Seminars NWMHRC
3/22	Benzie Manistee Hort Society Bus Tour – RSVP required
3/24	NW Michigan Think Tank - “Exploring Climate Variability and its Impacts on Tree Fruit and Winegrape Production” CANCELLED
4/18	IPM Kickoff NWMHRC

What’s New?

- **NW Michigan Think Tank – March 24th – CANCELLED**
- **Michigan Cherry Producers Approve Continuation Referendum**

Michigan Cherry Producers Approve Continuation Referendum

For immediate release: March 17, 2017

Program contact: Phil Korson, Michigan Cherry Committee, 517-669-4264

Media contact: [Jennifer Holton](#), MDARD, 517-284-5724

LANSING - Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Director Jamie Clover Adams announced today that the state's cherry producers have approved a referendum to continue the Michigan Cherry Promotion and Development Program.

Established in May 1972, the Michigan Cherry Promotion and Development Program was developed to improve the economic position of the state's cherry producers by creating greater marketing opportunities for Michigan cherries. By law, the program must be renewed every five years.

The Michigan Cherry Promotion and Development Program will continue for an additional five years beginning July 1, 2017. The current program assessment is \$10 per ton for sweet or tart cherries and \$5 per ton for cherries sold for juice.

A total of 135 valid ballots were cast in the referendum. Of those, 101 producers voted yes (75 percent) representing 134,134,560.59 pounds of cherries (88 percent of the production volume represented) and 34 producers voted no (25 percent) representing 18,888,510.95 pounds (12 percent).

For renewal of the program and its activities, more than 50 percent of the voting producers, representing more than 50 percent of the pounds sold by those voting, must have approved it.

#

Save the Date! - Benzie Manistee Hort Society Bus Tour – March 22, 2017

The NWMHRC is helping host two really great programs in March.

On **March 22**, the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society is hosting a bus tour to the Grand Rapids area to discuss opportunities for fresh market fruit in Michigan. We will be visiting high density sweet cherry orchards, and Drs. Greg Lang and Todd Einhorn will be on hand to talk about pruning and training strategies for managing these orchard systems. Todd is our new horticulture faculty member who has worked extensively on sweet cherries in Oregon. We are so pleased he is part of the MSU team.

We will also talk to some growers in the Grand Rapids area that have been growing high density sweet cherries for the fresh market. During lunch, we will also explore the

challenges of growing cherries on these systems as well as an economic forecast. Lastly, we will discuss the labor issues associated with managing fresh market cherries.

This tour will also take us to a stop to look at multiple-leader apples. This modern way of growing apples has been on the radar of many growers, and we will visit with Bill Nyblad and Phil Schwallier about the challenges and opportunities for growing these unique orchard systems.

UPDATED AGENDA

Exploring Opportunities for Growing Fresh Market Fruit in Michigan
Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society and Michigan State University Extension
Bus Tour and Educational Workshop
March 22, 2017

7:00am	Load bus at Blaine Christian Church <i>7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613</i>
7:30am	Bus pick up at Ellen's Corners' gas station <i>6052 W M-115, Mesick, MI 49668</i>
10:45-11:00	High-Density Sweet Cherries on V-Trellis <i>Riveridge Orchards, Grant MI</i> <i>Justin Finkler, Riveridge Produce Marketing</i>
11:00-11:40	Strategies for Pruning, Training, Irrigating, and Fertigating High Density Sweet Cherries <i>RiverRidge Orchards, Grant MI</i> <i>Dr. Greg Lang, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU</i> <i>Dr. Todd Einhorn, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU</i>
11:40-11:50	Travel to Dietrich Orchards
11:50-12:30	High-Density Sweet Cherries on a Vertical System <i>Adam, Curtis, and Phil Dietrich, Leo Dietrich and Sons</i>
12:30-12:45	Travel to Cronk's Oakridge Restaurant
12:45-1:30	Lunch @ Cronk's Oakridge Restaurant <i>9103 Mason Drive (M-37), Newaygo, MI 49337</i>
1:30-2:00	Economic Outlook to Move to Fresh Market Apples and Sweet Cherries on Old Mission Peninsula <i>Isaiah Wunsch, Wunsch Farms, Old Mission Peninsula</i>
2:00-2:30	Helping to Address the Labor Issue for Fresh Market Fruit <i>Mark Doherty, Crop Protection Services, NW Michigan</i>
2:30-3:00	Economic Successes and Challenges to Produce and Market Fresh Apples and Sweet Cherries <i>Justin Finkler, Riveridge Produce Marketing</i>

3:00-3:15	Travel to Nyblad Orchards
3:15-4:00	Experiences with Multi-leader Apples <i>Bill Nyblad, Nyblad Orchards</i> <i>Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension</i> <i>9103 Mason Drive (M-37), Newaygo, MI 49337</i>
~4:00	Travel back north

The Hort Society will hire a bus to travel to the multiple stops, and we encourage growers to sign up early to ensure a seat on the bus. **Please call the NWMHRC to reserve a seat on the bus: 231-946-1510, or email Jenn at goodr100@msu.edu.**

The cost for the day, which includes lunch, is \$40. Checks can be made payable to the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society. Growers can send their checks to the NWMHRC, 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684 or bring money to the bus tour.

This trip is a great opportunity to see excellent examples of high density apples and cherries. We will also have great speakers and researchers on board to discuss the opportunities to grow fruit on these modern systems. We hope you will join us on March 22nd!

2017 Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off

April 18, 2017, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Please join Michigan State University Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on Tuesday, April 18 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! This year, we are pleased to host Ontario Ministry of Agriculture's Application Technology Specialist, Jason Deveau, using ZOOM teleconferencing. Deveau will discuss spray strategy techniques including application rates, calibration, coverage, and canopy management – the foundations of optimizing spray economy and effectiveness. Following last year's challenging fire blight scenario, MSU's Dr. George Sundin will join us to present considerations for fire blight management this season. Dr. Sundin will also discuss the implications of new data on SDHI efficacy for cherry leaf spot management. Eric McCumber will provide a summary of the key Worker Protection Standard changes for 2017 and preparations for future changes. We will cover the annual pesticide label changes and updates and have a brief discussion on the future of borer pest management. This event is free of charge, and pesticide recertification credits and certified crop advisor credits will be available. We are looking forward to kicking off the 2017 season with you!

4:45	Welcome and Refreshments
5:00 – 5:15	Pesticide Label Changes and Updates <i>Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension</i>
5:15 – 6:00	Fire Blight and Leaf Spot Considerations for 2017 <i>Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, MSU</i>
6:00 – 6:45	Crop-Adapted Spraying <i>Jason Deveau, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) via ZOOM Teleconference</i>
6:45 – 7:00	Break
7:00 – 7:45	Worker Protection Standard Update <i>Eric McCumber, MDARD</i>
7:45 – 8:00	Borer Management Challenges in Stone Fruit <i>Dr. Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch</i>
8:00	<i>Fill out pesticide recertification and certified crop advisor sheets.</i>

MSU Extension Educator – Viticulture Presentations

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Thomas Todaro
1:15 p.m.

Gerard Logan
2:00 p.m.

Jason Stout
2:45 p.m.

20 Minute Presentation:

Topic:

Please choose one of the following challenges that wine grape growers and winemakers face in Northwest Lower Michigan and share what strategies and initiatives you would lead to meet these needs. How would you engage local stakeholders to contribute to the success of the initiative and how would you determine success of the project?

1. Pre-harvest disease pressure like Botrytis/sour rot

2. Issues impacting year-to-year production variability
3. Sustainable practices in cold-climate viticulture

10 Minute – question and answer period to follow each presentation

Seminars presented at:

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

6686 S. Center Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684

To attend via Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5190105626>

Link to Public Presentation Form <https://goo.gl/forms/q5TrKQq2uFu0mTqc2>

Public and interested parties are welcome to attend

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Chestnut Orchard Establishment Workshop

Join us to learn about commercial chestnut production in Michigan this April!

Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

The Michigan chestnut industry has been growing steadily over the last decade, with a lot of interest in production from new growers. To address this interest, Michigan State University Extension will be holding a one-day workshop to introduce attendees to the opportunities and challenges of commercial chestnut production. The workshop will include: an introduction to the history of the industry in Michigan; an economic analysis of production; orchard establishment and design; pest management; and harvesting, marketing, and storage.

The Chestnut Orchard Establishment Workshop will be held on April 20th from 10:00 am-4:00 pm at the Clarksville Horticultural Experiment Station, in Clarksville Michigan. The cost of the event is \$50 and includes lunch and support materials. To register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/chestnutworkshop2017/>

Those attending are encouraged to visit www.chestnuts.msu.edu before the event for a primer on chestnut production. The '[Production considerations](#)' section may be particularly helpful.

4-H Tractor Safety Registration Now Open!

Teens can improve their chances of employment by completing a tractor safety training. MSU Extension will host a **4-H Tractor Safety Program** for 14 and 15 year old youth on **Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6-8:30 pm** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The written and driving **test** will be held on **Saturday, April 29 from 8:30am – 2:30pm**. Participants must attend all five sessions to become certified. The cost is **\$80 per student** and some scholarships are available if finances are an issue. Youth must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2017. Space is limited. The registration deadline is March 24. Registration is online only in a two-step process. First, register and pay at events.anr.msu.edu/TractorSafety, and second, become a 4-H member and create a profile online at www.4honline.com. For more information, contact **Rosali Collier** Leelanau County 4-H Program Coordinator at collierr@anr.msu.edu or 231-256-9888.

Measuring spotted wing Drosophila impacts – your help needed!

This survey will help researchers identify impacts of spotted wing Drosophila (SWD) on fruit growers and look for new management tactics and programs, improved insecticide efficacy and SWD training.

Posted by [Rufus Isaacs](#), and Larry Gut, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology, MSUE News

Michigan State University researchers are part of a [recently funded project](#), **“Sustainable Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Management for United States Fruit Crops,”** and the team is surveying fruit growers with two goals:

1. Measure the impact of SWD throughout the United States.
2. Guide our project activities over the next four years.

This five-year project, coordinated by [North Carolina State University](#), is developing national research and extension projects to minimize the impacts of SWD. They include new management tactics and programs, improved insecticide efficacy for SWD and information and training on SWD for growers, extension agents and others. In order to achieve this and ensure the research and extension efforts match the needs of growers, the project is collecting information on the impacts of SWD on fruit growers, current management practices and preferences, and your requirements for better management

of SWD. Participation is voluntary and the survey does not collect personally identifying information. The data will only be analyzed and reported in aggregate form.

We would like to get feedback from as many growers as possible! So, please complete the survey here: [Sustainable SWD Management Grower Survey](#)

Contact me at isaacsr@cns.msu.edu for additional information.

Funding for this project is provided by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Research Initiative under Agreement No. 2015-51181-24252.

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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>