

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – November 30, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/2	Core Manual/RUP Review NWMHRC
01/17 - 01/18/17	2017 Orchard and Vineyard Show Grand Traverse Resort

What's New?

- **Changes in Duke Elsner's Extension Assignment**
- **Combing through Michigan's pollinator planning efforts**

Changes in Duke Elsner's Extension Assignment

I have been asked by the administration of MSU Extension to make changes to my programming assignment. Beginning in January of 2017 I will be heavily involved in educational programming on the topics of pollinating insects and monarch butterfly conservation throughout northern Michigan.

In order to take on my new role I will be reducing the amount of time I spend on the horticultural aspects of viticulture and other small fruits. I will continue to be involved with integrated pest management in grapes and other small fruits with a greater emphasis on the management of spotted wing drosophila in berry crops.

I have greatly enjoyed working with the northern Michigan grape growers and wine makers over the last 26 years, and I'm happy that I'm not cutting my ties to this industry entirely.

MSU Extension is committed to maintaining viticultural programming for this region. They have announced a new, 100% viticulture extension educator position, based in Leelanau County, to be filled in early 2017.

Duke Elsner

Core Manual/RUP Review - Traverse City

Date: December 2, 2016

Time: 7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: MSU NW Hort. Station, 6686 Center Road, Traverse City, MI 49684

Contact: Jennifer Goodrich, 231-946-1510; John Stone, stonejo2@msu.edu, 517-353-5134

Prepare for the MDARD Core Pesticide Applicators Certification exam with this review session. The 4-hour review covers the 12 chapters of the National Pesticide Applicators Certification Core Manual. The review is held in the morning and the MDARD exams are given that afternoon. Four Recertification/RUP credits in either Private or Commercial Core are also available for those already certified and seeking renewal by seminar credits. We recommend participants read and study the Core Manual before attending the review. Copies may be ordered from shop.msu.edu or by calling 800-709-9195. County Extension may also have copies available. Please call for ahead availability.

Seats for the MDARD exam must be made in advance on the MDARD Online Pesticide Exam Scheduling website or by calling 1-800-292-3939. **The cost of the review session is separate from the MDARD exam fee. Those taking the exam must bring a separate check made payable to the State of Michigan.** The cost for the Private exam is \$50.00 and the Commercial Exam is \$75.00

Program Information:

Register here:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=394126842806A450>

Program Cost: \$30.00

Registration and Check-In: 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Program: 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

MDARD Exam: 12:30 p.m.

Payment with Credit Cards **** IMPORTANT **** - Billing information entered must match the cardholder's statement information for address. You will receive a message to contact your credit card company if there is not a match.

Cancellations received on or after Dec. 1, 2016 will incur a \$10 cancellation fee.
4 RUP/applicator recertification credits - Private or Commercial Core. Certifications expiring in 2016 cannot carry credits forward to 2017 or later!

Combing through Michigan's pollinator planning efforts

**Why are so many Michigan pollinator planning efforts being developed?
Let's take a closer look at three programs and plans currently forming.**

Posted by **Meghan Milbrath**, and Sarah Scott, Michigan State University Extension,
Department of Entomology, MSUE News



In response to concerns about pollinator health, Michigan agencies and legislators are gearing up with big plans and programs for pollinators in our state. Given their importance to our agricultural economy and natural lands, Michigan is taking part in the nationwide movement to protect the insects that pollinate our fruits, vegetables and native plants. In this article we outline, explain and provide updates on the different pollinator plans in Michigan (as of the end of 2016), providing links for more resources and ways you can get involved and receive updates as these plans progress.

In the summer of 2015, the White House released the National Strategy to [Protect the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#). This plan outlined our national goals for pollinator health: To improve the health of honey bees, protect our migrating monarchs and enhance and expand pollinator habitat. Different federal agencies released their own plans including the [Department of Transportation](#) and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#). Many states have also developed programs and plans for pollinators

that are specific to their needs and issues because of the diversity of crops, native pollinators, honey production, landscapes and pesticide use in the country.

Michigan grows many specialty crops, is on the path of migrating monarchs, has a robust beekeeping industry and is home to thousands of species of native pollinators. We need a strategy to reflect our unique role in pollinator protection. Here we outline three programs and plans currently forming in Michigan:

1. A legislative bill to create a statewide pollinator protection plan.
2. A strategy through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve habitat for monarchs.
3. A plan through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to reduce pesticide risk by improving communication between growers and beekeepers.

Michigan bill to create a pollinator protection plan

In October 2016, Representative Tom Cochran introduced [House Bill 5950](#) to the Michigan legislature to create a plan that would protect the health of pollinators and address both of the following:

1. Promote the health of and mitigate the risks to all pollinator species.
2. Ensure a robust agricultural economy and industry for honey bees and other pollinators.

If passed, the bill would create a plan in which MDARD, DNR and the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) would work with an advisory group composed of representatives from affected groups, such as beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, conservation groups, universities, retailers, lawn and turf service providers, and agricultural extension services. The group would focus on addressing habitat loss for all pollinators, the effects of pesticide use on all pollinators, and honey bee and other pollinator health and disease research. It would focus on supporting communication between beekeepers and applicators to reduce the risk of pollinators by pesticides, increasing pollinator habitat, maintenance of existing compliance with state pesticide use requirements, and identifying future need for research and education.

The bill has been introduced to the house and [the status is still under review](#). You can read the bill on the [Michigan Legislative webpage](#), and contact your representative with your comments and views. You can find your representative at the [Michigan House website](#).

Michigan's Monarch and Wild Pollinator Plan

MDNR, along with numerous partners, hosted a Monarch and Wild Pollinator Summit in September 2016. The goals of the summit were to gather key conservation partners from across the state to initiate development of a statewide strategy to conserve

habitat for the Monarch butterfly and wild pollinators, and develop a collaborative initiative to attract people and resources to help conserve habitat for monarchs and wild pollinators. A steering committee was created to help develop and organize this Summit that included the following organizations: [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [U.S. Forest Service](#), [USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#), [Farm Bureau](#), [National Wildlife Federation](#), [Michigan Department of Transportation](#), [Michigan State University Extension](#), [MSU Entomology Department](#), [Michigan Pollinator Initiative](#) and [Grand Rapids Community College](#). The steering committee invited a diverse group of organizations to attend the summit, which included 32 different organizations.

The next step to continue working on the statewide strategy is for the steering committee to schedule a second Monarch and Wild Pollinator Summit for spring of 2017. For more information on what you can do to help monarchs in Michigan, see the [DNR's webpage on Monarchs in Michigan](#).

MDARD Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

In May 2015, EPA created a proposal to adopt mandatory pesticide label restrictions and amend label language on pesticides that are known to be highly toxic to bees. The language on the new labels indicates the pesticides can only be applied within the guidelines of a state Managed Pollinator Protection Plan. This plan will protect managed bees that are not under pollination service contracts from foliar applications of pesticides that are acutely toxic to bees on a contact exposure basis. The plan will help alleviate stress on honey bee populations due to pesticide exposure by creating a framework for communication between impacted stakeholders.

In 2015, a steering committee was formed with representatives from MDARD, Michigan Farm Bureau, MSU and commercial beekeepers to develop the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan for the state of Michigan. In early 2016, over 90 representatives of various stakeholder organizations were invited to a one-day summit to discuss the plan.

The primary purpose of a state Managed Pollinator Protection Plan is to establish a framework for open communication and coordination among individuals who are applying pesticides and beekeepers who have colonies in the area impacted by spray. Some of the key points of the plan are to:

- Mitigate potential exposure to pesticide.
- Foster positive relationships between beekeepers, growers and applicators.
- Allow for crop and honey production.
- Refine public understanding of pollinator health issues, factors affecting pollinators, and what can be done to mitigate negative outcomes on pollinator populations.
- Determine ways for citizens, businesses, agencies and Michigan residents to minimize risk to pollinators.

The [National Association of State Departments of Agriculture created guidelines](#) for the creation of the Managed Pollinator Protection Plans and plans to review the efficacy of the plans once established.

To date, Michigan's Managed Pollinator Protection Plan steering committee has organized and held seven regional stakeholder listening sessions across Michigan to initiate the stakeholder participation process for feedback on the plan. From those meetings, there were 84 attendees representing 10 affiliations and at least 33 different organizations. There has been responses collected from 56 stakeholder feedback surveys. The Managed Pollinator Protection Plan committee has also presented at eight targeted stakeholder meetings, including the Michigan Beekeepers Association, commercial beekeepers, blueberry extension field day, Michigan Tribal Environmental Group meeting, Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association (MAAA), Michigan Mosquito Control Association, and a few beekeeping club meetings.

A summary of the stakeholder listening sessions can be found at "[Michigan Managed Pollinator Protection Plan Stakeholder Listening Session Results](#)." A draft of the pollinator protection plan will be released for public review and comment in mid-February, and the final draft of the plan is scheduled to be complete by March 1.

If you were unable to attend a listening session and would like to provide input, you can do so before Dec. 16, 2016. Please take the [Managed Pollinator Protection Plan stakeholder survey online](#), or send any comments to MMP3@msu.edu. Sign up for the [Managed Pollinator Protection Plan mailing list](#) to stay up-to-date on the timeline and development of the plan.

For more information on other states' Managed Pollinator Protection Plans, resources on Michigan's Managed Pollinator Protection Plan or pollinators in Michigan, visit MSU's [Michigan Pollinator Initiative Managed Pollinator Protection Plan page](#). The final draft of the plan will be found at the [MDARD website](#).

If you know of other pollinator events going on, please send information to the Michigan Pollinator Initiative at MPI@msu.edu. Find more information about the plan on our [Managed Pollinator Protection Plan](#) website. You can find updates and other topics related to the Managed Pollinator Protection Plan on [MSU Extension's Pollinators and Pollination](#) page.

New webinar series for beginning farmers will begin January 2017

The Beginning Farmer Webinar Series generated new farm businesses and employment opportunities. A new series will begin Jan. 30, 2017.

Posted by **Jim Isleib**, Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

New farm businesses provide jobs, income and increased economic and social stability, and increased food security to rural and other communities. Providing basic, practical information to people interested in or already engaging in new farm enterprises helps these small businesses develop sound production and marketing plans. The Michigan State University Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar Series helps to make this happen, reaching 664 people since 2012.

An evaluation of the series of 24 webinars offered during January-May 2016 showed that the series was perceived as valuable by respondents, with strong indication of knowledge increase. Respondents indicated the series will have impact on the land they manage and on several key farming decisions and activities. Respondents revealed that the series contributed to the creation of 10 new jobs.

A new Beginning Farmer Webinar Series is planned for January-May 2017. Presenters include MSU Extension educators and others. The following evening “Getting started with...” webinars will provide valuable start-up information on nine general and more specific farming topics, including:

- Jan. 30, Small vegetable farm systems
- Feb. 13, Hoophouse management
- Feb. 27, Maple syrup
- March 13, Fencing and watering systems for livestock
- March 27, Blueberries
- April 3, Crop nutrient management
- April 10, Aquaculture (fish farming)
- April 24, Planning and operating a mixed fruit orchard
- May 8, Producing and selling eggs

A fee of \$10 per webinar is required, or you can register for the entire series at half price for \$45. Webinar recordings will be provided to all registered participants. Participate from the comfort and convenience of your own home or office. Registration, a brochure containing details on each individual program and online or mailed payment options can be found at **Beginning Farmer Webinar Series 2017**. You may register for all or some of the courses at any time, even if the session has already taken place. In that case, you will get a link to the recorded program.

Each program begins at 7 p.m. ET and will last up to two hours. A high-speed internet connection is required. You will receive webinar connection information after you register.

An archive of 58 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series programs from 2012-2016 on a wide variety of topics can be accessed free of charge at the Beginning Farmer Webinar Series webpage.

Contact the Alger County MSU Extension office at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu for more information.

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>

Last chance to receive pesticide recertification credits from the IPM Academy Online

Up to five commercial or private core pesticide recertification credits are available for Michigan applicators until Dec. 31, 2016. No registration or fees required.

Posted by **Erin Lizotte**, Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News



Looking to learn more about integrated pest management (IPM) or get some end-of-year recertification credits? Check out Michigan State University's [IPM Academy Online Webinars](#), a series of on-demand webinars created to help Michigan growers identify pest management resources and understand IPM basics.

Registration is not required and they are available for free. Simply visit the [IPM Academy Online Webinars](#) webpage at your convenience and view one or all of the prerecorded

webinars. Viewers can earn up to five pesticide recertification credits. A computer with internet connectivity, a web browser and speakers are required.

The following webinars are currently available for viewing:

- MDARD Nursery Program Update
- Summer 2015 Nursery Update
- Becoming an Insect Investigator: Interpreting Vegetable Pest Symptoms and Signs
- Tactics for Vegetable Disease Management
- Hop IPM
- What's Wrong With My Vegetable Plants?
- Chestnut IPM
- Introduction to Integrated Pest Management
- Integrated Pest Management Resources
- Entomology 101
- Plant Pathology 101
- Soil Science 101
- Plant Science 101
- Pesticides 101
- Insect Scouting in Fruit Crops

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte at taylo548@msu.edu to make arrangements. Requests will be fulfilled when possible.

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Be aware of changes to EPA's Worker Protection Standard January 2017

These meetings and resources will help growers who use pesticides comply with changes to the federal Worker Protection Standard.

Posted by **Tom Dudek**, Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a significant number of changes to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that were put into effect in 1992. The new changes require growers of agricultural crops, including greenhouses and nurseries, to be compliant starting Jan. 2, 2017.

Changes in the new rules include:

- Worker training
- Hazard communication
- Notification of treated areas
- Minimum age for handlers and early entry workers
- Entry restrictions during applications for outdoor production
- Handler suspends application in certain situations
- Exemptions and exceptions
- Basic pesticide safety information
- Personal protective equipment
- Decontamination supplies
- Emergency assistance
- Definitions of “family,” “enclosed space production” and “employ”

Michigan State University Extension is offering EPA WPS Outreach Sessions throughout Michigan in January 2017 to help growers understand the changes. These sessions will take place **Jan. 10 in Clarksville**, **Jan. 17 in Traverse City**, **Jan. 24 in Benton Harbor** and **Jan. 31 in New Era**. Visit EPA WPS Outreach Sessions to register and for more information.

The Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative has some excellent written materials to help you comply with the changes, including checklists to be sure you have covered all the changes, an employee training video for worker training and the “How to Comply With the 2015 Revised Worker Protection Standard For Agricultural Pesticides” manual.

This updated manual supersedes the 2005 version. Changes to the Standard have made the 2005 version obsolete. The revised “How to Comply” manual includes:

- Details to help you determine if the WPS requirements apply to you.
- Information on how to comply with the WPS requirements, including exemptions, exceptions, restrictions, options and examples.
- A “Quick Reference Guide,” which is a list of the basic requirements (excluding exemptions, exceptions, etc.).
- New or revised definitions that may affect your WPS responsibilities.
- Explanations to help you better understand the WPS requirements and how they may apply to you.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development enforces the WPS rules in Michigan. They have completed planned use inspections with many growers over the past few years as a method to see how growers are complying with the Standards.

I encourage you to review the changes and be in a position to implement them when your workers show up Jan. 2, 2017.

MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities.

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>