

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

March 26, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 4/3** **Michigan Farm to Institution Network Launch Event**
Crowne Plaza Lansing West

- 4/9** **Precision Orchard Management & High-Density Orchard Pruning Workshop**
NWMHRC

- 4/10** **IPM Fruit Tree Kick-off**
NWMHRC

- 4/10** **Tractor Safety Class #1**
Leelanau Co. Government Center's Community Room

- 4/11** **MDARD Specialty Crop Grant Deadline**

- 4/12** **Healthy Forests – Caring for our Trees**
GT Conservation District

- 4/17** **Tractor Safety Class #2**
NWMHRC

- 4/22** **Responding to an S.O.S. from the Commercial Bee Industry – Webinar**

- 4/24** **Tractor Safety Class #3**
NWMHRC

- 5/1** **Tractor Safety Class #4**
NWMHRC

- 5/3** **Tractor Safety Test**
NWMHRC

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PRECISION ORCHARD MANAGEMENT AND HIGH-DENSITY ORCHARD PRUNING WORKSHOP

Nikki Rothwell, District Extension Educator

As commercial tree fruit producers incorporate new technologies and increase farm mechanization, precise management of orchards is necessary to optimize fruit quality and yield. Precision orchard management involves scrupulous management of crop load, irrigation, fertilization, and harvest timing to obtain high quality fruit and yield from orchards. Precision orchard management is a more reliable way for growers to maximize farm profitability as Michigan transitions to orchards of the future.

The Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society in collaboration with Michigan State University Extension and AgBioResearch are sponsoring a Precision Orchard Management and High Density Orchard Pruning workshop on **April 9, 2014 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. At this interactive workshop, Michigan State University Tree Fruit Horticulturalist and Physiologist, Dr. Greg Lang, will demonstrate pruning techniques for high-density sweet cherries at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center. In addition, MSU Extension Tree Fruit Educator, Phil Schwallier will present precision orchard management information and demonstrate precision management techniques.

The cost of this workshop is \$20 and includes lunch. Payment for the workshop can be made the day of the tour and should be made payable to the *Benzie-Manistee Hort Society*. Please contact Jackie Baase at 231-946-1510 by **April 7th** to register for this event.

INDIANA AND MICHIGAN WATER USE REPORTING – MEETING THE REQUIREMENT

Agricultural water users in both Indiana and Michigan with the capacity to pump 70 gallons per minute or more need to report their water use by April 1.

Posted on **March 14, 2014, MSUE News**, by [Lyndon Kelley](#), Michigan State University Extension

Water use reporting and registration are important parts of water resource management in both Indiana and Michigan. Both States signed onto the Great Lakes Compact in which the federal government acknowledged each Great Lakes State's ability to manage the water resource of the basin, including the ability to deny diversions of water to areas outside the Great Lakes watershed.

Indiana uses the term Significant Water Withdrawal Facility (SWWF), where Michigan refers to these as Large Volume Water Uses (LVWU). In either state these terms apply to water use with the **capacity** to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute). One or more withdrawals at a site having a 100,000 gallons or greater capacity, or combined capacity, per

day, also meets the SWWF or LVWU water use definition. Water use reporting is required for all agricultural water uses (irrigation, cooling, animal, watering, etc.) from both surface and ground water withdrawals. The annual report is **due by April 1** of the following year and includes monthly water use estimates.

In Michigan Agricultural (LVWU) reports can only be completed online at [Michigan's Water Use Reporting Program](#). An [online tutorial](#) on the use of the new reporting system is also [available](#). Alternate reporting system can only be accepted with the permission from MDARD. If you have no way of using the new online system or have questions about the system contacts Abigail Eaton at eatona@michigan.gov , or 517-284-5612.

Online Water Use Reporting will be very important as the management of water increases, allowing producers to build their database within the reporting system. Both states provided online reporting systems for the first time for the 2012 water use year. In Michigan only your 2012 reports are loaded into the new system making it very important for water users to review their record back to 2004 and load all previously unreported registered water withdrawal facilities into the online system.

Reporting Large Volume Water Use withdrawals established, but not in the system prior to 2006 will not meet the Michigan Registration requirement. In 2008 Large Volume Water users had a one time opportunity to report 2007 or 2008 water use and also meet the States registration requirement. The only current system available to meet the registration requirement for any new or old withdrawals that were not previously registered or reported is to register it as a new water withdrawal through the [Michigan Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool](#).

The Indiana SWWF reporting system offers both paper and online reporting options. Personalized letters for each SWWF user are mailed at the end of each year containing the registration information from the previous year. Users can modify any of the facility information and add the monthly water use for the current year. A [description of Indiana's registration program](#) and a link to the online [reporting option](#) are available online in addition to [locations of currently registered SWWFs](#) and the previous three years of reported water use. In Indiana, if you have a newly acquired or installed SWWF or a facility that has never been registered, please contact Allison Mann of the Water Rights and Use Section of the IDNR, Division of Water at 317-234-1101 or toll-free at 1-877-928-3755.

The required estimated water use can be accomplished by several methods including acre inch record, pump capacity multiplied by run time and flow meter readings. Information on estimating water use for irrigation or livestock, forms, or other large volume water use requirements can be found at the [Michigan State University Extension St. Joseph County page](#) or email Lyndon Kelley, Purdue/MSU Extension irrigation educator, with request for Water Use Reporting and Registration information at kelley@anr.msu.edu .

Follow the [link on irrigation](#) on the right hand side of the screen. Michigan SCD and MEAAP Technicians located at many of the county NRCS offices have been trained to assist producers in completing the Michigan Large Volume Water Use reporting requirement.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

DECIPHERING THE AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2014 – FARM BILL

Farmers scramble to learn more about the new Agriculture Act of 2014 or “Farm Bill” before planting season starts.

Posted on **March 14, 2014, MSUE News**, by [Dennis Stein](#), Michigan State University Extension

It took a long time to draft the new Farm Bill and the local farm service agency office will not be ready for new enrollments for several months, but there are some things that farms can do right now. On the short term, farms will need to follow the guidelines and processes that have been in place during the past few years as the new programs will not be in place prior to this seasons planting and annual reporting deadlines.

If you are looking for information about the programs and changes in programs that are part of the new farm bill, you can find some helpful resources and quick links that have been posted to the [Michigan State University Extension – FIRM workgroup web page](#).

Under the Hot topic and Current Events tabs on this page you will find several links to reports, presentations and YouTube videos that relate to the general farm bill information that is currently available. One resource is a fact sheet which is a summary of the [2014 Farm Bill Summary](#) which [USDA Farm Service Agency](#) has published and provides a good overview of the new programs. Farmers may want to use some of the extended winter days to gain some background as the spring planning rush is just around the corner.

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NEW WINE BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE AT VESTA ONLINE

Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA) has added a new wine business entrepreneurship program to its online courses.

Posted on **March 13, 2014, MSUE News**, by [Joanne Davidhizar](#), Michigan State University Extension and MSU Product Center



The Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance (VESTA) has aided hundreds of individuals through easy educational access to basic and advanced resources for new and established grape growers or wine makers.

Many individuals are interested in entering Michigan's expanding grape and wine industry, but lack the knowledge or skills to get started. The [Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance](#) (VESTA) has aided hundreds of individuals through easy educational access to basic and advanced resources for new and established grape growers or wine makers.

Many VESTA enrollees were found to be utilizing their knowledge to start new businesses. Hence, the new VESTA wine business and entrepreneurship program was developed to further meet the identified need. The wine business and entrepreneurship track offers courses in business planning, finance, safety, legal aspects of wineries, marketing, equipment, winery design and human resources. This program joins the established viticulture and enology certificates.

VESTA, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, in partnership with the Michigan State University [Institute of Agriculture Technology](#) and colleges and universities in 17 other states throughout the United States offers online credit courses, workshops and mentoring to people looking to enter the grape industry or further their skills through professional development. Participants may seek a VESTA certificate, a community college associates degree or a Michigan State University Institute of Agriculture Certificate in Viticulture through its off-campus programs in southwest and northwest Michigan.

To obtain information about VESTA and off-campus MSU IAT Applied Plant Science certificate programs and admission requirements, visit the MSU [Institute of Agriculture Technology](#) or call 517-355-0190. Lake Michigan College-based Coordinator, Stacey Rocklin, may be reached at 269-927-8772 or rocklin@msu.edu, Northwestern Michigan College-based Coordinator, Brian Matchett at 231-995-1719 or matchet4@msu.edu, and MSU Campus-based Tom Smith at 517-353-4822 or smitht48@anr.msu.edu.

To request free business counseling from [Michigan State University Extension](#) and MSU Product Center staff for your winery business startup, go to www.productcenter.msu.edu, or call 517-432-8750.

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LOOKING FOR SWEET CHERRY GROWER COLLABORATORS FOR 2014 SAN JOSE SCALE MONITORING PROJECT

Emily Pochubay, Fruit IPM Educator

Michigan State University Extension and the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center are looking for grower collaborators for a San Jose Scale (SJS) monitoring project in light and dark varieties of sweet cherries in northwest Michigan. Sweet cherry orchards containing both light and dark varieties in Leelanau, Benzie, Antrim counties and on Old Mission Peninsula are needed for this project. Monitoring will be ongoing throughout the season, starting mid-April and ending in late summer. MSU Extension and NWMHRC will monitor for overwintering SJS on trees, emergence of male SJS, and crawlers by taking visual samples and using trapping methods. If you have battled San Jose Scale in the past, or are currently battling SJS, and would like to participate in this monitoring project, please contact Emily Pochubay via phone: 231-946-1510 or email: pochubay@msu.edu.

TREE FRUIT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT KICKOFF

Emily Pochubay, Fruit IPM Educator

Please join Michigan State University Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on **Thursday, April 10** from 6-9 PM for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! This year's meeting will cover pesticide label and pest management changes for cherries and apples in the 2014 season. Michigan State University's Tree Fruit Integrator, Dr. Julianna Wilson, will outline current Oblique Banded Leafroller pesticide efficacy and management recommendations. Dr. Nikki Rothwell will present Spotted Wing Drosophila and European Brown Rot pesticide efficacy trials and management recommendations. This event is **free** and no registration is required. Three (3) CCA credits and three (3) Pesticide Recertification Credits have been approved for this meeting. For more information, please call 231-946-1510.

4-H TRACTOR SAFETY PROGRAM BEGINS IN APRIL

MSU Extension is once again hosting tractor safety training for fourteen and fifteen-year-old youth. Youth must be 14 by June 1st, 2014. Sixteen to nineteen-year-old youth are also encouraged to participate, but priority will be given to 14-15 year-olds. Classes will be held on Thursdays beginning **April 10** and ending **May 1** and will be held at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center from 6:00-9:00 p.m., except for the first class to be held at the Leelanau County Government Center's Community Room. To become certified, participants must attend all five sessions, pass a written, and a tractor driving test, which will be held Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$75 per person and includes: classes, handouts and manual. Some scholarships are available if finances are an issue.

To register, call the Leelanau County MSU Extension office at 231-256-9888 for a registration and medical form or go to www.msue.edu/leelanau. Registration deadline is **April 4**. Checks should be made payable to *4-H Youth Association*.

JOIN US TO LAUNCH THE MICHIGAN FARM TO INSTITUTION NETWORK!

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Michigan Farm to Institution Network Launch Event
4:30 PM, Farm to Institution Marketplace Reception

Location: Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing, MI 48917

Fee: The fee for the launch event is \$25 and includes admission to the reception. The fee is \$10 to attend only the reception.

Join us to celebrate Michigan's rich history of Farm to Institution programs to date and to contribute to developing strategic solutions to the challenges that remain to take local food purchasing at institutions to the next level! MFIN will unveil Cultivate Michigan, a local food purchasing initiative to help institutions ramp up local food purchases to meet the 20% by 2020 goal.

Immediately following the event, we will be hosting a Farm to Institution Marketplace reception. The Marketplace reception will provide a place to network and connect with fellow chefs, food service directors, farmers, distributors and community organizations all interested in supporting local farm to institution efforts.

Guest rooms will be available at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West for the nights of April 2-3. To receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a member of the Michigan Farm to Institution Network. To reserve a room, call (877) 322-5544 or visit www.crowneplaza.com/lansingwest and enter group code MFI.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit: <http://bit.ly/mfinlaunch>.

If you have questions, please contact Alyson Oslin at alyson@ecocenter.org or (734) 369-9273.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Hillary Bisnett and Colleen Matts
Michigan Farm to Institution Network

RESPONDING TO AN S.O.S. FROM THE COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

Date: April 22, 2014

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Webinar

Contact: Rosa Soliz, soliz@msu.edu

Webinar URL: <http://connect.msu.edu/newtech>

Mala Spivak (University of Minnesota) - Given the chronic health problems facing honey bees and the increasing demand for pollination services from almond, blueberry, cranberry, apple, vine crops and many other growers, commercial beekeepers and breeders have requested assistance in maintaining healthy colonies. To this end, we began a novel "Bee Tech Transfer Team" program through the Bee Informed Partnership, a 5-year grant funded by USDA-NIFA. These teams consist of independent beekeepers that provide on-the-ground services to commercial beekeepers to assess and record colony health information; survey beekeepers about management; test for bee diseases and parasites and assist in breeding bees that are more resistant to diseases and parasites.

There is demand for this program nationwide and we are exploring ways to ensure that the Tech Team services are economically sustainable after the funding ends in 2016. As bees are directly or indirectly responsible for 35% of our diet through their pollination services, it is critical to increase effort to keep bees healthy and to provide hands-on assistance to the beleaguered beekeeping industry throughout the U.S. Marla Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota. She has bred a line of honey bees, the Minnesota Hygienic line, to defend themselves against diseases and parasitic mites. Current studies include the benefits of propolis to honey bees, and the effects of agricultural landscapes and pesticides on honey bee and native bee health.



News-worthy!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: March 5, 2014

Contact: Kim Elliott, Grand Traverse County--Resource Recovery Marketing/Education Specialist
231.941.5555, kelliott@grandtraverse.org

Spring Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection

Traverse City, Mich

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT (RecycleSmart) will conduct the spring Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Pesticide collection on Thursday, March 27, from 1:00 to 6:45 pm.

The *online scheduling* system is a convenient and the recommended tool to secure an appointment. An appointment is required and can be made at www.RecycleSmart.info or by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline at 941.5555.

This service is provided to Grand Traverse County residents at no cost, (up to 150 lbs., \$1.30 lb. thereafter). Accepted material includes cleaning products, pesticides, mercury, moth balls, motor oil, pool chemicals, oil based paint, latex paint, CFL bulbs and more...

Latex paint is now accepted.

For more information visit www.RecycleSmart.info or call the RecycleSmart Hotline at 941.5555

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WEBSITES 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 is available at the new cherry website:

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

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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