Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

October 14, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/10-12	Farm Transition & Farm Succession Planning NWMHRC
12/4	Pesticide Applicator Review & Certification/Recertification NWMHRC
12/5	Pesticide Applicator Review & Certification/Recertification Ellsworth
12/9-11	Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
<u>2015</u>	
1/13-14	NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI
2/18-20	MSU Fruit Tree IPM School The Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids
3/4	Winery Development Pre-Conference MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
3/4-6	Michigan Grape & Wine Conference MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

Attached is the latest agenda for the "Farm Transition and Farm Succession Planning Workshops" to be held November 10-12, plus a couple of special notes below for these workshops.

Special Notes:

- The program ends at 12:30 each day
- All presenters will be available each afternoon on an appointment basis to meet one-on-one with families to answer additional questions. To schedule an appointment, call Curtis Talley, Jr., at 231-873-2129.

ATTENTION APPLE GROWERS: DBR APPLE ASSIST HARVESTER IN NW MICHIGAN THIS WEEK!

We are working with the manufacturers of the DBR apple assist harvester to demonstrate this machine at a grower site in northwest Michigan this week (October 15-17). The machine will be transported to NW Michigan today (October 14), and the demonstration date/time will be decided based on weather and apple maturity. Please stay tuned in for the date and time to demonstrate this machine this week. The machine has been tweaked over the winter, and the new adjustments have made this piece of equipment even more efficient. We will be demonstrating the DBR machine in tall spindle Jonagolds.

Please call the station if you have questions: 231-946-1510.

ATTENTION TREE FRUIT GROWERS THAT USED KASUMIN, SCORPIAN OR VENOM DURING THE 2014 SEASON

If you used kasugamycin (Kasumin 2L) or dinotefuran (Scorpion, Venom) under the Section 18 emergency exemption label, please report use through a survey that will help secure future emergency exemptions and move these products toward full EPA registration.

Posted on **October 6, 2014, MSUE News,** by <u>Julianna Wilson</u>, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology

In Michigan, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is the state agency authorized to submit Section 18 emergency exemption requests to the <u>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</u> (EPA). The term Section 18 refers to the section of the <u>Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act</u> (FIFRA) that authorizes EPA to allow an unregistered use of a pesticide, for a limited time, if EPA determines that an emergency condition exists.

In a typical year, MDARD submits around a half-dozen emergency exemption requests to EPA on behalf of Michigan citizens who need to use those products. While MDARD typically takes the lead in preparing emergency exemption requests, they rely heavily on Michigan State University Extension specialists to provide much of the information required for the application to EPA. In 2014, MDARD requested and received three emergency exemptions, two of which were for tree fruit growers for the use of kasugamycin (Kasumin 2L) to protect apple trees from streptomycin resistant fire blight, and for the use of dinotefuran (Scorpion and Venom) to help protect pome and stone fruit from brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB).

Preparing an emergency exemption request is very time consuming, in terms of both the initial application and in providing follow-up data to the EPA once a request has been granted. One piece of information that EPA requires of MDARD after an authorization has been granted is a report summarizing the use of the products labeled under the exemption. Among other things, the report must include the county in which the product was applied, the total acreage to which the product was applied, a discussion of how well the product worked, and a description of any adverse or unexpected effects related to the use of the product.

Summary reports on use of these emergency exemptions must be submitted to EPA within six months of the expiration of the exemption, or before submitting new emergency exemption requests. EPA makes it very clear that they will not issue another emergency exemption to MDARD unless they receive the summary report for the previous exemption. In other words, if

MDARD does not submit a use report on time, growers will not be able to get another emergency exemption for Kasumin 2L, Scorpion or Venom if needed for the next season. For those of you who have benefited from the Section 18 emergency exemption labels for these products this season, we need your help. Traditionally, MDARD has gathered the information necessary for the required summary report by having inspectors contact growers directly. However, with ever increasing workloads and fewer personnel to cover those workloads, MDARD is now relying more and more on MSU and industry groups to collect the information needed for their report to EPA.

Please take time to **complete a short survey on Section 18 use** for the product you used under an emergency exemption this season. The information you provide is critical to securing emergency exemptions in the future and for moving this product toward full registration with EPA.

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SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE MICHIGAN BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG MONITORING NETWORK FOR 2014

Brown marmorated stink bug trap catches were lower this week, and with the exception of a few hotspots, were not detected in the majority of our trapping sites. Reports of aggregations on commercial and residential buildings continue to come in.

Posted on **October 13, 2014, MSUE News,** by <u>Julianna Wilson</u>, and Larry Gut, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology

This is the final weekly report of the Michigan State University Extension brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) statewide monitoring program for 2014. The monitoring program consisted of a network of pyramid-style, pheromone-baited traps set up at sites that favored BMSB, near riparian areas and along major transportation corridors in the following counties: Monroe, Lenawee, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Ingham, Lapeer, Saginaw and Bay on the east side of the state, and Antrim, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Oceana, Newaygo, Kent, Kalamazoo, Ionia, Ottawa, Allegan, Van Buren and Berrien on the west side of the state. The majority of the sites in the network included farms that grow a variety of fruit and vegetable crops including apples, tart cherries, sweet cherries, peaches, blueberries, raspberries, tomatoes, peppers and sweet corn. In addition, some of our traps were placed along roadsides next to field crops, or in urban and suburban areas where homeowners had reported seeing BMSB in the past.

The purpose of the monitoring network was to provide early warning should BMSB start showing up in greater numbers in fruit and vegetable production areas. However, except for a few hotspots in Berrien County and two instances of suspected fruit damage by BMSB in Berrien County and eastern Ottawa County, evidence of BMSB was extremely hard to find. Both sites where there was suspected fruit damage, the damage was to late-season peaches from orchard margins near riparian areas. Only four out of the 64 traps checked this past week captured any BMSB – all were in Berrien County.

We have continued to receive reports of BMSB aggregations on manmade structures in urban and suburban landscapes across southern Michigan from Stevensville, Niles, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Flint. Aggregations on manmade structures are expected to continue as BMSB gather to find shelter for overwintering. In mid-Atlantic states where this pest is now well-established and of major economic concern to growers, BMSB began as a nuisance pest to homeowners, which is why we are very interested to track its occurrences and numbers here.

If you suspect that BMSB are aggregating on a manmade structure where you live or work, we would like to hear from you!

Here is what to do:

- Record the date and nearest town where the aggregation was found.
- Count the number of individuals you see on a single structure.
- Collect one or two specimens or take several close-up photos of individuals in the aggregation.
- Drop off or send in the specimens with the date, nearest town, and number of individuals observed by mail to Howard Russell at MSU Diagnostic Services, 578 Wilson Road Room 107, East Lansing, MI 48824. Or send photos with the date, nearest town, and number of individuals observed in an email to Howard at bugman@msu.edu.

To learn more about the brown marmorated stink bug, distinguish it from other similar-looking stink bugs, what crops it favors, and management strategies should populations reach the threshold where management is necessary, visit MSU's Brown Marmorated Stink Bug website. The weekly BMSB statewide monitoring report was funded in part through a grant from Project GREEN and Michigan State University Extension. Traps were set up and monitored by a number of MSU Extension field staff, research assistants, and campus specialists. We would like to acknowledge the following team members and thank them for their weekly scouting efforts and input into this report: Peter McGhee, Michael Haas, Bob Tritten, Mark Longstroth, Brad Baughman, Carlos Garcia, Amy Irish-Brown, Lina Rodriguez Salamanca, Ben Philips, Ben Werling, Mark Whalon, Karen Powers, and Nikki Rothwell.

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FARM BILL COMPLIANCE DATES ANNOUNCED

2014 Farm Bill safety net programs have several compliance dates now being announced by the USDA FSA that farm landowners and tenant operators need to know.

Posted on October 10, 2014, MSUE News, by <u>Dennis Stein</u>, Michigan State University Extension

The USDA announced <u>key dates</u> for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). These new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, will usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades. Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015**: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

The <u>Michigan State University Extension</u> <u>Farm Information Resource Management</u> (FIRM) work group has a team of field educators gearing up to provide numerous face to face meetings for farm producers and landowners to help them gain an understanding of the options available to them under the new Farm Bill programs. A <u>website containing resources</u> is available and informational events are being scheduled that will help farmers learn more about how the programs will affect them.

The USDA helped <u>create online tools</u> to assist farm owners and producers in the decision process. They allow farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Commodities covered in the new programs include barley, canola, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rapeseed, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

For additional information and links to Farm Bill resources, you can visit the Michigan State University Extension's FIRM web page.

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MSU EXTENSION BEGINNING FARMER WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES ONLINE

New topics of interest to beginning farmers and experienced farmers considering new enterprises will be offered in 2015. Recordings of past topics are now available.

Posted on October 7, 2014, MSUE News, by Jim Isleib, Michigan State University Extension

The <u>Michigan State University Extension</u> Beginning Farmer Webinar series is continuing following a break for the growing season. The next webinar, presented by MSU Extension senior educator <u>Ron Goldy</u>, is "<u>Getting Started with Vegetable Plasticulture</u>." It will be held on Oct. 22, 2014, from 7-9 p.m. Registration and payment of \$10 can be made <u>online</u>. You can also <u>download a registration flyer</u> and mail in your registration and check.

Goldy will present information on using plasticulture for vegetable production. Plasticulture involves the use of plastic mulch and drip irrigation for producing vegetables. This technique helps control weeds, is a more efficient use of water and nutrients and will bring crops into production earlier. It will also yield a higher quality product. Questions and discussion will take place through the webinar chat function. Supporting written materials will be available for download during and after the webinar. Participants will receive the webinar URL after their registration and payment is received. A recording of the webinar will be made available to registered participants.

The webinar series had its beginning in 2012 when MSU Extension agriculture staff in the Upper Peninsula decided to offer Beginning Farmers programs across the Upper Peninsula region. To follow up the face-to-face meetings, they delivered similar material in a set of three webinars. The response to the online programs was encouraging, so five more Upper Peninsula Beginning Farmer Program webinars were developed and delivered in 2013. In 2014, the program expanded to include many more MSU Extension educators and specialists with diverse expertise.

To date, 11 webinars have been held this year with more planned, including the plasticulture for vegetables webinar on Oct. 22. Planning is underway to organize a new set of webinars for 2015. You can check for new webinar programs by visiting the MSU Extension Events website. Each webinar is recorded and made available to registered participants immediately following the program. These recording become available free of charge to the public following a period of six months or so. The URL's to access recordings of the 2012-2014 online MSU Beginning Farmer Webinar Series programs through April 2014 are listed below.

2012-2014 MSU Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar series records

- Farm business basics April 5, 2012 (repeated 3/24/14) by Warren Schauer
- Plant-based enterprises (Upper Peninsula-specific) April 12, 2012 by Jim Isleib
- Getting started with hoophouses March 20, 2013 (incomplete recording, repeated 4/2/14) by Adam Montri and Rowan Bunce
- Getting started with soil improvement on your farm Jan. 20, 2014 by Jim Isleib
- Getting started with selling to restaurants- Jan. 27, 2014 by Michelle Walk
- Getting started with selling to schools and hospitals Feb. 10, 2014 by Kendra Wills and Garrett Ziegler
- Getting started with selling at farmers markets Feb. 19, 2014 by Julia Darnton
- Getting started with hops Feb. 24, 2014 by Rob Sirrine
- Getting started with a CSA farm March 3, 2014 by Beth Clawson
- Getting started with basic farm business records March 24, 2014 by Warren Schauer
- Getting started with hoophouses April 2, 2014 by Adam Montri and Rowan Bunce

For more information about the MSU Extension Beginning Farmer Webinar series, contact Jim Isleib at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu.

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FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PRODUCE RULE MADE PUBLIC

Fresh market produce growers can see and comment on proposed produce safety rule revisions. This article reviews one aspect of the revisions, the process by which an exempt farm can have its exemption revoked, and provides information on how to comment.

Posted on October 3, 2014, MSUE News, by Phil Tocco, Michigan State University Extension

With the release of the draft produce safety rule under the <u>Food Safety Modernization Act</u> (FSMA) and subsequent comment period extensions, growers and other industry professionals spoke loud and clear about their concerns over the rule in over 15,000 comments. These comments and interactions with industry gave the FDA insight that ultimately led to the Agency revising a number of portions and reopening only these portions for comment. One section of the revision dealt with the procedure used to handle revoking a farm's exemption.

As was codified in the original rule, those farms who are qualified exempt under FSMA may have their qualified exemption revoked under circumstances where there is risk to public health. There were, however, many unanswered questions with regards to how the process will work. Now the FDA has provided an outline of how these revocations will be handled.

Once FDA knows of a farm whose produce may injure public health, the FDA may pursue any or all of the following options, including a warning letter, recall, administrative detention, refusal of food when it is imported, seizure and injunction. The FDA must notify the farmer when they find unsafe circumstances and allow the farm an opportunity to respond to the FDA's claims and correct the problems. Finally, the FDA must consider the farm's response when deciding whether to withdraw the exemption.

Public comment on **only** the revised sections of the rule is currently being collected until Dec. 15. This article does not cover all proposed modifications in the revision. <u>Michigan State University Extension</u> encourages individuals to look into all proposed revisions and comment before the deadline. Three options to comment are by <u>submitting a comment online</u>, faxing them to the FDA at 301-827-6870, or mailing them to:

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

As of Oct. 2, 2014, these rules are proposed and not final. The final rule regarding fresh produce may vary, so it is important to stay aware of what is finally decided. It is also important that the FDA hears from you about possible costs associated with compliance or potential impacts to production. Read more about the FSMA rule and how to constructively comment on the proposed rule.

If you have specific questions about the produce rule or have difficulty tailoring GAPs to your farm, contact the Agrifood Safety Work Group at gaps@msu.edu or 517-788-4292.

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ARE YOU THE NEXT MICHIGAN APPLE QUEEN?

Women ages 17 - 23 with a strong and definite connection to the Michigan apple industry are encouraged to apply for the 2015 Michigan Apple Queen title. Access the application here. The **application deadline** is Friday, **Oct. 17, 2014**. The new queen will be crowned at the Michigan Apple Growers Luncheon at the Great Lakes Expo in Grand Rapids at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014.

The Michigan Apple Queen must be the daughter, sister, niece or granddaughter of a Michigan apple producer.

Diane Smith Executive Director Michigan Apple Committee 13750 S. Sedona Parkway, Suite 3 Lansing, MI 48906 Ph. 800.456.2753 Fax 517.669.9506



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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 is available at the new cherry website:

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

Information on apples:

http://apples.msu.edu/

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

http://news.msue.msu.edu

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Web site: http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort