

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

## Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

### Weekly Update

March 24, 2015

Greetings FruitNet Subscribers,

This is a busy week with two excellent educational opportunities and a special celebration at the end of the week. Tomorrow is the *Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry* event at Crystal Mountain, on Thursday the NWMHRC will host the *NW MI Labor Meeting*, and on Friday, we will kick off the weekend by celebrating **Jackie's 34 years of service** to MSU and our local fruit industries. Additional details are below.

Also, today is the deadline to register for the West Central Spring Hort Show in Hart, MI on March 31<sup>st</sup> for a reduced rate. To register for this meeting at the discounted rate, please contact Mike Evans 231-383-0101.

We hope you are enjoying the sunshine and look forward to seeing you at these events!

In this week's issue, you'll find...

- **A REMINDER FOR JACKIE BAASE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION AND MEMORY BOOK**
- **CIDER: FROM APPLE TO BOTTLE, AN OVERVIEW OF THIS EMERGING INDUSTRY**
- **NORTHWEST MICHIGAN LABOR MEETING SCHEDULE**
- **WEST CENTRAL SPRING HORTICULTURAL MEETING**
- **LINK TO A VIDEO ON PEAR PRUNING**

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>3/25</b> | <b>Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry</b><br>Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville |
| <b>3/25</b> | <b>Benzie/Manistee Hort Soc. Annual Meeting</b><br>Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville                           |

- 3/26 Specialty Crop Grant Proposals Due to MDARD**
- 3/26 Ag. Labor Meeting**  
NWMHRC
- 3/31 West Central Spring Hort Meeting**  
Hart United Methodist Church, Hart
- 4/1 Michigan Water Use Reporting Due**
- 4/6-12 Grand Rapids Cider Week**  
*For more information visit <https://mca30.wildapricot.org>*  
Grand Rapids
- 4/10-11 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference**  
Grand Rapids
- 4/18 Healthy Forests – Caring for Our Trees**  
Grand Traverse Conservation District

## **Retirement Celebration**

### ***A friendly reminder about the retirement open house for Jackie Baase....***

The event will be **this Friday, March 27th from 4-6pm at the NWMHRC**. Thanks to those that have contributed letters to Jackie's memory book—I know she will just love them. There is still time if you were planning to send one; please see the email or snail mail below as where those letters can be directed.

Please send letters or stories to Nikki Rothwell at either of the following addresses:

- Email: [rothwel3@msu.edu](mailto:rothwel3@msu.edu)
- Snail mail: 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684. attn. Nikki

If you are also interested in providing Jackie with a parting gift, we will have a collection site at the open house or such gifts could be mailed to the above address.

I hope that you will join us in celebrating Jackie's career as she will be dearly missed by all that have worked with her over the years.

Retiring  
after

34

YEARS

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR

JACKIE BAASE

Friday, March 27, 2015

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center  
6686 South Center Highway, Traverse City, MI



**Michigan State University Extension, AgBioResearch, the Michigan Cider Association, and the Benzie Manistee Horticulture Society presents**

***Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry***

March 25, 2015

Join Michigan State University Extension, AgBioResearch, the Michigan Cider Association, and the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society tomorrow, March 25th at ***Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry***. There is an optional morning tour, followed by the educational session and cider tasting with the MCA cidemaker experts. Cider apple orchard manager, Mr. Neil MacDonald from Somerset, U.K. has arrived in northwest Michigan and he will share his perspective on ideal apple systems for producing fruit for cider during the educational session. We will complete the evening with an optional Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Dinner. Don't miss this unique and fun educational opportunity on the ins and outs of hard cider production with the added bonus of an international outlook on producing cider apples from Mr. MacDonald.

**\*New morning tour added with Mr. Neil MacDonald on the morning of the 25th! Participants should make tour travel arrangements on their own and are invited to join the tour at any or all of the locations.**

- 9:00-10:00      Tour of Northern Naturals Organics  
*Dennis Mackey, 7220 Chief Road, Keleva, MI 49645*
- 10:00-10:15     Travel to Lutz high-density tart cherries
- 10:15-10:45    Tour of high-density tart cherry fruit wall for mechanical harvest  
*Calvin Lutz, Lumley Road (0.5 miles down from US 31) (road/orchard will be flagged with a sign)*
- 10:45-11:00    Travel to Evans Brothers high-density apples at Dry Hill
- 11:00-11:45    Tour of high-density apples for the fresh market  
*Mark Evans, Taylor/County Line Road, Benzie County (orchard location will be flagged)*
- 12:00-1:00     Lunch at Thistle Pub and Grille (on your own)  
*Crystal Mountain Resort, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville, Michigan 49683*

This educational meeting will focus on topics related to hard cider beginning in the orchard. Mr. Neil MacDonald will be attending this unique meeting, and he is an orchardist that helps manage cider orchards in England. Mr. MacDonald has been refining orchard production to grow high quality hard cider apple varieties focusing on minimizing cost and labor.

The afternoon event will take place at Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI. The educational session cost is \$20 and the dinner is also \$20. Checks can be made payable to the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society. ***Please call the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center to reserve a spot at this meeting: 231-946-1510***

- 1:00-1:30    **Overview of Michigan Cider Industry and Beyond**  
*Paul Vander Heide, Vander Mill Ciders and MCA President, Spring Lake, MI*
- 1:30-1:50    **The Role of the New National Organization--United States Association of Cider Makers (USACM)**  
*Mike Beck, USACM President and Uncle John's Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI*
- 1:50-2:20    **Developing Modern Apple Systems for Producing Cider Fruit**  
*Neil MacDonald, Orchard GroundCare, Somerset, U.K.*
- 2:20-3:00    **Factors influencing Decisions to Plant Varieties Specifically for the Cider Market**  
*Kevin VerSnyder, VerSnyder Fruit Farms, Lake Leelanau, MI*  
*Andy Sietsema, Sietsema Orchards, Ada, MI*
- 3:00-3:30    **Thinking About Opening a Cidery? Checklist for Getting Started**  
*Dan Young, Tandem Ciders, Suttons Bay, MI*
- 3:30-3:45    BREAK
- 3:45-4:15    **Big Sellers Out of the Tasting Room: Consumer Preferences Now and Into the future**  
*Andy Sietsema, Sietsema Orchards, Ada, MI*  
*Dan Young, Tandem Ciders, Suttons Bay, MI*  
*Mike Beck, Uncle John's Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI*
- 4:15-4:45    **Thinking About Packaging Cider to Make Money**  
*Mike Beck, Uncle Johns Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI*  
*Paul Vander Heide, Vander Mill Ciders, Spring Lake, MI*
- 4:45-6:00    **Cider Tasting**
- 6:00         **Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Dinner**

## **Northwest Michigan Labor Meeting**

March 26, 2015

*Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center  
 Traverse City, MI*

**The Northwest Michigan Labor Meeting is just two days away on March 26th** and will be held at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC). In recent years, a primary concern for NW MI growers has been attracting workers and maintaining a steady workload for seasonal labor throughout the growing season. The NW MI Labor Meeting will address how to attract labor to our NW MI farms, how to retain workers through good labor management practices, and discuss labor programs. The NWMHRC will host speakers from across Michigan to participate in this event to address labor issues. Speakers include Corey Risch and Stan Moore from Michigan State University, Cory Howe, Special Agent from U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Craig Anderson, Sarah Pion, and Katie Rasch from Michigan Farm Bureau, speakers

from State of Michigan and Telamon, and several grower speakers (see complete list below in the agenda). Join us on Thursday this week for a dynamic discussion on ways to attract new employees to your farm, how to make sure that you are staying within your legal limits throughout the process, and how to improve your chances of getting good employees to stay with your farm for future years.

- 8:30-9:15 Immigration Control and Enforcement: New Information  
*Cory Howe, Special Agent, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations*
- 9:15-10:00 Department of Labor Compliance Issues on Farms and How You Can Be Prepared for Audits  
*Craig Anderson, Agricultural Labor and Safety Services Program, Michigan Farm Bureau*
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK
- 10:15-10:45 Being a Competitive Employer is More Than Money  
*Stan Moore, Educator, MSU Extension*
- 10:45-11:15 Providing Feedback on Employee Performance  
*Dr. Corey Risch, Assistant Professor, Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, MSU*
- 11:15-11:45 Employer Liability for Farm Labor Contractors  
*Daniella Darnell, Farm Labor Services*
- 11:45-12:30 LUNCH
- 12:30-1:15 Local and Out of State Labor Recruitment  
*Feliciano Paredes, Assistant State Monitor Advocate, Agriculture Employment Specialists Workforce, Development Agency-Migrant, Seasonal & Immigrant Worker Services Division*  
*Joe Parent, Prisoner Reentry Developer, NW Prisoner Reentry Program*
- Working with Telamon on the Farm  
*Carla Wojtal, Workforce Development Specialist, Telamon Corporation*  
*Sarah Kolehouse, Program Coordinator, Telamon Corporation*
- 1:15-1:30 Update on Immigration Efforts of the Leelanau Women's League of Women Voters
- Grower/New Immigration Programs*
- 1:30-2:00 Our Experiences with the H2A Program: Two Years Under Our Belts  
*Mark Miezio and Linda Polinko, Cherry Bay Orchards*
- 2:00-2:45 H2A Service Program: Experiences from 2014 and Moving Forward  
*Sarah Pion, Michigan Farm Bureau Southwest Regional Representative*  
*Katie Rasch, Michigan Farm Bureau, Ag Labor Program Coordinator*  
*Joe and Mary Rasch, Joe Rasch Orchards, Inc.*
- 2:45-3:05 Migrant Housing Improvements to Attract Labor and Meet H2A Standards  
*Ginger Bardenhagen, MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- 3:05-3:35 Introduction to a new program: Healthy Harvest  
*Kris Thomas, Benzie County Sunrise Rotary*

Please contact Stan Moore at [moorest@anr.msu.edu](mailto:moorest@anr.msu.edu) or 231-533-8818 to register for this event. Online registration is available at [events.anr.msu.edu/nwmlabormtg15](http://events.anr.msu.edu/nwmlabormtg15).

**Hart Spring Meeting  
March 31, 2015**

**This year's spring meeting in Hart is going to be a great one! We welcome all growers from northwest Michigan to this meeting. There will be a carpool option for growers that want to head south: growers should meet at the Manistee County Road Commission (8946 Chippewa Highway, Bear Lake, MI 49614).**

***There is a discount for participants to register prior to this meeting—to be sure to get the reduced registration rate, please call Mike Evans at 231-383-0101 by March 24<sup>th</sup>.***

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|-------------|--|
| 8:00-8:30   | Introduction to the MAEAP<br><i>Dan Busby and Lynda Herremans, MAEAP Program</i>   |
| 8:30-9:00   | Short and long-term weather forecasts: What is in store for 2015?<br><i>Dr. Jeff Andresen, Dept. of Geography, MSU</i>                                 |
| 9:00-9:30   | Understanding Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs): A Key Ingredient in Michigan Cherry Growers' Survival<br><i>Dr. Mark Whalon, Dept. of Entomology, MSU</i> |
| 9:30-10:00  | Best Management Practices for Pollinators in Michigan Orchards<br><i>Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, MSU</i>                                 |
| 10:00-10:20 | BREAK  |
| 10:20-10:50 | Mating Disruption Using Aerosol Emitters in Michigan Apples<br><i>Dr. Larry Gut, Dept. of Entomology, MSU</i>  |
| 10:50-11:10 | Using Pyrethroid Sprays to Control SWD and their Impacts on Spider Mite Populations<br><i>Emily Pochubay, NWMHRC, MSUE</i>                             |
| 11:10-11:30 | Gaining a Better Understanding of Insecticide Efficacy against SWD<br><i>Dr. Nikki Rothwell, NWMHRC and MSUE</i>                                       |
| 11:30-12:00 | Investigating mechanical harvesting technologies for high density cherries<br><i>Dr. Ron Perry, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU</i>                         |
| 12:00-1:00  | LUNCH  |

- 1:00-1:30 Using Copper and other Compounds to Control Cherry Leaf Spot  
*Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences*
- 1:30-2:00 Using Precision Orchard Management Techniques to Grow the Best Apples  
*Phil Schwallier, MSUE*
- 2:00-2:30 Understanding Phytotoxicity Risks in Apple  
*Amy Irish-Brown, MSUE*
- 2:30-3:00 Apple Disease Management Update for 2015  
*Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences*
- 3:00-3:30 Thinning Strategies for an Optimal Crop in 2015  
*Phil Schwallier, MSUE*
- 3:30-3:45 BREAK
- 3:45-4:30 New Strategies for Successful Record Keeping and FSMA Update  
*Phil Tocco, MSUE*

## **Pear Pruning Video**

Phil Schwallier asked us to pass this video link on to you – it was mentioned at the IFTA meeting in Nova Scotia last week.

<http://youtu.be/5h5aQ5DwYOO>

## **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>