

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report 09/29/15

Calendar of Events

2015 - 2016

1/12 – 13 2016 Orchard and Vineyard Show

USDA – NASS 2015 Fruit Chemical Use Survey

USDA-NASS is conducting the Fruit Chemical Use Survey for the first time since 2011. Data collection will continue through December. Growers will receive an MDARD pesticide applicator recertification point for completing the survey. Most of the information needed for completion can be obtained directly from spray records. NASDA interviewers generally try not to contact growers until the harvest of their primary fruit crop is near completion.

About the Survey

The Fruit Chemical Use Survey provides detailed data about farm operators' use of chemicals on fruit crops. All data are collected by personal interviews. NASS contacts growers early in the survey period and then again once the 2015 harvest is complete or the last chemical application has been made. Because of variation in geographic and crop harvesting periods, the survey will run from September 2015 through January 2016. NASS will release the results of the survey on July 25, 2016. All data will be available via NASS' Quick Stats database: quickstats.nass.usda.gov

What Topics Does this Survey Address?

NASS interviewers will ask about production practices related to the target fruit crops in the included states. Questions include:

- Fruit acres operated

- Types of fertilizers used (including amount, rate, and frequency of application)
- Pesticides used (including name of the chemical product and method, amount, rate, and frequency of application)
- Pest management practices

For the 2015 survey, NASS also partnered with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) to gather and analyze data on the use of microbial food safety practices on U.S. fruit and vegetable crops. New questions focus on topics, such as quality and testing of water used on the crop, steps taken to disinfect the crop, and food safety planning.

Responses to these additional questions will help in analyzing the impact of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) on the U.S. produce industry.

Who Uses the Information?

All sectors of the agriculture industry – producers, buyers, suppliers, policymakers and others – rely on fruit chemical use data to make sound business decisions. For example:

- The Environmental Protection Agency uses this information in the decision-making process for the Food Quality Protection Act, which impacts pesticide registration and product alternatives.
- Accurate pesticide use data are the only way to ensure that producers continue to have access to the chemicals they need. If growers do not accurately document their use of these products, regulators might not re-register a widely relied on product.
- Agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service use the data to document the quality and safety of U.S. food products, providing assurances to both domestic and international customers.

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of the survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

For more information on NASS' Agricultural Chemical Use Program contact the Environmental and Demographics Section at (202) 720-0684 or by email at scott.shimmin@nass.usda.gov.

To request a blank survey form, follow the link:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Request_for_Survey_Form/

Final Household Hazardous Waste and Pesticide Collections of 2015

The final Household Hazardous Waste and Pesticide Collections of 2015 will be held in October.

Leelanau County will be holding their event on Saturday, October 3rd at the Cherry Bend Park in Elmwood Township. For more information and to make an appointment, visit:

<http://www.leelanau.cc/news.asp?aid=97>

Grand Traverse County will be holding their event on Saturday, October 10th in Kingsley. For more information and to make an appointment (beginning September 28), visit:
<http://recyclesmart.info/1162/Household-Hazardous-Waste>

Reminder: Growers are allowed to bring in unused pesticides to ANY county's collection free of charge. Appointments are required.

Michigan State University seeks public input to sharpen research and outreach focus

MSU Extension and AgBioResearch are excited to announce the launch of the [MSU Extension and AgBioResearch Survey to Sharpen Our Focus](#). This online survey will help them shape the outreach they do in the future to make sure they are meeting the needs of their residents and stakeholders. MSU Extension belongs to the people they serve, and their voice will help guide them toward a successful future. As an added bonus, respondents who complete the survey will have the option of entering a drawing that includes two MSU men's basketball game tickets (date and time to be determined), a basket of Michigan-made agricultural products and a \$75 gift certificate to shop.msu.edu.

To participate, access the survey by visiting msue.msu.edu/focus. All information collected is anonymous. Once completed, a separate link will be provided to those who wish to enter the drawing. If you have any questions about this survey, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Berkey, the District 3 Coordinator. She would love to talk with you about how you and your constituents can help chart the path forward for MSU Extension.

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 is available at the new cherry website:

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

Information on apples:

<http://apples.msu.edu/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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