

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

8/7 **Wafler Harvester Demonstration**
Evans Bros Fruit Co. 8AM – 9AM

Wafler Harvester Demonstration

October 7th, 2015
8AM – 9AM

Walfers will be demonstrating their harvester assist aid *tomorrow, October 7th from 8AM – 9 AM*, at Evans farm in Benzie County.

The Wafler Apple Harvester was demonstrated in Hart, Michigan last year, and they have made some modifications and would like to show it off to northwest Michigan growers tomorrow morning. This design is made to keep workers picking with both hands with a limited amount of downtime. Using the Wafler harvest aid, workers still wear the traditional picking bags in front of them, hung with traditional harnesses. The pickers also still dump the bags into an apple box, but the pickers move less than one step to dump them. They work on a uniquely designed, self propelled, multilevel platform.

This demonstration will take place near the Evans Bros. home farm (5273 Joyfield Rd, Frankfort, MI 49635) on 'dry hill'. The orchard is located just off of Taylor Road, where a cooling pad is located next to the road. Call the NWMHRC for further directions: 231-946-1510.

2015 Challenges with SWD in Cherries

As most of our industry is currently aware, spotted wing *Drosophila* (SWD) was a major challenge in cherries this season. At this time, we are trying to better understand how regional populations of SWD relate to successes or failures in controlling this pest. In research trials at the NWMHRC, we found cherries infested with SWD in each of the efficacy trial treatments used against SWD. This information is discouraging because these data show that SWD is extremely hard to control, even under excellent management programs. We surmise that SWD has or will establish in our area and controlling this pest

will continue to be a major challenge in future seasons.

In addition to using the MSU research conducted throughout the state this season, we are looking to the grower community to help us complete the SWD picture for 2015. We understand that infested fruit is a sensitive topic, but we are hoping growers that were not able to control SWD will allow us to look at their spray records to help us determine spray programs that were not bullet-proof, as many were not this year. We are also looking for growers that were able to deliver a clean crop as we want to compare and contrast the different spray programs to build and demonstrate the programs that provide the best SWD control. *All information will be kept strictly confidential.*

When the Michigan blueberry industry first had challenges with SWD, the industry found that reviewing successful and unsuccessful spray programs could be used as a guide to develop a more reliable full-season management strategy for their commodity. We hope to follow that blueberry model to provide improved recommendations for SWD control in 2016. If growers are willing to share the good, the bad, and the ugly, the Michigan cherry industry would all benefit in the coming season. If you had clean fruit or if you were unfortunate to have SWD-infested fruit at harvest and are willing to share your spray records, please contact Nikki at the NWMHRC (rothwel3@msu.edu or 231-946-1510). We will put the information that you share to its best use.

Jordan Tatter Scholarship in Horticulture

**Sponsored by the Michigan Vegetable Council
and the Michigan Horticultural Society**

Jordan was recognized statewide and nationally as a leader in agriculture, natural resources, and improving state government services.

He completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees in entomology, botany, and plant pathology from Michigan State University's Honors College inaugural class in three years and lettered in soccer where the team was undefeated all three years he played and national champions two of the three. He was a member of the Sigma Xi scientific honor society.

He began his career as an apple grower and an agricultural consultant, co-founding Prescription Farming in Eau Claire. He then worked as a district agent for fruit crops with the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service. Among his proudest accomplishments was helping to build Hanson Cold Storage (formerly Southern Michigan Cold Storage) into one of the largest and most successful refrigerated warehousing corporations in the United States, initially as a board member and finally as President and Chief Executive Officer.

He was appointed to the Michigan Agriculture Commission in 1991 by Governor John Engler. He was elected as Chairman of the Commission four times in the ten-year period he served. He served two years on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. Jordy passed away in 2003, the year the Tatter Scholarships were established.

Please fill out the attached document and submit the completed form as one single PDF file to flore@msu.edu by October 23, 2015. PLEASE NOTE: ONLY ONE PDF FILE (THIS FORMAT ONLY) ACCEPTED PER APPLICANT.

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. NASSA 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.

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.

Healthy Harvest Seeks Fruits and Vegetables

Benzie Sunrise Rotary - Healthy Harvest is up and running – and they have almost 50 volunteers ready to work. They are currently looking for farmers that have any extra produce that they do not plan to pick. With the volunteers help, Healthy Harvest has already harvested green beans, cabbage, potatoes and kale over the past 3 weeks. All food that is harvested will provide locally grown, nutritious food for Benzie Sunrise Rotary neighbors in need.

Though they are happy with a donation of any kind, they would love to harvest some apples – even if it's just scattered leftovers on trees. Even if farmers have large gardens that they use to grow produce for markets or roadside stands - with tomatoes, peppers, etc., they would be very happy to come out and harvest prior to this produce being disced under.

If you are a grower and have fruits or vegetables that you are not planning on picking, please call Kris Thomas with Benzie Sunrise Rotary at 231-590-1035 or email us at the NWMHRC at goodr100@msu.edu and we will get your information over to her.

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>