

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

Farm Succession Planning Seminars

Do you think about the following questions? I want an heir to eventually own my farm business, but I also want to treat my kids fairly, how do I do both? I know I need to do something regarding an estate or business succession plan, but I don't know how to begin! How have other family farm businesses handled the senior generation transitioning away from active management, particularly if there are other partners? How can the senior generation delegate authority in a business, but still maintain some control?

In an effort to reach farmers from near and far, identical 1.5 hour workshops to discuss the process of farm transition and succession will be held at four different times; November 3 from 1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and on November 5 from 1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Business owners will learn to begin planning the transition of their farm business to a family successor(s) or a non – family successor. Actual farm family cases will be used so participants learn the issues other families face and how they handled them. Topics include evaluating the financial health of the current operation and owners, communicating goals, how to determine if the business is financially viable enough to take on a new partner, building and implementing a plan, evaluating what is fair for the successor(s) versus what is equal, different business arrangements and how to effectively work with a qualified attorney.

Richard Edmonds, an attorney with specialization in agricultural business succession and estate planning, Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC, a local company with expertise in agricultural business succession and an MSU Extension farm business management educator will present.

The sessions will be held at the Michaywe Club House at 1535 Opal Lake Road, Gaylord, Michigan 49735. In the Woods restaurant is located on site and will be open for lunch and dinner at attendee cost.

Refreshments will be provided by the Law Offices of Richard L. Edmonds, PLC and Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC. These sponsors and Michigan State University Extension have underwritten all costs and there is no registration fee.

The workshops are open to the public and pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. While the workshops are aimed at Agricultural businesses, non- farm family businesses go through the same process and are welcome to attend.

To register contact Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC at 231-947-2920. For more information contact Curtis Talley or Kathy Walicki, MSU Extension at 231-873-2129.

Securities offered through J.W. Cole Financial, Inc. (JWC) Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through J.W. Cole Advisors, Inc. (JWCA).

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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 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 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/

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.

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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/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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