CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/7  Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Equipment Demonstration and Annual Meeting

4/8  2016 Northwest Michigan Winegrape Meeting Series Spring Kick-Off NWMHRC

4/13  Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture NWMHRC

4/14  IPM Kickoff – 5PM – 8PM Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

What’s New?

Growing Degree Day Accumulations

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Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Equipment Demonstration and Annual Meeting

The deadline to register is April 1st. Please contact Jennifer Goodrich at 231-946-1510 or goodr100@msu.edu to register.

The Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society and Michigan State University Extension invite you to an educational session on modern equipment for the 21st century orchards where we will feature platform and hedger education and equipment demonstrations. The day will begin on April 7th at 9:15 AM at the Blaine Christian Church (7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613) with a morning of presentations by Farm Bureau on transportation laws updates. Phil Schwallier, MSU Extension, will present his research results on farm mechanization using equipment such as hedgers and platforms, and a grower panel will share their experiences of mechanization on the farm. Lunch will be provided at the church, and an afternoon of on-farm platform and hedger demonstrations will follow. At this time, we have over 10 pieces of equipment that will be demonstrated in high-density apple orchard systems. Participants will have the chance to meet with equipment dealers and fabricators at a Social Hour that will be held before dinner.

Registration cost is $30 per person, which includes lunch and refreshments; a portion of proceeds will be provided to the Boy Scouts of America for their assistance setting up the meeting and dining area for this event. Dinner at The Fusion restaurant (Frankfurt, MI) costs an additional $20 per person.

Blaine Christian Church
7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613
April 7th, 2016

Educational Session

9:15  Welcome and Refreshments
      Adam Putney, President, Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society

9:25 – 9:45  Moving Ahead for Progress: Transportation Laws Update
             Craig Anderson, Farm Bureau

9:45 –10:15  Mechanization: You Ready for Platforms, Hedging and More?
             Phil Schwallier, MSU Extension


10:15 – 10:30  Break

10:30 – 11:30  Grower Panel: Mechanization on the Farm
Greg Williams, Williams Orchards: Homemade Platform
Francis Otto, Cherry Bay Orchards: Brownie Quad Platform
Lenny Ligon, Ligon Orchards – Hedger

11:30 – 12:15  Lunch at Blaine Christian Church

Field Equipment Demonstration

12:30 – 1:45  Louis Gelder and Sons Company, Inc.: Blosi Platform and Hedger Demo
Location: Bill Lentz Farm (See Map)

1:45 – 3:00  Gillison’s Variety Fabrication Inc. Double Hedger; and Phil Brown Welding Platform Demo
Location: Putney Farm (See Map)

3:00 – 4:45  Precise Ag Platform; and Bartlett Orsi Cross Platform and FAMA Hedger Demo
Location: Evans Brothers (See Map)

5:15 – 6:00  Meet with the Vendors Social Hour
Location: The Fusion, 300 Main St, Frankfort, MI 49635
Website: www.the-fusion.com

6:00 – 7:00  Dinner at The Fusion (Please register in advance)

7:00 – 7:30  Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Annual Meeting

Thank you to the Michigan State Horticultural Society for supporting this event. Many thanks also to the vendors and growers for their equipment demonstrations and participation in the panel discussion.

Maps from Blaine Christian Church to Grower Sites:
The deadline to register is April 1st. Please contact Jennifer Goodrich at 231-946-1510 or goodr100@msu.edu to register.

2016 Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off
Please join Michigan State University Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on Thursday, April 14 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! We are pleased to host MSU Climatologist, Dr. Jeff Andresen who will provide us with a look into this season’s weather predictions and an update on weather trends into the future. MSU Extension Educator Amy Irish-Brown from The Ridge will be presenting an outlook on apple pest and diseases for 2016. We will discuss strategies for combating cherry leaf spot and spotted wing drosophila as well as provide the annual pesticide label changes and updates. This event is free of charge, and pesticide recertification credits and certified crop advisor credits will be available.

4:45 Welcome and refreshments

5:00 – 5:45 2016 Growing Season Outlook and Results from the Climark Project Involving Climate Trends and Cherry Production
   Jeff Andresen, MSU Climatologist

5:45 – 6:15 Amy’s Crystal Ball: 2016 Apple Pest Outlook
   Amy Irish-Brown, MSU Extension

6:15 – 6:30 Break

6:30 – 7:00 Minimizing Cherry Leaf Spot Infections in 2016
   Dr. Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

7:00 – 7:30 Optimizing Economical and MRL-Friendly SWD Management
   Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension

7:30 – 8:00 Pesticide Label Changes and Updates
   Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension

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2016 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN WINEGRAPE MEETING SERIES

Spring Kick-Off

Friday, April 8, 2016

9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center,
6686 S. Center Hwy., Traverse City

$10 for Parallel 45 members
$15 for non-members

Pre-registration is required—To register, visit http://www.p45michigan.com/

Program:

9:00 -- 9:15   Welcome and Parallel 45 update
               Brian Hosmer, P45 President

9:15 -- 12:00 Vineyard sprayer technology and calibration
            John Stone, Pesticide Safety Education Program, MSU

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch provided on-site

1:00 – 3:00   Grape disease biology and management
               Annemiek Schilder, MSU

3:00 – 5:00   Comparative tasting of Michigan wines made from
               vinifera varieties not commonly grown in the state
               Led by a panel of local winemakers

Sponsored by:

Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc.
Michigan State University Extension
For more information, contact Duke Elsner at elsner@msu.edu or 231-922-4822

First Friday Meetings

   May 6, 3-5 pm
   2 Lads Winery
   Sprayer rate controllers, drift management, visualizing deposition patterns—
   Mark Ledebuhr, Application Insight

   June 3, 3-5 pm
   L. Mawby Vineyards
   Disease scouting, weather influences and fungicide selection—Annemiek
   Schilder, MSU
July 1, 3-5 pm
Hawthorn Vineyards
Natural enemies, new insecticide options, perimeter spray programs - Rufus Isaacs, MSU

August 5, 3-5 pm
Shady Lane Cellars
Compost tea trials and applications

NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center Open House

August 25 (date tentative), 1-5 pm
Variety trial observations & mechanical weed management

Sponsored by:
Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. (http://www.p45michigan.com/)
Michigan State University Extension

For more information, contact Duke Elsner at elsner@msu.edu

FARMERS & RANCHERS, HOW DOES HEALTH INSURANCE AFFECT YOU?

The University of Vermont is INTERVIEWING 120 FARMERS & RANCHERS, AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What are your experiences and concerns with health care for farm and ranch families? Two brief confidential interviews will earn you $200 Compensation! This survey is done to help influence rural health policy. These surveys are needed for a 4-year USDA-funded grant to understand farm and ranch families’ unique health insurance needs.

Here is what to expect:

An initial phone interview and follow-up interview will be scheduled at your convenience. Initial conversation will take place in Spring 2016.

Interviews:

We will talk about your farm, your experiences with healthcare, and how health insurance influences your quality of life and farm business. All information will be kept confidential.
Why your participation matters:
The information you share will help influence policy at USDA Health and Human Services.

What you will receive:
Participants will be compensated $200 for their time (approx. 4 hours total)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Katlyn Morris, Project Coordinator
Email: Katlyn.Morris@uvm.edu,
www.hirednag.net
Phone: (802) 656-0257

Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture
Hosted by: League of Women Voters Leelanau County

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:00 PM
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Speakers include:
Connee Canfield, farmer, migrant housing developer and site manager for SunRISE migrant worker apartments in Hartford, MI

Majed Ghussaini, manager for the Migrant Labor Housing Inspection and Licensing Division, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Meeting is open to the public and is part of the Farm Labor Task Force Forum that the League of Women Voters Leelanau County puts on.

Grape growers spring kickoff meeting held April 4, 2016

This is the first of several in-season integrated pest management meetings for all grape growers and those interested in juice or wine grape production.
Michigan State University Extension is hosting the 2016 Spring Kickoff Meeting for grape growers at 3 p.m. on April 4 at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Experts on viticulture Bruce Bordelon of Purdue University and Imed Dami of Ohio State University will be joining us. They will be discussing research results from in-vineyard trials at Purdue University and Ohio State University regarding cold injury and frost management. Keith Mason from MSU Department of Entomology will be updating growers on current research on grape insect pests. Discussion will follow each speaker, so growers are encouraged to bring questions. Dinner will be served after the educational presentations at 5 p.m.

Two restricted use pesticide recertification credits have been requested for this meeting. Registration includes dinner and is $13 per person for pre-registration before March 28 or $18 at the door. Checks should be made out to Michigan State University and mailed, along with a note of the name and preferred contact information of registrants, to:

Berrien County MSU Extension
1737 Hillandale Rd
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

View or print meeting registration brochure

MSU’s grape integrated pest management meetings are sponsored in part by the Michigan Wine and Grape Industry Council.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting MSU Extension at 269-944-4126 by March 17. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

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

Information on apples:
http://apples.msu.edu/

Information on grapes:
http://grapes.msu.edu

Fruit CAT Alert Reports:
http://news.msue.msu.edu