February 2001 Regional Fruit Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2001

2/18-21 IDFTA
Grand Rapids

2/27-28 MSU Cider Makers School
Kellogg Biological Station
Hickory Corners

3/2 Compost: How's and Why's
NWMHRS

3/3-4 MI Conf. On Organic Agriculture
Kellogg Center, MSU

3/5-6 Organic Fruit School
Michigan State University

3/12 Ag. Economic Development
Traverse City (RSVP by Feb.28)

3/13-14 Benzie/Manistee Hort Show
Crystal Mountain Resort

3/14-16 Farm Women’s Symposium
Mt. Pleasant
"COMPOST – HOW'S & WHY'S FOR NW MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE"

By Jim Nugent

Should fruit growers and other farmers be adding compost to our NW Michigan soils? Can we make good compost with little or no manure input? If so, how? Many other questions regarding compost are being asked. For some time we have considered doing a program on this topic. So when we learned that one of the leading authorities on composting, Dr. William Brinton, was coming into Michigan for the Organic Conference on March 3 and 4 at MSU, we invited him to Traverse City a day ahead of the conference to help us with an educational program on compost production and use. Once he said he could make it, we developed the program involving some other in-state resource people. One of the topics Dr. Brinton will address is how to make good compost without manure as an input.

Friday, March 2

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NW Michigan Hort Res Station

Registration (including lunch) $15.00

Please RSVP by February 28th to Jackie Baase at 946-1510 or 888-749-3019 (toll free) as we need a lunch count and because space is limited to only the north side of the conference room at the NWMHRS.

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

9:00-9:30 Soil Ecology -- The Underground Pasture

Dr. George Bird, Dept. of Entomology, MSU

9:30-10:00 Role of Compost in Soil Quality

Joe Scrimger, Consultant, Bio-Systems

10:00-10:45 Producing Quality Compost

Dr. William Brinton, Chief Scientist, Woods End Research Laboratory, Inc., Mt Vernon, Maine
10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-Noon Experiences Making & Using Compost
Francis Otto, Cherry Bay Orchards, Suttons Bay
Bart Ingraham, Bell Weather, Suttons Bay
Jerry Lee, Grower/Composter, Northport
Randy Smith, Resource Recovery, Grand Traverse Co.

Noon-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:30 Consideration for Agricultural Composting in Michigan
Andrew Fogiel, Dept of Ag Engineering
MSU (tentative)

1:30-2:00 Plant Protection Using Compost Teas (extracts)
Dr. William Brinton

2:00-3:00 Panel Discussion -- Question & Answer Session
William Brinton
George Bird
Joe Scrimger
Andy Fogiel

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Saturday and Sunday, March 3 & 4, 2001
Kellogg Center

This conference celebrates the passage of Michigan's new organic legislation. A top-notch program has been put together with many concurrent sessions to choose from. A small sampling of the topics covered includes: "Building & restoring soil fertility", "Economics of organic agriculture", and "Michigan organic marketing opportunities.

Cost: $75. Registration **deadline February 23rd**. Conference information is available from local Extension offices or by phone at 517/241-2178 or at www.mda.state.mi.us.

CCA credits in both crop management and nutrient management are being offered.

MSU ORGANIC FRUIT SCHOOL
By Deepa Ramsinghani
Dept of Horticulture, MSU

The topic for the MSU Fruit School will be Organic Fruit Production and Marketing. The program will be held on Monday and Tuesday, **March 5th and 6th** (immediately after the Michigan Organic Conference on March 3rd and 4th) at MSU. The guest lecturer will be Franco Weibel, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, Switzerland. The cost is $200, which includes some meals but not
lodging. For more information and/or to register, contact Sandy Allen, MSU Dept of Horticulture at 517/355-8362 or email at allens@msu.edu, or register via the web at www.hrt.msu.edu/organicfruitschool.htm.

BENZIE/MANISTEE HORTICULTURAL SHOW
By Andy Norman

The 50th Annual Banzie/Manistee Horticultural Show will be held on March 13th & 14th, 2001, at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville. See enclosed program.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
By Duke Elsner

"Making Dollars and Sense Through Agricultural Economic Development" will provide participants with some good expertise on options for enhancing economic development within the agricultural sector. See enclosed program below. RSVP is required due to limited space.

CHERRY TREE TRAINING DEMONSTRATION SWEETS AND BALATON
By Jim Nugent

Training dwarf sweet cherries will be the focus of a program on April 10th, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., at Jim Bardenhagen's farm in East Leland. We'll begin with a short discussion in Jim's pole barn with some slides, and then we'll move into the orchard. We will also make a stop at some young Balaton plantings. Resource people will be Dr. Greg Lang, MSU Dept. of Horticulture, Dr. Bill Shane, SW Michigan Research & Extension Center, and Jim Nugent. A dwarf sweet cherry systems trial which was established in 1997-1998 at Jim's farm will provide an excellent site to see the response from various pruning techniques.

TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE
Jim Bardenhagen
Extension Director, Leelanau Co.

The 2001 Tractor Safety Course will be starting on Tuesday, April 3rd from 6-9 pm at the TBA Career Tech Center at 880 Parsons Road in Traverse City. The rest of the sessions will be held on Tuesdays, April 10, 17, & 24 from 6-9 pm at the same location. The written/driving test will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 8 am – 3 pm. The cost is $45. Registration deadline is March 30th.

This course is for youth 14 and 15 years old (as of June 1, 2001). Please note that in order for 14 and 15 year old non-family youth to drive tractors on farms, they need a certificate that they have passed a tractor safety course. Please notify any of your potential employees that would benefit from this training.

Use the enclosed registration form, or obtain one at our website www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau or call the Leelanau MSU Extension Office (256-9888) or the Career Tech Center (922-6353). Registration forms will also be sent to area schools.

We really appreciate the effort that Bill Bassett and Robert Fortine at CTC put forth to make this course possible to our youth!

PESTNET - WEATHER STATIONS FOR 2001
By Gary Thornton
Beginning with the 2000 growing season, a service was provided to all growers in NW Michigan which allowed them to access weather information via fax, phone or email. The information included leaf wetness, average temperature and a rating of the infection periods for cherry leaf spot and apple scab. We are expecting GREEEN funding again to fund the operating portion of the program for the 2001 growing season; however, the weather stations themselves need to be purchased this year to make the program work for all growers in NW Michigan.

Of last year's twelve stations, HortSystems, Inc. owned ten of them. As of this past January, all but three of HortSystems' weather stations will have been retired, due to being outdated and too expensive to repair. The three remaining Campbell weather stations were purchased by MSU and will be upgraded and made available at a reduced cost to growers in NW Michigan on a 50% cost share basis. This is necessary, as very limited funds are available for purchasing stations.

The weather station on the Old Mission peninsula was added to MSU's network through a cost-shared demonstration project with the Groundwater Stewardship Program in the spring of 2000. This year we again have Groundwater Stewardship cost-share money available to growers interested in having a weather machine available in their area. The cost-share will again be at a 50% level. Growers would be expected to provide approximately $2,600 towards the total cost of about $5,200. For example: last year 13 growers contributed $200 each towards the Old Mission station.

Contributions towards the weather stations count as a gift to MSU and as a result can save a significant amount on your state and federal tax returns. A gift of $200 towards the weather station would result in tax savings of around $156 for many people. This means only $44 is an actual out-of-pocket expense.

The only stations that are running at this point are at the NWHRS and on Old Mission peninsula near the Old Mission Tavern, so don't assume you will have one in your area just because you have had one in the past. For the 2001 season, four more stations will be cost-shared and put in the field. All of these stations will be owned by and maintained by MSU.

If the program was useful to you last year and you are interested in seeing a station in your area, then talk with your neighbors and let Gary Thornton know of your interest.

**MAKING DOLLARS AND SENSE THROUGH AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Oleson Center Dining Room, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City
March 12, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Grand Traverse County MSU Extension/Project Greenfields with funding from Henry A. Wallace Center for Agricultural & Environmental Policy

Limited seating – please R.S.V.P. by February 28 to attend

9:00-9:20 Registration and Opening Activities

**How Agricultural Economic Development Programs Work in Other Areas**

9:20-10:00 The Jefferson County, New York Experience
Jay Matteson
10:00-10:30  The Huron County Experience  
Carl Ozentoski  
Huron County Economic Development Corporation  
Bad Axe, MI

10:30-10:50  Break

10:50-11:20  Agriculture Economic Development and Renaissance Zones in Oceana County  
Ron Steiner  
Oceana County Economic Development Corporation  
Hart, MI

11:20-11:40  Agriculture Business Development Goals in Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties  
Speaker to be announced

11:40-12:00  Q & A, discussion time with all morning speakers

Lunch provided on-site

Agricultural Management Assistance Programs for the Support of Ag Producers

1:00-1:30  MSU Extension Farm Management Programming and Services  
Speaker to be announced

1:30-2:00  Farm Management Assistance Delivery Systems in Indiana  
Dr. Alan Miller, Agr. Economics Dept., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Where Should We Go From Here– And How Do We Get There?

2:00-2:40  Existing Organizations That Could Have a Greater Role in Agricultural Economic Development  
Representatives from MSU Extension, Conservancies, EDC’s, Financial Institutions, etc.

2:40-3:20  Possible Administrative Structures and Funding Sources for an Agricultural Economic Development Program in the
50th Annual
BENZIE-MANISTEE HORTICULTURAL SHOW
March 13 & 14, 2001
Crystal Center at Crystal Mountain Resort
12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.
Thompsonville, MI 49683-2998

Co-Sponsored By:
Michigan State University Extension-Benzie County
Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society
Michigan State Horticultural Society

Registration and Exhibits Open at 8:30 am

Registration and Membership and 1 day’s meal ticket - $ 12 (Extra meal tickets are $6 each)

For attending this year’s Educational Sessions, an individual will receive 2 re-certification credits for March 13th and 14th. Credits are only valid for those currently certified in category 1C (Fruit Crops) or private applicators.

Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society
ANNUAL MEETING and BANQUET
6:45 pm Tuesday, March 13, 2001
Crystal Mountain Resort at Crystal Center
BUFFET: $17/person

MORNING PROGRAM, Tuesday, March 13, 2001

9:05 am WELCOME
CALVIN LUTZ II, President
Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society

9:05 – 10:00 am Federal Worker Protection Standards
For All Of Agriculture
ERIC MCCUMBER
Regional Pesticide Specialist
MI Dept. Agriculture

10:05 - 10:50 am Potential to Use Reduced Risk Insecticides to Control Apple
Maggot and Cherry Fruit Flies
Maggot and Cherry Fruit Flies

**DR. OSCAR LIBURD**, Asst. Professor
MSU Dept. of Entomology

10:50 – 11:00 am  **Short Stretch Break**

11:05 - 11:50 am  Measuring Performance of New Chemistry for Insect Controls
**DR. JOHN WISE**, Coordinator
Trevor Nichols Research Complex

**NOON LUNCH ON SITE**

**AFTERNOON PROGRAM, Tuesday, March 13, 2001**

1:00 - 1:45 pm  Exciting New Fungicides for Disease Control on Apple and Cherry
**DR. ALAN JONES**, Prof.
MSU Dept. Botany And Plant Pathology

1:50 - 2:50 pm  Fire Blight and Rootstocks: A Look at Resistance
**DR. JAY NORELLI**, Research Plant Pathologist
USDA Agr. Research Center, Kearneysville, WV

2:50 - 3:00 pm  **Short Stretch Break**

3:00 - 4:00 pm  Outlook for Fresh Apples: Can They be Profitable for Growers in the Future?
**DR. DON RICKS**, Panel Moderator
MSU Dept. Agriculture Economics

*Panel:* **JAN VAN DRIESSCHE**, Merchandiser
Michigan Apple Committee
**DON ARMOCK**, River Ridge Produce
**ROGER KROPF**, Kropf Orchards

**MORNING PROGRAM, Wednesday, March 14, 2001**

9:00 - 9:20 am  Cling-Stone Peaches: Are They a Potential for Profits on Your Farm?
**DR. MIRA BULATOVIĆ-DANILOVIĆ**
Dist.Hort/Marketing Agent, WC MI
MSUE-Oceana County

9:25 - 10:00 am  Physiology Based Orchard Management – It's All About Fruits and Leaves
**DR. GREG LANG**, Professor
MSU Dept. Horticulture
10:00 - 10:10 am  Short Stretch Break

10:10 - 10:55 am  Genetic Engineering to Solve Plant Pest Problems  
DR. JAY NORELLI, Research Plant Pathologist  
USDA Agriculture Research Center  
Kearneysville, WV

11:00 - 11:25 am  Apogee - What Kind of a Tool is It?  
AMY IRISH-BROWN, MSUE  
Dist. Fruit ICM Agent  
WC MI Hort. Res. Station

11:30 - 12 Noon  Responsible Land Development and Use  
DR. PHIL DAVIS, Director  
MSUE Victor Institute

NOON LUNCH ON SITE

AFTERNOON PROGRAM, Wednesday, March 14, 2001

1:00 - 1:35 pm  Using Land Use Management: Tools Available to Farmers  
KENDRA GUNTER, Project Coordinator  
Community Economic Development, MSU West

1:36 - 2:07 pm  The Alpine Township Transfer of Development Rights Program  
CINDY HEINBECK, Supervisor  
Alpine Township, Kent County  
SHARON STEFFENS, Trustee  
Alpine Township, Kent County

2:08 - 2:40 pm  Increasing Farm Profits on Fruit Ridge  
DIANNE NOVAK, Rural Economic Devel. Agent,  
MSU Extension-Kent County

2:40 - 2:50 pm  Short Stretch Break

2:50 - 4:00 pm  Tools for Disruption and Control of Codling Moth: Which One’s for You?  
GARY THORNTON, Panel Moderator,  
MSUE District Fruit IPM Agent, NW MI Hort. Research Station

Panel: DR. LARRY GUT, Assistant Professor  
MSU Dept. Entomology
TRACTOR SAFETY TRAINING
FOR 14 & 15 YEAR OLD YOUTH

Improve your chances of employment this summer by completing a Tractor Safety Training course! If you are a teen, 14 or 15 years old (as of June 1, 2001), then you are eligible to take the Tractor Safety Training Course being offered for youth in the Northwest Michigan area.

Under the U. S. Department of Labor’s Hazardous Occupation Order, successful completion of a tractor operation and safety course is required for all youth under the age of 16 who perform farm jobs classified as hazardous. Such a course will be held at the Career Tech Center, 880 Parsons Road, Traverse City.

COURSE: Robert Fortine, Instructor
Tuesdays, April 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th from 6 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 28th from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

To become certified, participants must attend all five sessions of the course, pass a written test, and pass a tractor driving test. Growers and MSU Extension agents will be assisting with the hands on tractor safety training.

Cost for the program is $45.00 which is due at the time of registration. Registration deadline is Friday, March 30th and is limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis (you will be notified only if the class is filled.) The cost covers the course manual and beverage. Participants should dress to be outdoors. For Saturday, April 28th, please bring a sack lunch.

This Tractor Safety training program is a joint effort between Career-Tech Center, MSU Extension and Northwest area growers. Previously, this course was offered by the 4-H Youth Program in each county.

If you have any questions, please contact the MSU Extension Offices in Leelanau County (256-9888) and Grand Traverse County (922-4620) or the Career-Tech Center (922-6353).

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2001 TRACTOR SAFETY REGISTRATION

Name___________________________________________
Phone_________________________________________
Address________________________________________
_______________________________________________
(Street or Route and Box) (City, State and Zip)

Date of Birth___________________ Sex_______________
(Month-Day-Year) (Male or Female)

Ethnic Origin_______________________
(Optional)

Do you live on a farm? Yes No

Do you have a disability? Yes No

Return form along with $45.00 by Friday, March 30 To:
TBA CareerTech Center
Attn: Dennis Lutes
880 Parsons Road
Traverse City, MI 49684

Make check payable to: TBA Career-Tech Center

Registration fee is non-refundable (unless class is cancelled due to low enrollment)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:
Bill Klein, kleinw@pilot.msu.edu

Last Revised: 2-19-01