

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003

- 1/9 **Michigan Ag Environmental Assurance Program**
Gaylord Otsego Club, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 1/13 **Regional Land Use Forums**
NW Mich Hort Res Sta, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- 1/16 **Michigan Ag Environmental Assurance Program**
Big Rapids Holiday Inn, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 1/21-22 **NW Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show**
(includes CMI meeting)
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
- 1/23 **CIAB Annual Meeting**
Grand Traverse Resort
- 1/25 **Small Farm Conference**
Evangelical Free Church, Gaylord
- 2/5-6 **SW Michigan Hort Days**
Benton Harbor
- 2/7-9 **MSU Tree Fruit School**
Clarksville Hort. Res. Sta.
- 2/15-20 **International Dwarf Fruit Tree Assoc.**
Syracuse, NY
- 2/20-22 **Viticulture 2003**
Buffalo Convention Center, Buffalo, NY
www.viticulture2003.org
- 2/24-26 **Heartland Wine School: From Bulk to Bottle**
Oliver Winery, Bloomington, Indiana
- 2/27-28 **Michigan Wine Industry Annual Meeting**
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, Michigan
For information & registration, call (800) 292-3939.
- 1/15-3/19, **Tilling the Soil of Opportunity**
Wednesdays, Boyne City
- 3/19-20 **Benzie/Manistee Hort Show**
Crystal Mountain Resort
Thompsonville

NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD SHOW PROGRAM AND HIGHLIGHTS

By Jim Nugent and Duke Elsner

The 2003 Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show will be held on **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21 & 22**, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. **Agenda attached.** The title for this year's show is "Bouncing Back". The show opens both days at 8:00 a.m., with the educational sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$15 per person (over 12). The Cherry Industry Luncheon will be held on Tuesday the 21st; the Cherry Marketing Institute annual meeting and luncheon will be on Wednesday the 22nd. The exhibitor hall will be open both days.

The morning program features presentations on **sweet and tart cherry topics**, with a focus on pest management and nutrition. Tuesday afternoon's program includes diverse topics in the general session, plus a concurrent session with topics of particular interest to the **grape and wine industry** in northwest Michigan. The afternoon will conclude with the Orchard Show's social hour with local wines and cheese.

On Tuesday evening, immediately following the social hour, there will be a program on value-added projects.

Wednesday opens with the annual meeting of the **Cherry Marketing Institute**, followed by their luncheon, which is **free** to growers. Wednesday afternoon's program focuses on factors that affect grower prices for tart cherries, including discussion and analysis of the Federal Marketing Order.

NW MI HORT RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

The NWMHR Foundation will hold its annual meeting on **Wednesday, January 22**, from 2:10-2:25 p.m. during the Orchard Show.

CHERRY INDUSTRY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD INDUSTRY MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

Grand Traverse Resort

Growers and processors are welcome to attend.

2003 MSU TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL

By Gary Thornton, District Fruit IPM Agent

There will **not** be an IPM School in 2003. The school will return in 2004 with a stellar program once again. If you have suggestions for the school or speakers you would like to recommend for the program, please contact me. See the article later in this newsletter regarding MSU Fruit School, which will be held this February.

MDA RECERTIFICATION BY CREDIT

By Gary Thornton

Recertification announcements were mailed out this fall (October, typically). You will need to be certified in order to purchase restricted use pesticides in the upcoming growing season. For those of you interested in recertifying by credit, on the renewal application which MDA mailed to you, there is a number below the areas in which you are certified that indicates the number of credits you have earned in the last 3 years. You will need **12 credits** to be able to successfully recertify by credit.

If you don't have the number of credits that you thought you should have, then you will need records of meeting attendance to back up your claim. This is why it is so important to maintain good records of the credits you earn.

Keep in mind that if you are not yet recertified and want to earn additional credits this winter at the various meetings, then you should get recertified as soon as possible. Any meetings that you attend prior to your recertification will not count towards your next renewal credit total.

The cost to recertify is still \$10 for private applicators. The cost for commercial applicators has been increased to \$75 and registered technicians have increased to \$45.

If you need to schedule a test to recertify, you can do so by calling the Michigan Department of Agriculture in Traverse City at 922-5210.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE UPDATE

By Jim Nugent

An agricultural disaster relief bill did not get passed into law in 2002, so it must be restarted from scratch in 2003.

With strong leadership from Senators Stabenow and Levin, the Senate passed an agricultural disaster relief bill in 2002 by a vote of 79-16. A companion bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in September, but with a threatened presidential veto, it was never brought to a vote. Michigan congressmen co-sponsoring the House bill were: Representatives Barcia, Conyers, Dingell, Kildee, Kilpatrick and Rivers.

2003 MSU FRUIT SCHOOL

Friday, Feb. 7, through Sunday, Feb. 9

The topic for the 2003 MSU Fruit School is "Modern Fruit Production with Emphasis on Sustainability (apple, cherry and peach)." It will be presented over a weekend to accommodate the busy and diverse schedules of participants. Experts from the MSU research, teaching and extension staff will present information on establishment, management, varieties and rootstocks for modern production of apples, tart and sweet cherries and peaches. A special section on sustainability will be included.

The Fruit School will be held at the Clarksville Horticultural Research Station to facilitate pruning demonstrations. The registration fee for Michigan residents is \$200, which includes most meals, but not lodging.

Program flyers, including registration forms, are available from area extension offices and the NWMHRS. For more information contact Sandy Allen, MSU Outreach Program Coordinator, 517/355-8362 or email: allens@msu.edu.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

By Jim Bardenhagen, Leelanau Co. MSUE

Small farm operators interested in exploring alternative markets, products and enterprises can learn more about the possibilities that are open to them at the upcoming fourth annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference.

When: January 25, 2003
Time: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Where: Evangelical Free Church in Gaylord, MI
(East on M32, 1.9 miles after last light in town)
Cost: \$25 for first person and \$15 for additional person from the farm or household.
Cost includes lunch.
Registration
Deadline: January 15, 2003

The conference will feature keynote addresses from Robert Farr and Billie Lee. Farr will talk about starting a value-added farm business. Lee will discuss initiating change in a local food system by establishing a food business incubator.

The conference will include breakout sessions focusing on soils for organic production, private wood lot management, farm business planning, organic small fruit production, and producing and marketing eggs.

During lunch, participants may sit at one of several topic tables to discuss poultry and egg production, processing, forestry, marketing, grass-fed beef and organic production.

Past attendees of the Small Farm Conference give the conference high marks and greatly value the information received. It has been expanding each year as the Small Farm Conference strives to meet the education needs of small farms.

A trade show for viewing equipment, products and information and viewing sustainable agriculture videos from Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association (MASA) are included.

Please use the registration form below to register. For more information, contact the Antrim County MSU Extension at 231-533-8818 or Leelanau County MSU Extension at 231-256-9888, or visit www.msue.msu.edu/msue/iac/farmconf/ for complete program details.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN SMALL FARM CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION FORM

Individuals names attending from your farm (for name tags - please print clearly)

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

First person - 1 - x \$25.00 = \$25.00

Additional ____ x \$ ____ = \$ ____

Email _____

Please make check payable and mail to:
Antrim County MSU Extension
P.O. Box 427, Bellaire, MI 49615

Email: antrim@msue.msu.edu
or fax to: 231-533-8392
Phone: 231-533-8818

The registration deadline is January 15th , 2003—Registration includes lunch and breaks.

If this conference is cancelled by the sponsors due to bad weather, the conference fees you paid will be returned at your request. Late registration or walk-in registration will be charged additional \$5 per person.

REGIONAL LAND USE FORUMS

By Jim Bardenhagen

A Regional Land Use Forum "Setting the Course for Land Use Policy in Michigan" will be held for the Northwest Michigan area on **January 13, 2003** at the NW MI Horticultural Research Station from 6:30-9:30 pm.

The agenda for the forum is:

- Local Updates on Land Use/Farmland Preservation Initiatives by various local land use leaders
- State Perspective and Overview on Farmland Preservation Strategies and Land Use Policy by David Skjaerland & Stacy Sheridan of Rural Partners of Michigan
- Legislative Assessment and State Policy Opportunities by Scott Everett of American Farmland Trust & State Legislators
- Michigan Land Use Partners - Their Initiatives, Technical Assistance and Leadership Networking by various members of the Michigan Land Use Partners

This meeting is designed to share information, bring people together on a regional level and create greater statewide momentum for land use policies that preserve farmland, encourage urban development and innovative new growth strategies.

The meeting is free and no registration is required. Please call Jim Bardenhagen at 231-256-9888 if you have questions. Hope you can join us!

TILLING THE SOIL OF OPPORTUNITY

By Jim Bardenhagen

A "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity" class, an innovative educational program, will help enhance the future of Northern Michigan's family farms. The Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Small Business Development Center, is offering this 10-week business planning class for northern Michigan food entrepreneurs, agri-businesses and farmers thinking about analyzing their current business, or starting a business or those wanting to expand their business prospects into more profitable ventures.

The NxLevel class, "*Tilling the Soil of Opportunity*", will offer students a chance to create a business plan, explore marketing strategies, to look at a new venture's feasibility, and to learn how to use financial statements as a management tool.

This class is intended to help with the initial "go/no go" decisions every successful agricultural entrepreneur must make. Participants from established operations will learn to better evaluate their current strengths and weaknesses and how to improve. This class is a perfect opportunity for the younger generation to learn about their farm's future potential in the world of "value-added agriculture."

When: Every Wednesday from **January 15 - March 19, 2003**
Time: 6-9 pm
Location: Northern Lakes Economic Alliance office in Boyne City
Cost: \$250 before refunds

If you are interested in attending or want more information, please call any of the contacts listed below. A grant from the Small Development Business Center and local sources will allow a refund of most of the \$250 registration fee upon successful completion of the course (for this year only).

Producers will receive an extensive course book and have local experts teaching various parts of the class. Wendy Wieland, Jack Middleton, and Jim Bardenhagen, certified NX Level instructors for Michigan State University Extension, and Gary Walker of the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance's Small Business Development Center, will facilitate the class.

Contact:

Wendy Wieland
231-582-6482
wieland5@msu.edu

Jack Middleton
989-731-0272
middleto@msue.msu.edu

Jim Bardenhagen
231-256-9888
bardenha@msue.msu.edu

HEARTLAND WINE SCHOOL: FROM BULK TO BOTTLE

On **February 24- 26, 2003**, the Heartland Wine School will take place at Oliver Winery in Bloomington Indiana. The school is designed for commercial winemakers and advanced amateur winemakers who wish to learn or expand their knowledge relating to wine products and winery operations.

The overall purpose is to teach basic, practical wine science and production techniques. Program topics will cover all aspects of winery operations from the end of primary fermentation through the bottling line, including demonstrations of state of the art winery equipment and sensory evaluation training.

Enrollment will be limited to 100 students to allow ample working space and a hands-on format including four laboratory sessions. For additional information, please visit www.indianawines.org.

Contact:

Ellen Harkness, Purdue University; Ph: (765) 494-6704, FAX: (765) 494-7953, harkness@purdue.edu or
Jill Blume, Purdue University, Ph: (765) 494-494-1749, FAX: (765) 494-7953, blume@purdue.edu.

The New Farm*A*Syst and Orchard*A*Syst

By Dan Busby

The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program (MGSP) has a new partnership with the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). The new Farm*A*Syst is the assessment tool used to verify environmental assurance on your agricultural operation. It is your complete guide to environmental regulations dealing with pesticides, fertilizers, and livestock in agricultural operations. The new Farm*A*Syst is a compilation of the Right-to-Farm, Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMP's) for Pesticides, Nutrients and Manure, updated Federal and State legal requirements, and MAEAP verification levels.

The MGSP offers **4 RUP recertification credits** for completing a new Farm*A*Syst. The assessments offered through the MGSP are free and confidential.

The MGSP offers **2 RUP recertification credits** for completion of an Orchard*A*Syst with your Groundwater Technician. From storage of your chemicals to IPM and Drift Management, Orchard*A*Syst will help you to evaluate current management practices. Call Dan Busby today at 941-4191 for more information or to set up an appointment for either of these practices. They are both available and encouraged for fruit growers.

Cost Share and Technical Assistance Available through the MGSP

The Northwest Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program has funds available for groundwater stewardship practices, which reduce risk of ground or surface water contamination on your farm. FREE Technical Assistance is available for MGSP evaluations (Farm*A*Syst, Field*A*Syst, or Orchard*A*Syst), the preparation of an Emergency Plan for the farm, the closing of an Abandoned Well, Pesticide Container Recycling, Clean Sweep (the proper disposal of unwanted pesticides), and other types of agricultural assistance. Cost Share on Groundwater Stewardship Practices available for 2003:

Abandoned Well Closure	90% up to \$500
Pesticide Storage Shed	50% up to \$500
Pesticide Storage Shed Containment Liner	50% up to \$200
Offset Hydrant (moving fill site from well)	75% up to \$750
Spill Kits (for pesticide storage/mix/fill sites)	75% up to \$35
Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Testing (Row Crop)	100% up to \$8/sample
Clean Sweep (disposal of unwanted pesticides)	Free Assistance
Emergency Planning for the Farm	Free Assistance

For more information, call Dan Busby at 941-4191.