

## December 2006 Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/5-7            Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO  
Grand Rapids
- 12/11            MDA Pesticide Applicator Recertification  
Review & Test  
Banks Township Hall
- 12/12            MDA Pesticide Applicator Recertification  
Review & Test  
NWMHRS
- 12/15            Farm Income Tax Session  
NWMHRS

### 2007

- 1/5-6            Farm it Forward  
Kellogg Biological Station
- 1/16-17        NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show  
Grand Traverse Resort
- 1/18            Taste the Local Difference Workshop
- 1/27            Northern Michigan Small Farm Conf.  
Grayling High School
- 1/29-31        MSU Tree Fruit IPM School  
Kellogg Biological Station
- 1/30            Agriculture's Conf. on the Environment  
Lansing Center, Downtown Lansing
- 2/2-7            Int'l Fruit Tree Assoc.  
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
- 3/2-3            Farm it Forward  
KBS
- 3/4-7            5<sup>th</sup> Int'l Organic Tree Fruit  
Research Symposium  
East Lansing
- 3/13-15        Benzie/Manistee Hort Show  
Crystal Mtn Resort

## **PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION REVIEW & TEST SESSIONS**

Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Educator

Duke Elsner, Agricultural Agent, Grand Traverse County MSU Extension

Stan Moore, Agricultural Agent, Antrim County, MSU Extension

**December 11**, Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth

**December 12**, Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Review of Core Manual Materials (2 re-certification credits of private or commercial core offered)

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Certification Tests offered by MDA

There is no cost for either review session. If you will be taking the MDA exam in the afternoon, please have the exam fee(s) on hand. The private applicator test is \$50 and commercial is \$75. Please make your check payable to **State of Michigan**. To help you prepare for the exam, the *Pesticide Applicator Core Training Manual* (E-2195) can be purchased for \$10.00 at your county Extension office or at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station.

### **Please RSVP**

December 11: Call Gloria at the Antrim County MSU Extension office, (231) 533-8818

December 12: Call Jackie at the NW Michigan Hort Station, (231) 946-1510

## **FARM INCOME TAX SESSION**

By Jim Bardenhagen, CED Leelanau Co.

The Annual Farm Income Tax Update will be held on **Friday, December 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m.** at the NW MI Horticultural Research Station.

Larry Borton, MSU Ag Economics Department and Director of the MSU Telfarm Department, will be covering various income tax changes affecting farms and individuals for 2006. Larry will also present suggestions for income tax planning and will provide a number of handouts as well. As usual, your questions are welcomed.

If your farm uses a tax preparer, please invite him/her to join us so he/she is aware of all the items that can affect agriculture tax returns.

The cost is \$6, which covers conference room charges, handouts and refreshments, payable at the door.

## **NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW**

The NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, **January 16 and 17, 2007**, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. Cherry Marketing Institute's annual meeting will be held during the second day of the program. A day of wine grape programs will be conducted concurrently with the general session on the first day.

The tree fruit session will include topics in pest management, specifically on cherry leaf spot and new fungicide resistance bioassays, the Old Mission codling moth mating disruption program, cherry fruit fly and post-harvest control strategies, and new work on biofumigants in tree fruit orchards. This year's program will also cover training dwarf sweet cherries as well as results from work at the NWMHRS on new sweet cherry varieties and rootstocks. The tree fruit session will also feature two out-of-state speakers. Dr. Lailiang Cheng from Cornell University is a nutrition specialist that works with tree fruit and grapes--he will be a terrific resource for both sessions at the Show. Dr. Robert Kurlus from Poland will be on-hand to talk about his latest research on the cold hardiness of cherries.

The wine grape session will feature timely topics including powdery mildew, botrytis bunch rot, Japanese beetle, and new control strategies for potato leaf hopper. Dr. Cheng will present his work on carbon partitioning in grape vines during the afternoon. The wine grape session will round out with a Riesling triangle test.

A complete program schedule will be included in the next newsletter.

### **TASTE THE LOCAL DIFFERENCE (TLD) WORKSHOP**

By Jim Bardenhagen, Leelanau MSU Extension Director

On **January 18, 2007** the Taste the Local Difference (TLD) Team will hold a workshop with area growers/producers, distributors and retailers/institutions/restaurants. The main focus will be to initiate work on an implementation plan for serving more of the \$45 million local food market in the 2007 season.

The workshop is an outgrowth of the TLD Forums run at several locations last winter. If you are interested in providing local agricultural products for the local food market, please come and help develop the local system to make this market happen.

The meeting will start at 1 pm at a location to be announced shortly. Details should be on the [www.localdifference.org](http://www.localdifference.org) website soon. You can register by calling (231-256-9888) or emailing ([msue45@msu.edu](mailto:msue45@msu.edu)) Leelanau MSU Extension.

There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be served.

The workshop is sponsored by Leelanau MSU Extension, Michigan Land Use Institute, Northern Michigan Lake Alliance and the Traverse City Small Business Technology and Development Center (SBTDC).

### **NORTHERN MICHIGAN SMALL FARM CONFERENCE**

Stan Moore, MSUE, Antrim Co.

This year's Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference will be held on **Saturday, January 27** at Grayling High School. Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, this conference has proven to be one of the most respected and well-attended farm conferences in Michigan.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Bird, Professor of Entomology at Michigan State University. Break out session topics will include: Bird Flu; Starting with Meat Goats; the SARE program; CSA as part of your farm; Season Extension for Small Farms; Food as Medicine; Sea Energy Agriculture; Alternative Energy; Organic Beef Production; MAEAP presentation; Soils; Creating Value Added Opportunities with Processed Food; and more.

The trade show offers many exhibits that attendees may visit for even more information from composting to wood burners to cheese making and raising organic meats.

Past attendees have praised speakers and topics for their relevance and insight into the concerns of today's small-scale farmers. It is a great time to network with the 600 + farmers that attend each year.

For more information, please contact Stan Moore at the Antrim County MSU Extension office at: PO Box 427, Bellaire MI 49615; (231) 533-8818, [msue05@msu.edu](mailto:msue05@msu.edu) or [www.antrimcounty.org](http://www.antrimcounty.org). Then click on the MSU Extension link.

## **2007 MSU TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL**

**January 29, 30, and 31, 2007**

Kellogg Biological Station, Hickory Corners, MI

The MSU Tree Fruit IPM School is back for 2007! This year's program is designed to take an in-depth look at our most problematic reoccurring pests in Michigan orchards and their new and exciting control strategies. We have gathered researchers and extension specialists from around the country and around the state to discuss pest management tactics with growers, consultants, scouts, and chemical company field representatives in order to produce high quality fruit in Michigan.

This year we will follow a more traditional type format where speakers will give a presentation on their updated pest research, followed by a short question and answer session. However, we have incorporated three longer discussion times—call-in radio style 'bug talk' sessions with the entomology experts and also a 'disease talk' that aims to answer all your pathology needs.

### **PROGRAM CONTENT**

- **Plum curculio:** Three good experts--one bad weevil
- **Codling moth:** Is this pest worse than ever?
- **New chemistries:** What's comin' down the pipeline...
- **Cherry Fruit Fly:** New twist on CFF life cycle across MI
- **Cherry Leaf Spot:** Copper's potential for tarts' #1 disease
- **Fungicide Resistance in Apple:** NY pro imparts his advice
- **Post-harvest Disease:** How to get rid of those rotten apples
- **Management of *Armillaria*:** Is controlling this disease impossible?
- **Fungicide Resistance in Brown Rot:** Can this be true? Stay tuned!
- **Cherry RAMP Project:** Assessing the scene after 3 years
- **Update on the Regulation Front:** EQIP, CSP, MEAP, & AZM
- **Insecticide Activity:** A look into how insecticides tick
- **Tank Mixes:** What you can and can't toss into the tank

For questions or a registration form, please call Nikki at 231-946-1510.

## **2007 BENZIE-MANISTEE HORTICULTURAL SHOW UPDATE**

The Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society, in collaboration with the Benzie MSUE Office, is pleased to announce that the 2007 Show at Crystal Mountain Resort is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 13 – Thursday, March 15**. Although specifics are still underway, the general focus will be on apple production and marketing. In addition, speakers from across the United States will also cover such topics as direct marketing, organic production, food safety, small fruit production, and other value-added information. The banquet will be held on Wednesday night, March 14<sup>th</sup> and as always will feature a special guest speaker and a number of honored guests. Details will be forthcoming. Please mark these dates on the calendar.

## **FARM IT FORWARD**

“Farm It Forward” is a four-day workshop that will be held **January 5-6** and **March 2-3, 2007** at the Kellogg Biological Station. This program will help you and your operation’s future managers: discover how to address major issues that can lead to failure in a multiple generation farm business; learn about estate planning; find out whether an existing operation is large enough to support an additional partner; uncover alternatives for transfer of farm assets; get the most recently published resources for those considering a multiple generation farm business; network and share ideas and experiences with other farmers who may be dealing with the same issues. Cost: \$300. For more information, call 989/672-3870 or contact the local MSUE office.

## **DISASTER DECLARATION ALLOWS FARMERS TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY FARM LOANS**

USDA’s Farm Service Agency designated 28 Michigan counties as primary disaster areas due to losses caused by storms containing excessive rain, flooding, hail, and high winds during 2006. Area counties included in the designation are Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau.

The agency’s designation makes qualified farm operators in primary and contiguous disaster counties eligible for low-interest physical loss EM loans from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have until **July 9, 2007** to apply for loans to help cover part of their losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merit, taking into account the extent of loss, ability to obtain other credit, security available and repayment ability.

FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity. USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

For more information, contact your local FSA office or go to <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

## **JIM NUGENT SOON TO RETIRE**

Jim Nugent will retire at the end of this year. An event to recognize his retirement will be held Tuesday evening, **January 16**, at the Orchard and Vineyard Show. The program will begin immediately following a reception in the exhibit hall. Everyone is invited!

## **ROTHWELL NAMED DISTRICT EXTENSION HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR AND NORTHWEST MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL STATION COORDINATOR**

Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station have named Dr. Nikki Rothwell District Extension Educator and Coordinator for the NWMHRS. Her effective starting date is **January 1, 2007**.

Many already know Rothwell because of her current role as the MSU Extension District IPM Educator, at the NWMHRS. In the IPM position her responsibilities have included developing programs and providing relevant IPM information as well as conducting related research for the northwestern lower Michigan fruit industry. In her new role at NWMHRS, Rothwell will provide leadership and coordination for MSU Extension horticultural educational programs and activities in northwestern lower Michigan. She will also disseminate current research-based technical and management information to the fruit industry. She will handle day-to-day management of the station and all associated efforts. Rothwell will work with the fruit industry representatives to determine research priorities, interact with regional and MSU-based faculty members to coordinate research activities, and conduct industry workshops and field days for growers.

At this time there is no predicted gap in IPM duties at the NWMHRS. MSU plans to fill Rothwell's previous position of MSU Extension District IPM Educator within 6 to 8 months.