

Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter - January 2009
CALENDER OF EVENTS

2009

- 1/15** [Get Farming Workshop](#)
Benzie Community Resource Center/Health Dept
Beulah
- 1/17** **Maple Syrup Producers' Meeting**
Doherty Hotel Conference Center, Clare
- 1/20** [Get Farming Classes Begin](#)
Michigan Works, Traverse City
- 1/20-22** **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
- 1/31** **Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference**
Grayling High School
www.msue.msu.edu/antrim
- 1/31-2/8** **Annual IFTA Tour**
Berlin, Germany and Warsaw, Poland
- 2/4-5** **SW Michigan Hort Days**
Lake Michigan Community College
Mendel Center
- 2/12** **Winter Pruning for Best Results**
Presented by Michigan Apple Association
- 2/16-18** **MSU Tree Fruit IPM School**
Kellogg Biological Station
- 2/18** [Get Farming Workshop](#)
Kalkaska High School Multi-purpose Room
- 2/17-19** **Winery Establishment Workshop**
MSU SW MI Res & Extension Center
- 2/25-27** **Michigan Wine Industry Annual Meeting**
Crystal Mountain Resort
- 3/5** **Looking Ahead: Managing Apple Pests Without OP's**
Presented by Michigan Apple Association
- 3/10-11** **Cider Making Food Safety Course**
Presented by Michigan Apple Association
- 3/14** **Women in Agriculture Workshop**
NWMHRS
- 4/1** **Water Use Reporting Deadline**

SWEET CHERRY SURVEY

If you attended the Sweet Cherry Summit November 11th at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station and have not returned the survey you received, please do so as soon as possible. This information will help set future priorities for the Michigan sweet cherry industry. Click here for Survey.

WINERY ESTABLISHMENT CONFERENCE

Starting a winery takes preparation and planning. The 2009 Winery Establishment Conference to be held **Feb. 17-19** at the Jordan Tatter Conference Center at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC), Benton Harbor, can provide prospective winery owners with a good start.

"In Michigan, the wine industry has been steadily growing for the past 30 years," says Tom Zabadal, conference coordinator and grape specialist at Michigan State University (MSU). "Wine grape vineyard acreage is increasing in the state, and more and more people are interested in starting wineries. This conference is for those people who see themselves starting a winery in the next few months or within the next few years, either here or in other Midwestern states."

The conference will feature experts in winery establishment from all over the country who will discuss the major aspects of winery management and operations, including the legal and regulatory process, layout, design and building; economics; cash flow; marketing and investment generation.

"This is a unique opportunity for anyone having a level of interest in starting a winery," Zabadal says. "We have been fortunate to assemble a highly regarded group of professionals in the winery industry from California to New York, and many have international expertise."

The conference is sponsored by USDA Rural Development, Michigan Grape and Wine and Industry Council, Michigan State University Extension, Project GREEN, MSU Product Center, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council, GW Kent and Cornerstone Alliance.

For more information about the conference, go to the www.grapes.msu.edu Web site, or contact Diane Dings at SWMREC at 269-944-1477, ext. 203, or dingsd@msu.edu.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS MEETING

Russ Kidd, CED, Roscommon County

Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E) and the Michigan Maple Syrup Association (MMSA) will be co-sponsoring a day-long educational program on Saturday, **January 17, 2009** for any interested maple syrup producers.

The highlight of this year's program will be two in-depth presentations focusing on "The Health Benefits of Maple Syrup" by Dr. Kerrie Sanders and "Farm Market Marketing of Maple Syrup Products". In addition, there will be several breakout sessions after lunch that will focus on methods of filtering maple syrup to remove impurities, an opportunity to test your sap or syrup hydrometer and a "Beginner's Session" for newer producers.

In addition to the educational program, there will be several maple syrup equipment dealers and suppliers who will be exhibiting their equipment as well as a maple syrup judging contest by MMSA.

The program will be held at the Doherty Hotel Conference Center on the I-127 Business Loop in downtown Clare, and will run from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration for the program begins at 8:30 a.m. and costs \$40.00 per adult and \$15.00 per child, age 6-13 (under age 5 free). Registration fees

are payable at the door. This fee includes a buffet lunch, refreshments, and program costs. For more information, contact your local MSU Extension office.

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD AND VINEYARD SHOW

N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSUE

Click here for the [full program](#).

The 2009 Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show will be held Tuesday through Thursday, **January 20-22**, at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI. The **three-day** program will feature both educational sessions and vendor exhibits. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, and the fee is \$30 per person covering all three days. The Fruit Industry Luncheon will be held on Tuesday the 20th, and the cost is \$15. The Cherry Marketing Institute's (CMI) luncheon on Wednesday is *free* to growers that register with CMI. A third luncheon will be held for all growers and vendors on Thursday, January 22nd, and the lunch will be *free*. The exhibit hall will be open during the show and will feature vendors of orchard and vineyard equipment as well as supplies, commodity organizations, and other exhibitors.

The Tuesday morning program will focus on wine grape production: grape berry moth control, eradicating powdery mildew, and an interesting view of Italian viticulture based on a trip taken by Dr. Tom Zabadal and Dr. Paolo Sabbatini. Don Koivisto, our new MDA Director, will speak at noon at the Fruit Industry Luncheon.

For those interested in enology, a special session will be held concurrently on Tuesday afternoon (see following article). For tree fruit growers, Tuesday afternoon will feature Dr. Larry Hull, an exciting entomologist from Penn State University. He will be discussing the ongoing issue of spray coverage, in particular alternate row versus every row spray. He will also talk about the efficacy of new insecticides. Lyndon Kelly will also be on hand to talk about new irrigation systems and the potential to use them for nutrition and pest management. A wine tasting and hors d'oeuvre social hour will follow the educational sessions. At 6:00 p.m., a MAEAP Verification - Phase I program will take place.

CMI will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:30. The afternoon sessions will start off with a review of the Sweet Cherry Summit, which will be followed by updates on American brown rot and cherry leaf spot control in cherries. Dr. Larry Gut will be here to talk about successful insecticide spray programs for cherry. Dr. John Cline from the University of Guelph has some interesting new work using gibberellic acid in sweet cherries. We will also discuss some preliminary work with this growth regulator in tart cherry. Sweet cherries under tunnels will round out the day.

The third day will start off with Dr. Cline discussing the potential for new apple rootstocks, particularly those that show promise for cold climates. Erin Lizotte will present a new MSU funded project on conserving beneficial insects on fruit farms and Dr. Mark Whalon has some new information on using growth regulators and biopesticides in the orchard. Dr. George Sundin also has some new data on fire blight resistance issues that will be of interest for all apple growers. A few regulatory issues will also be on tap: GAP standards, water use regulation, and how the new Farm Bill will work for each farm. Phil Schwallier will be back in town to discuss how to successfully use Apogee and Retain in apple orchards and Dr. Jim Flore will round out the day with his work on crop load balance in Honeycrisp.

ENOLOGY & VITICULTURE SEMINAR AT THE NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW

Duke Elsner, Grand Traverse Co. MSUE
Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Coordinator, MSU

Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. and MSU Extension are hosting an Enology & Viticulture Seminar, 1:45 – 5:00 PM, **Tuesday, January 20** as part of the Orchard & Vineyard Show. There is a participant fee of \$25 per person for this seminar or \$55 if planning to attend additional educational sessions.

Our main speaker will be Paul Gospodarczyk, Enology Instructor at the Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa. Paul's presentation will be about the following:

Use of Sulfur in Winemaking

Was that intended to be a sparkling wine?! In a review of Midwest wines available in grocery stores DMACC Enology students found a fraction of samples possessed adequate levels of sulfur dioxide required to prevent fermentation in the bottle. While sulfur is a seemingly basic topic, the improper use results in oxidized wines and increased potential for bottle fermentations. This is an expensive proposition since wine quality and time is sacrificed in 'bottle-dumping' operations. Even more costly, is the loss associated with diminished consumer perception of the brand.

Paul Gospodarczyk is the Enology Instructor at Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa, where he works with enology students across the Midwest in the flexible web-blended curriculum designed for working adults. His degree is in *Fruit Science and Enology* from Missouri State University where he held 2 internships in enological research. Since, he has worked at wineries in Oklahoma, Colorado, New Zealand, and Oregon. In addition, he has consulted with two winery start-up operations in the Midwest. Gospodarczyk established the Mid-American Wine Competition, and is an active wine judge having participated in the Illinois State, Michigan State, INDY International, and as a judge-in-training at Temecula, California, wine competitions. In addition, he has started an international internship program for enology students.

Our second presenter will be Tracy Aichele from the Department of Geography at Michigan State University, speaking on **Evaluating Soils for Grape Production**.

APPLE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Michigan Apple Association is sponsoring one-hour webinar apple programs and a food safety course for Michigan cider makers. Dr. Ron Perry, Dept of Horticulture, MSU, will give an hour-long refresher course on winter pruning of apple trees, February 12, 1-2 p.m. The program will be broadcast from MSU. On March 5, 1-2 p.m., Dr. Larry Gut will present *Looking Ahead: Managing Apple Pests Without OP's* via MSU broadcast. A food safety program for Michigan cider makers will be held March 10, 8:30-5 p.m. and March 11, 8:30-2 p.m. at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing. For additional information or to register, call 517/669-8542 or email reisig5@comcast.com.

IPM SCHOOL DEADLINE EXTENDED

Erin Lizotte, NW MI Horticultural Research Station

MSU's Tree Fruit IPM School will be a two and a half day event on **February 16, 17, and 18**. The event will be held at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan. IPM School speakers will include Mike Doerr from the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center at Washington State University. Mr. Doerr has agreed to share his expertise regarding codling moth management. We are happy to announce that Dr. Keith Yoder, Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Tech will be joining us as well. Dr. Yoder will share his experience on apple scab biology and management. We

are also looking forward to Michael Celetti, of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, discussing his findings in the management of black rot.

This year's program will feature a special section focusing on the importance of secondary pests in anticipation of the loss of guthion and the integration of newer insecticides. Additionally, many Michigan State University experts and Extension personnel will be on hand to present the results of their latest research and answer questions concerning the obstacles facing tree fruit growers today. We are looking forward to another successful program that delivers information you can't find anywhere else and we hope to see you there!

For the IPM School registration form, go to:

<http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/ipmbrochure09.pdf>. You still have time to register as the registration deadline date has been extended to **January 23, 2009**.

NEW EXTENSION TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER

Until now, calling a Michigan State University (MSU) Extension county office meant picking up a phone book or surfing the Web to find a local phone number. Now, there's one easy-to-remember, toll-free number that can be used to reach any of the 82 MSU Extension county offices.

By dialing **1-888-MSUE-4MI (1-888-678-3464)** and entering the first five letters of the county name, Michiganians are connected with the county office of their choice, where they can get information about programs, educational materials or connecting to the broader university. Instructions for using the number are also available in Spanish.

WATER USE DEADLINES

Feb. 1, 2009- Large capacity pumps, 70 gallons or more, that have not been registered or reported on need to be registered to MDA, registration attached. This is from both surface and ground water. This is to ensure that the new Water Withdrawal tool has as much data as possible. Farmers are still encouraged to register as soon as possible even if they miss the deadline. Here is a link to the [Form](#).

April 1, 2009- Water Use Reporting Forms are due. Growers should report on each pump they have, if they did not use the pump last year they still need to report 0 usage. Growers need to make sure that pump ID and lat. and long. coordinates are the same as last year. If they have sold, bought, or someone else is reporting a pump that pump ID needs to be the same as in the past.

July 1, 2009- The new Water Withdrawal Tool must be used for all new or expanding pumps. We are currently in the testing phase. Growers should use the tool right now but it is not mandatory. Registering on the water withdrawal tool is not the same as registering with MDA. Users will still need to send in their registration form.