

NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter - Late March 2009
CALENDER OF EVENTS

2009

- 3/24** **USDA Rural Development Grant Information Webinar**
- 3/25** **Grant Writing for Agribusiness**
Michigan Works, Traverse City
- 3/30-31** **Michigan Agri-Energy Conference**
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
www.agenergy.org
- 4/1** **Water Use Reporting Deadline**
- 4/3** **Mating Disruption Meeting**
NWMHRS
- 4/6** **Benzie/Manistee Hort Society Farm Tour**
- 4/7** **Benzie/Manistee Spring Fruit Workshop**
- April 9,16,** **Tractor Safety Training Program**
23, 30 NWMHRS
- 4/10** **Winegrape IPM Kick-off**
Governmental Building, Leelanau Co.
- 4/20** **5th Annual Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off**
NWMHRS
- 4/21** **Understanding Plant/Water Relationships**
NWMHRS
- 4/30** **Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep Collection**
Traverse City
- 5/1** **First Grape IPM Update**
- 5/1** **Antique Apple & Pear Pruning Workshop**
Schmidt Farmstead, Port Oneida Rural Historic District
For more information, contact Kimberly Mann, 231-326-5135 x 501
- 5/2** **Tractor Safety Exam**
NWMHRS
- 5/12** **Antrim & Benzie Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
- 5/13** **Leelanau & Grand Traverse Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
- 6/5** **Grape IPM Update**
- 7/10** **Grape IPM Update**
- 8/7** **Grape IPM Update**
- 8/20** **Open House & Equipment Show**
NWMHRS

USDA HAS FUNDS AVAILABLE: MSU WORKSHOP TO HELP LOCAL GROWERS GET THEM

The Michigan State University (MSU) Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Michigan Office of Rural Development want local farmers to apply for and receive more U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds. Organizers of a free workshop this month hope to provide tips and guidelines to help local farmers do just that.

The Rural Grant Information workshop is an interactive webinar scheduled for 10 a.m. **March 24**. Farmers can connect directly from home using a high-speed Internet connection or travel to one of 15 locations statewide that will be hosting interested groups. Exact locations can be found by visiting the Product Center Web site at www.productcenter.msu.edu and clicking on "News and Events."

"We want to encourage more economic development in the state by making producers aware of these grants and helping them prepare good applications so they have a better chance of receiving one," said Tom Kalchik, associate director of the MSU Product Center.

Kalchik said the grant program is open to all independent producers, farmers, agricultural producer groups and other agricultural business ventures. The Product Center workshop is particularly aimed at those developing value-added production plans as well as producers who are working on alternative energy projects.

Eligibility criteria, the application and evaluation process, matching funds and other requirements will be discussed during the workshop. Two USDA programs -- the Value-Added Producer Grant program and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency program -- will be discussed in detail.

Preregistration is not required. For more information, [view the Product Center document \(PDF\)](http://www.productcenter.msu.edu) at <http://bitly.com/ljK3W> or contact Tom Kalchik at 517-432-8752.

The MSU Product Center is a single gateway for Michigan entrepreneurs to access MSU expertise. It provides coordinated, university-wide assistance to help Michigan entrepreneurs develop and commercialize high-value, consumer-responsive products and businesses in the agriculture, food, natural resources and bioeconomy sectors. The center is funded by Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs), Michigan's plant agriculture research initiative. For more information, visit www.productcenter.msu.edu or call 517-432-8750.

MATING DISRUPTION MEETING

N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSU-E

A new borer mating disruption dispenser is available to growers for 2009! This dual dispenser disrupts **both** lesser peachtree borer (LPTB) and peachtree borer (PTB, sometimes known as greater peachtree borer) with great success in stone fruits. Initial work has been conducted in Michigan by Drs. Larry Gut and Luis Teixeira, and other states have determined this dual lure is effective in peach orchards. We are fortunate to have Don Thomson, a Seattle-based consultant on pheromone technology, come to the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station (NWMHRS) to discuss this new technology on **Friday, April 3 at 10-12**. In light of the recent borer problems in cherry, we hope you will be able to make this program.

BENZIE-MANISTEE BUS TOUR REMINDER

A friendly reminder **all regional** fruit growers are invited on a bus tour of high density orchards around northwest Michigan on Monday, **April 6th**. Please call the Benzie Extension office at 231-882-0025 to register.

WINEGRAPE IPM KICK-OFF

Erin Lizotte, Nikki Rothwell, and Duke Elsner

A day-long program to kick off the growing season for winegrape growers and vineyard managers will be at the **MSU Extension-Leelanau County** offices on **April 10th, 9 am – 4 pm**. We are fortunate to be hosting Cliff Ohmart, Sustainable Viticulture Director for the Lodi Wine Grape Commission in California. Cliff is an entomologist by training and has spent the last 15+ years developing the sustainability program for the LWC. This accomplishment is no small task as the LWC is comprised of 750 growers in crush district #11. The Lodi sustainability assessment has been used as a template for all other U.S. wine regions, and we are fortunate to have him here in NW MI. Cliff will be discussing sustainable winegrape production through IPM Strategies. MSU wine grape faculty and extension staff will also be on hand to discuss disease and insect management strategies for the upcoming season.

To attend, please register by calling Annette Kleinschmidt at 231-256-9888 by **April 3rd**. Cost is \$25 for the general public and \$15 for Parallel 45 members. Recertification credits will be offered. We look forward to this event and hope you'll be able to join us!

5TH ANNUAL TREE FRUIT IPM KICK-OFF

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturalist, MSU-E

The 5th Annual Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off has been scheduled for **April 20th** from 7-9 pm at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. This year's program will include updates on insecticides and fungicides for the upcoming season, as well as some emerging areas of pest and disease management. This program is *free* and no registration is required. Hope to see you there!

THINKING ABOUT IRRIGATION?

N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSU-E

To effectively set up a new irrigation system, growers need a good understanding of plant/water relationships. A morning workshop with two irrigation specialists (please see bios below) will be held to help growers understand this relationship on **April 21st** at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station (NWMHRS). Understanding this association is crucial as it impacts irrigation systems and strategies for properly applying water to tree fruit. This three-hour event will provide insight on how plants use water, and how this information will translate into proper water management in the field. The meeting will be held from 9-12, and the cost is \$10/person. Please call the NWMHRS at 231-946-1510 to register.

Irrigation Specialists: *Jon Peters* has worked in irrigated agriculture for the past 15 years, most recently as a Plant Manager and Agronomist for CHS, Jon holds a Certified Crop Advisor designation from the American Society of Agronomy, is a board certified Agronomist, and holds professional licenses in both Idaho and Washington. In addition to the credentials Jon has earned through private study, he has received additional business, agronomic and sales training in association with Washington State University, and the University of Idaho.

Andy Humphrey, Baseline, Inc, has 8 years in irrigation experience, most recently as Regional Sales Manager for Netafim, a leading manufacturer of irrigation controls and drip irrigation systems. Andy holds a BS degree in Horticulture from Montana State University. Andy lives near Bingham and is actively involved with Leelanau County and the surrounding communities.

MSUE KICKS-OFF THE YOUNG FARMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Rob Sirrine, Nikki Rothwell and Erin Lizotte



Recent social, economic, political, and environmental changes have had an impact on agricultural and rural communities in northwest Michigan. During these times, it is critical that agricultural interests are well represented and articulated in the years to come. *The Northwest Michigan Young Farmer Leadership Program* aims to identify and prepare our local up-and-coming farmers to assume a leadership role in the community and ensure that agriculture remains an economically viable, socially responsible, and environmentally sound industry.

A preliminary meeting of 19 young farmers took place on March 16th, and a rough agenda for the upcoming two-year program was outlined. The program is set to officially begin in the fall of 2009 with an introductory meeting at the Kettenun Center in Tustin, Michigan. Highlights of the program include attending the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable EXPO, assisting the 2010 International Fruit Tree Association post-tour in Traverse City, and an out- of-state trip determined by the group. Topic areas for the program include running a successful business, communications, labor issues, social responsibility and public policy. For more information, visit <http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/youngfarmer1.pdf>

Applications for the program will be forthcoming. If you know anyone who would be interested in the program who has not yet received information, please give Jackie a call at 231-946-1510.

WATER USE DEADLINES

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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTION

The first Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep collection is **Thursday April 30**. Must call GT County Recycling Hotline at 231-941-5555 to set up an appointment. Pesticide disposal is **Free** of charge to all Michigan residents.

DO YOU NEED A BIRD PERMIT?

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator

There's nothing worse than working all season to produce high quality fruit and then watching a flock of seagulls or a group of cedar waxwings descend on your orchard or vineyard. If you need a bird permit or are looking to hedge your bets, be sure to start the application process now. Migratory Bird Depredation Permits are available and the USDA can walk you through the process. For more information, please contact the USDA APHIS office at 517-336-1928.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST FRIDAY GRAPE IPM UPDATES!

Nikki Rothwell, Erin Lizotte, and Duke Elsner

Dates have been set for the *Summer Grape IPM Updates* (formerly the First Friday meetings). Topics to be covered include horticulture, pathology and entomology. Feel free to bring along insect and disease samples for diagnosis and management recommendations. These updates are free, open to anyone wishing to attend, and will provide pesticide recertification credits. Updates will be held on **May 1, June 5, July 10, and August 7**. Details and locations to be announced at a later date. We hope to see you there!

IPM TREE FRUIT UPDATE SERIES DATES HAVE BEEN SET!

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator

A series of hands-on IPM workshops will again be held throughout northwest Michigan for the 2009 growing season. Each meeting will characterize a different time in the season and distinct weather patterns, which in turn will present a unique set of pest and disease problems as well as management strategies. These meetings are *free* and will offer Pesticide Recertification Credits from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Feel free to attend the meeting that best fits your schedule or location, regardless of county.

Antrim County

Location: Jack White Farm, M-31, just south of Elk Rapids on the right, Elk Rapids

Dates: May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23

Time: 11-1pm

Benzie County

Location: Putney Farms, 4290 Joyfield Road, Frankfurt

Dates: May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23

Time: 3-5pm

Leelanau County

Location: Jim and Jan Bardenhagen, Pertner Road, Suttons Bay

Dates: May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24

Time: 1-3pm

Grand Traverse County

Location: Josh Wunsch Farm, Old Mission Peninsula, Phelps Road (look for cars on the road)

Dates: May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24

Time: 4-6pm

TRACTOR SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM For 14 and 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, 2009), then you are eligible to take the Tractor Safety Training Program 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. This course will be held at the NW MI Horticultural Research Station, 6686 S Center Hwy, Traverse City.

Course: Chris Garthe, Instructor

*Thursdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 from 6 – 9 pm and
test Saturday, May 2 from 8 am – 3 pm*

To become certified, participants must attend all five sessions of the course, pass a written test, and pass a tractor driving test. This class will also cover safety on other types of small engines and farm tools. Growers and MSU Extension Educators will be assisting with the hands-on tractor safety training.

Cost for the program is \$60, which is due at the time of registration. *If finances are an issue, please call us as some scholarships are available.* **Registration deadline is Friday, March 20** and space is limited. The cost includes the course manual. Participants should dress to be outdoors. For Saturday, May 2, a pizza lunch and drinks will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact MSU Extension-Leelanau County at 231/256-9888.



2009 Tractor Safety Registration Form (Please print clearly & copy form as needed)

Name _____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____ (Street or
PO Box) _____ (City, State and Zip)

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Grade _____ School _____
(Month-Day-Year) (Male or Female)

Optional: Do you live on a farm? _____

Do you have a disability? _____

Ethnic Origin _____

Return form along with \$60. Deadline has been extended to **Friday, March 27, 2009**

Mail to:

MSU Extension – Leelanau County

Make checks payable to: MSU Extension

8527 E. Government Center Dr., # 107

Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Registration fee is non-refundable

(unless class is cancelled due to low enrollment)