

September 2009 NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2009

- 9/22** **Trevor Nichols Field Day**
Fennville, MI
- 9/24** **Grand Traverse Co. Household Hazardous Waste Collection**
www.RecycleSmart.info and click on the Household Hazardous Waste or schedule
by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline at 941-5555.
- 9/24** **Annual Indoor Farmers Market**
Leland High School
- 9/29** **Joint Planning Commission Meeting**
Silver Tree Deli
- 9/30** **Fruit & Vegetable Scholarship Application Deadline**
- 10/2** **Sustainable Hops Production Workshop & Tour**
NWMHRS
- 10/3** **Integrating Poultry & Vegetable Production Field Day**
Bardenhagen Farms
- 10/3** **Leelanau Co. Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection**
Peshawbestown. Call 256-9812. **Reservations are required.**
- 10/10** **Adult Tractor Safety Course**
NWMHRS
- 10/16** **Early Registration Deadline for 'Making It In Michigan'**
- 11/11** **"Making It In Michigan"**
Lansing Center
- 11/30** **USDA Value Added Producer Grant Deadline**
- 12/3** **Farmer Rancher Grant Proposals Deadline**
- 12/8-10** **The Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, & Farm Market Expo**
Grand Rapids

2010

- 1/19-21** **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**
Grand Traverse Resort

APPLE MATURITY TESTING AT THE NWMHRS

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS 946-1510 or nwmihort@msu.edu. If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 – 12 fruit sample at the NWMHRS on Mondays, if possible. The fruit

should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

ANNUAL INDOOR FARMER'S MARKET AT LELAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Leland Public Schools in conjunction with MSU Extension and the Leelanau Farmers Markets Association will hold their Annual Indoors Farmers Market on **Thursday, September 24th** from **9 am to 1pm** in the Leland High School Gym.

The farmers market will showcase local fruits and vegetables and other locally made products. This market is open to the public and all products are available for sale. Please stop by to support local farmers and the Leland Public Schools.

For further information, contact MSU Extension at 231-256-9888 or msue45@msu.edu.

APPLE SCAB FUNGICIDE SENSITIVITY SCREENING 2009

Erin Lizotte, District IFP/IPM Educator

The NWMHRS, in collaboration with the Michigan State University Tree Fruit Pathology lab, will be screening apple scab samples from northwest Michigan for sterol inhibitor and strobilurin sensitivity. We are looking to screen 30-50 sites and need to collect 50 leaves with active, brown scab lesions. If you have a site with symptoms, we can collect the sample or you can bring the sample to the Research Station or call to request that we collect a sample for you. To collect a sample yourself, collect 50 leaves from as many trees as possible and store in a paper bag in the refrigerator until you can deliver them. They may be stored together in one bag. A brief history of the use of sterol inhibitors and strobilurins for the orchard along with your contact information is greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Erin Lizotte at (231) 946-1510.

STUNTING IN WINEGRAPES

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

As many of you know, we have found vineyards where plants have exhibited symptoms of severe stunting and poor growth; the plants almost have a 'lettuce-type' appearance to them, and the leaves are crinkled and not fully expanded. We are trying to determine the cause of this problem this season, and at this time, we have a few hypotheses. To better understand these symptoms, we are asking for help from those vineyard managers/owners where this stunting was evident. We would like to schedule a meeting and have growers bring their spray records, pictures, and any other evidence of this symptom. We would like to pinpoint the cause of this problem to prevent further issues in the future. Please call Nikki at 231-946-1510 if this stunting was evident in the vineyard and you would like to participate in this project.

SUSTAINABLE HOPS PRODUCTION WORKSHOP AND TOUR

Rob Sirrine, CED, Leelanau County

Michigan State University Extension will offer a Sustainable Hops Production Workshop and Tour on Friday, **October 2nd from 8am - 6pm**. The workshop will consist of a class at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station in Leelanau County from 8am to 3pm and a hop yard tour at Old Mission Hops from 4 to 6pm.

Dr. David Gent, from USDA Agricultural Research Service and Author of Compendium of Hops Diseases & Pests, and experts from Gorst Valley Hops, Wisconsin will discuss: hops production

techniques, trellis construction, plant care, initial costs, harvesting and processing, disease and insect management, market analysis, brewery relations, and a brewer panel.

The workshop is for growers and anyone interested in hops production. The cost is **\$50 before September 21**, or **\$75 after**, and includes lunch, materials and tour. Space is limited so register early. A registration form can be obtained by calling the Leelanau MSU Extension office at 231-256-9888 or download a registration form online at www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau. For more information, contact Rob Sirrine at 231-256-9888.

INTEGRATING POULTRY AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION FIELD DAY

Chris Bardenhagen

There will be a field day for the SARE grant project "Integrating Poultry and Vegetable Production" on **Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 a.m.** We will visit the site where the experimental plots were located (although the plots have been harvested and the areas will be tilled or in cover) and see the style of small scale poultry production that we use here at Bardenhagen Farms. We will discuss the results of the soil tests and talk about different possibilities of successful animal integration. Pastries (or donuts) and *Tandem Ciders* sweet cider will be provided.

Location:

Bardenhagen Farms
7881 East Pertner Road
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
Phone# 231.271.3444
e-mail bardenhagen7@hotmail.com

Please feel free to call for directions to the farm!

ADULT TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE

Rob Sirrine, CED, Leelanau Co.

October 10, 2009, 8-3pm, NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

Based upon MSU Extension's successful tractor safety course for teenagers, we are hosting a similar course for adults. Local farming guru and tractor operation genius-Chris Garthe will provide both classroom and driving instruction on safe tractor operation. The cost for the course is \$30, which includes a manual for participants to keep for reference. The course is limited to 20 people and sign up is first come first serve. Call 256-9888 for details.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2009

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and The Michigan Vegetable Council announce the availability of scholarships for students who intend to pursue careers in the Midwest fruit industry or vegetable industry, respectively. The awards are made available by these organizations, with the generous support of industry sponsors. In 2008, scholarship awards totaling \$9,000 were awarded with the support of Gerber Products Company, Michigan Apple Promoters, Valent USA, Wilbur-Ellis Company, MACMA Apple Division, and Agro Fresh, Inc. (SmartFresh™), as well as the support of the following industry publications: *Meister Publications (American Fruit Grower, American Vegetable Grower)*, *The Fruit Growers News*, and *The Vegetable Growers News*.

The target amount per scholarship is \$1,000, but it could be more or less at the discretion of the selection committee. The award is not based on need or academic achievement, however, the selection committee may use these criteria to decide between two or more qualified applicants.

For more information, contact your guidance office or the appropriate office as follows:

- **Fruit scholarships:** MI State Horticultural Society, 63806 90th Avenue, Hartford, MI 49057; phone (269) 424-3990; fax (269) 424-3096; or e-mail MIHortSociety@aol.com. An application is also posted on the MSHS web-site at <http://www.mihortsociety.org/>. Applications should be mailed or faxed by September 30, 2008.
- **Vegetable scholarships:** Michigan Vegetable Council, P.O. Box 277, Erie, MI 48133; phone (734) 848-8899; fax (734) 848-8899; or e-mail mivegcouncil@charter.net. Applications should be mailed or faxed by September 30, 2009.

Here is the link to the application form

http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/fruit_veggie_scholarship09.pdf

The recipients will be selected in the fall and the awards presented during the Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO (December 8-10, 2009) in Grand Rapids, MI (www.glexpo.com).

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and Michigan Vegetable Council invite other companies and organizations to contribute to the scholarship fund. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Allyn Anthony (269-424-3990) or Dave Smith (734-848-8899).

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and Michigan Vegetable Council are co-hosts of the largest fruit, vegetable and farm market show in the country, the Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO. Visit the EXPO website at: www.glexpo.com

MAKING IT IN MICHIGAN – Michigan's Premiere Specialty Food Show

Are you ready to be the next great entrepreneur?

Are you an existing business looking for help with the next great product? Then this day is for you!

This full and exciting event brings you all the resources and networking you'll need to bring your dreams and goals to reality. Come meet the Product Center team. Network with buyers from stores looking for exciting new products. Learn from the experts about launching or expanding your business through educational classes that prepare you for the road ahead in regulations, safety, production, marketing and distribution. This is the one day that every entrepreneur, producer, buyer and processor in food and agricultural businesses needs to attend.

The food show will be held **November 11, 2009** at the Lansing Center. For more information, visit <http://www.makingitinmichigan.msu.edu>

NCR-SARE ANNOUNCES 2009 FARMER RANCHER GRANT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 2009 North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) Farmer Rancher Grant Call for Proposals is now available online at <http://sare.org/ncrsare/cfp.htm>.

Farmers and ranchers in the North Central Region are invited to submit grant proposals for projects to explore sustainable agriculture solutions to problems on the farm or ranch. Proposals should show how farmers and ranchers plan to use their own innovative ideas to explore sustainable agriculture options and how they will share project results.

Sustainable agriculture is good for the environment, profitable, and socially responsible.

Projects should emphasize research or education/demonstration. Grants can range from \$6,000 for individual farmers up to \$18,000 for groups of 3 or more farmers.

NCR-SARE expects to fund about 50 projects in the twelve-state North Central Region with this call.

The deadline for proposals is **Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.**

For more information, contact Joan Benjamin, NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program Coordinator, at jbenjamin2@unl.edu or 402-472-0809 or (800) 529-1342.

The NCR has funded more than 700 farmer rancher grants worth more than \$4,300,000 since the inception of this program.

Each state in SARE's North Central Region has one or more State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators who can provide information and assistance to potential grant applicants. Interested applicants can find their State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator online at <http://sare.org/ncrsare/PDP/pdpstco.htm>.

JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

The Suttons Bay Community Joint Planning Commission is hosting an Open House to gather feedback and input from their work so far on the new Joint Master Plan. The open house will have the draft objectives, strategies and goals posted around the room. People are invited to stop by and write down their comments (on post-its) and leave them on the posters. There is no meeting, no lecture, and nothing they have to sit through.

We are especially interested in feedback and input from the largest commercial industry in the area: farming. **Tuesday, September 29, 2009, 5:30pm -7:30pm** at the Silver Tree Deli in Suttons Bay.

USDA Value Added Producer Grants

Click here for the USDA Press Release http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/USDA_value_add09.pdf

CIAB Press Release on Final Restricted Percentages for 2009

Click here for the CIAB Press Release http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/CIAB_final09.pdf