

**NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter**  
**August 2010**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2010**

- 8/2-8/27**      **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Sign-up**
- 8/6**              **IPM Winegrape Update**  
Ligon Farm, Old Mission Peninsula  
Dr. Paolo Sabbatini, Dept of Horticulture, MSU  
Topic: Canopy & Crop Load Management
- 8/11**            **Angel Investor Forum**  
Left Foot Charlie Winery, Traverse City
- 8/12**            **Fungal ID, Fungal Control & Mode of Action of Fungicides**  
Montcalm Research Farm  
Lakeview, MI
- 8/16**            **Winegrape Workshop**  
Fenn Valley Vineyards & Wine Cellar  
Fennville, MI
- 8/18**            **Winegrape Workshop**  
L. Mawby Vineyard  
Suttons Bay, MI
- 8/19**            **NWMHRS Annual Open House & Leelanau Hort Soc. Dinner**
- 8/19**            **MAEAP Program**  
NWMHRS
- 8/25-26**        **Entrepreneurial Farm Tour**  
West Michigan
- 9/2**             **Native Plant Strips for Pollinator & Natural Enemy**  
**Conservation Demonstration**  
Bardenhagen Farm
- 9/3**             **IPM Winegrape Update**  
L. Mawby Vineyard, Suttons Bay
- 9/12**            **Farm Tour Series, MLUI**  
Five Springs Farm  
Bear Lake
- 9/18**            **Leelanau Co. Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection**  
Peshawbestown  
Contact: Leelanau Co. Planning, 256-9812
- 10/1**            **SBA Disaster Loan Applications Due**

## **FUNGAL ID, FUNGAL CONTROL, MODE OF ACTION OF FUNGICIDES and more**

On **August 12**, from **9:00 a.m to 2:15 p.m.**, at the Montcalm Research Farm in Lakeview, MI, there will a program designed for anyone interested in learning more about fungicides and their mode of action, fungal disease identification, and fungal disease control. Producers, chemical applicators, water technicians, and MSU educators will have a better appreciation of chemical choices and concerns.

This class points out control options and how different modes of action of fungicides may lower fungal resistance risks. It also highlights personal protective equipment and making a drift management plan.

Recertification credits will be offered. For more information, contact Dr. Roberta Dow, Northern District Water Quality Educator at 231-922-4858 or [dowr@msu.edu](mailto:dowr@msu.edu).

## **WINEGRAPE WORKSHOPS**

Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Educational Coordinator, MSU

The final details for our upcoming pre-harvest enology workshop have come together! This workshop will be a great opportunity for you and your winemaking staff as we prepare for this year's harvest. Both the Southwest and Northwest workshops are being held at local wineries (see details below), giving you the opportunity for a mix of classroom-style and hands-on learning. The content of each workshop is identical, just two different venues to make it easier for you to participate.

I am very pleased to bring Dr. Nichola Hall of Scott Labs to Michigan as our keynote speaker. After graduating from the University of Abertay in Dundee, Scotland with a B.S. degree in Microbial Biotechnology, Dr. Hall travelled to Perugia, Italy to work in the laboratory of Alessandro Martini on the taxonomic classification of wine yeasts. She then returned to Scotland and received her PhD in yeast physiology and fermentation science under the guidance of Graeme Walker. Most recently, she spent 7 years as the Director of Microbiology at Bronco Wine Company in Ceres, CA before joining Scott Labs in 2009. In her current position, she serves as a technical consultant for all areas of enology with a particular focus on fermentation management, microbial nutrition, wine microbiology and analysis, and winery sanitation. Dr. Hall sits on the Board of Directors of both the American Society of Enology and Viticulture and the Sonoma County Wine Technical Group.

For our workshops, Nichola will present on microbial ecology, nutrition, fermentation management, microbial control and sanitation. She will also be taking us through an educational wine tasting of yeast and bacteria trials. Rounding out the program, Dr. Tom Prychitko from Helix Labs will give a presentation on detecting and identifying spoilage microbes in wine.

Program and registration form is attached. Liz Berger of the Michigan Wine Foundation was kind enough to create an online credit card registration page through the Chateau Chantal website. [Go here for online credit card registration](#). If you have questions about online registration, please contact me (cell: 517-648-5099) or Liz Berger (231-223-4110). If you are not paying by credit card, please send check (made payable to Michigan Wine Foundation) to Paul Jenkins at B18 Food Safety & Toxicology Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 12TH! Space is limited to 50 people at each workshop location.**

### **August 16 - Fennville**

9AM-4PM

Location: Fenn Valley Vineyards and Wine Cellar  
6130 122nd Ave, Fennville, MI 49408

### **August 18 - Suttons Bay**

9AM-4PM

Location: L. Mawby  
4519 S. Elm Valley Rd., Suttons Bay, MI 49682

This workshop is being sponsored in part by the Michigan Wine Foundation, the Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council, Project GREEN, and the Michigan Wine Trails.

Hope to see you there!

## PRE-HARVEST WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

### Advanced Registration Deadline: August 12

#### 1. Select the workshop you plan to attend.

Monday, August 16! ! Location: Fenn Valley Vineyards & Wine Cellar, Fennville

Wednesday, August 18 ! Location: L. Mawby, Suttons Bay

#### 2. Contact information.

Name or Winery Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Attendance and cost.** This workshop is priced to encourage attendance by as many people as possible from each winery. \$75 first person; \$15 each additional person.

Registrant #1 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$75.00

Registrant #2 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00

Registrant #3 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00

Registrant #4 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00

Registrant #5 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Payment.** Check payable to Michigan Wine Foundation. Send check and registration form to:  
Paul Jenkins, B18 Food Safety & Toxicology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

## NW RESEARCH STATION OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE 2010

### Tree Fruit

Conference Room

3:00-3:20 Continuing to investigate the potential for new cherry harvesting equipment  
*Dr. Ron Perry, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU*

3:20-3:40 Travel to new high density Montmorency planting, 20-acres

3:45-4:30 Pruning, training, and irrigation of new high density planting  
*Dr. Nikki Rothwell, NWMHRS*

4:30-5:00 Fruiting walls and high quality sweet cherries  
*Dr. Greg Lang, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU*

### Winegrapes

Vineyard

3:00-3:45 Controlling disease in the vineyard with minimum inputs  
*Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant Pathology, MSU*

- 3:45-4:30      Organic options for insect control in northern Michigan vineyards  
Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Dept. of Entomology, MSU
- 4:30-5:00      Q and A
- 5:15-6:00      Social hour with wine tasting
- 6:00             Dinner by *Ethnic Garden Catering*

Following the afternoon sessions, a social hour with wine tasting with local wines will take place. Dinner will be catered by Ethnic Garden Catering and will feature local fruits and vegetables; the dinner cost is \$15 per person. To reserve tickets for the wine tasting and dinner, call the Leelanau County Extension office at 231-256-9888 or email to [msue45@msu.edu](mailto:msue45@msu.edu). Reservation deadline is **August 16**.

The Northwest Station Open House is hosted by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University Extension, the Leelanau Horticultural Society, the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation, and Parallel 45.

### **SO WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET YOUR FARM MAEAP VERIFIED?**

Come learn about the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station open house **Thursday, Aug 19, from 1:00 to 3:00**. From 1:00 - 2:00, you will learn about the risk assessment tools available to you through the Michigan Water Stewardship Program and learn details about requirements for verification within the MAEAP program. At 2:00, we will drive to Scott and Penny Emeott's farm, Cherry View Farms LLC, which is located within a mile of the Research Station at 9610 E. Bingham Rd. We will then tour the farm headquarters and will highlight some of the conservation practices implemented to reduce risk on the farm and satisfy MAEAP requirements. Refreshments will be provided at the farm tour part of this program. Please RSVP to Dan Busby at 231.883.9962 or [dbusby@qtcd.org](mailto:dbusby@qtcd.org)

### **COLLECTING PLANT TISSUE SAMPLES FOR NUTRIENT ANALYSIS**

Eric Hanson, Dept of Horticulture, MSU

Tissue analysis is the best method to assess tree, vine, or bush nutrient needs. The window for collecting nutrient samples in NW Michigan is from mid-July to mid-August. We strongly encourage growers to conduct nutrient analysis at least every two to three years. Tissue analysis is best when combined with soil samples taken from the same blocks. This combination allows for thorough analysis of nutrient and lime needs.

Plant tissue analysis is effective for monitoring the nutrient status of a crop as well as trouble-shooting poor growth of a crop. The following points and sampling guides will help insure proper collection of a good diagnostic plant tissue sample:

- Collect sample from a minimum of 20 plants representative of the field, orchard, or vineyard.
- Do not collect leaves damaged by disease or insects.
- If diagnosing a problem, collect separate samples from poor and good areas aid in the diagnosis.
- Rinse the sampled tissue in clean water to remove dust, soil or spray residue.
- Dry samples before sending to the lab by laying samples out in the air (do not oven dry).
- Send samples in paper bags (not plastic) to the MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory or another tissue testing laboratory. Be sure to include the proper, completed information sheet. Tissue sample forms for the MSU lab are available through your county Extension office or NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station.

**Tree fruits** – Collect 100 leaves from the middle of the current season's growth.

**Vineyards** – Collect a total of 100 leaf petioles (stems) from the most recently matured leaves near the center of the shoot. Undersides of mature leaves are generally darker than those of young leaves. Do not use leaves adjacent to fruit clusters.

**Blueberries** – Collect a total of 100 leaves from the middle of the current season's growth. Do not use leaves close to fruit clusters or on one year old canes.

If you have any questions on how to collect tissue samples, call your local county Extension office or District Horticultural Educator. If sending samples to MSU, the cost per sample is \$27 again this year. Include a check payable to **Michigan State University** with sample(s) to avoid an MSU billing fee.

## **ENTREPRENEURIAL FARM TOUR TO WESTERN MICHIGAN**

A two-day farm tour to western Michigan is planned for **August 25-26, 2010**. This tour will be similar to past multi-day farm tours to Iowa and other states.

This year's tour will showcase farm families who have successfully explored and seized opportunities to enhance the profitability of their operations. The stops will feature sustainable farming systems, diversified enterprises, organic operations, livestock for specialty markets, farmer-owned retail markets, cooperative ventures, value-added enterprises, and direct marketing strategies, as well as many other examples of how family farmers are finding ways to be more profitable while enjoying it as well. Stops are tentatively scheduled for on farm cheese making, tree fruit production, sheep and poultry operations, large scale vegetables, blueberries, deer farm, tree farm, on-farm ethanol operation, soybean processing, and more.

This tour is sponsored by MSU Extension, Project GREEN, NCR-SARE, Greenstone Farm Credit Service, and SunOpta. The cost will be reasonable (\$50 or less). Please call the Gratiot MSU-Extension office at 989-875-5233 for details and to sign up by **August 16, 2010**.

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) SIGN-UP**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that a general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will begin on **August 2, 2010** and continue through **August 27, 2010**. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general sign-up at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized USDA to maintain CRP enrollment up to 32 million acres. Jim Miller, Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, made the announcement on behalf of Secretary Vilsack during a conference call with reporters.

"America's farmers and ranchers play an important role in improving our environment, and for nearly 25 years, CRP has helped this nation build sound conservation practices that preserve the soil, clean our water, and restore habitat for wildlife," said Miller. "Today's announcement will help us create a greener and healthier America, and I encourage all interested farmers and ranchers to contact their local FSA office to learn more how to take advantage of this opportunity."

To help ensure that interested farmers and ranchers are aware of the sign-up period, USDA has signed partnership agreements with several conservation and wildlife organizations, which will play an active role in USDA's 2010 CRP outreach efforts. Additionally, Secretary Vilsack has recorded two public service announcements, which are available to the press and public at [www.fsa.usda.gov/psa](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/psa).

CRP is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share, and technical assistance. CRP protects millions of acres of America's topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resources base. Participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for 10 to 15 years. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Acreage enrolled in the CRP is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to wildlife population increases in many parts of the country. As a result, CRP has provided significant opportunities for hunting and fishing on private lands.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this sign-up provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.5 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2010.

FSA implements CRP on behalf of Commodity Credit Corporation. FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up. In addition to the general sign-up, CRP's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

## **NATIVE PLANT STRIPS FOR POLLINATOR AND NATURAL ENEMY CONSERVATION**

Save the date for an upcoming demonstration on using native plant strips to help conserve pollinators and natural enemies. This event will be held on **2 September from 4-6pm** at the Bardenhagen Farm. The Bardenhagens have planted a seed mix to enhance these beneficial insects in cherry. This work is also underway in apples and blueberries. Dr. Rufus Isaacs will be on hand to talk about the research in northwest Michigan as well as around the state. NRCS will also be there to talk about their plans for conservation strips around agricultural land. For details, please call the NW Station: 231-946-1510.

## **PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING**

Do you have pesticide containers to recycle? 2.5, 5, 30 and 50 gallon containers must be thoroughly cleaned (triple or power rinsed), free of caps and labels, and containers must be in large plastic bags for handling. Plastic bags are available at your local agri-business. Containers will be accepted at Hamilton Agronomy in Traverse City, Wilbur-Ellis in Acme, Ellsworth Coop, or Crop Protection Services in Bear Lake throughout the month of **August**. Please call your dealer or Dan Busby at 231.883.9962 for more information.

## **Angel Investor forum coming to Traverse City, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

Entrepreneurs seeking funding will be able to present a pitch to angel investors at an event on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Boost Northwest Michigan a path to funding your business will give entrepreneurs the opportunity to present a two-minute pitch (no slides) to an audience of experienced investors from the Blue Water Angel Network of Midland, Michigan.

The event will be held at the Left Foot Charley Winery in the Grand Traverse Commons on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. A dinner will be held after the event at Trattoria Stella. The event is sponsored by the Great Lakes Entrepreneur Quest and the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center.

For registration and further information: Miche Suboski at [Miche@Suboski.com](mailto:Miche@Suboski.com) or 586.929.4782