

Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter February 2010

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2010

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|-----------|---|
| 2/16 | <u>Soil Survey, Water Withdrawal,
Groundwater Mapping</u>
NMC University Center |
| 2/18 | Buckley Farm Show
St. Mary's School, Hannah |
| 2/19 | NRCS High Tunnel Applications Due |
| 2/22 | MAEAP and GAP Meetings
NWMHRS |
| 2/24 | <u>Understanding GAAMP's for Farm Markets</u>
NWMHRS |
| 2/24-26 | Michigan Grape & Wine Conference
Amway Grand, Grand Rapids |
| 2/27-3/3 | 53rd IFTA Conference
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel |
| 3/1 | Application for "Certified Organic Farm Registry" Due |
| 3/3 | The Business and Science of Farming Classes Begin
Michigan Works Conference Room
Traverse City |
| 3/4 - 3/6 | IFTA Post Conference Tour
Traverse City |
| 3/5 | Learn About Organic Farm Research
MSU's Agriculture & Natural Resources Week |
| 3/8 | Benzie/Manistee Hort Society Meeting
Blaine Christian Church
Frankfort |
| 3/9 | Farm Safety Program
NWMHRS |
| 4/1 | MDA Water Use Reporting Registration Form Due |
| 4/7 | IPM Think Tank Meeting
NWMHRS |
| 4/9 | Farm Route to Prosperity Summit
Black Star Farms |
| 4/16 | Spring Grape IPM Kick-off
NWMHRS |
| 4/19 | Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off
NWMHRS |
| 5/12 | Growing Grapes at Home
NWMHRS |

BUCKLEY FARM SHOW

Frank Lipinski's annual Buckley Farm Show will be held **February 18** from **10-3** at the St. Mary's School in Hannah. Lunch will be provided by the Michigan Corn Growers Assoc.

We will be offering MAEAP Phase I credits to folks that want to sign up at the MAEAP booth.

USDA OFFERING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIGH TUNNELS

The U.S. Dept of Agriculture has financial assistance available to landowners interested in constructing high tunnels to increase the availability of locally grown produce. The assistance is available through a pilot program that utilizes assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS-Michigan is participating in the 3-year pilot program that will verify if high tunnels are effective in reducing pesticide use, keeping vital nutrients in the soil, extending the growing season, increasing yields, and providing other benefits to growers. For more information, see [attached article](#) and/or contact Jason Kimbrough, USDA / NRCS, District Conservationist, at the Traverse City NRCS office, 231-941-0951 x 101. Growers must let the NRCS office know by **February 19th** if they wish to apply for EQIP funding to construct the high tunnels.

REMINDER - GAP AUDIT WORKSHOP AND MAEAP PHASE I MEETING

Nikki Rothwell and Erin Lizotte, NWMHRS
Dan Busby, MI Groundwater Stewardship Program
Dawn Drake, MACMA

There will be a GAP workshop and MAEAP meeting on **February 22** at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station in Traverse City, Michigan. The MAEAP Phase I meeting will run from 9:30-12 and will be followed by a GAP workshop from 1-4. This workshop will help prepare fruit growers for the USDA GAP Audit in 2010. **There have been significant structural changes to the USDA audit for 2010 so growers who participated and completed workshops and food safety plans in 2009 are encouraged to attend.** The program cost is \$5 and includes lunch. Please register with Jackie Baase at 231-946-1510 before **February 17th**!

MICHIGAN GRAPE AND WINE CONFERENCE

Duke Elsner, Viticulture Educator, MSU-E
Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Education Coordinator, MSU

"Honoring the Past, Preparing for the Future" is the theme of the Michigan Grape and Wine Conference at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. A keynote presentation by authors Lorri Hathaway and Sharon Kegerreis on the "History of the Michigan Wine Industry" will highlight the General Session on Thursday afternoon, February 25.

The conference will commence with concurrent Direct Shipping and New Grower and Investor Workshops starting mid-morning on Wednesday, February 24. New this year is a half-day Viticulture Session on Friday, February 26, featuring the topic of "Red Wine Grape Varieties for Cool Climate Regions." Winemaking, Social Media, Tasting Room Tactics, Sensory Evaluation, and Winemakers' Tasting sessions round out a comprehensive conference program.

Speakers include industry representatives from New York, Missouri, Washington and California, as well as Michigan State University researchers and Extension educators.

Complete program details (revised from earlier postings), lodging information and registration are now available online at www.michiganwines.com, under Industry Resources. Reduced registration rates are available for registrations completed *prior to February 10*. Conference rates for lodging at the Amway are guaranteed only until January 25. Exhibit space in the Trade Show is sold out.

A data sheet for wine for the Winemakers' Tasting with Pinot Noir is posted on the website. Contact Paul Jenkins at 517-432-7751 for more information.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2010 ORGANIC FARM REGISTRIES BEING ACCEPTED

Michigan's "Certified Organic Farm Registry" compiles a list of state organic farms and is provided to all commercial firms licensed in agricultural, right-of-way, or aerial pesticide application. The registry information is provided to these firms so they can identify organic farms and take the additional precautions necessary to prevent pesticide drift onto these sensitive sites. The registry is published annually on March 15 and the deadline for submitting an application for the 2010 registry is **March 1, 2010**.

An application package for the Organic Farm Registry is available on the MDA Web site at www.michigan.gov/mda. The forms can also be obtained from MDA's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909 or by calling 517-241-1169. There are no fees associated with either registry.

FARM SAFETY PROGRAM

Rob Sirrine, Leelanau Co. MSU-E

Leelanau MSU Extension will host a Farm Safety Program with Craig Anderson (Farm Bureau) and Deb Chester (MIFACE) on **Tuesday, March 9** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station from **1-4pm**.

The program title is: **FARM EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SERIES:
Understanding Costs & Benefits of Safety and Emergency Planning**

This three hour seminar will provide content pertinent to local crops and issues. We will apply for 2 pesticide applicator recertification core credits for commercial and private applicators.

The cost is \$10 which includes refreshments. **PLEASE RSVP BY March 2nd**, so that we can prepare accordingly, by calling the Leelanau MSU Extension office at 231-256-9888.

LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC FARM RESEARCH AT ANR WEEK SESSION

Organic growers, agribusiness managers, gardeners, students and others interested in organic agriculture can learn about the topic during the Michigan Organic Food & Farming Reporting Session and Graduate Poster Contest, set for **March 5** as part of Michigan State University's (MSU's) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week here.

This event, which will run from 1 to 5 p.m. at the MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, will feature organic research reports, an organic farmer panel discussion and graduate student poster presentation.

The research reporting sessions will offer topics on organic agriculture production, including fruit, vegetable and field crops, in addition to integrating animals with fruit production and marketing innovations.

Ten presentations will be offered in two concurrent sessions. These sessions will be followed by a panel discussion with several Michigan organic farmers who will share the results of their research and organic production experiences.

Graduate students are invited to submit research posters to compete for cash prizes sponsored by the MSU Environmental Food and Farming Systems program and the Michigan Organic Food and Farming Alliance (MOFFA).

The registration fee is \$15 before Feb. 15 and \$20 after that date. To register, visit www.Michiganorganic.msu.edu or call 517-353-3542.

ANNUAL BENZIE-MANISTEE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

The annual B-M Horticultural Society meeting will take on **Monday, 8 March, 2010** at the Blaine Christian Church on Joyfield Road. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and will cover topics including codling moth control, panel discussion of a three-year control strategy for internal pests, and new ways of using mating disruption that is cost-effective. Speakers include Drs. Nikki Rothwell and Dave Epstein; Peter McGee of the MSU Department of Entomology and Erin Lizotte, NWMRHS, will also be presenting.

Lunch will be provided and will begin at noon. The annual B-M meeting will take place at this time. After lunch, Dr. George Sundin will be on hand to discuss disease control for apple. Growers should attend this session as he will be discussing resistance issues in apple scab and will be providing strategies for scab control in 2010. From 4-6pm, there will be an update on the new Farm Bill Programs currently available. NRCS, FSA, and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program will let us know how to make the best use of Farm Bill opportunities.

Dinner will also be provided and will begin at 6 p.m. The fee for the show is **\$15** and is payable at the door. All additional fees will be covered by a grant from the Farm Bill Education Grant, which was applied for by the B-M Horticultural Society, NRCS, MSU-E, and Michigan Farm Bureau. The show is also sponsored in part by the Michigan State Horticultural Society.

2010 IPM THINK TANK MEETING

Since our last IPM Think Tank in 2008, there has been much research into cover cropping as well as a great deal of interest in orchard floor management. For the 2010 IPM Think Tank, we are fortunate to have Dr. David Granatstein on the program. Dr. Granatstein is the statewide coordinator for the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, Washington, where he has studied the use of compost as a soil amendment, mulches, cover crops for both nutrient improvement and for beneficial insect habitat, the Swiss sandwich technique, and rodent repellent plants. He has also compared the benefits of growing cover crops in the tree row and those grown in the alley. His big question addresses how growers can improve upon the standard of sod alleys and weed spray strips; this method has served the tree fruit industry well, but he is looking at many aspects of improving this system. We will also host Dr. George Bird and other Michigan State University specialists who will share their insights on cover cropping and soil health. The meeting will be held at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station, **April 7, from 9 – 4 p.m.** There is a \$25 registration fee that includes lunch. Please call Jackie Baase at 231-946-1510 to register.

FARM ROUTE TO PROSPERITY SUMMIT

Patty Cantrell, MLUI

Calling all food enthusiasts, farm and food businesses, and economic development interests. The second annual Farm Route to Prosperity Summit, **April 9** at Black Star Farms, needs your insights and expertise. Last year, about 100 inaugural participants set a 10-year goal to increase the resilience and double the value of northwest Michigan's food and farm system. That means more business opportunities for farms, more food opportunities for everyone, and farmland protection for our economy and environment. Join the conversation, which starts at 8:30 a.m. April 9. We'll work together through the day, until Happy Hour at 4 p.m., on specific project ideas and other initiatives for reaching this important goal. For more information, contact Patty Cantrell at the Michigan Land Use Institute, which is working with a broad range of partners to organize the effort: 231-941-6584 or patty@mlui.org. You can also learn more about last year's summit and the regional Food and Farming Network that formed as a result at www.foodandfarmingnetwork.org.

CHANGES TO PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Brian Rowe, Pesticide Section Manager, MDA- Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Beginning **January 1, 2010**, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) will implement changes to the pesticide applicator recertification by seminar program.

Over the summer months MDA has been working with several pesticide applicator associations to discuss and recommend changes to the pesticide applicator recertification program. Two changes have been approved and will be implemented beginning January 1, 2010. These changes do not affect applicators with credentials that expire December 31, 2009.

The first change involves the way credits are awarded for recertification seminars. Currently, MDA grants 1 credit for two hours of lecture style training and 1 credit for 1 hour of hands on training.

Beginning January 1, 2010, MDA will award **1 credit for each hour of training** (regardless of hands on or lecture method). This will greatly simplify the management of credits in training programs that use breakout sessions that are typically 50 minutes to an hour in length.

The second change is related to the number of credits required for an applicator to recertify all or part of their credential. This change does not affect applicators that are renewing this year (credential expiration of December 31, 2009). Beginning with applicators that expire in December of 2010, the number of credits required to renew all or part of a credential are as follows:

Applicator Type Credits Required

Commercial Core 8

Commercial Category (each) 8

Registered Technician Core 8

Registered Technician Category (each) 8

Private Core 16

Standards (fumigation/aerial) (each) 2

MDA recognizes that credits earned before January 1, 2010 by applicators that expire in December of 2010 or 2011 will have to be equalized so they carry the same value as credits earned under the new one credit for one hour system. MDA anticipates this may be as simple as multiplying the credit value by two for credits earned before January 1, 2010.

MDA and associations are also working on a technology solution to replace the use of bubble sheets. MDA hopes to have a new option soon.

If you have any questions about the upcoming changes to the recertification by seminar program, please contact Brian Rowe, Pesticide Section manager at roweb@michigan.gov.

MICHIGAN'S 2009 WATER USE CONSERVATION PLAN

Agricultural operations with the capacity to withdraw over 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) are required to report to the state the water withdrawals and water conservation practices used on their farms. This was mandated by Public Act 148 of 2003, now Part 327 of P.A. 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The MDA is required to combine all reported agricultural water withdrawal information at the township level and report the township totals to the Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

If you installed a new withdrawal, surface or groundwater since your last reporting period, you must register that system with the State. Do not wait to register a new withdrawal with your annual water use report. In addition, as of July 9, 2009, you must consult the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool prior to installation of a new or increased capacity withdrawal. To access the tool directly, go to www.miwwat.org. Private well water used for domestic purposes does **not** need to be reported

For further information, frequently asked questions, required form, and instructions on how to complete the form, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mdamichiganwateruse>. You can also contact Roberta Dow to assist you.

Email: dowr@msu.edu
Phone: 231-922-4858

There is **no fee** for reporting this information and the completed form is due **no later than April 1, 2010**.

SIGN-UP FOR THE CAT ALERT ON THE WEB FOR 2010!

The CAT (Crop Advisory Team) Alerts offer pest and crop management advice for current conditions and are written by MSU faculty and Extension educators. CAT Alerts are available for fruit, vegetables, field crops, landscape, and green house producers and include a variety of topics. To subscribe to any or all of the available CAT Alerts, send the following one line e-mail message to listserv@list.msu.edu: subscribe EDITION (your first and last name). Edition codes are: fruitcat, vegcat, fieldcat, landcat, greenhouse. For example, if your name was Jane Smith and you wanted the *Landscape Alert*, you would type: subscribe landcat (Jane Smith). You will receive a confirmation e-mail asking you to click on an Internet link in order to complete your subscription. If you want to subscribe to more than one, repeat the process for each edition.

Need help with the listserv? Please send an email to buchho11@msu.edu indicating which edition(s) (field crop, fruit, vegetable, landscape, or greenhouse) you'd like to receive and we will sign you up. Do you use RSS feeds? Subscribe via RSS at each *CAT Alert* web site. Look for the orange RSS logo.

ENVIRO-WEATHER INPUT NEEDED

Beth Bishop, the Enviro-weather Coordinator at MSU, is looking for your input on the new Enviro-weather web page. She states that "one comment we heard loud and frequently was that users want the 60 hr forecasts back on the station page (they are currently available only under "Advanced Weather"). We are working to fulfill this request and it should be done in a couple of weeks. I COULD use your help, though. I need to know what forecasts should go with what stations. If you have an

EW weather station you use frequently, please email me at bishopb@msu.edu with a list of the forecasts you think are appropriate." A list of all forecasts can be found here: <http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/commodity.php?commodity=agweather&stn=msu> Click on the "60 hr guidance forecasts" in the lower left.

Beth would also appreciate any comments, questions, or suggestions you might have regarding the "new" Enviro-weather.

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING OFFERED

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program to be offered by MSU Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station on Thursday evenings, beginning March 18th, running through June 4th, 2010. For additional information, please visit www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau (and click on "Master Gardener Program") or call Pam Schmidt at 231-256-9888.

MLUI SAVE THE DATES

April 8, 6:30 pm (location to be determined)

Wes Jackson, founder and president of the Land Institute in Salinas, KS is internationally recognized as a leader in the sustainable agriculture movement. He will speak on preserving biological and cultural information in an age of energy decline.

April 10, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Higher Grounds Coffee Roastery at the Commons in Traverse City
"Coffee with Wes and Kent"

Wes Jackson and Kent Whealey (founder of Seed Savers Exchange) will talk about sustainable agriculture in a casual setting.

Contact Jim Sluyter, jimsluyter@mlui.org or 231-941-6584 for information, or <http://www.localdifference.org/getfarming/> for updates.

NEW HOPS PRODUCTION EXTENSION BULLETIN AVAILABLE: [Click Here](#)

