CALENDER OF EVENTS

2010

6/18-6/25 Barn Restoration Workshop
Port Oneida Rural Historic District
Contact: Kimberly Mann, 231/326-5135 ext. 501

6/24 Gas (Mineral) Leasing Educational Program for Landowners
NMC Maritime Academy Hagerty Center
Traverse City

6/24 Farm Tour Series
Shetler Family Dairy
Kalkaska

6/24 Farm Tour Series
Bardenhagen Farms
Suttons Bay

7/9 IPM Winegrape Update
2-Lads Winery, Old Mission Peninsula

7/11 Farm Tour Series
9 Bean Rows Farm at Black Star
Suttons Bay

7/20 Clarksville Horticulture Experiment Station Field Day

7/24 Leelanau Co. Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection
Suttons Bay
Contact: Leelanau Co. Planning, 256-9812

7/29 GT County Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Must call 941-5555 to schedule an appointment.
Pesticides disposal is free to all residents.

8/2 Farm Tour Series
Ware Farm
Bear Lake

8/6 IPM Winegrape Update
Len Ligon Farm, Old Mission Peninsula

8/12 Fungal ID, Fungal Control & Mode of Action of Fungicides
Montcalm Research Farm
Lakeview, MI

8/19 NWMHRS Annual Open House

9/3 IPM Winegrape Update
L. Mawby Vineyard, Suttons Bay

9/12 Farm Tour Series
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
GAS (MINERAL) LEASING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR LANDOWNERS
Rob Sirrine, CED, Leelanau Co.

Are you being contacted by oil exploration companies to lease your land for natural gas drilling? If so, you need to learn about the practices and pitfalls to avoid so that you not only get appropriately compensated, but perhaps more importantly so you ensure your land and other rights are protected. To help landowners better understand gas (mineral) leasing, contracts, and environmental concerns, MSU Extension is sponsoring a FREE educational program. The event will feature oil and gas experts, lawyers, MSU Extension personnel, and a panel discussion to answer pertinent questions.

Oil, Gas and Mineral Leasing Program
Thursday, June 24th, 2010
Time: 6:00 – 9:00 PM

NMC Maritime Academy Hagerty Center (Just east of the Holiday Inn)
715 E. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686

OIL AND GAS LEASING RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS
(compiled May/2010 by Russell P. Kidd, Roscommon Co MSU Extension P.O. Box 507, Roscommon, MI 48653 and Curtis Talley Jr. MSU Extension 210 East Johnson Street, Hart, MI 49420)

This publication is intended to help private landowners who need assistance when negotiating a mineral lease (primarily oil and gas) on their property. Listed below is a brief listing of legal services that are available for hire as well as some informational type of resources that are available at little or no cost (i.e. through the Internet, etc.)

The first part of this document contains a listing of the names of attorneys and law firms that can provide legal services as it pertains to oil and gas laws. This is an update of a 2003 list, with some additions. The attorneys were contacted and asked if they were currently actively representing landowners in oil and gas matters. This list is merely provided as a starting point for landowners searching for legal counsel relating to oil and gas leasing. Negotiating a mineral lease that truly protects the interests of a landowner involves both legal and technical knowledge of the crude oil and natural gas industry in Michigan. Therefore, in selecting legal counsel, landowners may wish to verify that the potential law firm has experience in working with landowners concerning oil and gas leasing (e.g. ask for references of previous landowner clients that they helped with negotiating an oil & gas lease). Landowners may also wish to ask whether said legal counsel is currently representing or on retainer to any of the oil and gas companies seeking to contract with the landowners in the area.

The second part of this document contains a listing of informational resources available at little or no charge (i.e. through the Internet, MSU Extension, etc.) that landowners may wish to consult to see if any of these sources can provide answers to their questions about oil and gas leasing.
It's All in the Lease Language …

MSU Extension advises landowners that a lease to extract minerals from underneath your land is a legally binding document. Be sure you know what the lease language really means! When negotiating a lease, a landowner should be sure to focus on more items (e.g. damage clauses, etc.) than just the monetary rewards (i.e. royalty and per acre lease payments) that they will receive. Therefore, be sure you completely understand everything contained in the lease (and its consequences) before signing it. If in doubt, a landowner may wish to seek legal counsel or do further research on their own. Hopefully, the information provided here can help landowners to “wade through” the often confusing and arduous process of leasing.

- **These names are being provided as a public service. MSU Extension makes no claims as to the completeness of this listing nor is MSU Extension endorsing any of the individuals or law firms listed below. Furthermore, any legal firm that can document that their organization provides such legal services to landowners can ask to be added to this list (see mailing address above).**

**Legal Services**

- **Mr. Norman D. Beauchamp**
  - Kelly, Whipple, Zick, Keyes, P.C.
  - 627 Fort Street
  - Port Huron, MI 48060
  - 810-987-4111

- **Doug Springstead**
  - Springstead Law Offices, PC
  - 214 Washington St.
  - Hart, MI 49420
  - 231-873-4022

- **Mr. David L. Leonardson**
  - 114 E. Main Street
  - Suite B, P.O. Box 1705
  - Gaylord, MI 49735
  - 989-732-7724

- **Susan Hlywa Topp, P.L.C.**
  - 213 E. Main Street
  - Gaylord, MI 49735
  - 989-731-4014

- **Jeffrey Jocks**
  - Olson & Bzdok, P.C.
  - 420 E. Front Street
  - Traverse City, MI 49686
  - 231-946-0044

- **Mr. Peter J. Zirnhelt, P.C.**
  - 400 E. 8th Street
  - Traverse City, MI 49684
  - 231-946-8630

- **Joe Quandt**
  - Zimmerman, Kuhn, Darling, Boyd, Quandt & Phelps PLC
  - 412 S. Union Street
  - P. O. Box 987
  - Traverse City, MI 49685
  - 231-947-7900

- **Mark Pehrson PC**
  - 409 West Ludington Ave.
  - Ludington, MI
  - 231-843-3709

- **Law Offices of Lawrence M. Elkus, Professional Corporation**
  - 30833 Northwestern Highway, Ste 204
  - Farmington Hills, MI 48334
  - 248-539-3232
  - Fax: 248-53-9191
Informational Resources

On the Internet…

Pennsylvania State Natural Gas
www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu

Oil and Gas Leases
www.oil-gas-leases.com

National Association of Royalty Owners
http://www.naro-us.org/

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (industry oriented)
www.rmmlf.org

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Gas, Oil and Minerals
http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3311_4111---,00.html

Michigan Oil and Gas Association (O&G industry news)
http://www.michiganoilandgasassociation.org/

MSU Extension

Your local Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) office also has access to several documents pertaining to oil and gas leasing (ask for “Grant of Right of Way Information for Pipelines, Power Lines, Etc.”, “Landowner Information for Oil/Gas/Mineral Leases,” Bulletin E2124, Seismic Testing on Your Property.

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

IEZZONI RECOGNIZED

Dr. Amy Iezzoni has been selected as this year’s Industry Person of the Year. Amy has spent her entire career at Michigan State University working on the only Tart Cherry Breeding Program in the country. She is recognized nationally and internationally for her cherry work. Congratulations to Amy!!

CLARKSVILLE HORTICULTURE EXPERIMENT STATION FIELD DAY

A free field day at the CHES will be held Tuesday, July 20 from 2 – 6 p.m. to view research and MSU Extension projects. It will be followed by a free meal courtesy of chemical companies. Dr. Amy Iezzoni will be giving an overview of her tart cherry projects and Dr. Greg Lang’s crew will present sweet cherry systems. Dr. Bernie Zandstra will cover fruit herbicide plots while Dr. Jim Flore and Dr. Randy Beaudry’s topic is Honeycrisp…programs, harvest and storage.

Please R.S.V.P. to Donna at stewar28@msu.edu or 1-800-767-1345 by July 16.

MSU EXTENSION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are asking for your help with the MSU Extension reorganization process as the organization felt it was necessary to refocus and re-align priorities that would become our guidelines for future programming. Five years ago some of you have been involved in similar process when we asked your input in "Issue Identification Process", but this time around we are going to be using technology to help us gather stakeholder suggestions in our needs assessment process. Michigan State University Extension has set up a social media site named ADVANCE MICHIGAN (http://advancemichigan.msu.edu/Home) where you can address local and statewide needs.

This is your chance to voice your opinions and influence research and extension programs that are important to you and the fruit industry and local communities. We would greatly appreciate your help in our efforts to provide superior service by addressing your needs.
The fruit team at MSU Extension has put together some specific topics that we would like your feedback. If you have a spare moment in the next couple of weeks, please visit www.advancemichigan.msu.edu to cast your opinions on issues that will impact our programming in the next five years. We also encourage you to add your own ideas. Below are some tips for using the site and how to find the fruit related topics. The site will be active until June 30, 2010.

Tips for Using the Advance Michigan site

Go to www.advancemichigan.msu.edu. You must have Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 3 or higher installed on your computer to use the site. The Google Chrome and Safari browsers will also work.

You need to create a user profile before you can vote or post topics. When you get to the advance Michigan site, look at the navigation bar across the top. "Home" should be highlighted. Scroll across to "My Profile" and click on it. Choose "View My Profile" Enter your email address and a password that you will create for the site. At the bottom of the login it will say "Not a participant yet? Forgot your password?" Click on the login box. It will take you to a new screen where you will register.

After you register, go to the discussion tab along the top of the screen. Under topics in the box at the top left of the screen pick "Agriculture and Agribusiness". This will bring up related discussions: in Agriculture and Agribusiness on the right side of the screen.

We have posted six fruit related discussions for you to comment on ("add your ideas") and vote yes or no. Each topic starts out with 100 points each--every ‘agree’ adds one point, every ‘disagree’ subtracts one point. In the search box you can type the name of each topic to find it quickly:

1. Recognizing the importance of regular farm visits
2. Local in-season and regional winter meetings for growers
3. Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO- Good Extension Effort or Not?
4. Support for Michigan’s wine grape industry
5. Speed up sharing of information
6. Importance of supporting research and extension for specialty crops.

We are hoping to have a strong response to these topics and hope that you will visit the site and make your very important voice heard. The voting ends on June 30th, so please visit soon. You can also post your own discussions for others to add ideas to by clicking on the discussion tab at the top and then clicking on "Add a Discussion". You will need to select a topic area (we used agriculture and agribusiness) and if you add a few keywords such as fruit or agriculture it will make the topic easier for others to find.

CRP Land: HOPE FOR BEGINNING & MINORITY FARMERS

Michigan landowners who are willing to sell or lease Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning and minority farmers can get Federal cash with the Transition Incentives Program (TIP).

Signup for the new program, which began May 17, 2010, at county Farm Service Agency offices, works this way: Contract holders of land that has been idled under CRP can get two extra years of CRP payments from the USDA if they agree to sell or lease the acreage under a long-term contract to a beginning or minority farmer, provided the transition is not to a family member.

To be eligible, TIP requires that the retired or retiring farmer or rancher:
• Have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that is in the last year of the contract.
• Agree to allow the beginning or minority farmer make conservation and land improvements.
• Agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to long-term lease (a minimum of 5 years) the land under CRP contract to a beginning or minority farmer or rancher by **October 1** of the year the CRP contract expires.

The program was created by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill in a bid to help beginning and minority farmers get over one of the biggest hurdles they face – finding affordable land. Michigan has approximately 30,000 acres expiring from CRP over the next two years.

To learn more about the program, producers interested in applying and participating in TIP should visit their USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**MICHIGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) is a cooperative effort designed to help individuals reduce the risks of groundwater contamination associated with pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer use. The NWSP is voluntary, locally driven, and designed to address the concerns of individuals by maintaining a focus on the financial and technical constraints which drive real-world decisions. The program is funded through fees that are assessed on sales of pesticides and nitrogen fertilizers.

For more information, contact Dr. Roberta Dow, Northern District Water Quality Educator at 231-922-4858 or dowr@msu.edu. You can also visit the Michigan Water Stewardship Program website at [www.msue.msu.edu/grandtraverse](http://www.msue.msu.edu/grandtraverse). Once at the web site, click on Michigan Water Stewardship Program in the left hand column.

**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.