

**NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter - January 2012**  
(Go to the HTML version for more active Links)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2012**

- 1/10            Managing Acidity in the Winery**  
Northern Grapes Webinar Series
- 1/14            Michigan Family Farms Conference**  
Lakeview High School  
Battle Creek, MI
- 1/24-25        NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**  
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI
- 1/26            Michigan Ag Commodities Educational Expo**  
Lansing Center, Lansing, MI
- 1/28            Small Farm Conference**  
Graying High School  
[www.smallfarmconference.com](http://www.smallfarmconference.com)
- 2/14            Nuts & Bolts of Canopy Management**  
Northern Grapes Webinar Series
- 2/17            Crop Insurance Program Listening Session for  
Pilot Program for Sweet Cherries**  
NWMHRC
- 2/20-21        Integrated Pest Management Academy**  
The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, MSU campus
- 4/1             2011 Agricultural Large Volume Water Use Reports Due**

**2012 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW**

**Costs:**            **Registration Fee: \$30/person for both days**  
**Fruit Industry Luncheon, Jan. 24: \$15**  
**CMI Luncheon, January 25: Free to cherry growers; pre-register with CMI**

**Sponsors:**    **Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Council**  
**Cherry Marketing Institute**  
**Michigan State Horticultural Society**  
**Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc.**  
**Michigan State University Extension**  
**MSU AgBioResearch**

**Educational sessions coordinated by:**

**Dr. Nikki Rothwell,**  
*Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station Coordinator & Educator, MSUE*

**Erin Lizotte**  
*IPM & Pesticide Educator, MSUE*

**Dr. Duke Elsner**  
*Small Fruit Educator, MSUE*

**Tuesday, January 24**

**8:00 Registration Desk Opens**

**8:00 - 10:30** *Coffee and Rolls*

**8:15 - 9:00 NWMHR Foundation Annual Meeting** (open to the public)

**Moderator: Dr. Nikki Rothwell**

**9:00 - 9:10 Welcome and Overview**  
*Paul Hubbell, Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council*

**9:10 - 9:30 Using Market Maker to Expand Your Sales**  
*Joanne Davidhizar, MSU Extension*

**9:30 - 10:30 Progress in Cherry Production in NY**  
*Steve Hoying, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University*

**10:30 - 11:00 VENDOR BREAK**

**11:00 - 12:00 Do High Density Apple Systems Really Make Sense?**  
*Steve Hoying, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University*

**12:00 - 1:30 FRUIT INDUSTRY LUNCHEON**

**1:30 - 2:00 VENDOR BREAK**

**Moderator: Erin Lizotte**

**2:00 - 2:30 New SDHI Fungicides: Outlook for Cherry Disease Control in 2012**  
*Dr. George Sundin, Department of Plant Pathology, MSU*

**2:30 - 2:45 Update on Brown Rot SI Fungicide Sensitivity Screening**  
*Kim Lesniak, Department of Plant Pathology, MSU*

**2:45 - 3:15 Tell Us What You Want: Quantifying Your Priorities for New Tart Cherry Cultivars**  
*Dr. Amy Iezzoni, Department of Horticulture, MSU*

- 3:15 - 3:45     **Test Drive a High Performance Cherry Orchard System**  
*Dr. Greg Lang, Department of Horticulture, MSU*
- 3:45 - 4:45     **Herbicide Basics and Weed Management in Orchard Systems**  
*Dr. Bernie Zandstra, Department of Horticulture, MSU*
- 4:45 - 5:00     **Oblique-banded Leafroller Management in Cherry**  
*Erin Lizotte, NWMHRS, MSUE*
- 5:00             **Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits**
- 5:15             **WINE TASTING AND HORS D'OUERVE SOCIAL HOUR**

**Tuesday, January 24**

**Concurrent Grape & Wine Session- Michigan A & B**

**Moderator:**    **Dr. Duke Elsner**

- 8:50 - 9:00     **Welcome and Overview**  
*Dennis Hoxsie, Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council*
- 9:00 - 9:30     **Alternative Vineyard Floor Management:  
Potential Lessons From Tree Fruit Systems**  
*Matt Grieshop, Dept. of Entomology, MSU*
- 9:30 - 10:00    **Cover Crops to Reduce Vine Vigor and Improve Fruit Quality**  
*Letizia Tozzini, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU*
- 10:00 - 10:30   **Testing Ground Covers to Support Beneficial Insects:  
Where Are We and Where Can We Go in Vineyard Systems?**  
*Rufus Isaacs and Paul Jenkins, Dept. of Entomology, MSU*
- 10:30 - 11:00   **VENDOR BREAK**
- 11:00 - 12:00   **Bankable Wineries: Good Relationships Between Wineries and Lenders**  
*Susan Cocciarelli, Convener, Northwest Michigan  
Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Sector Alliance,  
NW MI Council of Governments, Northwestern Michigan College  
MSU Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems*
- 12:00 - 1:30    **FRUIT INDUSTRY LUNCHEON**
- 1:30 - 2:00     **VENDOR BREAK**
- Moderator:**    **Dr. Duke Elsner**
- 1:30 - 1:50     **Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. Annual Business Meeting**  
*Jay Briggs, President*

- 2:50 - 3:20     **VENDOR BREAK**
- 1:50 - 2:50     **Herbicide Basics and Weed Management in Vineyards**  
*Dr. Bernie Zandstra, Department of Horticulture, MSU*
- 2:50 - 3:20     **Vendor Break**
- 3:20 - 3:40     **New Fungicides for Grape Disease Management**  
*Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant Pathology, MSU*
- 3:40 - 4:10     **Pruning – The Hows and Whys of this Most Important Vineyard Task**  
*Tom Zabadal, SW Mi Research & Extension Center*
- 4:10 - 4:30     **Grape Viral Disease Update**  
*Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant Pathology, MSU*
- 4:30 - 5:00     **Recap of 2011 NWMHRS Vineyard Projects and Regional Extension Activities**  
*Duke Elsner, Small Fruit Educator, MSUE*
- 5:15             **Beverages & Hors D'Oeuvre Social Hour**

**Wednesday, January 25**

8:00             *Coffee and Rolls*

**Moderator: Dr. Nikki Rothwell**

- 9:00 - 9:30     **The National Cherry Festival Report to Growers**  
*Susan Wilcox Olson, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, National Cherry Festival*
- 9:30 - 10:00   **Exporting Opportunities for the Michigan Cherry Industry**  
*Jamie Zmitko-Somers, International Marketing Manager, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- 10:00 - 10:30   **VENDOR BREAK**
- 10:30 - 11:30   **The Journey of a Super Fruit: CMI Marketing Program 2007-2012**  
*Cathy Calhoun and Michael Wehman  
 President, North America and Senior Vice President, Weber Shandwick*
- 11:30 - 12:00   **CMI Annual Report to the Industry**  
*Phil Korson, President, Cherry Marketing Institute*
- 12:00 - 2:00     **CHERRY MARKETING INSTITUTE LUNCHEON**
- 2:00 - 2:30     **VENDOR BREAK**

**Moderator: Erin Lizotte, MSUE Educator**

- 2:30 - 3:10     **Orchard Financial Modeling**  
*Barb Dartt, Senior Business Consultant, Lookout Ridge Consulting*
- 3:10 - 3:30     **The Use of Wildflower Plantings to Conserve Beneficial Insects in Tree Fruit**  
*Brett Blaauw, Department of Entomology, MSU*
- 3:30 - 4:00     **An Introduction to the Tart Cherry IPM Self-assessment Guide**  
*Jean Haley, Haley Consulting Services, LLC*
- 4:00 - 4:30     **Seven Years of RAMP Results & An Update On Spotted Wing Drosophila**  
*Dr. Mark Whalon, Department of Entomology, MSU*
- 4:30 - 5:00     **The Benefits of Trunk Mounding in Honeycrisp Production**  
*Dr. Ron Perry, Department of Horticulture, MSU*
- 5:00             **Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits**

*The Orchard and Vineyard Show program is co-sponsored by the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council, Parallel 45 Vines and Wines, Michigan State Horticultural Society, Michigan State University Extension, Cherry Marketing Institute, and MSU AgBioResearch.*

For more information, please contact the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center at (213) 946-1510 or [nwmihort@msu.edu](mailto:nwmihort@msu.edu).

## **SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA FOUND IN SIX EAST MICHIGAN COUNTIES THIS FALL**

**Spotted wing Drosophila are being discovered at many fruit farms in eastern Michigan. Fruit growers need to learn all they can about this new pest this winter and be on the lookout next year.**

Published November 18, 2011, MSU-E News for Agriculture – Fruit

**Bob Tritten and Rufus Isaacs, Michigan State University Extension and Department of Entomology**

Monitoring for spotted wing Drosophila (SWD) in fruit crops in east Michigan throughout the fall has detected this pest in six additional counties in the last two months. It was detected in one additional county earlier in September and in another east Michigan county last fall.

As of yesterday (November 17), USDA-APHIS confirmed that insects caught in the last few weeks in traps in Lapeer, Macomb and Wayne counties were indeed SWD. Two weeks ago they confirmed SWD in Livingston County, the week before that in Oakland County, and the week before that in Monroe County. Most of these trap catches were at fruit farms.

On September 20, the USDA-APHIS confirmed a SWD catch from a fall red raspberry field in Washtenaw County (see "Spotted wing Drosophila fly activity is increasing – be prepared in fall raspberries"). The September 2010 SWD catch was in Genesee County.

The total now stands at eight counties in east Michigan where we have caught SWD. Across the state, there is now a total of 22 counties where SWD has been detected.

Even though temperatures have dropped below freezing a few times over the last several weeks, we continue to catch SWD in traps. Trap catch numbers have dropped off, however. Furthermore, in continued trapping for this insect throughout the fall, SWD has been found at many new fruit farms as well as other sites. So, not only have SWD been found in these new counties, but it has also been found in great abundance at many other farms within these eight counties.

Fruit growers need to learn all they can about this new pest this winter at meetings and conferences. This topic will be covered in several educational sessions at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo coming up December 6-8 in Grand Rapids, Mich. For more information on this conference, visit the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo website. SWD identification and management will also be covered at several meetings being held across the state this winter and next spring and summer.

A great deal of other information and related resources on SWD are available at the MSU spotted wing Drosophila website. We are also seeking input to learn more about research and extension priorities for this pest, and a short survey is available online at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/7sfbr26>. See the article "Give us your priorities for spotted wing Drosophila research and education" for more information on this survey.

*Dr. Isaacs' work is funded in part by MSU's AgBioResearch.*

This article was published on MSU Extension News for Agriculture. For more information from MSU Extension, visit <http://news.msue.msu.edu>.

## **REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MICHIGAN FAMILY FARMS CONFERENCE**

Register now for the ninth annual Michigan Family Farms Conference on **Saturday, January 14, 2012** at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, MI. This year's theme is "Building Your Success with Local Products, Partnerships and Planning", and the day-long conference is packed with 18 great educational sessions to connect family farmers with resources to build their farm's successful future. Register online now at [www.mifffs.org/mffc](http://www.mifffs.org/mffc).

The Michigan Family Farms Conference is a forum for beginning, small-scale and culturally diverse farmers to network, learn and build sustainable family farms. It provides a unique opportunity to connect with other growers and great resources and learn about topics important to family farms and learn about topics like pesticide certification, social media marketing, the Cottage Food Law, hops production, careers in agricultural and natural resources, hoop houses, free-range poultry, cheese-making and more. See a full list of sessions, speakers and descriptions at [www.mifffs.org/mffc/sessions.asp](http://www.mifffs.org/mffc/sessions.asp).

Dan Carmody, President of the Eastern Market Corporation, is this year's keynote speaker. Eastern Market has been feeding Detroit since 1891 and has grown and evolved with the times, from the boom of the automotive industry to today's recession. It is still offering fresh produce to Michigan families each Saturday.

Because this is the Michigan Family Farms Conference, we also have a youth track for young farmers which will include educational topics like nutrition, careers in agriculture and natural

resources, and the dollars and cents of farming. This track also includes a field trip in the afternoon to Binder Park Zoo.

Early-bird registration is open online and is only \$35 per person, \$30 for MIFFS members and \$25 for youth before December 16. Visit [www.miffs.org/mffc](http://www.miffs.org/mffc) or contact MIFFS at (517) 432-0712 or [miffs@msu.edu](mailto:miffs@msu.edu) for more information or to register, or see the attached brochure. The registration deadline is January 10, 2012. Some scholarships are available.

Partners and sponsors so far include: Michigan Food & Farming Systems (MIFFS), the Farm Research Cooperative, USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), W. K. Kellogg Foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Michigan State University (MSU), MSU Extension, the Potawatomi Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, the C.S. Mott Chair for Sustainable Agriculture, the MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Morgan Composting, and the Calhoun Conservation District.

## **MICHIGAN AG COMMODITIES EDUCATIONAL EXPO**

Whether you're talking about the weather or government regulations, agriculture's changing climate continues to challenge Michigan farmers. That's why Michigan State University (MSU) Extension is bringing farmers and agriculture professionals with interests in various, major agricultural commodities together to learn more about the changes on the horizon. The *Michigan Ag Commodities Educational Expo* will take place on **Jan. 26, 2012**, at the Lansing Center in Lansing.

"We are looking forward to having knowledgeable speakers presenting to such a diverse agriculture audience," said Dale Rozeboom, MSU professor and MSU Extension specialist. "So often we have great speakers at our individual winter commodity meetings. This expo allows people from all ag sectors to come together in one setting, hear the very best speakers and get the latest information on a variety of important topics."

At the expo, MSU economists and MSU Extension specialists Jim Hilker and Chris Wolf will be discussing market outlook for grains, meat, milk, hay and eggs. Hilker and Wolf, who also has MSU AgBioResearch funding, have previously been speakers at MSU agricultural economics events. The two professors will be explaining the key factors affecting the future of agriculture. Kurt Thelen, MSU professor and MSU AgBioResearch scientist, will lead a producer panel in a discussion of lessons learned from the 2011 planting season. Thelen has conducted research at MSU on the quality of various bioenergy resources and has published articles explaining how biofuels are safer for our environment than traditional fuel sources.

Sally Shaver, a former employee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who worked at the agency for more than 30 years, will talk about the impact new air regulations may have on food prices and farm incomes. Shaver has spoken on numerous occasions regarding new EPA policies.

Representatives of Sen. Debbie Stabenow will be discussing the new federal farm bill, which provides funding to farmers.

Curtis Talley, MSU Extension educator, will draw from real-world experiences to explain all of the negotiations and calculations that go into oil and gas leasing.

“We hope to provide those who attend with critical information to help prepare for years to come,” said Rozeboom. “It can be easy to focus on immediate production practices, but with the expo, we want to have a venue where Michigan agriculture gets a view from the mountaintop and together evaluates broad perspectives: economic, governmental, environmental, nutritional and social strategies for the future. If we stay aware of what is coming, then we will be able to make smoother transitions in our business plans.”

The presentations will be beneficial for agriculture decision makers including owners of Michigan farms, business consultants for farms and farm executives. These agriculture professionals will gain insight on the future of the agriculture industry, including business management, reducing carbon footprint and more.

The Michigan Ag Commodity Educational Expo takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The registration fee is **\$75, if paid by Jan. 1**. After that, the fee is \$90. You can register electronically by visiting <http://bit.ly/MACEE>, or you can register by contacting Megghan Honke at [honkemeg@msu.edu](mailto:honkemeg@msu.edu) or 517-353-3175, ext. 229. See flyer for more details.

## **Interested in Sustainable Pest Management?**

*Michigan State University Extension is pleased to announce the first*  
**Integrated Pest Management Academy**

The Academy will focus on introducing the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM) and prepare participants to implement IPM on the farm or in the garden. The Academy is designed to assist newcomers to pest management but can be a valuable review for growers, nurserymen, gardeners, or landscapers looking to brush up their IPM skills or bring new farm workers up to speed. To kick things off, Dr. Barry Jacobsen from the University of Montana will deliver the keynote speech on the philosophy and history of integrated pest management (IPM). Dr. Jacobsen is a world renowned IPM scholar and sits on the board of directors for the IPM Institute of North America. Additional topics covered on the first day will prepare participants to adopt the latest integrated pest management practices through introductory discussions covering entomology, scouting, plant pathology and more. On the second day of the program, participants will have the opportunity to opt into two concurrent sessions that address pest and disease issues and identify IPM resources in the following cropping systems:

- Blueberries
- Field crops - corn and soybeans
- Grapes
- Hops
- Pome fruit
- Small grains and forages - wheat, alfalfa, and mixed hay
- Stone fruit
- Strawberries and raspberries
- Vegetables - cucurbits, cole crops, onions, celery, and carrots
- Vegetables - peas, beans, sweet corn, asparagus, tomatoes, and peppers
- Woody ornamentals - conifers, and Christmas trees
- Woody ornamentals - deciduous trees and shrubs

The Academy will be held **February 20-21, 2012** at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, MI. Registration for this information-packed, two-day program is only \$225 when you **register between January 3 and February 13**. Registration includes a notebook with



handouts, breakfast, lunch, parking and Wi-Fi connection both days. Certified crop advisor credits (9) and pesticide recertification credits (16) will be available.

Online registration will open on **January 3**, space is limited. Visit the IPM Academy website at [www.ipm.msu.edu/ipm-academy.htm](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/ipm-academy.htm) to access the registration page and learn more about the program or download the attached agenda. To register by mail, download the brochure and registration form. Preregistration is required, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. For more information, contact Erin Lizotte at [taylo548@msu.edu](mailto:taylo548@msu.edu) or call 231-944-6504.

## NEW HOPS WEBSITE

Interest in local hop production by farmers, brewers and backyard enthusiasts throughout Michigan has greatly increased due to recent hop shortages, growing appeal with specialty beers and the desire for organic and locally sourced agricultural products. Serving as the statewide leader for Michigan hops production, **Dr. Rob Sirrine**, Community Food Systems Educator for MSU Extension, was getting a lot of phone calls and wanted to create a website to answer grower questions.

**Dr. Sirrine** worked with **Michigan State University** specialists, to develop a [Small scale hop production in the Great Lakes Region website](http://www.hops.msu.edu) that just launched earlier this week at [www.hops.msu.edu](http://www.hops.msu.edu).

The production of hops in Michigan is generating a lot of excitement. **Within the first 36 hours of going live, 279 people have visited the hops website!**

We feel this is a great and unique resource for Michigan hop producers and enthusiasts. Feel free to pass this new hops website information onto others so that we can spread the word. If you have suggestions of more information you'd like to see posted on this website, or any specific questions, please contact Rob Sirrine at [sirrine@msu.edu](mailto:sirrine@msu.edu).

## Frost Alarm Available Now on Enviro-weather

### Early Bird Special!

***Subscribe to Frost Alarm by Feb 15, 2012 for just \$40.00***

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Get notified of potentially freezing conditions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you'd like to receive advanced warning of potential frost-freezes, Enviro-weather's new *Frost Alarm* may be just what you are looking for. This new, premium service is available by subscription. For \$50 per year, you can monitor weather at one or more Enviro-weather stations and choose the exact weather conditions you wish to be notified for. If the selected station(s) records weather data meeting specified conditions, an alarm is generated and you are notified by text message, and/or email. For each station chosen, users can select a combination of temperature, dew point, wind speed and temperature drop.

Users can combine as many weather conditions (temperature, temperature drop, wind speed, and dew point) as they wish for an alarm. For example, users can choose to be notified if the temperature is less than 35F AND the dew point is less than 32F. In that case, an alarm would be

generated if the temperature was 34F and the dew point was 29F. But it would not be generated if the temperature was 34F and the dew point was 33F.

Users can also create multiple “situations” (unique combination of conditions) for a station. Each “situation” will generate a separate alarm when conditions are met. Users can choose to monitor conditions at as many stations as they wish.

The frost alarm service is available now. If you sign up before **February 15, 2012**, the price is only \$40. To sign up, go to <http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/frostalarm.php> and click on “\$40”. Then select “Enviroweather Frost alarm” in the upper right of the next page.

For more information, go to Please contact me, Beth Bishop, at [eweather@msu.edu](mailto:eweather@msu.edu), [bishopb@msu.edu](mailto:bishopb@msu.edu) or (517) 432-6520 with your questions, comments and suggestions.

## **PURCHASE OF MSU EXTENSION BULLETINS**

Due to reduced Extension budgets, the Leelanau County office will no longer be able to provide pesticide applicator manuals, fruit spray calendars, vegetable spray guides, or other agricultural/horticultural bulletins once they sell everything they currently have on hand. You will need to order directly from [www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu](http://www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu) and use your credit card and have them shipped to your home. Other Extension offices are also experiencing the same reduced budgets, so you may want to call their office first for availability of the bulletin you wish to purchase.

## **FARM LAND LEASING WEB PAGE ESTABLISHED**

**Farm land leasing information for both landowners and farm operators is now on the web.**  
Published December 12, 2011, MSU-E News for Agriculture  
**Dennis Stein, Michigan State University Extension**

One of the very hottest topics around the farm is where to get some help in putting together a win-win farm land leasing arrangement. It takes some real time and effort to be successful in putting in place a land rental/lease agreement that provides protection for the landowner and the flexibility that is needed by the farm operator. A new web page devoted to just this topic has been established at <http://aglease101.org> by the North Central Extension Farm Management Committee.

One of the most basic and important points to consider is getting the agreement in writing in terms that both the landowner and the renter can understand. Today, individuals have more resources available for consideration like those provided at [aglease101](http://aglease101.org) or web pages like <http://www.msu.edu/user/steind/> that contain additional land rental information and resources along with a variety of worksheets and budgets. After you find a basic lease format the challenge is to customize the terms and make sure that the needs of both the renter and landowners are covered by the terms, says Dennis Stein, Michigan State University Extension, Farm Business Management Educator. In times like we have today it has become even more important that landowners and farm operators develop and maintain positive working relations. Farm operators need to maintain land base for their operations that include both owned and rented lands and any major change in that base can have major impacts on their farming profitability. In today's volatile

market situation, farm operators must be diligent in putting together a farm risk management plan that includes maintaining positive land rental relations and agreements.

As we move into the winter months, many farm land owners will review their situation as will farm operators as final plans are put into place for the 2012 crop production season. If you have questions or need additional assistance you have resource people like Dennis Stein at [steind@anr.msu.edu](mailto:steind@anr.msu.edu) available to assist you.

This article was published on MSU Extension News for Agriculture. For more information from MSU Extension, visit <http://news.msue.msu.edu>.

## **ANNOUNCING...**

**The Northern Grapes Webinar Series**  
***Presented live the 2nd Tuesday of each month***  
**12:00 Noon Eastern (11:00 AM Central)**  
**7:00 PM Eastern (6:00 PM Central)**

*Presentations will be recorded and archived for later review.*

This series of monthly, one-hour webinars will cover special topics on growing, producing, and marketing wines made from cold-hardy Northern winegrape cultivars. Webinars will feature speakers from the Northeast and Midwest sharing their expertise and recent research on topics essential to cold-climate growers, winemakers, and winery owners.

The webinar format will allow you to view the program over the internet, ask questions, and interact with the speakers from the privacy of your home desktop (Some bandwidth requirements apply).

The series will begin with:

**Managing Acidity in the Winery**  
**January 10, 2012**  
**12:00 Noon Eastern (11:00 AM Central)**  
**7:00 PM Eastern (6:00 PM Central)**

Cold-hardy cultivars such as Frontenac, St. Croix, La Crescent and Marquette are known for retaining acidity at ripeness, and managing it in the winery can present challenges for winemakers. **Dr. Murli Dharmadhikari**, Enologist and Director of the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute at Iowa State University, and **Dr. Anna Katharine Mansfield**, assistant professor of enology at Cornell University, will discuss chemical and biological methods for reducing acidity in wines made from Northern cultivars. **Dr Tim Martinson**, director of the *Northern Grapes Project*, will provide an orientation to the webinar series, and a brief overview of the USDA-funded Northern Grapes Project.

**To Register: Registration is free, but required.** To attend, please fill out the online registration form posted at: [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_5pEmyXKrP6YODn6](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5pEmyXKrP6YODn6)  
One week before the webinar, those who register will be sent the web address (URL) for the Adobe Connect session. **PLEASE NOTE: Only those who have completed the online registration form will receive connection details to participate in the webinar.**

**Next Webinar: February 14, 2012.** Nuts and Bolts of Canopy Management, with Michael White (Iowa State) and Tim Martinson (Cornell).

The Northern Grapes Project is funded by the USDA's Specialty Crops Research Initiative Program of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, Project #2011-51181-30850

## **Michigan Cherry Actual Revenue History (ARH) Crop Insurance Program**

### **Listening Session for Evaluation of the Pilot Program**

**Friday, February 17, 2012**

**9:00-11:30 pm**

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has contracted with Agralytica of Alexandria, Virginia to evaluate the pilot insurance program for sweet cherries. The program is currently available in the counties of Grand Traverse and Leelanau. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the pilot program should be converted into a permanent program and expanded to other areas, modified and continued as a pilot, or terminated.

Agralytica staff will be holding a listening session for sweet cherry growers on **Friday, February 17** at **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center** to get feedback on how the pilot program has worked in recent years and how it can be improved. Additional meetings will be held with insurance company staff, agents, adjusters, and other interested parties.

We urgently seek growers' views on issues that have arisen over the three years of implementation of the Cherry Actual Revenue History (ARH) in Michigan. Has the program worked to help you handle the risks of growing sweet cherries? If not, what needs to be changed? Grower input is vital as we review the results of this pilot program and make recommendations for its future.

Details on the grower listening session are as follows:

Sweet cherry grower listening session  
Friday, February 17  
9:00-11:30 am  
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center  
6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684

If anyone desires an individual meeting, Agralytica staff will be available from 11:30-12:30 am in the Conference Room. To arrange a time, contact Nick Young by cell at 703-981-6002 or by email: [nyoung@agralytica.com](mailto:nyoung@agralytica.com). Alternatively, any grower can submit phone or e-mailed comments to Nick Young.

## **2011 LARGE VOLUME WATER USE PAPER REPORTING FORMS AVAILABLE**

**All agricultural water uses (irrigation, processing, cooling or livestock) watering from single withdrawals or combined capacity withdrawals of 70 gallon per minute require reporting to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

Published December 14, 2011, MSU-E News for Agriculture

Lyndon Kelly, Michigan State University Extension

The 2011 agricultural large volume water use reports are due to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) by April 1, 2012. MDA has been hard at work developing an on-line report form but has decided to use a paper system for 2011 reports. A group of irrigators along with state agency representatives have tried a prototype of the on-line reporting system this fall and had many good things to say about its use in Michigan water use reporting in the future. The system should promote more accuracy and help eliminate duplicate reporting along with less net cost to the state.

Large volume water users are those with the **capacity** to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute). The combined capacity of more than one well at a site which is 100,000 gallons or greater capacity per day (70 gallons per minute), also meets the volume water use definition. Large volume water use reporting required for all agricultural water uses (irrigation, cooling, animal, watering, etc.) from both surface and ground water withdrawals. All non-agriculture related water use reports are sent to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Generic forms will be sent from MDARD in December. Keeping a copy of each year's report for your files is very important and reduces reporting errors.

Large volume water users need to provide the latitude/longitude for the well location; surface water withdrawals are not required but very helpful to the process. Large volume water users need to make sure latitude/longitudes are correct for their pumping site. Inaccurate coordinates have resulted in many situations of duplication with in the reporting system. As MDARD works to computerize the large volume water user reporting system the duplications become obvious and detrimental to the system accuracy. Use of the groundwater mapping website <http://gwmap.rsgis.msu.edu> or <http://www.miwwat.org/> can help water users verify and correct latitude/longitude coordinate issues.

Estimating water use can be accomplished by several methods:

- **water application multiplied by # of applications**, plus estimate of additional water use
- **pump capacity multiplied by run time:** or fuel/power use per hour
- **flow meter:** meters actual flow, note maintenance and calibration concerns
- **industry average numbers** (Midwest Plan Service or ASAE) with appropriate adjustments (not appropriate for high variable water uses such as irrigation)

MDARD will mail a form to their current list of large volume water users by mid-December and should post electronic versions of the form at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdard> use the water use reporting button on the right to obtain the reporting packet.

For information on estimating water use for irrigation/livestock, forms, or other large volume water use requirement can be found at: <http://www.msue.msu.edu/stjoseph> follow the irrigation button on the left hand side of the screen.

This article was published on MSU Extension News for Agriculture. For more information from MSU Extension, visit <http://news.msue.msu.edu>.

## **NEW MICHIGAN'S SAFE FOOD RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SMALL WEST MICHIGAN FARMS**

The Michigan Safe Food Risk Assessment, developed by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan State University, will be available to assist small producers to understand and document on-farm food safety practices.

A recent initiative of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to meet its priorities for a safe, secure and wholesome food supply, promote Michigan agricultural products, and preserve farmland resulted in a joint project with Michigan State University to develop Michigan's Safe Food Risk Assessment. The voluntary, confidential assessment process targets small producers or markets that do not require the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification. During 2011, Michigan's Safe Food Risk Assessment was pilot tested with 12 growers in preparation for broader implementation.

Allen Krizek, Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, at the 2011 Great Lakes Expo, cautioned against growers considering the risk assessment if your market requires GAP certification. "If you need GAP, go directly to it. Make sure that your process meets the buyer's needs."

Technicians in six west Michigan conservation districts are prepared to provide second party reviews. The utilization of practices such as worker hand washing, manure handling, water testing, and pesticide application records are reviewed during the assessment. One of the requirements is the completion an abbreviated food safety plan. If 80% of the practices have been completed and documented, a certificate of completion may be issued. Berrien, Grand Traverse, Mason-Lake, Oceana, Ottawa, and Van Buren Soil Conservation Districts are cooperating in this program during 2012. Technicians will also work with producers to develop an action plan toward the certificate of completion.

Krizek advises west Michigan farmers who may be interested in Michigan's Safe Food Risk Assessment to contact a participating Conservation District office. Locally you can contact Dan Busby at 231-941-0960

More information on developing a food safety plan or using a GAP template is available at Michigan State University Extension's Agrifood Safety Workgroup at [www.gaps.msue.msu.edu](http://www.gaps.msue.msu.edu).

Joanne Davidhizar ([davidhiz@anr.msu.edu](mailto:davidhiz@anr.msu.edu) 269-944-4126)

[www.gaps.msue.msu.edu](http://www.gaps.msue.msu.edu) or [www.productcenter.msu.edu](http://www.productcenter.msu.edu)

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