

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

## Weekly Update

February 05, 2014

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>2/18-19</b>  | <b>IPM Academy</b>  |
| <b>2/22-26</b>  | <b>IFTA Conference</b><br>Kelowna, British Columbia<br><a href="http://www.ifruittree.org/">http://www.ifruittree.org/</a>  |
| <b>2/26-28</b>  | <b>Michigan Grape &amp; Wine Conference</b><br>Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI<br><a href="http://www.michiganwines.com/conference">http://www.michiganwines.com/conference</a> |
| <b>2/27-3/1</b> | <b>IFTA Post Conference Tours</b>   |
| <b>2/27-3/1</b> | <b>25<sup>th</sup> Moses Organic Farming Conference</b><br>LaCrosse, WI<br><a href="http://www.mosesorganic.org">www.mosesorganic.org</a>                                       |
| <b>2/28-3/8</b> | <b>ANR Week (Formerly Farmers' Week)</b><br>MSU   |
| <b>3/1</b>      | <b>2014 Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference</b><br>Kellogg Center, MSU  |
| <b>3/1</b>      | <b>Family Forest Ownership Succession in MI Workshop</b><br>GT Conservation District  |
| <b>3/11</b>     | <b>Michigan Spring Peach Update Meeting</b><br>SW Michigan Research & Extension Center  |
| <b>3/12</b>     | <b>Irrigation Workshop</b><br>NWMHRC  |
| <b>4/12</b>     | <b>Healthy Forests – Caring for our Trees</b><br>GT Conservation District   |
-

## **NORTHWEST MICHIGAN IRRIGATION WORKSHOP**

Join MSU Extension on March 12 to learn more about irrigation and water management. This day-long program will emphasize the design, use and maintenance of irrigation systems.

Spend the morning learning about water rights; the responsibilities and requirements of large volume water users; the important relationship between soil and water; Irrigation GAAMPs, and the basics of drip irrigation. Presentations will highlight how and why to schedule irrigation, in addition to the various tools available to growers to help them make irrigation decisions.

After lunch, hear the best management strategies for irrigating apples and cherries, managing fertilizer injections with various irrigation applications and a strategies approach to fertigating apples and cherries. Close out the day gaining knowledge directly from a panel of growers with irrigation and fertigation experiences and have time to visit with irrigation manufacturers and distributors.

The northwest Michigan irrigation workshop is pleased to host Dr. Denise Neilsen, a researcher from Summerland, British Columbia. Dr. Neilsen is a world-renowned expert on precision management of water and nutrients for woody perennial crops. She and her team have researched the climatic effects on the demand for irrigation water in the plant as well as the climate limitations to crop suitability and quality. She has helped growers optimize management practices to decrease environmental risk and improve nutrient use efficiency within various tree fruit production systems. Dr. Neilsen has also developed and utilized Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that improve/optimize water quality and quantity.

This workshop will be held at the Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center in Traverse City. The program will start at 8:30 a.m. The program will conclude at 5:00 p.m. and will include lunch. Registration is \$30 per person payable at the door. The northwest Michigan irrigation workshop is co-sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, AgBioResearch, and the Northwest Michigan Think Tank.

To learn more about this irrigation workshop or to register, please contact Jackie Baase at [baase@msu.edu](mailto:baase@msu.edu) or 231-946-1510.

## Northwest Michigan Irrigation Workshop

### Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

March 12, 2014

- 8:30-9:15      **Large volume water user-rights, responsibilities and requirements**  
*Lyndon Kelley, Irrigation Educator, MSU/Purdue Extension*
- 9:15-10:00    **Soil and water relationship important to irrigation and BMPs**  
*Steve Miller, Irrigation Specialist, MSU Extension*
- 10:00-10:20   **Updates on irrigation GAAMPs**  
*Dan Busby, MAEAP Verification, MI Dept. of Agriculture*  
*Jessica Rasch and Garrett Coggon, MAEAP Technicians, Grand Traverse Conservation District*
- 10:20-11:05   **Understanding the basics of drip irrigation and water application**  
*Dr. Ron Goldy, Michigan State University Extension*
- 11:05-11:15   **BREAK**
- 11:15-11:35   **What is an 'acre inch' of irrigation on tree fruit systems? Hints on scheduling to achieve adequate water supply to your trees**  
*Beau Shacklette, Irrigation Technician, Trickle-Eeze/White Water Irrigation*
- 11:35-12:15   **Introduction into irrigating and fertigating high-density apples**  
*Phil Schwallier, District Horticulturist, MSU Extension*
- 12:15-1:00    **LUNCH**
- 1:00-1:45     **Best management strategies for irrigating apples and cherries**  
*Dr. Denise Nielson, Pacific Agri-food Research Center, British Columbia*
- 1:45-2:15     **Managing fertilizer injections with irrigation applications**  
*Tom Anderson, Trickle-Eeze Co.*
- 2:15-3:15     **Strategies approach to fertigating apples and cherries**  
*Dr. Denise Nielson, Pacific Agri-food Research Center, British Columbia*
- 3:15-3:30     **BREAK**

- 3:30-4:15      **Panel of growers with irrigation and fertigation experiences**  
TBD
- 4:15-5:00      **Social time with irrigation manufacturers and distributors**

## **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO FILL OUT A POLLINATION SURVEY**

As many of you know, MSU is the lead institution in a large, multi-state pollination project. To help gain a better understanding of pollination management practices in Michigan, we hope that you will take some time to fill out the survey on "Integrated Crop Pollination."

Please note that the survey will target growers of apple, cherries, blueberries, raspberries and pumpkins, squash and cucurbits - if you do not grow one of these crops, you can hit delete now. If you do grow one of these crops, I hope that you would take a little time to answer the survey-- I think it will only take 10 or 15 minutes, but your information is important to our pollination project.

Please click on the following link to start the survey and complete by **February 28<sup>th</sup>**:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MI\\_growers](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MI_growers)

We value your participation! Thank you for your help and support of our project.

## **2014 GROWING MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**

*Emerging important issues will prompt valuable discussion at the 2014 Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference during Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week.*

Posted on **January 17, 2014, MSUE News**, by [Stan Moore](#), and Bruce MacKellar, Michigan State University Extension

There's no doubt that agriculture plays a vital role in Michigan's economy. In April 2012, Michigan State University (MSU) researchers announced that through the food and agriculture supply chain, the industry contributes an estimated \$91.4 billion to Michigan's economy – an increase of nearly 50 percent from 2004 to 2010.

New and evolving issues such as changes in technology, weather and public expectations continue to challenge Michigan farmers. [Michigan State University Extension](#) has brought together farmers and agricultural professionals who work within Michigan's wide-ranging

agricultural commodities to assist the state's farmers in learning more about potential changes on the horizon.

The third annual Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will take place Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus during [Agriculture and Natural Resources \(ANR\) Week](#).

The one-day conference is packed with timely information from MSU experts and nationally renowned speakers that will help Michigan producers maximize their farms' potential.

The 2014 conference also offers concurrent breakout sessions that focus on specific areas of agriculture including animal production, field crops and specialty crops.

At last year's Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference, more than 70 participants learned about labor management, precision agriculture, food safety, risk management, soil management and the Farm Bill. Participants at the conference included farmers, farm employees, agribusiness professionals, consultants, Extension personnel and government representatives.

Attendees came from farms of all sizes and reported that attending the program was valuable to their farm operations. When asked what they gained, respondents indicated that they would be able to apply what they learned to their businesses, and they also reported an increase in management skills. Participants appreciated the global perspective that they received.

In 2014, the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference takes place in conjunction with Michigan Farm Bureau's Statewide Commodity and Marketing Conference. The new partnership promises to provide excellent educational sessions for Commodity and Marketing Conference farmer attendees, and it will allow the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference to continue to build on its reach to Michigan farmers.

The Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 5, followed by the Michigan Farm Bureau Statewide Commodity and Marketing Conference beginning at 5:30 p.m. on March 5 and continuing on March 6.

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

This year's topics and speakers include:

- Global economic outlook and impacts on agriculture – Bryan Dierlam, Director, Government Affairs, Cargill
- Antibiotic use and resistance: How do we keep Michigan agriculture resilient so it continues to grow in the future? – Jim Tiedje, MSU University Distinguished Professor, Center for Microbial Ecology at MSU

- Regional water availability resources and future challenges – David Hyndman, MSU Department of Geological Sciences
- Farmland ownership – Dennis Stein, Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources update
- State and National Legislative Update – Ryan Findlay and Matt Smego, Michigan Farm Bureau
- Breakout sessions for animal production, field crops and specialty crops
  - Animal production – USDA’s project to reduce mastitis and antimicrobial use on dairy farms.
  - Field crop – Using a Drone for crop management decisions
  - Specialty crop (two parts) – Food safety modernization act and you; and Where is our labor coming from?
  - Modeling farming systems strategies to optimize water, carbon and nitrogen cycling – Bruno Basso, MSU Department of Geological Sciences

Registration information is available at <http://bit.ly/GrowingMichigan>. The cost for the conference is \$75 by Jan. 28, 2014; \$85 by March 3, 2014; and \$95 at the door. To find out more information or to learn how to become a sponsor, contact ANR Event Services at [events@anr.msu.edu](mailto:events@anr.msu.edu) or 517-353-3175.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

## **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SET TO HOST 99<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ANR WEEK**

Gardeners, farmers, foresters and families interested in animals, plants, land and water are invited to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week, **Feb. 28-March 8, 2014**. The annual event, formerly known as Farmers’ Week, is hosted by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension and MSU AgBioResearch.

This year’s events include educational programs on topics ranging from conservation stewardship to artisan cheesemaking.

Programs this year include:

- Birding 101: A Beginner’s Guide to Birding (March 1) – This workshop is sponsored by Michigan Audubon and the Quiet Water Symposium. It will explore the use of binoculars and field guides, and cover bird identification and habitat.
- Forage Technology Conference (March 6) – This conference, sponsored by MSU Extension, the Michigan Forage Council and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, will feature innovative researchers, industry representatives and cutting-edge farmers. They will speak on topics such as grazing management, use of cover crops as forage, hay and haylage production, and corn silage production.

In addition, ANR Week is the setting for several annual meetings and conferences, including the following:

- Michigan State Rabbit Breeders (Feb. 28-March 2), which includes exhibition and judging of more than 3,000 rabbits and covies.
- Michigan Wildflower Conference (March 2-3), which will focus on preserving and restoring biodiversity in generally urban and suburban yards.
- 82nd Michigan FFA Convention (March 5-7), which is themed, "Envision the Goal, Embrace Your Journey."
- Michigan Barn Preservation Network Conference (March 7-8), which offers barn enthusiasts and barn owners an opportunity to learn more about Michigan's agricultural heritage and historic farm buildings.
- Michigan Beekeepers' Association Spring Conference: The Wonder of Honeybees (March 7-8), will offer breakout sessions for participants to learn about the many aspects of beekeeping.

Other events include the Michigan Farmers Market Conference (March 4-5), Horticultural Therapy: Connecting People and Plants (March 7), Horse Expo 2014 (March 7-9) and the Quiet Water Symposium (March 1).

In addition, the third annual Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will take place Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus during ANR Week. For more information or to register, visit <http://bit.ly/GrowingMichigan>.

Free ANR Week program guides with dates, times, locations, costs and event descriptions are available from any county MSU Extension office or the MSU Bulletin Office, 117 Central Services, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1001; 517-353-6740.

For a complete list of programs, conferences and educational opportunities, visit [www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu](http://www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu), or contact program coordinator Meghan Honke at 517-353-3175, ext. 229, or e-mail [honkemeg@msu.edu](mailto:honkemeg@msu.edu).

## **MICHIGAN SPRING PEACH UPDATE MEETING**

---

**Date:** March 11, 2014

**Time:** 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Location:** 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**Contact:** Dr. Bill Shane, 269-944-1477 ext. 205; cell: 269-208-1652; [shane@msu.edu](mailto:shane@msu.edu)

Peach growers are always looking for ways to improve their profitability. The Michigan Spring Peach Update is the best annual meeting in Michigan to learn about this crop.

The meeting will focus on fresh market peaches including new peach varieties, insect management strategies, disease control, marketing strategies, rootstocks, farm marketing, and mechanical peach thinning.

Attendees will be eligible for credits toward recertification of their Michigan pesticide applicators license.

Deadline for early registration is Monday, March 3, 2014. Registration is \$30 per person or \$25 for current Michigan Peach Sponsor members, with catered lunch included. Registrations mailed after March 3 or at the door are \$5 more per person.

The meeting will take place at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, Mich, which is 2.5 miles east of I-94 exit 30 to Hillandale Road. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with programs starting at 9 a.m.

To pay in advance by check or money order, a registration form can be downloaded from the website [Michiganpeach.org](http://Michiganpeach.org) and mailed with payment by March 3. After this time, register at the door with check, money order, or cash. Credit cards will not be accepted. For additional meeting information, registration forms, or assistance, contact the conference coordinator Dr. Bill Shane at 269-944-1477 ext. 205, 269-208-1652 cell.

Starts Wednesday morning with a general education session. On Wednesday afternoon there will be concurrent Vegetable, Grape and Tree Fruit sessions. Thursday's concurrent sessions will be Tree Fruit, Blueberry and Grape. Another part of this event is the Southwest Michigan Wine Educational Showcase on Wednesday afternoon after the educational sessions at the SW Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC), about 3 miles from the conference site.

Registration will open at 8 a.m. both days (Feb. 5-6) and programs begin at 9 a.m. A trade show with vendors and door prizes is open each day and is included in the registration cost. The education program covers a wide range of topics covered by local and state experts and out-of-state speakers.

*MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities.*

## **WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

**Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News**

<http://news.msue.msu.edu>

# Healthy Forests

## Caring for our Trees



**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

**1:30—5:00 p.m.**

**Grand Traverse Conservation District**

**1450 Cass Road, Traverse City**

**\$10/person, \$15/at the door**

Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and prevent loss from insects and diseases. Russ Kidd, retired Michigan State University Extension Forester will give you practical ways to minimize your loss in the forest or in your own backyard.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, ext. 15 or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

# Healthy Forests

## Caring for our Trees



**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

**1:30—5:00 p.m.**

**Grand Traverse Conservation District**

**1450 Cass Road, Traverse City**

**\$10/person, \$15/at the door**

Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and prevent loss from insects and diseases. Russ Kidd, retired Michigan State University Extension Forester will give you practical ways to minimize your loss in the forest or in your own backyard.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, ext. 15 or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

# Ties to the Land

## Family Forest Ownership Succession in Michigan

### Do you ...

...own forest land, and want to keep that forest legacy for future generations

...want to discuss your wishes for the future of your land with family, but don't know how to start?

### Time to get started! \*

- Experience the “Ties to the Land” succession planning workshop developed by a nationally prominent estate planning professional and National Tree Farm leaders.
- Discover valuable new ways for you to plan for the future of your land.
- Get straightforward and clear tools and information to get you started in your succession planning.



**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

**Grand Traverse Conservation District**

**1450 Cass Road, Traverse City**

**Registration fee: \$65 per family**

(\$15 for additional family members)

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, ext. 15 or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).