### Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update January 6, 2015

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/13-14 **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show** Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI 1/23 **Small Farm Pre-Conference** Hagerty Center, Traverse City 1/24 **Small Farm Conference** Grand Traverse Resort http://smallfarmconference.com/about/ Effective Management of Farm Employees 1/27-28 Doubletree Hotel, Bay City, MI 1/28 **Timber and Taxes Workshop** Grand Traverse Conservation District, Traverse City 1/29-30 Effective Management of Farm Employees Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids Airport 2/18-20 MSU Tree Fruit School The Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids Winery Development Pre-Conference 3/4 MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center **Michigan Grape & Wine Conference** 3/4-6 MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
- 4/18 Healthy Forests Caring for Our Trees Grand Traverse Conservation District

### 2015 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW Grand Traverse Resort January 13-14

Costs: Registration Fee: \$30/person for both days Fruit Industry Luncheon, Jan. 13: Gillison's Variety Fabrication will be sponsoring this year's *Industry Luncheon* in appreciation of our area growers with *free* luncheon ticket(s). Tickets are limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the time of registration. CMI Luncheon, January 14: 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 Michigan State University AgBioResearch Gillison's Variety Fabrication, Inc.

### Supporters & Contributors: See insert page

**Educational Sessions Coordinated By:** 

### Dr. Nikki Rothwell

NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center Coordinator & Extension Specialist

### **Emily Pochubay**

Tree Fruit Integrated Pest Management Educator, MSUE

### Dr. Duke Elsner

Small Fruit Educator, MSUE

### Tuesday, January 13

8:00	Registration Desk Opens
8:00 –10:30	Coffee and Rolls
Moderator:	Nikki Rothwell
9:00 – 9:10	<b>Welcome and Overview</b> Paul Hubbell, President, Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council
9:10 – 9:25	Forestry Assistance Program: Intensive Woodlot Management for Farm Diversification Kama Ross, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Benzie Conservation
Districts	

9:25 – 9:45	Bird Damage in Tree Fruits Dr. Catherine Lindell, Dept of Zoology, Michigan State University
9:45 – 10:00	IFTA 2014 Study Tour – Italy Adele Wunsch, Wunsch Farms, Old Mission Peninsula
10:00 – 10:40	High-density Tart Cherry Systems Research: Utah Approach Dr. Brent Black, Utah State University
10:40 - 11:00	Vendor Break and Poster Session
11:00 – 11:25	<b>An Update on 2014 MRL Efforts</b> Dr. Mark Whalon, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University
11:25 – 12:00	<b>Tools and Techniques for Optimizing Orchard Irrigation</b> Dr. Brent Black, Utah State University
12:00 – 1:30	<i>Fruit Industry Luncheon</i> <i>Emcee: Dr. Duke Elsner, MSUE</i>
1:30 – 2:00	Vendor Break and Poster Session
Moderator:	Dr. Nikki Rothwell
2:00 – 2:55	Cultivating the Soil Food Web: Enhancing Plant Productivity Through Microherding Molly Haviland, Soil Life Consulting, Colorado
2:55 – 3:15	Maximum Residue Limits and Michigan Apples Tony VanWoerkom. Trevor Nichols Research Center, MSU
3:15 – 3:35	Investigating San Jose scale in NW MI Sweet Cherries Emily Pochubay, Michigan State University Extension
3:35 – 4:05	Hop Production in Michigan: Stages of Production, Costs/Benefits, and Pest and Disease Management Dr. Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension
4:05 – 4:25	<b>Cold Hardiness of Cherries</b> Dr. Jim Flore, Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State University
4:25 – 4:45	Mist Cooling to Delay Bloom Dr. Jim Flore, Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State University
4:45 – 5:00	Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits (credits) Certified Crop Advisor Credits (credits)
5:15	WINE TASTING AND HORS D'OUERVE SOCIAL HOUR

### Tuesday, January 13

Concurrent Grape & Wine Session lobby)		Room - Michigan A and B (off the main
Moderator:	Dr. Duke Elsner	
9:00 – 9:10	<b>Welcome and Overview</b> Brian Hosmer, President, Parallel 45 Vines and Wines, Inc.	
9:10 – 9:35	NAP Buy-up and Other Kathy Kozlowski, USDA	•
9:35 – 10:30	Cultivating the Soil Foo Enhancing Productivity Molly Haviland, Soil Life	Through Microherding
10:30 - 11:00	VENDOR BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	Bird Management in Vir Dr. Catherine Lindell, De	•
11:30 – 12:00	Grape Mealybug and Vi Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Dept. c	-
12:00 – 1:30	FRUIT INDUSTRY LUNC Emcee: Dr. Duke Elsner,	
1:30 – 2:00	VENDOR BREAK	
2:00 – 2:30	Parallel 45 Vines & Win Annual Business Meetin	
3:00 – 3:35	<b>Own Rooted Vinifera Pr</b> Dr. Tom Zabadal, Dept. c	
3:35 – 4:10	Rootstocks and Vine Pe Dr. Ron Perry, Dept. of H	
4:10 – 4:30	-	neyard - Year One Results lant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, MSU
4:30 – 5:00	Justin Baker, HTG Suppl Bruce Holland-Moritz, HT	Consulting, Colorado or Hill Vineyard Services, Traverse City y, Traverse City
5:00	Fill Out Pesticide Recer	tification Credits
5:15	WINE TASTING AND HO SOCIAL HOUR	ORS D'OUERVE

### Wednesday, January 14

8:00	Coffee and Rolls
8:00	NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation Board Meeting
Moderator:	Phil Korson
9:00 – 9:30	National Cherry Festival Report to the Industry Susan Wilcox Olsen, Media & Marketing Manager
9:30 – 10:00	A Look Back at Last Year's Marketing Program and Results Michael Wehman, Weber Shandwick
10:00 – 10:45	VENDOR BREAK
10:45 – 11:20	A Look at the 2015 Marketing Platform Michael Wehman, Weber Shandwick
11:20 – 11:50	Year End Report to the Industry Phil Korson, President, CMI
12:00 – 2:00	<b>CMI Luncheon and Program</b> Industry Awards Luncheon Speaker: Hugh Williams, "Anything Is Possible: What It Takes to be an Ironman"
Moderator:	Emily Pochubay
2:00 – 2:20	What's Next in Apple Training Systems? Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension
2:20 – 2:45	<b>Spotted Wing Drosophila Monitoring and Efficacy</b> Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University
2:45 – 3:05	<b>Getting the Right Crop Load Using the Apple Precision Methods</b> <i>Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension</i>
3:05 – 3:30	BMSB State-wide Monitoring Network, and A New Search Engine for Tree Fruit Pests and Diseases Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University
3:45 – 4:10	<b>Tart Cherry Crop Insurance vs. NAP Analysis</b> Dr. Roy Black, Dept. of Ag Economics, Michigan State University Mollie Woods, Product Center Food Ag-Bio, Michigan State University
4:10 – 4:30	Digital Recordkeeping: Options for Every Size Grower Phil Tocco, Michigan State University

4:30 – 5:00	Firewise on the Farm: The Benefits and Cautions Associated with
	Using Fire on and Around Orchards and Vineyards
	Julie Crick and Elaine Bush, Michigan State University Extension Firewise

5:00 Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits (credit) Certified Crop Advisor Credits (credit)

### Wednesday, January 14

Concurrent Saskatoon Session Room - Peninsula A		
Moderator:	Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension	
9:00 – 9:20	Introduction to Fruit Grading and Its Uses Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension	
9:20 – 10:00	Farm Service Agency- What We Can Do For You Kathy Kozlowski, USDA FSA, Traverse City	
10:00 – 10:30	Vendor Break	
10:30 – 11:00	Important Insects and Diseases Attacking Saskatoon Roots Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension	
11:00 – 11:30	Mechanical Harvesting Tests in 2014 Jim Dixon, Grower, Williamsburg	
11:30 – 12:00	Saskatoon Berry Institute of North America report SBIONA Board Members and Staff	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00 – 5:00	How to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Farmer Jeremy Conaway, RECON Intelligence Services	
1:10 – 1:40	Business Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower	
1:40 – 2:10	Financial Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower	
2:10 – 2:40	Tax Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower	
2:40 – 3:10	BREAK	
3:10 – 3:40	Insurance Practices to Protect Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower	
3:40 – 4:10	Legal Practices to Protect Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower	
4:10 – 4:40	Group Discussion on Opportunities and Challenges of Cooperation	
4:40 – 5:00	Wrap Up and Closing Comments	

# PROGRAM OFFERED ON *EFFECTIVE* MANAGEMENT OF FARM EMPLOYEES

Employees on the farm either drive the operation forward or they hold it back. The difference is often in the way that farm owners and managers work with their employees. Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team has put together a meeting on *Effective Management of Farm Employees* to help farm owners and managers develop their skills and perspective for better management of employees.

That meeting will be offered **January 27 & 28, 2015** at the Doubletree Hotel, Bay City, MI and **January 29 & 30** at the Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids Airport. This interactive meeting with specialists from industry and MSU is designed to provide farm owners and managers a solid basis for building their business with employees.

The meetings begin at 5:30 pm with dinner on day 1 in order to provide an early opportunity for developing a peer network of like-minded people and to begin to share the issues you face and better understand how others handle them. Session 1, "Attracting Good Applicants in Today's Job Environment" is after dinner.

On day 2, there are three sessions starting with "Building Teamwork on the Farm" and then "Capitalizing on Your Employee's Desire to Learn". After lunch the program finishes with a session on "Achieving High Quality Performance".

## Complete information and on-line registration is available at <a href="http://events.anr.msu.edu/ManagingEmployees/">http://events.anr.msu.edu/ManagingEmployees/</a>

The cost to attend is \$160 for the first participant from a farm and \$140 for each additional participant from the same farm. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

Speakers for this dynamic program include:

- Lori Culler, CEO of AgHires, an online job board and recruiting firm. She has over 13 years of talent management experience providing management consulting services in the ag industry.
- Phil Durst and Stan Moore, MSU Extension Sr. Educators who have led a project that involved 174 farm employee interviews from which recommendations have been developed to improve employee management.
- Felix Soriano, CEO of APN Consulting, a dairy consulting business where they believe that the large herd manager's success depends on getting things done through others, and therefore, works to help producers become excellent communicators and leaders of well-trained, talented, and skilled employees.
- Corey Risch, MSU Assistant Professor whose experience includes working as a Farm Business Consultant for Clemson University, where she provided financial and management consulting services to farmers and agribusinesses in South Carolina.
- Matt Wood, Regional Sales Manager with Vita Plus Corporation. Wood has worked as a full time Dairy Specialist for Vita Plus in the thumb area for 10 years, consulting with dairy clients on their farm management and nutrition for that time period.

For more information or questions, contact Phil Durst at 989-387-5346 or <u>durstp@msu.edu</u> or Stan Moore at 231-533-8818 or <u>moorest@msu.edu</u>.

Developing your skills in employee management is the key to taking your farm business to the next level of performance.

### 2015 TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW

## The 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Feb. 18-20, 2015. Register before Jan. 14 to receive an early bird discounted rate!

Posted on **December 16, 2014, MSUE News,** by <u>Julianna Wilson</u>, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology, and Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension



Join <u>Michigan State University Extension</u> staff and researchers at the <u>2015 Tree Fruit IPM</u> <u>School</u>, designed for growers, farm managers and field scouts involved in the decision-making process of pest management in tree fruit. The focus for this two and a half day program will be on how to develop and implement season-long horticultural and integrated pest management (IPM) strategies – from establishment, dormancy, bloom through harvest and post-harvest, to supporting a healthy and productive orchard over the course of its lifetime.

Tree Fruit IPM School participants will learn about the latest pruning and training systems for high-density apples and cherries, blossom and fruit thinning using precision orchard management techniques, how to use pheromone puffer dispensers for codling moth mating disruption, cover cropping for biofumigation and soil biology diversification, and more!

There will be an invasive species workshop in which participants will receive training on the identification of <u>spotted wing Drosophila</u> and <u>brown marmorated stink bug</u>, two significant new insects that are becoming pests in Michigan orchards. This year's Tree Fruit IPM School's special guest is <u>Janna Beckerman</u> from <u>Purdue University</u>, who will present on managing the development of disease resistance to fungicides and using surfactants to improve apple scab efficacy.

Early bird registration is \$175 per person and ends **Jan. 14, 2015**. Regular registration is \$225 per person and begins Jan. 15. <u>Online registration</u> closes Feb. 13, after which only onsite registration at \$275 per person is available. <u>Registration by mail</u> is only possible through Feb. 2.

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and breaks on Wednesday and Thursday, breakfast and breaks on Friday, and a binder with all course materials. Dinner and lodging are on your own. Attendees will have the option of obtaining Certified Crop Advisor Credits and/or Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits (RUP) for attending this program.

To register by mail, <u>download, print and fill out a registration form</u> and send it with a check made payable to Michigan State University to:

Jackie Baase NW MI Horticultural Research Center 6686 S. Center Hwy Traverse City, MI 49684

For more information, please contact the 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School coordinators: Julianna Wilson at <u>jkwilson@msu.edu</u> or 517-432-4766, or Emily Pochubay at <u>pochubay@msu.edu</u> or 231-946-1510.

This article was published by <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>. For more information, visit <u>http://www.msue.msu.edu</u>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <u>http://bit.ly/MSUENews</u>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <u>http://expert.msue.msu.edu</u>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

### **GROWER INPUT NEEDED FOR SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA SURVEY**

### Information gathered from this survey will help entomologists measure the impact of spotted wing Drosophila on agricultural production and will be used to prioritize research, Extension and education activities for SWD.

Posted on **December 22, 2014, MSUE News,** by **<u>Rufus Isaacs</u>**, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology

As <u>spotted wing Drosophila</u> (SWD) becomes more established throughout the United States, it has become increasingly important to understand the impacts this pest has had in different crops and regions.

A group of entomologists at Michigan State University, Cornell University, Rutgers University and North Carolina State University — participants in the eFly Working Group — are conducting an online stakeholder needs assessment. The purpose of this survey is to collect information measuring the impact of SWD on agricultural production, and the information collected will be used to prioritize research, Extension and education activities for SWD.

Participation in the survey is voluntary. Survey respondents are not asked for personal identifying information and individual survey responses will not be presented. This information will be very useful for keeping research projects focused on grower needs and will help justify the need for future research and education projects.

Take the survey here: 2014 SWD Impact Assessment

This article was published by <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>. For more information, visit <u>http://www.msue.msu.edu</u>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <u>http://bit.ly/MSUENews</u>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <u>http://expert.msue.msu.edu</u>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

### TIMBER AND TAXES WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The Forestry Assistance Program for Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts is sponsoring a Timber and Taxes Workshop on Wednesday, **January 28 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm** at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City. This workshop is designed for forest land owners, foresters, loggers and tax preparers who would like to learn more about minimizing income tax and property taxes as it relates to forestry activities.

The 2.5 hour workshop will be presented by Susan Metcalfe, co-owner of Metcalfe Forestry LLC & Burns Timber Tax Service. If you have bought or sold timber within the past three years, or plan to harvest timber, then this is a must see session. The workshop will cover a range of topics involving your potential taxes on the money earned by buying and selling timber, how to keep more \$\$ in your pocket & pay less in tax. This will also cover myths common in the forestry and accounting communities, explain about the capital gains treatment of the purchase and sale of timber, and give valuable tips on how some loggers can drastically reduce their regular income and tax liability. Susan will also explain how some landowners can pay no tax on their timber sale revenue. There will also be discussion about Michigan's Commercial Forest and Qualified Forest Property Acts, two property tax programs that provide substantial tax benefits to landowners practicing wise forest management.

Cost is \$15/person and \$20/couple if paid by January 24, or \$20/person at the door. For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau/Grand Traverse/Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, ext. 15 or <u>kama.ross@macd.org</u>. Checks can be mailed to Leelanau Conservation District, PO Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653.

### MDARD ANNOUNCES VALUE ADDED/REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS GRANT

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced a competitive grant program aimed at helping promote and enhance Michigan's \$100 billion food and agriculture industry. The Value Added/Regional Food Systems Grant Program will accept proposals until 3 p.m. (EST) on January 12, 2015.

MDARD will accept proposals intended to establish, retain, expand, attract and/or develop value added agricultural processing and/or develop regional food systems by enhancing or facilitating aggregation and distribution of Michigan grown agricultural products.

Those interested in applying for the grant program should visit <u>www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants</u> to view the application and program overview.

Any additional communications concerning this Request for Proposal should be sent to <u>mda-grants@michigan.gov</u>. Proposals must be received at the email above no later than 3 p.m. (EST) on Monday, January 12, 2015. Proposals received after 3 p.m. will not be considered.

## USDA PROVIDES GREATER PROTECTION FOR FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND OTHER SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS

12/15/2014

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that greater protection is now available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for crops that traditionally have been ineligible for federal crop insurance.

#### Source: United States Department of Agriculture

## Free Basic Coverage Plans and Premium Discounts Available for New, Underserved and Limited Income Farmers

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that greater protection is now available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for crops that traditionally have been ineligible for federal crop insurance. The new options, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provide greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops such as vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, and energy crops.

"These new protections will help ensure that farm families growing crops for food, fiber or livestock consumption will be better able to withstand losses due to natural disasters," said Vilsack. "For years, commodity crop farmers have had the ability to purchase insurance to keep their crops protected, and it only makes sense that fruit and vegetable, and other specialty crop growers, should be able to purchase similar levels of protection. Ensuring these farmers can adequately protect themselves from factors beyond their control is also critical for consumers who enjoy these products and for communities whose economies depend on them."

Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.

The expanded protection will be especially helpful to beginning and traditionally underserved producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium reductions for expanded coverage. More crops are now eligible for the program, including expanded aquaculture production practices, and sweet and biomass sorghum. For the first time, a range of crops used to produce bioenergy will be eligible as well.

"If America is to remain food secure and continue exporting food to the world, we need to do everything we can to help new farmers get started and succeed in agriculture," Vilsack said. "This program will help new and socially disadvantaged farmers affordably manage risk, making farming a much more attractive business proposition."

To help producers learn more about the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and how it can help them, USDA, in partnership with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois, created an online resource. The Web tool, available at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap, allows

producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage. It also gives them an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation.

If the application deadline for an eligible crop has already passed, producers will have until Jan. 14, 2015, to choose expanded coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. To learn more, visit the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact your local FSA office at offices.usda.gov. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers the program, also wants to hear from producers and other interested stakeholders who may have suggestions or recommendations on the program. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 13, 2015 and can be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

These new provisions under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program were made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

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.

#### WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Insect and disease predictive information is available at: <a href="http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php">http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php</a>

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

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website: <u>http://www.cherries.msu.edu/</u> Information on apples:

http://apples.msu.edu/

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

http://news.msue.msu.edu