

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014

## Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

December 9, 2014

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/9-11      **Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO**  
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

12/22      **Affordable Care Act Workshop**  
NWMHRC

### 2015

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/>

1/28      **Timber and Taxes Workshop**  
Grand Traverse Conservation District, Traverse City

2/18-20      **MSU Tree Fruit School**  
The Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids

3/4      **Winery Development Pre-Conference**  
MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

3/4-6      **Michigan Grape & Wine Conference**  
MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

4/18      **Healthy Forests – Caring for Our Trees**  
Grand Traverse Conservation District

# TRAVERSE CITY FARM TRANSITION AND FARM SUCCESSION WORKSHOP RESOURCES AVAILABLE

MSU Extension conducted a series of half- day workshops from November 10 – 12 at the Northwest Research Station that took business owners through the steps to plan transitioning the farm to a family successor, successors, to a non – family successor, or selling and retiring. The handouts and presentations have been made available to the public and are located at <http://firm.msue.msu.edu/>. To access them, first go to the section titled Farm Business Succession, Estate Planning and Business Structures. They are individually listed under the subheading Traverse City November 10-12 Presentations.

Curtis Talley Jr.  
Farm Management Educator, MSU Extension

# 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 [www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants) to view the application and program overview.

Any additional communications concerning this Request for Proposal should be sent to [mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov). **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.

# AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WORKSHOP - TRAVERSE CITY

## Presenters

Dr. Adam J. Kantrovich, MSU Extension farm management educator

## Introduction

The employer mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) begins Jan. 1, 2015. This workshop will cover the Affordable Care Act and how the mandate affects farms, small businesses and individuals. The Affordable Care Act is a far-reaching piece of legislation that covers every business, industry and individual. While there are many layers to the Affordable Care Act, this program will provide a broad overview of the basics within the three hour presentation. This presentation will help participants determine whether they need to comply with the ACA.

## Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- General Rules of the ACA
- Rules of Employer Shared Responsibility (ESR) Mandate
- Rules for Counting Employees under ESR
- Rules for Small Business Health Care Tax Credit
- Rules for Health Insurance Market Place (Exchange) and Shop for Employers
- Rules of Individual Shared Responsibility Mandate
- Employer Requirements for 2013 to 2015
- Closing Thoughts

## Registration Fee

\$10.00 per person. This covers handouts and materials.

## Dates and Locations

This workshop will be held from 9 a.m. - noon on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center located at 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684.

For more information and to register online, go to <http://events.anr.msu.edu/ACAtraverse/>

## 2015 TREE FRUIT SCHOOL

The 2015 Tree Fruit School is just around the corner and will be held at the Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids, MI on February 18-20, 2015. Join Michigan State University researchers and Extension staff at this two and a half day program which will focus on how to develop and implement season-long horticultural and IPM strategies from establishment, dormancy, bloom through harvest, and post-harvest to support a healthy and productive orchard over the course of its lifetime.

Tree Fruit School participants will hear the latest findings on pruning and training systems for high-density apples and cherries, blossom and fruit thinning using precision orchard management techniques, 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 spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug, two potentially serious tree fruit pests from Asia that arrived in Michigan in recent years. This year's Tree Fruit School guest speaker, Dr. Janna Beckerman from Purdue University, will present on managing the development of disease resistance to fungicides and using surfactants to improve apple scab efficacy.

Registration for the 2015 Tree Fruit School **begins on December 15, 2014** and participants can register by mail or online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/TreeFruitIPMSchool/> . If registering by mail, checks should be made payable to Michigan State University and sent to:

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

**Register before January 14, 2015 to receive an early-bird discounted rate!** Additional details on registration fees are below. Please also see the attached brochure for more information on the 2015 Tree Fruit School registration and lodging.

Early-bird registration, Dec 15 - Jan 14:	\$175
Regular registration,	
• by mail, Jan 15 - Feb 2:	\$225
• online, Jan 15 - Feb 13:	\$225
After Feb 13, onsite registration only:	\$275

Please contact the coordinators (below) with questions regarding the 2015 Tree Fruit School.

Julianna Wilson; [jkwilson@msu.edu](mailto:jkwilson@msu.edu); (517) 432-4766  
 Emily Pochubay; [pochubay@msu.edu](mailto:pochubay@msu.edu); (231) 946-1510

We are looking forward to seeing you in February!

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# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD EXPORT – MIDWEST TO HOST “WHY EXPORT” SEMINAR FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES

Small to medium sized food and agriculture businesses from across the State of Michigan can learn the basics of exporting as well as the resources that are available to assist companies in pursuing overseas markets by attending the “Why Export” seminar, hosted by the International Marketing Program at the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Food Export Association of the Midwest. The seminar is **Tuesday, January 13** at the Tollgate Education Conference Center in Novi, MI.

Michigan companies are uniquely situated to succeed in the international marketplace as Michigan products are world-renowned for their high quality and extensive variety. The “Why Export” seminar will provide companies with information on how to utilize this great potential and succeed in the global marketplace.

When addressing the purpose of the seminar, MDARD International Marketing Program Manager, Jamie Zmitko-Somers explained, “about 95 percent of consumers live outside of the U.S. and there is a lot of opportunity for growth around the world for Michigan companies.”

The cost to attend the event is \$50 per participant and includes a full day of export education in the areas of: importance and benefits of exporting, evaluating export readiness as well as pricing, quoting and terms of sale. The seminar will feature two representatives from Food Export, Dennis Lynch and Paul Weiss. There will also be a company panel of experienced Michigan food exporters to offer first-hand knowledge of how to be successful in foreign markets.

Companies interested in learning more are encouraged to contact Hannah Bollinger at [bollingerh@michigan.gov](mailto:bollingerh@michigan.gov), 517-284-5737, or visit [www.michigan.gov/agexport](http://www.michigan.gov/agexport).

# NEED A FEW MORE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS BEFORE YEAR'S END? IPM WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE!

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MSU Extension is offering Integrated Pest Management Academy Online, a series of online prerecorded webinars. Commercial and private core pesticide recertification credits are available for Michigan applicators. No registration or fees required.

Posted on November 17, 2014, MSUE News, by [Erin Lizotte](#), Michigan State University Extension

Looking to learn more about integrated pest management (IPM)? Check out this series of on-demand webinars created to help Michigan growers identify pest management resources and understand IPM basics. Registration is not required and webinars are available for free, simply visit the [IPM Academy Online](#) webpage at your convenience and view one or all of the prerecorded webinars.

Michigan residents can earn up to four pesticide recertification credits. You may only claim credits once annually and once per webinar (repeat viewing for credits is not allowed). A computer with Internet connectivity, a web browser and speakers are required. Go to <http://bit.ly/ipmwebinars> to access the webinars or email Carol Blake at [cblake@msu.edu](mailto:cblake@msu.edu) to receive more information.

The following webinars are currently available for viewing.

**Introduction to Integrated Pest Management:** Learn about the history of pest management, the evolution of IPM and the tenets that define implementation in the field.

**Integrated Pest Management Resources:** Learn about IPM resources available from Michigan State University and MSU Extension.

**Entomology 101:** In this compact session on insects, learn the vocabulary to help you properly identify insects and better understand the role of insects in the world.

**Plant Pathology 101:** This introductory webinar covers the basics of plant pathogens and introduces viewers to some popular control methods.

**Soil Science 101:** This webinar highlights the importance of soil characteristics and their potential impacts on agricultural producers.

**Plant Science 101:** Learn the basics of plant anatomy and physiology—particularly handy for those who struggle with weed identification.

**Pesticides 101:** An introduction to mode of action, pesticide resistance and factors that impact efficacy.

[http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_northern\\_michigan\\_fruit\\_net](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_northern_michigan_fruit_net)

**Insect Scouting in Fruit Crops:** This primer offers a fruit-specific module on how insect scouting occurs in the real world.

A number of new webinars will be added over the coming months, so check back periodically for new content in 2015!

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting [Erin Lizotte](#) with [Michigan State University Extension](#) at [taylo548@msu.edu](mailto:taylo548@msu.edu) to make arrangements. Requests will be fulfilled when possible.

*This program is supported in part by [North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) (NCR-SARE) and this material is based upon work supported by the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2013-41534-21068. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*



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## FARM BILL TITLE I EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

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Educational sessions help farmers navigate new Farm Bill programs.

Posted on December 4, 2014, MSUE News, by [Adam Kantrovich](#), Michigan State University Extension

The Agricultural Act of 2014 – commonly called 2014 Farm Bill – that was signed in early 2014 is quite different from what farmers and landowners were accustomed to in former farm bills. Although there may be similarities to past farm bills, it is very important that farmers begin to learn as much as they can before deciding on what program is best suited for their current situation.

Each farm location and each farmer's individual needs are very different, therefore choosing which programs are a good fit will depend on farm specific variables and individual needs.

[http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_northern\\_michigan\\_fruit\\_net](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_northern_michigan_fruit_net)

With this in mind, [Michigan State University Extension](#) has developed numerous resources to assist farmers and landowners to begin this process.

The [Michigan State University Extension Farm Information Resource Management](#) (FIRM) team in collaboration with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) with numerous sponsors that include the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, the Michigan Wheat Program, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, and Farm Bureau Crop Insurance has engaged in a statewide effort to provide Farm Bill Title I Educational Programming.

The program is a multifaceted event discussing the provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill Title I programs. Presentations will describe Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) choices and discuss yield and base updating. The profit and risk management implications of alternative choices will be explored under a range of assumptions including historical yields relative to county yields and alternative price scenarios. The decision support tools used in the analysis are available as Excel files from MSU Extension and web-based tools that can be accessed from the [FarmDoc](#) and [FSA/USDA websites](#).

At the conclusion of the program, time is offered for participants to engage with Michigan State University Extension FIRM team members and FSA representatives in a question and answer session to help better understand the information.

To view where programs are taking place and to register for an event, interested participants may go to the following link <http://events.anr.msu.edu/FarmBill1415/>

It is encouraged to occasionally revisit the link to see if any additional locations and dates have been added. The Michigan State University Extension FIRM team has also developed a [Farm Bill Program](#) page that contains links to additional material, information and resources. Check back often to view any new or revised information and material as further details become known. Individuals may also [sign-up](#) to receive newsletters that will contain information about articles, updates, and additional information about the Farm Bill and other farm related policies.

For further information, please contact me at [akantrov@msu.edu](mailto:akantrov@msu.edu) or view the MSU Extension [Farm Information Resource Management webpage](#).

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



# TIMBER AND TAXES WORKSHOP

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015*

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Grand Traverse Conservation District

1450 Cass Road, Traverse City

This workshop is designed for forest land owners and tax preparers. 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 3 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, and explain about the capital gains treatment of the purchase and sale of timber. 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 , \$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 [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org)

# HEALTHY FORESTS

Caring for our Trees

*Saturday, April 18, 2015*

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Grand Traverse Conservation District

1450 Cass Road, Traverse City

\$10/person (by April 15) or \$15/at the door

Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and pre-vent loss from insects and diseases and other environmental stressors. Russ Kidd, Michigan State University Extension Forester Emeritus will give you practical ways to build resilient trees in the forest or in your own backyard. Glean tips on preventive care including a pruning demonstration with a local tree service provider.

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).

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[http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_northern\\_michigan\\_fruit\\_net](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_northern_michigan_fruit_net)

**WEB SITES 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/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_northern\\_michigan\\_fruit\\_net](http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort_northern_michigan_fruit_net)

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/>

Information on apples

<http://apples.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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