

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

February 17, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

- 2/26 Pesticide Applicators Training & Exam**
Central Lake District Library
- 3/4 Winery Development Pre-Conference**
MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
- 3/4-6 Michigan Grape & Wine Conference**
MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
www.michiganwines.com/conference
- 3/10-11 Michigan Farmers Market Conference**
Michigan State University
- 3/14 Midwest Nut Producers Council Annual Meeting**
Clarksville Experiment Station
- 3/19 Pure Michigan Agriculture Summit**
DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
- 3/25 Benzie/Manistee Hort Soc. Annual Meeting**
TBD
- 3/26 Specialty Crop Grant Proposals Due to MDARD**
- 3/26 Ag. Labor Meeting**
NWMHRC
- 3/31 West Central Spring Hort Meeting**
Hart United Methodist Church, Hart
- 4/1 Michigan Water Use Reporting Due**
- 4/10-11 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference**
Grand Rapids
- 4/18 Healthy Forests – Caring for Our Trees**
Grand Traverse Conservation District

Benzie-Manistee Horticulture Society and the Michigan Cider Association *present*

Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry

March 25, 2015

Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI

- 1:00-1:30 Overview of Michigan cider industry and beyond
Paul Vander Heide, Vander Mill Ciders and MCA President, Spring Lake, MI
- 1:30-1:50 The role of the new national organization--United States Association of Cider Makers (USACM)
Mike Beck, USACM President and Uncle John's Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI
- 1:50-2:20 Factors influencing how and why growers should plant orchards for cider fruit
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, NWMHRC, Traverse City, MI

***POTENTIAL FOR U.K. ORCHARDIST, NEIL MACDONALD TO ATTEND SHOW**

- 2:20-3:00 Factors influencing decisions to plant varieties specifically for the cider market
Kevin VerSnyder, VerSnyder Fruit Farms, Lake Leelanau, MI
Andy Sietsema, Sietsema Orchards, Ada, MI
- 3:00-3:30 Thinking about opening a cidery? Checklist for getting started
Dan Young, Tandem Ciders, Suttons Bay, MI
- 3:30-3:45 BREAK
- 3:45-4:15 Big sellers out of the tasting room: Consumer preferences now and into the future
Andy Sietsema, Sietsema Orchards, Ada, MI
Dan Young, Tandem Ciders, Suttons Bay, MI
Mike Beck, Uncle John's Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI
- 4:15-4:45 Thinking about packaging cider to make money
Mike Beck, Uncle Johns Cider Mill, Saint Johns, MI
Paul Vander Heide, Vander Mill Ciders, Spring Lake, MI
- 4:45-6:00 Cider tasting
- 6:00 Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society annual meeting and dinner

The educational session cost is \$20 and the dinner is also \$20. *Checks can be made payable to the **Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society*** and will be collected at the door. Please call the NW Station to reserve a seat at this meeting: 231-946-1510.

SAVE THE DATES!

The NWMHRC staff, MSU Extension, and AgBioResearch are putting together three upcoming meetings that may be of interest to growers in northwest Michigan:

- 1) **March 26, 2015.** The Northwest Michigan Ag. Labor meeting will take place at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center. This day-long program will start at 8:30, and presenters will discuss immigration control and enforcement: new Information and life in a border area, an update from Craig Anderson, Farm Bureau: Dept. of Labor, importance of being a competitive employer, how to best provide feedback on employee performance, how to share labor efficiently, an update from Migrant Services and Telamon, onboarding new migrant labor employees, and an overview of the current grower/new immigration programs. The program will cost \$25 and will include lunch. *Checks can be*

made payable to **Michigan State University**. Please call 231-533-8818 to reserve a space at this meeting.

- 2) **March 31, 2015.** The west central spring horticultural meeting will be held at the Hart United Methodist Church, Hart, MI. The cost for this meeting is \$25, if you pre-register; the cost will include lunch. Checks can be made payable to **Michigan State University**. Please call the Oceana County Extension office to reserve a space at this meeting: 231-873-2129. Growers that register at the door without a reservation will pay \$35 for this event.

The following presentations will take place from **8am-4:30pm on March 31st**:

- 7:30-8:00 **Coffee and Refreshments**
- 8:00-8:30 **Introduction to the MAEAP**
Dan Busby and Lynda Herremans, MAEAP Program
- 8:30-9:00 **Short and Long-term Weather Forecasts: What is in Store for 2015?**
Dr. Jeff Andresen, Dept. of Geography, MSU
- 9:00-9:40 **Understanding Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs): A Key Ingredient in Michigan Cherry Growers' Survival**
Dr. Mark Whalon, Dept. of Entomology, MSU
- 9:40-10:10 **Best Management Practices for Pollinators in Michigan Orchards**
Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, MSU
- 10:10-10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30-11:00 **Mating Disruption Using Aerosol Emitters in Michigan Apples**
Dr. Larry Gut, Dept. of Entomology, MSU
- 11:00-11:30 **Using Pyrethroid Sprays to Control SWD and their Impacts on Spider Mite Populations**
Emily Pochubay, NWMHRC, MSUE
- 11:30-12:00 **Gaining a Better Understanding of Insecticide Efficacy against SWD**
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, NWMHRC and MSUE
- 12:00-12:50 **LUNCH**
- 12:50-1:20 **Using Copper and other Compounds to Control Cherry Leaf Spot**
Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
- 1:20-2:00 **Using Precision Orchard Management Techniques to Grow the Best Apples**
Phil Schwallier, MSUE
- 2:00-2:30 **Understanding Phytotoxicity Risks in Apple**
Amy Irish-Brown, MSUE
- 2:30-3:00 **Apple Disease Management Update for 2015**
Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
- 3:00-3:30 **Thinning Strategies for an Optimal Crop in 2015**
Phil Schwallier, MSUE

3:30-3:45 **BREAK**

3:45-4:30 **New Strategies for Successful Record Keeping and FSMA Update**
Phil Tocco, MSUE

MICHIGAN WINE TOURISM RESEARCH ARTICLES NEW TO MSU GRAPES WEB

Research findings on Michigan wine tasting rooms reveal better understanding of increasing wine tourists and enhancing their experience.

Posted on **February 11, 2015**, **MSUE News**, by **Mallory Fournier**, MSU Integrated Pest Management Program



Photo credit: [lpwines](#), Flickr Creative Commons

Wineries play an active role in agri-tourism. Wine tours, dinners with pairings and collaborations with other local businesses along wine trails are all part of the structure that can draw tourists to an area. The [Northern Grapes Project](#), along with [Michigan State University](#), conducted research to gain a better understanding of how to increase the number of tourists coming to wineries and how to enhance their experience.

The option of cold-hardy, *Vitis riparia*-based wine grape cultivars in the 1990s created a new and rapidly expanding industry of small vineyard and wineries in the northern United States. Funded in 2011 by the [USDA NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative](#), the Northern Grapes Project develops grape production, winemaking and marketing practices suited to the unique characteristics of the *V. riparia*-based cultivars marketed through retail tasting rooms and their niche in the U.S. wine market.

As part of this effort, MSU professors [Don Holecek](#) and [Dan McCole](#) began their Michigan wine tasting room research in 2012, focusing on different aspects of wine tourism. Details of the research and their findings were first published in the [Northern Grapes News](#) and now added to the [MSU Growing Grapes for Juice and Wine website](#). The five different studies can be found under the [Wine Tourism](#) page, and are as follows:

- [Michigan wine tasting room visitors' behaviors and visit history](#)
- [Wine purchase and consumption of Michigan wine tasting room visitors](#)
- [Cold hardy wine grape awareness and perceptions](#)
- [Do wine tasting room fees impact wine purchases?](#)
- [Travel behaviors of wine tourists in Michigan's Leelanau Peninsula](#)

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YOUR FEEDBACK ON FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT IMPACT NEEDED

Will the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) cost you money? Will it add to your overloaded schedule with additional paperwork and recordkeeping requirements? Will facility upgrades need to be made to come into compliance? Speak up in an anonymous survey.

Posted on **February 5, 2015**, MSUE News, by [Phil Tocco](#), Michigan State University Extension

New rules are on the way for produce growers. As many growers are aware, the [Food Safety Modernization Act](#) (FSMA) for the first time regulates the growing of fresh produce under the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA). The FSMA spans over 500 pages and is extremely complex. Invariably, it will change how farmers grow food that will be sold in the United States.

Currently, a [nationwide survey](#) is being conducted to get a grasp on the impacts of FSMA on farmers. The research looks at both what FSMA requirements are currently standard practice on farms and how changes that are made to comply with FSMA may cost growers. The survey also looks to see how these elements are different in different sized farms.

[Erik Lichtenberg](#), professor at the [University of Maryland](#), explains, “This research is very policy-relevant and could help guide future food safety legislation, so we encourage all vegetable and fruit growers to participate. The survey is intended for farm owners and managers growing vegetables or fruit. It takes about 10 minutes to complete, all of the questions in the survey are optional, and we do not collect any identifying information about participants or farms.”

To participate in the survey, go to <http://www.arecdept.umd.edu/foodsafety> and enter the password “msu.” After completing the survey, growers have the chance to enter a drawing to win a free iPad.

These rules will become law and all growers, irrespective of size, will need to make at least some changes as a result of them. Taking the time now to become familiar with what is being proposed is imperative. Voicing your concern about impacts may ultimately shape the implementation of this rule.

If you have specific questions about the produce rule or have difficulty tailoring GAPs to your farm, contact [Michigan State University Extension's Agrifood Safety Work Group](#) at gaps@msu.edu or 517-788-4292.

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KEY STRATEGIES FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS ON YOUR FARM

Commodity markets have adjusted over the last 12 months, have you? Here are 10 strategies for long-term success on your farm.

Posted on **February 9, 2015**, MSUE News, by [Dennis Pennington](#), Michigan State University Extension

At the recent [Great Lakes Crop Summit](#) held in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, Purdue University agricultural economist [Mike Boehlje](#) spoke to a crowd of more than 700 farmers and agribusiness representatives about 10 key strategies for long-term success. Boehlje, a farmer himself, gave an optimistic yet realistic assessment of agriculture from a financial standpoint. He recognizes that while agriculture is a thriving industry in the United States, there are ups and downs and commodity markets specifically may have hit a bump in the road. Gone are the days of \$6 per bushel corn. Input prices are up, so are cash rents and investment in farm equipment and capital improvements like tile drainage and irrigation. In a refreshingly original manner, he walked

throughout the aisles asking farmers questions during his presentation to help make his points. Here is a summary of the 10 strategies he discussed from my perspective.

Create value for your customer

First, understand your customer. Ask them what you can do to enhance value to them. Differentiate the level of service you provide to them. Can you deliver a specific quality, provide storage and be able to deliver just in time when they need it. Can you provide your customers with any value-enhanced products?

Focus on a strategy

What strategy can work best for your farm? Operational excellence (low cost producer)? Customer intimacy (providing value to the customer)? Product or process innovation? Pick a strategy that you are good at and work on it. It will be different for every farm or operation.

Increase asset utilization (asset turnover)

We all like new paint, but \$4 corn will not buy much new equipment. Lease rather than buy – this saves capital. Perhaps a joint venture or share machinery agreement can be used with neighbors and friends rather each buying your own. Outsource or hire custom farm operators for some tasks. Increase gross income without investing a dime. There are no other industries that would invest the amount of money in equipment and let it set for the number of hours per year as we do in agriculture. Share combine with a farmer in Indiana – so we don't have conflicts on when we need to use the combine. Know your asset turnover ratio – improve it! That will grow your business.

Increase your margins - buy right

This is the first and most important factor in determining cost of production. This is much more important than trying to outguess the markets. You have much more control over what you pay for goods and services than you do trying to hit the high price in the market. "Market" your crop rather than price it. Provide any added customer benefits or value you can. Control costs and employ best management practices and technology.

Grow volume or sales (intensification)

Increase productivity. Try to get more volume with less investment. Perhaps a joint venture for size or volume may help you to get new market access. Major companies don't quantify business growth by number of acres or number of sows – it is topline; how much gross sales or bottomline – how much profit did they achieve.

Manage money or capital

Protect working capital (current assets minus current liabilities). This is your ability to pay your bills and debt. Do you have enough cash flow? Carefully use debt – perhaps lengthen repayment periods. Try to get fixed interest rate loans. Evaluate lease versus buy options. You need about 25-30 percent of gross sales in cash – this protects against downturns and gives you opportunities to invest during tough times. Repayment capacity – farmers want to pay it back faster than they should. We want to be debt free. When times are good, can pay it off that fast, but when times are not good, will have trouble remaining solvent.

Use your time efficiently

Focus on management. Hire skilled employees and provide training and education for employees and treat them as employees, not hired hands. Hire them for their "head," not their "hands." Use scheduling and work flow planners and develop standard operating procedures (SOP).

Manage operating risk

Do what you are good at. Make sure you have proper insurance (both crop and liability).

Get smart

Use consultants – how many farms have chief financial officers (CFO)? If you don't have the time, hire someone that can provide these services. A CFO provides information needed to make purchasing decisions, loan repayment capacity, equipment purchases, and manages the financial health of farm. Network with successful farmers and agri-businesses. Develop your own management skills.

Think like a CEO

What matters most? People. Money. Relationships. Strategy. Make decisions based on these company assets, not personal preferences, needs or wants.

The [Michigan State University Extension Farm Information Resource Management](#) (FIRM) team can provide assistance and resources for farm management topics including Farm Bill, cost of production, budgeting, crop insurance and many other topics. To learn more, visit the [FIRM website](#).

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MICHIGAN FARMERS MARKET CONFERENCE



To help meet the needs of Michigan's farmers markets and market farmers and vendors, MIFMA is pleased to host an annual Michigan Farmers Market Conference.

[Register now for the 2015 Michigan Farmers Market Conference](#)

[Become a Conference Sponsor and/or Silent Auction Donor](#)

[2015 Conference Schedule](#) - *subject to change*

The two-day conference features three tracks led by experts in farmers market management and agriculture: **(1)** a market manager Boot Camp Track designed for beginning market managers; **(2)** an Advanced Track for managers who are looking for specialized information; **(3)** a Farmer/Vendor Track designed for farmers who direct-market through farmers markets. Each track builds on the information that attendees found helpful at the prior year's conference, while providing up-to-date information on timely topics related to farmers market management and/or marketing.

The 2015 Michigan Farmers Market Conference will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10 and 11, 2015 at the Plant and Soil Science Building on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

2015 Conference Highlights:

- Keynote Speaker Richard McCarthy representing Slow Food USA
- 15 break-out sessions on a variety of topics
- Roundtable discussions
- Networking opportunities
- Time to visit with a variety of exhibitors
- A pre-conference workshop for farmers markets participating in the Double Up Food Bucks program during the 2015 market season will be held on Monday, March 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. . Registration is required and can be indicated on your conference registration form. If you plan to only attend the pre-conference workshop, please contact Yadira to register at yadira@mifma.org or 517-432-3381.

2015 Michigan Farmers Market Conference Sponsors

Bushel Sponsor

- [MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#)
- [Michigan Fitness Foundation](#)
- [Edible WOW Magazine](#)

Peck Sponsor

- [GreenStone Farm Credit Services](#)

Pint Sponsor

- [Michigan State Horticulture Society](#)
- [Michigan Community Action](#)
- [Michigan Ag Council](#)

Lodging

The 2015 Michigan Farmers Market Conference is being held during Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week at Michigan State University. During this week, the [Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center](#) offers reduced room rates. For more information, visit the ANR Week website.

Alternative lodging suggestions include three hotels located off of 127 at the Lake Lansing Road exit in Lansing, MI. These hotels include: [Courtyard Lansing Marriott](#), [Holiday Inn Express](#), and [Hampton Inn](#).

2014 Michigan Farmers Market Conference Recap

In 2014, the Michigan Farmers Market Conference was attended by more than 130 individuals including market managers, farmers and vendors, speakers, volunteers and exhibitors. Some participants traveled as far as 250 miles to attend the event. In 2015, more than 200 market managers and farmers/vendors are expected to attend from all across the state.

Participants at the 2014 Michigan Farmers Market Conference offered the following feedback about the event:

- “The conference offers a great opportunity to network with other market managers. The sessions present valuable information that I can take back and implement at my market.”
- “Because this was my first time attending the conference, I had no idea what to expect. I can affirm that I enjoyed the conference so much that I plan to attend the next one and want to become more active in the organization.”
- “For me, the best part of the conference is being able to choose between multiple sessions depending upon my unique needs. Also, getting excited and inspired for the upcoming season!”

The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) is a member-based, statewide association with a mission to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products. Your membership supports the work of this association and gives strength to the association's voice.

PURE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

Growers and processors interested in expanding their markets can connect with retail and institutional buyers at this annual event.

Posted on **February 10, 2015**, MSUE News, by [Rob Sirrione](#), Michigan State University Extension

Are you a grower or processor looking to expand or diversify your sales? Would you like the opportunity to meet with dozens of buyers at on the same day? If so, a [Michigan State University Extension](#) educator recommends that you attend the Second Annual [Pure Michigan Agriculture Summit](#).

Held at the Devos Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Summit will bring together over 20 Michigan Food Companies with over 200 open procurement needs. Purchasers will be available for one on one meetings, as well as walk-up consultations and include Cherry Capital Foods, Kroger, Marquette Food Cooperative, Meijer, University of Michigan, Metro Health Hospital and more. The Summit runs March 19, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and has been organized to help strengthen Michigan businesses and Michigan's supply chain. You can view a video from last year's summit here:

In order to be considered for a spot, you must complete a free [online application](#). The priority deadline for submitting an application is February 22, 2015. After this time, invites will only be awarded for needs that have not been met through previous applications.

The event is sponsored by [Pure Michigan Business Connect](#), the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#), and the [Right Place, Inc.](#) For questions please send an email to: businessconnect@michigan.org .

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**Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Announces Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity**
Proposals due to MDARD by March 26, 2015

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams today announced new opportunities for Michigan businesses thanks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Ag Marketing Services. The program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan's specialty crops. Grant proposals must be received by MDARD no later than 3 p.m. on March 26, 2015 by submitting them to MDA-grants@Michigan.gov.

"This grant program provides a unique opportunity for our state's specialty crop producers to enhance their profitability by expanding their domestic and international markets," said Clover Adams. "Specialty crops play a vital role in the diversity of our agricultural economy and these federal grants help provide additional consumer access to Michigan specialty crops. These funds also help improve the quality and availability of these products so our specialty crop industry remains competitive while growing Michigan's economy."

The grant funding is contingent on the availability of funds from USDA and Michigan's allocation has yet to be determined.

The grants, ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, enhance the competitiveness of the state's specialty crops, including, but not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, increased knowledge and consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, good agricultural practices, good handling practices, and good manufacturing practices.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government entities and for-profit organizations. The organizations must be legal entities recognized by the IRS, and applicants must reside and/or conduct their business or organization in Michigan. Applications should demonstrate how the project will potentially produce measurable impacts for the specialty crop industry as a whole; and not-for-benefit to a specific product, single organization, institution, or individual.

For program information, application form, or submission criteria, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdard or contact Nancy Nyquist at nyquistn@michigan.gov or 517-284-5735.

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS' TRAINING AND EXAM

Morning Training Seminar

There will be a Pesticide Applicators Training Seminar on **Thursday, February 26th**, 2015 at the Central Lake District Library located at 7900 Maple Street; Central Lake, MI 49622. The program will begin at 8:00 AM and run until 12:00 PM. Lunch will not be provided. Participants will review the Core Applicators Manual with MSU Extension Agriculture Educator James DeDecker. This seminar is an excellent opportunity to prepare for the MDARD Pesticide Applicator Examination. Participants may also claim four MDARD Pesticide Recertification Credits in the Private Core or Commercial Core categories.

The charge for attending this program is \$20. Pre-registration is required. Contact James DeDecker, Extension Educator Presque Isle County at 989-734-2168 more information and to register. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the Presque Isle MSUE office at 989-734-2168 **by Feb. 19th**, 2015 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests made after this date will be met when possible.

Afternoon MDARD Exam

There will be a MDARD Pesticide Applicator Exam offered on Thursday February 26th, 2015 at the Central Lake District Library located at 7900 Maple Street; Central Lake, MI 49622. The exam will begin at 1:00 PM and run until exams are complete. Participants may take either the Private Applicator or Commercial Applicator Exams.

The charge for this exam session is \$50 for Private Applicators and \$75 for Commercial Applicators. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.michigan.gov/pestexam or call 1-800-292-3939 to register. Bring a check to the exam payable to "State of Michigan". Contact James DeDecker, Extension Educator Presque Isle County at 989-734-2168 more information. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling the Presque Isle MSUE office at 989-734-2168 by Feb. 19th, 2015 to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests made after this date will be met when possible.

INDIANA AND MICHIGAN WATER USE REPORTING – MEETING THE REQUIREMENT

Agricultural water users in both Indiana and Michigan with the capacity to pump 70 gallons per minute or more need to report their water use by April 1.

Posted on **January 27, 2015**, MSUE News, by [Lyndon Kelley](#), Michigan State University Extension

Water use reporting and registration are important parts of water resource management in both Indiana and Michigan. Both states signed onto the Great Lakes Compact in which the federal government acknowledged each Great Lakes state's ability to manage the water resource of the basin, including the ability to deny diversions of water to areas outside the Great Lakes watershed.

Indiana uses the term Significant Water Withdrawal Facility (SWWF), where Michigan refers to these as Large Volume Water Uses (LVWU). In either state these terms apply to water use with the capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute). One or more withdrawals at a site having a 100,000 gallons or greater capacity, or combined capacity, per day, also meets the SWWF or LVWU water use definition. Water use reporting is required for all agricultural water uses (irrigation, cooling, animal, watering, etc.) from both surface and ground water withdrawals. The annual report is due by **April 1** of the following year and includes monthly water use estimates.

In Michigan, agricultural LVWU reports can only be completed by use of the [online system](#). An [online tutorial](#) on the use of the new reporting system is available. Michigan will not be sending individual reminders for reporting; rather the expectation is that water users will use the computer system each year to report annual use and new withdrawals. Alternate reporting system can only be accepted with the permission from MDARD. If you have no way of using the new online system or have questions about the system contacts Abigail Eaton at eatona@michigan.gov or 517-284-5612.

Online water use reporting will be very important as the management of water increases, allowing producers to build their database within the reporting system. Both states provided online reporting systems for the first time for the 2012 water use year. In Michigan only your 2012 and 2013 reports are loaded into the new system making it very important for water users to review their record back to 2004 and load all previously unreported registered water withdrawal facilities into the online system even if they were inactive for 2014 year.

Reporting LVWU withdrawals established, but not in the system prior to 2006 will not meet the Michigan Registration requirement. In 2008 Large Volume Water users had a one time opportunity to report 2007 or 2008 water use and also meet the States registration requirement. The only current system available to meet the registration requirement for any new or old withdrawals that was not previously registered or reported is to register it as a new water withdrawal through the [Michigan Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool](#).

The Indiana SWWF reporting system offers both paper and online reporting options. Personalized letters for each SWWF user are mailed at the end of each year containing the registration information from the previous year. Users can modify any of the facility information and add the monthly water use for the current year. A description of Indiana's registration program and [online reporting](#) option are available. [Locations of currently registered SWWFs](#) and the previous three years of reported water use are also available. In Indiana if you have a newly acquired or installed SWWF or a facility that has never been registered, please contact Allison Mann of the Water Rights and Use Section of the IDNR, Division of Water at (317) 234-1101 or toll free at 1-877-928-3755.

The required estimated water use can be accomplished by several methods including acre inch record, pump capacity multiplied by run time and flow meter readings. [Information](#) on estimating water use for irrigation/livestock, forms, or other large volume water use requirements can be found on [Michigan State University Extension](#) webpage or email me, Purdue/MSU Extension Irrigation Educator, with request for Water Use Reporting and Registration information at kelly@anr.msu.edu

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2015 GREAT LAKES HOP AND BARLEY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

Save the date: April 10-11, 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Posted on **January 21, 2015, MSUE News**, by [Rob Serrine](#), Erin Lizotte and Ashley McFarland, Michigan State University Extension

[Michigan State University Extension](#) is pleased to announce the dates for the 2015 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference. The two-day conference will be held Friday and Saturday, April 10 -11 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The conference will feature separate basic and advanced sessions for hop growers as well as a barley session and malting tour and is designed for both growers and brewers. Several prominent speakers from around the country will be on hand to discuss: market outlook, horticultural practices, pest and disease control, harvest and post-harvest practices, nutrient management, and more.

There will also be a brewer/grower networking session that focuses on hop quality. The session will provide growers with a better idea of quality requirements and help align the supply of Michigan grown hops with brewer needs.

The conference is sponsored in part by the [Michigan Brewer's Guild](#), [ISLAND](#), [Greenstone Farm Credit Services](#), [MSU PROJECT GREEN](#), among others.

Please continue to visit [Michigan State University Extension](#), [Michigan State University Extension Hops Webpage](#), and the [Michigan State University Hops News Facebook](#) page for up to date information.

Finally, please sign up for the new MSU Hop listserv for a lively interactive discussion of all things hop related. To subscribe:

1. Send an email to: listserv@list.msu.edu
2. Leave the "subject" line blank
3. In the body of the email type: SUBSCRIBE Hops
4. You will receive a confirmation email directing you to click on a link (this is to avoid spammers). Click on the link.

To send an email to the list once you have joined, just send it to: hops@list.msu.edu

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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/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/>

Information on apples:

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

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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