

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

March 3, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

- 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 Cider: From Apple to Bottle, an Overview of this Emerging Industry**
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville
- 3/25 Benzie/Manistee Hort Soc. Annual Meeting**
Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville
- 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

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:

**Michigan State University Extension, AgBioResearch, the Michigan Cider Association,
and the Benzie Manistee Horticulture Society presents**

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 Developing Modern Apple Systems for Producing Cider Fruit
Neil MacDonald, Orchard GroundCare, Amsterdam, U.K.
- 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.

- 2) **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**. For questions, please call 231-533-8818 and to register go to <http://events.anr.msu.edu/nwmlabormtg15/>. **Last day to register is March 24th.**

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN LABOR MEETING SCHEDULE

- 8:30-9:15 **Immigration Control and Enforcement: New Information**
Cory Howe, Special Agent, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations
- 9:15-10:00 **Department of Labor Compliance Issues on Farms and How You Can Be Prepared for Audits**
Craig Anderson, Agricultural Labor and Safety Services Program, Michigan Farm Bureau
- 10:00-10:15 **BREAK**
- 10:15-10:45 **Being a Competitive Employer is More Than Money**
Stan Moore, Educator, Michigan State University Extension
- 10:45-11:15 **Providing Feedback on Employee Performance**
Dr. Corey Risch, Assistant Professor, Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University
- 11:15-11:45 **Employer Liability for Farm Labor Contractors**
Daniella Darnell, Farm Labor Services
- 11:45-12:30 **LUNCH**
- 12:30-1:15 **Local and Out of State Labor Recruitment**
Kevin Benson and Jose Ragel, Agriculture Employment Specialists Workforce, Development Agency-Migrant, Seasonal & Immigrant Worker Services Division
Joe Parent, Prisoner Reentry Developer, NW Prisoner Reentry Program
- Working with Telamon on the Farm**
Carla Wojtal, Workforce Development Specialist, Telamon Corporation and Grower XXXX
- 1:15-1:30 **Update on Immigration Efforts of the Leelanau Women's League of Women Voters**
- Grower/New Immigration Programs*
- 1:30-2:00 **Our Experiences with the H2A Program: Two Years Under Our Belts**
Mark Miezio and Linda Gregory, Cherry Bay Orchards
- 2:00-2:45 **H2A Service Program: Experiences from 2014 and Moving Forward**
Sarah Pion, Michigan Farm Bureau Southwest Regional Representative
Katie Rasch, Michigan Farm Bureau, Ag Labor Program Coordinator

2:45-3:15 **Introduction to a new program: Healthy Harvest**
Kris Thomas, Benzie County Sunrise Rotary

- 3) **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

4-H TRACTOR SAFETY PROGRAM BEGINS IN APRIL

Once again, MSU Extension will be hosting a *4-H Tractor Safety Program* for teenagers 14 and 15 years of age. All five sessions will be held at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center beginning April 8. For more information and to register, please see attached flyer. Deadline for registration is **March 25, 2015**.

MICHIGAN FRUIT GROWERS ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE USDA FRUIT ACREAGE INVENTORY

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams encouraged the state's fruit growers to complete the 2014 Fruit Acreage Inventory being conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

"The fruit industry is a vital component to Michigan's food and agriculture economy," commented Jamie Clover Adams, MDARD Director. "Michigan ranks among the top three states in the country in our production of many fruits, with a combined annual farm gate value exceeding \$500 million in 2013. Knowing the trends in planted acres and varieties helps us to address the future needs of the Michigan fruit sector."

The survey includes important questions about the supply of labor available to growers, which will help agricultural organization leaders respond to the growing shortage of labor in the sector.

Survey forms were mailed to USDA's database of Michigan fruit growers in early February with completed forms to be returned as soon as possible. Assistance in completing the survey is available from USDA staff by calling (800) 453-7501 and follow up by USDA staff will start in March.

The results of the 2014 Fruit Survey will be available in late fall 2015 and will provide a summary of the fruit acreage in Michigan and the varieties that have been planted.

Funding to conduct the survey is provided through the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant program administered by MDARD. The goal of the program is to increase the competitiveness of specialty crop industries both nationally and globally, which includes fruit, vegetables, herbs, bedding plants, maple syrup and other crops.

The 2011 data is available on the USDA website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Michigan. Click on the drop down link to "Michigan

Rotational Surveys" in the "Publications" section. Other annual reports on Michigan agriculture are also available on this website.

PRESENTATIONS FROM NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW NOW POSTED

Cherry presentations from the 2015 NW Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show are now posted and can be found at <http://www.cherries.msu.edu>. Click on *Resources* from the menu on the left and then scroll down until you find the heading for the NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show along with a list of the presentations.

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 Sirrine](#), 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 .

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).

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 kelley@anr.msu.edu

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).

2015 GREAT LAKES HOP AND BARLEY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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

Posted on **January 21, 2015, MSUE News**, by [Rob Surrine](#), 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 GREENE](#), 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.

For Registration and Sponsorship Information, please click this link:

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/hopandbarley15/>

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

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).

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:

<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>