

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report 10/20/15

Calendar of Events

2015 - 2016

- 11/3** **Farm Succession Seminar**
1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Gaylord, MI (More details below)
- 11/5** **Farm Succession Seminar**
1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Gaylord, MI (More details below)
- 1/12 – 13** **2016 Orchard and Vineyard Show**

Grower Support Needed - MSU Extension Survey

We need your help! Please consider taking the [MSU Extension and AgBioResearch Survey to Sharpen Our Focus](#) survey in the next few weeks. This survey allows the public to have a voice in what they would like from MSU Extension. We would like to have as many people from the grower community take the survey in support of the MSU Extension agricultural offering in Northern Michigan. This survey will help the county extension offices as well as the NWMHRC. MSU Extension belongs to all of the people we serve, and your voice will help guide us toward a successful future.

As an added bonus, respondents who complete the survey will have the option of entering a drawing that includes two MSU men's basketball game tickets (date and time to be determined), a basket of Michigan-made agricultural products and a \$75 gift certificate to shop.msu.edu.

To participate, access the survey by visiting msue.msu.edu/focus. All information collected is anonymous. Once completed, a separate link will be provided to those who wish to enter the drawing. If you have any questions about this survey, please don't hesitate to contact the NWMHRC office at 231-946-1510.

November Grape Meetings - Own-rooted vinifera and Other Strategies for Rebuilding Vineyards

Advances in insecticide chemistry have in recent years made possible the control of the root Phylloxera in grapevines with spirotetramat. This has opened up the potential of growing *own-rooted* vinifera here in Michigan. MSU AgBioResearch has been researching this possibility over the past few years at research stations and with grower collaborators.

Please join us for a discussion of the merits and risks of own-rooted vinifera at meetings for commercial wine grape growers this November. There will be demonstration of collecting, storing, and using hardwood cuttings. We'll also be discussing layering, creating own-rooted vines in the nursery, retraining winter-injured vines and other relevant and practical topics.

Pick one to attend:

1) Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center

6686 S. Center Highway

Traverse City, MI 49684

Wednesday, November 18th

9 am to 12 noon

2) Southwest Michigan Horticulture and Extension Center

1791 Hillandale Rd.

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Tuesday, November 24th

9 am to 12 noon

Please fill out the attached PDF to register.

USDA BROADENS CROP INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR FRUIT AND NUT PRODUCERS

The sales closing date for apple and blueberry crop insurance is November 20th. There are a few new options this year. The links and a few maps are below. Apple and blueberry growers can contact a crop insurance agent for more information.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2015/07/0214.xml>

The [Supplemental Coverage Option \(SCO\)](#) is a county-level policy endorsement that covers a portion of the deductible of the underlying crop insurance policy. Please view the [SCO Fact Sheet](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or [SCO Program](#) page at the Risk Management Agency (RMA) website for additional information. Below is a map showing the counties this option is available for apples for the 2016 crop year.



Below is a map showing the counties this option is available for blueberries for the 2016 crop year.



The APH Yield Exclusion is a provision of the 2014 Farm Bill. The provision allows farmers to exclude eligible yields which occur from exceptionally bad years (such as a year in which a natural disaster or other extreme weather occurs) from their production history when calculating yields used to establish

their crop insurance coverage. The amount of insurance available to a farmer is based on the farmer's average historical yields. In the past, a year of particularly low yields that occurred due to severe weather beyond the farmer's control would reduce the amount of insurance available to the farmer in future years.

Please view [APH YE Fact Sheet](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or the [APH YE](#) page for additional information. The map below shows the counties apple producers will be eligible for APH Yield Exclusion. The blue indicates producers are eligible for one year and the green indicates producers are eligible for multiple years. The following link, <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/MapViewer/index.html> provides the maps and additional details.



Blueberry producers are eligible to exclude their 2011 yield in Berrien and Van Buren Counties using the APH Yield Exclusion.

Farm Succession Planning Seminars

Do you think about the following questions? I want an heir to eventually own my farm business, but I also want to treat my kids fairly, how do I do both? I know I need to do something regarding an estate or business succession plan, but I don't know how to begin! How have other family farm businesses handled the senior generation transitioning away from active management, particularly if there are other partners? How can the senior generation delegate authority in a business, but still maintain some control?

In an effort to reach farmers from near and far, identical 1.5 hour workshops to discuss the process of farm transition and succession will be held at four different times; November 3 from 1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and on November 5 from 1 PM to 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Business owners will learn to begin planning the transition of their farm business to a family successor(s) or a non-family successor. Actual farm family cases will be used so participants learn the issues other families face and how they handled them. Topics include evaluating the financial health of the current

operation and owners, communicating goals, how to determine if the business is financially viable enough to take on a new partner, building and implementing a plan, evaluating what is fair for the successor(s) versus what is equal, different business arrangements and how to effectively work with a qualified attorney.

Richard Edmonds, an attorney with specialization in agricultural business succession and estate planning, Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC, a local company with expertise in agricultural business succession and an MSU Extension farm business management educator will present.

The sessions will be held at the Michaywe Club House at 1535 Opal Lake Road, Gaylord, Michigan 49735. In the Woods restaurant is located on site and will be open for lunch and dinner at attendee cost.

Refreshments will be provided by the Law Offices of Richard L. Edmonds, PLC and Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC. These sponsors and Michigan State University Extension have underwritten all costs and there is no registration fee.

The workshops are open to the public and pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. While the workshops are aimed at Agricultural businesses, non- farm family businesses go through the same process and are welcome to attend.

To register contact Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC at 231-947-2920. For more information contact Curtis Talley or Kathy Walicki, MSU Extension at 231-873-2129.

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USDA – NASS 2015 Fruit Chemical Use Survey

USDA-NASS is conducting the Fruit Chemical Use Survey for the first time since 2011. Data collection will continue through December. Growers will receive an MDARD pesticide applicator recertification point for completing the survey. Most of the information needed for completion can be obtained directly from spray records. NASDA interviewers generally try not to contact growers until the harvest of their primary fruit crop is near completion.

About the Survey

The Fruit Chemical Use Survey provides detailed data about farm operators' use of chemicals on fruit crops. All data are collected by personal interviews. NASS contacts growers early in the survey period and then again once the 2015 harvest is complete or the last chemical application has been made. Because of variation in geographic and crop harvesting periods, the survey will run from September 2015 through January 2016. NASS will release the results of the survey on July 25, 2016. All data will be

available via NASS' Quick Stats database: quickstats.nass.usda.gov

What Topics Does this Survey Address?

NASS interviewers will ask about production practices related to the target fruit crops in the included states. Questions include:

- Fruit acres operated
- Types of fertilizers used (including amount, rate, and frequency of application)
- Pesticides used (including name of the chemical product and method, amount, rate, and frequency of application)
- Pest management practices

For the 2015 survey, NASS also partnered with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) to gather and analyze data on the use of microbial food safety practices on U.S. fruit and vegetable crops. New questions focus on topics, such as quality and testing of water used on the crop, steps taken to disinfect the crop, and food safety planning.

Responses to these additional questions will help in analyzing the impact of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) on the U.S. produce industry.

Who Uses the Information?

All sectors of the agriculture industry – producers, buyers, suppliers, policymakers and others – rely on fruit chemical use data to make sound business decisions. For example:

- The Environmental Protection Agency uses this information in the decision-making process for the Food Quality Protection Act, which impacts pesticide registration and product alternatives.
- Accurate pesticide use data are the only way to ensure that producers continue to have access to the chemicals they need. If growers do not accurately document their use of these products, regulators might not re-register a widely relied on product.
- Agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service use the data to document the quality and safety of U.S. food products, providing assurances to both domestic and international customers.

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of the survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

For more information on NASS' Agricultural Chemical Use Program contact the Environmental and Demographics Section at (202) 720-0684 or by email at scott.shimmin@nass.usda.gov.

To request a blank survey form, follow the link:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Request_for_Survey_Form/

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviowweather.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/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports:

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