

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – March 9, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

- 3/12** **Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!**
Grand Traverse Conservation District
- 3/17** **All About Apple Bloom: Pollination, Blossom Blight, and PGRs Workshop**
Kent County Extension Office, Grand Rapids, MI
- 3/22** **The Cost of Producing Tart Cherries in Northwest Michigan Workshop**
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center
- 4/6** **First day of Tractor Safety – Registration info below**
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center
- 4/13** **Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture**
NWMHRC
- 4/14** **IPM Kickoff - 3PM – 8PM (More information to come)**
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Tractor Safety Program

Teens can improve their chances of employment by completing tractor safety training. MSU Extension will host a 4-H Tractor Safety Program for 14 and 15 year old youth on Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 from 6-8:30 pm at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The written and driving test will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Participants must attend all five sessions to become certified. The cost is \$75 per student and some scholarships are available if finances are an issue. Youth must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2016. Space is limited. The registration deadline is March 25. Registration forms are available online at www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau and attached.

Call the MSU Extension office for more information at 231-256-9888.

The Cost of Producing Tart Cherries in Northwest Michigan Workshop

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

March 22, 2016

5:30 – 8:00 PM

We would like to invite tart cherry growers to please join us for dinner and a cost of producing (COP) tart cherries workshop hosted by Mollie Woods, Emily Pochubay, and Nikki Rothwell at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC) on March 22nd. This workshop will be a good opportunity for growers who are new or returning to the tart cherry business to learn about the many variables associated with production and how to calculate costs. We also encourage more seasoned growers to join us for an evening to catch up on crunching numbers or those who are looking to compare their COP estimates with an industry average.

The meeting will kickoff at 5:30 PM with a brief introduction to the findings of our 2015 COP study and describe to participants how the study's estimated production costs were generated. Following this presentation, participants will be provided with a current COP worksheet and guided through an exercise to calculate their individual farm business' production costs. We would like to encourage any interested individuals to bring with them any known costs such as chemical input expenses, labor rates, etc. as well as estimated yields on a per acre basis to improve the accuracy of their individual COP calculations. However, industry averages will be provided in the event that the suggested information is not available.

Please contact Jenn Goodrich at 231-946-1510 or goodr100@msu.edu to register by March 14th. This meeting is FREE and includes dinner. However, registration by March 14th is required to guarantee your dinner.

Thank you to the Michigan Cherry Committee for funding the cost of production research and this workshop.

All About Apple Bloom: Pollination, Blossom Blight, and PGRs Workshop

Thursday, March 17, 2016
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Kent County Extension Office
775 Ball Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI

This workshop designed for apple growers will focus on bloom-time issues including pollination, blossom blight control, and timing of plant growth regulators. Growers will learn about the wild pollinators likely to be found on their farms, how to improve communication with beekeepers providing pollination services, how to draft a pollinator stewardship plan, programs to offset the cost for planting pollinator habitat, strategies for controlling blossom blight, blossom thinning techniques and other bloom-time related plant growth regulator issues. Lunch is included.

Cost:

\$20 per person

Workshop Agenda

8:30 a.m. Check in, coffee provided

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Workshop Overview

9:05 a.m. What is Integrated Crop Pollination?

9:15 a.m. Wild Bees in Michigan Apple Orchards

10:00 a.m. Making the Most of Managed Pollinators

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. NRCS Cost-share programs

11:15 a.m. Developing a Pollinator Stewardship Plan

11:45 a.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m. Strategies for Managing Blossom Blight

1:00 p.m. Blossom Time Thinning

Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture

Hosted by: League of Women Voters Leelanau County

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Speakers include:

Connee Canfield, farmer, migrant housing developer and site manager for SunRISE migrant worker apartments in Hartford, MI

Majed Ghussaini, manager for the Migrant Labor Housing Inspection and Licensing Division, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Meeting is open to the public and is part of the Farm Labor Task Force Forum that the League of Women Voters Leelanau County puts on.

Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!

Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City \$10/person (by March10) or \$15 at the door

Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and prevent 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. Also, learn about how you can become involved in the new “Sentinel Tree” Program, a volunteer program of monitoring and reporting health conditions into a statewide database to increase our chances of effective control of non-native threats to our forests.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or kama.ross@macd.org.

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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/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports:

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