

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

January 21, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2/1 | Small Farm Conference
Grand Traverse Resort |
| 2/5 | “The Agricultural Migrant Worker in Leelanau County:
Issues and Challenges, 2013-14”
Leelanau County Governmental Center |
| 2/5-6 | SW Michigan Horticulture Days
Lake Michigan College’s Mendel Center
Near Benton Harbor |
| 2/18-19 | IPM Academy |
| 2/19-21 | Tour of Pacific Northwest Cherry Orchard Systems & Research Trials |
| 2/22-26 | IFTA Conference
Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 2/26-28 | Michigan Grape & Wine Conference
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI
http://www.michiganwines.com/conference |
| 2/27-3/1 | IFTA Post Conference Tours |
| 2/27-3/1 | 25th Moses Organic Farming Conference
LaCrosse, WI
www.mosesorganic.org |
| 2/28-3/8 | ANR Week (Formerly Farmers’ Week)
MSU |
| 3/1 | 2014 Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference
Kellogg Center, MSU |
| 3/11 | Michigan Spring Peach Update Meeting
SW Michigan Research & Extension Center |
| 3/12 | Irrigation Workshop
NWMHRC |
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INTENSIVE TOUR OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHERRY ORCHARD SYSTEMS AND RESEARCH TRIALS

(led by Greg Lang, Michigan State University)

Tuesday Feb 18 - everyone flies into Portland (PDX) by about 3:00 (or meets at the airport if arriving somewhere out west before Tuesday).

Delta has at least three flight arrivals in that timeframe: 11:13 am via Minneapolis, 12:26 pm via Salt Lake City, 2:43 via Los Angeles.

United has an arrival at 11:09 am or 2:26 pm via Chicago, 12:34 pm or 2:50 pm via San Francisco, and 1:29 via Denver.

We rent vehicle(s) and drive to The Dalles, probably meeting several growers for dinner around 6:00 or 6:30 pm. If everyone in the group arrives on earlier flights, we could possibly visit Dr. Todd Einhorn at the OSU/Hood River station.

Overnight in The Dalles.

Wednesday Feb 19 - meet with Lynn Long and visit 2-3 progressive growers in The Dalles (Mike Omeg, Tim Dahle's orchard, perhaps one more; mature KGB orchards, young UFO trials).

Lunch in the The Dalles, then drive to Prosser, WA, visiting the oldest commercial UFO orchard (meet with grower Mark Hanrahan and Dr. Matt Whiting) mid-afternoon on the way. Overnight in Prosser.

Thursday Feb 20 - meet with Dr. Whiting to see his research trials at WSU/Prosser, visit 1-2 progressive growers in the lower Yakima valley (UFO at Olsen Brothers orchards), visit 1-2 progressive growers in the Tri-Cities and/or Columbia Basin (probably V-trellis cherries).

Overnight in Wenatchee. Possible dinner with growers.

Friday Feb 21 - visit with 1-2 progressive growers in the upper Columbia Valley, cross the border (bring passports!), visit AgCanada research station and NC140 cherry systems and irrigation/fertigation research trials at Summerland (Drs. Denise and Gerry Neilsen), finish in Kelowna.

Overnight in IFTA lodging.

Sat Feb 22 - IFTA Cherry Shortcourse

Sun Feb 23 - IFTA Cherry tour of Kelowna area

Mon-Wed Feb 24-26 - IFTA Conference

In General

Everyone would be responsible for his/her own airfare and flight plans into Portland. Return flight options are from Kelowna (most expensive) or from Seattle or Portland (much cheaper). For anyone staying for the IFTA post-conference tour, the organizers told me that participants will have an option of catching a bus to Seattle at the end, which would make it easy to fly out of Seattle. Another possibility is to catch a one-way flight on Alaska Airlines from Kelowna to Seattle (which is what I'm doing), which may be significantly cheaper than a Delta or United flight from Kelowna back to Michigan.

Likewise, everyone would be responsible for paying their hotel bills each night; what I will need is a head count/room count (e.g., single or double) for the reservations at each pre-tour lodging stop, which will be suitably middle-of-the-road (e.g., Best Westerns, Holiday Inn Expresses, Hampton Inns, etc., preferably places with breakfast included). Once I get a final head count, I can pick specific hotels and get actual room pricing.

Everyone would be responsible for paying for their own meals.

So, the main group expenses that I would have to estimate for dividing up will just be the rental vehicles, fuel, and if we pick up the tab for meals for any of our hosts. I would probably try to overestimate a little so that we have a cushion for unforeseen expenses. The final number of participants will dictate what type of vehicles we get and how many other drivers I'll need to work onto the rental plans.

I would like to know by Monday January 27 (i.e., about 3 weeks before the tour would commence) the names and contact information for all persons who are interested/committed to joining this PNW pre-workshop tour!

Thanks,

Greg (langg@msu.edu)

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN HORTICULTURE DAYS

Date: February 5, 2014 - February 6, 2014

Time: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave, Benton Harbor, MI

Contact: Mark Longstroth, longstr7@msu.edu or Allan Zelmar, 269-870-5265, info@fruitfulvinetours.com

This two-day trade and educational show is sponsored by the Michigan Grape Society and Michigan State Horticulture Society and coordinated by the Michigan Grape Society and Michigan State University Extension. Educational programs are focused on grapes, tree fruit, blueberries and vegetable growers in Southwest Michigan.

Starts Wednesday morning with a general education session. On Wednesday afternoon there will be concurrent Vegetable, Grape and Tree Fruit sessions. Thursday's concurrent sessions will be Tree Fruit, Blueberry and Grape. Another part of this event is the Southwest Michigan Wine Educational Showcase on Wednesday afternoon after the educational sessions at the SW Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC), about 3 miles from the conference site.

Registration will open at 8 a.m. both days (Feb. 5-6) and programs begin at 9 a.m. A trade show with vendors and door prizes is open each day and is included in the registration cost. The education program covers a wide range of topics covered by local and state experts and out-of-state speakers.

MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5

The League of Women Voters Leelanau County Farm Labor Task Force will host a panel program on **“The Agricultural Migrant Worker in Leelanau County: Issues and Challenges, 2013-14”** on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at noon in the lower level meeting room of the Leelanau County Government Center.

Securing reliable, skilled seasonal farm and processing labor continues to challenge our local agricultural employers. The panelists include a long time county farm employer, representatives from migrant housing and education, and a seasonal worker and current NMC student. This LWVLC presentation follows a new study by its Farm Labor Task Force on this vital aspect of our area's economy. Proposed Federal immigration law reform may provide a more efficient farm labor visa; however, given growing uncertainty over weather conditions, crop size, and the lack of willing, skilled domestic workers, the question remains as to how our local agricultural employers will attract skilled, reliable workers to northern Michigan, the end of the migrant worker stream.

The public is invited. Many people bring a sack lunch. LWVLC business meeting to follow presentation.

For more information: Call [231-386-5106](tel:231-386-5106), visit LWVLeelanau.org or follow LWVLC on Facebook at League of Women Voters Leelanau County.

2014 GROWING MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Emerging important issues will prompt valuable discussion at the 2014 Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference during Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week.

Posted on **January 17, 2014, MSUE News**, by [Stan Moore](#), and Bruce MacKellar, Michigan State University Extension

There's no doubt that agriculture plays a vital role in Michigan's economy. In April 2012, Michigan State University (MSU) researchers announced that through the food and agriculture supply chain, the industry contributes an estimated \$91.4 billion to Michigan's economy – an increase of nearly 50 percent from 2004 to 2010.

New and evolving issues such as changes in technology, weather and public expectations continue to challenge Michigan farmers. [Michigan State University Extension](#) has brought together farmers and agricultural professionals who work within Michigan's wide-ranging agricultural commodities to assist the state's farmers in learning more about potential changes on the horizon.

The third annual Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will take place Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus during [Agriculture and Natural Resources \(ANR\) Week](#).

The one-day conference is packed with timely information from MSU experts and nationally renowned speakers that will help Michigan producers maximize their farms' potential.

The 2014 conference also offers concurrent breakout sessions that focus on specific areas of agriculture including animal production, field crops and specialty crops.

At last year's Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference, more than 70 participants learned about labor management, precision agriculture, food safety, risk management, soil management and the Farm Bill. Participants at the conference included farmers, farm employees, agribusiness professionals, consultants, Extension personnel and government representatives.

Attendees came from farms of all sizes and reported that attending the program was valuable to their farm operations. When asked what they gained, respondents indicated that they would be

able to apply what they learned to their businesses, and they also reported an increase in management skills. Participants appreciated the global perspective that they received.

In 2014, the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference takes place in conjunction with Michigan Farm Bureau's Statewide Commodity and Marketing Conference. The new partnership promises to provide excellent educational sessions for Commodity and Marketing Conference farmer attendees, and it will allow the Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference to continue to build on its reach to Michigan farmers.

The Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 5, followed by the Michigan Farm Bureau Statewide Commodity and Marketing Conference beginning at 5:30 p.m. on March 5 and continuing on March 6.

"We are looking forward to having knowledgeable speakers presenting to such a diverse agricultural audience," said Dale Rozeboom, MSU professor and Extension specialist. "So often we have great speakers at our individual winter commodity meetings. This conference allows people from all agriculture sectors to come together in one setting, hear the very best speakers and get the latest information on a variety of important topics."

This year's topics and speakers include:

- Global economic outlook and impacts on agriculture – Bryan Dierlam, Director, Government Affairs, Cargill
- Antibiotic use and resistance: How do we keep Michigan agriculture resilient so it continues to grow in the future? – Jim Tiedje, MSU University Distinguished Professor, Center for Microbial Ecology at MSU
- Regional water availability resources and future challenges – David Hyndman, MSU Department of Geological Sciences
- Farmland ownership – Dennis Stein, Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources update
- State and National Legislative Update – Ryan Findlay and Matt Smego, Michigan Farm Bureau
- Breakout sessions for animal production, field crops and specialty crops
 - Animal production – USDA's project to reduce mastitis and antimicrobial use on dairy farms.
 - Field crop – Using a Drone for crop management decisions
 - Specialty crop (two parts) – Food safety modernization act and you; and Where is our labor coming from?
 - Modeling farming systems strategies to optimize water, carbon and nitrogen cycling – Bruno Basso, MSU Department of Geological Sciences

Registration information is available at <http://bit.ly/GrowingMichigan>. The cost for the conference is \$75 by Jan. 28, 2014; \$85 by March 3, 2014; and \$95 at the door. To find out more information or to learn how to become a sponsor, contact ANR Event Services at events@anr.msu.edu or 517-353-3175.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SET TO HOST 99TH ANNUAL ANR WEEK

Gardeners, farmers, foresters and families interested in animals, plants, land and water are invited to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week, **Feb. 28-March 8, 2014**. The annual event, formerly known as Farmers' Week, is hosted by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension and MSU AgBioResearch.

This year's events include educational programs on topics ranging from conservation stewardship to artisan cheesemaking.

Programs this year include:

- Birding 101: A Beginner's Guide to Birding (March 1) – This workshop is sponsored by Michigan Audubon and the Quiet Water Symposium. It will explore the use of binoculars and field guides, and cover bird identification and habitat.
- Forage Technology Conference (March 6) – This conference, sponsored by MSU Extension, the Michigan Forage Council and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, will feature innovative researchers, industry representatives and cutting-edge farmers. They will speak on topics such as grazing management, use of cover crops as forage, hay and haylage production, and corn silage production.

In addition, ANR Week is the setting for several annual meetings and conferences, including the following:

- Michigan State Rabbit Breeders (Feb. 28-March 2), which includes exhibition and judging of more than 3,000 rabbits and cavies.
- Michigan Wildflower Conference (March 2-3), which will focus on preserving and restoring biodiversity in generally urban and suburban yards.
- 82nd Michigan FFA Convention (March 5-7), which is themed, "Envision the Goal, Embrace Your Journey."
- Michigan Barn Preservation Network Conference (March 7-8), which offers barn enthusiasts and barn owners an opportunity to learn more about Michigan's agricultural heritage and historic farm buildings.
- Michigan Beekeepers' Association Spring Conference: The Wonder of Honeybees (March 7-8), will offer breakout sessions for participants to learn about the many aspects of beekeeping.

Other events include the Michigan Farmers Market Conference (March 4-5), Horticultural Therapy: Connecting People and Plants (March 7), Horse Expo 2014 (March 7-9) and the Quiet Water Symposium (March 1).

In addition, the third annual Growing Michigan Agriculture Conference will take place Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus during ANR Week. For more information or to register, visit <http://bit.ly/GrowingMichigan>.

Free ANR Week program guides with dates, times, locations, costs and event descriptions are available from any county MSU Extension office or the MSU Bulletin Office, 117 Central Services, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1001; 517-353-6740.

For a complete list of programs, conferences and educational opportunities, visit www.anrweek.canr.msu.edu, or contact program coordinator Meghan Honke at 517-353-3175, ext. 229, or e-mail honkemeg@msu.edu.

MICHIGAN SPRING PEACH UPDATE MEETING

Date: March 11, 2014

Time: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Location: 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Contact: Dr. Bill Shane, 269-944-1477 ext. 205; cell: 269-208-1652; shane@msu.edu

Peach growers are always looking for ways to improve their profitability. The Michigan Spring Peach Update is the best annual meeting in Michigan to learn about this crop.

The meeting will focus on fresh market peaches including new peach varieties, insect management strategies, disease control, marketing strategies, rootstocks, farm marketing, and mechanical peach thinning.

Attendees will be eligible for credits toward recertification of their Michigan pesticide applicators license.

Deadline for early registration is Monday, March 3, 2014. Registration is \$30 per person or \$25 for current Michigan Peach Sponsor members, with catered lunch included. Registrations mailed after March 3 or at the door are \$5 more per person.

The meeting will take place at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, Mich, which is 2.5 miles east of I-94 exit 30 to Hillandale Road. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with programs starting at 9 a.m.

To pay in advance by check or money order, a registration form can be downloaded from the website Michiganpeach.org and mailed with payment by March 3. After this time, register at the door with check, money order, or cash. Credit cards will not be accepted. For additional meeting information, registration forms, or assistance, contact the conference coordinator Dr. Bill Shane at 269-944-1477 ext. 205, 269-208-1652 cell.

IRRIGATION WORKSHOP - Traverse City

Date: March 12, 2014

Time: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: NW Michigan Horticulture Research Center, 6686 S. Center Hwy, Traverse City, MI

Contact: ANR Event Services, events@anr.msu.edu , 517-353-3175

Irrigation use has greatly increased in the past 10 years and growers have found it to be an important aspect in risk management. The ability to apply water during times of inadequate rainfall helps growers maintain quality and yields, keeping them economically viable in the current agricultural economy. To assist current and future irrigators, Michigan State University Extension is hosting several irrigation workshops across the state and Northern Indiana in 2014. To learn more about these workshops, including the dates and locations, please visit the [2014 Irrigation Workshops registration page](#).

AIRBLAST 101: A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR USERS OF AIRBLAST SPRAYERS

The Airblast 101 website hosts practical pesticide application technology resources for advanced readers and trainers, including current factsheets, presentations, videos and articles.

Posted on **January 8, 2014**, **MSUE News**, by [Diane Brown](#), Michigan State University Extension

Thanks to the efforts of Jason Deveau, application technology specialist at the [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#) (OMAF), and others, there is a new online resource available with practical tools for users of airblast sprayers: [Airblast 101](#). Operators of airblast sprayers apply pesticides to ensure the health and marketability of their crops. For an application to be successful, it is necessary to understand safe pesticide handling, which products to apply, correct application timing and to have the requisite skill to apply pesticides effectively and efficiently.

Until recently, operators had limited resources to address application skills. [Airblast 101](#), now available online and recommended by [Michigan State University Extension](#), is a classroom-style course designed to provide practical information for applying pesticides, plant growth regulators and foliar nutrients effectively, economically and in an environmentally responsible manner. Developed by OMAF in association with [Croplife Canada](#), this course was created to introduce a new operator to spraying or to provide a review for a seasoned veteran.

Chapters include airblast sprayer efficiency; calibration; confirming coverage; nozzle choices; troubleshooting coverage; tank-mixes; controlling spray drift and sprayer maintenance and

cleaning. Although metric units are used, there are pages with conversions to U.S. units and a wealth of other information worth a look for anyone using airblast sprayers.

The introduction of [Airblast 101](#) in 2011 has provided hundreds of operators with a solid grounding in the basics of airblast sprayer operation as well advanced techniques. Those that have made changes to their spray programs report significant improvement in the effectiveness of the application, such as improved crop quality or yield, and greater application efficiency, such as pesticide inputs reduced by about 10 percent or more per annum and reduced environmental impact such as drift and runoff.

The [Airblast 101](#) website hosts the entire content of the handbook along with a library of additional resources including factsheets, a series of sprayer-related PowerPoint presentations, instructional videos and articles submitted by Extension and university staff across North America. The website serves as a one-stop shop for airblast sprayer information and provides information about where Airblast 101 courses are being taught. The site is free to anyone interested in improving their spray programs.

For more information, contact jason.deveau@ontario.ca

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

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REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2014 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY!

Looking to brush up on your pest management skills? Register now to ensure your spot at this pioneering workshop designed to serve specialty crop, field crop, and landscape professionals.

Michigan State University Extension is pleased to announce that the 3rd annual Integrated Pest Management Academy will be held **February 18-19** at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos Michigan (located just outside of East Lansing). The *2014 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy* is a two day workshop packed full of information to help you improve your integrated pest management practices on farm and take advantage of all the great resources Michigan State University has to offer. The presenters at this program include a number of MSU's best and brightest research and extension faculty, offering a rare opportunity to hear from experts working in a variety of disciplines and cropping systems at a single event. The first day of the program will cover fundamental topics including: IPM strategies for disease and insect control; promoting and protecting pollinators; alternative weed control strategies; pesticide basics; the impacts of weather on pesticides; invasive pests; and IPM resources from MSU. On the second day of the workshop participants opt into two, half-day sessions focused on the topic of their choice. This year, the day two sessions include the following options:

Morning Sessions

- ***Soil health: What is it, Why is it Important, and How Can it be Managed?***
Soil is one of the most important, but often the ignored components of successful plant production. Understanding the importance of soil management and how soil interacts with nutrients, water and pesticides will be explored during this session. Attendees are encouraged to bring soil test results to get a personal recommendation for their site and crops. This a cross commodity session, everyone's welcome.
- ***Landscape Design and IPM: Getting it Right from the Start***
Many landscape plant problems are rooted in poor design or poor plant selection. This session will feature a discussion on landscape design, placement and selection of ornament plants and their implications when dealing with pest management in landscapes. This session may be of interest to landscape professionals or backyard enthusiasts.

- ***Stewardship of Pesticides in Michigan Field Crops***
Farmers use many tools to manage weeds, insects and diseases in their cropping system. Still, chemical controls are often favored for their ability to provide efficient and effective crop protection. This session will offer an overview of the many pesticide options available to field crop producers, discuss their modes of action and highlight management strategies that can be used to limit the development of pesticide resistance as well as practices that can be used to manage pest populations that already exhibit resistance.
- ***Hops: Getting Started***
The morning hop session will cover an introduction to hops, soils and site selection, understanding soil and tissue testing, variety selection, trellising, irrigation and establishment costs.

Afternoon sessions

- ***Hop Management***
The afternoon hop session will cover planting and training hops, fertilizer and nutrient requirements, common insect mite and disease problems, scouting for insects and diseases, weed management, and harvesting and processing hops.
- ***Ecologically-Based Fruit Pest Management***
Growing fruit can be an input intensive, challenging endeavor. Session participants will learn about ecologically sound preventative pest actions, pest management approaches, and horticultural practices that can help lessen the challenge of growing fruit.
- ***Managing Pests in Diverse Vegetable Rotations***
Michigan growers produce a wide diversity of vegetables at many different scales, which are challenged by a sometimes overwhelming diversity of insect, disease and weed pests. This session aims to introduce conventional and organic growers to an integrated set of control tactics—including cultural, chemical, mechanical and biological approaches—that can be used to manage pests in an economically and environmentally sound way.
- ***Solving the Puzzle: IPM Planning and Implementation for Real-world Field Crops Systems***
Integrated pest management makes sense on paper, but how do you fit this broad philosophy into a real-world cropping system? In this session we will discuss how to develop a farm IPM plan that encourages pest management decisions that focus on maintaining efficiency and maximizing profitability. In addition, a panel of farmers will share with participants how they have successfully incorporated IPM principles into their farm plans.
- ***Emerging Pest Problems of Michigan Landscapes***
New or invasive pests can cause significant economic and ecological damage. This session will review current and potential pest problems to Michigan landscapes such as oak wilt, hemlock woolly adelgid, thousand canker disease, Asian longhorn beetle and more.

Registration

The cost of this event is \$225. Please note that snacks, lunch, and parking are included. Participants also receive a notebook with program material and a complimentary IPM-related

MSU bulletin. Michigan pesticide recertification credits will be available, the exact number will be based on session selection but participants can expect at least 6 credits (private or commercial core available). For more information on the program, a full agenda or registration, visit <http://bit.ly/ipm-academy14> . For more information or to register by phone contact Betsy Braid at braidbet@msu.edu or 517-884-7081.

This program was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

WEBSITES 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/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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