

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

February 12, 2013

MAEAP PHASE I CREDITS AVAILABLE AT 2013 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

Getting verified in the MAEAP shows your peers and neighbors that you're committed to agricultural stewardship and protecting the environment. Start the process today by attending the IPM Academy for your Phase 1 credit.

Posted on **February 8, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Erin Lizotte**, Michigan State University Extension

Growers are invited to attend the [2013 Integrated Pest Management Academy](#), a [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program \(MAEAP\)](#) Phase 1 meeting, on Feb. 19-20 in Okemos, Mich. There you will fill out a MAEAP Phase 1 form to start the process. (**Registration is open through Feb. 12**, so [register today](#).)

After attending the educational meeting, you will then be contacted by your [local Conservation District](#) to do a farm-specific risk assessment. Each assessment looks at the farm and evaluates different aspects, especially areas that could use updating or improvement to minimize environmental risks and pollution. The farmer then works to correct any of these areas and make necessary improvements and is visited by a Verifier who ensures the farmer has implemented environmentally sound practices.

After becoming MAEAP verified, a farm can display a MAEAP sign, signifying that MAEAP partners recognize the farm is environmentally assured. To learn more about the importance of MAEAP verification visit the website at www.maeap.org.

The [Michigan State University Extension 2013 IPM Academy](#) will address the weather challenges of the 2012 production season with the help of Dr. Jonathan Comstock from [Cornell University's Department of Horticulture](#). Comstock will specifically address shifting weather patterns and the related impacts affecting agricultural producers. Comstock is a climate change expert and is co-author of both the Agriculture and Ecosystems chapters of the recent [New York ClimAID Report](#), which looks at climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies. MSU experts will also be on hand to discuss irrigation, frost protection and changing weather patterns in Michigan.

On the second day of the event, participants will opt into two, half-day sessions on the topics of their choice. Morning sessions include

- **Apple and Cherry IPM:** Come with us on a season-long excursion where we will show how to tailor your integrated pest management decisions to produce a marketable crop in Michigan apple and cherry orchards.
- **Conifer IPM:** Come learn how to identify and monitor for the most destructive pests and diseases of Michigan's conifer tree species.
- **Communicating Climate Change:** On Day 1, you heard about the science and concerns for farming with changes in climate. How do you talk about what you've learned with farmers and others in your community? Here's how to navigate a potentially divisive subject that is important for agriculture.
- **Scouting Techniques for Field Crops and Forages:** Learn the basics of scouting for diseases, weeds and insects in field crops. Crop growth stages, pests life cycles, weather conditions and the date on the calendar can all impact the success of finding pests and ultimately controlling pests. Learn how each of these factors can help your success during the growing season.

- **Vegetable IPM:** This session takes participants through a production year on tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, onions, garlic and asparagus. As we go through the year, you will be introduced to the various insect and disease pests and how best to control them using IPM techniques.
- Afternoon sessions include:
 - **Check it Out – MSU Resources for Hops, Saskatoons and Chestnuts:** Interested in these up and coming Michigan crops? Then join us for this introduction to these cropping systems and available MSU Resources to help get you started!
 - **Deciduous Tree IPM:** Come learn how to identify and monitor for the most destructive pests and diseases of Michigan’s deciduous tree species.
 - **Emerging Issues in Field Crop Pesticide Resistance:** Each growing season presents a new set of challenges. In recent years, resistant pests have threatened production systems. In this session, participants will learn how resistance develops and discuss management practices that can decrease the risk of developing resistant strains. In addition, participants will learn what weeds, insects and diseases are positioned to pose a threat to Michigan field crops.
 - **IPM in Small Fruit Crops:** In this session we will focus on spotted wing drosophila, fruitworms, beetles, and common disease of small fruits including blueberry, strawberry, brambles.
 - **Vegetable IPM:** This session will guide you through a production year for vine crops, legumes snap beans and peas and cole crops with emphasis on insect and disease identification and IPM control. The session will conclude by exploring emerging IPM challenges and opportunities in vegetable crops resulting from changing conditions and technologies.

Agricultural educators and consultants will receive a complimentary IPM bulletin of their choice. For more information on what these sessions include please access the [IPMA13 registration](#) page.

The cost of this program is \$225. **Registration is open through Feb. 12**, but space is limited so [register today](#). For more information, or to request a paper registration form, please contact [Erin Lizotte](#) at 231-944-6504.

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.

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 AGRICULTURAL LABOR PROGRAM

February 20, 2013 – 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center
8:00 a.m. – Moderator: New FARM Rep.**

“Registration and Visit Agencies Display Tables”

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. “What the Employment Services via Michigan Works and the Workforce Development Agency Can Do to Assist Employers: An overview of the Agricultural Recruitment System”

Belen Ledezma, Director, Michigan Migrant, Immigrant & Seasonal Worker Services Workforce Development Agency

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. “An Update on Regulations that may affect Farm Employers”

- **Sharing Farm Labor**
- **Housing**
- **Competitive Pay**

Craig Anderson, RCAP Program, Michigan Farm Bureau

10:00 a.m. – Break/Visit Agencies Display Tables

10:15 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. "I-9's... Are You In Compliance In Case You Get a Visit?"

Blair Babcock, Agent, Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement

10:50-11:10 Learning to Think Differently about How We Harvest Crops

Nikki Rothwell and Pam Schmidt-Bardenhagen, New FARM Program

11:10 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. "Thinking outside the Box – Labor Force"

Jerry Stanek – High School Labor – A team approach!

Jeff and Nita Send – High School and College Labor

Cherry Bay Orchards – Retired Labor Force

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. "Thinking outside the Box – Needed Infrastructure to make your farm the Place to Work"

Pam and Steve Bardenhagen – Payroll Systems

Ginger Bardenhagen – Housing

Nikki Rothwell - Harvest Aids and Training Systems

1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. "Thinking outside the Box – Management Systems that Work"

Dawn Pater, Owner-Alliance Spa Consulting – How we Manage Labor for Business Success

Stan Moore – Upping your Management Game: Recruiting, Retaining, and Engaging your Employees

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open Discussion

3:30 p.m. – Adjourn

Registration Cost - \$10 per person. Please register by February 18.

To register, or for more information, please call the NW Horticulture Research Center at 231-946-1510. The research center is located at 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684.

MICHIGAN ONLINE LARGE VOLUME WATER USE REPORTS DUE APRIL 1

Agricultural water use withdrawals in Michigan of 70 gallons per minute or more need to be reported via the new online system by April 1.

Posted on **February 4, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Lyndon Kelley**, Michigan State University Extension

Michigan Agricultural Large Volume Water Use reports are due to the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#)(MDARD), by **April 1**. Without permission from MDARD, the only legitimate method of reporting is the [new online system](#). An online [tutorial](#) on the use of the new reporting system is available, as well as a [video tutorial](#).

This first year of using the [online Water Use Reporting system](#) will be very important, allowing producers to build their database within the reporting system. None of your previous year's reports are directly loaded into the new system, making it very important for water users to review their records back to 2004 and load all registered water withdrawals into the online system.

Large volume water use is defined as the **capacity** to withdraw 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute). The combined capacity of more than one well at a site – which is 100,000 gallons or greater capacity per day (70 gallons per minute) – also meets the volume water use definition. Large volume water use reporting is required for all agricultural water uses (irrigation, cooling, animal, watering, etc.) from both surface and ground water withdrawals. All non-agriculture related water use reports are sent to the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#) (MDEQ). Generic forms were sent from MDARD in late December. Keeping an each year of your report for your files is very important.

The baseline capacity is the reported system capacity used or developed to make a withdrawal on Feb. 28, 2006 or as registered with withdrawal established after Feb. 28, 2006. Reporting a baseline capacity greater than 70 gallons per minute from the original reported or registered baseline capacity constitutes a new water withdrawal. The once required static water level is no longer required but may be reported if available.

Large volume water users need to provide the latitude/longitude for the well location; surface water withdrawals are not required but very helpful to the process. Estimating water use can be accomplished by several methods:

- **water application multiplied by number of applications**, plus estimate of additional water use,
- **pump capacity multiplied by run time** or fuel/power use per hour,
- **flow meter** meters actual flow, note maintenance and calibration concerns,
- **Industry average numbers** (Midwest Plan Service or ASAE) with appropriate adjustments (not appropriate for high variable water uses such as irrigation).

[Information is available](#) through [Michigan State University Extension](#) on estimating water use for irrigation, livestock, farms or other large volume water use requirements. Follow the irrigation link on the left hand side of the screen. There are several upcoming meetings and open house opportunities in Feb. and March where large volume water users can receive help with reporting and registration requirements also listed at the [website](#). [Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program](#) (MAEAP) [technicians](#) located at many of the county NRCS office have been trained to assist producers in completing the large volume water use reporting requirement.

If you have no way of using the new online system contacts Abigail Eaton at eatona@michigan.gov , or 517-241-3933 for assistance or other options.

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).

2013 NATIONAL STRAWBERRY SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Center for Agriculture and Rural Sustainability announces The National Agriculture Sustainability Grants Program competitive grants program to support strawberry production in the US: The National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative. This grant program is sponsored with a gift from the Walmart Foundation.

The intent of the program is to expand and improve the sustainability of the strawberry industry in the US from the farmer production level through the supply chain and markets to the consumer. The purpose of the program is to move sustainable production forward by supporting multidisciplinary projects focused on outreach, education and demonstration of innovative and new technologies that will ultimately result in increased production and supply of strawberries." This grants program will

support those projects that show the highest potential for improving the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the strawberry production and marketing system.

The program is seeking proposals addressing issues such as (but not limited to); expanding the regions and seasons of strawberry production, reducing the environmental impacts and inputs used in strawberry production including soil fumigants, pesticides, and fertilizers, improving the economic viability of strawberry production in nontraditional regions, and maintaining product quality and safety through the supply chain.

Eligible recipients are limited to Land Grant Universities and Colleges, but project directors are strongly encouraged to partner with other institutions, agencies, foundations and private enterprises. Applications from diverse fields of research and outreach are encouraged including (but not limited to) horticulture and plant sciences, entomology, plant pathology, weed sciences, soil sciences, food sciences, engineering, business, economics, and soil sciences.

Attached is a flyer regarding the National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative. A call for proposals will be released approximately February 15, 2013 with a submission deadline of April 1, 2013. Awards will be announced in May 2013 with one-year projects to begin July 1, 2013. Applicants will provide quarterly progress reports with a final report due by August 2014.

Additional information may be found at: <http://strawberry.uark.edu/>

Direct all return communication to: sberries@uark.edu.

ORCHARD and VINEYARD SHOW TALKS POSTED

For those that are interested in this year's NW Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show talks, they are now posted at <http://www.cherries.msu.edu/presentations.htm>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

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 have moved to MSU News

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