

**NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter
January 2005**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005

- 1/18-19** **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
- 2/5-6** **IDFTA Pre-tour**
- 2/7-9** **IDFTA Conference, Wenatchee, WA**
- 2/10-12** **IDFTA Post-tour, "High Density Sweet
Cherry Workshop"**
Washington & Oregon
- 2/14-16** **Tree Fruit IPM School**
Kellogg Biological Station
Hickory Corners
- 3/1-2** **Benzie/Manistee Hort Show**
Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville

NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW

The NW Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show will be held **Tuesday and Wednesday, January 18 & 19, 2005**, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme. The program schedule is included with this newsletter. Concurrent programs for tree fruits and wine grapes will occur all day Tuesday, followed by a wine and cheese reception in the exhibit hall. The Tuesday evening program will be a MAEAP Phase 1 educational program focusing on environmental stewardship in fruit production. CMI's annual meeting and report to the industry will take place Wednesday a.m., with continued educational programs during the afternoon. Recertification credits have been granted.

**PRODUCERS CAN MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK BY PARTICIPATING IN THE
MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)**

MAEAP is a voluntary, pro-active program designed to reduce producers' legal and environmental risks. It teaches effective land stewardship practices that comply with state and federal regulations and shows producers how to find and prevent agricultural pollution risks on their farms.

The program encompasses three systems designed to help producers evaluate the environmental risk on their operation. Each system – Farmstead, Cropping, and Livestock (when applicable) – examines a different aspect of a farm, as each has a different environmental impact. Through each phase, producers will develop and implement economically feasible, effective and environmentally sound pollution prevention practices.

MAEAP is designed as a multi-year program allowing producers to meet personal objectives, while best managing both time and resources. By participating in all applicable systems, producers comprehensively evaluate their entire farming operation for potential environmental risks. MAEAP is based on sound scientific practices and includes education, on-farm technical assistance, environmental risk assessment (Farm*A*Syst) and action plans that are site and farm specific.

Phase I – Education

Educational meetings will be held where producers can learn about the three MAEAP systems, as well as state and federal regulations, and the potential impact agriculture pollution on the environment. Michigan's Right-To-Farm Act is briefly reviewed with special emphasis on Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) and state and federal regulations.

Phase II – On-Farm Assessment

The focus of this phase is the assessment of environmental risks on the farm and the development and implementation of a farm-specific plan to address identified risks. This is accomplished by contacting your local Groundwater Technician and completing a Farm*A*Syst and a Farmstead Improvement Action Plan.

Phase III – Third Party Verification

Producers can request Third Party Verification from the Michigan Department of Agriculture after they have developed a Farmstead Improvement Action Plan and are following their schedule of implemented practices and improvements. When these requirements are successfully met, producers can receive MAEAP verification and recognition for their accomplishments.

Benefits of MAEAP

MAEAP is an effective program that works with individual producers in cooperation with local resources to evaluate their operations based on what environmental practices are in place, what practices need to be improved, and the appropriate timeline for making those improvements. In addition to minimizing potential environmental risks and enforcement penalties, MAEAP offers other incentives to producers. Financial assistance and the opportunity to utilize loan programs, a reduction in premiums for liability insurance, and the opportunity to utilize Michigan Groundwater Stewardship program cost share funds and the Farm Bill Conservation Program funds.

Alone, environmental guidelines can be overwhelming, but with the guidance of MAEAP, producers are able to effectively review and adapt practices that meet state and federal regulations. Also, producers in MAEAP are considered making a "good faith effort" to comply with environmental regulations. MAEAP was initiated by a broad coalition of agricultural producers, commodity groups, state agencies, and conservation and environmental interests. For more information on MAEAP, visit www.maeap.org, call the MAEAP main office at (517) 353-1758 or contact your local Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program Technician, Dan Busby at (231) 941-4191.

MAEAP PHASE I EDUCATIONAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR THE NW MI ORCHARD AND VINEYARD SHOW

Northwest Michigan growers account for more than half of the farmsteads verified in the state. Learn more about MAEAP at the **January 18th**, Tuesday evening program at the 2005 NW MI Orchard and Vineyard Show. The program starts at 6:00 p.m. and will run to 8:30. You will learn more about MAEAP, what's new in pesticide drift management, fuel storage, and water use regulations. Learn how MAEAP ties in with Michigan's Right-to-Farm Act and the Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMPS). You will hear first hand of the positive experience becoming MAEAP verified has become to many local farmers.

MSU FRUIT IPM SCHOOL UPDATE

Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Agent

The MSU Fruit IPM School is fast approaching! The school runs from **February 14 to noon on February 16** at the Kellogg Biological Station. We have a great line-up of speakers this year, and we hope to see many of you at KBS. Pesticide recertification credits have been granted for the upcoming Fruit IPM School. This year the Michigan Department of Agriculture has awarded the 2 ½ day school 10 credits for all certified private or commercial applicators that are certified in category 1C (fruit crops).

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits have also been arranged and the following CEU's have been assigned: 11.5 Pest Management and 1.0 Crop Management.

Registration for the school is due by **February 1**. Please call the NW Michigan Horticulture Research Station for more information (231) 946-1510.

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD AND VINEYARD SHOW

Tuesday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI

Registration: \$15 per person, Cherry Industry Luncheon (\$15)

Tuesday Morning, January 18

- 8:00 **Registration Desk Opens**
- 8:00-10:30 **Coffee and rolls served in Exhibit Hall**
- 8:50-9:00 **Welcome and overview**
Mr. Paul Hubbell, *President, Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council*
- 9:00-9:30 **Resistance to sterol-inhibitor fungicides in the cherry leaf spot pathogen: status in Michigan and alternative control strategies**
Dr. George Sundin, *Dept of Plant Pathology, MSU*
- 9:30-10:00 **A rapid assay for detecting resistance to strobilurins**
Dr. Andy Jarosz, *Dept of Plant Pathology, MSU*
- 10:00-10:30 **Break for Exhibits and Refreshments**
- 10:30-10:45 **Tart cherry integrated orchard management (RAMP) update**
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, *District Fruit IPM Agent, MSU*
- 10:45-11:15 **Incorporating non-organophosphate insecticides in cherry IPM**
Mr. David Epstein, *Fruit IPM Coordinator, MSU Extension*
- 11:15-11:40 **Plans for the 2005 Select a Taste of Traverse Bay campaign**
Ms. Patty Cantrell, *Director of the Entrepreneurial Agriculture Project, Michigan Land Use Institute*
- 11:40-12:00 **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation annual meeting**
Mr. Michael McManus, *President*

Tuesday Afternoon

- 12:00-1:30 **Cherry Industry Luncheon**
Emcee: Dr. Duke Elsner, *MSU Extension, Grand Traverse County*
Keynote speaker: Mr. Dan Wyant, *Director of Michigan Dept of Agriculture*
- 1:30-2:00 **Break for Exhibits**
- 2:00-2:30 **Can Balaton fruit set be improved?**
Dr. Amy Iezzoni, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
Mr. Jim Nugent, *District Horticulturist and NWMHRS Coordinator, MSU*
- 2:30-2:50 **Purchasing development rights for Michigan agricultural land**
Mr. Scott Everett, *Director, Central Great Lakes Region, American Farmland Trust*

- 2:50-3:15 **Climate Change and the Tart Cherry Industry in the Great Lakes Region: Introducing the Pileus Project** Dr. Jeff Andresen, *Dept of Geography, MSU*
- 3:15-4:30 **The futures for major tart cherry market segments**
Moderator: Mr. Jim Nugent, *Dist.Horticulturist and NWMHRS Coordinator, MSU*
Panel: Mr. Phil Korson, *President, Cherry Marketing Institute*
Mr. Tom Facer, *Vice President of Agriculture Services, Bird's Eye*
Mr. Jim Jensen, *President, CherrCo*
Mr. Jim Giannestras, *Vice President-Sales, Cherry Central Cooperative*
Mr. Steve Nugent, *Vice President-Marketing, Graceland Fruit*
- 4:30-6:00 **Reception**
Featuring food and wines from Northwest Michigan

GRAPE AND WINE PROGRAM

Concurrent on Tuesday, January 18

Tuesday Morning

- 8:00 **Registration Desk Opens**
- 8:00-10:30 **Coffee and rolls served in Exhibit Hall**

Grapevine Nutrition Workshop

Co-sponsored by Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. & MSU Extension

- 9:00-10:00 **Fundamentals of grapevine nutrition**
Tom Zabadal, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
Eric Hanson, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
- 10:00-11:00 **Monitoring nitrogen status of grapevines**
Eric Hanson, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
Tom Zabadal, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
- 11:00-12:00 **Elemental prominence & the importance of analysis in wine grape production**
Tim Eyrich, *RSA Microtech, Alliance, Nebraska*

Tuesday Afternoon

- 12:00-1:30 **Light Buffet Luncheon & Break for Exhibits**
- 1:30-2:15 **Is it time to further mechanize wine grape production in the Traverse City area?**
Tom Zabadal, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
- 2:15-2:45 **Parallel 45 Vines and Wines- goals and plans for 2005**
Jim Thompson, *Mutual Farm Management, Traverse City*
- 2:45-3:15 **2003 freeze recovery strategies revisited- 2005 crop loads at the NWHR**
Duke Elsner, *Regional Grape and Wine Agent, MSU Extension*
- 3:15-4:00 **What can MSU Extension do for you?**
Duke Elsner, *Regional Grape and Wine Agent, MSU Extension*
- 4:30-6:00 **Reception**

Featuring food and wines from Northwest Michigan

Tuesday Evening Program

Chairperson- Stan Moore, County Extension Director/Agr. Agent – Antrim Co.

- 6:00 - 6:05 **Welcome and Introduction to MAEAP Phase I Educational Session**
Stan Moore, County Extension Director/Agr. Agent – Antrim Co.
- 6:05 - 6:20 **MAEAP Framework**
Scott Piggot, Agricultural Ecology Department, Michigan Farm Bureau
- 6:20 - 6:40 **Pest and Nutrient Management**
Jim Nugent, District Horticulturist MSU Extension, NWMHRS Coordinator
Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Agent
- 6:40 – 7:10 **Agricultural Fuel Storage**
Roberta Dow, MSU Extension District Groundwater Agent, Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program
- 7:10 - 7:15 **Break – coffee, cider and doughnuts provided by Grand Traverse Conservation District**
- 7:15 - 7:35 **Pesticide Drift Management for Fruit Growers**
Eric McCumber, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
- 7:35 - 7:50 **Michigan’s Right-To-Farm Act and Applicable GAAMPS (Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices)**
Kristen Linderman, Michigan Dept of Agriculture, Right-To-Farm Program
- 7:50 - 8:15 **Water Use Regulations and Water Related Issues**
Scott Piggot, Agricultural Ecology Department, Michigan Farm Bureau
- 8:15 - 8:25 **MAEAP Farmstead System Verification**
Josh Appleby, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- 8:25 - 8:30 **Farmer Testimonial on the MAEAP Farmstead System Verification**
-Paul Hubbell, Orchard View Farms
-Bern Kroupa, Old Mission Fruit Company
-Jeff Send, Cherry Lane Farm and Send Receiving
- 8:30 – 9:00 **Q & A**

Wednesday Morning, January 19

- 8:00-10:30 **Coffee and rolls served in the Exhibit Hall**
- 9:00-12:00 **CHERRY MARKETING INSTITUTE ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday Afternoon

- 12:00-12:30 **Break for Exhibits**
- 12:30-2:00 **Cherry Marketing Institute Luncheon**
- 2:00-2:35 **Soft tart cherries: what we know and where we go from there**
Dr. Jim Flore, *Dept of Horticulture, MSU*
Mr. Jim Nugent, *District Horticulturist and NWMHRS Coordinator, MSU*

Mr. Stan Moore, *Antrim County Extension Director and Agriculture Agent, MSU*

2:35-2:55

RAMP survey results, 2004

Ms. Jean Haley, *Haley Consulting Services, Chicago*

2:55-3:25

The Endangered Species Act: What Growers Need to Know

Dr. Mark Whalon, *Dept of Entomology, MSU*

3:25-3:55

Suppression of plum curculio with entomopathogens

Dr. Diane Alston, *Extension Entomologist, Utah State University*

3:55-4:10

Fruit Planting Trends in Michigan

Dr. Suzanne Thornsby, *Dept of Agricultural Economics, MSU*

4:10-5:00

A look at the Polish cherry industry

Moderator: Dr. Suzanne Thornsby, *Dept of Agricultural Economics, MSU*

Panel: Mr. Don Gregory, *Cherry Bay Orchards*

Mr. Phil Korson, *President, Cherry Marketing Institute*

Mr. Fred Tubbs, *Board of Directors, Cherry Marketing Institute*