

July 2009 NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2009

7/4-7/11	National Cherry Festival
7/6-10	Cherry Connection NWMHRS
7/9	Sweet Cherry Variety Showcase Schwallier's Country Basket Sparta, MI
7/10	Grape IPM Update L. Mawby's Tasting Room
7/13	Canola Research 2009 Plot Days Central Lake, MI
7/14	Canola Research 2009 Plot Days Marion, MI
7/16	Backyard Chicken Production Workshop Delight of Life Farm, Leelanau County
7/20	Free Water Sample Testing MSU Extension/Ag Expo
7/29	20th Annual MSU Viticulture Field Day SW Michigan Research & Extension Center Benton Harbor
7/30	Winery Business Planning and Finance Seminar Lake Michigan College M-Tech Benton Harbor
8/1	New FARM Application Deadline
8/7	Grape IPM Update To be announced
8/14	Sign-up Deadline for DCP and ACRE Programs
8/20	Open House & Equipment Show NWMHRS
9/22	Trevor Nichols Field Day Fennville, MI

SWEET CHERRY VARIETY SHOWCASE

International Plant Management, Inc., in cooperation with MSU Cooperative Extension and Summit Tree Sales, will be holding a Sweet Cherry Variety Showcase on **Thursday, July 9th** at Schwallier's Country Basket, 1185 Nine Mile Road, Sparta, MI.

Several new cherry selections will be displayed. BlackPearl, Radiance, Ebony and Burgundy are recent releases from Cornell University and will be seen for the first time. Several Italian varieties from the

University of Bologna will be shown with samples from both Michigan and Oregon. Samples from MSU Clarksville and SWMREC will include selections from both the high tunnels and the field.

Discussions will include Dr. Greg Lang from MSU with his new findings on High Tunnel technology; Phil Schwallier, MSU, will discuss variety findings and Wallace Heuser of International Plant Management, Inc. will compare the new Cornell and Italian selections.

The Sweet Cherry Variety Showcase will open at 4:00 with more than 100 cherry variety samples on display. Variety discussions and High Tunnel information will begin at 5:00. A complimentary barbecue supper will be served at 6:30.

All growers and their personnel are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact International Plant Management or Summit Tree Sales at 1-800-424-2765.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES 2009 FUNDING FOR RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM (REAP)

Nationwide, there will be \$60 million available in this program for 2009, up from roughly \$17-23 million annually in previous years. The funding is to support investments in renewable energy systems, to make energy efficient improvements, and to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) was established under Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill to expand and rename the program formerly called the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program, which encouraged agricultural producers and small rural businesses to create or install renewable energy systems and/or energy efficiency improvements. To date, Michigan farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses have received approximately \$4.6 million in grant and loan assistance for rural Michigan energy projects.

Eligible projects in the 11 technology areas include **anaerobic digesters, biomass, geothermal (including electric generation and direct use), hydrogen, solar (small and large), wind (small and large), and energy efficiency improvements. This year's program includes the technology of small hydropower projects (30 megawatts or less), which are now eligible for REAP funding.**

Examples of energy efficiency projects include, but are not limited to, the installation of more energy efficient motors, pumps, fans, blowers, compressors, grain dryers, irrigation projects, refrigeration units, ventilation systems, windows, insulation, heating systems, lighting systems, and plumbing fixtures.

Grants can cover up to 25% of total eligible costs. The minimum energy efficiency grant is \$1,500 and maximum is \$250,000. The minimum renewable energy grant is \$2,500 and maximum is \$500,000. For feasibility study grants, the maximum award is \$50,000 or 25% of eligible study costs, whichever is less. Guaranteed loans can cover up to 75% of total eligible cost. Loan limits are a minimum of \$5000 and a maximum of \$25 Million.

Applications for grants, guaranteed loans, or loan/grant combinations must be completed and received to the USDA Rural Development State Office or Area Offices, no later than July 31, 2009. Neither complete nor incomplete applications received after this date will be considered.

For further program information contact the USDA Rural Development Business & Cooperative Division in the East Lansing State Office at **(517) 324-5157**.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development, and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

FREE WATER SCREENING

Roberta Dow, District Ground/Fresh Water Quality Educator, MSU-E

Have you had your well water tested in the last two years? It is recommended that wells be tested for nitrates on an annual basis. Unlike public water that is tested regularly, many rural wells are never tested after their initial installation test. Each year, our screening has revealed that 3 to 5% of the well water samples were above the EPA standard for nitrate (greater than 10 parts per million). The standard is the level above which water may not be distributed by suppliers without treatment. The standard represents the level considered to be a health risk especially to babies and pregnant women. Consumption of water with high nitrate levels can cause tiredness, oxygen stress, and blue skin. The disease is called blue baby syndrome or methemoglobinemia. It can be fatal to babies or fetuses. Livestock consuming high nitrate water may be unthrifty and also abort.

Triazines are a family of pesticides that are primarily herbicides. They are persistent and leachable. That means they remain in the environment and move with rainwater down to the groundwater. They have been found in groundwater around the nation. The Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program was created by legislation to be proactive to assist pesticide users to manage pest control wisely to prevent water contamination. Long term consumption of atrazine has shown adverse health effects in animals, including tremors, changes in organ weights, and damage to the liver and heart.

Everyone with a drinking water well is encouraged to take advantage of this free service; we do not know if it will be available next year. Water moves underground, so our water is impacted by the practices of others. For more information on this water screening, call your local MSU Extension office or Dr. Roberta Dow at 231-922-4858.

Free Water Screening for Nitrates, Nitrites and Triazine Pesticides will take place **July 20, 2009**. You can get your water bottles and sampling directions from the MSU Extension or Grand Traverse Conservation District offices. Take well water sample on July 20th and return it by **noon**. Results are confidential and mailed directly to you.

BACKYARD CHICKEN PRODUCTION WORKSHOP TO BE HELD JULY 16TH

Michigan State University Extension is hosting a Backyard Chicken Production Workshop on **Thursday, July 16** from 6-8 pm at the Delight of Life Farm, owned and operated by Chad & Heather Jordan at 3762 S Center Highway, Traverse City. The workshop will cover coop design & setup, obtaining chickens, breed information, chick issues, equipment, predators & pests, winter care and more. It is intended for small-scale farms and individuals raising chickens. A suggested \$5 donation is payable at the door. This workshop will continue rain or shine. For more information, call the Leelanau County MSU Extension office at 231-256-9888.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIRST FRIDAY GRAPE IPM UPDATES!

Erin Lizotte, Nikki Rothwell, and Duke Elsner

Dr. Rufus Isaac, Dept of Entomology, MSU, will be the guest speaker at the next update on **July 10**. Dr. Isaacs will be at Mawby's tasting room to discuss insects of interest. Feel free to bring along insect and disease samples for diagnosis and management recommendations. The update will run from **3-5 PM** and Pesticide Recertification Credits will be available. Our final Grape Update on **August 7** will include Paul Jenkins and focus on sustainable winegrape production, location TBA. We hope to see you all there!

WINERY BUSINESS PLANNING AND FINANCE SEMINAR

MSU Extension in Berrien County is hosting a Winery Business Planning and Finance Seminar on **Thursday, July 30**. It will be held from **9 am – 3 pm** at the Lake Michigan College M-Tech in Benton Harbor. This seminar is intended for individuals interested in starting a winery in the next 1-5 years.

Participants will identify components of a business plan and obtain tools for plan development, learn about options for wine marketing, learn about cash flow and investment, meet commercial lenders and business developers and find out about opportunities for finance in Michigan. Dr. Gerald White, Professor Emeritus of Applied Economics and Management Department at Cornell University, will be the key speaker. To register, contact the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269- 944-4126.

KEEP AN EYE ON PESTICIDE PREHARVEST INTERVALS AS HARVEST APPROACHES

Erin Lizotte, IPM/IFP District Educator, MSU-E

As harvest approaches, growers should be aware of the PHI's of commonly sprayed pesticides. By request, we have put together a table to help growers make appropriate insecticide management decisions, particularly as sweet cherry harvest is around the corner. Additionally, even though apple harvest seems a long way out, there are pesticides with long PHI's listed in the table below.

<i>Days Between Final Spray and Harvest in Cherry</i>	
Pesticide	Preharvest Interval (Days)
Propimax	21
Quash	14
Ziram 76 DF	14
Actara	14
Admire Pro	21
Apollo	21
Asana	14
Avaunt	14
Beleaf	14
Diazinon	21
Esteem	14
Lorsban (foliar)	14
Mustang Max	14
Onegar	28
Savey	28
Thiodan	21
Vendex	14
Voliam flexi	14
Warrior	14

<i>Days Between Final Spray and Harvest in Apple</i>	
Pesticide	Preharvest Interval (Days)
Agri-mycin	50
Bayleton	45
EBDCs	77
Firewall	50
Inspire	72
Scala	72
Vangard	72
Apollo	45
Centaur	60
Esteem	45

30 YEARS OF RESEARCH

Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSUE

Save the date and help us celebrate 30 years of research, outreach and collaboration at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station! Our Annual Open House will be held **Thursday, August 20** and will include a tour of the farm with a special focus on the new state-of-the-art irrigation system, an equipment show, wine tasting and dinner. The Open House will be sponsored by Michigan AES, MSU Extension, the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation, and the Leelanau County Horticultural Society. We hope you will be able to join us!

CHECK IT OUT!

N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSU-E

Every Saturday in the business section of the Traverse City Record Eagle, they are featuring agriculture! We are pleased to be partnering with the staff at the Record Eagle to show the public the many facets of the agricultural community. We have an opportunity to really show off all the interesting and valuable parts of growing food in our region. Check it out and give us your feedback.

PREDICTED APPLE HARVEST DATES

Phil Schwallier, District Horticulturist, MSU-E

Normal Dates							
Station	McIntosh	Jons	Reds				
SWMREC	10-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep				
Deerfield	8-Sep	21-Sep	2-Oct				
Flint	10-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct				
Peach Ridge	14-Sep	26-Sep	4-Oct				
Ludington	18-Sep	3-Oct	14-Oct				
NWMHRS	22-Sep	10-Oct	23-Oct				
Full bloom date				Predicted harvest date			
Station	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	Observer
SWMREC	4-May	6-May	6-May	5-Sep	26-Sep	2-Oct	Shane
Deerfield	5-May	7-May	8-May	6-Sep	27-Sep	4-Oct	Tritten
Romeo	9-May	12-May	13-May	12-Sep	3-Oct	12-Oct	Tritten
Peach Ridge	12-May	14-May	14-May	15-Sep	6-Oct	12-Oct	Schwallier
Ludington	16-May	19-May	19-May	20-Sep	11-Oct	17-Oct	Danilovich
NWMHRS	20-May	21-May	22-May	24-Sep	8-Oct	15-Oct	Rothwell

MEET OUR 2009 SUMMER RESEARCH CREW

Josh Kroll is a 2009 Biology graduate of Ferris State University. While at Ferris, Josh worked as a tour guide at the Card Wildlife Education Center and also assisted in skin cancer research. He will continue at Central Michigan University for a Masters of Science in Biology, after which he hopes to attend medical school. Currently, he is working primarily on apple scab culture and isolation as well as powdery mildew spore trapping and cherry leaf spot studies. Josh also assists the Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center staff on other projects as needed.



Claire Lorts graduated from Michigan State University in May 2009 with a Bachelors of Science degree in plant biology and will attend Penn State in the fall. She has previous experience as a laboratory technician working with rice and is enjoying working with apple and cherry varieties for the first time. This summer at the research station, Claire is involved in codling moth and borer mating disruption trials, brown rot studies, RAMP project, plum curculio emergence and phenology, and the sweet cherry variety trial.



Jana Bauhardt has finished her study in Agricultural Science at the Martin-Luther-University in Germany in May 2009. She has done previous field research in wheat breeding and entomology trials in orchards. She now lives in Suttons Bay for the summer and works here as a technician to gain more experience. Jana is working on projects with plum curculio emergence and phenology, codling moth and borer mating disruption, European brown rot, the sweet cherry variety trial, and RAMP project.



Melinda Mitchell worked as a research technician at the NWMHRS last summer and stayed on through the rest of the year to research bioremediation of copper toxicity in cherries. The aim of

the project is to determine if copper tolerant soil bacteria can be used to remove excess copper from orchard soils. Melinda has previous field research experience in vegetable entomology at Michigan State University and in wheat breeding at the University of Minnesota. She was also a tomato breeder for Campbell Soup Company in Davis, California. This summer she is working on weed control experiments, stem-on cherry studies, the sweet cherry variety trial, and mating disruption trials for codling moth in apples and for borers in cherries. She holds a B.S. in Crop and Soil Sciences from MSU and a M.S. in Plant Breeding from the University of Minnesota.

