

NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter - March 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3/26 | MAEAP Meeting
Boardman River Nature Center |
| 3/29 | Row Crop & Live Stock Program
Boardman River Nature Center |
| 3/30 | Direct Marketing for Agriculture
NWMHRS |
| 4/1 | MDA Water Use Reporting Registration Form Due |
| 4/6 | Tractor Safety Begins
NWMHRS |
| 4/7 | IPM Think Tank Meeting
NWMHRS |
| 4/8 | Nature, Climate Change, and the Problem with Agriculture
http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/nature.pdf
The State Theater, Traverse City |
| 4/9 | Farm Route to Prosperity Summit
Black Star Farms |
| 4/10 | Coffee with Wes and Kent
Grand Traverse Commons, Traverse City |
| 4/13 | Dwarf Sweet Cherry Pruning Demo
Bardenhagen Farm, Horn Road |
| 4/16 | Spring Grape IPM Kick-off
NWMHRS |
| 4/19 | Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off
NWMHRS |
| 4/22 | Insect ID, Insect Control, Mode of Action of Insecticides
Alpine Center, Gaylord |
| 4/28-30 | Sustainable Business Conference & Tour
http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/bus_conf.pdf
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI |
| 4/28-5/18 | Renewable Energy Systems Workshops
Various Cities |
| 5/7 | Winegrape IPM Updates Begin
Jim Longcore's Vineyard, 11545 Bluff Rd, Old Mission Peninsula |
| 5/11 | Antrim & Benzie Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin |
| 5/12 | Leelanau & Grand Traverse Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin |
| 10/1 | SBA Disaster Loan Applications Due
http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/SBA.pdf |

GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO HOST EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Dan Busby, Grand Traverse Soil Conservation District

The Grand Traverse Conservation District is hosting a series of Farm Workshops at the Boardman River Nature Center on Friday, March 26 and Monday, March 29. Both workshops will incorporate morning programs that include information about the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), USDA/NRCS Conservation Programs, Farm and Cropping Assessment tools, Water sampling and quality information, an MDA update and more. The afternoon programs are different and are intended to provide programs for most Northwest MI Agricultural Producers (the morning sessions may be the same information, small adjustment for crop type).

On **Friday, March 26** after a free lunch, a tour, and story of the Nature Center and Conservation District, a Good Agricultural Practices - Food Safety Audit program will run from 1:30- 4:00. This program will assist fruit and vegetable growers to prepare for a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Food Safety Audit. A GAP Notebook will be provided FREE to a limited number of program participants. (The **GAP session is currently full** at 50 people – there is still room in the morning MAEAP session – call for more details).

On **Monday, March 29** after lunch, a tour, and story of the Nature Center and Conservation District, an educational program has been put together for Row Crop and Livestock producers in NW Michigan. This program will include Nutrient Management with Jerry Lindquist-Osceola MSUE County Extension Director, Phosphorus Management with Roberta Dow-MSU Groundwater Educator, FSA Update with Greg Shy, NW FSA Program Director, Farm Containment options for farms with Randy Snyder at North American Lining, information on Emergency Planning for Farms and Farmland Protection, and more.

When: Friday, March 26 from 10-4 and Monday; March 29 from 10-4

Where: Boardman River Nature Center at 1450 Cass Rd. (1.5 miles South of S. Airport Rd on Cass)

Lunch: \$5.00 paid at the time of registration – or that day.

Check out the New FARM Page (GTCD Farm page) for more details and registration information. If you are planning on attending this event please contact Dan Busby at the Grand Traverse conservation District at 231.941.0960 ext 22 or email him at dbusby@gtcd.org.

These programs are made possible by the Grand Traverse Conservation District, Michigan Land Use Institute, Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau, the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Council, Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Station, MSU Extension, USDA/NRCS and FSA and more.

DIRECT MARKETING FOR AGRICULTURE

A free workshop for growers about local sales will be held **Tuesday, March 30**, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The demand for local food is exploding. As a farmer, some of your best access to this market is to sell direct to shoppers. There are farmers markets all over the region. A farm stand might be a good choice. Sales to chefs can be a part of the mix. There is also community supported agriculture (CSA). Each option offers advantages and challenges. This workshop will help farmers decide which of these are best for their farm's marketing needs and provide details on practices that enhance success.

This program is sponsored by the Michigan Land Use Institute. To register or for more information, contact Jim Sluyter at 231-941-6584.

TRACTOR SAFETY PROGRAM

MSU Extension is offering a Tractor Safety Program for 14 and 15 year old youth in April. Teens must be 14 years old by June 1, 2010 to participate. Classes will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays on April 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 6-9 pm and a written and driving exam on Saturday, May 1 from 8am – 3pm. All classes will be held at the Horticultural Research Station near Traverse City and the cost is \$60 per student. Participants are required to attend all five classes and pass exams to become certified. Some scholarships are available if finances are an issue.

Space is limited so please register **as soon as possible** by completing the form and returning it with payment. For the registration form, go online at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau> for more information, contact the Leelanau County MSU Extension office at 231-256-9888.

2010 IPM THINK TANK MEETING

Since our last IPM Think Tank in 2008, there has been much research into cover cropping as well as a great deal of interest in orchard floor management. For the 2010 IPM Think Tank, we are fortunate to have Dr. David Granatstein on the program. Dr. Granatstein is the statewide coordinator for the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, Washington, where he has studied the use of compost as a soil amendment, mulches, cover crops for both nutrient improvement and for beneficial insect habitat, the Swiss sandwich technique, and rodent repellent plants. He has also compared the benefits of growing cover crops in the tree row and those grown in the alley. His big question addresses how growers can improve upon the standard of sod alleys and weed spray strips; this method has served the tree fruit industry well, but he is looking at many aspects of improving this system. We will also host Dr. George Bird and other Michigan State University specialists who will share their insights on cover cropping and soil health. The meeting will be held at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station, **April 7, from 9 – 4 p.m.** There is a \$25 registration fee that includes lunch. Please call Jackie Baase or Karen Powers at 231-946-1510 to register. **Registration deadline is April 5.**

2010 ORCHARD and VINEYARD SHOW PROCEEDINGS

Talks from the 2010 Orchard and Vineyard Show can be found at <http://www.cherries.msu.edu>

NEW VITICULTURE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OFFERED

Northwest Michigan's thriving grape and wine industry will have a new pipeline to a trained workforce thanks to a partnership between Northwestern Michigan College (NMC), Michigan State University (MSU), and the online VESTA program at Missouri State University.

As soon as summer 2010, students may begin coursework toward a new viticulture certificate offered by MSU, with an option to complete an associate degree from NMC. Students will enroll through the MSU office at NMC's University Center. All classes will be offered online or in Traverse City.

Students who enroll will take general education credits at NMC. MSU and VESTA – the Viticulture and Enology Science and Technology Alliance, a seven-state consortium based at

Missouri State University – will offer viticulture-specific courses online. MSU will also assist students with arranging practicum and internship experiences at some of the more than two dozen wineries in northwest Michigan. The program will take about two years to complete.

For more information, contact Paul Heaton, Director of Public Relations, NMC, at pheaton@nmc.edu or 995-1019; Andy Norman, MSU at NMC's University Center, normanl@msu.edu, or Mark Johnson, Chateau Chantal, mark@chateauchantal.com or 223-4110.

MIGRANT HOUSING BILL PASSES

Bills 5657 and 5658 passed the Senate and are being sent to the Governor for her signature. Among other things the bills provide for a license application fee of \$5 times the number of people permitted to occupy the "agriculture labor camp."

This license fee will help fund agriculture labor camp inspections during the upcoming season. However, this fee covers only a portion of the total costs of inspection. Accordingly, additional funding will be needed to keep the program going.

For more information on the bills see:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28qhtjr545awpnm355bozvkkb5%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5658>

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28qhtjr545awpnm355bozvkkb5%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2009-HB-5657>

FARM ROUTE TO PROSPERITY SUMMIT

Patty Cantrell, MLUI

Calling all food enthusiasts, farm and food businesses, and economic development interests. The second annual Farm Route to Prosperity Summit, **April 9**, at Black Star Farms, needs your insights and expertise. Last year, about 100 inaugural participants set a 10-year goal to increase the resilience and double the value of northwest Michigan's food and farm system. That means more business opportunities for farms, more food opportunities for everyone, and farmland protection for our economy and environment. Join the conversation, which starts at 8:30 a.m., April 9. We'll work together through the day, until Happy Hour at 4 p.m., on specific project ideas and other initiatives for reaching this important goal. For more information, contact Patty Cantrell at the Michigan Land Use Institute, who is working with a broad range of partners to organize the effort: 231-941-6584 or patty@mlui.org. You can also learn more about last year's summit and the regional Food and Farming Network that formed as a result at <http://www.foodandfarmingnetwork.org>.

MICHIGAN'S 2009 WATER USE CONSERVATION PLAN

Agricultural operations with the capacity to withdraw over 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) are required to report to the state the water withdrawals and water conservation practices used on their farms. This was mandated by Public Act 148 of 2003, now Part 327 of P.A. 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The MDA is required to combine all reported agricultural water withdrawal information at the township level and report the township totals to the Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

If you installed a new withdrawal, surface or groundwater since your last reporting period, you must register that system with the State. Do not wait to register a new withdrawal with your annual water use report. In addition, as of July 9, 2009, you must consult the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool prior to installation of a new or increased capacity withdrawal. To access the tool directly, go to <http://www.miwwat.org>. Private well water used for domestic purposes does **not** need to be reported

For further information, frequently asked questions, required form and instructions on how to complete the form, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mdamichiganwateruse>. You can also contact Roberta Dow to assist you.

Email: dowr@msu.edu
Phone: 231-922-4858

There is **no fee** for reporting this information and the completed form is due **no later than April 1, 2010**.

SIGN-UP FOR THE CAT ALERT ON THE WEB FOR 2010!

The CAT (Crop Advisory Team) Alerts offer pest and crop management advice for current conditions and are written by MSU faculty and Extension educators. CAT Alerts are available for fruit, vegetables, field crops, landscape, and green house producers and include a variety of topics. To subscribe to any or all of the available CAT Alerts, send the following one line e-mail message to listserv@list.msu.edu: subscribe EDITION (your first and last name). Edition codes are: fruitcat, vegcat, fieldcat, landcat, greenhouse. For example, if your name was Jane Smith and you wanted the *Landscape Alert*, you would type: subscribe landcat (Jane Smith). You will receive a confirmation e-mail asking you to click on an Internet link in order to complete your subscription. If you want to subscribe to more than one, repeat the process for each edition.

Need help with the listserv? Please send an email to buchho11@msu.edu indicating which edition(s) (field crop, fruit, vegetable, landscape, or greenhouse) you'd like to receive and we will sign you up. Do you use RSS feeds? Subscribe via RSS at each *CAT Alert* web site. Look for the orange RSS logo.

MLUI SAVE THE DATES

April 8, 6:30 pm, The State Theater, Traverse City

Wes Jackson, founder and president of the Land Institute in Salinas, KS is internationally recognized as a leader in the sustainable agriculture movement. He will speak on preserving biological and cultural information in an age of energy decline.

April 10, 8:00 - 10:00 am

Higher Grounds Coffee Roastery at the Commons in Traverse City
"Coffee with Wes and Kent"

Wes Jackson and Kent Whealey (founder of Seed Savers Exchange) will talk about sustainable agriculture in a casual setting.

Contact Jim Sluyter, jimsluyter@mlui.org or 231-941-6584 for information, or <http://www.localdifference.org/getfarming/> for updates.

DWARF SWEET CHERRY PRUNING DEMO

Join Dr. Greg Lang, Dept of Horticulture, MSU, for a pruning demo from 1-3 pm on **April 13**. Dr. Lang will cover specific pruning techniques for sweet cherry grown on dwarfing rootstocks. This event is *free*, requires no registration, and will be held at the Bardenhagen Farm, 7990 East Horn Road, Lake Leelanau. We hope you can join us!

WINEGRAPE IPM KICK-OFF

Erin Lizotte, Nikki Rothwell and Duke Elsner

A day-long program to kick off the growing season for winegrape growers and vineyard managers will be held at the *Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station* from 10-4 on **April 16**. We are fortunate to be able to bring in Dr. John Reganold from Washington State University where he is a professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Science. Dr. Reganold's farming systems research measures the effects of alternative and conventional farming on sustainability indicators: soil health, crop quality, financial performance, environmental quality, and energy efficiency. In addition to Dr. Reganold, we will be joined by MSU winegrape faculty and extension staff to help us all prepare for the 2010 season.

There is a \$25 fee for this program and registration is required by **April 12**. Please call Jackie Baase or Karen Powers at 231-946-1510. We hope you can join us!

6TH ANNUAL TREE FRUIT IPM KICK-OFF

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturalist, MSU-E

The 6th Annual Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off has been scheduled for **April 19th** from 7-9 pm at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. This year's program will include updates on insecticide and fungicide labels for the upcoming season, as well as some emerging areas of pest and disease management including new chemistries for codling moth. This program is *free* and no registration is required. Hope to see you there!

INSECT ID, INSECT CONTROL, MODE OF ACTION OF INSECTICIDES

Dr. Duke Elsner, Agriculture Education, Grand Traverse Co.

Dr. Roberta Dow, Dist. Ground/Fresh Water Quality Educator, Grand Traverse Co.

This program, to be held April 22, 9:00-4:30 p.m. at the Alpine Center, Gaylord, is designed for anyone interested in learning more about insecticides and their mode of action, insects, and insect control. Producers, chemical applicators, water technicians, and MSU educators will have a better appreciation of chemical choices and concerns.

This class points out control options and how different modes of action of insecticides may lower insect resistance risks. It also highlights worker protection and the importance of emergency plans. You will receive 6 commercial or 6 private core recertification credits. Also, 3.5 Pest Management CCA credits have been granted. Registration fee is \$10.

To register, complete the attached form. For more information, contact the Grand Traverse Co. MSU-E office at 922-4626.

IPM TREE FRUIT UPDATE SERIES DATES HAVE BEEN SET!

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator

A series of hands-on IPM workshops will again be held throughout northwest Michigan for the 2010 growing season. Each meeting will characterize a different time in the season and distinct weather patterns, which in turn will present a unique set of pest and disease problems as well as management strategies. These meetings are *free* and will offer Pesticide Recertification Credits from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Feel free to attend the meeting that best fits your schedule or location, regardless of county.

Antrim County

Location: Jack White Farm, M-31, just south of Elk Rapids on the right, Elk Rapids

Dates: May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22

Time: 11-1pm

Benzie County

Location: Loy Putney Farm, 4286 Raymond Rd, Frankfort

Dates: May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22

Time: 3-5pm

Leelanau County

Location: Jim and Jan Bardenhagen Farm, 7881 E. Pertner Road, Suttons Bay

Dates: May 12, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23

Time: 1-3pm

Grand Traverse County

Location: Josh Wunsch Farm, Old Mission Peninsula, Phelps Road (look for cars on the road)

Dates: May 12, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23

Time: 4-6pm

2008 CROP DISASTER PAYMENTS

Curtis Talley, Farm Management Educator

Growers that suffered crop revenue losses in 2008, including fruit crops, may be eligible for revenue assistance payments. (Supplemental Revenue Assistance) SURE was included as a permanent disaster provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. SURE looks at producers' revenue over the entire farming operation when determining a loss. Producers must have had crop insurance or NAP on all their economic significant crops to be eligible for benefits. SURE provides payments of 60% of the difference between the disaster assistance program guarantee revenue and actual total farm revenue. You will be required to have documentation for all 2008 production to substantiate losses. Contact your local FSA office for more details.

APPLICATION TIMING FOR THE PEACH LEAF CURL

Dr. Mira Danilovich, Dist. Educator, Oceana Co., MSU-E

Warmer temperatures in the past two weeks have prompted several people to ask about application timing for peach leaf curl. This is a legitimate concern, particularly if the peaches did not receive a fall application of fungicides (possibilities: Bravo, Ziram, Ferbam, Cu-products). All it takes for the infection to occur is a bud-scale separation that starts before the bud swell is noticeable, temperatures above 50 degrees, and rain.

Bill Shane has been trying to establish a correlation between the bud break and the degree day accumulation based on 42 degrees from January 1. He has observed that some of the early peach varieties (showy types) have a tendency to break buds around 95 DD base 42 from January 1.

You can follow degree day accumulation at the ENVIRO-WEATHER site at:
<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

SEASONAL FRUIT INFORMATION

Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Educator

The **code-a-phone** will be up and running again for the 2010 season, and it will be updated every **Tuesday** and **Friday** or more frequently if needed. To access this information, dial 231-947-3063. Press 1 for stone fruit information and 2 for pome fruit information and 3 for grape information. Thanks to the area horticulture societies for supporting this program.

FruitNet will also be available for 2010 by email or fax for NW Michigan fruit growers. This weekly information is compiled by area extension educators and sent out through the NWMHRS. Past subscribers will remain on the list, but contact the NWMHRS (231-946-1510) to be added to, or removed from, the subscription list. Thanks again to our local horticulture societies for their support. All FruitNet publications, since 1999, are available at
<http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

60 Hour Weather Forecast, which is a weather forecast tool for the Grand Traverse region that predicts weather in 3-hour increments, is also on hand this season. This information can be obtained through the internet at
<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc> or a grower can subscribe to receive this information via email. Please contact the NWMHRS (231-946-1510) to sign up for the emailed version. This will also be available at the new MSU IPM/weather site, Enviroweather at http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home_map.asp

MICHIGAN CITIZEN PLANNER OFFERS

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS WORKSHOPS IN APRIL AND MAY

Back by popular demand, Michigan Citizen Planner <http://www.citizenplanner.msu.edu> is hosting the "Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems 101" <http://www.citizenplanner.msu.edu/smallenergyworkshops.html> workshop series from April 28-May 18, 2010, across Michigan. This workshop will cover a wide variety of energy issues for local governments and stakeholders. The focus will be on small energy systems, including wind, solar and wood burners, the state and federal policy environment and options for local decision makers. Small-scale renewable energy presents challenges to local communities related to resource assessment, the economics of renewable energy, navigating the myriad of incentives, understanding net metering, and planning and zoning. To help communities address these challenges this workshop will cover:

- The basics of small scale renewable energy.
- Renewable energy resource distribution.
- Federal and State incentives including government and school opportunities.
- Connection of small systems to the grid and net-metering.
- Solar access issues.

- Planning and zoning for small wind systems.
- Regulating wood burners.
- Example ordinances.

The dates and locations are as follows:

April 28, 2010	-	Mt. Pleasant
April 29, 2010	-	Marshall
May 3, 2010	-	Manistique
May 4, 2010	-	Suttons Bay
May 5, 2010	-	West Olive
May 6, 2010	-	Tustin
May 10, 2010	-	Romulus
May 11, 2010	-	Auburn Hills
May 13, 2010	-	Ann Arbor
May 18, 2010	-	Bay City

Please print and send in a registration for at:

<http://www.citizenplanner.msu.edu/smallenergyworkshops.html>

or call:

Gayle L. Taylor-Thorne

Administrative Assistant/Supervisor, Michigan Citizen Planner. 1405 S. Harrison, Suite 308, East Lansing, MI 48823.

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