

NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter October 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010

- 10/9** **Deadline for Fruit & Vegetable Industry Scholarship**
- 10/20** **Organic Gardening for Fun and Profit (and Food!)**
<http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/mlui1010.pdf>
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Community Center
Manistee
- 10/23** **Estate Planning and Farm Transfer Workshop**
NWMHRS
- 11/1** **Seed Saving on the Small Farm**
<http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/mlui1010.pdf>
Michigan Works Conf. Room
Traverse City
- 11/12** **Recent Achievements In Viticulture Research
and Vineyard Management Practices Workshop**
NWMHRS
- 12/7-9** **Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market Expo**
www.glexpo.com
- 12/14** **Pesticide Core Manual Review & Test**
Banks' Township Hall
- 12/15** **Pesticide Core Manual Review & Test**
NWMHRS
- 2011**
- 1/18-19** **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**
Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
- 1/22** **Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference**

INPUT COST PRICE PROJECTIONS

Curtis Talley Jr., MSU Area Farm Management Educator
West & North Region

Farmers might want to consider pre-paying some of their 2011 crop fertilizer and other inputs this fall. A number of financial experts are forecasting prices to increase prior to next spring. Potash and phosphate demand is projected to increase and prices are up from January, 2010. The recent price of 18- 46-0 is up \$145/T and potash up \$15/T from January. However, the price of 46-0-0 is down \$5/T, so you might want to be selective as to what you pre-pay. Growers might also keep in mind that, as we saw in 2008, the price for farm inputs is often not just a matter of "supply and demand" but are also influenced by the perceptions of farmer's ability to pay. Recently, farm sales prices for soybeans, wheat and corn have risen significantly, signaling that nationwide farm income will exceed 2009.

ESTATE PLANNING AND FARM TRANSFER WORKSHOP

The New FARM Program is hosting an *Estate Planning and Farm Transfer* workshop at the NWMHRS on **23 October**, 2010. This program will help growers think about creative ways to pass along the farm to future generations. We will cover tax and financial implications, conservation easements, FarmAbility Program, succession planning, and other valuable topics. Although this program was designed for New FARM members, we are opening the workshop to the general public. Cost for the workshop is free for New FARM members and their families—for all other attendees, the cost will be \$15 to cover the lunch. Please register by **15 October** by calling the NWMHRS at 231.946.1510. We hope to see many local growers at this event. The program schedule follows.

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE FARM?

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station
Saturday October 23, 2010
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

9:00-9:30 a.m.	<i>Succession planning overview</i> Curtis Talley, Farm Management Educator, MSUE
9:30-10:00	<i>Why growers need unique ways to transfer their farms in NW Michigan</i> Jim Nugent, Retired District Horticulturist, NWMHRS
10:00-10:45	<i>Tools for transferring the farm</i> Kathy Ruhf, Land for Good
10:45-11:00	BREAK
11:00-11:30	<i>Three cases studies—local ways to transfer the farm</i> Brian Bourdages, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
11:30-12:00 p.m.	<i>Innovative Easement Strategies</i> Ellen Fred, Land Conservation Lawyer, Law Office of Ellen Fred
12:00-12:15	<i>The FarmAbility Program</i> Tom Nelson, Director of Farm Programs, Leelanau Conservancy
12:15-1:15	LUNCH, <i>Ethnic Garden Catering</i>

1:15-2:00	<i>Future property tax issues and farm transfer options and organization</i> Glenn Kole, Kole Farm Consulting
2:00-2:45	<i>The real deal—a chance to talk farm transfers with farmers</i> Gary and Steve Bardenhagen, Rick Sayler, and others
2:45-3:00	BREAK
3:00-3:30	<i>Panel discussion with experts and growers</i>

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN VITICULTURE RESEARCH AND VINEYARD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WORKSHOP

Following are the details and program schedule for the workshop.

Date: Friday, **November 12**, 2010 – **8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**

Location: NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

Cost: \$75 for the first person from each winery/company, \$25 for each additional person from the same winery/company.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	Check-in and light breakfast
9:00	Welcome and Introduction <i>Nikki Rothwell & Paolo Sabbatini, Michigan State University</i>
9:20	Recent advances in canopy management <i>Nick Dokoozlian E&J Gallo (CA)</i>
10:20	Mechanization of Vineyard Operations with Emphasis on Crop <i>Keith Striegler University of Missouri</i>
11:00	Rootstocks for Grapevine Root Health <i>Peter Cousins, Cornell University/USDA</i>
12:00	Lunch break
1:00 p.m.	Vineyard Cultural Practices: Where Is the Biggest Bang for your Buck? <i>Nick Dokoozlian, E&J Gallo (CA)</i>
2:00	The Role of Rootstocks in Achieving Vine Balance <i>Jim Wolpert, University of California-Davis</i>
2:40	Winegrape cultivars: A key to Reconciling Viticulture Practices and Production Efficiency <i>Diego Barison, Novavine (CA)</i>

3:20 Dealing with Freezing Stress in Grapevines
Imed Dami, Ohio State University

4:00 Roundtable discussion with speakers

For more information, contact Dr. Paolo Sabbatini, Dept of Horticulture, MSU at 517-355-5191, X 1302 or Paul Jenkins at 517-648-5099. To register, go to:
<http://store.chateauchantal.com/store/product/1205/Viti-&-Viniculture-Workshop/>. **Advance registration is required.**

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and The Michigan Vegetable Council announce the availability of scholarships for college students (sophomores-seniors) who intend to pursue careers in the Midwest fruit industry or vegetable industry, respectively. The awards are made available by these organizations, with the generous support of industry sponsors. In 2009, scholarship awards totaling \$11,000 were awarded with the support of Crop Protection Services, Gerber Products Company, Michigan Apple Promoters, Valent USA, Wilbur-Ellis Company, MACMA Apple Division, and Agro Fresh, Inc. (SmartFresh), as well as the support of the following industry publications: *Meister Publications* (*American Fruit Grower*, *American Vegetable Grower*), *The Fruit Growers News*, and *The Vegetable Growers News*.

The target amount per scholarship is \$1,000, but it could be more or less at the discretion of the selection committee. The award is not based on need or academic achievement, however, the selection committee may use these criteria to decide between two or more qualified applicants.

To receive more information or an application, contact your guidance office or the appropriate office as follows:

Fruit scholarships: MI State Horticultural Society, 63806 90th Avenue, Hartford, MI 49057; phone (269) 424-3990; fax (269) 424-3096; or e-mail MIHortSociety@aol.com. An application is also posted on the MSHS web-site at www.mihortsociety.org. Applications should be mailed or faxed by **Saturday, October 9th**.

Vegetable scholarships: Michigan Vegetable Council, P.O. Box 277, Erie, MI 48133; phone (734) 848-8899; fax (734) 848-8899; or e-mail mivegcouncil@charter.net. Applications should be mailed or faxed by **Saturday, October 9th**.

The recipients will be selected in the fall and the awards presented during the Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO (December 7-9, 2010) in Grand Rapids, MI (www.glexpo.com).

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and Michigan Vegetable Council invite other companies and organizations to contribute to the scholarship fund. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Allyn Anthony (269-424-3990) or Dave Smith (734-848-8899).

The Michigan State Horticultural Society and Michigan Vegetable Council are co-hosts of the largest fruit, vegetable and farm market show in the country, the Great Lakes Fruit Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO. Visit the EXPO website at: www.glexpo.com