

## August 2011 Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 2011

- 8/8**                **FSA Emergency Loan Deadline**
- 8/17**                **Hops Workshop**  
SWMREC
- 8/25**                **NW Station Open House & Equipment Show**
- 8/27**                **Clean Sweep Collection**  
Eastport – 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 8/27**                **Clean Sweep Collection**  
Elk Rapids – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 8/29**                **Value Added Producer Grant due**
- 9/29**                **Clean Sweep Collection**  
Traverse City – 1:00-7:00 p.m.

#### 2012

- 1/24-25**            **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**  
Grand Traverse Resort

### NORTHWEST MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE - 2011

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center Open House will be held Thursday, **August 25, 2011**. The equipment show and grounds open at 1:00 pm. The educational sessions for tree fruit and winegrapes will run concurrently and will begin at 3:00 pm. Sessions will conclude with a social hour at 5:15 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm.

The Leelanau Horticultural Society is hosting an equipment show that will feature many local and regional equipment and supply vendors. These vendors will be set up at the NWMHRS and will be available from 1pm through the dinner hour.

The Northwest Station Open House is hosted by AgBioResearch, Michigan State University Extension, the Leelanau Horticultural Society, and the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation. The education sessions are *free* and open to all who would like to attend. Tickets for the social hour and dinner are \$15 per person and can be reserved by calling the Leelanau County Extension office at 231-256-9888 or purchased at the door. This year, dinner will be provided by ***Ethnic Garden Catering*** and will feature local food from the region.

### Schedule

- 12:30 – 2:30**    **MAEAP Phase I and the Michigan Safe Food Risk Assessment Program**  
Dan Busby, Water Stewardship Program Coordinator, GT SCD

### **Concurrent Tree Fruit Session – 3:00 p.m.**

#### *Horticulture*

- **High Density Montmorency Planting: Big, Healthy Trees in Year Two**  
Drs. Nikki Rothwell, Greg Lang, and Ron Perry
- **New Cherry Rootstock Planting**  
Dr. Amy Iezzoni
- **New Cherry Cultivar Planting at High Densities**  
Dr. Ron Perry

#### *Plant Pathology*

- **Update on Fungicide and Bactericide Trials Conducted at NWMHRS**  
Dr. George Sundin, Dr. Nikki Rothwell, and Erin Lizotte

### **Concurrent Winegrapes Session – 3:00 p.m.**

#### *Horticulture*

- **Update on Winegrape Cultivar Planting at NWMHRS: Vines Looking Great in 2011**  
Drs. Paolo Sabbatini, Nikki Rothwell, and Duke Elsner

#### *Plant Pathology*

- **Weather and Winegrape Disease Control for the 2011 Season.**  
Dr. Annemiek Schilder
- **Bunch Rot Control and the Heat of July**  
Dr. Annemiek Schilder

We hope to see you on the 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **FREE WELL WATER SCREENING FOR NITRATES AND NITRITES AT OPEN HOUSE**

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program will offer FREE well water screening at our booth at the Research Station Open House. Bring in a small (4-8 oz) well water sample in a clean glass jar to the open house and visit our booth and we will do a strip test for nitrates and nitrites and results will be immediate. The strip test will give us a range of nitrate and nitrite and is used as a screening for well water quality. This test is available to farms that participate in MAEAP or complete a Farm\*A\*Syst. Call Dan Busby at 231-883-9962 or by email at [dbusby@qtcd.org](mailto:dbusby@qtcd.org) for more information.

### **NW FARM BUREAU SPONSOR FARM BILL AND MAEAP EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**

Members of the Northwest Farm Bureau and Dan Busby applied for and received a \$1,450 grant from Michigan Farm Bureau. A portion of the funds were used for MAEAP meetings, which were held during the last regularly scheduled IPM meetings hosted by local farmers and staff at the Research Station. Picnic lunch and/or dinners were followed by educational presentations about the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program including a review of program and assessment tools used, an update by the MDARD, and information on the local *Clean Sweep* collections and pesticide container recycling and Farm Bill programs offered through our local USDA-NRCS office.

If you missed out on those meetings this season, (and the great barbeques) you can sign up for another program we are having at the Research Station Open house on **Thursday, Aug 25** from 12:30 – 2:30. These sessions will include new information about the Michigan's Safe Food Assessment and a new half-time position out of the GTCD office to assist growers with Food Safety planning and implementation.

Please call or email Dan Busby (231-883-9962 or [dbusby@gtcd.org](mailto:dbusby@gtcd.org)) to RSVP or for more information.

## **ASK AN EXPERT**

### **For answers to your questions....**

MSU Extension invites you to "Ask an Expert" in our national internet system. It is easy, quick, and confidential. Search the database, upload pictures, and ask experts on a wide variety of topics. Experts are Extension faculty from MSU and from universities across the country.

Your answers will arrive within a few days via e-mail along with links to additional information. Each answer is based on research so you can be confident that it is accurate and unbiased.

### **How do you ask a question?**

Go to: <http://www.extension.org/>, click on the "Ask an Expert" button in the right column.

For questions about **Gardening in Michigan**: <http://www.migarden.msu.edu/>

To contact Michigan experts in many areas, go to: <http://people.msue.msu.edu/>

To contact your local Extension office, call: 1-888-678-3464 (or 1-888-MSUE-4MI)

## **VALUE ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS (VAPG)**

Are you interested in a biomass boiler to burn pits (waste) to assist in drying cherries or to assist with processing plant energy needs, or upgrading to a more efficient water/cherry cooling system, then you may want to apply for a VAPG.

Independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures are eligible to apply. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was published in the Federal Register on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Approximately \$37 million in competitive grants for fiscal year 2011 is available to help independent agricultural producers enter into the value-added activities. Awards may be made for planning activities or for working capital expenses, but not for both. The maximum grant amount for planning is \$100,000 and maximum grant amount for working capital is \$300,000. Ten percent of available funds have been reserved for applications submitted by Beginning Farmers or Ranchers or Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers.

Completed paper applications must be postmarked no later than **August 29**, and completed electronic applications (submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)) must be received by midnight **August 29, 2011**.

The Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register which outlines the rules governing the VAPG Program for 2011. It also describes what information is required when submitting an application. You can find more information on VAPG at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp\\_vapg\\_grants.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_vapg_grants.html), which contains application guidance including the Interim Rule and the 2011 NOFA and required forms or call 517-324-5157 for more information.

## **NUISANCE WILDLIFE**

Are you interested in information on how to responsibly handle wildlife damage problems? If so, head over to the Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage Handbook (warning – this is a large file!) at <http://icwdm.org/handbook/allPDF/complete%20Handbook.pdf>. This publication was produced by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, US Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Great Plains Agricultural Council: Wildlife Committee in 1994.

## **HOPS WORKSHOP**

A workshop on hops will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Aug. 17** at the Michigan State University Extension's **Southwest Michigan Research & Extension Center**, 1791 Hillandale Road., Benton Harbor.

At this workshop, scheduled from 9 am to 3 pm on August 17th, you can learn about the history and uses of hops, what's needed to set up trellises for a hop yard, requirements for growing, fertilizing, and irrigating, common insect and disease problems and their management, and marketing opportunities for hops. Representatives from local microbreweries will be on hand to discuss hop characteristics and what they contribute to a brew (bittering, aroma, flavor). An instructional tasting of several styles of beer and ale will help to educate your palate and illustrate the differences imparted by using particular varieties of hops. If you have been considering starting a commercial hopyard, or just want to grow some for your batches of homebrew, this workshop will be a great introduction to get you started.

Registration for the event is \$25. Participants should register by **Aug. 12**.

To register or for more information, contact Linda or Jamie at the Berrien County Extension office, **269-944-4126**.

## **FRUITNET AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

If you would like to receive or know of someone that would like to receive the weekly FruitNet reports, please give Jackie a call at 231-946-1510 or email her at [baase@msu.edu](mailto:baase@msu.edu). This weekly report, provides the latest and most timely information on degree days, stages of fruit development, weather events and precipitation, pest emergence (disease and insect), excellent articles on “hot” topics from Extension educators and MSU researchers, and much more!

## **MAEAP INTRODUCES THE MICHIGAN SAFE FOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), received a project GREEN grant to create the Michigan Safe Food Risk Assessment for producers of fresh fruit and vegetables. The MI Safe Food Risk Assessment is a scale –appropriate voluntary food safety

program designed to educate fresh fruit and vegetable producers about food safety and recognize those who use safe food management practices. Producers who successfully complete the assessment and on-site farm review will receive a Certificate of Completion that can be shared with customers and buyers.

The Grand Traverse Conservation District will be hiring a half-time position (20 hours/week) that will work specifically with growers of fruits and vegetables in Northwest Michigan on Food Safety on the farm. This work on local food safety is part of the initiatives set forth by the Michigan Good Food Charter and locally by the Food and Farm Network, a working group of the Grand Vision.

For more information on the Michigan Safe Food Risk Assessment, plan on attending the NWMHRC Open House on Thursday, Aug 25 as a MAEAP Phase I meeting and lunch is scheduled from, 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. A **FREE** picnic style lunch will be provided (sponsored by Northwest Farm Bureau) at noon with the MAEAP and Food Safety program to follow.

For more information or to schedule an on-farm site review, please contact Dan Busby at the Grand Traverse Conservation District at 231-941-0960 ext 22 or email Dan at [d.busby@gtcd.org](mailto:d.busby@gtcd.org).

### **PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM IN FULL SWING**

Recycling plastic pesticide containers has never been easier. You can bring in your clean, pressure washed or triple rinsed pesticide containers without caps and labels to your local chemical dealer. Containers 2.5 gallons and smaller must be in a large plastic bag – call for mini bulks, buckets, or barrels. Bags of containers are temporarily stored outside and collection starts up after cherry harvest is wrapped up in August and September. Call your agronomist or Dan Busby at 231-883-9962 for more information on container recycling. Containers are recycled in the Midwest into products like plastic tile drains, parking bumpers, and more. Recycling is FREE so please take advantage of this program, reduce your trash bill, and recycle a recyclable waste on your farm!

### **GET RID OF THOSE OLD PESTICIDE IN THE SPRAY SHED – CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTIONS COMING UP**

Disposal of unwanted, unusable pesticide products is easier than ever. The date for the next pesticide collection in Traverse City is scheduled for Thursday, **September 29 from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** Please call 941-5555 or visit [www.recyclesmart.info](http://www.recyclesmart.info) to make an appointment. Antrim County has two *Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep* collections scheduled for Saturday, **August 27** from 8:00-11:00 a.m. in **Eastport** and 1:00-3:00 p.m. in **Elk Rapids**. Please call the Antrim Conservation District for more information at 231-533-8363 or visit [www.antrimcd.com](http://www.antrimcd.com)