



Researcher Resources



ABOUT

NEWS & STORIES

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

PROJECTS

Home

Background
& Projects

Calendar

Directions

InfoVideos

Links

Extension
Expert Search

Publications

Staff

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2012 *Special Update* NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center

[Nikki Rothwell](#)
District Horticulturist
[Duke Elsner](#)
Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent
October 2, 2012

[Bill Klein](#)
Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

ATTENTION HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

If you, or someone you know, believe the United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA) has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For more information, [see attached flyer](#).

Northwest Michigan's New FARM Members Invite all Growers to ROAST 2012 - KICK OUT THE SEASON AND KICK UP YOUR HEELS

November 3, 2012
6:30 in the evening
Park Place Dome, Traverse City, Michigan

Bring family, friends, and crew members out for a fun night!
Food, drinks, and live music are generously provided by **Cherry Republic**

RSVP to the Northwest Station (231.946.1510) by October 29

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2012](#)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 10-02-12



Researcher Resources



ABOUT

NEWS & STORIES

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

PROJECTS

Home

Background
& Projects

Calendar

Directions

InfoVideos

Links

Extension
Expert Search

Publications

Staff

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2012 Weekly Update NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center

[Nikki Rothwell](#)

District Horticulturist

[Duke Elsner](#)

Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent

October 16, 2012

[Bill Klein](#)

Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

MICHIGAN SWEET CHERRY PILOT PROGRAM EXPANSION

After a devastating year, there is good news for Michigan sweet cherry producers. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently approved the expansion of the sweet cherry pilot program. Sweet cherries will be insurable in the following Michigan counties in 2013: Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, and Oceana. Producers have until the November 20, sales closing date to buy sweet cherry insurance.

Brian D. Frieden, Director of the Springfield Regional Office, states, "We are extremely pleased to announce the expansion of the Sweet Cherry Pilot Program." This is an Actual Revenue History (ARH) insurance plan. You can choose buy-up coverage at the following levels: 50-percent, 55-percent, 60-percent, 65-percent, 70-percent, and 75-percent. Catastrophic Risk Protection (CAT Coverage) is not available for cherries.

Frieden reminds Michigan cherry producers, "If you are interested in buying buy-up coverage for sweet cherries in 2013, contact your crop insurance agent as soon as possible; the November 20 sales closing date is quickly approaching." To find a crop insurance agent, visit the RMA website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>. For information about the ARH Sweet Cherry Policy, visit: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2013policy.html>.

NEED DETAIL ON THE SOILS YOU FARM OR MANAGE? TRY THE NRCS WEB SOILSURVEY

Knowing your soil's type and capacity can help you farm smarter.

Posted on **October 10, 2012, MSU-E**, by **Jim Isleib**, Michigan State University Extension


Most farmers are intimately familiar with the soils on which they raise crops or animals. For those considering using new land, or perhaps new farm occupants, a study of your primary resource can be very useful. Over recent years, the USDA [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) has updated many county soil surveys across Michigan and made them available to the public through an internet site called the [Web Soil Survey](#) (WSS).


If you have ever looked up a piece of land in a printed county soil survey map or seen soil maps in farm planning documents, then you are familiar with the way soils information is superimposed on a map. The irregular boundary lines are soil map unit delineations. Delineations on a soil map represent an area dominated by one major kind of soil or an area dominated by two or three kinds of soil. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soil or soils. Within a taxonomic class, there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. Some of these properties include soil color, soil texture, soil structure, soil pH, consistency, mineral and chemical composition, and arrangement in the soil profile. Soils with similar properties result in soils that perform similarly for land use purposes. Soil map unit descriptions are included on the website for the area of interest (AOI) defined by the user. The website allows the user to display a variety of maps and reports that can be used to determine suitability of soils for a particular use.

What do you need to access the [Web Soil Survey](#)? A computer and internet connection, preferably higher-speed. Be patient. It may take a little time for your computer to work through each step. Here's a little primer to help you get started.


Go to the [NRCS Web Soil Survey website](#) and look over the four basic steps. Click the green "START WSS" button. A new page will open with the "Area of Interest" (AOI) tab already selected on the horizontal banner near the top of the page. Now, determine the area for which you want soil information:

On the left side of the screen in the **Quick Navigation** panel, click on one of the selection methods. For example, open **State/County**, select your state and county, and click **View**.

After the map image is updated, click the **Zoom In** tool . Then click and drag a rectangle on the map to zoom to an area. Zoom in as close as you need to so you can see streets and landmarks you recognize.

After the map image is updated, click the **AOI Rectangle** tool .

Click and drag a rectangle around the area of the map you wish to set as your Area of Interest. The application will create the AOI you have specified.

If the area you are interested in is not rectangular, you can use the *AOI Polygon tool* . Click points on the map to define your AOI. Double-click or CTRL-click the final point to finish. Now, click on the "Soil Map" tab next to the "Area of Interest" tab. This will overlay the soil map information on the area of interest you have selected. On the left you will see a table with the soil map unit symbols and names listed along with their acres in the area of interest. You can get details about the soils included in your area of interest map by clicking on the map unit name.

Click on "Soil Data Explorer" to find further information. It takes a little work and trial and error to find what you want. Start by clicking the "Suitabilities and Limitations for Use" tab, then click "Yields of Non-Irrigated Crops (Component)". A table will appear below and you can select a crop of interest from a drop down menu. Click the crop you would like information about, then select and click "View Rating." You should now see your soil map, table of soil map units and a description of "Yields of Non-Irrigated Crops" (or whatever vegetative productivity choice you selected). Next to the soil map on this screen is a little vertical tab called "legend." Click here and look for the color legend that matches the color of the soil type of interest on your map. You will see the potential yield for the crop selected. This is only a tiny part of the information available.

That's enough to get started. You can generate printable reports by saving your work into the free "shopping cart" provided on WSS. When you're done, go to the shopping cart and request your report. If you run into trouble, contact your [nearest NRCS office](#) for help.

This article was published by **MSU Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

GREAT LAKES FARM MARKET EXPO OFFERS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS

Michigan expo is one of the largest gatherings of fruit and vegetable producers in the nation.

Posted on **October 15, 2012, MSU-E**, by **Kendra Wills**, Michigan State University Extension

The [Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo](#) is one of the largest gatherings of fruit and vegetable producers in the United States.

According to the expo's website, more than 4,000 people from 42 states and six provinces in Canada registered for the 2011 conference. The 2012 agenda features 71 sessions over the three-day period starting Dec. 4. Educational topics include: production techniques of fruit and vegetables, greenhouse and other season-extension tools, food safety, farm marketing ideas and issues, and organic production techniques. [Registration](#) is \$70 per person if paid before Nov. 15. Click the link to view the [conference brochure](#).

It is a great educational opportunity for fruit and vegetable growers as well as producers interested in direct marketing. Almost every topic related to fruit and vegetable production is covered by expert presenters in the short three-day period and for a reasonable price.

I, along with Colleen Matts, a farm-to-school specialist with the [MSU Center for Regional Food Systems](#), am working with two Michigan farmers to present a session at the Expo on how [farm-to-school](#) can be a successful business venture from a farmer's perspective. This session will cover pricing, packaging and marketing techniques as well as delivery systems. Farm-to-school programs are a key component of community food systems and can be a profitable outlet for smaller-size fruits as well as extra supplies of local vegetables.

The Expo will also feature a "Meet the Buyers" reception that will connect farmers with institutional food buyers and distribution companies. This is an excellent opportunity for farmers to sign up as vendors to promote their products as well as for buyers interested in purchasing local food to connect with a wide variety of growers. There is no cost for attendees to participate in this reception. For more information on the "Meet the Buyers" reception, contact Tom Kalchik, associate director of the [MSU Product Center](#) at 517-432-8752.

The Great Lakes expo is sponsored by the [Michigan State Horticultural Society](#) and the [Michigan Vegetable Council](#) in cooperation with Michigan State University Extension. Additional supporters include the Michigan Greenhouse Growers, [Metro Detroit Flower Growers Association](#), and the Western Michigan Greenhouse Association. The Expo is also [on Facebook](#).

This article was published by **MSU Extension**. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR DAN BUSBY

Greetings,

For those of you that know Dan Busby, he has, as of last Monday, assumed a new position as MAEAP Verifier with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Rural Development (MDARD). The Grand Traverse Conservation District will be hosting a reception on **November 6th** (Election Day) from **3:00pm to 6:00pm** at the **Boardman River Nature Center**, 1450 Cass Rd. in Traverse City to congratulate Dan on his new position and thank him for 12 years of service to the District. Hors d'oeuvres and cake will be served.

Hope you can make it!

Treenen Sturman
Executive Director
Grand Traverse Conservation District

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2012](#)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 10-16-12

[Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Indicia](#) | [Logos](#)

AgBioResearch • 109 Agriculture Hall • East Lansing, MI 48824 • Ph: 517-355-0123

© 2010 Michigan State University Board of Trustees



Researcher Resources



ABOUT

NEWS & STORIES

AFFILIATED PROGRAMS

PROJECTS

Home

Background
& Projects

Calendar

Directions

InfoVideos

Links

Extension
Expert Search

Publications

Staff

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2012 Weekly Update NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center

[Nikki Rothwell](#)

District Horticulturist

[Duke Elsner](#)

Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent

October 23, 2012

[Bill Klein](#)

Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

TART CHERRY CROP INSURANCE: MICHIGAN LISTENING SESSIONS

For tart cherry growers and handlers, insurance company staff, agents, adjusters, and other interested parties USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has contracted with Agralytica of Alexandria, Virginia to review the options for developing a pilot insurance program for tart cherries. The purpose is to review the feasibility and if the results are positive to develop a pilot crop insurance plan.

Agralytica staff will be holding listening sessions for tart cherry growers, and handlers, insurance company staff, agents, adjusters, and other interested parties in Michigan and Utah. A single listening session for all will be held at two venues in Michigan and one in Utah (see below). The aim is to get feedback on how the program might operate, and to assess potential interest among growers and the insurance industry. Each listening sessions is open for both grower/handlers and insurance parties.

In addition, cherry growers and insurance company staff, agents and loss adjusters in other states can call or e-mail Agralytica at the coordinates below if they wish to comment on the program. Details on the listening sessions are as follows:

Michigan (North West)

Thursday November 8, 2012

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research

Center

6686 S. Center Hwy, Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: (231) 946-1510

Michigan (West Central)

Friday, November 9, 2012

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Oceana County Airport, Meeting Room

1805 W Baseline, Shelby, Michigan 49455

Phone: (231) 861-9910

If anyone would like an individual meeting, Agralytica staff will be available at each of the above locations. To arrange a time, contact Nick Young by cell at 703-981-6002 or by email: nyoung@agralytica.com. Alternatively, anyone can submit phone or e-mailed comments to Nick Young or Tom Earley by cell at 703-981-6002 and 703-981-6004.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you haven't RSVP'd yet and would like to attend the ag industry party to be held on November 3rd at the Park Place Dome, you still have until **October 29th!** To RSVP or for more details, call 231-946-1510. We hope you can join us for a fun-filled evening.

SILENT AUCTION FOR THE JEREMY JELINEK FAMILY

The New FARM Program is holding a silent auction to raise money for the Jeremy Jelinek Family at the 2012 Industry Party on **November 3rd.**

We are accepting donations of any size for this important fundraiser. Products do not need to be available at the time of donation--gift certificates are an option. For those interested in contributing to this worthy cause, we ask that donations be dropped off at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center, 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI, by

Thursday, **November 1, 2012**. Items will be available for bid throughout the evening of Saturday, November 3rd at the Industry Party at the Park Place Dome, Traverse City, MI.
Come ready to dance and raise money for Jeremy's family. If you have questions, please call Nikki at the Station at 231-946-1510.

2012 STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSALS

When there are ballot issues to be voted on, MSU's Public Policy specialists put together a factsheet about the proposals. This a great source of information (without the twists and turns the TV ads give) to help make voting decisions. The 2012 Ballot Factsheet is now available for free download at the MSUE Bookstore site:
<http://bookstore.msue.msu.edu/product/statewide-ballot-proposals-2012-1307.cfm?killnav=1>. The bulletin with the proposals is 12 pages and can be printed for free.

2013 NW MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW – SAVE THE DATES

Due to the availability of the Grand Traverse Resort, the 2013 Orchard and Vineyard Show will be held on Monday, January 21 and Tuesday, January 22. Set up for vendors will take place on Sunday, January 20th. Additional details and the program schedule will be sent at a later date.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/fruit>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:

<http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2012](#)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 10-23-12