

**NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter
November 2005**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/6-8 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable &
Farm Market Expo
DeVos Place Convention Center
Grand Rapids
- 12/9 Pesticide Certification Review & Test
NWMHRS
- 12/12 Pesticide Certification Review & Test
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth
- 12/13 NRCS CSP Roundtable Meeting
NWMHRS
- 12/15 NRCS CSP Roundtable Meeting
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth
- 12/15 Sweet Cherry Pruning Demo
Jim Bardenhagen Farm, Pertner Rd
- 12/16 Farm Income Tax Session
NWMHRS

2006

- 1/5 "Road to Independence"
NMC Great Lakes Campus Hagerty Center
- 1/17-18 NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
- 1/18 Product Agriculture Training Class
Michigan Works Conf. Room
- 1/19-21 International Cherry Symposium
NWMHRS
- 1/28 7th Annual Small Farm Conference
Grayling High School
- 2/8-9 SW Hort Days
Lake Mendel College, Benton Harbor
- 2/26-3/2 IFTA (formerly IDFTA)
Hershey, PA
- 3/28-3/30 Benzie-Manistee Hort Show
Crystal Mtn Resort
Thompsonville

2005 GREAT LAKES FRUIT, VEGETABLE & FARM MARKET EXPO

An excellent program is planned for this year's EXPO. It will be held on December 6-8, 2005 at the DeVos Place Convention Center in downtown Grand Rapids. The trade show is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 8:00-1:00 on Thursday with approximately 275 exhibitors. Educational programs occur daily from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m., except Thursday when the afternoon sessions are from 1:00-3:00. Several concurrent educational programs are available on both fruit and vegetable crops. There will be an Apple Variety Showcase on December 6 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and a Farm Marketers' Roundtable Discussion on December 6 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday's program will feature organic fruit and vegetable production programs among other topics. For further information, go to www.glexpo.com.

PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION REVIEW & TEST SESSIONS

Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Educator
Duke Elsner, Agricultural Agent, Grand Traverse County MSU Extension
Stan Moore, Agricultural Agent, Antrim County, MSU Extension

December 9, Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station

December 12, Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth

9:00 a.m. to 12:00	Review of Core Manual Materials (re-certification credits pending)
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	Certification Tests offered by MDA

There is no cost for either review session. If you will be taking the MDA exam in the afternoon, please have the exam fee(s) on hand. The private applicator test is \$50 and commercial is \$75. Please make your check payable to **State of Michigan**. To help you prepare for the exam, the *Pesticide Applicator Core Training Manual* (E-2195) can be purchased for \$10.00 at your county Extension office or at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station.

Please RSVP

December 9: Call Jackie at the NW Michigan Hort Station, (231) 946-1510

December 12: Call Gloria at the Antrim County MSU Extension office, (231) 533-8818

NRCS CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP) ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

Nikki Rothwell, District Fruit IPM Educator
Pepper Bromelmeier, NRCS, Antrim County District Conservationist

NRCS's CSP program has come to Northern Michigan! NRCS has chosen the Grand Traverse Bay watershed as one of its target regions for 2006, which includes many fruit growing areas. This two-year old program is designed to reward growers for conservation practices that they are **presently** doing on their farms. Based on results from other areas, fruit growers often qualify for this program due to the perennial nature of the crop as well as the advances we have made in orchard and vineyard conservation. This program offers impressive financial incentives for participating growers.

According to NRCS, "CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation."

If you are planning on signing up to participate in the 2006 CSP, we **highly recommend** you attend one of four sessions (attend either the a.m. or p.m. session at either site):

December 13: Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station (9-12 or 1-4)

December 15: Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth, MI (9-12 or 1-4)

Before attending these meetings, be sure to check out the NRCS website to learn more about the program and to find out if your farm qualifies for its benefits:

<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html>. If you are planning to be present at one of these meetings, there is a list of five items you need to bring with you:

1. Aerial photographs of your farm (or another way to delineate your operation).

2. Current pesticide application records.
3. Rotation of current acreage (if applicable).
4. Tillage types of current acreage (if applicable).
5. Irrigation records (if applicable).
6. Rental agreements.
7. Specific location of your operation.

Please RSVP to Pepper Bromelmeier at 231-533-8542 (ext. 3) for both meeting sites or if you have further questions about the program.

2006 INTERNATIONAL CHERRY CONFERENCE AND NW MICHIGAN VINEYARD SHOW **January 17 and 18; Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI**

2006 ART MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL CHERRY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM **January 19, 20, and 21; NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station, Traverse City, MI**

This year's Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show will present an outstanding line-up featuring many of the top tart and sweet cherry researchers from the United States and around the world. The speakers will focus on tree growth and production in tart and sweet cherries, rootstocks, varieties, plant growth regulators, tree nutrition, and new technologies in harvest mechanization. Speakers will also discuss global production and market trends in different world regions.

The Orchard Show will be held on January 17 and 18, 2006 at the Grand Traverse Resort near Traverse City. The conference will provide the most current research in cherry production and management. This conference is an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn from international and national researchers and leading growers as well as expose the Michigan industry to cherry production around the world.

The Orchard and Vineyard Show will also include a concurrent day-long program for wine grape growers and vintners. Companies interested in displaying at the trade show should contact Paul Hubbell, Grand Traverse Fruit Council President, at (231) 313-8165.

As the meeting planning is still underway, more details will be available prior to the events. However, immediate questions can be directed to the Northwest Horticultural Research Station, (231) 946-1510.

Directly following the Orchard Show, a two and a half day cherry research symposium will be held at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The philosophy of this symposium is to chart a strategic course for research and extension critical to the viability and sustainability of future temperate zone cherry production. The symposium will feature semi-structured, informal discussions of cutting edge cherry growth and development research and production strategies among scientists and progressive growers in a casual setting. The symposium will be divided into five topic areas: Tree Growth and Production/Sour Cherry; Tree Growth and Production/Sweet Cherry; Climatic Impacts on Cropping; Plant Growth Regulators, including Nutrition; Mechanization of Harvest and Other Technologies. This meeting is designed for open communication and idea exchange between fruit researchers and Extension personnel.

7TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MICHIGAN SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

The 7th *Annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference* will be held **Saturday, January 28, 2006, from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.** at the Grayling High School, Grayling, MI.

Farmers are greeting the challenges of today's agricultural world with new found passion and creative production, marketing, and management strategies. The Small Farm Conference brings these success stories to you. Join us at the new location for our exciting 2006 event.

- Keynote speaker Percy Schmeiser to speak on "The Effect of GMO on the Ability to Save Seeds & Other Choices for Your Small Farm."
- Three breakout sessions with topics to include: Whole Farm Approach to Weed Control. Renewable Energy, Food We Love-NW Michigan Food System Project, Food is Medicine, Holistic Management, Saving Heirloom Seeds, Alternative Tillage, Wild Fruit/Nut Permaculture, Going Organic in Michigan-

Perceptions, Reality & Opportunities, Enhancing Beneficial Insects with Native Plants, Sheep-Managing a Grass Based Flock & Direct Marketing Lamb, Health from the Hedge Row.

- Exhibitors of farm products and services trade show.

For more information, contact the Antrim County MSUE office at 231-533-8818.

FARM INCOME TAX SESSION

By Jim Bardenhagen, CED Leelanau Co.

The Annual Farm Income Tax Update will be held on Friday, **December 16** starting at 2:30 at the NW MI Horticultural Research Station.

Larry Borton, MSU Ag Economics Department and Director of the MSU Tel-farm Department will be covering various income tax changes affecting farms and individuals for 2005. There is a new deduction this year called the "Production Deduction". Most farmers will qualify if they have a positive Schedule F and pay W-2 wages for labor.

Larry will also present some suggestions for income tax planning and will provide a number of handouts as well. If your farm uses a tax preparer, please invite them to join us so they are aware of all the items that can affect agriculture tax returns.

The cost is \$6, which covers conference room charges, handouts and refreshments. Fee is payable at the door.

SWEET CHERRY PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

By Jim Bardenhagen, Leelanau County

When: December 15, 2005

Time: 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Location: Jim Bardenhagen Farm
7881 E. Pertner Rd., Suttons Bay, MI 49682
(M-204 to Eagle Hwy, then west on Pertner Rd.)

Cost: \$15/person payable at the door

The focus of the pruning demo will be sweet cherries on dwarfing rootstocks and sweet cherries for the fresh market. The program will start in the pole barn with presentations on pruning principles/concepts and current varieties for fresh. The group will then move outside to the research plot for the pruning demonstration.

Greg Lang, MSU Horticulture Department, Jim Nugent, MSU Extension District Agent and Wally Heuser, Summit Sales, will be the resource people.

Please call Leelanau MSU Extension (231-256-9888) to register for the program

ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

By Jim Bardenhagen

On **January 5, 2006**, the MSU Product Center will hold a workshop called "Road to Independence" at the NMC Great Lakes Campus, Hagerty Center in Traverse City from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

The workshop will focus on developing a unique business idea, finding market opportunities and understanding what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur. Participants will learn of resources to assist them in becoming an entrepreneur. It's also a good opportunity for the next generation of farmers to increase their understanding of entrepreneurship and value-added product development. The program will be presented at four other locations throughout the state if January 5th doesn't work for you.

Please see the attached flyer for more details and a registration form. Call Jim Bardenhagen at 231-256-9888 or Wendy Wieland at 231-582-6482 if you have any questions.

PRODUCT AGRICULTURE TRAINING CLASS

By Jim Bardenhagen

On **January 18, 2006**, a Product Agriculture Training Class will be held at the Michigan Works Conference Room at 12095 Garfield Avenue in Traverse City. The class will run each Wednesday for five weeks from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

The purpose of the class is to help ag producers and small business in the food, fiber, and related industries to learn about putting a business plan together for developing new products or new ventures.

The class agenda will include developing a:

- Vision, mission & goals
- A concept definition
- Marketing strategy
- Operations strategy
- Human resources strategy
- Financial Strategy

The class will cost \$250 per person. Additional people from an operation can enroll for \$100/person.

The class is sponsored by Leelanau MSU Extension, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, and the Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) of Traverse City.

If interested, please fill out the registration form **below** and return in to MSU Extension, PO Box 987, 201 Chandler Street, Leland, MI 49654.

If you have any questions about the class, please call Jim Bardenhagen at MSU Extension (231-256-9888) or Wendy Wieland at Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (231-582-6482) or Bill Palladino at SBTDC of Traverse City (231-922-3781).

The registration deadline is January 9, 2006.

Registration Form

FARM/BUSINESS NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS: _____ CELL # _____
(street)

(city) (state) (zip)

EMAIL: _____

FEES: 1st Person Name: _____ @ \$250 _____

2nd Person Name: _____ @ \$100 _____

3rd Person Name: _____ @ \$100 _____

Others: _____ @ \$100 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make Check Payable To and Mail To: **Leelanau MSU Extension**, P.O. Box 987, Leland, MI 49654

A promotional brochure with more details will also be available soon.