NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter
December 2008

CALENDER OF EVENTS

12/9-11	**Great Lakes Expo** DeVos Place Conference Center Grand Rapids
12/11-12	**Irrigation Workshop** Amway Grand Plaza
12/12	**Meet and Greet the Legislators** NWMHRS
12/17	**Sustainable Hops Production Workshop** Hagerty Center, Traverse City
12/19	**Tel-Farm Appointments** NWMHRS
2009	
1/8	**Wind Energy Workshop** NWMHRS
1/15	**Get Farming Workshop** Benzie Community Resource Center/Health Dept Beulah
1/20-22	**NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show** Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
1/31	**Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference** Grayling High School
1/31-2/8	**Annual IFTA Tour** Berlin, Germany and Warsaw, Poland
2/4-5	**SW Michigan Hort Days** Lake Michigan Community College Mendel Center
2/16-18	**MSU Tree Fruit IPM School** Kellogg Biological Station
2/18	**Get Farming Workshop** Kalkaska High School Multi-purpose Room
2/17-19	**Winery Establishment Workshop** MSU SW MI Res & Extension Center
2/25-27	**Michigan Wine Industry Annual Meeting** Crystal Mountain Resort
4/1	**Water Use Reporting Deadline**

MEET AND GREET THE LEGISLATORS
Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSUE

Farm Bureau is hosting a 'Meet and Greet' your Legislators at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station on Friday, **December 12th from 8-10.** This event will provide an opportunity for growers to talk about important issues that impact the agricultural community. As we have new faces in the legislature, this morning meeting will be a great opportunity to meet these folks and share your thoughts with them. Thanks to John Nink for coordinating this event. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

TEL-FARM APPOINTMENTS
Rob Sirrine, Leelanau Co. CED

TEL-FARM appointments are now being scheduled for Leelanau County farmers for **Friday, December 19, 2008** at the NWMHRS. The Tel-farm system of farm financial record keeping is a program available from MSU Extension's Farm Information Resources Management (FIRM) Team. It is an educational and service program designed to assist farmers with their farm financial records and decision making.
Benefits of the TelFarm program:

- Keeps the farm business owner in control of their own business finances.
- Provides levels of campus support that best suits the individual farm business's needs.
- Includes a yearly Check-In service with the farm business's own District Farm Management Agent.
- Supports and provides business analysis and year-end tax planning strategies.

Please call 256-9888 for more information.

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD AND VINEYARD SHOW
N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist, MSUE

The 2009 Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show will be held Tuesday through Thursday, **January 20-22,** at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI. The **three-day** program will feature both educational sessions and vendor exhibits. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, and the fee is $30 per person covering all three days. The Fruit Industry Luncheon will be held on Tuesday the 20th, and the cost is $15. The Cherry Marketing Institute's (CMI) luncheon on Wednesday is *free* to growers that register with CMI. A third luncheon will be held for all growers and vendors on Thursday, January 22nd, and the cost for that lunch will be $10. The exhibit hall will be open during the show and will feature vendors of orchard and vineyard equipment as well as supplies, commodity organizations, and other exhibitors.

The Tuesday morning program will focus on wine grape production: grape berry moth control, eradicating powdery mildew, and an interesting view of Italian viticulture based on a trip taken by Dr. Tom Zabadal and Dr. Paolo Sabbatini. Don Koivisto, our new MDA Director, will speak at noon at the Fruit Industry Luncheon.

For those interested in enology, a special session will be held concurrently on Tuesday afternoon (see following article). For tree fruit growers, Tuesday afternoon will feature Dr. Larry Hull, an exciting entomologist from Penn State University. He will be discussing the ongoing issue of spray coverage, in particular alternate row versus every row spray. He will also talk about the efficacy of new insecticides. Lyndon Kelly will also be on hand to talk about new irrigation systems and the potential to use them for nutrition and pest management. A wine tasting and hors d'oeuvre social hour will follow the educational sessions. At 6:00 p.m., a MAEAP Phase I program will take place.

CMI will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:30. The afternoon sessions will start off with a review of the Sweet Cherry Summit, which will be followed by updates on American brown rot and cherry leaf spot control in cherries. Dr. Larry Gut will be here to talk about successful insecticide spray programs for cherry. Dr. John Cline from the University of Guelph has some interesting new work using gibberllic acid in sweet cherries. We will also discuss some preliminary work with this growth regulator in tart cherry. Sweet cherries under tunnels will round out the day.

The third day will start off with Dr. Cline discussing the potential for new apple rootstocks, particularly those that show promise for cold climates. Dr. Jim Flore will present on his work with crop load balance in Honeycrisp. Dr. Mark Whalon has some new information on using growth regulators and biopesticides in the orchard. Dr. George Sundin also has some new data on fire blight resistance issues that will be of interest for all apple growers. A few regulatory issues will also be on tap: GAP standards, water use regulation, and how the new Farm Bill will work for each farm. Phil Schwallier will be back in town to discuss how to successfully use Apogee and Retain in apple orchards, and Dave Epstein will round out the day with an exciting project of using hogs for pest management.

ENOLOGY & VITICULTURE SEMINAR AT THE NORTHWEST MICHIGAN ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW
Duke Elsner, Grand Traverse Co. MSUE
Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Coordinator, MSU

Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. and MSU Extension are hosting an Enology & Viticulture Seminar, 1:45 – 5:00 PM, **Tuesday, January 20** as part of the Orchard & Vineyard Show. There is a participant fee of *$25* per person for this seminar, in addition to the regular show registration fee.

Our main speaker will be Paul Gospodarczyk, Enology Instructor at the Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa. Paul's presentation will be about the following:

Use of Sulfur in Winemaking
Was that intended to be a sparkling wine?! In a review of Midwest wines available in grocery stores DMACC Enology students found a fraction of samples possessed adequate levels of sulfur dioxide required to prevent fermentation in the bottle. While sulfur is a seemingly basic topic, the improper use results in oxidized wines and increased potential for bottle fermentations. This is an expensive proposition since wine quality and time is sacrificed in 'bottle-dumping' operations. Even more costly, is the loss associated with diminished consumer perception of the brand.

Paul Gospodarczyk is the Enology Instructor at Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa, where he works with enology students across the Midwest in the flexible web-blended curriculum designed for working adults. His degree is in *Fruit Science and Enology* from Missouri State University where he held 2 internships in enological research. Since, he has worked at wineries in Oklahoma, Colorado, New Zealand, and Oregon. In addition, he has consulted with two winery start-up operations in the Midwest. Gospodarczyk established the Mid-American Wine Competition, and is an active wine judge having participated in the Illinois State, Michigan State, INDY International, and as a judge-in-training at Temecula, California, wine competitions. In addition, he has started an international internship program for enology students.

Our second presenter will be Tracy Aichele from the Department of Geography at Michigan State University, speaking on **Evaluating Soils for Grape Production.**

ANNUAL IFTA TOUR
Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

The *52nd Annual Conference for the International Fruit Tree Association* will be held in Berlin in 2009. The tour kicks off on January 31 and ends on February 4 and will include technical

tours, cultural tours, educational sessions, and tours of Fruit Logistica and FreshConex. Two other tours are associated with the annual conference: a pre-tour takes place on January 23-30 and includes stops in the Slovak Republic, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany and the post-tour will follow the annual meeting, February 5-8, in Warsaw, Poland. For more information, contact **Dr. Susan M. Pheasant at 509-884-5651 or email: pheasant@ifruittree.org**

2009 MSU TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL

Erin Lizotte, NW MI Horticultural Research Station

MSU's Tree Fruit IPM School will be a two and a half day event on **February 16, 17, and 18.** The event will be held at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners, Michigan. IPM School speakers will include Mike Doerr from the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center at Washington State University. Mr. Doerr has agreed to share his expertise regarding codling moth management. We are happy to announce that Dr. Keith Yoder, Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Tech will be joining us as well. Dr. Yoder will share his experience on apple scab biology and management. We are also looking forward to Michael Celetti, of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, discussing his findings in the management of black rot.

This year's program will feature a special section focusing on the importance of secondary pests in anticipation of the loss of guthion and the integration of newer insecticides. Additionally, many Michigan State University experts and Extension personnel will be on hand to present the results of their latest research and answer questions concerning the obstacles facing tree fruit growers today. We are looking forward to another successful program that delivers information you can't find anywhere else and we hope to see you there!

NEW WATER WITHDRAWAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

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

Michigan recently passed legislation that will enable potential new large capacity well-owners to determine whether their proposed well will adversely impact the water quantity, other water users, and resources in the area. This legislation will require persons wishing to install large quantity wells (70 gallons per minute or 100,000 gallons per day or greater) to do a Water Withdrawal Assessment prior to installation of the well after July 9, 2009. If you are planning to put in a large capacity well, you may still do so without the assessment up to July 9th.

The assessment determines the likelihood of an impact on the state's water resources by the new well's water withdrawal. The Assessment Tool is now online and is optional until July 9th. You may give it a try at www.miwwat.org and provide feedback to Joe Lovato at 517-241-1383.

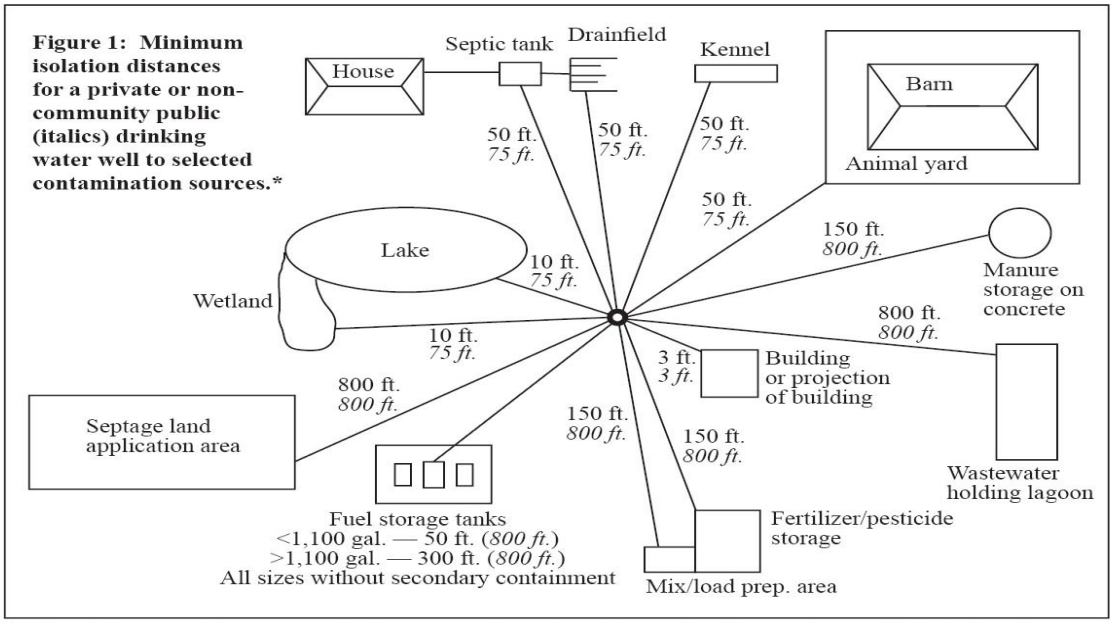
Farmers with large quantity wells who have reported with the Department of Agriculture through the Water Use Conservation Plan (water use reporting form), will have those wells "grandfathered in" and will not have to go through the assessment process. Even if you are not using up to the capacity of your large quantity well, you still have the credit for that capacity. It's like being at the head of the line. Users coming in after July 9, 2009, will be evaluated to see if they can be allowed "in". They will be assessed to determine that their water withdrawal will not hurt the local river or stream levels or their fish populations based on the users (withdrawals) that are already there.

If you have not filled out water use reporting forms for your high capacity well(s), you need to submit them and be "grandfathered in". If you have any questions, call Roberta Dow, 231-922-4858.

Well Isolation Distances

Farmers placing new buildings or storage need to consider the minimum isolation distances required for private and public drinking water wells. A well on a farm with one employee or a dairy is classified

as a public well. A private well is a well that supplies only the farmer's family and is not accessible to employees. The distances given may be shortened provided there is secondary containment or some geologic factor that may reduce the potential impact of a spill on the environment. The geologic factors are assessed on an individual farm basis. If you have questions pertaining to the isolation distances, contact Roberta Dow, 231-922-4858.



*When siting any of these contamination sources from the well, one should not only consider isolation distance but also groundwater flow direction, geologic confining materials, casing depth, well pumping capacity, and any secondary containment design. For example, a fuel storage tank larger than 1,100 gallons, with secondary containment, may be sited 75 feet from a non-community public well.

NEW EXTENSION TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER

Until now, calling a Michigan State University (MSU) Extension county office meant picking up a phone book or surfing the Web to find a local phone number. Now, there's one easy-to-remember, toll-free number that can be used to reach any of the 82 MSU Extension county offices.

By dialing **1-888-MSUE-4MI (1-888-678-3464)** and entering the first five letters of the county name, Michiganians are connected with the county office of their choice, where they can get information about programs, educational materials or connecting to the broader university. Instructions for using the number are also available in Spanish.

NEW FOLIAR INSECTICIDE FOR POME FRUIT

Sygenta is excited about the recent registration of Voliam Flexi™ insecticide by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Voliam Flexi is a new broad-spectrum, foliar-applied insecticide that controls key lepidopteran, sucking and chewing insect pests in grapes, pome fruit, stone fruit and potatoes. Voliam Flexi exhibits translaminar and locally systemic movement into plant tissue as well as accumulation on the leaf surface. Voliam Flexi provides excellent residual control of key insect pests.

For your convenience, the following is a downloadable Voliam Flexi Quick Reference Guide <http://syngenta.sparklist.com/t/4905/24757/698/0/> and a link to the newly approved product label. <http://syngenta.sparklist.com/t/4905/24757/699/0/>*

Links to Dr. Vera Bitsch's Ag Labor Newsletters
Ag Labor Dismissal (Sept)
E Verify for Ag Labor (Oct)

Information from the USDA on the 2008 Farm Bill - Programs and Contacts Flyer