INSIDE THIS EDITION

- FSMA - Develop Your Farm Food Safety Plan (see enclosed insert)
- Pesticide Recertification Exam
- Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)
- Oceana Asparagus Day
- West Central Spring Horticulture Meeting
- Stone Fruit Pruning Field Tour & Workshop
- Mailing list update
- 13th Annual Oceana Ag Banquet
- Meeting registration forms

EXTENSION CALENDAR
WINTER 2018

February 20, 2018  FSMA: Develop Your Farm Food Safety Plan
Oceana County Services Building, Hart
(see enclosed insert for more details)

February 21, 2018  Pesticide Recertification Exam
Ludington, Mason County
1 p.m.

February 22, 2018  Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)
Informational Meeting
Elbridge Township Hall
9 a.m.

March 2, 2018  Pesticide Recertification Exam
Fremont, Newaygo County
1:30 p.m.

March 6 or 7, 2018  Annual Apple Pruning Field Tour & Workshop
Phil Schwallier & Dave Jones, MSU Extension
Rennhack Orchards and other stops
9:00 a.m.

March 8, 2018  Oceana Asparagus Day
New Era Reformed Church, New Era
9 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
MACMA Asparagus Division Annual Meeting to follow directly afterwards

March 15, 2018  13th Annual Oceana Aggricultural Banquet
New Era Reformed Church, New Era

March 15, 2018  Pesticide Recertification Exam
Oceana County Services Building, Hart
7:00 p.m.

March 16, 2018  West Central Spring Horticulture Meeting
Hart United Methodist Church, Hart
8:30 a.m.—4 p.m.

March 20, 2018  Stone Fruit Pruning Field Tour & Workshop
Hart area grower operations

Ben Werling
West MI Vegetable Educator

David Jones
Tree Fruit Educator
PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION
TEST DATES

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) will be giving the Pesticide Certification Test in Oceana County and surrounding counties during the 2018 winter and spring season. Pesticide certification is necessary for anyone who wants to buy pesticides that are listed as Restricted Use (RUP) by the Environmental Protection Agency. Certification may also be necessary if you plan to apply general use pesticides commercially.

The remaining date scheduled for the MDARD Pesticide Exam for Oceana County is set for Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oceana County Services Building (former West Shore Educational Service District Building), 844 Griswold Street, Hart. MDARD reserves the right to cancel any test that does not have at least 20 people enrolled, so it is important that you pre-register at least one week prior to the test date. Registration is online at the MDA website www.michigan.gov/pestexam.

People who are planning to take a renewal test should bring the paperwork sent to them by MDARD to the testing site. The testing fees are $50 for private certification and $75 for commercial certification. Payment must be made by check or money order at the testing site. NO CASH! You are also encouraged to bring a calculator on the day of the test.

Study manuals maybe obtained at your local MSU Extension Office or via direct order from National Pesticide Safety Education Center (www.npsescstore.com) at a cost of $30 plus shipping and handling. The manuals are no longer available through MSU University Stores. There is one manual for private applicators and one for commercial applicators. Also if you will be renewing a special category, please allow time in case these manuals need to be ordered.

If the Oceana County date and time is not convenient for you, below is a table of the testing dates, times and locations in the surrounding area. By visiting the MDARD website you can find a complete listing of all tests being offered this winter/spring season throughout the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/21/18</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>Ludington Airport 5300 W. US 10, Ludington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2/18</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Newaygo</td>
<td>Newaygo County MSU Extension Offce 5479 W. 72nd Street, Fremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/18</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Oceana</td>
<td>Oceana County Services Building 844 Griswold Street, Hart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30/18</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Newaygo</td>
<td>Fremont Area District Library Commuinity Room 104 E. Main Street, Fremont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PACA—FOUR LETTERS YOUR FRESH PRODUCE BUSINESS SHOULD NEVER FORGET

Thursday, February 22, 2018
9:00 a.m.—noon
Elbridge Township Hall
2266 E. Polk Rd, Hart, MI 49420

Free half-day workshop by industry and government experts on what the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA) is and how you should be using it in your every-day business. Advice on how you preserve your PACA Trust rights and legally get paid for your fresh produce before banks or secured creditors in bankruptcy court.

Speakers include:
Dean Johnson, USDA Assistant Regional Director, PACA Div., Ft. Worth, Texas

Jason Klinowski, Agricultural Law Attorney at Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff Brandt LLC, Birmingham, Alabama

Moderated by Ben Barkow, Agricultural Law Attorney with Jaunese, Barkow & Barkow, Fremont, MI.

Please RSVP to: ben@barkowlaw.com or  
Call (231) 924-9200

Lunch and refreshments provided by Jaunese, Barkow & Barkow.
OCEANA ASPARAGUS DAY

MARCH 8, 2018

New Era Reformed Church
4775 1st St, New Era, MI 49446

Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Registration and Refreshments

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  “MI Asparagus Industry and Variety Trial Update” – John Bakker, Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.  “Asparagus Marketing Update” – Norm Myers, Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.  “MAEAP Update - Pesticide Container Recycling & Food Safety Assistance” – Dan Busby, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development & Lynda Herremans, Oceana Conservation District

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.  Break


11:00 – 11:30 p.m.  “Powell Amaranth Herbicide Resistance & Control” – Ben Werling, MSU Extension, Bernard Zandstra, MSU Department of Horticulture, and Erin Hill, MSU Diagnostic Services

11:30 – 12:00 noon  “Update on Asparagus Disease Management” – Blair Harlan and Mary Hausbeck, MSU Department Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch and view exhibits

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.  “Asparagus Irrigation Update & Ongoing Fertility Work” – Zack Hayden & Dan Brainard, MSU Department of Horticulture

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.  “Asparagus Insect Management Update” – Amanda Buchanan, Adam Ingrao and Zsofia Szendrei, MSU Department Entomology

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.  Evaluation and adjourn

Pesticide recertification credits and Certified crop advisor credits have been requested.
West Central Spring Horticulture Meeting 2018

March 16, 2018
Hart United Methodist Church, 308 S State St, Hart, MI 49420

8:00AM Registration & refreshments

8:30AM Food safety updates in 2018: what you need to know about the law to be prepared on your operation—Kristin Esch, Michigan Department of Agricultural & Rural Development

9:00AM What tart cherry growers need to be thinking about for SWD management based on 2017 research, and where we are headed in 2018 - David Jones, MSU Extension

9:30AM Orchard herbicide management: addressing persistent nightshades, mare’s tail, and perennial grasses—Dr. Bernie Zandstra, MSU Department of Horticulture

10:15AM Industry roundtable: presentation of generic fungicide, insecticide, and herbicide options and new products for 2018—Terry Leutzinger (Helena), Mary Harris, (Ceres Solutions), Jim Engelsma, (Crop Protection Services), Gerrit Herrygers, (Wilbur Ellis).

11:30AM Status of SDHI and streptomycin resistance in west central Michigan based on 2017 Research - Dr. George Sundin, MSU Department of Horticulture

12:15PM Lunch

1:00PM MAEAP Update
Lynda Herremans, MAEAP Technician, Oceana Conservation District

1:15PM Identification of cultural management options and fruit preference parameters for Spotted Wing Drosophila—Dr. Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension

2:00PM New considerations for brown marmorated stink bug for apple and peach growers, including best trapping practices and insecticide options- Dr. Julianna Wilson, MSU Department of Entomology

2:30PM Perspectives on new commercial apple strains and modern club varieties: what is working for growers elsewhere in the state and where you should be headed. - Phil Schwaller, MSU Extension

3:00PM What you need to remember about pesticide handling and respirator fit testing based on the new WPS regulations heading into 2018—Scott King, Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development

3:30PM Updates on oriental fruit moth insecticide efficacy, trap placement, and an announcement of new projects in west central Michigan in 2018—David Jones, MSU Extension

4:00PM Adjourn—Pesticide Applicator Seminar Code

6 Pesticide Applicators Credits have been awarded for 1C, Commercial Core or Private Core.
CCA credits have been requested.
West Central Michigan Stone Fruit Pruning Workshop

March 20, 2018

Session 1: Tart cherry

9:00AM  Gather at VanAgtmael Farms (3488 East Fox Road, Hart MI 49420). Light refreshments provided by MSU-Extension. Workshop participants fill out surveys.

9:15AM  Walk back to tart cherry blocks at VanAgtmael farms as a group.

9:30AM  Discussion and demonstration: 1.) Tart cherry pruning practices for optimal long-term yields on new, early established, and fully established trees. 2.) SWD management based pruning decisions, 3.) GA Treatments on non-bearing trees

Dr. Todd Einhorn, Michigan State University and Dave Jones, MSU-Extension

Session 2: Sweet cherry

11:00AM  Travel to Rennhack Orchards in Hart.

11:15AM  Grower profile: Growing sweet cherries on high density vs. standard trees: lessons learned and brief tour.-  Dave Rennhack, Rennhack Orchards.

11:45AM  Discussion and demonstration: 1.) Pruning to optimize yield in standard vs. modern sweet cherry systems. 2.) How could Michigan growers benefit from diversifying into fresh sweet cherry production? 3.) PGR applications on sweet cherries to optimize yield and quality. 4.) Demonstration of optimal sweet cherry pruning on standard and high density systems. 5.) Using Kudos (prohexidione calcium) on sweet cherries to limit vigor and help prevent bacterial canker.—Todd Einhorn, Michigan State University and Dave Jones, MSU-Extension

12:45PM  Lunch in Hart, Mi. (Location TBD).

1:45PM  Travel to Riley Farms sweet cherry orchard on 72nd and W. Taylor Rd.

2:00PM  Discussion and demonstration: 1.) Pruning techniques for optimum canopy development and 2.) prevention and management bacterial canker on 1-3 year old sweet cherry trees. Todd Einhorn, Michigan State University and Dave Jones, MSU Extension

Session 3: Peach

2:30PM  Travel to parallel-v peach planting at DeRuiter farms in Hart.

2:45PM  Grower profile: Why we decided to give high density peaches a try, what we have learned so far.—Mike DeRuiter, DeRuiter Farms LLC

Discussion and demonstration: Past vs. future: benefits to higher density peach plantings, thinning high density peaches, pruning demonstration.—Dave Jones, Michigan State University Extension

4:00PM  Workshop adjourns. Fill out bubble sheets.

3 Pesticide Applicator Credits for 1C, Commercial Core or Private Core have been awarded.
MAILING LIST UPDATE

It is that time again to update our mailing list. Many of you have already updated your information and we appreciate it. We still have over half of the mailing list who has not updated their information for several years. We have enclosed the mailing list update form and would ask that you please take a few minutes to provide us with your mailing information, areas of interest and indicate if you would like your name protected from Freedom of Information requests. If you could return the mailing list form either via mail, fax (231-873-3710) or email at walicki@anr.msu.edu. before March 1st, we would appreciate it. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call. We are required to show that we have requested updates to our mailing list to maintain our bulk mailing permit. If we do not receive an update from you, we will remove your name from the mailing list.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

13th ANNUAL OCEANA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL BANQUET

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
NEW ERA REFORMED CHURCH

6:45 p.m.—7:30 p.m. ~ Taste of Oceana Reception
7:30 p.m. ~ Banquet

To mix things up a bit this year, the Oceana County Ag Banquet Committee has moved the event to a weekday evening. The Taste of Oceana Reception will include various exhibitors from around Oceana County displaying their creative dishes made with Oceana grown products. The evening program will begin with dinner being served at 7:30 p.m. followed by award presentations from the Oceana Soil Conservation District and the announcement of the Friend of the Oceana Ag Industry. The Committee has arranged for Pete Kailing, DNR Wildlife Biologist to provide a talk on cougars, bears, oh my!

Tickets will be available at the MSU Extension Office beginning February 15, 2018.