

# Ohio Fruit ICM News

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## Calendar - Newly added in *Bold*

Mar. 2-12, Annual Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City. For more information phone (813) 752-9194, [strawberry festival information](#)

Mar. 7-8, Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Mount Vernon Holiday Inn, Mount Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle. phone: 618-692-9434 or Bronwyn Aly phone: 618-695-2444.

March 13-14, 2-day Intensive Berry-Blueberry Training, OSU South Centers, Piketon For more information contact Brad Bergefurd ([bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:bergefurd.1@osu.edu)) or by phone 740-289-2071 ext 136.

March 24, Building on Your Success as a Family Business, Holiday Inn Express, 1392 Enterprise Highway, Ashland OH. A one-day interactive discussion program for multi-generational businesses. Preparing and transferring management responsibilities to the next generation. Topics will include: What Managers Do & Why, Getting the Next Generation Ready, Creating Opportunity, Sharing Responsibility, Communication, and Being Honest About Ourselves and Our Business. For more information go to <http://ashland.osu.edu/ag/building.pdf>, or call Julia Nolan Woodruff at 419-281-8242.

March 30, Lake Erie Grape Growers Convention, Fredonia State University, Fredonia, NY < <http://lenewa.netsync.net/public/events03.htm> >

Apr. 22, Kentucky Nut Growers' Association Spring Meeting, Elizabethtown

Extension office, Elizabethtown. Contact: Kirk Pomper 502-597-5942, e-mail: [kpomper@dcr.net](mailto:kpomper@dcr.net)

June 11-17, International Fruit Tree Association Summer Orchard Tour to Mexico  
[www.ifta.org](http://www.ifta.org).

## **Comments from the Editor**

I received notice yesterday from Tom Sachs regarding the passing of Lloyd Hays. I did not know him personally, but many growers have spoken highly of him and he will be missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

We are heavy on the small fruit in this issue, but I hope you take time to familiarize yourself with what is going on. There is information on the USDA Fruit Lab in Beltsville, which is currently not funded in the appropriations bill, and there are two articles from Dr. Imed Dami reporting on a successful short course and a research associate position he has available. If you know of someone that might be suitable for this position please pass this information on to them.

I am still attempting to resolve the issue with access to the weather data, and the Ohio Fruit ICM News survey is completed and I will have some information on that in an upcoming issue.

### **Lloyd W. Hays** (source: Tom Sachs, OFGS)

Lloyd W. Hays, 66, of 3510 Middleton Road, died suddenly of an apparent heart attack at 7:40 p.m. Saturday, February 25, 2006 at the Salem Community Hospital.

Mr. Hays was born September 4, 1939 in Alliance, a son of the late Herman J. and Annie A. Richey Hays and had lived in this area all of his life.

He had been the owner and operator of the former L. W. Hays Orchards and Cider Mill for 36 years, retiring in 2000. He was a member of the East Fairfield United Methodist Church. He was a member and past president of the Ohio Fruit Growers Society and had served 12 years on the Crestview Board of Education. He was an avid bowler on various leagues in the Greater Youngstown area.

He is survived by his wife, the former Nancy L. Neishleb, whom he married November 5, 1961; a daughter, Mrs. Bruce (Lori) Lander of Dover, NH; a son, Joel (Tracey) Hays of Park Rapids, MN; a brother, Paul (Janet) Hays of Kensington; and three grandchildren, Joshua Hays, Jacob Hays, and Rebecca Hays.

A sister, Ruth Cox is deceased

Burial will be at Crest Haven Memorial Gardens, Rogers. Memorial contributions may be directed to Hospice of the Valley. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.familycareservices.com](http://www.familycareservices.com)

## **2-day Intensive Berry-Blueberry Training** - (source: Candace Pollock)

The Ohio State University and Michigan State University Extension are joining forces to provide Midwest berry growers with an intensive two-day training on berry production and management, with a specific emphasis on blueberries.

The Ohio Berry/Blueberry Grower Training Program will take place March 13-14 at Ohio State University South Centers at Piketon in Piketon, Ohio. Sessions on March 13 will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sessions on March 14 will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost of the event is \$100, which includes sessions, notebooks with topics translated in Spanish, hands-on field practice to take place in early summer, and catered lunches. Those who are unable to attend the training program may receive a video of the program, along with the notebook and handouts for the registration fee.

Research specialists from both universities will be on-hand to discuss a wide variety of topics.

Topics will include Integrated Pest Management of insects, diseases and weeds, plant growth and development, insect and disease growth and development, weeds and soils, cross-cultural education, principles of scouting, food safety, pesticide safety and regulations, use and management of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, leadership training, soil and plant tissue sampling techniques, and monitoring and management of insects, diseases and weeds.

Attendees with Private Applicator licenses may earn Applicator Recertification credits.

For more information, or to register contact Brad Bergefurd or Charity Crabtree at (740) 289-2071, or e-mail [bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:bergefurd.1@osu.edu).

## **Beltsville Fruit Lab Targeted for Closure** (source: NY Berry News Vol.5 #2 )

Due to budget constraints the Beltsville Fruit Lab has been targeted for closure. Please read the following letter from John Hartung, the research leader at the Fruit Lab in which he describes the current situation.

‘The Presidents budget was announced on February 6. The budget proposal for the Agricultural Research Service, contained therein, had an overall reduction of 11%. This figure included the elimination of many earmark funds from previous years as well as the elimination of 16 current base-funded projects spread around the nation. Among the base funded projects slated for elimination was the entire small fruit program at Beltsville, MD. ARS officials assure me that the decision had nothing to do with the quality of the research performed by the Fruit Laboratory or the importance of the mission. It seems

likely that the list of laboratories targeted for elimination was driven more by the budget cap proposed by the President than by priorities for agricultural research.

This is the first step in the annual federal budget cycle, and the Congress will ultimately decide the fate of the Fruit Laboratory between now and October 1. The Fruit Laboratory has many programs and talented scientists dedicated to the improvement of the small fruit industry in the United States: Programs include:

1. Breeding programs emphasizing cultivar and germplasm development of blueberries, strawberries and brambles adapted to the eastern United States. These varieties have high levels of disease resistance, flavor and horticultural characteristics that make them ideal for the industry. Ground-breaking cultivars include: 'Blakemore' strawberry (1929), which helped develop the shipped strawberry industry; 'Surecrop' strawberry (1956), which helped save the strawberry industry from red stele; 'Earliglow' strawberry, the worlds gold standard for flavor; the first thornless blackberry cultivars in 1966, and 'Chester' Thornless blackberry (1985) currently grown on 85% of the eastern US blackberry acres.

2. Advanced molecular genetic technologies are being used to accelerate the applied breeding programs. These include marker assisted selection for traits of horticultural value such as disease resistance, winter and spring frost tolerance and repeat blooming; genome wide mapping and sequencing of blueberry, strawberry, blackberry, and raspberry; transformation; and regeneration technologies. Molecular markers from the mapping research have been used by public and private sector researchers in several countries for cultivar identification and genetic mapping.

3. Research programs focusing on important diseases of strawberries, blueberries and cranberries have always been a focus of the research program. Emphasis is on the identification of resistant germplasm for the production of finished varieties that can be profitably produced with a minimum of pesticides. Diseases include anthracnose fruit rot of strawberry and blueberry, angular leaf spot of strawberry, root rots of strawberry, stem canker of blueberry and several viral diseases of strawberry and blueberry.

4. Physiological and molecular research on the basis of cold tolerance and winter hardiness are a focus of research on blueberry, with a goal to increase the range and yield of highbush blueberry cultivars.

5. Physiological and molecular research on the basis of high temperature stress is another focus of research on strawberry. Researchers seek to understand the role that temperature plays in reducing fruit set during summer months. This effort complements a long-term goal of the breeding program to expand the harvest season for the eastern strawberry industry to include a major portion of the year by developing repeat blooming cultivars.

6. Research focusing on the nutrient composition of berry fruits, and the specific roles of nutrients found in berry fruit in healthful living, have become a focus of the laboratory in recent years. This program enjoys extensive collaborations in the biomedical community

and has recently demonstrated a protective effect of blueberries against a form of cancer in laboratory and animal studies.

Nearly all the strawberry breeding programs in the US can trace their origins, both in management and germplasm, to our Fruit Laboratory. At nearly 100 years old, the Beltsville strawberry breeding program is the oldest continuously running crop breeding program and the oldest continuously running strawberry breeding program in the country. Our strawberry germplasm is used by breeders all around the world for superior disease resistance and flavor. Our blackberry germplasm is used as a source of thornlessness, cold-hardiness, berry quality, flavor and high yield. Although the current strawberry breeding program is restricted to adapting cultivars to the eastern U.S., cultivars and germplasm produced by the program are used in breeding programs in California and in the Pacific west, Canada and Europe as sources of disease resistance and superior flavor. The Fruit Laboratory has recently released the first strawberry germplasm with resistance to bacterial angular leaf spot. This disease is of great importance in the upper Midwest, Canada, and California, with potential in all strawberry producing regions. The germplasm has been incorporated into commercial varieties by Driscoll's Berry Company.

The blueberry breeding program is based in Chatsworth, NJ in close association with the industry that it serves. Although located in New Jersey, the blueberry breeding program is also national in scope and impact. This program benefits by its location at a facility operated and staffed by scientists from Rutgers University. Blueberry varieties developed by the USDA/ARS Fruit Laboratory have been and continue to be the industry standards.

The laboratory based research programs in the Fruit Laboratory are excellent. Researchers in the Fruit Laboratory have received three significant research grants in the past year from the USDA National Research Initiative. The success rate nationally for this grant program is about 8%. This demonstrates the high quality of research in progress at the Fruit Laboratory. Scientists in the Fruit Laboratory are among a very small group of scientists carrying out molecular genetic research on small fruits. If the Fruit Laboratory is closed, all of this will be lost, and the berry industry in the U.S. will lose their most essential technological asset: mission driven and focused research on berry fruits. This would come at a time when the public, more than ever, desires the availability of fresh berry fruit, year round, because of recent findings that berries are among the most nutrient-dense and health promoting foods. The void left by our program cannot be filled by existing programs at the University of Maryland, Cornell University, the University of North Carolina, at a time of declining funding for university plant breeding programs nation-wide. The industry simply will not survive in the long or even medium term without continuous support from vigorous and focused research programs.

What is to be done? If funding to the laboratory is to be restored, the stakeholder community must make their representatives in the House and Senate aware of the importance of the laboratory. Organizations of berry producers, nurserymen, retailers and university collaborators must initiate a letter writing campaign from their membership to their respective Congressional Representatives. It would be particularly beneficial to

focus on members of the subcommittees on appropriations for agriculture, as well as the full appropriations committees in both the house and the Senate. Personal visits and telephone calls to the politicians would of course be very helpful as well when possible. In addition to demanding that funding for the Fruit Laboratory be restored, why not ask for an additional one million dollars annually to replace research programs in the Fruit Laboratory that had to be closed in 2006 due to lack of funds?

This matter must be handled quickly, since the agriculture committees appropriations hearings begin in March. E-mails are preferred over letters, since letters are subject to a very long delay for anthrax screening. My staff and I will be available to provide information to anyone as needed on this matter. However the law requires that we do this sort of thing on our own time, and never at work. So, to begin, contact me at johnhartung@comcast.net and 410-531-1985 (home) or 240-461-1329 (Cell).

Sincerely,  
John S. Hartung

### **2006 Grape-Wine Short Course** (By Dr. Imed Dami, HCS-OARDC)

The Ohio Grape-Wine Short Course (OGWSC), which was held on 12-14 February 2006 in Wilmington, attracted 140 attendees including producers, exhibitors and speakers. The attendance was impressive considering the location in southern Ohio. Several new faces showed up to this educational program, which is another indication of the continuous growth of our industry. The short course would not have been successful without the partnership and collaboration in organization and sponsorship of the Ohio Wine Producers Association, the Ohio Grape Industries Committee, and The Ohio State University. We especially thank our five featured speakers for outstanding presentations as well as our 20 local speakers from OSU-Extension, OARDC, ODA, and the industry. The contribution of the staff from OWPA and the Viticulture-Enology program at OSU is greatly appreciated. A CD-ROM will be produced containing all Power Point presentations and copies will be mailed to all registrants in the near future.

### **Research Associate Position - Viticulture**

Position: Full-Time, Research Associate in Viticulture

Location: Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, OARDC, Wooster, Ohio

Qualification and Responsibilities: MS (or BS with equivalent experience) in Horticulture, Plant Science, or closely related field is required. Viticulture degree and/or experience in commercial viticulture or viticulture research are desired. Computer-proficiency is required and comprehension of experimental design and statistical analysis is preferred. Must have a valid state driver's license, and willing to obtain a Pesticide Applicator license, and work long hours and weekends if necessary. Responsibilities will include the following: participate in the planning, design, and execution of viticulture research projects; coordinate, and conduct field experiments in research and commercial vineyards; manage field, laboratory and greenhouse experiments associated with viticulture; operate and maintain research equipment; maintain vineyard research plots

including pruning and harvesting; collect and synthesize data from experimental vineyards; assist in the preparation of research reports for publication and presentation at conferences and workshops; perform other duties as assigned by Project Leader.

Salary: competitive, commensurate with qualification and experience, which includes an excellent benefits package.

Application: Applications will be accepted until position is filled. To assure full consideration, applications should be received by March 26, 2006. Submit letter of interest, resume, copy of transcripts, and name, address, telephone and e-mail of at least three professional references to: Dr. Imed Dami, Assistant Professor, Viticulture Specialist Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, OARDC, 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691-4096 E-mail: dami.1@osu.edu

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### **Preliminary Monthly Climatologic Data for Selected Ohio Locations - February 2006**

	Annual GDD	February		Average Temperatures			
		Precip.	Normal	High	Low	Monthly	Normal
<b>Akron-</b>							
<b>Canton</b>		2.31	2.28	36.6	21.1	28.9	28.3
<b>Cincinnati</b>		1.34	--	43.7	25.8	34.8	--
<b>Cleveland</b>		2.80	2.29	36.9	24.1	30.5	28.4
<b>Columbus</b>	34	1.79	2.59	42.2	25.2	33.0	30.8
<b>Dayton</b>		1.66	--	39.9	23.4	31.6	--
<b>Kingsville</b>	19	1.95	1.80	37.4	23.7	29.5	27.0
<b>Mansfield</b>		2.46	2.17	36.2	21.6	28.9	27.3
<b>Miami Univ.</b>	46	1.71	1.88	44.0	24.5	33.5	32.0
<b>Piketon</b>	71	0.72	2.12	44.9	25.6	34.8	33.4
<b>Toledo</b>		1.86	1.88	38.0	22.4	30.2	27.0
<b>Wooster</b>	27	1.45	2.30	39.1	22.8	30.5	27.9
<b>Youngstown</b>		1.97	2.03	36.5	21.2	28.9	27.7

This data is from several sources including OARDC, NOAA, and local records. Temperature is Fahrenheit and precipitation is in inches. GDD (growing degree days) modified sine wave method. Form more information on the calculation of GDD check this site < <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/glossary.htm> >

NOTE: Disclaimer - This publication may contain pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registrations, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned. The author and Ohio State University Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

### **Ohio Poison Control Number**

(800) 222-1222  
TDD # is (614) 228-2272