

Ohio Fruit ICM News

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<http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort/icmnews/index.htm>

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Calendar - Newly added in *Bold*

February 3, **Becoming an organically certified producer.** OSU Newark Campus. See this issue for more details.

February 6, Southern Illinois Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. For more information contact Elizabeth Wahle, 618-692-9434.

February 6-7, SW Michigan Hort Days. For more information, an agenda and pre-registration forms visit. <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/vanburen/disthort.htm>

February 8, Delaware County Fruit and Vegetable Short Course. An one-day seminar with two concurrent sessions, one for commercial growers and one for backyard gardeners. Location: All Occasions Catering and Banquet Facility

6989 Waldo-Delaware Road, Waldo, Ohio 43356

Fee: \$35.00 per person or \$60 per couple (any two people on the same registration)

To register or for more information call Cindy Kaelber at 740-833-2030 or email

kaelber.1@cfaes.osu.edu.

February 9-12, North American Strawberry Growers Association Strawberry Symposium. Ventura, California. For more information <http://www.nasga.org/>.

February 12-13, Ohio Grape-Wine Short Course, Shisler Conference Center at OARDC in Wooster, OH. For more information visit <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/grapeweb/events/ogwc.htm>.

February 13, Southwest Ohio Fruit and Vegetable School. Valley Vineyards, Morrow. Pre-registration deadline February 6th (\$30). Late registration fee \$35. Co-sponsored by

Ohio State University Extension offices in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren County. For more information please contact Greg Meyer meyer.213@osu.edu or phone (513)695-1311.

February 14-15, Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo Syracuse, N.Y. For more information <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo/>

February 16-17, North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information www.nafdma.com.

February 19-20, 5th Ohio River Valley Marketing Conference. Louisville, KY. Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana have partnered to organize an affordable educational conference for growers and agricultural stakeholders. For more information contact [Tom Snyder](#) or phone (740) 289-2071 Extension 220.

February 21-22, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. This is Canada's premier horticultural event featuring 7 concurrent sessions, close to 150 exhibitors, 125 speakers from all over the world and over 1200 registrants All programs – apples, global foods, energy, direct Farm Sales, Famer's Market's Ontario, Vegetables, Berries, Water, and Organics are listed at www.ofvc.ca.

February 22, Wine Grape Pruning Workshop. Ashtabula. Contact Dave Scurlock for pre-registration at 330-263-3825 or scurlock.2@osu.edu

March 24th The Law and You: An Agricultural Perspective. ODA office, Reynoldsburg. A program for women in agriculture sponsored by Ohio Agri-Women. For more information contact Pat Holmes holmes.86@cfaes.osu.edu or phone 937-456-8174.

February 27-28, Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. For more information contact Bronwyn Aly, 618-695-2444

March 3-4, 28th Annual OEFFA Conference. Granville, Ohio. More information and on-line registration www.oeffa.org or phone 614.421.2022.

March 10. 5th Appalachian Opportunities Symposium, Beckley, WV. “Plants and Plant Systems for Small Farm Product Diversification”. Sponsored by Mountain State University, USDA/ARS Appalachian Farming Systems, and WV Herb Association. For more information contact Dean Myles at (304) 929-1630.

March 14, Northern Ohio Small Fruit School. Ehone Joint Vocational School, Milan. 10:30-3:00. Registration fee of \$5 is payable at the door. For more information or to pre-register contact [Zachary Rinkes](#) or phone 419-627-7631.

March 19, Advanced Topics Blueberry School, OSU South Centers. Topics include. Food Safety for Blueberries- Carlos Garcia, Marketing Blueberries - Sandy Kuhn, Insecticide Performance - John Wise, and Pesticide Record Keeping. For more information contact Brad Bergefurd at 740-289-2071 Ext136 or by email at bergefurd.1@osu.edu

July 26, Beekeeping Workshop, OSU South Centers. More information to follow.

Comments from the Editor

We are expecting some cold weather the next few nights across the state. Our forecast lows should be similar to last years lows when we 7 below zero on January 27th. raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries should all be fine if the forecast holds. Cold injury is a reflection not only of temperature, but duration of cold and state of dormancy of the plants. I am a little concerned about the thornless blackberries. Blackberries are low chilling requirement plants and when temperatures drop below zero you can start to see some damage.

The overall consensus on the survey was that the length, frequency and technical level of the article is appropriate. Small fruit growers would like to see more for them so I will try to include more. A few individuals expressed concern about the length of the calendar. I try to highlight the new additions in *bold italics* so if you think you are update you can just look at those for new activities. The weather data was one of the least frequently read sections so I may condense that either the frequency or number of locations. Finally I want to say thanks and if you have suggestions or concerns let me know. Email is the easiest way to reach me or by phone.

Colony Collapse Disorder by Maryann Frazier, Penn State University, Department of Entomology and Dr. Rob Crassweller, Department of Horticulture (Source:PSU Fruit Times, vol 26, #1)

During 2006, an alarming number of honey bee colonies began to die across the continental United States. Subsequent investigations suggest these outbreaks of unexplained colony collapse were experienced by beekeepers for at least the last two years. Reports of similar die offs are documented in beekeeping literature, with outbreaks possibly occurring as long ago as 1896. The current phenomenon, without a recognizable underlying cause, has been tentatively termed “Colony Collapse Disorder” (CCD), and threatens the pollination industry and production of commercial honey in the United States. Initial studies on bee colonies experiencing the die offs has revealed a large number of disease organisms present in the dying colonies, with most being “stress related” diseases and without any one disease being supported as the “culprit” underlying the deaths. The magnitude of detected infectious agents in the adult bees suggests some type of immunosuppression. Case studies and questionnaires related to management practices and environmental factors have identified a few common factors shared by those beekeepers experiencing the CCD; but no common environmental agents or

chemicals were easily identified by these surveys. The search for underlying causes has been narrowed by the preliminary studies, but several questions remain to be answered.

To better understand the cause(s) of this disease and with the hope of eventually identifying strategies to prevent further losses, a group of researchers, extension agents, and regulatory officials was formed. This group represents a diverse number of institutions including Bee Alert Technology, Inc. (a bee technology transfer company affiliated with the University of Montana), The Pennsylvania State University, the USDA/ARS, the Florida Department of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Broadly this group has identified its mandate as: "Exploring the cause or causes of honey bee colony collapse and finding appropriate strategies to reduce colony loss in the future".

"If you have an existing contract or relationship with a beekeeper, you should contact that beekeeper as soon as possible to ascertain if the colonies you are counting on will be available. If you do not have an existing arrangement with a beekeeper but are counting on the availability of honey bees in spring, you should not delay but make contact with a beekeeper and arrange for pollination services NOW. However it should be noted that beekeepers overwintering in the north many not know the status of their colonies until they are able to make early spring inspections. This should occur in late February or early March but is dependent on weather conditions. There is little doubt that honey bees are going to be in short supply this spring and possibly into the summer."

Becoming an Organically Certified Producer

A program for those wishing to transition or become an organic grower will be held Saturday, February 3rd at OSU Newark campus. The keynote speaker will be Joseph Kovach an IPM Coordinator from OARDC, The Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center in Wooster. The program will also feature, Betty Kananen of Global Organic Alliance Inc. who will discuss the certification process.

Several buyers of organic products will promote what their organizations offer to growers. There will also be break out sessions for livestock and dairy, grain crops, and fruit and vegetable growers.

The program is open to the public and requires reservations. A fee of \$25 will cover the cost of materials, lunch and refreshments. For further information contact Amy Fovargue at (740)670-5323 or fovargue1@ag.osu.edu.

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