

Ohio Fruit ICM News

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Spring has officially arrived and the last warm weather period really began to push crop development along. We are at silver tip in the earliest varieties in our ornamental crabapples, strawberries are in bloom in the high tunnel, the silver maples are flowering, spring peepers have been heard, and the flow of garden catalogs has slowed to a trickle. It is very important that you have everything ready to roll as soon as things dry out. Lime sulfur needs to be applied to brambles before the new shoots are 1/2" long (and temperatures under 75°F), and straw should be removed from matted row strawberries when the soil temperature is 40-45 degrees at 4" depth. I will start the tracking growing degree days and pest development next month.

Evaluate your supplies of your chemicals. While growers rarely have any "extra" money, given the current economic situation it would be best to stock up on what chemicals you can before the latest round of price increases kicks in. Increased costs of raw materials and transportation are seldom covered by the manufacturer but are usually pushed on to the buyer.

Finally I want to share a few thoughts on keeping your business profitable from Robert McLysaght. These tips were in the 2008 Growertalks.com newsletter relating to the ornamentals industry, but these thoughts are equally valid for our produce growers and marketers:

- 1) show quality
- 2) listen to your customers
- 3) add value
- 4) raise prices every year even if it is only five cents (increased price doesn't equal increased profit unless your costs are the same or lower)
- 5) there is always room for improvement,
- and lastly 6) do what you love and love what you do.

Communities Gear Up For Farm Safety by Amy Beaudreault, OSU News and Media Relations

Each year across the United States, more than 100 children die and about 24,000 experience a serious injury associated with farming. During the past decade, 36 Ohio youth died in an agricultural-related incident. Those are statistics that Ohio State University Extension's Agricultural Safety and Health Program is trying to change, in part by sponsoring annual farm safety day camps.

In the past 11 years, more than 15,000 youth have participated in an Ohio farm safety day camp. These camps have been sponsored by OSU Extension, the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Ohio 4-H Foundation and The Nationwide Foundation, with "Our Ohio" joining the effort this year. Farm Safety Round-Ups offer educational sessions that focus on rural safety. An estimated 3,000 youth are expected to attend this year's camp events in communities throughout Ohio between April and October. "Everyone in the community can benefit from a farm safety day camp experience," said Dee Jepsen, OSU Extension's safety leader. "Rural injuries can occur to anyone, not just farm kids."

OSU Extension's Agricultural Safety and Health Program, housed in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, is a nationally recognized center of excellence for educational Extension programming and agricultural safety and health research. In addition to traditional agricultural safety issues, other program areas include Amish buggy safety, disaster education and sun safety. For more information regarding the Farm Safety Round-Up program, see its Web site at http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~agsafety/ash/programs/day_camps.html. This year's Farm Safety Camp program will be held in:

Putnam County, April 15 and 16, at the Ruth Gerding Farm. Contact Ruth Gerding, (419) 523-5608 or rgerding@hotmail.com.

Ross County, May 15, at the Ross County Fairgrounds. Contact David Mangione, (740) 702-3200 or mangione.1@osu.edu.

Morrow County, in May, at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. Date to be determined. Contact Becky Barker, (419) 947-1070 or barker.157@osu.edu.

Wood County, in May, at the Agriculture Incubator Foundation. Date to be determined. Contact David Little, (419) 833-6014 or dlittle@eastwood.k12.oh.us.

Belmont County, Sept. 26. Location to be determined. Contact Stephen Schumacker, (740) 695-1455 or schumacher.1@osu.edu.

Monroe County, in September at Beallsville Elementary School. Date to be determined. Contact Bruce Zimmer, (740) 472-0810 or zimmer2@postoffice.ag.ohio-state.edu.

Pesticide Issues in the Works Explores Emerging Issues (Source NY Berry News, Vol. 7, #3)

EPA has a new web page, Pesticide Issues in the Works. The fact sheets on this page are designed to provide information about issues that are under consideration within the pesticide program but that may be early in the development process or for which information is currently limited.

We want to let the public know we are involved in these issues and to provide what information we can. The first two issues are colony collapse disorder and pesticide volatilization. Subsequent topics will be added as they become available. The web page is available at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/intheworks/>

2008 Mid-Ohio Valley Agriculture Opportunities Conference by Candace Pollock

New on-farm opportunities, from raising meat goats to starting a vineyard to managing honey bees, will be the focus of an Ohio State University Extension-sponsored event intended to help farmers capture the growing trend of locally grown, fresh-from-the-farm products.

The 2008 Mid-Ohio Valley Agriculture Opportunities conference will take place April 26 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Washington State Community College in Marietta. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch and all conference materials.

The keynote speaker will be Joe Kovach, an Ohio State University ecological pest management expert with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Kovach has been leading innovative research on producing high-value commodities in small farm plots. “How to Gross \$90,000 Per Acre on Your Farm” will focus on how farmers can achieve such high-value production.

Other sessions being offered during the conference include:

- Direct Marketing Meat Products
- Beekeeping—Opportunities and Challenges
- Extending the Growing Season: High Tunnels and More
- Top 10 Opportunities in Direct Marketing
- Pasture-Based Livestock Production

- Berries from May to October —Extending the Pick-Your-Own Season
- Herbs: Types, Culture and Use
- How to Get Higher Prices for Your Products
- Specialty Pork and Poultry Production on the Farm
- Community Supported Agriculture — Getting Guaranteed Customers for the Entire Season
- Table and Wine Grape Production
- Business Planning—Adding a crop? Got an idea? Let's Put the Numbers to It.
- Meat Goats 101
- Blueberry and Blackberry Production
- Finding Money — Find Out Where You Can Get Cheap or Free Money

Julie Fox, an OSU Extension direct marketing specialist with OSU South Centers at Piketon will offer a session titled, "Finding your farm's customers." Other speakers include: Rory Lewandowski, OSU Extension, Athens County; Eric Barrett, OSU Extension, Washington County; Hal Kneen, OSU Extension, Meigs County; Maurus Brown, OSU Extension, Richland County; Jackie LeBerth, Marietta Small Business Development Center and Bramble Creek Farm; Steve Boone, president of The Mid-Ohio Valley Beekeepers Association; Ann Fugate from the Athens Farmers Market; and JB King, King Family Farm in Albany.

For more information on the conference, contact Eric Barrett at (740) 376-7431 or e-mail barrett.90@osu.edu

Position Open -- Research Associate in Viticulture at OSU

Location: Dept.of Horticulture and Crop Science, OARDC, Wooster, Ohio

Responsibilities: Coordinates, designs, and executes viticulture research projects; manages field, laboratory, and greenhouse experiments associated with viticulture; plans, coordinates, and executes field experiments in Wooster and other locations, including experimental plots at the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station in Kingsville and cooperating commercial vineyards; maintains vineyard research plots at Horticulture Unit II, including planting, pruning, trellising, spraying, conducting canopy management, and harvesting; plans and coordinates the conduct of research experiments; plans the collection, processes and analysis of research data; operates and maintains research equipment; evaluates research findings and assists in reporting results to sponsoring agencies; assists in the preparation of research papers and manuscripts for publications

and presentations at conferences and workshops; assists in grant writing and acquisition of support from outside agencies; supervises and instructs personnel and students in various operations of field and laboratory research; provides technical assistance and supervision in equipment use and maintenance; and performs other duties as assigned by the project leader.

Required Qualification: Master's degree in horticulture or plant sciences technology or an equivalent combination of education and experience; experience in computer literacy encompassing Windows operating system and its environment; valid driver's license; pesticide applicator license or ability to obtain license; and considerable research experience.

Desired Qualifications: Viticulture degree and/or training; Doctoral degree in an appropriate biological science field; statistical analysis software knowledge (e.g. SAS).

Application: Applicants should complete the application on-line at www.jobsatosu.com

and submit a letter of interest, curriculum vita, copies of undergraduate and graduate degree transcripts, and names, addresses, telephones and e-mails of at least three professional references. Contact Person: Dr. Imed Dami, Assistant Professor, Viticulture Specialist, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691-4096. Phone: (330) 263-3882. E-mail: dami.1@osu.edu

Application Deadline: 30 March 2008 or until a suitable candidate is hired.

Calendar - Newly added in ***Bold***

March 29, Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School, Oasis Conference Center Loveland. 8AM-3PM. Adult registration \$30, Youth under 17 \$20. For more information contact the Warren County Extension Office at 513.695.1311

April 12, Kentucky Nut Growers Spring Meeting. Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY. For more information contact Carl Ray 270-281-4800.

April 26, 2008 Mid-Ohio Valley Agriculture Opportunities Conference. 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Washington State Community College in Marietta. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch and all conference materials. For more information on the conference, contact Eric Barrett at (740) 376-7431 or e-mail barrett.90@osu.edu

May 24, Ohio Pawpaw Grower's Association Annual Spring Workshop and Meeting, 351 Hale Rd. Wilmington. Registration is \$12 for OPGA members and \$15 for nonmembers. Registration fee includes lunch and a potted "u"-graft pawpaw. For more information contact Richard Glaser at phone 937-382-5960 or glaser1971@earthlink.net

Jan. 5-6, 2009 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Trade Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. For more information contact John Strang at phone 859-257-5685 or email: jstrang@uky.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