



Ohio Fruit ICM News



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Volume 9, No. 3

January 20, 2005

In This Issue

Correction

Calendar

4th MAAHS Annual Meeting and Employer
Seminar with Registration Form

Food Safety Initiative

Innovative Safety Workshop

U.S. Apple Movement and Holdings

Correction

Last week's e-mail version of this newsletter included an incorrect web address for Mike Ellis's Plant Pathology web site. In making the conversion from WordPerfect to Eudora, the hyphen was dropped between "ohio" and "state". Here is the correct address:

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/fruitpathology/>

Calendar

February 1: Second Ohio Ag and Hort Human Resource Managers' Forum, Hilliard, OH. Contact MAAHS at 614-246-8286, maahs@ofbf.org or www.midamservices.org (click on "Events") for more information.

February 5: Berry Pruning Demonstration, East Sparta, OH. Gary Vogely will be hosting a Bramble and Blueberry Pruning Demonstration on his farm in East Sparta, Ohio on February 5th. The demonstration will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and will include

demonstrations on the proper pruning of raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries. Sandy Kuhn, Berry Coordinator, OSU South Centers will be the presenter. Vogely Enterprises is located at 3245 Battlesburg Street SE, East Sparta OH. For more information call either Gary Vogely at 330- 484-4387 or Sandy Kuhn at 800-297-2072 (Ohio), 740-289-2071, or e-mail kuhn.37@osu.edu.

February 10-12: North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Contact 413-529-0386, e-mail info@nafdma.com, or click on <http://www.nafdma.com>.

February 16: Addressing Regulations for Farmers Direct Marketing Fresh and Value-Added Products, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Reynoldsburg, OH. See <http://www.ohioagriculture.gov> for directions. Please call and register with Debra Strait at 614-728-6250. There is no fee.

February 16: Southwest Ohio Fruit & Vegetable School, Valley Vineyards & Winery, Morrow, OH. Contact Vickie Butler or Gary Gao at Clermont County Extension, 513-732-7070.

February 22-23: Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference, Mason, Ohio. Brochure for conference can be viewed on-line at <http://ocdc.osu.edu>.

February 25: Berry Growers School, OSU South Centers, Piketon, OH. Details at a later date.

March 1: Fourth MAAHS Annual Meeting and Employer Seminar, Wilmington, OH. See following article.

March 5: Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic, Rouster's Apple House, Milford, OH. Contact Vickie Butler or Gary Gao at Clermont County Extension, 513-732-7070.

MAAHS Annual Meeting and Employer Seminar

Source: Tom Demaline, President and John Wargowsky, Executive Director - Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc.

Mid American Ag and Hort Services will hold its Fourth Annual Meeting and Employer Seminar on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 at the Roberts Convention Centre and Ramada Plaza Hotel near Wilmington, Ohio. Those wishing to stay overnight at the Ramada Plaza Hotel may call 1-800-654-7038 and mention the MAAHS Annual Meeting to receive our rate of \$79 plus tax. The Roberts Convention Centre is ideally located at I-71 and State Route 68 (Exit #50), less than an hour from Columbus or Cincinnati and only 40 minutes from Dayton.

Dr. Bernie Erven of Erven HR Services, LLC will discuss "Role of an HR Manager in Ag and Hort Businesses." Erven will focus on the important contributions that can be made by an employee who has been delegated the responsibility for human resource (HR) leadership. He will emphasize the advantages of making HR management an important strength alongside strengths in production and financial and marketing management. He will share sample job descriptions that can help companies wanting to give added importance to HR management. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss how MAAHS can help its members attain the benefits of having an HR manager.

During the annual meeting you will learn about MAAHS accomplishments and plans for the future. Two Employer Member positions and two Sponsor Member positions on the Board of Trustees are up for election at the meeting. Each member will be mailed a secret ballot in February and all members are asked to vote for trustees by mail.

You are encouraged to attend and bring MAAHS prospective members with you. Non-members who attend and join MAAHS by April 15, 2005 may receive a \$10 credit toward their dues (extra registration fee for non-members). This is an excellent opportunity to meet your Board of Trustees and visit with other employers meeting their human resource needs through MAAHS.

Who: Members of MAAHS and other employers are welcome to register and learn from this seminar. Membership information is available by contacting MAAHS at 614-246-8686 (voice), 614-246-8686 (fax), e-mail labor@ofbf.org or <http://www.midamservices.org>.

Fees: Includes lunch, materials, and seminar

Agenda:

9:30 a.m. - Registration

9:50 - 10:00 a.m. - **Welcome and Introductions**
Tom Demaline - President, MAAHS

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - **Role of an HR Manager in Ag and Hort Business** - Dr. Bernie Erven

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **Annual Meeting**
Tom Demaline - President, MAAHS

12:00 noon - **Lunch**
Board of Trustees meeting follows lunch.

Registration Form

MAAHS Annual Meeting/Employer Seminar Registration
Roberts Convention Centre and Ramada Plaza Hotel
Wilmington, Ohio
Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Name(s) _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Number attending at MAAHS member rate of \$25 = _____

Number attending at non-member rate of \$35 = _____

Total Enclosed = _____

Fill out credit card information below and fax to 614-246-8686.
Charge will appear on statement as "FBDC Services".

Or make check payable and mail to: Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 182383
Columbus, OH 43218-2383

Reservations are due by February 22, 2005.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____

Payment Amount _____

Date Received _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Visa/MasterCard#: _____

Amount: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Those wishing to stay overnight at the Ramada Plaza Hotel may call 1-800-654-7038 and mention the MAAHS Annual Meeting to receive our rate of \$79 plus tax.

Food Safety Initiative Helps Ohio and Indiana Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Source: John Wargowsky, Executive Director - Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc.

The Ohio and Indiana Specialty Crop Food Safety Initiative is designed to assist Ohio and Indiana commercial fruit and vegetable growers to maintain and grow markets while reducing liability. Encouraging the adoption of "common sense" Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) is the centerpiece of the Initiative. GAPs reduce the potential of microbial contamination of produce by emphasizing clean soil, clean hands, clean water, and clean surfaces.

Initiative goals are:

- to increase producer awareness and understanding of the benefits of adopting Good Agricultural Practices,
- to assist producers in the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices, and
- to assist in preparing for successful third party audits.

Free initiative training and educational programs include:

- bilingual worker hygiene and sanitation training,
- on-farm consultations geared to meeting the marketing objectives of each producer,
- technical articles for distribution to fruit and vegetable trade publications and key Ohio and Indiana farm media,
- free Good Agricultural Practices materials such as brochures, instructional guides, posters, videos, grower self-assessments, and more (some in Spanish), and
- presentations at producer events.

The Initiative is cooperatively managed by Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Center for Innovative Food Technology, the Ohio State University Extension ABE Center, and Transition Resource Corporation in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency. Cooperating partners include Purdue Extension, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Indiana Farm Bureau, Ohio Fruit Growers Society, Indiana Horticultural Society, Ohio Vegetable

and Potato Growers Association, Indiana Vegetable

Growers Association and Fruit Growers Marketing Association.

For more information on the initiative, contact Mid American Ag and Hort Services at 614-246-8286, e-mail labor@ofbf.org or visit <http://www.midamservices.org> and click on "projects".

MAAHS Presents Innovative Safety Workshop for Ohio Agricultural and Horticultural Employers

Source: John Wargowsky, Executive Director - Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc.

Mid American Ag and Hort Services is offering a safety workshop for Ohio agricultural and horticultural employers in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency. Dr. Bernie Erven of Erven HR Service, LLC developed the workshop. Erven has 30 years of human resource management experience in agricultural and horticultural businesses.

Workplace accidents injure workers and economically harm both workers and employers. The consequences of unsafe work, equipment, and buildings are obvious. Employers and employees can partner for safety and reduce the risk from work place hazards and injuries. This workshop provides practical take home ideas on how employers, supervisors, and workers can cooperate for safety through:

- Creating an organizational culture that highly values safety
- Identifying and removing work place hazards with the help of employees
- Making safety an important part of worker training
- Implementing progressive discipline programs that reinforce safety in the workplace

Those attending these workshops will receive a participant manual and the Ohio Agricultural and Horticultural Employer Checklist.

The checklist was developed in partnership with the Ohio State University Ag and Hort Labor Education Program.

This 90-minute workshop is available for Ohio organizations to conduct workers' compensation safety programs and to improve the general safety environment for Ohio's agricultural and horticultural production businesses while managing legal, financial, and human resource risks. Up to forty workshops will be conducted until September 30, 2005 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional partners in this effort include Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Contact MAAHS at 614-246-8286, e-mail maahs@ofbf.org or visit <http://www.midamservices.org> and click on "Projects" to obtain more information or locate a workshop being conducted near you.

Fresh Holdings up 30 Percent for January

Source: <http://www.fruitgrowersnews.com>

The U.S. apple industry produced a large crop in 2004 and generated strong apple movement through December. Total apple movement in December was almost 16 percent above the five-year average for that time of year and 18 percent above the December 2003 movement level, according to a survey of apple storage facilities conducted by the U.S. Apple Association (USApple). Total apple movement in December topped 21.2 million bushels, making it the highest level of total apple movement in December since 1998, according to the USApple survey.

Fresh apple movement also was stronger than last year and the five-year average. National movement of fresh-market apples totaled 13.5 million bushels during December 2004, the USApple January survey found. This represents a 9 percent increase over December 2003 total movement of 12.4 million bushels and a 13 percent jump over the five-year average of 11.9 million bushels.

"Apple movement really took off in December," said James R. Cranney, USApple Vice President. "The movement figures seem to lend credence to the fact that we have superior quality this year and the industry's promotional efforts are on track."

On a regional basis, December 2004 movement of fresh-market apples in the Northeast was 12 percent more than December 2003 but 3 percent less than the five-year average. Movement in the Southeast was 61 percent more than in 2003 and 6 percent more than the five-year average. In the Midwest, movement was down 24 percent from 2003, and 11 percent below the five-year average.

The Southwest saw movement 27 percent less than December 2003 and 63 percent below the five-year average. In the Northwest, movement was 12 percent more than in December 2003 and up 24 percent from the five-year average.

January Fresh Holdings

Total fresh-market apple holdings on January 1 were reported at 81.6 million bushels, an increase of 30 percent over January 2004 holdings of 62.9 million bushels, and 12 percent higher than the five-year average for holdings on that date of 72.8 million bushels.

On a regional basis, fresh holdings in the Northeast were 6 percent lower than those of January 1, 2004, but 4 percent higher than the five-year average for that date. Southeastern January 1, 2005 fresh holdings were 6 percent more than on January 1, 2004 and 12 percent more than the five-year average for that date. In the Midwest, January 1, 2005 fresh holdings were down 20 percent as compared to holdings on January 1, 2004, and down 21 percent compared to the five-year average. Fresh-market apples in storage on January 1, 2005 were 27 percent higher in the Southwest than on that date in 2004, but 29 percent lower than the five-year average. Northwest January 1, 2005 fresh holdings were 41 percent higher than January 1, 2004 holdings, and 16 percent more than the five-year average for that date.

Holdings by Variety

On a varietal basis, January 1, 2005 fresh Red Delicious holdings were 28.3 million bushels, a 26 percent increase over January 1, 2004, and 8 percent lower than the five-year average for holdings on that date. Fresh Golden Delicious holdings of 11.7 million bushels were up 39 percent from holdings on January 1, 2004, and increased 6 percent as compared to the five-year average.

Fresh Granny Smith holdings of 9.5 million bushels increased 30 percent as compared to holdings on that date last year, and were up 34 percent as compared to the five-year average for January 1.

Fresh Fuji holdings of 9.4 million bushels on January 1, 2005 were up 35 percent from the previous year, and 30 percent over the five-year average.

Fresh Gala holdings of 8.6 million bushels were up 60 percent from holdings on January 1, 2004, and increased 74 percent over the five-year average for that date.

Fresh McIntosh holdings of 2.2 million bushels on January 1, 2005 were down 3 percent from the previous year, but up 7 percent from the five-year average.

Fresh Empire holdings of 1.8 million bushels on January 1, 2005 decreased 16 percent as compared to last year's holdings on that date, and were 12 percent lower than the five-year average.

Total U.S. Holdings

Total U.S. holdings of fresh and processing apples on January 1, 2005 were 123.5 million bushels, a 25 percent increase from holdings on January 1, 2004. The Jan. 1, 2005 holdings were 10 percent above the five-year average of 112.4 million bushels for holdings on that date.

Total holdings of fresh-market and processing apples in controlled-atmosphere (CA) storage on January 1, 2005 were 104 million bushels, a 25 percent increase from 2004, and up 12 percent from the five-year average. Fresh CA holdings were 73.1 million bushels, a 27 percent increase from holdings on January 1, 2004, and 12 percent more than the five-year average for holdings on that date.

Total processing apple holdings as of January 1, 2005 were 41.9 million bushels, up 16 percent from 2004, and 6 percent more than the five-year average for that date.