March 1: Fourth MAAHS Annual Meeting and Employer Seminar, Wilmington, OH. See issue #3 or contact Mid American Ag & Hort Services, Inc. at 614-246-8686.

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

March 11: Fruit Tree Pruning & Apple Grafting School, Legend Hills Orchard, 11335 Reynolds Road, Utica, OH. For more information and to register contact the Licking County OSU Extension Office at 740-670-5315.

March 23 & 30: New Fruit and Vegetable Grower and Marketer Workshop, Rural Services Building, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville, OH. For information call OSU Extension, Muskingum County at 740-454-0144 or e-mail mechling.1@osu.edu. March 23 session will focus on production and marketing aspects of the fruit and vegetable enterprises; March 30 session will discuss some of the regulatory and human resource components of speciality crops.

March 29: Deer Control Strategies, Rural Services Building, 225 Underwood Street, Zanesville, OH. For information call OSU Extension, Muskingum County at 740-454-0144 or e-mail mechling.1@osu.edu. Topics to be discussed include exclusion, repelling, hunting, and fencing for deer management.

March 30: North Central Fruit Crops Breakfast, location to be announced.
2005 Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide Correction
Source: Mike Ellis, OSU Plant Pathologist; Dick Funt, retired OSU Horticulturalist; and Bruce Bordelon, Purdue Extension Specialist, Viticulture and Small Fruit

On page 50, Table 8 (Fungicide Harvest Restrictions and Restricted - Entry Intervals (REI):

The Preharvest interval (PHI) for mancozeb on grapes is listed as 42 days. This is not correct. The Preharvest interval for mancozeb on grapes is still 66 days.

On page 18, (Downy Mildew - The Use of Ridomil Gold MZ and Ridomil Copper):

The Preharvest interval (PHI) for Ridomil Gold Copper was changed from 66 days to 42 days. The Preharvest interval for Ridomil Gold MZ is still 66 days.

We regret that this happened. We try hard to avoid mistakes. Please notify your growers about the mistake and remind them that they must always follow the label. The label is the law. Our spray guide is just that... a guide.

If you have any questions or see any other mistakes, let us know. We will post the corrections on the web site under “Recent Updates.”

New Blackberry Varieties Can Overcome Winter
Source: Shawn Wright, OSU Horticulturist, Piketon, via Candace Pollock, OSU Communications

Now available to Ohio fruit growers are new blackberry varieties that erase the production limitation associated with crop overwintering. Primocane blackberries are a new kind of plant designed specifically for temperature-sensitive areas. Whereas traditional blackberry varieties grown in Ohio face limitations because of winter kill, primocane blackberries can survive winter conditions with temperatures dropping as low as zero degrees Fahrenheit.

“Fluctuating temperatures during winter limits production of less-hardy blackberry varieties,” said Shawn Wright, an Ohio State University horticulturist with the South Centers at Piketon, Ohio. “Primocane berries, because of their winter hardness, may have potential in Ohio.”

Wright will discuss primocane blackberry production and cultivars that are available at the Berry Growers’ School, scheduled for February 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ohio State’s South Centers at Piketon. Pre-registration for the conference is $50, due by February 18. At-the-door registration is $60. Fees include a lunch.

Research on primocane blackberries has been led by John R. Clark with the Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas. South Centers is in its first year of evaluations of the fruit, and the Ohio studies mark the first use of the berries in the state.

Wright said that primocane blackberries are an attractive alternative for fruit growers because of their low maintenance. They are meant to be mowed back in the fall, resulting in little pruning labor. Additionally, unlike most traditional varieties that bear fruit on the second year canes, primocane blackberries will bear fruit the first year the cane becomes established. One drawback is that primocane blackberries are very thorny. Two cultivars of primocane blackberries are currently available; Prime Jim and Prime Jan. They were made available for purchase through nurseries just last year.

Other topics of discussion at the Berry Growers’ School include management of berry crop pests, raspberry production, plasticulture strawberries, and disease management. Presenters include researchers from The Ohio State University Penn State University.

Contact Kelly Roberts at 740-289-2071 or e-mail roberts.622@osu.edu. For more information on primocane blackberries, contact Shawn Wright at 740-289-2071 or e-mail wright.705@osu.edu.
Notes from Chris Doll, Retired UIUC Horticulturalist

Source: Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News 11:1, February 9, 2005

Another winter is upon us and, as usual, it is a topic of conversation (or writing). January came close to setting the all time record for precipitation with 9.3 inches for the month on the Back-40. It was mostly from rain, as SW Illinois missed the snow storms in late December and mid-January. The saturated soils have stopped all field work except in the orchards with a good sod cover.

Temperatures have been livable, but a minimum of 4 degrees on December 24 and 0 degrees on January 17 killed more peach buds than one would expect. Sample peach shoots from Calhoun County showed nearly 100 percent kill on Red Haven, Cresthaven, and Redstar, and 50-70 percent live buds on Carolina Belle, Contender, and Laurot. Most orchards report some kill and some variation between varieties. This follows a wet, mild fall which had only a 33-degree frost prior to a November freeze of 25 degrees on the 25th. Spring will let us know how the strawberries fared through this.

(Editor’s Note: Ohio peach growers have been relatively mum about damage here in Ohio.)

It has been a good winter for cleaning out some files and attending meetings. While cleaning files, I found a 1962 USDA Plant Introduction list of apples from which I got my start of Tohoku 7, which was named Fuji in 1965. The early description was this: “Ralls x Delicious. resembles Delicious in color and Ralls in shape. Firm in texture but very juicy. Quality excellent. Expected to replace the Ralls in Japan.”

In a 1997 article in The Good Fruit Grower, variety guru Jim Ballard of Yakima wrote “in 1965, I thought Tohoku #7 was too ugly to be important. It proves you should not make snap decisions.” I may be like Jim in making snap decisions, as I prefer the regular Fuji over some of the new early coloring/maturing strains. Time will tell. Several of these were available to see and taste at the Michigan Expo in December, thanks to Bill Shane.

Members of the Midwest Apple Improvement Association met in Ohio and were privileged to sample a variety of seedling apples from the MAIA and PRI programs and some of Doug Shefflebine’s Wisconsin selections.

Health Disparities Research for Pediatric Populations of Migrant Farm Workers

Source: Jill Kilanowski, MSN, CPNP, RN, Ohio State University College of Nursing

Dear Farm Owners:

I am a doctoral student in the College of Nursing at The Ohio State University. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner and am involved in health disparities research for pediatric populations. My specialty is children, and I am interested in examining the health disparities of the children of highly mobile working people, as seen in the children of carnival and migrant farm workers. I hope to match resources to health needs.

In the summer of 2004 for my pilot study, I was granted access to the migrant workers at Michael’s Farms in Urbana. I collected health data on 24 children and am in the process of analyzing that data. I also was at The Ohio State Fair looking at carnival children.

My goal is to improve access to care for these families of children that travel for their employment. I would like to include more children like those on Michael’s Farms and also migrant children that travel an even greater distance during the summer as their parents follow the ripening crops of tomatoes, strawberries, etc.

The purpose of this dissertation study is to look at the health of children of carnival workers and migrant farm workers and to help identify how we can make the health care system work better for families that move around in the summer months with their jobs.

I am looking for parents AND children aged birth to twelve for participation. Answering the two short questionnaires and collecting height, weights, etc. will not take more than a half hour on one day only. After completion of the above, parents will receive $10 CASH and the child will be able to pick from a “grab bag” of an age-appropriate toy valued at $10.
What the parents will be asked to do:
- Bring records of the child’s immunization (shots) and health check-ups
- Sign permission forms to participate
- Fill out two short questionnaires
- Bring their child
- Be able to read English or Spanish

No names will be used for research write-up.

What we will do:
- Review the immunization “baby” record for shots, heights, and weights
- Weight, height, chest, and waist measurements will be taken by nurse
- Oral/dental examination done by health care provider
- Give them a report and recommendations for their child’s health

If they do not want to answer any questions, parents do not need to do so. They may withdraw from this research survey at any time with no penalty. Parents will not receive cash incentive, but the child will be able to get toy from “grab bag.”

I would greatly appreciate if you would allow me access to your farm and allow me to meet with the workers and their children. If you agree, I will need from you a statement on your letterhead stating that I may come onto your property and interview migrant workers, if they agree as well. I would be at your farm on a convenient day and time in the summer of 2005 and would need less than one day to collect this data. I will send flyers and a poster announcing the study.

If you are interested in participating in this important research study, please e-mail me at kilanowski.2@osu.edu and I can supply the needed language for this letter of access. Your time and cooperation is greatly appreciated and will help the working families obtain better access to care for their children. My home phone is 614-793-1305.

2005 Pest Management Guidelines for Berry Crops Now Available

The 2005 Pest Management Guidelines for Berry Crops is authored by Marvin P. Pritts, Lori J. Bushway, Gregory English-Loeb, Juliet Carroll, Wayne F. Wilcox, and William Turechek. The Guideline aids berry growers with general nutrient guidelines, general site selection and preparation information, as well as insect, mite, disease, and weed management decisions.

Detailed cultural and chemical management practices are provided for blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, strawberry, currant, and gooseberry production. Insect pests and diseases are associated with stages of plant development in table form to aid in timeliness of identification and treatment. Harvesting, handling, transportation guidelines, and post harvest considerations, as well as useful web sites and contact information for berry specialists lend balance to this valuable text. General pesticide safety information, tips for laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing, and pesticide emergency numbers are included. Chemicals regulated in New York State include brand name/formulation, EPA registration numbers, and restrictions. Information for the integrated production and maintenance of berry crops is drawn directly from Cornell University research, extension demonstrations, and on-site experience. Commercial growers, those who advise, sell, or provide services to these professionals, as well as small-scale growers can use this text as a guide to choosing safe and effective weed, insect, wildlife, and disease management programs for berry crops.

The updated version of 2005 Pest Management Guidelines for Berry Crops is now online at <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/Berries/pestman/index.html>.

Or purchase a hard copy from Cornell Cooperative Extension Resource Center at 607-255-2080. 84 pages, $17.95.