Maine Tree Fruit Grower Pre-Season Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 8:00 to 4:00 PM
Ramada Lewiston Hotel and Conference Center
490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine

Everyone is welcome to attend. This meeting will provide pest and horticultural management updates for commercial, hobbyist, large and small-scale, IPM and organic orchardists.

Registration cost is $20 per person at the door for Maine State Pomological Society Members, $25 for non-members. Registration includes lunch. No pre-registration, pay at the door. Cash and checks payable to Maine State Pomological Society accepted, no credit card service.

Pesticide applicator recertification credits will be awarded for those who attend the full day. For questions contact Glen Koehler glen.koehler@maine.edu, 207-581-3882. In case of bad weather, call the USM weather message at 780-4800. The message updated by 6:30am. If Lewiston Auburn College is closed on March 22 then the meeting will be canceled and rescheduled for a later date.

AGENDA

8:00 a.m.  Registration, Coffee, Meet & Greet
8:30 a.m.  Sunburn Damage to Apples
    – Glen Koehler, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
9:00 a.m.  Overview of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for Tree Fruit Growers
    – Dr. David Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
9:30 a.m.  Fire blight – What You Need to Know
    – Dr. Daniel Cooley, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension
10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. **Current Issues in Tree Fruit Horticulture**  
- Jon Clements, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension

11:15 a.m. **Rapid Apple Tree Decline**  
- Dr. Renae Moran, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

11:45 p.m. **Maine State Pomological Society Business Meeting**  
- Aaron Libby, MSPS President, Libby and Son U-Pick

12:15 p.m. **Lunch** – Sandwich bar, salad, dessert and beverages

1:00 p.m. **Online Tools for Irrigation Scheduling and Freeze Protection**  
- Jonathan Lambert, Northeast Regional Climate Center

1:30 p.m. **Tree Fruit IPM Updates**  
- Glen Koehler

2:00 p.m. **Apple Disease Model Evaluation and Discussion**  
- Dr. Daniel Cooley

2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Washington State Orchard Tour**  
- Aaron Libby

3:30 p.m. **Board of Pesticides Control Update**  
- Megan Patterson, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

**Sponsors:** Please thank our sponsors whose financial support reduced your registration cost: **Randy Drown, Crop Production Services**; **Paul Peters, Northeast Agricultural Sales**; and **Milton Sinclair, Paris Farmers Union.**

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**Directions**

COMING FROM THE SOUTH, from the Turnpike (I-95), take exit 80 for “ME-196/Lewiston”. Keep left at the fork and merge onto the Alfred Plourde Parkway. Continue 0.4 mile to the Ramada Hotel.

COMING FROM THE NORTH, from the Turnpike (I-95), take exit 80 for “ME-196/Lewiston”. Keep right at the fork and merge onto the Alfred Plourde Parkway. Continue 0.4 mile to the Ramada Hotel.
Worker Protection Standards

Substantial changes to the Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides took effect in January 2017. A 129-page guide to the new regulations is available online at http://pesticideresources.org/wps/htc/index.html. The website also has training videos you can download. (The instructions given may be confusing. What you need to do is right click on the word “Link”, then select “Save link as”).

Megan Patterson of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control is bringing free printed copies of the guide to the Preseason Meeting on March 22 in Lewiston.

Organic Transition Webinar

USDA NRCS is hosting a webinar titled “Considerations for Transitioning Perennial Production to Organic” on April 4 at 3pm. David Granatstein, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, Washington State University will explore the challenges and opportunities specific to transitioning perennial systems to organic certification.

Information on how to join the live webinar is at http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/considerations-for-transitioning-perennial-production-to-organic. The webinar will also be available after April 4 at the archive of recorded webinars at

Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) Registration

The EPA has a deadline of March 17 to make a decisions about continued registration of Lorsban (Chlorpyrifos) for use on food crops. The deadline has been extended before and may be extended again. It is not possible to predict what or when the final decision will be. Lorsban and other chlorpyrifos insecticide products have been particularly useful for long term borer control on apple and peach trees.

Produce Safety Training

The 2017 Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training will be given on April 11-12 in Portland, ME. The target audience includes fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and farm food safety best practices.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires “At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.”

The workshop will provide seven hours of instruction on topics including: Introduction to Produce Safety; Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training; Soil Amendments; Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use; Agricultural Water (which seems to be a key aspect of the new regulations that growers will need to address); Postharvest Handling and Sanitation; and How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan.
The training will cover key FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.


**Ag Census**

The United States Department of Agriculture conducts every five years, and it is that time again. The Census is the only complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It includes even the smallest plots of land – rural or urban – growing fruits, vegetables, or raising food animals, if $1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

The Census gives farmers an opportunity to be heard and help shape the future of agriculture. If you did not receive a form, you can request one by calling 1-866-294-8560 or send an email to nass@nass.usda.gov.