



# MINNESOTA FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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February, 2002

**Don't Forget:  
Upper Midwest Regional  
Fruit and Vegetable Growers  
Conference**

**Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2002  
St. Cloud Civic Center  
St. Cloud, MN**

**Trade Show – Jan. 31 & Feb. 1**



## A Note from the Board

By Terry Nennich, Ter-Lee Gardens in Bagley, MN

As you reflect on your 2001 season, it is extremely important to make written notes on your successes and where improvements need to be made. Then, prioritize the improvements. Improvements may be one of the following; soil testing (recommended), developing IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices, extending your growing season, experimenting with new crops or new varieties, taking a serious look at your marketing strategies, investigating new or different techniques or managing risk better. Remember small changes often mean huge positive results. It is important that you approach the 2002 season with a positive, well-designed game plan.

One positive thing that all producers can do is to attend the 2002 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Show January 31, - February 2, 2002 at the St. Cloud Civic Center.

This year's featured speakers include Dr. Otho Wells from New Hampshire, who will present several sessions on drastically extending the season with high tunnel production. High tunnels are like inexpensive single layer plastic small greenhouses. High tunnels work well with vegetables, fruits and flowers. Dr. Wells has also spent much of his career developing strategies for early sweet corn production.

This newsletter lists all of the education opportunities at the 2002 conference. Don't forget the fantastic trade show. While I agree that it does cost some to attend the conference, the thought I want to leave you with is what is an idea worth? An idea or information that could improve your operation or even change it completely around. See you at the 2002 show.

## **Dr. Otho Wells to Share Information on High Tunnel Production**

Dr. Otho Wells grew up on a strawberry and vegetable farm in southeastern North Carolina and then went away to college at North Carolina State University. There he became interested in vegetable research and extension as a career because he had seen the cultural and marketing assistance his father had received from the University and Cooperative Extension programs.

Dr. Wells retired from the University of New Hampshire in 1999 after 33 years in research and Extension work that focused on ways to extend the growing season through integrated and sustainable methods. Much of his work was with plasticulture growing systems that include plastic mulches, row covers, high tunnels, and raised beds for production of crops for both wholesale and retail sales.

More information on Dr. Wells' sessions and the topics he will be presenting follows in the "Session Spotlights."

## **SESSION SPOTLIGHTS**

### **Getting Started in High Tunnel Production, presented by Dr. Otho Wells – Thursday, Jan. 31 from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.**

High tunnels are relatively inexpensive protected growing structures that provide earliness, improved yields, and enhanced quality. They extend the growing season in both spring and fall and even through the winter for some crops. High tunnels are not automated greenhouses; therefore, a commitment to daily manual ventilation is necessary if the potential of high tunnels is to be achieved. Siting, surface water control, orientation, and care in construction are important in the success of high tunnels. Plastic mulching works great in tunnels -- so do small tractors with rototillers if the sidewalls are high enough.

### **Growing Tomatoes in High Tunnels, presented by Dr. Otho Wells – Thursday, Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Fresh tomatoes are highly popular among consumers. What is even more popular are early tomatoes. High tunnels have proved themselves in delivering a good crop of high quality tomatoes about a month earlier than outdoor tomatoes. When careful attention is given to ventilation, early blight is not a problem – no sprays needed. Tomatoes grow abundantly with high yields; and depending on retail prices, a crop of tomatoes will more than pay for a high tunnel in one season.

### **Growing Cool Season Crops in High Tunnels, presented by Dr. Otho Wells – Thursday, Jan. 31 from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.**

Contrary to popular notion, cool season crops do best when it is not so cool. They respond aggressively in early spring to the elevated temperatures of a high tunnel. Cool season crops are easy to grow and the yield per square foot is high. Unfortunately, high tunnels will not deter insects such as root maggots, the carrot rust fly, and cabbage worms and loopers; however, spunbonded row covers will solve those problems.

### **Growing Other Crops in High Tunnels, presented by Dr. Otho Wells – Thursday, Jan. 31 from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.**

Peppers, onions, melons, squash, okra, potatoes, sweet corn, strawberries, and cut flowers – you name it. They can be grown in high tunnels. Any crop that is grown outdoors can be grown in a tunnel; but of course, there is the issue of economics! Perhaps winter squash and long-vined pumpkins might not be candidates for high tunnels, but what about going for the world's record for giant pumpkins? And too, is there a market for what is grown in a high tunnel?

### **Growing Early Sweet Corn, presented by Dr. Otho Wells – Friday, February 1st from 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.**

You can't get sweet corn too early. Customers line up to get the first sweet corn of the season – and they keep coming back. Earliness is not a matter of competing with the neighbor down the road; it is simply the fact that you have sweet corn available as a means of expanding the marketing window. Getting sweet corn is primarily a function of increasing the temperature of the soil and air as much as possible as early as possible. Clear plastic mulch, plastic row

covers, and wide spunbonded row covers are tools that aid in growing early corn. Transplanted sweet corn is another option, especially when combined with row covers.

## **Don't Forget the Wednesday Night Grower "Bull Session"**

If you plan to be in St. Cloud on Wednesday, January 30, 2002, you are invited to join other growers for an informal "bull session" beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be no planned agenda – just an opportunity to mix and mingle and meet a few new people.

If you have samples of jellies, jams, salsa, etc. that you would like to share, please bring them with you. Crackers and chips will be provided.

The "Bull Session" will be held in one of the University rooms at the Best-Western Kelly Inn. If you have questions, please call the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400.

## **GROWER PROFILE:**

### **Big Blueberries are Big Business at Blueberry Meadows**

#### **Lucille Lauer – Blueberry Meadows in Grand Rapids, MN**

Blueberry Meadows is a pick-your-own farm of 7,000 Minnesota half-high blueberries. Established in 1985, the meadows are carved out of the woods at considerable expense and work, but the blueberries love it and the customers think they are in blueberry heaven. Lucille worked for Shirley Monsen in the Sensory Evaluation Lab at the University of Minnesota where she harvested and prepared fruits and potatoes for evaluation by taste panels. The Minnesota half-high blueberry varieties were very impressive in taste, color and size and became an inspiration for Blueberry Meadows.

Lucille will tell her story during the Berry Production session on Friday morning, February 1st, from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

## **Grower Profile:**

### **Apples on a Shoestring**

#### **Gary Tedore – Gary Tedore Orchard in LaPorte City, Iowa**

Gary Tedore started with five acres in 1978 and established one acre of pick-your-own strawberries. At the same time he purchased and planted 100 apple rootstocks. He began grafting apple trees in 1979 and continued to graft each year, expanding to about 500 trees today. He now has apples, asparagus and other fresh produce. Over 125 varieties are used to spread harvest from July 1st to the beginning of October. All fresh produce is sold at local farmers' markets. He currently sells at six markets per week.

Mr. Tedore was a horticulture instructor at the Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa. He taught courses in nursery production and management, plant propagation, greenhouse production and management, plant identification, fruit and vegetable production and equipment operation. He helped establish the Black Hawk Farmers' Market Association.

Mr. Tedore will share his story during the Apple Production session on Friday morning, February 1st. His presentation begins at 8:00 a.m.

## **Saturday Featured Speaker - Farmers' Markets**

Robert Chorney is one of the founders and the current Executive Director of Farmers' Markets Ontario. Mr. Chorney has consulted with community and Farmers' Market leaders across North America and he keenly recognizes how a Public/Farmers' Market contributes to the soul of a community. His inspiring message helps motivate community leaders to take the necessary steps to make a Farmers' Market part of their success story.

Mr. Chorney has a broad business background and has helped organize some 80 new Farmers' Markets. Robert Chorney will share his insights during the Farmers' Market session on Saturday, February 2nd.

## **Improving Weed Control in Berries**

Dr. Doug Doohan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University. As the State Specialist for weed management in fruit and vegetable crops, his research strives to resolve the many challenges growers experience with weed control.

The broad and long-term goal of his laboratory is to understand the function of weed communities within the agro ecosystem. As this knowledge improves they expect to use weed control technology more effectively and efficiently. Studying the biological characteristics of a weed may identify opportunities within the species life cycle when it is especially vulnerable to control practices. Understanding mechanisms of seed dispersal may identify opportunities to disrupt or redirect the dispersal process. Weeds respond to disturbance, in fact weeds can be characterized as plants adapted to disturbance. Can we manage disturbance(s) in such a way as to minimize the impact of weeds on crops?

The more near-term goal of his lab is designing a “better hoe” – better technology for managing weeds. Herbicides are an example of a “better hoe.” Of course, herbicides are not the only example of “better hoes.” Cultivation equipment, biological controls, barriers to weed growth (living and non-living mulches) and resource management (water and nutrients) are viable approaches to improving weed control technology.

Dr. Doohan will present two sessions during the Berry Production and Marketing session on Friday morning, February 1st. His topics will be “Improving Weed Control in Berries through Understanding Weed Biology” and “Weed Management in Berry Crops.”

## **Blaine Tornow – Tornow Herb Farms in Wausau, WI**

Blaine Tornow has been growing medicinal herbs for 11 years and organic herbs for the last six years. They grow eighteen varieties of medicinal herbs on 20 acres of their 80-acre farm. They also have 10 acres of market vegetables and two large greenhouses. According to Blaine, research is the key to deciding which crops to grow. He subscribes to several health and herb journals in order to keep up on present trends, attends herb and grower conferences and tries to communicate with groups that have information for growers. Experience has taught him the value of networking with other growers and he is very willing to share information. Blaine Tornow will be sharing his experiences during the Specialty Crops session on Thursday afternoon, January 31st.

## **“Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional”**

Bob Ash, founder of Life Lessons in Indianapolis, IN, will be the speaker at this year’s banquet. Bob combines laughter with practical ideas and tools to improve what it is we do in life. Don’t miss the opportunity to laugh and learn – and we guarantee you will be doing both – as Bob shares insights on how to manage the changes that are inevitable in our lives.

The banquet will be held on Thursday evening, January 31, 2002. Join us for a delicious Minnesota Grown meal and an evening of laughter with old and new friends. Banquet tickets are available for \$20 each. A registration form is available on this site.

## **Good Agricultural Practices for Apple Growers and Producers**

Recent events including the *E.coli* 0157:H7 outbreak at an Edina preschool falsely attributed to apples or cider and the expectation that the food supply is the next terrorist target have raised consumer’s concerns about apples and apple products. Food safety and security begins on the farm and in the orchard. You can help reduce the risks. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will make recommendations to help you increase your security, control pathogens such as *E. coli* 0157:H7, look at IPM and chemical usage, give an overview of FDA’s Juice HACCP regulations and share results of recent apple cider sampling. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will be presenting a session on food safety and good agricultural practices on Friday afternoon, February 1st, during the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in St. Cloud, MN.

The session will include a discussion of the following topics: Security and biosecurity, controlling *E. coli* 0157:H7 and other pathogens, washing and packing apples, integrated pest management and handling chemicals in your orchard, and what to do when tracebacks or recalls become necessary. Safety measures for cider processors will include an overview of FDA's new Juice HACCP rules, labeling and warning statements, 5 log reduction of pathogens and results of the MDA's sampling surveillance. The cider presentations will be an overview of HACCP and will not count as training in HACCP for FDA regulations.

## **Entertainment Farming – Featured Speakers**

### **Saturday Session – February 2, 2002**

**Carrie Schnepf** is a fifth-generation Arizonan. She and her husband, Mark, own and operate Schnepf Farms in Queen Creek, Arizona. She is also the current President of the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association, an international association of family farmers who sell direct to the public and provide family entertainment opportunities.

Carrie is the marketing director and festival coordinator for such events as Schnepf Farms Pumpkin & Chili Party and the Queen Creek Peach Festival. Carrie started an education program on their farm where 20 thousand school children visit and tour the farm in a five-month period.

Carrie spent eight years as a television anchor and reporter at stations in Salt Lake City, Boise, Idaho and KPHO in Phoenix, Arizona. She also spends part of her time as a commercial television and corporate spokesperson. She has been associated with the television industry since she was 17 years old and has performed with such people as the Van Patten Family, The Osmond Brothers, and Donny & Marie Osmond. She has been a spokesperson for many companies including Motorola, Intel, Vodavi Communications, Ultimate Electronics and Northern Automotive.

**John Hastings** is from Pinehaven Tree Farm in Wyoming, Minnesota. His parents started planting Christmas trees on their farm in 1950. While they still grow and market Christmas trees, they have diversified into entertainment farming. They host numerous school tours each year and with the introduction of their "pumpkin cannon" have seen their pumpkin festival flourish. Their 55 acres of tillable land is used for Christmas trees, pumpkins, squash and other specialty crops. John has been on the farm full time since 1987.

**Kent Gustafson** is an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota's Tourism Center. The Tourism Center operates in partnership with various academic units, government agencies and industry associations. The Center conducts tourism research and provides education and outreach programs for the tourism industry, community groups and students. Examples of Center outreach education programs include: the Certified Festival Management Program, the At Your Service Program and Community Tourism Development.

Kent has 27 years of experience in community development education, including strategic planning for community organizations, agri-tourism development, and community festivals and events.

## **Attention Berry Growers – It's Time to Order Plants**

MFVGA is coordinating a group order of strawberry and raspberry plants again this year. We do have new, special, strawberry varieties available. We have also secured a large supply of true-to-type Glooscap strawberry plants directly from reputable Nova Scotia nurseries. Please note, there are ordering deadlines so **order early to get the varieties you want**. Order forms have been sent out. If you have not received a berry order form and would like one, please call the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400.

We are also working on a group order for berry boxes. The six-quart, kraft strawberry boxes hold approximately 10 pounds of fruit. The self-locking boxes are waxed on two sides with pop-up handles. The boxes are slanted and stack easily. Take a look at some sample boxes at the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference Jan. 31 & Feb. 1. Order forms will also be available. Additional information will be included in the April newsletter.

# U of M Gleanings

By Dr. Cindy Tong, Dept. of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota

By now, most Minnesotans would have heard that the state is expecting a huge budget shortfall. State agencies, including the University, have been told to expect a 5-10% cut. It's been lean years, budget cuts, and retrenchments every year since I've been hired. One year there were no raises at all for University faculty. Having to deal with these cuts takes a toll on everyone, but especially on people who feel a responsibility to others. As of January 2002, Gary Gardner steps down as department head, and Carl Rosen will step in as an interim department head. Thanks go to Gary for his years of service to the department and best wishes go to Carl for the year ahead. Gary's done a great job keeping the department thriving in the midst of all these budget cuts.

In this year, the Minnesota Extension Service should be changing quite a bit. Federal and state appropriations have not kept up with increases in health care and retirement benefits (where have you heard that before, eh?). Approximately 90% of the Extension budget is tied up in salaries. Extension will have to find new ways to generate funds. Programs will have to jockey for funds against other programs. It doesn't cost much to write columns for this newsletter, but farm visits, as little as they have been, could be further curtailed. The major change will occur in the counties. Counties support about 45% of the budgets for their County Extension offices, and state and federal dollars provide the rest. With no increase in any funding, some county personnel may be laid off.

We'll have to find new ways to get information out to growers. The Internet is one tool that I use quite often. I receive and answer e-mail from growers and put up information on the Web (see [www.hort.agri.umn.edu/fruitveg](http://www.hort.agri.umn.edu/fruitveg)). I've often thought that a list serve for Minnesota fruit and vegetable growers might be a nice thing to organize (let me know if you agree). One problem is that farmers don't have time during the growing season to get on the computer.

This is why we have winter meetings. So if you had any problems last summer, think about them now and let us know what they were. Despite the budget cuts, some of us are still around to try to help you. We're not mind readers, so we don't know what kinds of things we can help you with unless you tell us. Just as a reminder, here are the folks to contact –

Clearwater County – Terry Nennich, 218-694-6151, nenni001@umn.edu  
Douglas County – Larry Zilliox, 320-762-3890, lzilliox@umn.edu  
Ramsey County – Doug Foulk, 651-704-2071, foulk001@umn.edu  
St. Louis County – Bob Olen, 218-726-8866, olenb@co.st-louis.mn.us  
Washington County – Bob Olson, 651-430-6808, olson160@umn.edu

Fruit production – Jill MacKenzie, 612-624-3478, macke020@umn.edu  
Fruit & vegetable fertility – Peter Bierman, 612-625-8750, pbierman@soils.umn.edu  
Insect pest problems – Bill Hutchison, 612-624-1767, hutch002@umn.edu  
Irrigation – Jerry Wright, 320-589-1711, jwright@umn.edu  
Postharvest handling – Cindy Tong, 612-624-3419, c-tong@umn.edu  
Vegetable production – Vince Fritz, 507-835-3620, vafritz@umn.edu  
Weed problems – Roger Becker, 612-625-5753, becke003@umn.edu.

## What's Happening Under the Mulch?

In some parts of the state, strawberries are safely buried under mulch and snow; elsewhere, there's only mulch between the plants and the air. Is it good or bad for the strawberry plants to be experiencing this mild fall? It seems to me that the plants should be doing fine, and conversations with a few growers tell me that you think it's probably no big deal. After all, these "mild" temperatures are still pretty chilly. If we have an open winter, some truly balmy days in January, and then some serious Minnesota cold, that'll be worth worrying about. The following is an article from Ontario about the physiology of hardening off for winter.

See you in St. Cloud!

—Jill MacKenzie

Assistant Extension Horticulturist—Fruit

612-624-3478

macke020@umn.edu

### **Cold Acclimation in Strawberries: How Strawberries Get Ready for Winter**

Cold acclimation in strawberries begins when days get shorter in late summer. Short days alone will trigger strawberries to develop tolerance to below freezing temperatures. For further acclimation, plants must be subjected to cold temperatures, such as days in the high thirties and nights around 32 degrees. Photosynthesis is also required for cold acclimation to occur, so plants which are mulched before these conditions have been met will not be as winter-hardy.

Even when fully acclimated, or "hardened-off for winter", strawberry plants are not as tolerant of cold temperatures as other perennial fruit crops. Cold injury to crowns appears as browning of crown tissue. Crowns will be killed when tissue in the crown is below about five degrees F, but even tissue temperatures in the mid-twenties can lead to reduced leaf number, leaf distortion, and fewer flowers and fruit. (Air temperatures must be much lower to cause these low tissue temps.)

The extent of cold-temperature injury in strawberries is determined by many factors. These include the extent of cold acclimation, the cultivar, the part of the plant affected, the rate and duration of freezing, and cultural practices. Rapid freezes, when tissue temperatures drop three to five degrees per hour, are fatal. Although the duration of freeze also affects how much injury occurs, most injury occurs in the first 24 hours of damaging temperatures. Freeze/thaw freeze cycles will also cause more injury than consistently cold temperatures, if the thaw lasts more than two to three days.

*Source: The All Ontario Berry Grower, Volume #0.10 - October/2001. Adapted by Pam Fisher from a presentation by Dr. Rebecca Darnell, OBGA Conference, 1996*

## MINNESOTA GROWN NOTES

### **Last Chance to Advertise in the Minnesota Grown Directory**

Listings for the 2002 edition of the *Minnesota Grown Directory* have been pouring in on a daily basis. The MDA will be accepting listings through January – including those received in person at the MFVGA conference in St. Cloud. This year's book promises to be bigger and better than ever with the addition of more meat and specialty products. The *Specialty Meats Directory* is being rolled into what used to be called the *Fresh Produce & More Directory* to form the *Minnesota Grown Directory*. The result will be a bigger, more inclusive publication that will be even more popular with consumers. Rates remain unchanged at \$30 per listing. Contact Brian Erickson at 651-296-4939 with questions.

### **Plan to Attend the Marketing Conference on February 2nd!**

While you're making plans to attend the MFVGA conference on January 31st and February 1st, be sure to sign up for the marketing sessions on Saturday. Featuring Carrie Schnepf (President of the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association), Todd Thompson (Cooperative Development Services) and Bob Chorney (Farmers' Market Ontario), this conference has a strong lineup of presenters whose experiences and advice will make an impact on your business. Be sure to register in advance for the best rate and to guarantee lunch. As in the past, there will be three separate tracks to choose at all times.

One track will highlight the unique opportunities and challenges associated with “entertainment farming”. Whether it’s a corn maze, haunted hayride, pig races, tours, or scarecrow building contests, many growers are realizing that families are interested in more than just the edible portion of their visit to a farm. Whether you’re just beginning to go down the entertainment path or whether you’re an old pro, you’ll find something beneficial in this session. This series of presentations features Carrie Schnepf, President of the North American Farmers’ Direct Marketing Association, Kent Gustafson from the U of M Tourism Center and John Hastings of Pinehaven Tree Farm.

The second subject area this year is more related to the business end of marketing. Running a business without a marketing plan is like driving a car across country without a road map. This track will help marketers create a marketing road map for your business by presenting the basics of marketing plans and goal setting. Todd Thompson of Cooperative Development Services headlines this critical set of presentations.

The third track is dedicated to issues and topics of importance to farmers’ market vendors and managers. Bob Chorney will be making the trek here from Canada to share his farmers’ market organizational and marketing skills.

The cost of the Saturday marketing sessions is just \$30 in advance and includes a lunch. MFVGA and MCTA members who are registered for Thursday and Friday can stay for the Saturday program for just \$20. Registrations are accepted at the door for \$40 but lunch is not guaranteed.

#### ***Wanted – Samples of Labels, Ads, and Photos***

Please send us a sample of labels and ads that use the Minnesota Grown logo. We are putting together a display for the St. Cloud meetings and could use some new items to show. If you’ve got a picture of a display that uses the Minnesota Grown point-of-sale materials we would like that too. Thank you! Please send samples for display to Paul Hugunin at the MDA at 90 West Plato Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55107.

#### ***Labeling Funds Available***

If a new or improved label, bag or box is in your future, don’t forget to add the Minnesota Grown logo. The Minnesota Grown Promotion Group will reimburse you for up to \$100 of your design charges when you include the logo on your label. Contact Paul Hugunin at 651-297-5510 with questions.

#### ***Please Visit Us in St. Cloud***

Be sure to stop by the Minnesota Grown booth on the trade show floor while you’re in St. Cloud for the annual meeting. We’ll have samples of our free promotional materials, copies of the berry ads, Christmas tree ads, *Minnesota Showcase* and other promotions from the past year. Of course, the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group will also have plenty of their new shirts and sweatshirts available for purchase at the show.

We hope you’ll take a few minutes to chat with us about the program, either in person or over the phone. We value your feedback, suggestions, and questions. With your help we look forward to improving and expanding the partnership that is the Minnesota Grown Program.

## **MEET THE SPEAKERS AT THE UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS CONFERENCE**

**Marcia Aas** is from Lakewood Berry Farm in Duluth, MN. In addition to being a grower and direct marketer, Marcia also has a Masters Degree in Educational Media and Technology.

**Bob Ash** is from Indianapolis, IN and is the founder of Life Lessons. Since founding his company in 1995 he has provided training to over 425 organizations and 145,000 people. Bob combines laughter with practical ideas and tools to improve what we do in life.

**David Bedford** has been an apple breeder and research scientist in fruit crops at the University of Minnesota for the past 23 years. He was responsible for the development and release of Honeycrisp and Zestar apples. He has conducted numerous research projects on apples involving cultural and physiological problems.

**Peter Bierman** is from the Soil Science Department at the University of Minnesota.

**Ron Branch** owns and operates Berry Ridge Farm near Alexandria, MN.

**Robert Chorney** is one of the founders and the current Executive Director of Farmers' Markets Ontario. He has a strong business background, and has helped organize some 80 new Farmers' Markets. He has consulted to farm, government, business and community groups across all of Canada and in many parts of the United States. He has been a featured speaker at several international Direct Farm Marketing conferences.

**Ray Clark** is with the Leafy Greens Council.

**Dr. Doug Doohan** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University. He is the Ohio State Specialist for weed management in fruit and vegetable crops and his research strives to resolve the many challenges growers experience with weed control. Doug hopes to be able to meet individually with growers on Thursday afternoon and evening to consult on specific weed problems or weed control ideas. Plan to take advantage of his expertise!

**Dr. Henry Fadamiro** is with the Biological Control Program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Dr. Vince Fritz** received his Ph.D. in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1985. Dr. Fritz conducts research and extension programs primarily with vegetable crops grown for processing. He has also been active in research with other crops grown for the fresh market with an emphasis on stand establishment. Dr. Fritz has been an Extension Specialist in horticulture at the University of Minnesota, Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca since 1985.

**Dr. Richard Greenland** has been the Research Supervisor at the Oakes Irrigation Research Station in Oakes, ND, since 1991 where his major emphasis has been on commercial irrigation vegetable production. Dr. Greenland completed his B.S. at Brigham Young University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University. He worked as the agronomist at Kansas State University's Sandyland Experiment Field in St. John, KS from 1985 to 1991, working with both irrigated and dryland field crop production.

**Kent Gustafson** is an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. The Center operates in partnership with various academic units, government agencies and industry associations. Kent has 27 years of experience in community organizations; agri-tourism development and community festivals and events.

**John Hastings** is from Pinehaven Tree Farm in Wyoming, MN. They started planting Christmas trees on the farm in 1950 and have since diversified into entertainment farming. They host numerous school tours each year and their pumpkin festival is flourishing.

**Paul Hugunin** works in the Agricultural Marketing Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Much of his time is spent developing and expanding the Minnesota Grown Program.

**Dr. William Hutchison** received his B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin. He has been an extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota since 1989. He developed the "VegEdge" World Wide Web site for timely pest updates and fact sheets on vegetable insect pests. One of his more recent projects is the "Minnesota Vegetable IPM Newsletter."

**Lucille Lauer** and her husband, Ed, have owned and operated Blueberry Meadows in Grand Rapids, MN since 1985. Blueberry Meadows is a pick-your-own farm of 7,000 Minnesota hybrid half-high blueberries.

**Dr. Jim Luby** has been in charge of the fruit crops breeding program at the University of Minnesota since 1982. The emphasis of the program has been to develop cultivars that combine cold hardiness with high quality and disease resistance. During this time the program has released 15 fruit cultivars including, most recently, Winona and Mesabi strawberries, Honeycrisp apple, Polaris and Chippewa blueberries, and Frontenac grape. Dr. Luby's other research interests include the conservation and use of wild species in fruit breeding.

**John Malmberg** works with the Wholesale Produce Dealers Act and the Wholesale Produce Dealers Rules through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Thaddeus McCamant** is a Specialty Crops Management Instructor with the Northland Community Technical College in Detroit Lakes, MN.

**Carol Milligan** is the coordinator of the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Terry Nennich** works with the University of Minnesota Extension Service in Clearwater County. He has been working with vegetable and small fruit development in the northwest corner of Minnesota for many years with an emphasis on pumpkins, asparagus, carrots, onions, cole crops, wild rice and strawberries. Prior to coming to Minnesota, Terry worked with the fruit and vegetable industry in southern Michigan. Terry's specialization is Commercial Horticulture and Marketing.

**Robin Partch** is a founding member of the Northern Vineyards Co-op. He has been a winemaker at Northern Vineyards since 1989. He used to grow grapes, but gave it up to devote his energies to making the wine.

**Dr. James Percich** assumed the duties of research vegetable plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota in 1998. Jim received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1975. He has also worked with horseradish, potato, cultivated wild rice and sugar beets.

**Rudy Radke** works with the North Dakota State University Extension Service. He has been a County Extension Agent for over 20 years. He has worked with added value, specialty cropping and marketing for agriculture. He has also worked with a high value irrigated crops task force to connect agriculture and economic development. He is a co-author of North Dakota's "Specialty Crops Resource Guide."

**Erica Renaud** is the manager of Frontier Organic Research Farm in Norway, Iowa. Her specialization is herb propagation, cultivation, distillation, etc.

**Gary Reuter** is from the University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology.

**Carrie Schnepf** is the current president of the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association. Carrie started an education program on the farm where 20 thousand school children visit and tour their farm in a five-month period. She is the marketing director and festival coordinator for such events as Schnepf Farms Pumpkin & Chili Party and the Queen Creek Peach Festival. Carrie also spent eight years as a television anchor and reporter at stations in Salt Lake City, Boise, Idaho and KPHO in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Jim Stordahl** received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Minnesota. He has worked for seven years in vegetable research and cooperative development. Since 1997 he has worked for the U of M as an Extension Educator in Moorhead, MN and has worked primarily with specialty crop producers. For the past four years he has been conducting research on the effectiveness of colored mulch in fruit and vegetable production.

**Gary Tedore** is the owner of the Gary Tedore Orchard in LaPorte City, Iowa. Mr. Tedore started with five acres in 1978. He established one acre of pick-your-own strawberries and at the same time purchased and planted 100 apple rootstocks. He began grafting apple trees in 1979 and continued to graft each year, expanding to about 500 trees today. He also grows asparagus and other fresh produce that is sold at local farmers' markets. He helped establish the Black Hawk Farmers' Marketing Association in Black Hawk County.

**Todd Thompson** is a Cooperative and Business Development Specialist with Cooperative Development Services (CDS). In this capacity, Todd works with cooperators from the pre-development stage through formation of the corporation. He also provides business development assistance through market feasibility studies, business plan development, and other types of business consulting. Todd has worked mainly with value-added agricultural cooperatives in the areas of organics, livestock, dairy and crops. Before joining CDS, Todd was the Deputy Director for Market Development with the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI). He has a degree in economics from South Dakota State University and an MBA and a Masters in International Development from the University of St. Thomas.

**Dr. Cindy Tong** received a B.A. in Biology from the University of Chicago and her Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from the University of California at Davis. She was a postdoctoral research associate at the USDA Agricultural Research Service for four and a half years. Dr. Tong has been at the University of Minnesota since 1991.

**Blaine Tornow** is the owner of Tornow Herb Farms in Wausau, WI. Mr. Tornow started farming 11 years ago and has been growing organic herbs for the past six years. He also grows 10 acres of market vegetables, 20 acres of medical herbs (18 varieties) and they have two large greenhouses. Experience has taught him the value of networking with other growers and he is very willing to share information and tips with those who are interested.

**Dr. Otho Wells** is a Professor of Plant Biology/Extension Vegetable Specialist, Emeritus. Dr. Wells retired from the University of New Hampshire on June 30, 1999 after 33 years in research and extension work that focused on ways to expand the growing season through integrated and sustainable methods. Much of his work was with plasticulture growing systems that include plastic mulches, row covers, high tunnels, and raised beds for the production of crops for both wholesale and retail sales.

**Dr. David Wildung** is a Station Horticulturist at the North Central Research & Outreach Center in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. His research has recently focused on cultural management systems for small fruits and vegetables. The research program is oriented toward applied field research with emphasis on small fruit and vegetable research. Vegetable research includes cultivar evaluation as well as cultural management, especially as it affects short season maturity. Dr. Wildung has also been working on a research project involving flame weeding in strawberries.

**Suzanne Wold** is a graduate student in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota.

**Lynette Wong** is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota pursuing a Ph.D. in Plant Biological Sciences.

**Jerry Wright** is an Extension Agricultural Engineer at the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, Minnesota where he teaches irrigation related management and design concepts. Jerry has twenty-plus years of experience working with chemigation, irrigation system planning and soil moisture monitoring equipment. He has also been involved in several cooperative research projects related to irrigation water management.

**Karina Zambreno** is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, Department of Horticultural Science. Her research is in sustainable fruit production systems.

## **Worker Protection Standard Training Scheduled**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will conduct a Train-the-Trainer program for the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) on Friday, Feb 15, 2002. Participants will become qualified to conduct WPS pesticide safety training for **both workers and handlers**. Participants will receive a qualification certificate as documentation of participation.

Only a "qualified trainer" can conduct WPS pesticide safety training for workers and handlers. EPA is very specific as to what constitutes a "qualified trainer" and is limited to:

1. Attended an approved Train-the-Trainer program. (In Minnesota only MDA conducts Train-the-Trainer.)
2. A licensed pesticide applicator (private, commercial or noncommercial)
3. An instructor for Pesticide Applicator Workshops (i.e., County Extension Educators, MDA Staff)

**When:** February 15, 2002  
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Scott County Fairgrounds  
7151 190th St. W.  
Jordan, MN

*Why should you attend the training?*

- Increase your knowledge and understanding of WPS requirements. (Will be more in depth than what you receive at private or commercial pesticide applicator workshops.)

- Become qualified to conduct WPS pesticide safety training. The trainer qualification documentation is “good” for five (5) years.
- Receive training materials to conduct worker training.
- Opportunity to ask questions specific for your own operation.
- No charge for the training or the materials.

Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for Certified Crop Advisors will be available.

More than one person per firm may attend; however, class size is limited. We ask that you contact MDA to reserve a spot in the class.

To reserve your spot or to obtain more information contact Steve Poncin, MDA 651-296-5136, e-mail [Steve.Poncin@state.mn.us](mailto:Steve.Poncin@state.mn.us)

## **2002 MSU Bramble School and Greenhouse Raspberry Workshop**

The 2002 Michigan State University Bramble School will be held Thursday, January 10, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. An “add-on” half-day Greenhouse Raspberry Workshop was also developed. It will be Friday, January 11, 2002 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Both events will be held at the Holiday Inn Kalamazoo West in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The intensive one-day 2002 MSU Bramble School is designed to help growers, consultants and field representatives from the Great Lakes gather in one place, for one day, to learn more about all aspects of bramble production and pest control. The early-bird registration cost for this one-day, comprehensive event, is \$80 (after January 4, 2002 - \$100). Included in this price, besides the excellent educational topics, are an educational notebook, lunch and breaks.

The Greenhouse Raspberry Workshop is designed for those interested in exploring an opportunity of growing a valuable winter crop of raspberries in unused greenhouse space. Participants will learn how to manage the production of raspberries during the winter months for fresh market sales at very high prices. Both researchers and growers will share their approach to production of raspberries in the greenhouse during the winter. All of the cultural production areas will be covered including the economics and marketing of this crop. The early-bird registration cost for this half-day workshop, is \$40 (after January 4, 2002 - \$50).

Dr. Marvin Pritts, a Professor of Small Fruit Crops in the Department of Horticulture, Cornell University, will be the featured speaker for these events. Topics that will be covered include bramble physiology, variety selection from a research and grower perspective, nutrition, pre-plant considerations including nematodes and replant disease/fumigation, control of insects, diseases, and weeds, and post-harvest handling considerations. Michigan Department of Agriculture pesticide re-certification credits will be offered.

Participants are requested to pre-register before January 4, 2002. A registration flyer with more information on this school can be obtained from either Al Gaus, 616-944-4126, [gausa@msue.msu.edu](mailto:gausa@msue.msu.edu), Gary Thornton, 231-946-1510, [thornton@msue.msu.edu](mailto:thornton@msue.msu.edu), or Bob Tritten, 810-732-2177, [tritten@msue.msu.edu](mailto:tritten@msue.msu.edu).

## **MFVGA Board Positions Open**

The MFVGA Board is looking for members who are willing to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Three current members have terms that expire this year and we are looking for representatives from both the fruit and vegetable industries. If you are interested in serving on the MFVGA Board, or would like more information on what is required, please call Marilyn at the MFVGA office (763-434-0400). Your name will be forwarded to the nominations committee.

## **“Cross-Over” Registration to MCTA Sessions**

The Minnesota Christmas Tree Association (MCTA) will be holding their winter meeting at the St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN on Thursday and Friday, January 31 and February 1, 2002. Persons registered for the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference may also attend the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association educational sessions for an additional fee of \$15 per person. For information on the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association’s educational program, please contact Pat Olive at 651-462-3126.

## **MFVGA Policy on Conference Registration Cancellations and Refunds:**

MFVGA will refund registration fees for the 2002 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in full in the MFVGA office is notified before Friday, January 25, 2002. If the MFVGA office is notified after January 25th, but before January 28th, 75% of the registration amount will be refunded. No refund will be issued if registrations are cancelled after Monday, January 28, 2002.

## **Exhibitors – There’s Still Time!!**

It isn’t too late to sign up for the 2002 Trade Show! For more information and an application form, call the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400.

## List of Exhibitors – 2002 Trade Show

The following vendors will be exhibiting at the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show. The Trade Show will be January 31 and February 1, 2002 at the St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN.

Ag Resource, Inc.  
Ag-Tec  
Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)  
Agra Quest, Inc.  
Agro-K Corp.  
Barr, Inc.  
Bayer Corporation  
Central Landscape Supply  
Chesmore Seed Company  
C.S.I. Chemical Corp.  
Farmer's Choice Food Brands  
Glacier Valley Enterprises  
House of Webster  
Isanti County Equipment, Inc.  
J.R. Johnson Supply, Inc.  
Jordan Seeds, Inc.  
MIDC Enterprises  
Mid-States Supply  
Midwest Food Alliance  
Minnesota AgrAbility Project  
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Grown Promotion  
Nelson's Vegetable Storage Systems, Inc.  
Olson Power & Equipment  
OXBO International  
Paul's Electric, Inc.  
Pyramid Publishing, Inc.  
Renaissance Fertilizers, Inc.  
Rispens Seeds, Inc.  
Roeters Farm Equipment, Inc.  
Rusty's Ag Sales  
Smurfit Stone Container Corp.  
Stokes Seeds, Inc.  
UAP Great Lakes – LaCrescent  
UAP Midwest – Howe  
University of Wisconsin - Healthy Farmers, Healthy Profits