

Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference January 19 & 20, 2017

Sponsored by
The Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
in cooperation with the
University of Minnesota Extension
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Thursday morning, January 19, 2017

OPENING SESSION

- 8:45 – 9:00 Welcome & Announcements
9:00 – 9:30 Minnesota Farmers' Union – A Voice for Minnesota Agriculture
Thom Peterson
9:30 – 10:30 How You Can Use Drone Technology on Your Farm – Kraig Nelson,
Central Lakes College
10:30 – 11:00 Break to the Trade Show
11:00 – 12:00 The Berry Patch in Stephentown, NY – Achieving the Impossible –
Dale Ila Riggs

Thursday afternoon, January 19, 2017

SESSION I: BERRY PRODUCTION

- 1:15 – 2:15 Year in Review – Audience Participation
2:15 – 3:00 Native Pollinators in Blueberries – Dr. Karl Foord, University of
Minnesota Extension
3:00 – 3:15 Break to the Trade Show
3:15 – 4:00 Successfully Growing Pesticide Free Blueberries in the Age of SWD –
Dale Ila Riggs, The Berry Patch, Stephentown, NY
4:00 – 4:45 Minnesota SWD Research Update and Grower Discussion
Dr. Bill Hutchison, Dr. Mary Rogers, Dr. Chris Philips (University of Minnesota)

SESSION II: HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION

- 1:15 – 2:00 Greenhouse Grown Winter Greens – Dr. Carl Rosen, University of
Minnesota
2:00 – 2:45 Soil Management & Cover Crops – Liz Perkus & Anne Pfeiffer,
University of Minnesota
2:45 – 3:15 Break to the Trade Show
3:15 – 4:00 Pollination in High Tunnels – Dr. Karl Foord, University of Minnesota Extension
4:00 – 4:45 High Tunnel Diseases – Research Update & Emerging Issues –
Dr. Angela Orshinsky, University of Minnesota

SESSION III: EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT

- 1:15 – 2:00 Hiring Foreign Workers and the H2A Program – Jerry Untiedt, Untiedt’s Vegetable Farm and John Jacobson, Pine Tree Orchards
- 2:00 – 2:45 Worker Protection Standard: One Small Farm’s Approach – Dan Whitcomb, J. Q. Fruit Farm
- 2:45 – 3:15 Break to the Trade Show
- 3:15 – 4:00 Food Safety Modernization Act: What Small Farms Need to Know and Do – Michele Schermann, University of Minnesota

SESSION IV: COLE CROPS

- 1:15 – 1:45 Black Rot and Other Diseases of Cole Crops – Michelle Grabowski, University of Minnesota Extension
- 1:45 – 2:15 Insects – Dr. Chris Philips, University of Minnesota (NCROC)
- 2:15 – 2:45 Weed Control – Dr. Bernard Zandstra, Michigan State University
- 2:45 – 3:15 Fertility Requirements for Field Grown Cole Crops – Dr. Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota

SESSION IV: COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

- 3:30 – 4:30 Making Your CSA Run Smoothly – Facilitated Discussion
Led by Linda Carter, Carter’s Red Wagon Farm
- 4:45 – 5:15 MFVGA Business Meeting**
- 5:15 – 6:30 Social Hour in the Trade Show Area**
- 6:30 Buffet Supper in Trade Show Area (Tickets Required)**

Friday morning, January 20, 2017

GENERAL SESSION

- 8:00 – 9:00 Consumer Survey Results – Paul Hugunin & Tessa Ganser,
Minnesota Grown Program
- 9:00 – 9:30 Identifying Customers & Expanding Markets through Social Media –
Discussion facilitated by MN Grown
- 9:30 – 10:00 Break to the Trade Show

SESSION I: BERRY SESSION

- 10:00 – 10:45 Grower Profile – Stuart Lavalier, Lavalier's Berry Patch & Orchard
- 10:45 – 11:15 Cyclamen Mites After Endosulfan– Dr. Thaddeus McCamant,
Central Lakes College
- 11:15 – 11:45 New and Unreleased Varieties – Terry Nennich, Rod Elmstrand and
Dr. Brian Smith
- 11:45 – 12:15 Controlling Tough Weeds in Strawberries – Dr. Bernard Zandstra,
Michigan State University

SESSION II: AGRITOURISM

- 10:00 – 11:00 Visitors on Farms and Ranches...Keeping Them Safe
- 11:00 – 12:00 Emergency! How Do I Plan for That?

Interactive sessions with Marsha Salzwedel, Youth Agricultural Safety Specialist with the National Farm Medicine Center and the National Children's Center for Rural Agricultural Health and Safety in Marshfield, WI.

SESSION III: EMERGING SERIOUS INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES

- 10:00 – 11:00 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Swede Midge and More !! –
Dr. Chris Philips, University of Minnesota (NCROC)
- 11:00 – 12:00 Emerging Diseases – Jeanne Ciborowski, Minnesota Department of
Agriculture

SESSION IV: CUT FLOWERS – Part I Frank and Pamela Arnosky – Texas Specialty Cut Flowers

- 10:00 – 10:30 The Cut Flower Business, Then and Now, and Where Your Farm Fits In
- 10:30 – 11:15 Inside or Out? Field and High Tunnel Growing Systems
- 11:15 – 12:00 Variety Selection – What to Grow - Annuals

Friday afternoon, January 20, 2017

SESSION I: VINE CROPS

- 1:15 – 2:00 Varieties – Jason Williamson, Siegers Seed Company
2:00 – 2:45 Weed Control – Dr. Bernard Zandstra, Michigan State University
2:45 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 3:45 How to Identify and Manage Old, Emerging, and New Diseases of Vine Crops in Minnesota – Dr. Angela Orshinsky, University of Minnesota
3:45 – 4:30 How Plant Spacing Affects Yield, Size, and Weed Control – Terry Nennich, University of Minnesota Extension, Emeritus and Rod Elmstrand, Rod's Berry Farm

SESSION II: TREE FRUIT

- 1:15 – 2:00 Potential Additions to Your Apple Orchard – Plums, Pie Cherries, etc. – Dr. Brian Smith, University of Wisconsin – River Falls
2:00 – 2:45 Quality Standards and Yield for Honeycrisp, Zestar & Sweetango – Dr. Thaddeus McCamant, Central Lakes College
2:45 – 3:00 Break
3:00 – 3:45 Year in Review
3:45 – 4:30 Hard Cider Industry Update/Roundtable

SESSION III: HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION

- 1:15 – 2:00 Haygrove Tunnels – Pros & Cons – Paul Nelson, Untiedt's Vegetable Farm
2:00 – 2:30 Internal Management of High Tunnels – Terry Nennich, University of Minnesota Extension, Emeritus
2:30 – 3:15 Grapes in High Tunnels – Tim O'Brien and Terry Nennich
3:15 – 3:30 Break
3:30 – 4:00 Technologies – Sides, Vents, etc. – Don Josko, BFG
4:00 – 5:00 Yields in High Tunnel Tomatoes – Dr. Thaddeus McCamant, Central Lakes College

SESSION IV: CUT FLOWERS – Part II Frank and Pamela Arnosky – Texas Specialty Cut Flowers

- 1:15 – 2:00 Variety Selection Continued – Perennials and Bulbs
2:00 – 2:45 Grow It! Seeding, Plug Production and Field Growing
2:45 – 3:15 Pick It! Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling
3:15 – 3:30 Break
3:30 – 4:00 Sell It! Who Are Your Customers and How to Market to Them?
4:00 – 4:30 Bouquets by the Thousands – Efficient Bouquet Production
4:30 – 4:45 Where's the Money? Economics and Cash Flow
4:45 – 5:00 Questions ??