

Crop Production

Meeting set on pest, crop management

THE annual Crop and Pest Management Meeting, set for Dec. 20 at the Michigan State University Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, will look back at the 2006 crop year and look ahead to pest control and crop management recommendations for 2007.

The meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is designed for agrichemical dealers, crop consultants, agribusiness

representatives and Extension educators. Information and recommendations on pesticides will assist growers in making year-end purchasing plans for the 2007 crop.

MSU Extension specialists will be on hand to answer questions about weed, insect and disease management strategies, and discuss results of recent research studies.

Michigan Department of Agriculture

pesticide applicator recertification credits and certified crop adviser credits will be available for those who attend this meeting.

The registration fee is \$50 before Dec. 15 and \$55 after that date. It covers all educational sessions, lunch and handouts including the 2007 MSU Extension Weed Control Guide (MSU Extension Bulletin E-434) and the 2007 Insect and Nematode Control Guide

(MSU Extension Bulletin E-1582).

To register or for more information, call the Eaton County MSU Extension office at (517) 543-2310.

Additional information is available online at web1.msue.msu.edu/eaton/2006cropmanagementupdate.pdf.

The 2007 Crop and Pest Management Meeting is sponsored by Eaton County MSU Extension and the MSU Extension Field Crops Team.



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Crop Briefs

Nugent noted for cherry work

James Nugent, coordinator of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station and a Michigan State University Extension horticulturist, was honored for his work with the cherry industry at the quarterly meeting of the Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station and MSU State Advisory Council in October.

Wal-Mart, Riveridge team up

Michigan-based Riveridge Produce's products were showcased during October and November at Wal-Mart stores in conjunction with the company's program, Salute to America's Farmers. The program, launched in September, is a yearlong campaign to spotlight Wal-Mart's commitment to purchase from local growers for distribution to stores in their areas in support of locally grown agricultural products. Riveridge Produce provided Wal-Mart stores with apples and fresh cider. Founded in 1990, Riveridge Produce is made up of a privately held farm and a retail packing operation that handles about a third of Michigan's annual apple crop. Riveridge was one of the first to use place stickers on individual apples, allowing retailers and customers to differentiate among different varieties. Riveridge has also been a leader in introducing new varieties of apples to the retail market and encouraging regional farmers to produce both traditional and new varieties.

Corn research appeal made

Research is integral to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan. State producer dollars invested in research for corn have already resulted in the development of corn-based markets such as ethanol, carpeting, fabrics, and plastics that replace petroleum-based products. Research requests for proposals are distributed to parties interested in advancing Michigan's corn industry through new and improved markets or through innovative production practices. Areas that CMPM is looking to address through research are pest management strategies, butanol, use of dried distillers grain and carbon dioxide, alternative uses for ethanol coproducts and areas increasing production efficiency, and consumer research on ethanol and corn-based products for use in marketing and education. For more information, contact the Michigan Corn office at (888) 323-6601.