President’s Message

Greetings,

Spring is here or maybe we will just go into summer. The weather still seems to be making some real swings in temperature and precipitation. Hopefully normal weather patterns will prevail.

As I write this message, apple bloom is mostly over. We have had good pollinating weather and the fruit set looks good. We need to be thinking about thinning, and as usual it is always a real challenge on what to use, when to thin, and we don’t need to go to Vegas.

The Pennsylvania tart cherry crop seems to be very poor and the word I have gotten is that most growers will not need to harvest. The sweet cherry crop fared better, but is light.

We need to be in contact with our legislators on the situation of EPA and PA-DEP on regulating all bodies of water, ponds, small streams and other bodies of water. I understand a consent period will come soon, watch for it. The control they are talking about would have a negative effect on production in agriculture. Immigration reform still is in a holding pattern and hopefully common sense will prevail.

We can be thankful we have not had the weather the Midwest has had the past several weeks. Others misfortunes make our problems not so bad.

Hopefully this letter will find you healthy and ready to tackle the challenge of our growing season and successful harvest. Eat some fruit and spread the word about how great it tastes and how healthy it is for you. Take time to enjoy your family as time flies by fast.

Tim Weiser,
SHAP President

Editorial Views
By Dr. Rob Crassweller

“Bits and Pieces”

We had our first set of twilight tree fruit meetings at the beginning of the month and will wrap them up the end of this week. This is one of the few years that I can remember having twilight meetings when there was actual bloom on the fruit trees. In going around the state it seems as if there was/is variable bloom and cold damage. Peaches at Rock Springs are non-existent except for a few solitary blooms. We have no sweet cherries and our tarts

continued on page 4
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are too young. Interesting, however, are the peach trees we planted a couple of years ago at the Master Gardener Demonstration site next door at the Ag Progress Days site which were loaded with bloom. Asian pears seem to be setting a nice crop. In apples we have some damage to king bloom in early cultivars like McIntosh and Idared; but by and large we have a lot of fruit set potential. The damage most likely occurred on April 16 when we had 21°F at the Horticulture Farm. Vinifera wine grapes up in Erie also took it on the chin. When I was up in the area in the middle of May, Pinot Noir and Syrah were seriously hurt and the other vinifera cultivars were also damaged to some extent. Around the state, peaches in central to northern Pennsylvania are pretty much non-existent as well. In southern and south central areas, some peach varieties were also damaged. I think we also escaped the cold weather of the last few days, May 6 (35°F) and May 17 (38°F).

Last week driving to the twilight meetings it was interesting to see all the wild apple seedlings in bloom. No wonder I get inundated with apple samples in the fall to identify. I saw wild apple seedlings along interstates as well as in old overgrown woodlots. Sometimes I wonder if one of these chance seedlings could be “the next big thing”. Probably very unlikely but you never know.

Classes ended the first Friday in May and graduation was held Mother’s Day. This was the first time the College of Agricultural Sciences held graduation in Bryce Jordan Center. We have outgrown Eisenhower Auditorium; last year there was not enough room for all the parents and relatives that wanted to attend. Those of you who remember your graduation in the cozy confines of the auditorium can probably relate to the need for expanding to a larger venue.

While Penn State has a new president, Dr. Eric Barron, we are still without a new dean of the college. We are very fortunate that Dr. Barb Christ has continued to serve as our interim dean. Barb has a good appreciation of the horticultural industries.

Summer at Penn State means fewer people on campus but that does not mean it is easier to get around. Every summer there is always some road construction, however, this summer has to be the worst in all my years at the University. The university is converting from coal fired heating system to natural gas so many roads on campus and leading to campus are torn up to lay the new pipes. It is so bad, that I have moved off campus to an office out at Rock Springs. The commute is much nicer and less troublesome. I have a new phone number 814-692-2184. The nice thing is, at present, I do not have an answering machine hooked up to the line so the best way to contact me will be via email at rmc7@psu.edu.
EWG ATTACKS APPLES WITH DPA PRESS RELEASE & DIRTY DOZEN
On April 23, USApple received a heads-up that Environmental Working Group (EWG) would be releasing statements at midnight to media and bloggers specifically about post-harvest use of diphenylamine (DPA) in apples to prevent storage scald. The activist group also sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting the agency reexamine usage here in the United States and, more specifically, whether carcinogenic substances form when DPA is stored or used on apples.

In 2012, the European Commission (EC), the executive body of the European Union (EU), did not approve reregistration of DPA usage in its member countries based on data that had not been completed during the reregistration process. And, earlier this year the EC lowered the maximum allowable level of DPA on apple imports to 0.1 parts per million (ppm).

Citing safety concerns over DPA usage in the EU, EWG leveraged the EC’s decision to directly attack the U.S. apple industry, and the group subsequently listed apples in the top spot on its Dirty Dozen list for the fourth year running. EWG timed the DPA media exactly one week before the official release of its Dirty Dozen round-up as a means to instigate more media attention, as interest in the scare tactic has waned the past couple of years.

USApple coordinated with industry allies to quickly gather accurate data about DPA, draft clear media talking points, and tweak our existing strategy for the expected Dirty Dozen announcement. USApple drafted a media statement/press release geared specifically toward DPA usage and industry talking points about DPA. Those materials were disseminated to the industry and to media who reached out.

USApple had a steady stream of interview requests during the days following the DPA media release and was able to infuse the apple industry’s perspective into many articles. Among media outlets with which it did interviews are Reuters News Service, Chicago Public Radio, St. Louis Dispatch, and Food Safety News, to name a few. However, many bloggers - particularly those who do not favor conventionally grown crops - ran stories on EWG’s perspective without seeking a voice from the apple or produce industries.

When the Dirty Dozen list came out, attention shifted from DPA to the annual pesticide “bad” list, which ironically was a positive for apples. USApple had another batch of interview requests, but at that time, unless it was a direct media query, USApple primarily let allied organization Alliance for Food and Farming (AFF) take the lead on reaching out to media with responses. The strategy was meant to take attention off apples specifically and to avert more articles on DPA. USApple used the press release and talking points drafted and on standby for the Dirty Dozen announcement - and which did not mention DPA. We also posted online and distributed a “Delicious Dozen” press release, a positive list of 12 scientifically-proven ways apples benefit health.

USApple has been closely monitoring media coverage, comparing activity with allied groups, and passing along relevant data to industry leaders. While there has clearly been an increase in negative media coverage as a result of EWG’s new DPA tactic, that attention has tapered off. (Apple Bites, USApple, 5/6/2014)

IMMIGRATION REFORM IN THE NEWS
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Virginia apple grower Phil Glaize held a telephonic press conference last week to draw attention to the needs of agriculture in the immigration reform debate. The event was geared toward agriculture and Virginia-based media.

Vilsack acknowledged that the “the number of days left in this congressional session are limited,” but he added, “If it is to get done, it needs to get done now.”

Glaize told reporters that he and other Virginia farmers “have spoken to both Cantor and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., about immigration reform repeatedly in recent years.” He emphasized the urgency for reform stating that “worries about workers are keeping him from expanding.”

Speaker John Boehner made headlines last week for mocking fellow Republicans for being “too scared” to tackle immigration reform and since then many are speculating that the House could vote on legislation this summer. USApple and our coalition partners in the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC) are working to keep the issue alive and urge support from key Members of the House. (Apple Bites, USApple, 5/6/2014)

EPA ANNOUNCES PROPOSED CHANGES TO FARM WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD
In the March 19, 2014 Federal Register the Environmental Protection Agency issued proposed changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The intent of these changes is increase protections from pesticide exposure for the nation’s two million agricultural workers and their families.

The proposed changes aim to strengthen the protections provided to agricultural workers and handlers under the worker protection standard by improving elements of the existing regulation, such as training, notification,
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communication materials, use of personal protective equipment, and decontamination supplies.

Summary of proposed changes:

- Annual mandatory trainings (rather than once every 5 years) to inform farm workers about the protections they are afforded under the law, including restrictions on entering pesticide-treated fields and surrounding areas, decontamination supplies, access to information and use of personal protective equipment. Expanded trainings will include instructions to reduce take-home exposure from pesticides on work clothing and other safety topics.

- Expanded mandatory posting of no-entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The signs prohibit entry into pesticide-treated fields until residues decline to a safe level.

- First-time ever minimum age requirement: Children under 16 will be prohibited from handling pesticides, with an exemption for family farms.

- New no-entry 25-100 foot buffer areas surrounding pesticide-treated fields will protect workers and others from exposure from pesticide overspray and fumes.

- Mandatory record-keeping to improve states’ ability to follow-up on pesticide violations and enforce compliance. Records of application-specific pesticide information as well as farm worker training and early-entry notification must be kept for two years.

- Personal Protection Equipment (respirator use) must be consistent with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration standards for ensuring respirators are effective, including fit test, medical evaluation and training.

- Requirement to make available to farm workers or their advocates (including medical personnel) information specific to the pesticide application, including the pesticide label and Safety Data Sheets.

- Additional changes make the rule more practical and easier to comply with for farmers.

- Continues the exemptions for family farms and broadens the definition of immediate family members which are exempt from many of the aspects of the Worker Protection Standards.

A comparison of the current regulations with the proposed standards is available at http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/comparisons-current-proposed-wps.pdf.

Comments regarding these proposed regulatory changes must be received on or before June 15, 2014 and should be identified by document identification number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0184. Pennsylvania growers with questions regarding the proposed WPS changes may contact Jim Harvey at jdh18@psu.edu or 814-863 8214. (Penn State University)

FARM BUREAU PUSHES FOR FEDERAL TAX REFORM

The American Farm Bureau Federation is pushing for reforms in the federal tax code to allow farmers to thrive economically. AFBF President Bob Stallman recently testified during a Congressional hearing on tax reform and the adjustments necessary that will keep agriculture producers competitive.

“One of the major goals of tax reform should be to provide stable, predictable rules for businesses so that they can grow and create jobs,” Stallman said. “Farm Bureau believes that Congress should end its practice of extending important business tax provisions for one or two years at a time. This practice makes it very difficult for farmers and ranchers to plan and adds immense confusion and complexity.”

Recently, Rep. Dave Camp, a Michigan Republican who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, released a tax reform proposal. His proposal, which has not been drafted into a bill, would lower both the top corporate income tax rate and the top individual tax rate to 25 percent from the current 35 percent for corporations and 39.6 for individuals.

However, several provisions in Camp’s proposal would be troubling to agriculture, including changes to Section 179, which farmers use to deduct equipment expenses. Under Camp’s proposal, Section 179 deduction limit would be permanently set at $250,000. Farm Bureau supports reinstating the 2013 level of $500,000 with a $2 million phase out level.

In written testimony Stallman told members of the Ways and Means Committee that several now-expired deductions are critical to agriculture success. They include:

- Setting the Section 179 expensing limit at $500,000.

- Allowing for bonus depreciation, which is an additional 50 percent bonus depreciation for the purchase of new capital assets including agriculture equipment.

- Keeping the Cellulosic Biofuel Producer Tax Credit, which is a $1.01 per gallon tax credit for cellulosic biofuel sold for fuel.

- Continuing the $1 per gallon tax credit for the production of biodiesel and renewable diesel fuels.

- Keeping provisions that encourage donations of conservation easements.

Stallman said farmers rely on programs like Section 179 to even out their income from one year to the next and keep their tax burden consistent from one year to the next.

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“Farming and ranching is a capital intensive business. In order to remain profitable and be competitive, farm equipment, buildings, and storage facilities must be continually upgraded and replaced,” he said. “This provision allows agricultural producers to reduce maintenance costs, take advantage of labor-saving advances, become more energy efficient and adopt technology that is environmentally friendly.”

FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS VOLUNTARY GMO LABELING BILL
Farm Bureau is supporting a federal effort that would prevent consumer confusion over separate state-based initiatives on the labeling of genetically modified ingredients. The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will also ensure that farmers have access to emerging agriculture technology they need to meet the demands of a growing nation, along with operating on a reduced environmental footprint.

The act would also direct the Food and Drug Administration to establish standards if companies want to label their products for the absence or presence of GMO ingredients. If the bill passes, the FDA would be required to conduct a review of all new GMO traits before they are used by farmers—and gives the agency the option to mandate labeling of GMO ingredients if the FDA finds a health or nutrition issue with the technology.

“The diversity of innovative options farmers and ranchers have in regard to how they grow our food is one of the reasons U.S. consumers enjoy a wide variety of foods that are also among the most affordable in the world,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman said in a statement. “Farm Bureau supports all production practices-- and common sense, science-based regulations-- that ensure consumers are receiving safe and healthy food. But we will stand adamantly opposed to those who want to take tools and technologies away from America’s farmers and affordable choices away from consumers.”

PENN STATE ANNOUNCES A TOOL TO TRACK PEST DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE
Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences offers a web-based tool enabling agricultural producers to track temperatures and crop, weed and insect pest development throughout the state. The Pennsylvania Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PA-PIPE) utilizes maps on their website which is currently tracking the development of the alfalfa weevil activity in the southern portions of the state. The maps provide an early warning system to producers to begin scouting their alfalfa fields for insect damage in areas where large populations of alfalfa weevils are projected to develop.

Other useful information on the PA-PIPE website tracks the soil temperature to aid with planting decisions, monitors plant diseases, weather data and weed germination to help with control measures. The PA-PIPE program may be accessed at http://extension.psu.edu/pa-pipe.

PENN STATE STUDYING POLLINATOR DECLINE
Researchers at Penn State are utilizing three grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Science Foundation to look at what is causing declines in pollinator populations.

Pollinators—particularly honeybees—have been in decline due to a variety of factors including poor nutrition, genetics, invasive species and other factors. Scientists have said those elements are contributing to Colony Collapse Disorder which causes bee die offs in winter months.

Current Penn State research is focusing on three areas that could be impacting pollinators:

- Scientists have identified a parasite that is linked to Colony Collapse Disorder. Research will look at the gene characteristics of this particular parasite and how it is able to affect honeybee health. Researchers hope to develop specific therapeutics to reduce the parasite’s virulence.
- Penn State scientists are also looking at the role pesticides may play in affecting pollinator health. Some current research has found that honeybees are sensitive to some formulas used in certain pesticide mixtures, including inert materials. Penn State will use grant money to study formulas and make recommendations on which mixtures may minimize impacts on pollinators.
- Lastly a grant from the National Science Foundation will examine the impact of invasive species on pollinator colonies. Researchers will look at ecosystem structure and the role it plays on pollinator health.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES PROVIDE VALUE TO AGRICULTURE
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) may become more commonplace on agricultural operations in the near future as producers realize the potential for early detection of fertilizer problems, monitoring moisture stress, mapping tile lines, measuring residue on the field and producing plant population counts.

Sophistication levels of the planes vary but more expensive models can be uploaded with a flight plan, take aerial photos by itself, determine wind direction and land automatically within two feet of a predetermined site. The planes use a global positioning system to locate any field on the farm and will scout entire fields quickly and efficiently.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has provided guidelines for UAVs such as establishing a maximum plane weight of under four pounds, flying at a maximum altitude of 400 feet, restricting flights near airports and

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prohibiting flying at night. The FAA is planning to issue final regulations on UAVs by the fall of 2015. Agricultural producers are projected to comprise a major segment of the unmanned plane market utilizing its capabilities to scout fields to enable better agronomic decisions.

COURT RULES IN “RIGHT TO FARM” CASE
The Pennsylvania Superior Court has issued a decision on an appeal challenging the interpretation of the state’s Right to Farm Law, which was mostly positive for agriculture. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau filed a “friend of the court” brief over concerns with extremely unfavorable interpretations of the law being offered by residents trying to sue a neighboring farm.

The case originated in York County after neighbors complained about the use of biosolids on a farm. If adopted by the court, the neighbors’ interpretation of the law would have virtually eliminated any meaningful protection from nuisance lawsuits.

“The extreme interpretations of the Right to Farm Law advocated by the neighbors would have made the law’s protections of farms from nuisance suits meaningless,” said John Bell, PFB’s government affairs counsel. “We are thankful the court rejected these interpretations and kept the Right to Farm Law’s intended goals and protections from nuisance suits intact.”

At issue in the case was the interpretation of the Right to Farm Law’s provision that protects farms making a “substantial change.”

The court favorably ruled the law’s protection continuously reoccurs after each change is made, and the time period for determining reestablishment of the protection is strictly one year from the date the farmer first makes the change, not a year after neighbors may be “affected” by the change.

Superior Court did, however, reverse the lower court’s ruling outright that the use of biosolids is part of “normal agricultural operation,” and sent the case back for the court to hear additional testimony on the issue. PFB’s friend of the court brief focused on the possible negative interpretation of the Right to Farm Law and did not address the use of biosolids.

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Directions: Interstate 81 to Exit 107, Route 209 South, 4 miles, Turn left
On Keystone Street, Follow 1 mile to Tallman Family Farms.
On May 4, Kayla Silko was chosen the 2014 Pennsylvania Apple Queen during the Apple Blossom Festival. Kayla is the daughter of Cindy and Ron Silko and is a sophomore at Fairfield High School. The Pennsylvania Apple Princesses are Eleanor White and Melissa Karlheim. Eleanor White is the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth White and a junior at Biglerville High School. Melissa Karlheim is the daughter of Darlene and Kenneth Karlheim and a sophomore at Fairfield High School.

Other contestants included: Anne-Marie Weiser, the daughter of Steve Weiser and Dawn Baker, a junior at Bermudian Springs High School; Taylor Naugle, the daughter of Matthew and Jennifer Naugle, a junior at Fairfield High School; Valerie Bell, the daughter of Keith Bell and Sherri Bell, a junior at Fairfield High School; Amy Tosten, the daughter of Judy and Douglas Tosten, a junior at Biglerville High School.

Our Flower Girl and Crown Bearer for the Coronation were Allison Phillips, daughter of James and Julie Phillips and Jacoby Kraft, son of Jesse and Jessica Kraft. Kristi Kraft, the 2013 PA Apple Queen presided over the festivities. Kristi is the daughter of Robert and Mary Kraft.

Overview of Fruit Culture in Georgia

By Z. Bobokashvili, E. Maghlakelidze & J. Mdinaradze

Fruit growing has a long history of cultivation in Georgia. According to scientific research Georgia is country of origin of various species of apple, pear, plum, cherry, medlar, hazelnut and other major and minor fruit crops. Actually Georgia has produced apple, pear, quince, plum, cherry, peach, apricot, hazelnut and other fruits. The total production of perennial fruits in Georgia fluctuated from 124,100 (2010) till 227,500 (2007). The total surface of commercial fruit orchards is around 40,000 ha (2004). The archeological evidence has proved that in Georgia people used pear and other fruits for consumption in the period of the Upper Paleolitic-late stone Age. In Georgia various agricultural-horticultural tools were found (pruners, knives) and seeds of peach (P. persica) and snowball (Viburnum opulus L.) in archeological remains of the Bronze Age. The famous historic Hypocrite (V-IV century BC) gives interesting information about diversity of fruit crops in Georgia. Herodotus (IV century BC) has noted as well that “people from forests of Caucasus basically consumed wild fruits and plants”. The commercial production of fruits in Georgia started in the middle of the XIX century, when the country got the chance to export fruits to neighborhood countries – Georgian fruits have been distinguished with good marketing view, aroma and tastes. In the XX century fruit production became one of the important sources of economical income for the country – in the 1980s the fruit orchard amount increased till 154,600 ha. Important applied and theoretical research works have been done during the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century for fruit production improvement in Georgia. The research was done in almost all directions of fruit production – breeding, cultivar evaluation, pruning, fertilization, fruit storage, propagation and other fields of fruit growing. Actually, the main emphasis for on-going and perspective research is local germplasm conservation, cultivar testing, and improvement of propagation methods and fruit tree pruning-training evaluation.

(From Acta Horticultura 1032:85)
Mulching Practices Altered Soil Bacterial Community Structure and Improved Orchard Productivity and Apple Quality After Five Growing Seasons  By Y. Chen et al.

Agricultural management influences soil characteristics, which may in turn affect the soil microbial community and composition based on microbial characteristics and biological functions. The effects of different mulching practices (grass mulch, cornstalk mulch, film mulch, CK) on the soil bacterial community structure, and their implications for orchard productivity and fruit quality were studied in an apple orchard in the Loess Plateau. Treatments were established and sustained in the apple orchard since September 2006. The soil bacterial community structure, soil physicochemical properties, apple size and fruit quality were determined in 2011. A total of 383 clones from libraries were recovered and analyzed. The results demonstrated that the predominant groups in the bacterial community were Alphaproteobacteria (12.27%), Betaproteobacteria (12.79%), Acidobacteria (13.58%) and Bacteroidetes (11.48%). The ratios of the phyla Alphaproteobacteria, Betaproteobacteria, Deltaproteobacteria and Actinobacteria differed significantly (P < 0.05) among treatments. PCoA and Parsimony tests indicated that bacterial communities in mulching treatments were significantly different compared with the CK treatment. It was suggested that changes in the soil bacterial community structure and composition were associated with differences in organic material input and soil physicochemical conditions. Furthermore, stepwise regressions and principal component analyses indicated that changes in the soil bacterial community structure were associated with both orchard productivity and fruit quality in this region. Bacterial traits, i.e. ACE, were found in all of the regression models. Overall, the cornstalk mulch treatment resulted in better plant performance and soil fertilization than the other treatments. This study aimed to provide fundamental information for the scientific application of mulching practices and to serve as a theoretical foundation for maintaining the sustainability of agriculture in the ecosystems of the Loess Plateau.

(From Scientia Horticulturae 172:248)
It was an honor to be one of the chosen Young Apple Leaders to participate in the Annual Capitol Hill Day with US Apple in March 2014. This was the largest Young Apple Leader program to date with 18 participants from 10 states across the US.

The young leaders were treated to a welcome dinner on Wednesday evening. This was the perfect environment for meeting and greeting our peers in the industry as well some of the US Apple staff and current board members.

Thursday started with a legislative briefing breakfast to give insight on the day. Everyone then split off with their representative states and went to Capitol Hill to visit several of the elected officials of that state. Although we were unable to meet personally with Senators and State Representatives because they were in recess, we were actually able to spend much more time discussing issues with their legislative assistants and directors. We were fortunate enough to meet with legislative assistants Brett Doyle (Senator Toomey), Liz Hermsen (Senator Casey), Marianne Myers (Representative Perry), Tricia Cascio (Representative Kelly), Carson Middleton (Representative Pitts) and legislative director Jamie Boone Biondi (Representative Stuster). The major issue that has the apple industry concerned is the agricultural labor reform. Some of the other issues discussed were the importance of international trade, research, and crop protection.

We continued to thank them for passing the farm bill. Although everyone we met with was very receptive of our concerns, it could be said that there was consensus that our government is currently at a standstill and we should not expect anything to move forward until there is a change in legislation. With that said, one of the most valuable aspects of the trip was the networking opportunities that we all had with industry leaders across the nation.

I would like to thank Jessa Allen and the US Apple staff and board of directors for organizing an amazing educational and networking event. I would like to thank Ken Guise and Knouse Foods for sponsoring a group of Young Apple Leaders to participate in the event. This is an opportunity that I hope many young apple leaders will have a chance to experience.
Penn State Extension 18th Annual
“Are You Crazy” Retail Farm Markets Tour
July 22 & 23, 2014

Sponsored by: Pennsylvania Retail Farm Market Association, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, USDA, and Risk Management Agency.

WHAT:
A bus tour of seven premiere retail farm markets and one food manufacturer -- with plenty of ideas, education, food, and fun for all. This year we are exploring what Maryland has to offer. These farms and markets are major providers of fruits, berries, vegetables, prepared foods, and agri-tourism.

We have something for everyone -- seasonal, year-round, produce, food, tourism, value-added, pick-your-own, entertainment, and educational farm direct-to-consumer marketing at its finest! Not to mention the “classroom-on-wheels” as we travel between markets with opportunities to network and learn from each other. New this year! Each business we visit will share info on a “Specialty Topic”.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
Any farm market owner, manager, or other personnel interested in seeing and learning from a variety of retail farm market and agri-tourism entrepreneurs.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE:
We will tour each operation and focus on what has made it a success. The emphasis is on seeing what others are doing, peer networking, sharing, and learning.

We will be touring:
CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN ORCHARD, THURMONT, MD
Catoctin Mountain Orchard is a four-generation farm with a diversified orchard operation growing fruit, berries, and vegetables on 125 acres. Their tomatoes, cantaloupes, squash, peppers, eggplant, kale, and cabbage are grown on black plastic using a high-bedder to apply fertilizer and lay miles of tubing for trickle or drip irrigation. Each year they plant new variety test trees looking for the best tasting fruit! A half-acre of kiwi berries are their newest venture. They offer fruit, vegetables, a bakery, pick-your-own fruit, cut-your-own flowers, farm market, and farm tours.

*Specialty Topic: A visit to the top of the Orchard for an breathtaking view of the farm discussing the “diversity” of crops including the varieties of plums, continuing to the retail market to explore the market, cold storages, freezer, and bakery.

www.catoctinmountainorchard.com/

BAUGHER FARM, WESTMINSTER, MD
Celebrating over 100 years in Carroll County, Baugher’s Orchard has been a working fruit and vegetable farm since 1904. This 600 acre operation is one of the largest orchards in Westminster, Maryland. Their operation includes a family restaurant, two markets, pick-your-own, a bakery (featuring over 20 varieties of pies, breads, and pastries), their own apple cider, a fall pumpkin patch and hayrides, playgrounds, and a petting zoo.

*Specialty Topic: Management of large crowds during the busy season. In October they employ 130 people and serve up to 5,000 visitors each day.

www.baughers.com/

MCCUTCHEON’S APPLE PRODUCTS, INC., FREDERICK, MD
McCutcheon’s Apple Products is a four-generation family owned company geared toward serving small businesses. They produce all natural gourmet fruit preserves and butters, jellies, juices, condiments, sodas, and much more. Since 1938, they have worked to create a broad line of outstanding products and build exceptional relationships with customers and supporters. In an effort to bring more green practices into their business, they are going solar by installing an array of solar panels which will fully power the factory operation.

*Specialty Topic: Explore a large scale food manufacturer with a tour of the factory.

www.mccutcheons.com/

BUTLER’S ORCHARD, GERMANTOWN, MD
Butler’s Orchard is a family farm providing good green fun and local produce for over 60 years. They operate a farm market, pick-your-own, bakery, field trips and events such as group hayrides and bonfires, strawberry blossom tours, group pick-your-own outings, Bunnyland, and Pumpkin Harvest Days. Butler’s is an Integrated Pest Management Farm with a professional scout who consults with them weekly to check their crops for insects and disease pressures, allowing them to reduce applications and move toward more sustainable production systems.

*Specialty Topic: Pick-Your-Own: reducing theft, while improving the customer experience.

www.butlersorchard.com/

LARRILAND FARM, WOODBINE, MD
Larriland Farm is family owned and operated by Larry and Polly Moore. They have a farm market, but they are recognized as a pick-your-own farming operation which started in 1973. They grow tart and sweet cherries, strawberries, thornless blackberries, black, red, and purple raspberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, and vegetables including spinach, tomatoes, beets, broccoli, and pumpkins.

*Specialty Topic: How they manage a large Pick-Your-Own operation.

www.pickyourown.com/

continued on page 14
RICHARDSON FARMS OF WHITE MARSH, WHITE MARSH, MD
There are three generations of the Richardson family involved in the day-to-day operations. Not only have they managed the largest farm stand in the Northeast Market in Baltimore, Maryland since 1930, in 2010 the new On-Farm Market was opened. Under the supervision of their Executive Chef, the kitchen and deli prepares whole, carryout meals, or your choice of delicious food items such as rotisserie chickens, slow-smoked barbeque, cheese, deli meats, fantastic desserts, and more. Richardson Farms grows more than 300 acres of fresh produce and provides locally grown fresh vegetables to area wholesalers.

*Specialty Topic: “Chefing” and how to incorporate foods from the farm into restaurant menus.
http://richardsonfarms.net/

WEBER CIDER MILL FARM, BALTIMORE, MD
Since 1908, over four generations of the Weber family have been market gardeners and fruit growers. Weber’s Cider Mill Farm is Maryland’s oldest cider mill in continuous use. Their farm includes a farm market, bakery, and gift shop. The farm market features summer fruits and vegetables, including 45 varieties of peaches and continues into fall harvest with over 20 varieties of apples, their cider, and fall fruits and vegetables. The bakery produces over 20 different types of pies, cider donuts, hand-dipped ice cream, fudge, apple cider, and fruit slush. Their gift shop offers baskets, children’s books, soy candles, and home décor.

*Specialty Topic: Cider processing and varietal ciders.
www.weberscidermillfarm.com/

MILBURN ORCHARDS, ELKTON, MD
Family owned and operated since 1902 Milburn Orchards is now run by the fourth generation of the Milburn family. Milburn Orchards provides families with high quality farm fresh fruits and vegetables, available in their farm market or wholesale. For more than 100 years, families have been driving from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and points beyond to visit the Milburn Orchards. Two years ago they built an addition onto the original building, which more than doubled the size of the market.

*Specialty Topic: Transitioning into a new market facility.
www.milburnorchards.com/

Lunch on Tuesday & Wednesday & supper on Tuesday will be at the markets we are visiting.

REGISTRATION:
Pre-registration is necessary because of bus and lodging reservation requirements and will be honored on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Registration Deadline: June 30, 2014. All major credit cards and checks accepted. No refunds after June 30, 2014.

To register, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/AYCTrip
For assistance with registration: 610-391-9840, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The registration fee covers the tour bus transportation, one night at a hotel (breakfast on your own), reference materials, refreshments, dinner on Tuesday, and lunch on both days.

Your registration fee depends on how many you have sleeping in your hotel room:

One person/room tour fee: $320.00
Two people/room tour fee: $255.00 each
Three people/room tour fee: $235.00 each
Four people/room tour fee: $225.00 each

We will be boarding our tour bus at three locations:
6:00 a.m. at the Lehigh County Ag Center parking lot: 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104-5798
7:15 a.m. at Penn State Extension Lancaster County Farm & Home Center parking lot: 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601-3184 Park in the west corner, near Route 30.
8:45 a.m. at Penn State Extension Adams County parking lot: 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-3404

NOTE: The bus will depart promptly. Please be prepared to be on time, or better, a little early.

Expected to arrive back Wednesday, July 23rd in:
Lancaster around 5:55 p.m.
Gettysburg around 6:55 p.m.
Allentown around 7:25 p.m.
Effects of Fruit Load and Reflective Mulch on Phenolic Compounds Accumulation in Nectarine Fruit

By C. Andreotti, D. Ravaglia, G. Costa

The influence of fruit load per tree and reflective mulch on the content of phenol compounds was studied in two experiments conducted on nectarines (cultivar ‘Stark Red Gold’) from two orchards differing in tree density (1.660 and 830 trees ha⁻¹). Low crop load significantly increased fruit size and weight in both trials. Other parameters such as soluble solids, flesh firmness, acidity and skin color were affected only in nectarines from the low density orchard. At harvest, fruits from the low density orchard were more mature on low crop load trees compared to intermediate and high crop load trees. Crop load clearly affected the concentration of phenolic compounds: low-load fruits had a higher accumulation of phenolic compounds in skin and pulp tissues. Concentrations of cinnamic acids and flavan-3-ols consistently showed an inverse relationship to crop load. Inter-row reflective mulching modified average maximum temperature and the intensity of reflected light in the canopy. The mulching also changed fruit quality at harvest by promoting the ripening and generally increasing the concentration of the main classes of phenolic compounds. Our data indicate that health promoting value of nectarine fruits can be enhanced by increasing phenolic content via crop load and reflective mulches.

(From European J. Hort. Sci. 75:53)

Arandell’—a Disease-resistant Red Wine Grape

By B. Reisch, R. Luce & A. Mansfield

‘Arandell’ is a disease-resistant red wine grape cultivar that ripens in midseason. Only minimal efforts are needed to control powdery mildew (Erysiphe necator Schw.), downy mildew (Plasmopara viticola Berl. & de Toni), and Botrytis bunch rot (Botrytis cinerea Pers.). The vine is moderately productive and, in New York’s Finger Lakes region, it is adequately winter hardy. The wine is dark red with dominant aromas of blueberry and black cherry. ‘Arandell’ was developed at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University, Geneva, NY. It resulted from a cross between two interspecific hybrid selections from the Cornell Grape Breeding Program. This cross was made in 1995, and 183 seedlings were planted to a fungicide-free nursery in 1996. The 23 most disease-resistant seedlings were saved and planted to a permanent vineyard site in 1997. One seedling stood out from the rest as a result of its high resistance to downy and powdery mildews combined with promising vine size and cluster characteristics. This seedling (designated NY95.0301.01) was selected and propagated in 2001. For both enological and viticultural comparisons, ‘Chambourcin’, an interspecific hybrid red wine cultivar, was used as a standard. ‘Arandell’ was tested only in the absence of fungicides to allow for disease resistance assessment under adverse conditions. Own-rooted vines of ‘Arandell’ grown in phylloxera- (Daktulosphaira vitifolae) infested soils are moderately vigorous. Vines have an orderly and distinct upright growth habit with smaller leaves and a less dense canopy than most hybrid (Vitis sp.) cultivars. Budbreak usually occurs before ‘Chambourcin’ and ‘Traminette’ but after ‘Concord’.

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Field studies were conducted in 2011 and 2012 at the Sandhills Research Station near Jackson Springs, NC to determine the influence of weed-free strip width (WFSW) on newly planted ‘Navaho’ blackberry plant growth, fruit yield, and fruit quality. Treatments consisted of 0-, 0.3-, 0.6-, 1.2-, 1.8-, and 2.4-m WFSW. Predicted blackberry yield increased from 718 to 1,015 kg ha$^{-1}$ at WFSW of 0 to 2.4 m. The currently recommended WFSW of 1.2 m resulted in a blackberry yield of 1,013 kg ha$^{-1}$. Predicted individual blackberry fruit weight displayed a positive linear response to WFSW and increased from 3.1 to 3.6 g fruit$^{-1}$ at WFSW of 0 to 2.4 m. Soluble solids content (SSC) of dull black blackberry fruit was greatest (15.1 Brix) when WFSW was 0 m. Relative to a WFSW of 0 m, SSC was reduced 2.3 to 3.4% as WFSW increased from 0.3 to 2.4 m, respectively. WFSW did not influence shiny black blackberry fruit SSC, nor titratable acidity, sugar-to-acid ratio, or pH of shiny or dull blackberry fruit or primocane number, length and stem caliper.

(From Weed Technology 28:426)

Freeze events during bloom can be a relatively frequent occurrence in many apple (Malus ×domestica) production areas in the United States that significantly reduce orchard productivity and profitability. This study investigated the potential for a proprietary mixture of gibberellin A$_4$ + A$_7$ and 6-benzyladenine (GA$_{4+7}$ plus 6-BA) to increase fruit set and cropping of apple following freeze events at three locations across the United States during bloom in 2012. GA$_{4+7}$ plus 6-BA increased fruit set in two of five experiments, and increased fruit number and yield per tree in three of five experiments. GA$_{4+7}$ plus 6-BA increased fruit set and yield of ‘Taylor Spur Rome’ following freezes on two consecutive days during bloom when the minimum temperature reached 23.9 and 28.4 °F. Fruit set was increased due to a stimulation of parthenocarpic fruit growth. Using locally obtained market prices, GA$_{4+7}$ plus 6-BA application(s) after a freeze increased fruit set and cropping in some instances, tree yields were well below the average yields previously obtained in the test orchards.

(From HortTechnology 24:171)
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