

# Ag Action 2010

One of Southwest Michigan's Biggest Ag & Home Horticultural Events!

**Registration: \$15**  
(includes lunch)

**Friday, January 29, 2010**  
**Kalamazoo Valley**  
**Community College**  
**8:00 a.m. –to 4:00 p.m.**

**Join MSU Extension educators & specialists for a full day of educational programs with a variety of sessions, including:**

- Interaction Between Weeds & Soil Fertility
- Grape Pest Management
- Reducing Herbicide Use
- Weed ID
- Ag & Natural Resource Cost Share Opportunities
- Commercial Vegetables and GAP
- Marketing Small Flock Poultry Products
- Corn & Soybean Insect Control Update
- Tree Fruit Management
- 'Green' Your Green Business
- Critter Proofing Your Landscape
- Wind Energy Leases & Other Land Use Issues
- Producing & Marketing for the Small-Scale Producer
- Animal Welfare, Imaging & Legislative Update
- Corn Stalk & Grain Diseases
- Blueberry IPM
- What is the Right-of-Way?
- Companion Planting
- Pricing & Marketing Your Woodlot
- Canning for Commercial Sales
- Genetics & Improved Forages for Cattle
- Update on the Farm Bill: ACRE and SURE Programs

## **Trade Show Exhibition**

will be open  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Restricted Use  
Pesticide Exams  
will be given between  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

# 2010 Ag Action Day

**22 Educational  
Sessions Available**

## **RUP & CCA Credits will be offered.**

Please Note: All classes denoted as having RUP credits are subject to approval by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Commercial core and category credits have been applied for as listed in each session. Participants should be able to obtain 1 RUP credit by attending a class that is approved in each time slot for a maximum of 3 RUP credits for the day.

All classes denoting CCA credit are subject of approval by the American Society of Agronomy.

There will be a \$5 charge to take the RUP exam if you are not attending any sessions.

**Door Prize Drawing will  
start at 3:15 p.m.  
in the cafeteria**

**Session 1  
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.**

**Interaction Between Weeds and Soil Fertility** – Laura Bast, Crop and Soil Sciences Ph.D Candidate (**RUP Private, 1A, CCA Credits**)

Review recent research & discuss critical issues involving the impact of weed control on nitrogen fertility in corn. Also hear about the soil fertility and weed control issues caused by the cold wet soils last spring.

**Grape Pest Management** – Mark Longstroth, District Extension Fruit Educator (**RUP Private, 1C Credits**)

Review the annual production cycle of grapes as well as the lifecycles of insects and disease that attack grapes. These reviews will allow growers to make good pesticide choices, understand insect and diseases life cycles as well as disease infection conditions. Pesticide selection and effectiveness will also be discussed.

**Reducing Herbicide Use in Urban, Suburban and Rural Landscapes** – Ben Yost, Owner - Farm N Garden (**RUP 3A, 3B, Commercial Core**)

This session will emphasize innovative growing practices to reduce herbicide loading in cultivated landscapes.

**Weed ID** – Ron Calhoun, Crop and Soil Sciences Specialist (**RUP 3A**)

Nipping your weed control in the bud starts with knowing which plants are truly troublesome weeds. Learn the difference between the toxic and not toxic types.

**Ag and Natural Resource Cost Share Opportunities** – Stacy Kimble, Kalamazoo County NRCS (**CCA Credit**)

This session will provide an overview of cost share opportunities available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. From wildlife habitat to nutrient management to improving irrigation efficiency, your local NRCS office has programs to help you protect natural resources.

**Commercial Vegetables and GAP** – Dr. Ron Goldy, District Extension Educator, and Phil Tocco, Jackson County Extension Educator (**RUP 1B, CCA Credit**)

Learn about updates on Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center 2009 trials, including zucchini and onion trials and the 2009 vine crop and tomato disease situation. Also, hear about the GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification process, what GAP is, why buyers want it, and how growers can adopt this practice.

**Marketing Small Flock Poultry Products** – Paul Wylie, Allegan MSUE CED and MSU Poultry Team

Selling eggs or dressed birds from a small scale poultry operation is subject to some rules and regulations. Find out what you have to do to comply and be able to legally sell products from your small scale poultry farm. We will also discuss ways to reach new customers.

**Session 2**  
**11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

**Corn and Soybean Insect Control Update** – Fred Warner, Plant Pathology Specialist, and Mike Jewett, Entomology Research Assistant **(RUP Private, 1A, 1B, CCA Credits)**

2009 was a year where insects caused interesting challenges. Participants will learn about Western Bean Cutworm and Soybean Aphid Challenges, what to look for when spider mites attack, and where to look for nematode challenges in both corn and soybeans.

**Tree Fruit Pest Management** – Dr. Bill Shane, District Extension Fruit Educator, and Mark Longstroth, District Extension Fruit Educator **(RUP Private, 1C)**

A review of insect and disease control in tree fruit. New pesticide chemistries are being introduced to control insects and diseases. Application timing, mode of action, effectiveness and longevity in the field will be reviewed as they influence pesticide choice. Pesticide resistance management and insect and disease development models will also be discussed. Growers who attend this session will be able to make informed decisions on planning their pesticide choices to maintain an IPM program in their fruit plantings.

**'Green' Your Green Business: Native Plant Buffer Design and Shoreline Training Opportunities** – Jane Herbert, District Water Quality Educator, and Steve Allen, Owner - Geum Services, Inc. **(RUP 3A, 3B)**

Inland lake property owners interested in naturalizing their shorelines need contractors who can design, install and maintain a buffer strip of native shoreline plants. An effective buffer can protect the lake by slowing runoff, help stabilize shoreline soils, create habitat for songbirds and butterflies AND deter nuisance waterfowl. This session will provide information on choosing native shoreline plants and designing a shoreline buffer. It will also provide an update on a new shoreline certification training program being offered through the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership.

**Critter Proofing Your Landscape** – Beth Clawson, Extension Natural Resources & Resource Recovery Educator  
Discover tips and techniques for managing wildlife on your property. Learn about managing wildlife through environment manipulation.

**Wind Energy Leases and Other Land Use Issues** – Steve Harsh, Professor of Agriculture, Food & Resource Economics, and Brad Neumann Extension Land Policy Educator  
Learn the basics of a wind energy contract before signing the farm away, plus how to navigate local zoning and other land use regulations related to wind tower siting.

**Producing and Marketing for the Small-Scale Producer** – Vicki Morone, Specialist - MSU Dept. of Community, Ag, Recreation & Resource Studies, George McManus IV, Piggott and Girls Farm Market, and Annette Biorge, Fruit Acres  
Thinking of expanding into small scale production for a farm market or roadside stand? Learn about tailoring production for your market and get insights on marketing and pricing from a panel of current farm market owners.

**Animal Welfare, Imaging and Legislative Update** – Beth (Franz) Ferry, Extension Swine Educator  
The animal agriculture industry has faced some trying times and in order to remain progressive & profitable we need to focus on meeting consumer demands. This session is designed to help all producers, large or small understand some of the upcoming changes in animal production that we face. You will receive an update on legislative movements and learn about ways your production system can meet the consumer demand for increased animal care and welfare standards. You will also learn skills to help promote the image of your farm, improve neighbor relations and how to address those difficult topics when questions arise.

**Session 3**  
**1:30—3:00 p.m.**

**Corn Stalk and Grain Diseases** – Diane Brown-Rytlewski, Extension Educator, Fruit, Ornamentals and Natural Resources, and Bruce MacKellar, Extension Educator **(RUP Private, 1A, CCA Credits)**

A combination of cool and dry growing conditions set the stage for immature corn and a host of disease issues. Learn more about the most common diseases and discuss ways to avoid having the problems in 2010. We will also discuss SDS, how to identify the disease and potentially some ways to reduce the incidence in your fields. Also a discussion about white mold in soybeans, and ways to reduce the incidence of this disease in irrigated soybeans.

**Blueberry IPM** - Mark Longstroth, District Extension Fruit Educator **(RUP Private, 1C)**

Review the annual production cycle of blueberries as well as the lifecycles of insects and diseases that attack blueberries. The two reviews will allow growers to understand why pesticide timings are related to plant growth and that susceptibility is an interaction of insect and diseases life cycles as well as disease infection conditions. Pesticide selection and effectiveness will also be discussed.

**What is the Right-of-Way?** – Steve Keto, WMU Landscape Services Supervisor **(RUP – Category 6, Commercial Core)**

Learn proper practices for controlling pests in these areas while following state and local regulations.

**Companion Planting** – Linda Whitlock, Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator **(RUP – 3A, 3B)**

Use the relationship of plants to enhance your organic growing. Includes resource information on OMRI where people will be able to go to get additional information.

**Pricing and Marketing Your Woodlot** – Jeff Steinkraus, Steinkraus Forest Management, LLC.  
This session will focus on many aspects of forest management from marketing, the do's and don'ts of selling timber, forest stand improvement, exotic/invasive tree/shrub problems, timber taxes, and other management decisions to having a successful woodlot.

**Canning for Commercial Sales** – Jeannie Nichols, Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Educator  
Food processing for commercial sales is not the same as your home production routine. Participants will learn how to expand home canning and freezing to the small-scale commercial level.

**Genetics and Improved Forages for Cattle** – Maury Kaercher, District Extension Livestock Educator and Rich Leep, Extension Specialist **(CCA Credit)**  
This session will address a combination of cattle genetics and forages that hopefully provide participants alternatives to generate the greatest return on their investment. Those in attendance will be exposed to various options in cattle genetics plus a better understanding on how management and improved forage species can translate into profit.

**Update on the Farm Bill: ACRE and SURE Programs** – Roger Betz, District Extension Farm Management Educator **(CCA Credit)**  
Based on current Price and Yield projections, what do the 2009 and 2010 crop year ACRE and SURE programs look like for revenue payments? How does ACRE and SURE protect crop revenue short falls? If you did not sign up for ACRE in 2009 should you look at 2010?

## Special thanks to our 2009—2010 Exhibitors!

Bronsink & Fink Equip. LLC  
Bureau of Workforce Transformation  
Crystal Flash Energy  
Dupont Inc.  
Fabricated Flex & Hose  
Farm Depot  
Food Resource Bank  
Gordon Water Systems  
Green Valley Agricultural  
GreenStone FCS  
Hamilton Distributing Company  
Kalamazoo Conservation District  
MAEAP/MGSP  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Modreske Fence / Livestock Equipment  
MSU Extension / Master Gardener  
MSU Product Center for Ag &  
Natural Resources  
Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.  
Plummer Supply  
Ryder Truck Rental  
Stine Seeds  
Thomas Bros. Equipment Sales  
Van Buren Conservation District

If you would like to be an exhibitor or sponsor at Ag Action, or if you need further information, please contact Mike Staton, MSU Extension, at 269-673-0370 or email: [staton@msu.edu](mailto:staton@msu.edu)

### How to find Kalamazoo Valley Community College:

KVCC is easy to find, located one mile south of Interstate 94, Oshtemo, exit 72.



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
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**EXTENSION**

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