

WSJM February 1, 2006 – 2006 SW Hort Days

This is Al Gaus the Berrien County Extension Educator for fruit and ornamentals reporting from the MSU Extension office in Berrien County.

Today, I want to talk about the upcoming 2006 Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days. It will be held next Wednesday and Thursday, February 8th and 9th at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center in Benton Harbor.

Pre-registration cost for this two-day event is \$20.00 per person, and includes lunch for both days. Deadline for pre-registration is February 3rd. A registration form can be obtained from our office on Hillandale Road or at the Berrien County MSU web page. Registration after the 3rd and at the door will be \$25 per person.

The basic setup of the meeting is a general session for all fruit and vegetable growers on Wednesday morning. This session will cover conservation planning, ground water, labor, and the future of the apple processing industry. Then on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, and Thursday afternoon, there will be concurrent sessions. The Wednesday afternoon vegetable session will cover pest control updates. The Wednesday afternoon fruit session will focus on peaches. The Thursday morning fruit session will focus on blueberries, and the Thursday afternoon fruit session will look at thinners and cherries. The Thursday grape sessions will cover the juice market and farm emergency preparedness. These are just a few of the talks that will occur. There will also be a tradeshow with over 30 exhibitors on both days.

Michigan Department of Agriculture pesticide recertification credits are available for most sessions.

Repeating, Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days is next Wednesday and Thursday at the LMC Mendel Center. For more information, call our office at 944-4126.

That is all for today, this has been Al Gaus for Michigan State University Extension in Berrien County.