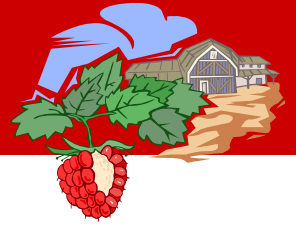


UTAH BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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WE'RE GOING ELECTRONIC

This issue of the Utah Berry Growers Association (UBGA) Newsletter is now available online at www.extension.usu.edu. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Lori Johnson at lori.johnson@usu.edu, or at 435-797-2255. Let her know if you prefer E-mail or hard copy.

Inside This Issue

Summer Farm Tour	1
UBGA Winter Meeting Announcement	2
High Tunnel Workshop	3
Wine Grape Production Guide	3
Berry Irrigation Newsletter	3
NARBA Conference Announcement	3
Elderberry Survey	3

SUMMER FARM TOUR

By Taun Beddes, Cache County Horticulture Agent
And Brent Black, Extension Fruit Specialist

The Utah Berry Growers Association sponsored a summer farm tour at the Kaysville Research Farm/Utah Botanical Center in Kaysville, Utah on August 13th. The Utah State Horticultural Association (USHA) and the Utah Vegetable Growers were co-sponsors for the event. The field day was divided into three tours where participants were able to learn about research on tree fruits, vegetables and berries.



TREE FRUIT TOUR: USU faculty member, Dr. Jennifer Reeve, gave an overview of her research on organic and reduced-input orchard floor management options for addressing fertility, weed and pest management, fruit quality and efficient water use. The project consists of two peach orchards, with one focusing on organic approaches and the other on conventional and reduced input approaches, and is funded by a grant from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Organic foods are becoming more popular with the public, but much research is still needed for producers to adapt organic approaches to

Utah's environment. With many pesticides being taken from the market, there is increased interest in alternative pest management strategies. Addressing these issues, USU Integrated Pest Management Director, Marion Murray, discussed insect monitoring and control methods using traps and lures in orchard situations. USU Extension Plant Pathologist, Dr. Kent Evans, also covered aspects of fruit tree pathogens and his work on apple fire blight control. Many participants were very interested in new approaches for controlling this disease. Kaysville-based USU research staff member, Thor Lindstrom, led the tree fruit tour and provided an overview of the NC-140 national tree fruit root-stock trial.





VEGETABLE TOUR: Extension Vegetable Specialist, Dr. Dan Drost, led the tour of vegetable research at the Kaysville farm. His research is specifically investigating crop rotation methods to supply nutrients in organic vegetable production systems. Through the use of various winter and summer cover crops, Dr. Drost is investigating how different vegetables react to and produce in these cover crops. Although, his work is in the early stages, trends in his data are encouraging. It appears that winter legumes and summer grown buckwheat is a good combination for sweet corn. Green beans, however, do not perform very well when grown after winter wheat and millet. It will be several years before specific recommendations can be made from the work. This research is supported by grants from Western SARE and the Utah Agriculture Experiment Station. Also, on the vegetable tour, USU Weed Scientist, Dr. Corey Ransom, gave an overview on his research on mulches and organic herbicides for weed control in horticultural production systems.



BERRY TOUR: Dr. Brent Black, USU Extension Fruit Specialist, guided the berry tour, featuring a raspberry variety trial funded by USU Extension and Western SARE. The 26 varieties in the planting showed the potential of some varieties for use in the region (and those not so well suited). Dr. Black also showed an alternative blackberry trellising method that could allow commercial production of blackberry varieties not typically winter hardy to northern Utah. This system involves trellis posts that are hinged so that the berry plants can actually be lowered to the ground in the winter to give growers the ability to cover the canes with mulch or row covers in the winter months. Blackberry trellis work is in conjunction with USDA scientists in West Virginia, and is funded by the Utah Agriculture Experiment Station. Also featured on the berry tour, Extension Soils Specialist, Dr. Grant Cardon, pointed out some common nutrient deficiency symptoms, and talked about the importance of soil and tissue testing for managing plant nutrition. The information he provided was well received as those involved with bramble production look forward to implementing his research into their commercial operations.



During the breaks between tours, participants enjoyed fresh raspberries and blackberries and IFA-sponsored Aggie Ice Cream, and tested their knowledge of weeds with a quiz organized by USU Extension Weed Specialist, Dr. Ralph Whitesides. All those who participated in organizing and providing information are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all those who braved the construction zones on Interstate 15 and attended the tours. We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming winter meetings.

4th Annual Winter Meeting of the Utah Berry Growers Association

Brigham City, UT

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

EXTEND YOUR SEASON

There is snow and ice on the ground in Cache Valley again! Time to think about technologies for extending your growing season.

USU Extension will be hosting an afternoon workshop on high tunnel fruit and vegetable production on November 4th, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Greenville Research Farm in North Logan. The entrance to the farm is located on 800 East and about 1900 North, just north of the USU campus.



Extension Specialists, Dr. Brent Black and Dr. Dan Drost, and graduate students, Daniel Rowley and Britney Hunter, will be presenting the latest work in adapting this technology to Utah. Featured systems will include early spring and late fall production of strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes and squash, and winter production of salad greens.

NRAES is preparing to publish *Wine Grape Production Guide for Eastern North America*.

The book will be a comprehensive resource for novice and experienced growers, as well as crop advisors, service providers, educators, communicators, and students.

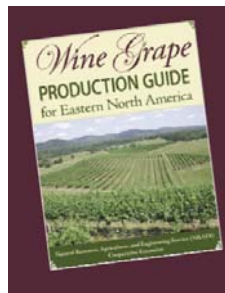
- - Special pre-printing prices are available for single copies (\$44 plus s+h) or bulk orders (\$39 plus s+h, 25 copy minimum). The list price is expected to be \$65.

- - The book will be over 300 pages and have 16 chapters, 174 color photos, 40 line drawings, 45+ variety descriptions, 42 tables of useful information, a key to insect and mite grape pests and a glossary.

- - The deadline for pre-press orders and sponsorship commitment is October 24, 2008. (However, this is not a rigid deadline.) The book will be available December 2008!

For more information, including a two-page flier, sample pages, and a chapter list, [click here](#) or go to www.nraes.org. You can place your order for books or sponsorship on the NRAES secure web site.

This is the same organization that published last year's bramble production guide, and this should be a good resource for anyone interested in growing wine or table grapes.



New online tool for growers:

The Berry Innovation Newsletter (www.berryinnovation.com), an online trade magazine for northwest berry growers, is now officially launched! This has been made possible through the support of the Washington Red Raspberry commission with grant money provided by a Washington State Specialty Crop Grant.

The North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference

will be Monday, December 8, and Tuesday, December 9, 2008 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in association with the **Great Lakes Fruit & Vegetable Expo**. This program is sponsored by the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA) formerly known as the North American Bramble Growers Association (NABGA). For more information on this society and their annual meeting, visit their website at www.raspberryblackberry.com. For more information on the Great Lakes Fruit & Vegetable Expo visit www.glexpo.com.

Elderberry Survey

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) is launching a nationwide survey including all individuals and businesses that are active participants in the elderberry market. Producers who participate in the survey will receive copies of the resulting report, which will provide an industry snapshot and predict trends for the next five years. The information in the report will help producers better identify market opportunities and problems, generate, refine and evaluate marketing actions, and monitor marketing performance. If you are an elderberry or elderberry value added producer and would like to receive a survey, please contact Mike Gold (goldm@missouri.edu or 573-884-1448) or Ina Cernusca (cernuscam@missouri.edu or 573-882-4848).



We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. If you have comments regarding information in this newsletter, or would like to see in future newsletters, please contact:

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