

Berry Session at the Hudson Valley Fruit School

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Best Western Plus Hotel, 503 Washington Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401

- 1:00 – 1:05 PM** **Call to order - Sign afternoon DEC Recertification rosters.**
- 1:05 – 1:35** **Understanding mummyberry resistance: Do insect vectors contribute to the problem?**
Matt Boyer, *University of Massachusetts*
The mummy berry pathogen, *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi* can be controlled by fungicides, but organic farms do not use toxic chemicals and commercial growers would like to reduce costs and dependence on them. Understanding the vector influence may reduce the reliance on fungicides.
- 1:35 – 1:55** **Using Modified Atmosphere Packaging for Blueberries**
Annie Mills, *CCE ENYCHP*
Modified atmosphere packaging reduces fruit respiration slowing its degradation process and lengthening the life as marketable fruit. Packaging like this can aid farmers in extending the season for their fresh berries, resulting in increased sales.
- 1:55 – 2:25** **Insects of small fruit in the Hudson Valley**
Peter Jentsch, *Entomology Dept., Cornell, HVL, Highland, NY*
Specific management recommendations for cultural and chemical control of SWD in berries, including current research on attract and kill stations. A review of research work on other berry insect pests of importance.
- 2:25 – 2:40** **Break**
- 2:40 – 3:00** **Crop Insurance Update**
Elizabeth Higgins, *CCE ENYCHP*
An overview of the existing crop insurance tools and an update of new programs.
- 3:00 – 3:30** **Haskaps – Potential new crop for the Hudson Valley**
Michael Boylan, *Wright's Farm, Gardiner, NY* and Jim O'Connell, *CCE ENYCHP*
Haskaps or honeyberries are one of the earliest bearing fruit in the temperate zone. There is limited experience in this region, but some growers think the berry could become an important enterprise. Pest management will be discussed along with cultural management.
- 3:30 – 3:50** **Strawberry Weevil project update**
Jim O'Connell, *CCE ENYCHP*

During the summer of 2016 a survey of strawberry farms was conducted in Eastern NY. Failing strawberry plantings were analyzed for cultural problems including compaction, but most plantings were sent to disease and insect diagnostic labs to determine the pest impact. The results will determine management decisions.

3:50 – 4:15

Diagnosing soil-borne problems in strawberries

Laura McDermott, *CCE ENYCHP*

The strawberry root weevil project has revealed that there are multiple reasons for this crop to become unthrifty as the planting ages. Understanding how to identify what the causal agent is would be the first step to prevention.

4:15

Adjourn