

FACTS FOR

Fancy Fruit



June 2008
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In This Issue

Crop Conditions	1
Hort. Society Summer Meeting	1
Coffing Bros. Orchard	1
Indiana Winegrowers' Guild Summer Meeting	2
Apple Scab	3
Peach Diseases	4
Grape Diseases	4
Important Sprays for Grape Disease	4
Shoot Positioning and Canopy Management	5
2008 Farm Bill	5
MAAHS Human Resources Conference	8
Upcoming Events	8

Crop conditions

Apple crops are looking good around the state, with the results of chemical thinning becoming apparent. Some crops are still too heavy. Peaches are also looking good and with warmer weather are growing rapidly. Time is getting short for effective hand thinning. Grapes are just starting to bloom. Raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries are all finishing bloom. Strawberry harvest started in the Lafayette area this week. So far, things look good, with no reports of disease or insect problems on small fruit.

Indiana Hort. Society Summer Meeting

We're all set for the Hort. Society Summer Meeting coming up on June 19, 2008 in west central Indiana. We will visit Coffing Bros. Orchard, one of the largest orchards in the state. Lunch will be catered in and the afternoon field tours will be followed by a cookout at the farm. Growers are encouraged to stay for the cookout and enjoy interacting with other growers.

Coffing Bros. Orchard

The summer meeting of the Indiana Hort. Society will be held on Thursday, June 19 at Coffing Bros. Orchard near Covington, IN. It's been 27 years since we last met at Coffing's, and a lot has changed in that time: new plantings, new varieties, new rootstocks, new on-farm housing, updated packing line, etc.

This year marks the 100 year anniversary of Coffing Bros. Orchard. The orchard was founded by JD and Homer Coffing in 1908. Their brother Fred invented the Coffing Hoist. The Coffing Hoist company is still in

existence, although it has been purchased and moved to North Carolina. See <http://www.coffinghoists.com> for more information.

The next generation of Coffings to run the orchard were Joe, John and Bob Coffing. Both Joe and John are still involved in the orchard. Joe's sons, Roger and Greg continued the orchard, and Roger's three sons Joe, Tim and Mark are the 4th generation of Coffings in the fruit business. The farm currently consists of about 200 acres of apples and 600 acres of sharecropped corn and soybeans.

Red Delicious and Golden Delicious are heavily planted on the farm, with Rome, Gala, Jonathan and Stayman's filling out the top 6 varieties. The oldest trees on the farm were planted in 1982 (Reds, Goldens and Romes) on MM.111 rootstock. All the newer plantings are on semi dwarf (M.7) or dwarf (B.9) rootstocks. One of the main reasons for the move towards dwarfing rootstocks was to cut down on the pruning time required, since packing and shipping apples comes at the same time as pruning. Newer plantings include Gala, Fuji, Honeycrisp, Braeburn, Pink Lady, Jonagold, and Golden Delicious. They still have a good market for Red Delicious, but are finding Staymans increasingly difficult to move.

Most of the fruit from the orchard is sold wholesale, mostly through regional supermarkets in 3 and 5 pound bags. The Coffings have a 50,000 bu cold storage and an 80,000 bu CA storage which in an average year extends their selling period into June. This year they completed their selling in early May due to light crops last year. Some of their fruit is also sold to a processor or for cider, and a small proportion



is sold retail.

They have an older 1950's packing line, but this has been updated in the last few years, with a new water pump, waxer and chlorine dioxide system.

The Coffings have recently completed new migrant housing on the farm with accommodation for about 40 workers or about 60 people total. This was completed with the assistance of a state grant. We will be visiting this facility on our tour.

As you will see from the attached schedule, following the afternoon field tours, we will have an informal cookout at the farm. I hope you plan to join us for this and enjoy some time interacting with your fellow growers.

Registration Information

Registration cost will be \$3.00 per person (includes drinks and other incidentals).

Lunch will be catered by The Beef House for \$8-10 cost.

Field tours will be followed by a cookout at the orchard (sponsored by Purdue Extension)

All interested fruit growers are invited to attend these tours without regard to membership in the Society. Growers in surrounding states are also invited to attend.

Schedule

- 9:00 am Registration, coffee
- 9:30am Welcome, introductions, and overview of farm
- 10:00am Comments by Purdue fruit extension team
- 10:30 am Walking tour of facilities
- 12:00 pm Lunch on site (catered by The Beef House)
- 12:45 pm IHS business meeting
- 1:15 pm Wagon tour of the farm
- 4:30 pm Conclude field tour
- 5:00 pm Cookout at the farm
- 7:00 pm Adjourn

Meals

Lunch will be catered by The Beef House, and served on site at the orchard. The Beef House has quite a reputation in this part of the state. Sign up and payment for lunch will be due during the morning registration. The cost of lunch will be in the \$8-10 per person range. The evening cookout will be free, courtesy of Purdue Extension.

Accommodations

Due to having a one-day meeting this year, it's likely most folks will drive to the orchard on the Thursday morning. However, if you decide to drive the previous evening, there are a

number of motels nearby just across the state line near Danville, IL. The following motel information may be useful:

Super 8 Motel, 377 Lynch Rd, Danville, IL. Ph. 217-443-4499. \$60 + tax or \$54 + tax with AAA.

Comfort Inn, 383 Lynch Dr, Danville, IL. Ph. 217-443-8004. \$70 + tax or \$63 + tax with AAA.

Orchard location

The orchard is located just south of Covington, IN. If you choose to use Googlemaps.com or a similar online mapping website, the orchard address is: 3400 S. Coffing Bros Rd, Covington, IN.

For maps to the orchard, refer to:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/fruitveg/events/summ_mtg08.shtml

We hope to see you there. (Hirst)

Indiana Winegrowers' Guild Summer Meeting

The Indiana Winegrowers Guild will hold its summermeeting June 16 at Chateau De Pique Winery near Seymour. There will be a discussion of future direction of the Guild and the Indiana wine industry. President Larry Satek will give an update on the legislative issues the industry is facing this year. Additionally some revisions to the bylaws will be discussed and voted on. This is an impor-







Facts for Fancy Fruit is a newsletter for commercial and advanced amateur fruit growers. It provides timely information on pest control, production practices, and other topics likely to be of interest to fruit growers. All growers and interested persons are welcome to subscribe.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year. Subscribers will receive 12-15 issues biweekly during the growing season and monthly otherwise.

To subscribe, send your name, mailing address, and check for \$15 (payable to Purdue University) to:

Facts for Fancy Fruit
Attn: Tammy Goodale
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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2010

This newsletter can be accessed free at www.hort.purdue.edu/fff/.

<i>Current bud stages West Lafayette, IN</i>		
Apple	Blueberry	Grape
		
<i>at 25 mm</i>	Green fruit	In bloom
Peach	Blackberry	Strawberry
		
<i>at 20 mm</i>	In bloom	at harvest

tant meeting that every Indiana Winegrowers' Guild member should attend. Contact Larry at Satek Winery (www.satekwinery.com) or 260-495-9463.

Apple scab

After a fairly dry spring, Indiana entered a significant cool and rainy period for the latter part of May, quickly changing from a dull spring (from a plant pathologists perspective) to a very interesting one. This long-term wet spell resulted in multiple, major apple scab infection periods lasting several days over much of the state. These wetting periods provided plenty of opportunity for primary scab infection (Fig. 1).



If you were not successful with preventing that primary scab event, you might now be seeing the results of secondary infections. This could be surprising, as up until the beginning of the second week of May, it was a dry spring! Unfortunately, all it takes is one good wetting event—even after a dry spring-- for serious scab problems to develop.

The disease triangle represents the three factors that must be present for disease to develop:

- a susceptible host (most commercial apples)
- a virulent pathogen (ever present)
- a conducive environment—cool and wet

If any one of these factors is missing, disease will not occur. Prior to our wet weather, disease wasn't an issue, as our environment was not conducive to driving disease. When the weather is dry, there is an understandable tendency to extend spray periods, reducing the fungicide that is available to control scab. Furthermore, when that heavy rain (greater

than 1 inch) does arrive, the remaining residue gets washed away. In warm, dry weather, the fungicides remain where deposited, even as the area of susceptible tissue continues to grow. However, there is no problem as the water needed to drive infection is absent. However, the stage is set for infection should wet weather develop.

Adding to our understanding of this severe scab year is the host. Most apples grown in Indiana are susceptible, to extremely susceptible to scab (See [Disease susceptibility of common apple cultivars](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-132-W.pdf) at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-132-W.pdf>). Additionally, the stage of apple development plays a role in infection as well. In this case, the extended state of bloom may have impacted the efficacy of fungicide applications. This delay in petal fall could result in fungicides not being able to reach the hypanthium (the floral structure consisting of the bases of the sepals, petals, and stamens fused together, hidden just behind the more obvious flower), or peduncle (the flower stem), because all those blooms blocked the

spray from reaching the hypanthium or even the peduncle, preventing coverage. Infection on the hypanthium results in scab lesions on the calyx-end of the apple; infection on the peduncle can result in girdling of the apple stem, resulting in fruit loss.

Finally, a delay in rainfall doesn't result in a reduction of spores. As long as the leaf is little damp (i.e., morning dew), ascospores continue to develop and mature. Upon significant rainfall, and conducive weather, massive spore release can result—with even worse results, as there is more leaf tissue available, with a greater likelihood of contact and inoculation.

So, what to do about this problem? At this point, we shift gears from managing the primary scab event to preventing secondary infections. How this is done depends upon both issues of fungicide resistance and even insect management. An increasing number of insecticides (e.g., Agri-Mek, SpinTor, Baythroid) are applied with oil. The delay between applying oil and captan (or captan, and then oil) should be at least 7, and maybe as many as 10 days, depending upon the weather. Cloudy, cool weather increases the risk of phytotoxicity (Fig. 2), as the oil is unable to rapidly dry. In hot, dry weather, the oil will volatilize and dry rapidly, reducing the interval between captan application and oil by a few days, (4-7 days).



Wet weather, particularly heavy rains that remove captan residue, reduce the likelihood of damage for oil sprays applied following captan. Finally, remember that Red Delicious is uniquely susceptible to captan phytotoxicity

than other cultivars. If captan cannot be used because of the need for oil in the spray mix, mancozeb is an equally effective substitute.

How you address secondary scab depends upon what issues of fungicide resistance exist in the orchard. From preliminary studies done in my lab by Ryan Deford, approximately one-third of the orchards tested had some level of dodine (Syllit) resistance; similar results were found with Topsin-M as well. The resistance issue is less clear with the demethylase-inhibiting fungicides (DMI, also called sterol-inhibiting) like Nova, Indar, Rubigan and Procure, but it is obvious that they are much less sensitive to this class of fungicides than they used to be.

Where does this leave the grower? If fungicide resistance to DMI fungicides and dodine is known or suspected, the strobilurin fungicides Pristine, Flint, or Sovran can be when tank-mixed with mancozeb or captan, even back-to-back, if needed. Strobilurins provide the best protection when applied prior to infection; however, they do have some kick-back, and reduce spore production, thereby reducing the likelihood of infection in the orchard. It is important to stress that these fungicides, unlike dodine or the DMIs, have much less activity against established scab lesions, but more activity than mancozeb or captan. Applications should be limited to two in the spring, to preserve two applications for summer diseases, particularly for the control of bitter rot, sooty blotch and flyspeck.

Peach diseases

This unusually cool spring has produced the potential for a great crop of peaches! Right now, peaches are fairly resistant to brown rot; however, examine late blossoms to see if blossom blight might have occurred while thinning fruit. Brown rot blossom blight can move into twigs and cause a shoot blight. However, right now, only shriveled blossoms might be observed, possibly with the brown and fuzzy growth of the pathogen. Sulfur and captan are good choices for now (Bravo is too,

if you are not passed shuck-split), and allow you to save the better (and more expensive) options for later in the season.

Grape diseases

As we enter the bloom and post-bloom period, it is essential to remember disease control, as new clusters are highly susceptible to black rot, downy mildew, phomopsis and powdery mildew. Rain and cool temperatures can even allow Botrytis to infect susceptible cultivars. Our goal with fungicides is to protect the new clusters and prevent infection from occurring, while protecting the leaves as well.

Keep in mind that certain infections that occur during this period may not appear until the berries are close to veraison (black rot) or ripening (Phomopsis, Botrytis). After bloom, maturing berries become more resistant to this quartet of diseases. The timing of this depends upon the disease in question, with most grapes becoming more resistant to:

- downy mildew 2-3 weeks after bloom;
- powdery mildew 3-4 weeks after bloom
- black rot 4-5 weeks after bloom.

In the case of black rot, please note: There is a wide variation in black rot susceptibility among native American and hybrid cultivars, whereas all common cultivars of *Vitis vinifera* appear to be highly susceptible. Concord berries become highly resistant about 4 to 5 weeks after bloom and are effectively immune by week 6. Berries of *V. vinifera* cultivars are susceptible up to 6 or 7 weeks after bloom, depending on the season, with resistance developing more quickly with warmer weather. This is a critical period in grape disease management. If these diseases are managed well early in the season, the need for late season (post bloom) applications of fungicide is greatly reduced.

Important Sprays for Grape Disease Management

Grapes are in bloom across the state, which is a key time to control important diseases such as black rot, downy mildew, powdery mildew, Phomopsis, and Botrytis. Given the recent rainy weather, disease pressure is high. Growers should pay extra attention to getting thorough coverage and use the best fungicidal materials available. The Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide lists a wide range of products available. Use of one the strobilurins such as Abound, Sovran, Flint, or Pristine is a good option. That can rotated in the next spray with a combination of one of the sterol inhibitors such as Nova, Rubigan, Procure, etc. with a protectant such as captan or mancozeb. These next few sprays are critical to producing sound, clean fruit. (Bordelon)

Shoot Positioning and Canopy Management

Grapes are in bloom across the state this week. Once we are past fruit set and shoots have toughened-up, it's time to get serious about shoot positioning in grapes. Varieties differ in their need for shoot position due to their growth habit and vigor. Some varieties such as Vignoles and Chancellor tend to have a semi-upright growth habit and relatively short shoots that stand up well on their own, so shoot positioning is seldom needed. Other varieties such as Traminette, Chambourcin and all the American varieties produce horizontally growing shoots that tend to run along the top of the trellis and cause significant shading of the fruit and renewal zone. Shoot positioning is very important with these varieties. The need for shoot positioning on other varieties will vary depending on vigor of the particular site. In high cordon-trained vines, shoot positioning involves pulling lateral-growing shoots off the top of the trellis to hang vertically downward. In mid-wire cordon-trained vines, shoot positioning is done by tucking shoots between sets of catch wires, or pulling catch wires up into position so that the

shoots grow vertically upward. Shoot positioning is critical for improving sunlight exposure of fruit and increasing fruit quality. Additionally, it improves fruitfulness of the basal nodes on the shoots for full fruiting potential next year. Shoot positioning may need to be repeated two or three times during the summer.

Leaf removal is another important component of canopy management. While most commonly associated with mid-wire cordon vertically shoot positioned training systems, it can be used on high cordon trained vines as well. Removal of 2-3 basal leaves in the cluster zone anytime from 1 to 3 weeks after bloom can significantly improve fruit quality by decreasing fruit rot potential, and improving sunlight exposure of clusters. Leaf removal later in the season can be effective, but care should be taken to avoid sun burning. We generally recommend removal of leaves mainly on the east side of the rows. Our work with Traminette has shown a significant increase in important flavor and aroma compounds (monoterpenes) and wine quality scores when fruit gets partial sun exposure. (Bordelon)

2008 Farm Bill

The 2008 Farm Bill recently became law over the objections of President Bush. The Bill ("The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008"), which defines farm policy for a period of five years, for the first time seriously addresses the needs of specialty crop producers--including fruit and vegetable growers. The legislation includes numerous new assistance opportunities for specialty crop industry needs, including marketing, research and pest management. These provisions form a basis for partnerships involving industry members and organizations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state agriculture departments and universities. Those best able to form creative partnerships will be at an advantage for tapping the new funding sources.

The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance (SCFBA),

a group of more than 100 associations, played a large role in passing the bill spearheaded by Rep. Dennis Cardoza of California and Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. In addition to gains in programs for the next few years, specialty crops will be advantageously positioned to advance their interests when Congress revisits farm policy in 2012--the bill Congress passed in May was the eight-months-overdue 2007 Farm Bill. The definition of a specialty crop is "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture)".

The following descriptions of Farm Bill provisions contain mentions of "mandatory" and "authorized" funding. Congressional committees typically authorize funding subject to action by appropriations committees, which pass annual spending bills. Exceptions include mandatory funding, which usually is based on a funding formula. The agriculture committees most likely gained authority to spend mandatory money when the first crop subsidies were established in the 1930s. Because subsidies were based on eligibility requirements, and any individual or entity meeting those requirements was entitled to receive the benefits, such funding bypassed annual appropriations.

Now, mandatory spending typically is used for Social Security, Medicare and food stamps, among other entitlements. About three-quarters of USDA spending is mandatory, including crop subsidies, food stamps, nutrition, conservation reserve (CRP), and now specialty crop grants and research. This is good news for the fruit and vegetable industries, as Congress has made a powerful statement in favor of new spending to support the needs of specialty crop farmers.

However, in the last few years the appropriations committees have resorted to a process cleverly called "chipping," which stands for "changes in mandatory programs." Committees determine that certain mandatory funds won't be spent, thereby gaining more funds than have been allocated to them by the

budget resolution. So while the funding gains made by specialty crops in the Farm Bill are significant and very helpful, industry representatives will need to work hard to preserve these gains throughout the yearly appropriations processes.

The five-year bill, which will expire at the end of fiscal year 2012, contains several provisions of great importance to the fruit and vegetable industries. A major achievement of SCFBA lobbying was the first-time inclusion in the Farm Bill of a “horticulture and organic” title. This title addresses important needs of all specialty crop farmers, including block grants, the National Clean Plant Network, and important pest and disease control provisions.

Specialty crop block grants to the states

The centerpiece of the horticulture title is significant funding for specialty crop block grants to the states, administered by state departments of agriculture, to improve the competitiveness of specialty crops. Block grants will have mandatory funds of \$224 million over five years. These funds will be disbursed to the states with a per-state minimum of \$100,000, or 1/3 of 1%, whichever is greater, with the remainder allocated proportionally to the size of each state’s specialty crop industry.

California is the largest specialty-crop producing state, and it is expected to receive about one-third of all funds. Other states with large specialty crop industries include Washington, Texas, Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, New York and Pennsylvania, with percentages ranging from a high of almost 5% to about 2% of total funds. Ohio, Idaho, New Jersey, Virginia, Colorado, Illinois and Maryland should receive between 1% and 2% of available funding. Even 1% of available funds amounts to over \$2 million.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant program now has mandatory funding levels that are greater than any since the program first was funded in

2001. That year, it was a one-time program that received a funding infusion of \$133 million. The Specialty Crop Block Grants have been funded through appropriations the last three years, receiving approximately one-fifth of the funding provided in the new Farm Bill. These grants previously have been used for marketing, research, wine trails, establishing wine and cuisine partnerships, development of online educational manuals for new and existing wineries and growers, procurement of more efficient wine processing equipment, and other projects to help industry producers.

Since the states will be awarding grants, it is absolutely critical that the Indiana fruit and vegetable industries make a concerted effort to contact the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, develop strong relationships, stress the importance of industry priorities and mutually develop strategies for supporting the growth and profitability of the industry. The stronger the cases that are made, and the closer industries coordinate with their states, the better the chances of receiving a grant.

Other avenues for states to explore are multi-state and regional projects. The Farm Bill conference report specifically mentions the need for solutions to problems that cross state boundaries, such as those that address good agricultural practices, research on crop productivity or quality, and pest and disease management. It asks the USDA to give strong consideration to grant applications that involve multi-state or regional partnerships. Additionally, the conference report requests that USDA keep these types of proposals in mind when reallocating the unobligated block grant funding.

National Clean Plant Network

The bill establishes a new National Clean Plant Network, with \$20 million in mandatory funding over five years. This network will be made up of clean plant centers for diagnostic and pathogen-elimination services to produce clean plant material—including trees and

vines for propagation—and maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant material in sites located throughout the U.S. The clean plant material will be made available to states for certified plant programs, as well as to private nurseries and growers.

Pest and disease management

There are three new programs aimed at managing plant pests and diseases that are of interest to specialty crop producers. These programs will receive \$157 million over five years.

The Early Plant Pest Detection and Surveillance Improvement Program focuses on the full range of activities undertaken to find newly introduced plant pests before they become established or infestations become too large and costly to eradicate or control. USDA will enter into a cooperative agreement with each state department of agriculture that agrees to conduct early plant pest detection and surveillance activities.

The bill also provides funding for a new Threat Identification and Mitigation Program to determine and address threats to the domestic production of crops. As part of the program, USDA will develop risk assessments of the potential threat to the agricultural industry of the U.S. from foreign sources, collaborate with the National Plant Board and implement action plans for high-consequence plant pests and diseases, which will assist in preventing the introduction and widespread dissemination of new plant pest and disease threats in the U.S.

Under the Specialty Crop Certification and Risk Management Systems program, the USDA will provide funding and technical assistance to specialty crop growers. The program also will include funds for organizations representing specialty crop growers, and state and local agencies for the development and implementation of audit-based certification systems such as best management practices

to address plant pests and to mitigate the risk of plant pests in the movement of plants and plant products.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative is a new opportunity to get funding for specialty crop research. The law requires matching funds, so creativity will be critical in supporting partnerships with researchers and extension personnel to develop proposals that address industry needs in genetics, plant breeding, sustainability, understanding and improving quality, mechanization, food safety, and pests and diseases.

This groundbreaking provision provides \$230 million over five years, which will sponsor research to develop and disseminate science-based tools addressing the needs of specific crops and their regions. Grant recipients will be required to provide matching funds.

In awarding grants, higher priority will be given to projects that are multi-state, multi-institutional or multi-disciplinary, and those that include explicit means of communicating results to producers and the public.

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

The bill provides \$78 million in mandatory funding for the existing Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative. This research initiative focuses on organic research projects.

Value-Added grants

The bill provides \$15 million to continue Value Added grants, and it authorizes the Appropriations Committees to provide additional funds.

Disaster assistance

There are many complicated provisions in the

disaster titles. The Tree Assistance Program has been used by fruit growers in the past, and much effort was expended in preserving its utility as the Congress revamped disaster assistance.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists to replace eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. The Farm Bill increases the maximum total amount of TAP payments from \$75,000 over the life of the Farm Bill to \$100,000 for any crop year, or an equivalent value in tree seedlings. It also provides for reimbursement of 50% of the cost of pruning, removal, and other costs incurred by an eligible grower to salvage existing trees. To be eligible for TAP, growers must have either crop insurance or be enrolled in the Non-insurable Crop Assistance Program (NAP).

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Expands the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Snack Program to all 50 states, with an emphasis on low-income school districts. Funding Levels: FY08 \$40 million; FY09 \$65 million; FY10 \$101 million; FY11 \$150 million; FY12 \$150 million with adjustment for Consumer Price Index (CPI). Total = \$506 million

USDA Section 32 purchases

Increases the minimum purchase levels for fruits, vegetables, and nuts (currently \$200 million per year) and expands USDA's ability to purchase value-added fruit, vegetable and nut products: Funding Levels: FY08 \$390 million; FY09 \$393 million; FY10 \$399 million; FY11 \$403 million; FY12 \$406 million. Minimum Purchase Level Increase Total = \$991 million

Conservation

The bill provides mandatory funding as part of a much larger Conservation Title for Conservation Innovation Grants and Payments. USDA

will award competitive grants to innovative projects that focus on environmental enhancement and protection related to agricultural production. The proposed innovative project or activity must encompass the development, field-testing, evaluation and implementation of conservation adoption incentive systems. These may include market-based systems or promising conservation technologies, practices, systems, procedures or approaches. New language in the bill directs that grants may be given to increase participation by producers of specialty crops.

Market Access Program (MAP)

The bill provides mandatory funding for MAP, a program to help producers and their trade associations develop international marketing. It is funded at \$200 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This is the same amount as provided in fiscal year 2007.

See the history of the 2007 Farm Bill including House and Senate roll call votes that overrode President Bush's veto, and read the bill in its entirety at <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/FarmBill.html>

The following table is a summary of provisions of interest to specialty crop growers in the new farm bill.

Item	Mandatory Funding Life of Bill	Mandatory Funding per year	Authorized (subject to appropriation).
Specialty Crop Block Grants	\$224 Million	\$49 million 2009 \$55 million ea. 2010-2012	
National Clean Plant Network	\$20 million	\$5 million ea. 2009-2012	
Pest and Disease Management for Specialty Crops	\$157 million	\$12 million 2009 \$45 million 2010 \$50 million 2011 & 2012	
Specialty Crop Research Initiative	\$230 million	\$30 million 2008 \$50 million ea. 2009-2012	Additional \$100 million ea. 2008-2012
Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative	\$78 million	\$18 million 2009 \$20 million ea. 2010-2012	Additional \$25 million ea. 2009-2012
Value Added Market Development Grants	\$15 million	As expended	\$40 million ea. 2008-2012
Conservation Innovation Grants (EQIP)	Part of much larger Conservation Title	\$37.5 million ea. 2009-2012	
Market Access Program	\$1 billion	\$200 million ea. 2008-2012	

(Hirst, from Bill Nelson, Wines and Vines News, and US Apple Association)

MAAHS Human Resource Conference

If you are concerned about worker productivity and how best to supervise labor, then the Mid America Ag and Hort Services Human Resource Conference may be for you. This one-day conference on June 18 will focus on understanding how individuals respond to change, labor and immigration compliance and the keys to successful supervision and increasing workforce productivity. The conference will be held in Elizabethtown, KY. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. For more information, refer to: <http://www.midamservices.org/>

Upcoming meetings

June 7

Blueberry Growers of Indiana optional southern Indiana meeting. Bryant's Blueberries, 6900 Oak Park Rd NE, New Salisbury, In 47161 812-366-3592, <http://bryantsblueberries.com>

June 10

Blueberry Growers of Indiana summer meeting and farm tour. Zylstra's Blueberries, 11881 W. 1200 N., Demotte, IN 46310. 219-987-2061. Tour at 4:00 pm, potluck dinner at 5:00 pm, meat and drink provided, bring a side dish to share. 6:00 pm BGIN business meeting, 6:30 pm, MGB Marketing meeting.

June 16

Indiana Winegrowers Guild summermeeting. Chateau De Pique Winery near Seymour. Contact Larry at Satek Winery (www.satekwinery.com) or 260-495-9463.

June 18

MAAHS Human Resource Conference, Elizabethtown, KY. Refer to <http://www.midamservices.org/> for more details.

June 19

Indiana Horticultural Society summer meeting. Coffing Bros. Orchard, Covington, IN. See this issue of FFF for details.

August 21-22

U.S. Apple Association Outlook Conference,
Chicago. For more details: <http://www.usapple.org/industry/outlookconference/index.cfm>

Jan. 19, 2009

Beginning apple growing workshop. Adam's
Mark Hotel, Indianapolis.

Jan. 19-21, 2009

Indiana Horticultural Congress, Adam's
Mark Hotel, Indianapolis. As details become
available, they will be posted at: www.inhortcongress.org



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