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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The growing season is off to a great start. We have certainly left the old adage of “corn being knee high by the 4th of July” far behind. A lot of corn was waist to shoulder high with some over six feet. Crops in general look good to excellent, except for a few areas where there has been some excessive moisture. Pea harvest is progressing along with decent yields in most cases and snap beans are being planted right after peas are harvest. Potatoes look great with a few vines being killed and some being dug for the canning companies.

Disease pressure has been light with no late blight or downy mildew detected in a broad area of the state. Late blight has been found on volunteer potatoes in a sweet corn field in southwest Michigan. Northern corn leaf blight has been detected in many parts of the state.

If we can continue to get timely rains, we should have bumper crops. After all we do to grow a bumper crop, Mother Nature makes the final determination. Just ask many of the apple, grape and strawberry growers that had the freeze in May.

We try to cover a broad range of subjects in this newsletter but if you have any suggestions on additional subjects or on how we can improve it, please let us know.

Best regards,

Robert L. Zimpel

President

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*I am proud to be an American,
and proud to be in Agriculture!*

Hmmmm.....

With all of the hoopla about the upcoming Presidential elections, I thought it would be interesting to include some of the wit and wisdom of Will Rogers. Remember, these quotes were made in the 1920's and 1930's. See if you think they hold true today. I can neither take credit no responsibility for any of this information.

- ⇒ Papers say: “Congress is deadlocked and can’t act.” I think it is the greatest blessing that could befall this country.
- ⇒ Imagine a Congress that squanders billions trying to find out where some candidate spent a few thousand.
- ⇒ Elections are a good deal like marriages. There’s no accounting for anyone’s taste. Every time we see a bridegroom we wonder why she ever picked him, and it’s the same with public officials.
- ⇒ If a woman insists on having men’s privileges, they have to take men’s chances.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a little time with friends and family this long 4th of July weekend and maybe even take the children to one of the many fireworks displays around the state. I hope you also took time to explain to your children what the 4th of July is about and the sacrifices that were made to gain and preserve the freedom we enjoy today.

Bob Zimpel
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IN FRUIT NEWS...

APPLES

I find that as we get further into the growing season I see more issues from the freeze that occurred. While I have some varieties that have basically no apples, the bigger issue is frost rings. I have talked to a number of growers that have mentioned this problem and many of them have lost a large portion of their crop. Growers along Lake Michigan, Door County and Bayfield seem to have a good crop. I am still continuing a spray program on the orchard where we have small fruit set. However, I have reduced the rates I am using and also am using some of the cheaper insecticides.

If you have any questions or need help with your spray program please give me a call.

Bob Zimpel
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SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILIA

Trap counts continue to increase across the state. Growers of raspberries, strawberries, sweet and tart cherries and other soft fruits should be using control measures now. These control measures need to be continued throughout the season. Make sure you check pesticide labels carefully as some re-entry and days-to-harvest may be different.

If you have any questions please give me a call.



**PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL
FARM MARKETS!**



STRAWBERRIES

Strawberry season is over at Hillcrest. In spite of the damage we had from the frost, we had a decent season. We lost the King berries and a lot of the larger berries on clusters and a lot of blossoms. I believe what saved the season for us is that I started applying 5# of 20-20-20 and 3 ozs. of Messenger Gold on a five day schedule. We ended up with a decent crop of berries and the size was large enough that no one complained. Other growers have also commented that they didn't have the berry size this year. A couple of trends that we continue to see are fewer people coming out to pick and a growing demand for pre-picked berries.

Renovation time is here. For broadleaf control I use 1 quart of Formula 40® per acre. There are different schools of thought as to when to apply it, some say before mowing and others say after mowing. I will continue to apply my Formula 40® before mowing because I feel there is more weed surface for it to come in contact with. Keep in mind that some growers have reported that Cabot and Cavendish are both susceptible to 2,4-D. Also remember, that not all 2,4-D products are registered for strawberries. Wait 5-7 days before mowing after your 2,4-D application. After mowing I apply 200 lbs. of 13-13-13 Super Rainbow® with trace elements.

If we start to see grass emerge we will use clethodim to control it and if we have a late flush of broadleaf weeds we put on an application of Stinger®. Stinger® does an excellent job of controlling Canada thistle and clover.

***Messenger Gold is a registered trademark of Plant Health Care; Formula 40® is a registered trademark of Nufarm; Stinger® is a registered trademark of Dow AgroSciences; Super Rainbow® is a registered trademark of Agrium.*

UPCOMING SUMMER FIELD DAYS

Summer Apple Field Day (WAGA)	July 12th	@ Apple Holler, Sturtevant, WI
Rhineland ARS Field Day	July 14th	@ Rhineland Ag Research Station
Antigo Field Day (WPVGA)	July 21st	@ Langlade County Airport
Hancock ARS Field Day & Centennial Celebration	July 28th	@ Hancock Research Station
Cranberry Summer Meeting, Field Day & Trade Show (WSCGA)	August 10th	@ Brockway Cranberry Co., Black River Falls, WI
Summer Christmas Tree Convention (WCTPA)	August 25th-27th	@ Beaver Dam, WI (26th—Dodge County Fairgrounds, 27th—Propst Tree Farm)

T H will be in attendance at all of these events and exhibiting at the cranberry and Christmas tree shows.

WHITE MOLD IN SOYBEANS

As soybeans begin to blossom our attention turns to white mold. The white mold disease is caused by a fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, which is a mushroom (apothecia) and generates thousands of spores that shoot off and attach to the open flower at any node. This leads to a white, cottony looking stem and poor pod fill, which usually contains small black particles that look like mouse droppings. White mold development is favored by cool, cloudy, wet and humid weather. White mold attaches easier to high populations and narrow rowed beans. There are some fungicides when applied properly that are rated as good control. Applying fungicides after first pods (R3) generally have no effect on white mold. Once you see the disease, little can be done to stop it. Harvest infected fields last and thoroughly clean your equipment, rotating out of soybeans for 3 years may help. If you decide you want to use a fungicide always use a good penetrating surfactant like Hook. Fungicides such as Endura®, Aproach® or Proline® 480 SC may be used but are costly and may need more than one application. Call T H if you are interested in plant health aids or white mold control.

Jeff Luttrupp, CCA
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****Endura® is a registered trademark of BASF; Aproach® is a trademark of DuPont; Proline® 480 SC is a registered trademark of Bayer CropScience; Hook is a registered trademark of Atlantic-Pacific Trading Co.**



MSU Extension photo



POTATO ALERT!!

Late blight has been detected in the Michigan state potato growing area. Make sure you maintain a tight spray schedule and use medium to high rates on your fungicide applications. If you have concerns or questions please give Steve or I a call.

Bob Zimpel

Please always read and follow all product label directions!

NORTHERN CORN LEAF BLIGHT ALERT!

Growers and consultants should increase scouting of corn fields for this disease. Northern corn leaf blight has been found in southern Wisconsin and will progress if we stay wet and cool. Confirmed cases have been found in Rock, Dane, Jackson, and Juneau counties with pending spore identification in Adams, Green Lake and Waushara counties. This disease has appeared a month earlier than last year.

If fungicide applications are merited they should be made as close to tassel (VT) as possible to get the best yield gain. Give us a call for product recommendations.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA
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ANYTHING BUGGING YOU???

SILENCER® VXN

Good News! Adama has developed a new formulation of Silencer®. The new form has the Voxien™ technology. This means growers now have an insecticide which is odorless, has no skin irritation, requires minimal PPE and only carries a "Caution" signal word.

Silencer® VXN is a low cost, broad spectrum insecticide for alfalfa, corn, soybeans, vegetables and vine crops. Scout your fields and give us a call with questions or to place an order!

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****Silencer® VXN is a registered trademark of Adama.**

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Summer Hours: Monday – Friday: 7 am – 5:00 pm & Saturdays: 7 am – noon

PUT A LITTLE ZING![®] IN YOUR LIFE!

The Gowan Company has brought a fungicide to the market to give growers another tool to control diseases in vegetable crops. Zing![®] is a combination of Gavel[®] 75DF (zoxamide + mancozeb) and chlorothalonil. A use rate of 32-36 ozs per acre will give you protection in potatoes and curbit crops. This product will be a great choice considering the current shortage of products available in these markets. The dual posting requirement has also been removed from the label. Give us a call with questions.

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***Zing![®] and Gavel[®] 75DF are registered trademarks of Gowan Company.*

MINI-BULK TANKS & MOTOR/METERS

Please make sure that if you are not storing our mini-bulk containers under cover that you cover the motor/meters. A 5 gallon bucket or pail will suffice to protect them from rain. If this isn't done water could get into the motor and cause it to malfunction. Also, always calibrate the meters before using the product. Product viscosity can change with the temperatures and also meters can be off from being juggled in transportation.

IMPORTANT—DO NOT BREAK THE SEALS! If for some reason you are having any issues with the mini-bulk or motors and meters contact the office. ***If the tank is returned with the seals broken, we have to rinse the tanks and there will be a \$50.00 charge to your account.***

FOR SALE!

Jim Grant from Waupaca has 3 used 1500 gallon poly tanks with 2" bottom valves for sale.

Return Policy

T H will accept product returns only if the product is in clean, re-salable condition. We will not accept dirty, water stained, or greasy containers. Any containers that have been opened or the seals broken will not be accepted. This policy is for everyone's protection against contamination. Remember, don't send anything back that you would not accept if we were delivering it to you. We will also need products returned in a timely fashion.

We will be unable to accept returns on Herbicides or Insecticides after July 31st, 2016.

****Please give us a call when your mini-bulk tanks are empty! Next time we are in the area we will arrange to pick them up!**

CHRISTMAS TREE NEWS...

GLYPHOSATE ISSUES

Growers of all crops have been using glyphosate (Roundp[®], Credit[®] etc.) to kill weeds and grass for many years with great success. The repeated use of the product has resulted in resistance to develop in some weeds. The resistant weeds show little response to the herbicide. Growers have increased the rate to try and kill them which only makes the problem worse.

Growers need to rotate to different chemistries to prevent this resistance. The agricultural industry has choices, but the Christmas tree industry is more limited. Keep this in mind for the future or you may see me writing an article about the loss of glyphosate in our industry.

2016 SUMMER CONVENTION

The WCTPA Summer convention will be held at the Dodge county fairgrounds in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. The hosts of the convention are Laurie and Dave Propst at Skyline Tree Farms. The convention dates are August 26 -27, 2016. ***Plan to be there and bring your checkbook to support your exhibitors that support you.*** See you there!

Steve Rosenthal, CCA
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*****Roundup[®] is a registered trademark of Monsanto; Credit[®] is a registered trademark of Nufarm.***