UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Lexington, Kentucky 40546

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Kentucky Fruit Facts

Research & Education Center
P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

March 2002 (3-02)
John Strang, Editor, Marilyn Hooks and Karen Shahan, Staff Assistants

Fruit Facts can be found on the web at: http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/fruifact/

Fruit Crop Status and News

At this point in the season, most fruit crops are in good shape. On the morning of March 4th, we had 4°F here in Lexington which caused some injury on a few crops. Peaches sustained 48% flower bud loss on Redhaven at Princeton and 40% bud loss on Madison in Lexington. This still leaves plenty of buds for a full crop. I expect that the few oriental plum and apricot trees in the state sustained flower bud losses also. The low temperatures predicted for the morning of March 22 have the potential to cause serious losses.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Joe Masabni, who received his PhD from Michigan State University in 1998 has just accepted our Fruit/Vegetable Extension Specialist position at the Princeton Research and Education Center. Joe has an excellent background in both fruit and vegetable production and specializes in the weed control area. Joe will begin work on July 1.

We have recently hired and are in the process of hiring several Horticultural Extension Associates using funds obtained by the Kentucky Horticultural Council. These funds are the result of a grant written to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. **We are very appreciative of the strong support from Kentucky growers and the Kentucky Horticultural Council in securing these positions**.

David Spalding, Lexington area and Nathan Howell, Horse Cave area who have both been working as Extension Associates with vegetable responsibilities have been switched to these funds and will continue working with growers and conducting demonstration plots.

Many of you will remember Chris Smigell, who worked with us several years ago in our Apple IPM program. Chris has been hired for the small fruit (70%) and vegetable (30%) Extension Associate position here in Lexington. This position is to work primarily with grapes and blackberries in the central and eastern Kentucky area.

Shane Bogle has been hired for the Extension Associate position with vegetable (70%) and small fruit (30%) responsibilities and works out of the Princeton Research and Education Center. Amy Fulcher, Hopkinsville Extension Agent for Horticulture has been hired to work with nursery and ornamental crops also out of the Princeton Research and Education Center in the western Kentucky area. Both Chris and Shane started work March 18th.

As yet we have not filled the Extension Associate position with responsibilities in vegetable crops that will work out of the Davies County Extension office.

The Grape Industry Advisory Committee (GIAC) legislation to change its name to the Wine and Grape Council and achieve council status, which would enable it to handle funds etc. recently passed the House sub-committee and should now be on the House calendar.

The GIAC proposal to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board for grape industry funding is presently on hold waiting for the results of a feasibility study. Recently the Agricultural Development Board awarded a bid to a California firm to conduct this feasibility study on the Kentucky grape industry. The firm will access where we are today and future industry potential based on the wine east area, which includes our surrounding states, Virginia and Pennsylvania. A business plan for the industry will then be developed. This study will commence April 1 and is to be completed in 60 to 90 days. The firm will be surveying existing grape acreage in the state. We encourage growers to respond promptly to this survey to get this study completed as rapidly as possible.

Please note that the April 13th, Growing Vinifera Grapes/Grape IPM Meeting at Broad Run Vineyards in Louisville will be conducted from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The time was incorrectly listed in the last KVS newsletter.

The KVS now has its web site up and running again on a new site thanks to Ann Karsner, http://www.kyvineyardsociety.org/

Upcoming Meetings

Mar. 22 - Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration, Williamsburg, KY (Whitley County), 1:30 p.m. Contact: Phil Smith 606/549-1430.

Mar. 23 - Kentucky Vineyard Society Grape Pruning Demonstration; Research and Education Ctr., Princeton KY 10:00 a.m. to Noon. See map in the January/February Fruit Facts issue. We will meet at the Research & Education Center and then proceed to the vineyard as a group. Contact: John Pitcock 502/227-4630 or Dwight Wolfe 270/365-7541, Ext 219.

Apr. 9 - Apple IPM Meeting, Haney's Appledale Orchard. Contact Beth Wilson 606/679-6361 or John Strang 859/257-5685. (*See program below.*)

Apr. 13 - Growing Vinifera Grapes/Grape IPM Meeting, Broad Run Vineyards; 1:00-4:00 p.m. Contact: Donna Michael 502/425-4482. (*See program below.*)

May 9 - Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training for Apple Cider Producers, Elizabethtown Extension office, Elizabethtown. 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. Contact John Strang 859/257-5685.

Jun. 4 - Apple IPM Meeting, Joseph Beachy's Orchard, Casey County, Liberty, KY Contact Tommy Yankey 606/787-7384 or John Strang 859/257-5685.

Jun. 15 - Kentucky Vineyard Society Summer Meeting & Grape IPM Meeting, Lover's Leap Vineyards and Winery, Ann and Jerry Holder owners, 129 Lovers Leap, Lawrenceburg, KY. Contact John Pitcock 502/227-4630.

Jul. 10-12 - 27th Conference of The American Society for Enology & Viticulture - Eastern Section meeting, Sheraton Baltimore North, 903 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson, MD, Baltimore, MD. For the program see the website: http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/

Jul. 18 - UK Research and Education Center All-Commodity Field Day, Princeton, KY Contact; Sam McNeill 270/365-7541 ext 213; fax, 270/365-2667; e-mail, smcneill@uky.edu

Jan. 6-7, 2003 Kentucky Annual Fruit and Vegetable Grower Conference and Trade Show, Holiday Inn North, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859/257-5685

Manage Grape Diseases With Resistant Varieties

by John Hartman

Diseases often limit yields and profitability for Kentucky grape growers and adversely affect sustainability of the Kentucky grape industry. To manage grape diseases it is important to use all strategies for disease management including disease-suppressing cultural practices, chemical management, and resistant varieties. For some diseases, especially soil-borne diseases, resistant varieties are the most effective means of control. Thus, in any integrated disease management program, the use of grape varieties with disease resistance must be emphasized. At this time of year, growers are placing orders for nursery stock that will be used in their commercial or back-yard grape plantings. Variety choices should include consideration of disease resistance. For established plantings, this information should be helpful for managing grape diseases.

Many commercial grape cultivars have good resistance and/or tolerance to diseases such as black spot, cane and leaf spot and mildews. The more disease resistance incorporated into grape plantings, the better. The following table lists ratings for disease resistance in several of the more commonly grown cultivars. The table was derived from the Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook, Bulletin 861, a Cooperative Extension Service publication available at County Extension offices statewide. Most nurseries should be able to provide information on disease resistance for the cultivars they sell.

Table 7. Relative disease susceptibility and sulfur and copper sensitivity among grape cultivars. The relative ratings in this chart apply to an average growing season under conditions usually favorable for disease development. Any given cultivar may be more severely affected.

Cultivar	Susceptible or sensitive to:									
	BR	DM	PM	Bot	Phom	Eu	CG	ALS	Sul[1]	Cu[2]
Aurore	+++	++	++	+++	+	+++	++	+++	No	++
Baco Noir	+++	+	++	++	+	++	+++	++	No	?
Cabernet Franc	+++	+++	+++	+	?	?	+++	?	No	?
Cabernet Sauvignon	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	?	No	+
Canadice	+++	++	+	++	?	?	++	++	?	?
Cascade	+	+	++	+	++	++	+	?	No	?
Catawba	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+	+	+	No	++
Cayuga White	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	No	+
Chambourcin	+++	++	+	++	?	?	++	?	Yes	?
Chancellor	+	+++	+++	+	+++	+	+++	+++	Yes	+++
Chardonel	++	++	++	++	?	?	++	++	No	?
Chardonnay	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	++	No	+
Chelois	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	No	+
Concord	+++	+	++	+	+++	+++	+	+	Yes	+
Cynthiana/Norton	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	?	Yes	?
DeChaunac	+	++	++	+	+++	+++	++	+++	Yes	+
Delaware	++	+++[3]	++	+	+++	+	+	+	No	+
Dutchess	+++	++	++	+	++	+	++	+	No	?
Elvira	+	++	++	+++	+	+	++	++	No	++
Einset Seedless	+++	++	+++	+	?	?	+	?	?	?
Foch	++	+	++	+	?	+++	+	+	Yes	?
Fredonia	++	+++	++	+	++	?	+	+	No	?
Frontenac	++	+	++	++	+	?	?	?	No?	?
Gewürztraminer	+++	+++	+++	+++	?	?	+++	+	No	+
Himrod	++	+	++	+	?	?	?	+	No	?
Jupiter	++	+	+++	+	+	?	?	?	?	?
Ives	+	+++	+	+	?	++	+	+	Yes	?
LaCrosse	+++	++	++	+++	++	?	?	?	?	?
Leon Millot	+	++	+++	+	+	+	?	?	Yes?	?
Limberger	+++	+++	+++	+	?	+++	+++	?	No	?

Cultivar	Susceptible or sensitive to:									
	BR	DM	PM	Bot	Phom	Eu	CG	ALS	Sul[1]	Cu[2]
Maréchal Foch	++	+	++	+	?	+++	?	+	Yes	?
Marquis	+	+++	+	+	+++	?	?	?	?	?
Mars	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	?
Melody	+++	++	+	+	?	?	?	?	No	?
Merlot	++	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+++	?	No	++
Moore's Diamond	+++	+	+++	++	?	++	?	?	No	?
Muscat Ottonel	+++	+++	+++	++	?	+++	+++	?	No	?
Niagra	+++	+++	++	+	+++	+	++	+	No	+
Pinot Blanc	+++	+++	+++	++	?	?	+++	?	No	+
Pinot Gris	+++	+++	+++	++	?	+++	+++	?	No	?
Pinot Meunier	+++	+++	+++	+++	?	+++	+++	?	No	?
Pinot Noir	+++	+++	+++	+++	?	?	+++	+	No	+
Reliance	+++	+++	++	+	++	?	?	?	No	+
Riesling	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+++	+	No	+
Rosette	++	++	+++	+	++	++	++	++	No	+++
Rougeon	++	+++	+++	++	+++	+	++	+++	Yes	+++
Saint Croix	?	++	++	++	?	?	?	?	?	?
Sauvignon blanc	+++	+++	+++	+++	?	?	+++	?	No	+
Seyval	++	++	+++	+++	++	+	++	++	No	+
Steuben	++	+	+	+	?	?	+	++	No	?
Traminette	+	++	+	+	?	?	++	?	?	?
Vanessa	+++	++	++	+	+	?	+	?	?	?
Ventura	++	++	++	+	+	?	+	+++	No	?
Vidal Blanc	+	++	+++	+	+	+	++	+	No	?
Vignoles	+	++	+++	+++	++	++	++	++	No	?
Villard noir	?	+	+++	+	?	?	?	?	?	?

Key to susceptibility or sensitivity: BR=black rot; DM=downy mildew; PM=powdery mildew; Bot=Botrytis; Phom=Phomopsis; Eu=Eutypa; CG=crown gall; ALS=angular leaf scorch; Sul=sulfur; Cu=copper.

Key to ratings: +=slightly susceptible or sensitive; ++=moderately susceptible or sensitive; +++=highly susceptible or sensitive; No=not sensitive; Yes=sensitive; ?=relative susceptibility or sensitivity not established.

[1] Slight to moderate sulfur injury may occur even on tolerant cultivars when temperatures are 85 degrees or higher during or immediately following the application.
[2] Copper applied under cool, slow-drying conditions is likely to cause injury.
[3] Berries not susceptible.

Orchard Chemical Suppliers

by April Satanek and John Strang

The following list has been compiled and updated in response to Kentucky grower and County Agricultural Extension Agent requests for outlets from which to purchase many of the pesticides listed in fruit extension publications. In some areas of the state it is very difficult to find pesticides recommended for fruit crops. No supplier endorsement is implied here and a concerted effort was made to locate all of the major fruit chemical suppliers in the state. In addition several suppliers in surrounding states are also listed.

One grower concern was, would the supplier sell and deliver less than case quantities? This is noted in the table. Another question suppliers were asked was who they would sell to.

Orchard chemical suppliers	**Full Service -deliver less than case quantities**	**Sales made to:**
Agri-Chem, Inc. 1301 US Hwy. 62 West, Princeton, KY 42445 270-365-7232	Yes- must be container sized quantities	growers
Ace Hardware/Akridge Farm Supply 724 Fairview Ave., Eddyville KY 270-388-2910	No	growers
Ace Hardware/Akridge Farm Supply PO Box 175, Fredonia, KY 42411 270-545-3332	Some	growers retail sales
Pro Source (Formerly CORY/TERRA) 8104 Woodland Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46278 800-672-4273	Yes	wholesale retail outlets growers
UAP Midsouth (Formerly CORY/TERRA) 574 Horton Court, Lexington, KY 40511 859-254-3811	Yes	wholesale grower
Helena PO Box 366, Springfield, KY 859-336-3947 / 800-633-1881	Yes, depends upon the chemical	wholesale retail outlets
Big Rivers Agri-Supply Chemical Div. Of Miles Farm Supply 2760 Keller Rd, Owensboro, KY 42301 270-926-8737	No	growers retailers
UAP Richter/John Phillips/ John.Phillips@uap.com 1395 N Hoosier Blvd., Peru, IN 46970 Phone: (800) 225-6793/FAX-317-831-2559	Will deliver if possible (ship UPS)	growers retailers wholesale
Ryan's Agri & Pest Supplies 1130 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40508 859-233-0057	Yes	wholesale retailers grower
Robinson Milling Co. 125 Monticello St., Somerset, KY 42501 606-678-4106 or 4107	No	grower
Salem Fruit Growers Coop. Assoc. 12093 Lisbon Rd., PO Box 3 Greenford, OH 44422 800-423-3609	Not to KY	growers retailers

Orchard chemical suppliers	Full Service -deliver less than case quantities	Sales made to:
Fruit Belt Service (Formerly TERRA) Cobden, IL 62920 618-893-4852	No	retailers growers
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical Box 188, East Bernstadt, KY 40729 606-843-6163	No	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 796, Somerset, KY 42502 606-679-8484	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical Rte 5, PO Box 5074, Albany, KY 42602 606-387-6415	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 30, Russell Springs, KY 42642 270-866-5319	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 274, Columbia, KY 42728 270-384-5042	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 108, Nancy, KY 42544 606-636-6241	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 1100, Liberty, KY 42539 606-787-2215	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 215, Tomkinsville, KY 42167 270-487-5161	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 87, Campbellsville, KY 42718 270-465-6387	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 117, Monticello, KY 42633 606-348-8447	Yes	growers retail sales
Warner Fertilizer and Chemical PO Box 441, Stanford, KY 40484 606-365-9917	Yes	growers retail sales
Valley Fertilizer PO Box 180, Edmonton, KY 42129 270-432-2727	Yes	growers retail sales
Royster Clark Retail 530 N. 5th Street, Union City, TN 38281 731-885-5121	No	retail sales growers
Royster Clark Distribution 315 W Martin Luther King Dr, Union City, TN 38281 800-238-7244	No	Wholesale

*Many of these chemical suppliers will ship pesticides if they are not restricted use materials.

Commercial Apple IPM

Meeting, April 9

Haney's Appledale Orchard, Don and Mark Haney owners, Pulaski County, Nancy, KY. 606/636-6148. Contact Beth Wilson 606/679-6361 or John Strang 859/257-5685.

Directions:

From the west - take the Louie B. Nunn Parkway (Cumberland Parkway) to the Nancy exit 78 and proceed south on old US 80. Appledale Orchard will be 5 miles on the left on the far side of Nancy, KY.

From the east - take the Louie B. Nunn Parkway (Cumberland Pkwy) west from Somerset (apx. 1 mi from US 27). Turn left at Tiger Way. Take first right onto old US 80 and travel about 8 miles. Appledale Orchard will be on the right before you get to Nancy.

Program

All times EST

10:00 am Registration
10:15 Apple grower round table discussion
11:00 Managing early season apple insects - Ric Bessin
11:30 Managing apple scab and fire blight - John Hartman
12:00 - lunch

Lunch will be available at cost (in the $6.00 range) for those that preregister.

Preregister for lunch by calling Mary Ann Kelley at 270/365-7541 Ext. 216 between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM CST weekdays by April 8 and give her a count for the Apple IPM meeting at the REC.

1:00 p.m. Tour of Appledale Orchards - Don and Mark Haney
1:30 Dwarf Trees And The High Density Concept - John Strang
2:00 Spray Adjuvants - John Hartman
2:30 Irrigation - John Strang
3:00 Adjourn

Growing Vinifera Grapes/ Grape IPM Meeting, April 13

Broad Run Vineyards, Marilyn and Gerald Kushner owners, 1026 Broad Run Rd., Louisville, KY. 502/231-0372, 1:00- 4:00 p.m. Contact Donna Michael 502/425-4482

Directions:

From I-65, take the Gene Snyder freeway exit going East.
From I-64 take the Gene Snyder freeway exit going South

Exit the Gene Snyder Freeway at the Billtown Road exit going South.
Proceed South on Billtown Road to Seatonville Rd. (0.9 miles).
Turn right on Seatonville. One half mile down the road is Broad Run Road. Turn left onto Broad Run Road. About 3 miles down Broad Run Road you will pass over Floyds Fork on a concrete bridge. In 1.1 miles Broad Run Road turns to the right (don't miss this turn or you will be on Back Run Road and lost); 0.7 miles from the turn you will see 10601 on the left side of the road. Note the large Broad Run Vineyards Sign.

Program:

All times EST, p.m.

1:00 p.m. Registration
1:10 Vineyard Overview and Tips for Successfully Raising *Vinifera* Grapes - Jerry Kushner
2:00 The Basics of Grape Pruning - John Strang
2:30 Crown Gall/Winter Injury and It's Management - John Hartman
3:00 Grape Integrated Pest Management and Early Season Sprays. - Ric Bessin and John Hartman
4:00 Final Product Results - Jerry and Marilyn Kushner

All UK Cooperative Extension Service Meetings are open to everyone.

New Fungicide Labeled for Use on Blueberry

Taken from the Ohio Fruit ICM News, Vol. 6, Issue 2, Jan. 31, 2002.

Abound 2.08F fungicide is now registered for use on blueberry, currant, elderberry, gooseberry, huckleberry, lingonberry and juneberry. Abound is the same fungicide as Quadris (azoxystrobin). At present, it is not registered for use on brambles (raspberry and blackberry). It is registered on the above mentioned crops for control of mummy berry, Alternaria fruit rot, Phomopsis stem canker, and Anthracnose fruit rot. It is registered at the rate of 6.2 to 15.4 fl oz per acre. Do not apply more than two sequential sprays of Abound before alternating with a fungicide that has a different mode of action. Do not make more than three (3) applications of Abound on any planting per crop year. Do not apply more than 1.44 quarts per acre per season. This is three applications at the highest label rate. Abound may be applied the day of harvest (0 day PHI).

Fungicides for Small Fruits

The following articles are reprinted with slight modification from the Ohio Fruit ICM News, Volume 6, Issue 2, January 31, 2002. All were authored by Dr. Mike Ellis, plant pathologist at The Ohio State University, who is part of our Midwest states fruit specialists team.

New Fungicides are Labeled for Use on Strawberry

Switch 62.5%WG fungicide is a product of Syngenta Company and has full label registration for use on strawberry in Ohio. Switch is a package mix (combination) of two fungicides (Cyprodinil plus fludioxonil). It is registered for control of Botrytis fruit rot and has provided excellent disease control in Ohio fungicide evaluations. Research in Florida indicates that it provides some level of control for Anthracnose fruit rot. To use Switch most effectively for control of Botrytis, it should be applied at the rate of 11 to 14 oz per acre on a 7 to 10-day interval through bloom. It is important to maintain good coverage throughout bloom. Switch has a pre-harvest interval of 0 days. Do not apply more than 56 ounces of product per acre per year (4 applications at the maximum rate) and do not plant rotational crops other than onion or strawberry for 12 months following the last application of Switch.

Quadris 2.08F fungicide is a product of Zeneca Corporation and has received full label registration for use on strawberry in Ohio. The active ingredient in Quadris is azoxystrobin and is the same product as Abound fungicide, which has been registered for use on grapes for several years. Quadris is registered for control of Anthracnose and powdery mildew on strawberry. Although Botrytis fruit rot is not on the label, research in New York has shown that Abound (azoxystrobin) provides good to fair control of Botrytis. In addition, azoxystrobin has good activity against Phytophthora fungi on several other crops. Therefore, it may provide some level of leather rot (a fruit rot caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cactorum*) control when applied for control of Anthracnose fruit rot on strawberry. To repeat this point, although Quadris is only registered for control of Anthracnose and powdery mildew, it may provide some level of control against Botrytis fruit rot (gray mold) and leather rot as well. Quadris is the first fungicide that I am aware of that is registered for control of Anthracnose. This is very important because the incidence of Anthracnose fruit rot appears to be increasing in several Ohio strawberry plantings, and it can be a devastating disease. Quadris is registered for use at the rate of 6.2 to 15.4 fl. oz. per acre and may be applied the day of harvest (0-day PHI). For fungicide resistance management, do not apply more than two sequential sprays of Quadris before alternating with a fungicide that has a different mode of action. Do not make more than four (4) applications to any planting per crop year. Do not apply more than 1.92 quarts per acre per season. This is four applications at the maximum rate.

Special Note: The active ingredient in Quadris (azoxystrobin) is very phytotoxic to McIntosh apples and other varieties related to McIntosh. We recommend that Quadris not be used in the same sprayer or equipment that will be used on apples. It is also important to prevent any drift from strawberry to apple. A few apple varieties related to McIntosh are: Bancroft, Bromley, Cortland, Cox, Discover, Empire, Gala, Janamac, Kent, McIntosh, Spartan and Summared.

Loss of Benlate 50WP Fungicide

Dupont has requested a voluntary registration cancellation for Benlate 50WP fungicide on all crops. The sale and distribution of Benlate will not be legal after December 31, 2002. Growers may use labeled product after this date; however, they will not be able to purchase additional material. Topsin-M WSB fungicide is very similar in activity to Benlate and is an excellent alternative to Benlate on labeled crops. Topsin-M (thiophanate-methyl) is labeled on apples, pears, stone fruit, strawberries, and grapes. Therefore, the loss of Benlate on these crops is not serious. Topsin-M is not labeled for use on brambles (raspberry and blackberry) or blueberries. Benlate was an important fungicide on brambles, and its loss is important. At present, Rovral is the only remaining fungicide on brambles that provides good control of Botrytis fruit rot (gray mold). We are hopeful that Abound and Switch will be registered on brambles in the near future. Benlate was also important for use on blueberry. We are attempting to obtain a section-18 registration for the use of Topsin-M on blueberry in Ohio (and several other states) for 2002.

Apple Market Loss Assistance Call to Action

by Kraig Naasz, U.S. Apple Association, March 12, 2002

The U.S. Senate approved a $2.4 billion emergency agricultural assistance amendment to the farm bill Feb. 12, which includes $100 million in market loss assistance for apple growers. The farm bill conference committee is currently reconciling differences between House and Senate versions of that legislation and is expected to finalize negotiations as early as next week.

The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) is working with several of our industry's key allies in Congress to garner support for the apple market loss assistance amendment, along with other provisions favored by our industry in the farm bill. Specifically, Reps. Hastings (R-Wash.) and Hinchey (D-N.Y.), and Sens. Collins (R-Maine), Levin (D-Mich.), Murray (D-Wash.) and Smith (R-Ore.), are working to build support for the apple market loss assistance among their House and Senate colleagues.

The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) urges industry members to immediately contact their U.S. Representative and both of their state's U.S. Senators to encourage their support of $100 million in market loss assistance for apple growers by signing onto the Hastings-Hinchey "Dear Colleague" letter in the House and the Levins-Murray-Collins-Smith "Dear Colleague" letter in the Senate.

Instructions

Apple industry members are urged to call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and ask to be connected to their representative and senators' offices.

Ask to speak with the staff member responsible for agricultural issues, or leave the following message with the receptionist:

When calling a representative's office:

"My name is _____, and my family and I are apple growers in Kentucky. I'm calling to urge Congressman _____ to support $100 million in market loss assistance for America's apple growers provided in the Senate's version of the farm bill by signing the Hastings-Hinchey 'Dear Colleague' letter to farm bill conferees. For more information, please contact the U.S. Apple Association at (703) 442-8850, or Stacey Stevenson in Rep. Hastings' office or Dianne Miller in Rep. Hinchey's office."

When calling a senator's office:

"My name is _____, and my family and I are apple growers in Kentucky. I'm calling to urge Senator _____ to support $100 million in market loss assistance for America's apple growers provided in the Senate's version of the farm bill by signing the Levin-Murray-Collins-Smith 'Dear Colleague' letter to farm bill conferees. For more information, please contact the U.S. Apple Association at (703) 442-8850 or Brian Krisjansson in Sen. Murray's office."

Background

America's apple growers lost an estimated $1.7 billion since 1996, including nearly $700 million during the past two crop years, due to adverse market conditions. Unfairly priced imports of apple juice concentrate, weather related disasters, subsidized foreign competition and ever increasing costs have all contributed to the devastating economic conditions confronting apple producers.

The U.S. Senate approved an emergency agriculture assistance amendment to the farm bill in early February that included $100 million in market loss assistance for apple growers. The amendment, offered by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mt.), included assistance for apple growers at the urging of several of our industry's key allies in th e Senate. Since no similar provision was included in the House-passed version of the farm bill, the apple assistance may be eliminated from the final farm bill by the House-Senate conference committee.

While the nation's apple growers are not seeking establishment of a permanent direct assistance program, this much-needed emergency assistance is critical to the survival of as many as 30 percent of America's apple growers who might otherwise lose their farms.

Please contact USApple at (800) 781-4443 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Cooperative Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture
Lexington, Kentucky 40546

Receiving Fruit Facts Electronically on the Internet

Fruit Facts is available on the web in the pdf format. To get notification of the monthly Fruit Facts posting automatically and approximately two weeks earlier than it would normally be received via mail, you can subscribe to the UK College of Agricultures's Majordomo list processor.

New subscription requests and requests to unsubscribe should be addressed as follows. To subscribe type "majordomo194@ca.uky.edu"in the To: line of your e-mail message. Please enter a subject in the Subject: line -- the system needs for the Subject line not to be empty (blank).

In the message body, enter the following two lines (nothing more!):

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end

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unsubscribe fruitfacts
end

You should receive confirmation by return e-mail. If you have a problem, or if you wish to communicate with a person about "fruitfacts", the owner's address (the To: line of the message) is: owner-fruitfacts@ca.uky.edu

John Strang
Extension Horticulturist