

Kentucky Fruit Facts

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Fruit Crop News

John Strang, U.K. Extension Horticulturist and Matt Dixon, U.K. Ag Meteorologist

It has been a beautiful particularly mild fall, apple harvest is over and sales have been brisk because of the outstanding weather and a short crop. The cool nights enhanced color on high coloring varieties and sugar levels were excellent because of the dry fall. Unfortunately the pumpkin crop was also short, wet soils delayed planting, rain affected pollination and fruit set and downy mildew was very difficult to control. Pumpkin plants that lose their leaves early due to disease produce lighter fruit with thin walls that don't hold up well after harvest.

Vole control is the pressing orchard job of the moment if you haven't attended to it as yet. Voles or short tailed mice eat the bark off of the roots and girdle trees Figure 1. Losing a tree is much more devastating to an orchard than losing a crop to frost. The extremely high reproduction rate of voles makes watching for buildups important throughout the winter, particularly when snow protects them from hawks. The 2015 Midwest Tree Fruit Spray Guide http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/PPFShtml/MwTreeFruitSprayGuideID92.pdf covers vole control on page 50.

I have seen several samples of black walnuts and one sample of pecans where the kernels have not filled and are

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Figure 1. Vole damage to apple.



Figure 2. Black walnut kernels that have failed to fill and are decaying.

decaying, figure 2. In black walnuts this is due to early spring and summer rains leading to Anthracnose disease and subsequent leaf loss. This problem is increased by lack of sun (shading) and fertilizer. It is a good idea this year to crack a few walnuts before spending a lot of time hulling and cracking them to make sure that the kernels have filled. During the washing process, discard black walnuts that float on the surface of a bucket of water as they have poorly filled kernels. In pecans poor kernel fill is often caused by drought stress, lack of fertilizer, shading and planting southern pecan varieties that do not mature in our shorter growing season.

This winters El Nino is predicted to be the strongest in the past 50 years. It has strengthened in the last several months and should reach its peak from December through February. During an El Nino the Polar Jet Stream typically moves further north and the Pacific Jet Stream remains across the southern U.S. Jet Stream configurations like these could produce temperatures slightly above or slightly below normal over the next three months. Based on all the past recorded El Nino's, precipitation and snowfall are always below normal. This would be a welcome change from the last two winters!

This will be the last Fruit Facts issue for 2015.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Upcoming Meetings

(All meetings are Eastern time unless specified.)

Dec. 8-10 Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market EXPO, Grand Rapids MI. See

<http://www.glexpo.com/>

Jan. 4-5 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; email: jstrang@uky.edu A program outline follows and the full program may be found at:

<http://www.uky.edu/hort/node/1632>

Jan. 6-8 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organics Conference, Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Springfield, IL. For program and registration information see

<http://jhawkins54.typepad.com/files/educational-program-final.pdf> or call Charlene Blary at 309-557-2107.

Jan 28 Getting The Most Out of Home Tree Fruit, and Blackberry Plantings, Clark County Extension Office, 1400 Fortune Drive, Winchester, KY 40391. Farmers Market and home fruit grower evening program, Contact 859-744-4682.

Feb. 2 Plasticulture Strawberry Production, Russell County Extension Office, 2699 S. Hwy 127, Russell Springs, KY 42642. Contact 270-866-4477.

Feb. 11-13, Pick Tennessee Conference, Knoxville Marriott, 501 E. Hill Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37915
<http://www.picktnconference.com/>

Feb. 22 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability Community Center, 130 Robinson Road, Jackson, KY 41339. 6:00 p.m. Contact 606-666-2566.

Feb. 25 Blueberry and Blackberry Pruning Demonstration, Monroe County Extension Office, 1194 Columbia Ave., Tompkinsville, KY 42167. Blueberry pruning will be before lunch and blackberry pruning after lunch. Contact 270-487-5504.

Feb. 25 Grape Pruning Workshop, Western Kentucky University Research Vineyard, WKU Agricultural Research and Education Complex, 4660 Nashville Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42104. Contact Patsy Wilson 859-494-1657 or patsy.wilson@uky.edu

Mar. 1 Orchard Pruning, Menifee County Extension Office, 140 Main Street, Frenchburg, KY 40322. 5:00 p.m. Contact 606-768-3866.

Mar. 4 Grape Pruning Workshop, U.K. Horticultural Research Farm, 4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. Contact Patsy Wilson 859-494-1657 or patsy.wilson@uky.edu

Mar. 10 Tree Fruit Pruning and Grafting Workshops, Russell County Extension Office, 2699 S. Hwy 127, Russell Springs, KY 42642. 2:00 p.m. C.T. Contact 270-866-4477.

2015 Fruit & Nut Crop Summary

By John Strang, Shawn Wright, Patsy Wilson, Chris Smigell, Dwight Wolfe, Daniel Becker, Nicole Gauthier, and Ric Bessin

The 2015 growing season in Kentucky was challenging. On the mornings of February 19 and 20th fruit growers experienced low temperature exposures ranging from 3 to -32°F. Western Kentucky growers mostly experienced warmer temperatures, but there were still areas that had -14 to -19°F. Then on the morning of April 5th a frost/freeze occurred in some areas. Average fruit crop harvest percentages were difficult to determine because of crop variability across the state.

Monthly precipitation averages for 2015 were below normal for January, February, May, August and September. March, April, June and July monthly averages were 2.1, 4.1, 1.0 and 4.6 inches above normal respectively. Overall from January to October the state was 5.2 inches above normal in total rainfall. Increased rainfall early in the season made it difficult to keep pesticides on plants.

Monthly temperature averages were 11 degrees below normal for February, while March, and August temperatures were about 2 degrees below normal. Temperatures in April, May and June ran about 2 degrees above normal. Overall the state experienced substantially lower than normal temperatures particularly in the early part of the year. Fruit matured about a week earlier than normal for most growers.

In western Kentucky, Princeton had 19 days at or above 90°F compared to 12 last year, while Bowling Green experienced 21 days at or above 90°F compared to 36 last year. In central Kentucky Lexington recorded 1 day at or above 90 °F as compared to 1 in 2014. In Jackson there were 6 days at or above 90°F.

Japanese beetle populations were considerably higher this year in some areas. Many growers had problems with green June beetle fruit feeding. The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is continuing to move westward and becoming more of a problem particularly in eastern Kentucky, Louisville and the Lexington areas. Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) was first trapped very early this year on May 27th in Princeton, KY and confirmed across the state in all traps by July 1. Despite the early trap catch, SWD did not become a problem until mid July as in the past two seasons. Fruit sales were excellent for most growers, because production was down for most crops.

Apples

Kentucky growers produced an apple crop that averaged 50% of normal due to the April freeze, biennial bearing, rainy conditions during pollination, increased effectiveness of chemical thinners and higher fruit rot losses. (Figure 3) Growers in central and eastern Kentucky experienced the most apple crop frost losses, while western

Kentucky had essentially no frost injury and produced full crops. Fruit size varied as poor pollination reduced seed number and fruit size for some fruit. Where synthetic pyrethroid sprays were used for BMSB wooly apple aphid and mites generally followed. Fruit color was better than normal on high coloring varieties.

Moderate to high levels of cedar apple rust were observed on leaves and fruit. Fire blight was less severe than last season. Frogeye leaf spot, Sooty blotch and fly speck and bitter rot were very common. Oriental fruit moth remains a serious problem in some central Kentucky orchards. Codling moth levels fluctuated substantially between orchards.

Pears

European pears produced a 50% crop while Asian pears had a 90% crop. Fire blight was moderate and codling moth was at normal levels. BMSB damage levels were severe on Asian pears where this pest is established. Asian pears could be considered a trap crop.

Peaches & Plums

Most of the peach crop was lost due to the February low temperatures and reduced further by the April freeze. A few growers in western Kentucky had excellent crops particularly on hardier varieties such as Contender, Encore, PF Flamin Fury 35-007, Reliance, and Madison. In colder parts of the state peach trees were killed. Color was generally excellent. There were some losses from SWD, but only as a secondary pest. Peach leaf curl levels were moderate. Bacterial spot was very apparent.

The European plum crop froze out.

Pawpaws

Pawpaws produced 50% of a full crop because of the late spring frost.

Strawberries

Matted row strawberries produced about an 80% crop, while plasticulture strawberries produced a 75% crop due to wet weather during harvest and frost losses. The farm to school marketing program was a good one for plasticulture growers. SWD did not affect the June-bearing strawberry crop.

Brambles

Thorny and thornless blackberries produced roughly a 30% crop. The deep snow cover protected lower parts of the canes where the temperature did not drop too low. However where temperatures reached -18°F or lower the canes were killed to the ground. We had an amazingly good crop on an erect-thornless blackberry trial at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton where the low temperature reached -13°F. These canes are not supposed to survive below -10°F. Floricanes

survived well even above the snow line.

Green June beetle and Japanese beetle feeding were significant. SWD was a problem in blackberries.

The spring raspberry crop was about 60% of normal. Fall bearing raspberries produced about an 80% crop and SWD was a serious late season problem. At the Robinson Station in southeast Kentucky Peter Tallman’s primocane-fruited black raspberry, ‘Niwot’ looked fairly good for the spring crop, but the fall crop was poor. Both berry size and quality were very good in the spring. Systemic orange rust and Rosette were at normal levels.

Grapes

The 2015 harvest was reduced by the February freeze, spring frost and excessive rain in some areas. American and interspecific hybrid grapes produced mostly full crops. Vinifera grapes suffered the most damage. Consequently most growers did not have a crop and many had vines killed in colder areas. In a few vineyards in Western Kentucky where the temperature did not drop below -5°F full crops were harvested.

Black rot, downy mildew, and anthracnose contributed to losses. No Pierce’s disease was found this season.

Green June beetle populations and Japanese beetle populations were high in many vineyards. Grape root borer populations in vineyards above four years of age are on the increase.

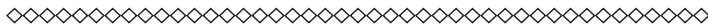
Blueberries

Highbush and Southern highbush blueberries produced a full crop. In the few cases where Rabbiteye blueberries were grown most of the crop was lost due to the February freeze. Phytophthora root rot was a severe problem with this spring’s excessive rainfall. SWD does not seem to be much of a problem with blueberries.

Figure 3. 2015 Fruit & Nut Crop Production Percentages

Fruit	Percent of Full Crop	Range (%)
Tree Fruit		
Apples	50	0-100
Pawpaws	50	
Peaches	10	0-100
Pears, Asian	90	
Pears, European	50	0-100
Plums, European	0	
Small Fruit		
Blackberries, thorny	30	0-50
Blackberries, thornless	30	0-90
Blueberries	100	
Grapes, American & hybrid	95	

FRUIT	PERCENT OF FULL CROP	RANGE (%)
Grapes, vinifera	5-10	0-100
Raspberries, fall	80	
Raspberries, spring	60	20-100
Strawberries, matted row	80	75-100
Strawberries, plasticulture	75	75-90
Nuts		
Chestnuts	95	80-100
Heartnuts	10	
Hickory, Shagbark	15	0-100
Hickory, Shellbark	15	0-100
Hicans	5	0-90
Pecans	20	10-100
Walnuts, Black	60	0-100
Walnuts, Persian	0	



2016 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference
January 4-5, 2016
Monday and Tuesday
 Embassy Suites Hotel
 1801 Newtown Pike
 Lexington, Kentucky 40511
 (859) 455-5000
 FAX (859) 455-5122
 Reservations: 800-EMBASSY

The full program may be found online at:
<http://www.uky.edu/hort/node/1632>

Meeting Outline

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Vegetable Round Table Discussion (Coldstream 5)
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tree Fruit Round Table Discussion (Coldstream 4)
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Small Fruit Round Table Discussion (Coldstream 5)
- 5:00-9:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-up, Pre-Function Area & Lower Atrium

MONDAY, JANUARY 4
MAIN CONFERENCE SESSIONS

8:00 a.m. Exhibits and Registration Desk Open
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

KSHS - KVGA JOINT SESSION (Coldstream 3)

- 8:45 a.m. Welcome
- 8:55 a.m. Horticulture Department Update
- 9:00 a.m. Horticulture Council Update
- 9:15 a.m. Kentucky Department of Agriculture Update
- 9:30 a.m. U. K. Extension Research Perspective
- 9:40 a.m. What Kentucky Farm Bureau can do for you
- 9:50 a.m. Risk Management for Production and Marketing Legal Hazards
- 10:10 a.m. Agriculture Impressions in Cuba
- 10:30 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 11:00 a.m. Genetically Engineered Crops Risks & Agricultural Sustainability
- 11:30 a.m. Herbicide Sprayers & Calibration
- 11:50 a.m. Farm Service Agency Update
- 12:00 p.m. Local Foods and Aramark

GRAPE & WINE SHORT COURSE (Coldstream 4)

- 8:50 a.m. Welcome
- 9:00 a.m. Distillation of Wine: Rules and Regulations
- 9:30 a.m. Distillation of Wine: Basic Production Methods
- 10:00 a.m. Continued
- 10:30 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 11:00 a.m. Identifying Wine Flaws
- 11:30: Continued

12:10 p.m. **EXHIBITOR/GROWER LUNCHEON - Coldstream 1 & 2 Rooms**
 12:10 p.m. **KVGA, KSHS, KWA BOARD MEETINGS**

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 4
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FARMERS' MARKETS (Coldstream 1 & 2)

- 1:30 p.m. Connecting Consumers to Fresh Locally Grown Products with the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- 2:00 p.m. Keeping It Legal
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas

- 3:10 p.m. Heirloom Vegetables (Round table)
- 3:40 p.m. Inspections, Regulations, Value-added Products and More
- 4:10 p.m. Continued

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION (Coldstream 3 Room)

- 1:30 p.m. Wholesale Watermelon Production
- 2:00 p.m. Illinois Tomato Production
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Vegetable Cultivar Trial Results and Sweet Corn Mulching (Brussels Sprout, Cauliflower, Sugar Enhanced Corn, Muskmelon, Winter Squash, Pollenizers for Triploid Watermelons)
- 4:10 p.m. Triploid Watermelon Cultivar Trials and 2015 Diseases
- 4:40 p.m. The Future: Autonomous Tractors
- 5:20 p.m. Kentucky Strawberry Assoc. Meeting

GRAPE & WINE SHORT COURSE (Coldstream 4)

- 1:30 p.m. Balancing Wine Structural Components (tasting)
- 2:00 p.m. Continued
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. How to Handle Less-Than-Perfect Fruit
- 3:40 p.m. Continued
- 4:10 p.m. Resurrecting Flawed Wines
- 4:40 p.m. Continued

TREE FRUIT PRODUCTION (Coldstream 5)

- 1:30 p.m. The Managed Pollinator Protection Plan for Kentucky
- 2:00 p.m. Record Keeping Software
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Commercial Persimmon Production
- 3:40 p.m. Is This a Disease? Diagnosing Symptoms at the Field Level
- 4:10 p.m. Site Preparation and Maintenance, Pre and Post Planting
- 4:40 p.m. Pawpaws

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4

- 5:00 p.m. Exhibits Close
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. **CELEBRATION OF KENTUCKY WINES** (Coldstream 1 & 2)
Featuring Commissioner's Cup Award Winning Wines

TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5

- 8:00 a.m. Exhibits Open - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 8:00 a.m. Registration - Pre-Function Area outside meeting rooms

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ORGANIC PRODUCTION (Coldstream 1 & 2)

- 8:30 a.m. Furrow Guidance Equipment
- 9:00 a.m. Developing an Effective Weed Management System using an Integrated Approach
- 9:30 a.m. Trap Cropping for Stink Bugs
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Organic Association of Kentucky Winter Meeting

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION (Coldstream 3)

- 8:30 a.m. Plasticulture Production of Tomatoes in Ohio
- 9:00 a.m. Figuring Profitability
- 9:30 a.m. KVGA Annual Business Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Alternative Cucumber Beetle and Bacterial Wilt Management
- 11:10 a.m. How to Make the Most of Vegetable Disease Forecasting Resources - Emily Pfeufer

GRAPE & WINE SHORT COURSE (Coldstream 4)

- 9:00 a.m. Making Money Growing Grapes in Kentucky?
- 9:30 a.m. Continued
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Available Grants and Assistance for Grape Growers - KCARD
- 11:10 a.m. Canopy Management on a Budget
- 11:40 a.m. Continued

TREE FRUIT (Coldstream 5)

- 8:30 a.m. Strategies for Designing Spray Programs for Apple
- 9:00 a.m. Continued
- 9:30 a.m. Fruit Lessons Learned by Experience
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break and Visit Exhibits - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Flowering and Fruiting in Peach
- 11:10 a.m. KSHS Annual Business Meeting

FOOD SAFETY & PROCESSING UPDATE

(Coldstream 5)

- 8:30 a.m. Food Safety Modernization Act Implications
- 9:00 a.m. Continued
- 9:30 a.m. GAP Training
- 10:00 a.m. Cider/Coffee Break - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 10:40 a.m. Food Systems Innovation Center
- 11:10 a.m. KSU Fruit and Vegetable Mobile Processing Unit

11:45 a.m. CONFERENCE LUNCHEON (Coldstream 1 & 2)

12:00 noon KGWC BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 5

SMALL FRUIT PRODUCTION (Coldstream 1 & 2)

- 1:30 p.m. Primocane Fruiting Blackberries
- 2:00 p.m. How We Produce Strawberries for Five Months in Ohio
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Hydroponic Strawberry and Raspberry High Tunnel Production
- 3:40 p.m. Spotted Wing Drosophila Update
- 4:10 p.m. Blueberry Growth and Development

GREENHOUSE AND HIGH TUNNEL PRODUCTION (Coldstream 3)

- 1:30 p.m. High Tunnel Steaming
- 2:00 p.m. Cover Crops in High Tunnels
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Soil Solarization in High Tunnels
- 3:40 p.m. Evaluating Your Water Quality
- 4:10 p.m. Alternative Soilless Media for Vegetables

GRAPE AND WINE SHORT COURSE (Coldstream 4)

- 1:30 p.m. Canopy Management on a Budget
Continued
- 2:00 p.m. Climate Change – What this means for KY Growers
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. University of Kentucky Research Update
- 3:40 p.m. Western Kentucky Research Update
- 4:10 p.m. State of the Industry

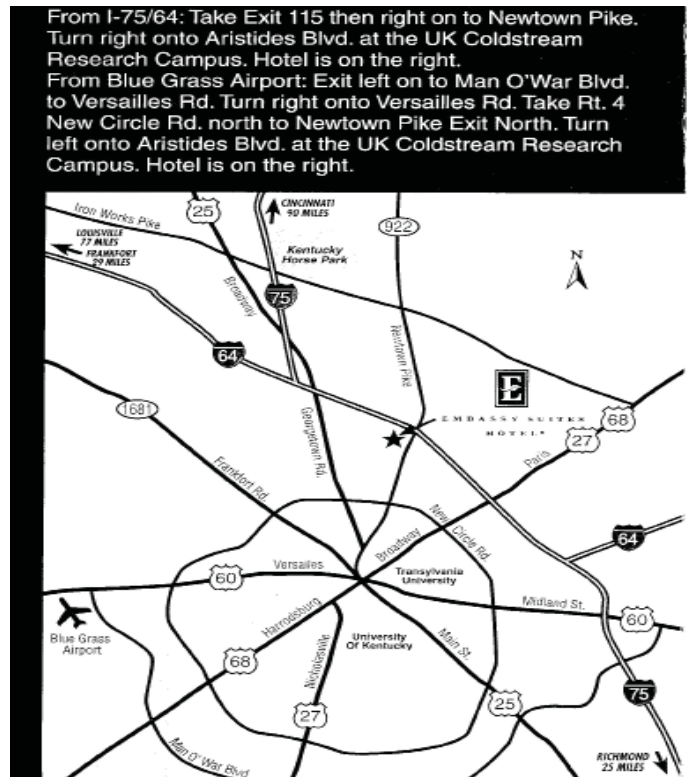
MARKETING (Coldstream 5)

- 1:30 p.m. Facebook Experiences (Round table

- discussion)
- 2:00 p.m. Value Added Producer Grant Program
- 2:30 p.m. Cider/Coffee Break - Pre-Function and Lower Atrium Areas
- 3:10 p.m. Farm of the Day
- 3:40 p.m. Farm-to-School Marketing
- 4:10 p.m. Center for Crop Diversification Website Update

NAP & WHOLESALE MARKETING (Fayette)

- 1:30 p.m. Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
- 2:00 p.m. Continued
- 2:30 p.m. Using the NAP Tool
- 3:10 p.m. Informal meetings between producers, wholesalers and restaurateurs
- 4:40 p.m. Adjourn



KENTUCKY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington KY -- January 4-5, 2016

Mark one: _____ ADVANCE REGISTRATION _____ I am not able to attend--continue my membership(s) as listed below.

NAME(S) for name tag (Please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: (____) _____ OCCUPATION/FIRM _____

FAX: (____) _____ E-Mail _____

PLEASE LIST NAME(S) OF ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS: _____

I recommend _____ for the KSHS or KVGA Board of Directors.

Complimentary registration for County Extension Agents, University Students, and children under 15 years of age accompanying an adult.

**** A \$40 registration allows entrance into any conference meeting session.**

One year membership plus meeting registration.

\$40 PER PERSON

Kentucky State Horticultural Society -----	Number attending _____	\$ _____
Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association -----	Number attending _____	\$ _____
Organic Association of Kentucky -----	Number attending _____	\$ _____
Grape & Wine Short Course -----	Number attending _____	\$ _____

Register for the **Celebration of Kentucky Wines**, Jan. 4, 2016 / 6:00-7:30 PM

Number attending _____ x \$20 each = TOTAL \$ _____

EXHIBITOR/GROWER LUNCHEON -- January 4, 2016 / 12:10 PM EST

MENU: *Will be mostly locally produced Kentucky Proud Products.* ► *Meal prices include meal, tax and tips.*

Number attending _____ x \$26 each = TOTAL \$ _____

CONFERENCE LUNCHEON - January 5, 2016 / 11:45 a.m. EST

Number attending _____ x \$32 each = TOTAL \$ _____

MENU: *Will be mostly locally produced Kentucky Proud Products*

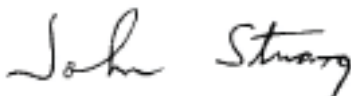
****Meal tickets are available only through advance registration.**

→ **Please make CHECKS payable to: KENTUCKY STATE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY**

CHECK # _____ CHECK AMT \$ _____ CASH AMT \$ _____ TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Mail advance registration to:

Mary Ann Kelley, Research & Education Center,
PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445-0469
Phone: 270-365-7541 x 216; Fax: 270-365-2667



Dr. John Strang, Coordinator

ADVANCE REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015

Participants may also register at the conference.

Receiving Fruit Facts on the Internet

By subscribing to the email notification service you will receive an email announcement when each new issue is posted on the web with a link.

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