



Farming for the Future - March 20, 2019

Agenda

8:30 A.M. Registration & Refreshments

9:00 A.M. Welcome & Introductions; VBCD Programs

9:30 A.M. Biological Farming: How to make it work for your farm
Keynote Speaker: Gary Zimmer (Midwestern BioAg)

Breakout A: Do I need a permit from DEQ to farm here? Wetland rules and regulations for farmers (Derek Haroldson & Amy Berry, MDEQ)

11:00 A.M. Breakout B: Best practices for grain spraying: more spray where you want it, less where you don't! (Mark Ledebuhr, Application Insight, LLC)

12:00 P.M. Lunch

1:00 P.M. Breakout A: Best practices and cutting-edge tech for fruit and vegetable sprays (Mark Ledebuhr, Application Insight, LLC)
Breakout B: Lessons from a farmer: One farm's evolution toward soil health (Brock Gobrogge, Dykhuis Farms)

1:50 P.M. Break

2:00 P.M. Breakout A: How to prevent the next SWD - Lessons from Pennsylvania management of Spotted Lanternfly and other invasive pests (Heather Leach, Penn State Extension)
Breakout B: Transition to organic farming – the "What," "Why" and "How" (Mark Seeley, OnMark Certification Services & Joel Layman, J D Layman Farms)

2:50 P.M. Adjourn

See following pages for session descriptions and speaker biographies



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KEYNOTE

BIOLOGICAL FARMING: HOW TO MAKE IT WORK FOR YOUR FARM

<p>DESCRIPTION:</p>	<p>Gary Zimmer <i>Midwestern BioAg</i></p> <p>Gary will explain the basics of carbon-based farming and how to start incorporating biological practices on your farm. Biological farmers work with nature, feeding soil life, balancing soil minerals and tilling soils with a purpose. The methods they apply involve a unique system of beliefs, observations and guidelines that result in increased production and profit. Practices such as using composts, manures, cover crops and biological products help jumpstart your soil to be more productive and start reducing synthetic inputs.</p>
<p>BIO:</p>	<p>Gary is Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of Midwestern BioAg. Known as the “father” of biological agriculture, Zimmer is an internationally known author, speaker, and consultant. He owns Otter Creek Organic Farm, a family-operated, award-winning 1,000-acre farm near Lone Rock, WI, and has been on the board of Taliesin Preservation Inc. since 2011. Zimmer is the author of several books, including <i>The Biological Farmer</i> and <i>Advancing Biological Farming</i> and numerous articles on soils and livestock nutrition. Gary holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master’s degree in Dairy Nutrition from the University of Hawaii.</p>

11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions

A

DO I NEED A PERMIT FROM DEQ TO FARM HERE? WETLAND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FARMERS

	<p>Derek Haroldson & Amy Berry <i>Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)</i></p>
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p>	<p>This session will give an overview of the Michigan Wetlands Protection Program as administered by the MDEQ with a focus on how it pertains to agricultural projects also under the purview of the NRCS Farm Bill Program. It will cover Michigan law regarding wetlands, lakes and streams and highlight the differences between how these state and federal programs are administered. Topics to be covered include wetland definitions, what wetlands and activities are regulated, and what services the MDEQ provides to help agricultural communities comply with state law.</p>
<p>BIO:</p>	<p>Derek has worked for the DEQ as an Environmental Quality Analyst for 13 years in both the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo District Offices. Prior to this, for two seasons he conducted wetland delineations as part of the DEQ’s Wetland Identification Program. Derek received his bachelor’s degree from Michigan Technological University.</p> <p>Amy has worked in wetland management for over 20 years in the private, public and non-profit sectors. She currently serves as the Wetland Protection Program Policy Coordinator for the MDEQ, where she is a technical and regulatory expert on the protection and management of the state’s wetland resources. In this capacity she coordinates wetland program stakeholder engagement and administration of the MDEQ’s Wetlands Agricultural Assistance Program.</p>



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B BEST PRACTICES FOR GRAIN SPRAYING: MORE SPRAY WHERE YOU WANT IT, LESS WHERE YOU DON'T!

	Mark Ledebuhr <i>Application Insight, LLC.</i>
DESCRIPTION:	This session will focus on both fundamental and advanced spray application topics to help you understand the “why” behind those label recommendations. Employing best practices in every spray application will increase your effectiveness, reduce drift risk, and save you money! Includes hands-on spray table and other demonstrations to help visualize and drive home the concepts, and a review of the most cutting-edge tech to help keep your spray applications where you want them.
BIO:	Mark is founder and principal of Application Insight, LLC, a consulting company specializing in design and evaluation of pesticide application systems, optimization, troubleshooting, education, research and development. Mark was also the co-founder of Ledebuhr Industries, the developer and manufacturer of the Proptec™ rotary atomizer line of spray application products. He has over twenty years of experience in the use and design of spray application and fluid metering systems. Mark strives to inform and empower people to be better stewards: of their crops, of the chemicals they use to grow them, and the land and water we all share.

12:00 p.m. Lunch: Catered by Pigs and Pies

1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

A BEST PRACTICES AND CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SPRAYS

	Mark Ledebuhr <i>Application Insight, LLC.</i>
DESCRIPTION:	Using best management practices for fruit or vegetable spray is the best way to increase disease control, reduce the risks of off-site movement, and ultimately save money. There is no single right way to make an effective spray, so this session will begin with fundamentals and progress to the most cutting-edge technology, with the intention of helping every grower from the hobbyist to the largest farms make better, more effective spray applications.
BIO:	See Above.

B ONE FARM’S EVOLUTION TOWARD SOIL HEALTH – INCORPORATING COVER CROPS, STRIP TILL & MANURE

	Brock Gobrogge <i>Farm Manager for Dykhuis Farms – Grain & Hog Farmers</i>
DESCRIPTION:	Dykhuis Farms is a large-scale grain and hog operation located in Allegan County. Since coming on as farm manager in 2015, Brock Gobrogge has worked with the Dykhuis family on shared goals of building soil health, reducing compaction and better managing their hog manure. Learn about the best management practices the farm has incorporated (such as strip-till and high-boy applied cover crops), lessons learned and what they are going to try next on the farm.



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BIO:

Brock is a Certified Crop Advisor who graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Out of college, Brock worked for a local farmer learning the day to day responsibilities of production agriculture. He then took a job as a precision agronomy consultant with a local retailer working with farmers and utilizing their agronomic data to make them more profitable. Ultimately, farming is Brock's passion and he has been able to combine his experiences as Crop Manager at Dykhuis Farms. Brock and his wife are originally from Ft. Wayne, IN and have a 2-year-old daughter and another on the way.

2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

A

HOW TO PREVENT THE NEXT SWD: LESSONS FROM PENNSYLVANIA MANAGEMENT OF SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AND OTHER INVASIVE PESTS

	<p>Heather Leach <i>Penn State Extension</i></p>
DESCRIPTION:	<p>Heather will talk about the new invasive insect, Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), and its damage to specialty fruit crops (tree fruit, grapes). She will cover identification, biology, monitoring techniques, and management options, including insecticidal control. Heather also does some work with SWD and she will discuss alternative management practices that are being tried in Pennsylvania.</p>
BIO:	<p>Heather is the Spotted Lanternfly Extension Associate in the Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University. She earned her M.S. from Michigan State University working on spotted wing drosophila. She has a strong interest in invasive species, integrated pest management and extension.</p>

B

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC FARMING – THE “WHAT,” “WHY” & “HOW”

	<p>Mark Seeley – OnMark Certification Services Joel Layman – J D Layman Farms: Grain and Specialty Crops</p>
DESCRIPTION:	<p>Learn the process of record keeping, auditing and “what” else it takes to be a certified organic farm. We will also have recently converted organic farmer, Joel Layman, talk about “why” he is changing his management practices to organic and “how” it aligns with soil health goals and profitability goals.</p>
BIO:	<p>Mark farmed certified organic crops in Michigan for 11 years before starting his certification company in 2018. He grew up in Southern Iowa on a family farm before going to Iowa State University. Out of college, Mark was an Ag. teacher and school administrator for 9 years at a 96-acre school farm in MI which hosts about 60,000 people annually for preK-adult programs.</p> <p>Joel farms 2,000 acres in Berrien County and began his organic transition in 2015. Currently he has certified 1,100 acres raising commercial vegetables, edible beans and grain crops. He will continue to transition the remainder of his farm into organic management. An early adopter of technology, the operation is a unique marrying of 21st century tech advancements, from variable rate and prescription based everything, to resource conservation, then blending with age old mechanical weed control methods for success in the organic space. Joel will share thoughts on many hot topics in agriculture, including subsurface drip vs pivot irrigation, cover cropping strategies, electric weeding, as well as challenges and opportunities for commercial scale organic farming.</p>