

The 2019 Missouri Blueberry School

February 22-23, 2019
MSU Darr Agricultural Center
2401 S. Kansas Expressway
Springfield, MO 65807
and 2 area blueberry sites



Registration:
\$90 for first member of farm
\$70 for additional members of a farm

Fee includes Friday educational sessions,
Friday lunch, Saturday bus tour and Saturday
lunch and educational materials

Blueberries offer huge potential for Missouri farmers. Though a challenging crop to produce, blueberries are in high demand for many markets. The Missouri Blueberry School will offer educational sessions and a tour of innovative blueberry farms. Join local and nationally known blueberry specialists to gain expertise on a wide range of blueberry issues, including:

- Establishing new blueberry plantings
- Blueberry cultivars-past, present, future
- Update on blueberry insect issues, including spotted wing drosophila, brown marmorated stink bug and spotted lanternfly
- Blueberry disease management
- Blueberries and produce food safety
- Blueberry production practices
- Blueberry marketing
- Blueberry grower profile
- On-farm tours of innovative blueberry producers

2019 Blueberry School

Questions: Call Patrick Byers at 417-859-2044/email: byerspl@missouri.edu or Kelly McGowan at mcgowank@missouri.edu

Make check payable to Greene County Extension, mail to or drop by: Greene County Extension Center, 2400 S. Scenic Avenue, Springfield, MO 65807; 417-881-8909.

Your Name and Farm Name: _____
Additional Members from Farm: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____

Or register and pay online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-missouri-blueberry-school-tickets-54987348640>

Blueberry School Website:
www.extension.missouri.edu/blueberry



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The Missouri Blueberry School

Friday, February 22, 2019 Blueberry Educational Sessions

8:00-8:30	Registration	
8:30-9:00	Welcome	Jay Chism, Mike Burton, Amy Patillo
9:00-10:00	All I have Learned about Blueberries in 44 years	Gary Pavlis, Rutgers University
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:15	Growing Great Blueberries	Frank Gieringer, Gieringer's Orchard
11:15-12:00	Blueberry Cultivar Selection, Pros and Cons	Gary Pavlis, Rutgers
12:00-1:00	Lunch at the Bond Learning Center	
1:00-4:00	Beginning in Blueberry Production (Concurrent Session)	
	1:00-1:30 Basics of Blueberry Crop Physiology - Amanda McWhirt, University of Arkansas	
	1:30-2:15 Lessons Learned and Getting Started 7 Years In - Ryan Neal, University of Arkansas	
	2:15-2:30 Break	
	2:30-3:00 Blueberry Varieties for Missouri/Arkansas – Patrick Byers, MU Extension	
	3:00-3:30 Disease basics – Jennifer Morganthaler, Missouri State University	
	3:30-4:00 Pruning Basics – Jennifer Morganthaler, Missouri State University	
1:00-4:00	Advanced Blueberry Production (Concurrent Session)	
	1:00-2:00 Blueberry Soil Management—Drexel Atkisson, USDA-NRCS	
	2:00-3:00 Marketing Blueberries at Persimmon Hill—Earnie Bohner, Persimmon Hill	
	3:00-3:15 break	
	3:15-4:00 Produce Food Safety and PYO Blueberries—Connie Fisk, Cornell University	
4:00-4:45	SWD/BMSB/SLF and Blueberries	Tracy Leskey, USDA-ARS
4:45-5:00	Updates on FSMA	Connie Fisk, Cornell University
5:00-5:15	Updates in the 2019-20 Midwest Fruit Spray Guide	Patrick Byers, MU Extension
5:15	Missouri Blueberry Council meeting	

Saturday, February 23, 2019 Blueberry Tour

8:30-9:00 am	Load buses at Darr Center in Springfield, depart at 9:00
10:15-11:45 am	Farm tour at Robertson's Family Farm (707 Saginaw Rd. Joplin, Missouri 64804)
11:45-12:45 pm	Travel to Rogers, Arkansas (box lunch on the bus)
12:45-2:15 pm	Farm tour at Neal Family Farm (1246 W. Laurel Ave. Rogers, Arkansas 72756)
4:30 pm	Return to Darr Center in Springfield

Tour Stops

Robertson Blueberry Farm, Saginaw, MO

Robertson Family Farm is located in Saginaw, MO, just south of Joplin. The farm features blueberries, peaches and honey. Blueberries are sold PYO, as well as prepacked at the farm and at Webb City Farmers Market. Check out Robertson Family Farm's web presence at <https://www.facebook.com/robertsonfarm> and <https://robertsonfamilyfarm.wordpress.com/>.



Neal Family Farm, Rogers, AR

Neal Family farm planted their first blueberry and blackberry plants in 2012 with 1 acre combined. Since then the farm has expanded to 5 acres of mostly blueberries. Located in the fast growing area of Northwest Arkansas near Rogers, the berries are primarily marketed for Pick-Your-Own sales. More details at <https://www.facebook.com/Nealfamilyfarm/>

Featured Speaker

Dr. Gary Pavlis, Professor and Agricultural Agent, Rutgers University



Dr. Pavlis has been a professor and agricultural agent at Rutgers University for 34 years. His areas of expertise are blueberry and grape/wine production. His blueberry newsletter, 'The Blueberry Bulletin', has an international following. His research on blueberry fertilization has transformed the New Jersey industry. He has been instrumental in the expansion of the New Jersey wine industry by assisting would be grape growers through the production/marketing mine field. He has served nationally on the board of directors on the American Wine Society. Dr. Pavlis writes a wine article in *edible jersey* called Liquid Assets, regularly appears in print, on the radio and television educating the public on the intricacies of growing blueberries and grapes in New Jersey or touting the benefits of eating blueberries and drinking wine.

Our thanks to the following supporters of the Missouri Blueberry School, who have provided financial and/or other support:

USDA-NRCS Strike Force Program
Lincoln University Integrated Pest Management Program
University of Missouri Extension-Greene County
Missouri State University William H. Darr College of Agriculture
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Missouri Blueberry Council
Sunshine Valley Farm
Persimmon Hill Berry Farm
Highland Blueberry Farm

Organizing Committee for the 2019 Missouri Blueberry School:

University of Missouri: Donna Aufdenberg, Robert Balek, Patrick Byers, Kelly McGowan
Missouri State University: Jennifer Morganthaler, Marilyn Odneal,
Lincoln University: Nahshon Bishop, Chris Boeckmann, Touria Eaton
University of Arkansas: Amanda McWhirt, Ryan Neal



Invest in Rural Missouri

A USDA-NRCS StrikeForce Project

Presenters

Dr. Michael Burton, Professor, William H. Darr College of Agriculture, Missouri State University

Dr. Burton will speak on behalf of Dr. Ron Del Vecchio, who provides leadership to Missouri's agricultural community as Dean of the MSU William H. Darr College of Agriculture and Director of the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station.

Jay Chism, Southwest Regional Director, University of Missouri Extension

Jay Chism directs MU Extension activities in the 17-county southwest region of Missouri.

Dr. Amy Patillo, Field Specialist in Labor and Workforce Development and Director, Missouri Strike Force Project, University of Missouri Extension

Amy Patillo directs the statewide Missouri Strike Force Project, supporting economic development through specialty crop production.

Frank Gieringer, Gieringers Family Orchard and Berry Farm, Edgerton, KS

Frank Gieringer and his family own and operate a diversified specialty crop farm near Kansas City, producing blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, peaches, apples, tomatoes, and other produce items. Frank will discuss successful production and marketing strategies.

Dr. Amanda McWhirt, University of Arkansas Extension Specialist in Horticultural Crops, Little Rock, AR

Amanda McWhirt is Arkansas state extension specialist in horticulture cropping systems and assistant professor at the University of Arkansas.

Ryan Neal, University of Arkansas Extension County Agent-Agriculture, Benton County, AR

Ryan Neal is a University of Arkansas Extension Service county agent, with a focus on agriculture. Ryan is also a blueberry grower, and the Missouri Blueberry School tour will visit Neal Family Farm in Rogers, AR.

Patrick Byers, Horticulture Field Specialist, MU Extension

Patrick Byers has worked with blueberry research and outreach education for the past 30 years. His particular interests lie with production systems for blueberry growers in Missouri, and blueberry marketing.

Jennifer Morganthaler, Clinical Instructor, MSU William H. Darr College of Agriculture

Jennifer Morganthaler directs outreach education at the MSU State Fruit Experiment Station, teaches in the William H. Darr College of Agriculture, and participates in fruit research.

Drexel Atkisson, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Springfield, MO

Drexel Atkisson is a district conservationist and area soil health specialist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, headquartered in Springfield.

Earnie Bohner, Persimmon Hill Berry Farm, Lampe, MO

Persimmon Hill Farm is owned and managed by Earnie and Martha Bohner. Though regionally known for blueberries, Persimmon Hill also produces blackberries and shitake mushrooms. Earnie and Martha specialize in value added products such as fruit based BBQ sauces, jams, and juices. The farm is now a destination in the Branson area, and includes a café and bakery that produces the famous "blueberry thunder muffins" as well as a range of baked goods.

Dr. Connie Fisk, PSA Northwest Regional Extension Associate, Cornell University

Connie joined the Produce Safety Alliance as the Northwest Regional Extension Associate in August 2017. She is passionate about teaching the information and skills growers need to produce safe, high quality crops.

Dr. Tracy Leskey, Entomology Research Leader / Director. USDA-ARS, Appalachian Fruit Research Station. Kearneysville, WV

Dr. Leskey directs the USDA Innovative Fruit Production, Improvement, and Protection Center. Her research focus is on invasive insects of economic significance such as brown marmorated stink bug and spotted wing drosophila.

