



# NEWSLETTER

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A Farm Bureau Market-Action Program

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## MICHIGAN APPLE CROP UPDATE

**Southwest** – Harvest is complete on all varieties. Goldens picked out longer than expected and Red Delicious picked out shorter than expected. Goldens are exceptionally clean. Red Delicious are lighter than normal. Size is good on most varieties.

**Ridge** – Ida Red and Law Rome harvest is underway. Fuji and Braeburn harvest will be underway at the end of the week. The overall crop picked out as estimated. Coddling Moth has been a problem for some growers. Size and quality is very good in most orchards.

**West Central** – Many growers are finishing with harvest by the end of this week. Ida Red and Rome harvest is underway. A large portion of the Red Delicious crop hit the ground due to unseasonably warm temperatures. Quality is reported to be excellent and size is decent. The overall crop picked out at estimate or slightly below.

**North** – The region's apple crop picking out somewhat short of estimate. Harvest is almost complete and is expected to finish by next week for most growers.

Michigan's fresh market movement has been very good. To date, demand has been better than previous years. Pricing is holding in last fall's price range. Fresh shippers are anticipating price increases in some varieties as we move into CA fruit.

## US APPLE CROP UPDATE

**New York** – Empire, Macs and Cortland are reported to be short of expectations because of size. Greenings picked out longer than anticipated. Harvest has been delayed because of rain. Ida Red, Golden, and a few Romes are now being harvested. The later maturing varieties are picking out above expectations.

**Pennsylvania** – Red & Golden Delicious harvest is complete. York and process Rome harvest is underway. Recent weather conditions have been ideal for coloring of fresh Rome and Fuji. Overall, the crop is picking out close to estimate.

**Virginia** – Red and Golden Delicious harvest is complete. York and Rome harvest is underway. Harvest is expected to be complete within ten days. Oriental fruit moth and codling moth are reported to be a problem with some growers. Size is decent. Overall apple crop appears to be shorter than estimated.

**West Virginia** – Red & Golden Delicious harvest is complete. York harvest is underway. Rome and Fuji harvest will begin soon. Size and color problems are reported on fresh Romes and may delay harvest. Overall, the crop is picking out at or slightly above estimate.

**North Carolina** – Harvest is winding down with a few Rome, Granny Smith, and Pink Lady remaining. Excessive rains caused more sooty blotch than normal. Size is reported to be good. Overall, the crop picked out as estimated.

**California** – Apple harvest is complete with the exception of Pink Lady, which is currently underway. Quality is reported to be good overall. With recent cool weather, good color will increase pack out potential. Pink Lady harvest is expected to be finished within two weeks. The overall apple crop is 5-10% below earlier estimates.

**Washington** – Granny Smith harvest is underway; Fuji harvest is just beginning. Pink Lady harvest is beginning in some areas. Some growers are experiencing a delayed harvest because of labor shortages. Fresh apple production is expected to be approximately 85 million packed units. Apple size is smaller in some areas due to water use restrictions. Some areas are reporting 2-4 tray sizes smaller than 2004. Shipments are reported to be good to brisk. The processing price for juice apples is \$20/ton and the peeler price is \$50/ton.

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**Ontario** – Crop is picking out slightly ahead of average. Good color and size is reported. Spy, Ida Red, and Red Delicious harvest is underway. Empire and Macintosh size is more suitable for the bag market than the tray market. Processor demand is off from previous years.

## **NEGLECTED ORCHARD UPDATE**

Michigan's Apple Industry is one step closer to receiving assistance with the nagging problem of neglected orchards!

MACMA, the Michigan Apple Committee, and the Michigan State Horticultural Society have been working closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to secure incentive payments for growers to remove neglected orchards.

Dr. Mike Brewer, IPM Coordinator and Associate Professor for MSU, worked extensively with our group to prepare a document outlining the neglected orchard issue and the need for assistance. Dr. Brewer is also an NRCS advisor and board member.

Michigan Farm Bureau/MACMA President Wayne Wood and former MDA Director Dan Wyant also endorsed the proposal.

On Monday, October 17, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Subgroup recommended to the Michigan Technical Committee (MTC) the following:

“The EQIP Subgroup recommends to the MTC that the “Removal of Apple Orchards” be added as an eligible resource concern for FY 2006. This resource concern would be addressed with the “Pest Management” practice standard and be supported with a flat rate incentive payment of \$250 per acre.”

In order to qualify for the incentive payment, growers must:

- Be recognized as a commercial grower who has sold apples at a value of more than \$1000 in any one growing and marketing season within the last two of five years;
- Be within one mile of a neglected orchard;
- Replant with a cover crop; the acreage cannot be replanted with apples for the life of the EQIP contract.

At this point, the recommendation was adopted by the MTC and has been submitted to State Conservationist Jack Bricker for approval.

Further details will be developed by NRCS by early 2006. To find out more information on EQIP and other conservation or land management programs growers may qualify for, contact NRCS at [www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. The Agency emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs; and cooperative problem solving at the community level.

Further reports will follow to keep you updated on industry activities. Contact the sales desk at 1-800-292-2653.

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