

# Spring Peach Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Time	Description of Topic	Speaker(s)
8:00 AM	Registration, Coffee, and Grower Networking	
9:00 AM	Welcome, Program Overview, and Michigan Peach Sponsor Industry Update	Mark Shilling MPS President and Lucas Costanza MPS Secretary/Treasurer
9:20 AM	Bacterial Diseases in Peach: Identification, Risk Periods, and Control Strategies	HeHe Wang Clemson University  Remote Speaker
9:50 AM	Break	
10:00 AM	Tree Fruit Crop Insurance: Policy Updates and Risk Management Strategies for 2026	Brandon Walters GreenStone Farm Credit Services Senior Crop Insurance Specialist
10:30 AM	Beyond the Farm Gate: Market Pathways for High-Value Fruit Crops	Clarence Rudat MSU Extension Food, Agriculture, Research and Manufacturing (FARM) Accelerator
11:00 AM	Am I a Farmer or a Food Company? Practical Decisions that Influence Sales and Perceived Value	Greg Kugel Kugel Farms  Mark Epple Epple Family Farms  Alex Overhiser Overhiser Orchards  Amy Buskirk KVCC ValleyHUB

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11:30 AM	Navigating ESA Requirements and Bulletins Live! Two: MSU Tools and Support for Applicators	Safa Alzohairy MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator
12:00 PM	Lunch - CK Catering	
12:50 PM	Where the Peach Market Stands in 2026	Dan Dick MSU Extension
1:10 PM	Cold Hardiness in Tree Fruit: Science, Field Observations, and the 2026 Outlook	Dan Dick MSU Extension
1:40 PM	Chemical Thinning of Peaches and Nectarines with ACC (Accede®)	Amy Irish-Brown Valent USA Sustainable Sales Specialist
2:10 PM	A Peach of an Update: IR-4 Purpose, Process, and Progress	Nicole Soldan USDA IR-4 Regional Research Coordinator
2:40 PM	Stretch Break	
3:10 PM	MSU Peach Breeding Update	Dan Dick MSU Extension
3:30 PM	MAEAP Certification: What It Means for Your Farm and How to Get There	Emily Kerlikowske Berrien County Conservation District MAEAP Technician
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks, Discussion, and Recertification Credits	