

Mississippi Blueberry Education Workshop

Date: February 12, 2015 (Thursday) **Time:** 1 PM to 5 PM

Location: MSU Forrest Co. Extension Office

952 Sullivan Drive

Hattiesburg, MS 39401-2714



Mississippi State University Extension Service, in conjunction with the USDA -ARS and the Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association, will once again host an educational workshop focused on blueberry production in Mississippi. This year the topics will include Spotted Wing Drosophila, Disease issues, Blueberry breeding, Pollination and pollinators, Mechanized harvest technology and economics, and the Food Safety Modernization Act. Please come learn about these important topics.

Cost: \$10, at the door will be collected by the Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association to help in future workshops

For more information contact Dr. Eric Stafne, 601-403-8939 (office), 662-769-9708 (cell) or estafne@ext.msstate.edu

Speaker Line-Up and Schedule:

1-1:30 pm Dr. Barakat Mahmoud (MSU-ES): Overview of the Revised FSMA Rule on Produce Safety Standards

1:30-2 pm Dr. Tim Rinehart (USDA-ARS, Poplarville): An Update on Rabbiteye Blueberry Genomics

2-2:30 pm Aaron Rodgers (Mississippi Dept. of Agriculture and Commerce): Mechanical Harvesters vs. Hand Labor: Examining the Economic Decision-making of Blueberry Harvests

2:30-3 pm Dr. Eric Stafne (MSU-ES): Scale-neutral Harvest-aid System and Sensor Technologies to Improve Harvest Efficiency and Handling of Fresh-market Highbush Blueberries

3-3:15 pm Break

3:15-3:45 pm Dr. Barbara Smith (USDA-ARS, Poplarville): Blueberry Disease Control Recommendations

3:45-4:15 pm Dr. John Adamczyk (USDA-ARS Poplarville): Pollinators and You in our Blueberries: Are We Taking It For Granted?

4:15-4:45 pm Dr. Blair Sampson (USDA-ARS, Poplarville): SWD in Mississippi Blueberries

4:45-5 pm Questions