Spotted Wing Drosophila Webinar

*Hardin County* – A relatively new pest in Ohio that attacks blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, and peaches has invaded Ohio, causing damage to fresh-ripened fruit. The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is a small vinegar fly with the potential to damage many fruit crops. Unlike most other vinegar flies that require damaged fruit to attack, SWD causes damage when the female flies cut a slit and lay eggs in healthy fruit. Given the tendency for this insect to spread and its potential to infest fruit, it is important to learn about monitoring and management of SWD to minimize the risk of larvae developing in fruit and affecting fruit marketability.

Dr. Celeste Welty, OSU Department of Entomology, and State Specialist Jim Jasinski, Associate Professor, Department of Extension, Integrated Pest Management Program will present a 90-minute webinar on the Spotted Wing Drosophila. Attendees will learn the basics of adult monitoring with traps, cultural controls, how to manage SWD with insecticides once detected, and how to determine if fruit are infested with larvae using a simple salt water test.

This webinar will be presented at the Hardin County Extension office, 1021 W Lima Street, Kenton on Wednesday, May 6 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. There is no cost to attend this program. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the OSU IPM and VegNet websites for later viewing. Fruit growers can also register https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWDmm2015 and the webinar link will be sent to your email for live home viewing.

For more information about OSU Extension, Hardin County, visit the Hardin County OSU Extension web site at hardin.osu.edu, the Hardin County OSU Extension Facebook page or contact Mark Badertscher, at 419-674-2297.