

Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration Planned

Not sure how to prune those apple trees in your yard or fencerow? Want to learn how to bring them into annual fruit production while protecting the trees from deer browsing and vole damage?

The Alcona Conservation District and the Harrisville Institute for Cultural Learning are sponsoring a fruit tree pruning demonstration on Saturday, March 28 noon- 2pm. The demonstration will be held at the orchard of JB Cook which is on US 23, 7 ½ miles north of Harrisville, just north of Malaski Road where Black River crosses US 23.

Alcona Conservation District Associate Director, Joe Lukasiewicz, will lead the program with introductions followed by a brief discussion on apple varieties, effect of rootstock on tree size, planting site selection, and the importance of annual pruning for regular fruit production.

Orchard owner JB Cook will talk about his new and antique heritage apple varieties, then demonstrate pruning his trees for maximum fruit production taking into consideration deer browsing pressure. Cook's trees suffered heavy vole damage last winter. He will discuss his strategy for vole management, and participants will be able to see the bridge grafts he did to salvage bearing trees after complete girdling by voles.

The demonstration is open to the public. There is no charge to attend. It is primarily for backyard growers or hobbyists and not intended for those with commercial interest or high density plantings.

Be advised that there is no shelter or restroom facility at the orchard. Please plan in advance and dress accordingly. The ground in the orchard, while mowed, is uneven and may be soggy or covered in snow and/or ice. While open to all, please consider these potential hazards before attending.

Additional details may be found at www.alconaconservation.org or by contacting the Alcona Conservation District, 320 South US-23, Harrisville, at 989-724-5272.