Dr. Anne Nielsen, New Fruit Entomologist Joins Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Anne L. Nielsen is the fruit entomology extension specialist located at RAREC in Bridgeton, NJ. Her responsibilities include tree fruit, small fruit (excluding blueberries and cranberries) and grapes. Dr. Nielsen joins Rutgers after postdoctoral research experiences at UC Davis and Michigan State University. Happy to be returning to Rutgers, where she completed her dissertation under the direction of George Hamilton, Anne's research will focus on developing and refining phenological models for key pest species. This basic research is combined with information on the physiology and behavior of insects into management programs that are both economically and environmentally sustainable. Currently, much of this research is focused on invasive species, particularly Halyomorpha halys, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Anne's dissertation was on the biology of BMSB and was among the first to study this pest in the USA. Her laboratory also evaluates monitoring, biological control, and the integration of management tactics to provide a systems-level approach. This multiple tactic approach is the center of a new $2.67 million USDA multi-state grant she is leading on BMSB. She looks forward to finding solutions for NJ fruit growers so that we can continue to provide local quality foods.

Dr. Anne Nielsen, RCE Fruit Entomologist, visits a wine grape block at Terhune Orchards, Princeton, NJ with owner Gary Mount. Photo credit: Win Cowgill.

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