

# VegNet *The Vegetable and Fruit Crops Teams Newsletter*

<http://vegnet.osu.edu>

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## Greenhouse Tomato Survey

*From Beth Scheckelhoff, Extension Educator– Greenhouse Systems, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences OSU Extension*

The Ohio State University would like to invite growers who propagate or produce greenhouse tomatoes in the United States and Canada to participate in an online survey at <http://go.osu.edu/tomatosurvey>. This survey will provide our research and extension project team with valuable feedback on disease management and food safety issues that are relevant and important to you. Survey responses will guide the development of educational materials and best management practices and resources for the industry. The survey will involve approximately 20 to 30 minutes of your time. For additional information, comments, or questions, please contact Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension Educator for Greenhouse Systems at 419-592-0806 or at [Scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu](mailto:Scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu).



Tomato harvesting at Piketon  
Photo by Brad Bergefurd

# 2014 Upcoming Events

- Sept. 26 -NE Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshop  
For more information go to <http://farmtoschool.osu.edu/events/regional-workshops/>
- Sept. 25– Marketing Meat Webinar (FREE) go to <https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/marketmeat>
- October 9th-Pumpkin Field Night at South Centers, Piketon, OH  
For more information see flyer on page 9
- October 24th-Central Ohio Farm to School Regional Workshop  
For more information go to <http://farmtoschool.osu.edu/events/regional-workshops/>
- Oct. 30– Value-Added Food Production and Marketing Webinar (FREE) go to <https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/valueadded>
- Nov. 17th-19th- 2014 Southeast Strawberry Expo [www.ncstrawberry.com](http://www.ncstrawberry.com). For questions, please contact Kristy Phillips, the Association's Executive Secretary, at [info@ncstrawberry.com](mailto:info@ncstrawberry.com), or call 919-537-2287.
- Dec. 9th-11th- Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO Michigan Greenhouse Growers EXPO <http://www.glexpo.com/index.php>

**To list your upcoming events in future additions of the VegNet newsletter, please send details to [bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:bergefurd.1@osu.edu)**

## Hops Research Update, Wooster

*Chelsea Smith, Research Assistant, OSU Department of Entomology*

Harvest is complete at the Wooster site. Yield data has yet to be analyzed. Updates on which varieties grew best this year will be coming soon.



**Freshly harvested hop cones**  
Photo by Chelsea Smith



**Harvested hop bine**  
Photo by Chelsea Smith



# Profitable Pumpkin Production

*from Brad Bergefurd, Ohio State University Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension Scioto County and OSU South Centers*

Pumpkins are one of the most widely grown crops throughout Ohio and Midwestern states, rivaled only by sweet corn and tomato in terms of acreage. Ohio has roughly 6,800 acres planted to pumpkins with a total farm value of 16.6 million dollars and acreage and consumer demand continues to grow. Spending on decorations for Halloween is second only to Christmas according to the National Retail Federation. In an ideal season, a pumpkin farm can harvest up to 15 tons of pumpkins per acre. However, there are many production issues that can reduce yield, quality and profits.

Like all crops, growers must successfully manage weeds, insects, and diseases to maximize fruit quality, size and yield. In a regional survey conducted by the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group in 2007, 52.3% of 194 growers indicated that disease management was the most challenging aspect of pumpkin production, followed by 17.6% who said weed control and 13.6% who said insect control. There are many significant fungal, bacterial and viral diseases that can interfere with pumpkin production and yield.

There are basically two types of bacterial diseases, those vectored or transmitted to the crop via insects, and those that attack the pumpkin plant without the help of insects. Those diseases vectored by insects are bacterial wilt and yellow vine decline. Bacterial wilt is a disease of pumpkins that can impact grower profits. Pumpkin plants infected with bacterial wilt disease (*Erwinia tracheiphila*) display symptoms where the entire plant wilts down from an apparent lack of water or shows interveinal necrosis on the leaves. The bacterium is transferred into the plant by the striped or spotted cucumber beetle feeding on seedling cotyledons and

early leaves, and then defecating the bacteria into the open wound. Once infection occurs, there is no pesticide or remedy to rid the infection, therefore preventing cucumber beetle feeding on seedlings up to around the 4<sup>th</sup> leaf stage is important to reduce transmission of the pathogen. This can be accomplished by excluding the beetles through the use of row covers, using transplants to minimize the window of susceptibility, using systemic insecticides on the seed or in the seed furrow, or by scouting the seedlings every few days and using a foliar insecticide if a threshold value of beetles per plant is exceeded. To view information and research results conducted by Celeste Welty visit her web site at [http://entomology.osu.edu/welty/veg\\_reports1/Veg\\_reports.html](http://entomology.osu.edu/welty/veg_reports1/Veg_reports.html)



**Giant pumpkins ready for market**

Photo by Robert Holthouse



**Turk's Turban squash ready for market**

Photo by Robert Holthouse

## Profitable Pumpkin Production Continued...

To help foster pumpkin production in the state and reduce production risks, the Ohio State University Piketon Research and Extension Center will hold their 16th Annual Pumpkin Production Workshop and Field Night on Thursday, October 9, 2014. The evening field night will be held at the OSU South Centers, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio. Registration begins at 5:00 pm with a light supper and refreshments.

Anyone interested in commercial pumpkin production is invited. The program will include topics of interest for the novice as well as the experienced pumpkin grower. This year's meeting will discuss pumpkin research being replicated in Ohio, West Virginia and Michigan and supported in part by the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program (OVSFRDP).

A \$10 registration fee will cover a light supper and snacks. To register or for more information, contact Charissa McGlothlin at 740.289.2071 ext. 132 [mcglothlin.4@osu.edu](mailto:mcglothlin.4@osu.edu).

If you are interested in learning more about pumpkin production visit the following Ohio State University and University of Kentucky web sites at <http://southcenters.osu.edu/horticulture/vegetables/pumpkins> and <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CCD/introsheets/pumpkinintro.pdf>. If you would like to be added to the Ohio commercial horticulture list serve to receive Ohio fruit and vegetable crop updates and information contact Brad Bergefurd, [Bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:Bergefurd.1@osu.edu) or call the OSU South Centers 1-800-860-7232 or 740-289-3727 extension #132.



**Pie pumpkins are being harvested**

Photo by Robert Holthouse



**Binned pumpkins in storage**

Photo by Robert Holthouse



**Pumpkin sales at auction**

Photo by Brad Bergefurd



**Pumpkin harvest is in full swing**

Photo by Brad Bergefurd



# MarketMaker Update

*from Charissa McGlothlin, Program Assistant, Ohio MarketMaker Coordinator, College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences*

The National MarketMaker program recently changed management. [Riverside Research](#), a not-for-profit company with facilities in Beavercreek, Ohio, recently signed a global licensing agreement with the University of Illinois for the exclusive rights to [MarketMaker](#).

MarketMaker is a program of web-based information and communication resource designed to revolutionize the food supply chain.

MarketMaker is one of the largest databases of searchable, food industry-related information in the country, currently linking producers and consumers in 19 states plus the District of Columbia. As the exclusive licensee, Riverside Research plans to invest in additional research and development to expand MarketMakers capabilities to new markets and regions, both nationally and globally.

The Ohio State University recently promoted the Ohio MarketMaker at the Ohio Farm Science Review. This year there were over 131,000 in attendance.

To learn more about the MarketMaker program go to <http://oh.foodmarketmaker.com/>

For assistance on enrollment you may contact Charissa McGlothlin at [mcglothlin.4@osu.edu](mailto:mcglothlin.4@osu.edu) or at 740.289.2071 Ext. 132.



**Charissa McGlothlin representing the Ohio MarketMaker at the 2014 Farm Science Review**

Photo by Kim Roush



**MarketMaker on display at the 2014 Farm Science Review**

Photo by Kim Roush



# OSU South Centers Update at Piketon

*from Thom Harker, Research Assistant OSU South Centers*

Hops harvest was completed the week of September 8th, with the last of the varieties being harvested. All dried hop cones have been packaged and vacuum sealed.

The last harvest of tomatoes were taken on the 12<sup>th</sup> of last week.

Plasticulture strawberries were transplanted to the field on September 15<sup>th</sup> using a waterwheel setter. OSU South Centers is looking at three different plasticulture trials this year. The first trial being a cultivar evaluation, second one is winter protection study focusing on different weights of floating row cover and date of application, and the third trial is looking at two different forms of fumigation methods at different application rates and timing of application.

Wine grapes are being monitored for sugar content and titratable acidity.



**Newly transplanted strawberry plugs**

Photo by Thom Harker



**Hops drying in oast**

Photo by Thom Harker



**Double drip tape for uniform bed moisture**

Photo by Thom Harker



**Packaged hops ready for distribution**

Photo by Thom Harker



# Fruit and Vegetable Education at Ohio Farm Science Review

*from Brad Bergefurd, Ohio State University Extension Educator, Ohio State University Extension Scioto County and OSU South Centers*

Several members of the OSU Vegetable and Fruit Teams taught sessions at this week's Ohio Farm Science Review where more than 131,000 were in attendance. Here is a recap of what fruit and vegetable related sessions were taught.

Team member Charissa McGlothlin, Coordinator of the Ohio Marketmaker program, answered questions at the Ohio Marketmaker educational display set up in the Center for Small Farms. Charissa taught and assisted producers and buyers on registering their businesses on the new and improved Ohio Marketmaker on line marketing tool. Team member Brad Bergefurd taught a session on the OVSFRDP funded Plasticulture Strawberry Production research project and how farms can take these results and adopt this marketing and season extension production method on their farms. Bergefurd also taught Hops Production in Ohio and provided information for farms interested in adopting this new specialty crop enterprise on their farm.

Team member Suzanne Mills-Wasniak taught a session on Season Extension Techniques for Urban and Rural Locations and provided an update on the rapidly expanding Dayton Ohio Vacant to Vibrant Urban Agriculture program.

*Article continued on the next page*



**Charissa McGlothlin promoting the Ohio MarketMaker program at the FSR.**

Photo by Kim Roush



**Brad Bergefurd teaching growers about the basics of growing hops.**

Photo by Charissa McGlothlin



**Farm Science Review in London, Ohio. Over 131,000 in attendance** Photo by Farm Science Review



**Suzanne Mills-Wasniak teaching at FSR.**

Photo by Brad Bergefurd

# Fruit and Vegetable Education at Ohio Farm Science Review Continued...

Team member Gary Gao taught sessions on Opportunities in Commercial Raspberry Production in Ohio and Commercial Wine Grape Production in Ohio.

Other vegetable and fruit related sessions taught by OSU and Purdue University Specialists included Organic Heirloom Tomato Production, Cover Crops, Eco-farming Systems for Soil Improvement, Aquaponics in Ohio, Urban Land Leasing for Small Farms, and Good Agricultural Practices for Harvest, Transport, and Packing of Produce.

To see some of the Farm Science Review highlights and learn about some upcoming events visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwqnAmL5lug>



**Gary Gao teaching on Commercial Raspberry Production.**

Photo by Brad Bergefurd



**OSU South Centers educators and assistants attend the FSR. Pictured above-Brad Bergefurd, Laura Tiu, Gary Gao, and Charissa McGlothlin.**

Photo by Mike Hogan



**Laura Tiu teaching on Aquaponics at the FSR.**

Photo by Charissa McGlothlin



# Pumpkin Field Night

## OSU South Centers

Hosted by Brad Bergefurd

Thursday,  
**October 9th,  
2014**

6:00—9:00 P.M.

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**Location:**

OSU South Centers  
1864 Shyville Rd.  
Piketon, OH

**Cost:** \$10.00

**To Register:**

Contact Charissa McGlothin  
at [mcglothin.4@osu.edu](mailto:mcglothin.4@osu.edu) or  
at 740.289.2071 ext. 132

**DEADLINE to Register:**  
October 8, 2014



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The workshop will include the following:

- Pumpkin crop management
- Pumpkin cultivar and quality evaluations
- Pest and disease control
- Insect monitoring and trapping
- Disease screening for resistance to powdery mildew, downy mildew, anthracnose and white speck
- Integrated pest management (IPM) techniques
- Walking tour of our pumpkin variety evaluations and field research trials
- Israeli drip irrigation management

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.  
For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>

Please Join Us for a Webinar on **September 23, 11 am-12 pm**  
Presented by **Anthony Flaccavento of SCALE**

## **Getting Local Foods on the Menu: A Conversation with Anthony Flaccavento about Strategies to get locally grown food in Institutions and Restaurants**

Learn about the [Local Food Cost Calculator](#), a free and downloadable electronic spreadsheet that enables food buyers to calculate the true cost of using local food! There are two versions of the calculator: one designed for **college and university dining services** and another for **restaurants**.

This dynamic webinar will include:

- A brief **overview of research** related to the tool's development
- An introduction to the **Local Food Cost Calculator** and best practices for stakeholders to make local food work in their setting. (e.g., Schools, Retailers, Extension, & NGOs, etc.)
  - A **demonstration** of how to use the calculator
- An opportunity for **questions and discussion** with Anthony

Visit [www.ruralscale.com](http://www.ruralscale.com) to find the calculator and the details of study.



*Anthony Flaccavento has 30 years of hands-on experience in sustainable community development. He has been a certified organic produce farmer for the past 15 years during which time he also founded and directed Appalachian Sustainable Development. Anthony is also the author of "Healthy Food Systems: A Tool Kit for building Value Chains" and over 100 published articles.*

To join the webinar follow this link: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/foodshed>

We encourage questions and dialogue with Anthony about the use of this tool to enhance the region's local food opportunities! Therefore, participants will be given a phone number at the onset of the webinar to directly communicate during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the session. Please plan to connect a few minutes before 11 am to ensure a good connection.

Brought to you by the Appalachian Foodshed Project







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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND  
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### Submit Articles:

To submit an article to the VegNet newsletter please send the article and any photos to **Brad Bergefurd** at [bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:bergefurd.1@osu.edu) or for questions regarding the newsletter call 740.289.2071 ext.132.

## About the editor

### Brad Bergefurd

Bergefurd is an Extension Educator, Agriculture and Horticulture Specialist with Ohio State University Extension, with statewide responsibilities for outreach and research to the agriculture and commercial fruit and vegetable industries Brad has offices at the OSU Piketon Research & Extension Center in Piketon and at OSU Extension Scioto County in Portsmouth.



**Brad Bergefurd, MS**

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