

VegNet Vol. 15, No. 12. August 11, 2008
 Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops
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1. Horticultural Field Night Thursday, August 14 in Piketon, Ohio.

PIKETON, Ohio – Fruit and vegetable farmers and market gardeners will have the opportunity to tour the OSU South Centers Horticultural Research trials at the Piketon Research and Extension Center 6 p.m., Thursday, August 14 in Piketon, Ohio.

Topics and speakers will include:

- ◆ Israeli drip irrigation demonstration and a new drip irrigation research and education unit Johan Oostenbrink, Netafilm USA and Rami Ben-Dor, Agricultural Consultant to the Negev Foundation Ohio Israel Agricultural Initiative.
- ◆ Grape varieties and training systems Maurus Brown, OSU South Centers Horticulture specialist.
- ◆ Primocane bearing blackberries and Crabapple varieties and evaluations Shawn Wright, OSU South Centers Horticulture Specialist.
- ◆ Fresh Market vegetable, ornamental corn and pumpkin research Brad Bergefurd, OSU South Centers Horticulture specialist.
- ◆ Plasticulture strawberry plug plant propagation demonstration– Thom Harker, Horticulture Research Manager, OSU South Centers Horticulture Program.
- ◆ How much are consumers willing to pay for locally grown food? Stan Ernst, Extension Program Leader & Marketing Instructor, OSU.

Dinner will be served immediately following the field tours. Cost for the Field Night is \$5 per person.

Pre-registration is encouraged by Tuesday, Aug. 12. To pre-register call Julie Strawser at (740) 289-2071 or (800) 297-2072 extension #223 or strawser.35@osu.edu and leave a message with their name and number of people attending. For program information, contact Brad Bergefurd, Shawn Wright or Maurus Brown at (740) 289-3727 or in Ohio 1-800-860-7232.

The Centers are at 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio. Take State Route 32 East from the Route 23 intersection to Shyville Road about two miles, the Center is on the right.

2. 2008 Pumpkin Field Day, 6–8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, in South Charleston.

To learn the latest in pumpkin and squash production, visit the 2008 Pumpkin Field Day, 6–8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, in South Charleston. Take a look at new varieties and pest and disease control for cucurbits at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center's (OARDC) Western Agricultural Research Station.

Offered will be a wagon tour of research plots, including trials on squash vine borer control in zucchini, pumpkin varieties and powdery mildew fungicides. Also looked at will be a third-year *Microdochium* resistance trial and a downy mildew sentinel trial.

Participants will take part in in-field demonstrations and hands-on presentations by Ohio State experts and will learn integrated pest management principles of cucurbit production.

The event is open to the public with no pre-registration required. Cost is \$5 per person at the door or \$10 for those seeking Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) credits.

The Western Agricultural Research Station is at 7721 South Charleston Pike, 3.5 miles northwest of South Charleston on State Route 41 in Clark County.

For more information, contact Jim Jasinski, Integrated Pest Management Program, Ohio State University Extension, Champaign County office, (937) 484-1526, jasinski.4@osu.edu, or visit <http://champaign.osu.edu/ipm.htm>.

OARDC, OSU Extension and Ohio State's Vegetable Team are the sponsors.

OARDC and OSU Extension are the research and outreach arms, respectively, of Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

3. North American Strawberry Growers Summer Tour: August 20–21, Ohio

The best way to learn about berry production is to visit farms and talk to other growers. ♦ Berry ♦ growers can do both during the 2008 ♦ NASGA summer tour in ♦ central and northern Ohio on August 20 and 21. ♦ This year's tour includes 10 Ohio farms and markets ♦ that specialize in strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and vegetables. ♦ At each stop, growers can learn by observing and discussing the farming techniques found here in Ohio. ♦ Specialists from Ohio State University will join the group at various points to discuss latest research and extension initiatives.

Among the farms to be visited are the Champaign Berry Farm, in Mutual, which has more than 27 acres of raspberries; The Blueberry Patch & Caf ♦, in Lexington, said to be the largest blueberry grower in the state; ♦ Polter ♦'s Berry Farm, in Fremont, with 13 acres of strawberries among other crops on the 2,000 acre farm; Holthouse Farms, in Willard, a grower of salad vegetables; Jacquemin Farms, in Dublin, which sells much of their produce in their own farm market; Robert Rothschild Farm, in Urbana, which features pick your own crops, as well as their own caf ♦; and Fulton Farms, in Troy, where strawberries and vegetables are grown for ♦ retail and wholesale markets.

The headquarters hotel for the North American Strawberry Growers Association tour will be the Drury Inn at the Convention Center in Columbus. ♦ Tours will then proceed by bus to the respective Ohio farms. ♦ For further information, visit the website at <http://www.nasga.org>, or call executive director Kevin Schooley, at (613) 258–4587. ♦ Register NOW to guarantee a spot on the tour.

Contact: ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Kevin Schooley, Executive Director
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4. Organic Agriculture Field Day is Aug. 28 in Wooster

WOOSTER, Ohio ♦ ♦ Come and see what Ohio State University researchers have to offer organic growers and those interested in learning more about certified organic farming at the eighth annual Organic Food and Farming Education and Research (OFFER) Field Day, Aug. 28, on the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center ♦'s (OARDC) campus in Wooster.

♦ Demand for organic crops far exceeds supply, especially here in Ohio and the Midwest, ♦ says Deborah Stinner, OFFER coordinator. To help in the transition process, OFFER has recently released a Transition Guide to Certified Organic Crop Management, which will be showcased at the field day. ♦ In addition, ♦ ♦ this year ♦'s field day will feature new research on ways to suppress Canada thistle during transition, including prairie plant mixes, smother crops, clean fallow and landscape cloth; new marketing opportunities for organic spelt; and food safety in organic vegetable crops, ♦ said Mathew Kleinhenz, OARDC and OSUE vegetable specialist and OFFER researcher. ♦

Sponsored by OARDC, Ohio State University Extension and the OFFER Program, the event is free and open to the public. There will be cinnamon rolls made from the 2008 organic hard wheat crop and fruits and vegetables from organic horticulture research plots to sample.

The Organic Grain Crops portion of the field day will run 1:30–4 p.m. at West Badger Farm. From 4:30–7:30 p.m., the second half of the event, Organic Horticultural Crops, will be held at Fry Farm.

The Organic Grains Program includes information on:

♦ High demand for organic grains and transitioning to organic grain production by Deborah Stinner, OARDC Best organic corn varieties by Peter Thomison, OARDC and OSU Extension agronomist.

Organic corn breeding research by Rich Pratt, OARDC corn breeder.

No-till organic soybeans by John Cardina, OARDC and OSU Extension weed specialist.

Insect pests in organic soybeans by Ron Hammond, OARDC and OSU Extension entomologist.

Biological buffering by Larry Phelan, OARDC entomologist.

Microbial biopesticides for control of plant diseases in organic farming by Brian McSpadden Gardener, OARDC plant pathologist, and Rosa Raudales, graduate student in the Department of Plant Pathology.

The theme of the Organic Horticultural Crops portion is Enhancing Success. ♦ Discussions in the field will address various aspects of farm management, emphasizing new techniques and tools for disease, fertility, weed and insect management; crop variety selection and placement; high tunnel production; polyculture

systems; grafting; and food safety. There also will be presentations on biological seed treatment for stand establishment of sweet corn, green beans and tomatoes; and biopesticide spray treatments for disease control on sweet corn, green beans and tomatoes.

Leading these discussions will be Matt Kleinhenz, OARDC and OSU Extension vegetable specialist; Sally Miller, OARDC and OSU Extension vegetable pathologist; Joe Kovach, OARDC and OSU Extension entomologist and IPM specialist; Doug Doohan, OARDC and OSU weed and food safety specialist; and Brian McSpadden Gardener and Rosa Raudales, OARDC Plant Pathologists.

The new Transition Guide to Certified Organic Crop Management manual clarifies the federal guidelines for organic crop production and is filled with practical and scientific information that farmers can use, Stinner said. The manual can be purchased online at <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2120> and will be available at the field day for \$15 (cash and check only).

The transition guide and whole farm planning workbook will be discussed during both sections (grains and horticultural crops) of the field day.

OARDC's West Badger Farm is located on Apple Creek Road (County Road 44) north of Apple Creek. Look for OFFER Field Day signs on the west side of Apple Creek Road between Ely and Secrest roads. Fry Farm is located off Oil City Road. Look for signs on the west side of the road between Secrest Road and U.S. 250.

For more information, contact Stinner at (330) 202-3534, stinner.2@osu.edu; or Kathy Bielek, OFFER program assistant, at (330) 202-3528, bielek.4@osu.edu.