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New Fruit, Veggie Safety Standards: OSU Workshops Set

Sources: Ashley Kulhanek, ♦ Writers: Kurt Knebusch

Ohio State University ♦s Fruit and Vegetable Safety Team will offer its first-ever Produce Safety Education Program four times in three places over the next two months.

- ♦ March 1 in Clayton, about 20 miles northwest of Dayton, with the sign-up deadline coming next week: Feb. 22. The March 1 program goes from 6–9 p.m. at Northmont High School, 4916 National Rd., Clayton.
- ♦ March 21 in Ottawa west of Findlay (March 14 deadline). Participants can choose from one of two sessions on March 21: 9 a.m.–noon or 1–4 p.m., both at OSU Extension ♦s Putnam County office, 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa.
- ♦ April 7 in Piketon south of Chillicothe (March 28 deadline). On April 7, attend from 1–4 p.m. in room 160 of the Endeavor Center at the OSU South Centers, 1862 Shyville Rd., Piketon.

Organizers say the program is timed to the approaching growing season and to the recent passage of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act, which emphasizes prevention and science-based standards.

♦ It ♦s for any fruit and vegetable grower who grows from one acre and sells at a farm stand all the way up to a large-scale grower shipping out of state, ♦ said Ashley Kulhanek, the team ♦s education associate and one of the program ♦s planners.

♦ It ♦s also aimed at any farmer who may be interested in participating in the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement, which is currently being drafted, ♦ Kulhanek said. ♦ Being a member of this voluntary program requires attendance in a produce safety course. ♦

The three-hour course will cover four main areas ♦

- water issues,
- soil amendments,
- good handling practices and traceability
- plus consumer perceptions,
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)
- and a background on foodborne illnesses.

An included workbook will help participants identify, assess and manage their risk and implement standard operating procedures.

♦ Start making small changes now so it doesn ♦t hit you all at once, ♦ Kulhanek said of the coming federal regulations. ♦ Sometimes the smallest changes can make a big difference. ♦

The instructors will be experts on food safety and fruit and vegetable management from Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). Participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Registration costs \$40 per person, with each class limited to 50 people. If there ♦s room, walk-in registration will be taken at the door, Kulhanek said. But she encourages signing up ahead of time to guarantee a spot.

Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://www.producesafety.osu.edu> (click on "Program Dates"), or call 330–202–3555, ext. 2918, to receive one in the mail.

For more information, call the same number, visit that website or e-mail kulhanek.5@osu.edu.

2011 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, Hard Copy Now Available!

2011 Online edition coming soon, 2010 still available online

The 2011 Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, Bulletin #672 Base Price is: \$31.00 to which you must add local and state taxes plus shipping costs. In Ohio, first contact your local extension office to see if they have a copy . If they don't have a copy, then contact: Cindy McCain, see below. Out of state can contact Cindy directly, see below.

Contact:
Cindy McCain,
Bulletin Distribution Center,
216 Kottman Hall,
2021 Coffey Rd.,
Columbus, OH 43212,
Phone: 614–292–1607,
Fax: 1–800–292–4919,
pubs@ag.osu.edu

You can also visit the OSU Extension [eStore](#)([click here](#)) for the 2011 bulletin and other extension publications

2010 Vegetable Research Reports Available

The following reports are available on line:

- ♦ [Replicated Asparagus Cultivar Evaluation, 2007-2010 by Carl Cantaluppi from N.C. State University \[Journal of National Association of County Agents\]](#)
- ♦ [Pumpkin Cultivar Evaluation, 2010 plus pictures. \[HTML file\].](#)
- ♦ [Conventional and alternative fungicides to control powdery mildew on pumpkins \[html\]](#)
- ♦ [2010 Northern Ohio Sweet Corn evaluation \[PDF file - need Acrobat reader\]](#)
- ♦ [Evaluation of Sweet Corn Varieties at Grower Locations in Ohio - 2010 with pictures.](#)
- ♦ [Integrated management of sweet corn insect pests in 2010 \[PDF file\]](#)



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