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## Separate path for farm labor in US Senate immigration plan – Mon, Jan 28, 2013

\* "Different process" for long-term agricultural workers

\* Chance for citizenship via new farm worker program

\* Many agricultural workers are believed in US illegally

\* Farm groups: New visa system should replace H2-A plan

By Charles Abbott, [www.reutersreprints.com](http://www.reutersreprints.com).

WASHINGTON, Jan 28 (Reuters) – Agricultural laborers would be on a separate path to U.S. citizenship than other undocumented workers in the immigration reforms proposed by eight senators on Monday that cited the importance of feeding America.

Many of the 1.5 million farm workers employed in the United States annually – perhaps 500,000 to 900,000 in all – are believed to be in the country illegally.

Farmers, ranchers and nursery operators say the immigrant workforce is vital because it is difficult to recruit Americans for the low-paying, often back-breaking labor such as fruit picking, vegetable harvesting and daily care of livestock.

In a four-page outline, the senators say "agricultural workers who commit to the long-term stability of our nation's agricultural industries will be treated differently than the rest of the undocumented population because of the role they play in ensuring that Americans have safe and secure agricultural products to sell and consume."

"These individuals will earn a path to citizenship through a different process under our new agricultural worker program," said the bipartisan group, which includes two of the top-ranking Democrats in the Senate and Arizona Republican John McCain.

### SENATORS "STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION"

The phrasing was similar to a proposal from a dozen agricultural and nursery groups, working as the Agricultural Workforce Coalition, for a new farm labor program to replace the guest worker program now in place.

Coalition members regard Sens Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat, and Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, as key legislators in the drive.

"We view this as a step in the right direction," said Kristi Boswell of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a coalition member. Ken Barbic of Western Growers Association, another coalition member, said his group was "largely encouraged" by the senators' proposal and that it mentioned agriculture twice.

Craig Regelbrugge of the American Landscape and Nursery Association said "it is essential that experienced farm workers are incentivized to continue working in the sector."

Besides the separate path for agriculture labor, the framework said reform would include "a workable program to meet the needs of America's agricultural industry, including dairy, to find agricultural workers when American workers are not available."

### AG COALITION WANTS NEW WORKER PROGRAM

Under the farm coalition proposal, undocumented workers who agree to work in agricultural jobs for several more years would obtain permanent legal status and the right to work wherever they choose. The coalition would replace the H2-A guest worker program with a system of seasonal and full-year visas.

The bipartisan group said it aims to convert its guidelines into legislation by March and to send it to the House later this year.

"We believe this is the year Congress finally gets it done," said Sen Charles Schumer, New York Democrat.

The last major attempt at U.S. immigration reform was in 2007. Estimates say there are 11 million illegal immigrants in the country.

Earlier this month the 6-million-member Farm Bureau, the largest U.S. farm group, urged a new immigration law. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has also urged the farm sector to speak up for comprehensive reform. (Reporting By Charles Abbott; editing by Ros Krasny and Bob Burgdorfer)

**Ohio reaction:** [Francisco Espinoza](#), coordinator of OSU Extension's Agriculture and Horticulture Labor Education Program, said effective reform would afford producers a stable, legal workforce of experienced workers, plus newer workers should their operations expand.

"Replacing the current H2A guest worker program with a more workable, less expensive, less cumbersome visa program would move things in a positive direction for agricultural producers in Ohio," said Espinoza, who is also chairman of the Farmworker Agencies Liaison Communication and Outreach Network (FALCON), a coalition of government agencies and advocacy groups that supports the state's seasonal and migrant farmworkers and agricultural producers.

"Reforming immigration would also address the problem of losing a producer's workforce when they are found to be undocumented, as this is a costly experience in both profitability and legal problems."

On Jan. 28, a bipartisan committee in the U.S. Senate announced plans for comprehensive immigration reform. The following day, President Barack Obama unveiled his vision for new immigration legislation.

Espinoza noted that the American Nursery and Landscape Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack all favor comprehensive immigration reform. The Agricultural Workforce Coalition of nursery and agricultural interests, he said, would like to replace the H2A guest worker program with a system of yearlong work visas.

However, Espinoza said, some agricultural employers see potential downsides to comprehensive immigration reform.

"Nationalizing the E-Verify system claims to discover undocumented individuals in the workforce, but the agricultural community is averse to the bureaucracy of government programs and would also not want the burden of being the enforcers," he said.

"Continued border and immigration enforcement was emphasized as part of any Senate immigration reform plan, but agricultural employers want no part of raids, racial profiling or other interruptions to their operations, seeing them as detrimental to recruiting and maintaining a much-needed workforce."

Espinoza also pointed out that producers still remember the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which provided amnesty to undocumented immigrants.

"The Reagan amnesty resulted in the exit of farmworkers out of agriculture and into mainstream employment, once their adjusted status afforded them the opportunity. A repeat of this would not be a permanent solution (to agriculture's labor needs)."

Migrant and seasonal workers are crucial to many sectors of Ohio's diverse agricultural industry, including vegetable production, dairy farming, nurseries and landscape operations. (Source: Ag Answers)

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## Your Spring Outlook

From: Accuweather.com



[AccuWeather](#) issues a spring outlook for the U.S. every year, focusing on the major highlights of the season. AccuWeather's Long-Range Forecasting Team is predicting that winter will hold on the longest, into March, across the Northeast and Northwest.

A near-normal tornado threat may be in store this spring, especially across the Mississippi and Tennessee valleys.

### More Winter, Late-Season Snowstorms

Winter may stick around for six more weeks across the Northeast and Northwest, no matter what prognostication Punxsutawney Phil makes on Groundhog Day.

"I think we could still see some late-season winter storms [in the Northeast]," AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Forecaster Paul Pastelok said. Snowfall will not be accompanied by the arctic cold that has been gripping the region this January, but more seasonable cold is predicted. Temperatures may be near to slightly below normal in the Northeast during February and March. While the spring will start out cooler and unsettled in the Northeast, milder weather may arrive by April and May.

### Tornado Threat Returns

The number of tornadoes is predicted to be near-normal this spring. The average number of tornadoes per year in the U.S. is around 1,300, according to the Storm Prediction Center. Typically, April and May have the highest occurrence of tornadoes.

"Severe weather season this year will be different from last year," Pastelok said. "I think it is going to be a more typical start. Late March into April we'll get going, especially over the lower Mississippi and Tennessee valleys. But not like last year where we started very early in the season." Last year, unusual warmth during the winter allowed a quick start to the severe weather season during January and February.

Later in the season, severe storms may reach the Ohio Valley at times, including Kentucky and southern portions of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Cincinnati and Evansville, Ind., will be among the cities at risk later in the season.

### Spring Warmth Still Strong, Not as Widespread as Last Year

The AccuWeather Long-Range Forecasting Team believes this spring could rank in the top-ten warmest for the U.S. again; however, the warmth will not be as widespread or as extreme as last year.

"The core of warmth for the spring is going to center itself in the dry areas, the western Plains, east-central Rockies, maybe extending down into the Southwest mid- to late-season," Pastelok said.

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## MARKETING RESOURCES

### Ohio MarketMaker - Making Connections in Ohio's Food Chain



MarketMaker is a resource for all businesses in the food supply chain. The website contains demographic, food consumption and business data that users can search to find products to sell, or find a place to sell their products. Since it is part of a national network of participating states, it's a one-stop resource to connect the food industry.

[www.ohiomarketmaker.com](http://www.ohiomarketmaker.com)

MarketMaker webinar, here is the link to view the 25-minute session. Topics include making the most of your profile, learning how to take advantage of advertising opportunities, and how to customize trade alerts and buy/sell ad notifications.

<http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/p4k4b9o1hyg>



Whether you are in the exploration stage or ready to grow an existing venture, this site provides the connections you need for your business. Ohio Marketing Connections brings you easy access to direct marketing resources thanks to the contributions of numerous collaborators on the Ohio Direct Marketing Team. Great things are happening in Ohio - be a part of it!

<http://directmarketing.osu.edu/index.html>

## Beekeeping Workshop Brings National Experts to Wooster March 1-2

The Spring Beekeeping Workshop drew a crowd of more than 1,000 last year.

WOOSTER, Ohio -- The largest educational beekeeping event of its kind in the U.S. will be held again in Wooster this year, March 1–2, featuring Ohio and national experts on queen bee rearing, pests and diseases of hives, and other issues impacting beekeeping and agricultural production.

The 35th annual Spring Beekeeping Workshop, organized by the Tri-County Beekeepers Association Inc. of northern Ohio, will take place at the [Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center](http://www.ohioagriculture.com)'s Fisher Auditorium and Shisler Conference Center, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster.

Last year, the event drew more than 1,000 attendees, making it the largest one-day beekeeping symposium or workshop in the country, said Joe Heider, president of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association.

Issues related to bees and beekeeping have become increasingly significant as experts debate the causes of mass deaths in bee colonies in recent years worldwide, which is a growing problem as farmers depend on bees to pollinate many of their crops.

The workshop begins March 1 at 6 p.m. with a tour of OARD's Pollinarium, followed by two concurrent presentations, "Beyond the Hive" and "Beginning Beekeeping."

The bulk of the program is scheduled for March 2, beginning at 9:20 a.m. with the keynote address, "Practical Natural Beekeeping," by Jennifer Berry, coordinator of apicultural research at the University of Georgia.

During the day, there will be several concurrent presentations covering issues such as hive pests, urban beekeeping, queen bee rearing and colony collapse disorder. The event also includes mini-workshops for kids as well as classes on cooking with honey, apitherapy, making soaps and lotions, and mead making.

The workshop will close with a question-and-answer session at 3:45 p.m. featuring Berry; Ohio State University entomologist Barbara Bloetscher, coordinator of the Department of Entomology's School IPM Program and state apiarist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture; Ohio and West Virginia master beekeeper Joe Kovaleski; and Doug Sponsler, graduate research assistant, Department of Entomology, Ohio State.

Bloetscher, who will also give presentations on the proper management of varroa mites and small hive beetles, said maintaining strong colony health and monitoring for pests on a regular basis are key to fighting dangerous insects.

"The key is to maintain a low level of mites using multiple control tactics instead of having to resort to using stronger products once the mite level is high," she said.

"Small hive beetles are a relatively new pest in Ohio, but they have become a severe pest in certain areas of the state. I will share the latest information on the biology and management options for this pest."

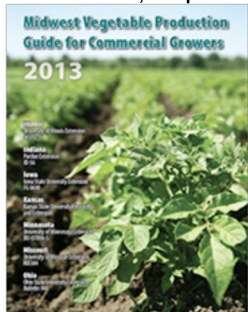
For a complete list of workshop presentations and activities and to register, go to <http://www.TriCountyBeekeepers.org> and click on "Spring Workshop." No walk-in registration will be available.

## In 2013, Ohio joins Midwest Vegetable Production Guide

Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension, IPM Program; Celeste Welty, OSU Dept. of Entomology; Cindy McCain, OSU Media Distribution

The Ohio Vegetable Production Guide has been transferred and merged into the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide (bulletin 948), a regional publication involving seven states (IA, IL, IN, KS, MO, MN) plus Ohio State University state vegetable specialists. If there is specific content you notice missing, please contact us and we'll try to include that information next year.

One change to be aware of in the new guide is the arrangement of the chapters by crop grouping instead of individual crops. For example tomato, pepper, and eggplant are all placed in a "Fruiting Vegetables" chapter. Also included in the guide are icons indicating reduced risk, biopesticides, and organic approved pesticides.



The Midwest Vegetable Production Guide (bulletin 948) is now available at your county Extension office for \$10 apiece, tax included. If you buy this item online at OSU's Media Distribution Store [eStore](#) (click here), it will cost \$10 plus tax plus shipping.

[2013 PDF version now available for download from Purdue, Click Here!](#)

## Ohio – A Major Player in the Vegetables



From: [Vegetables 2012 Summary](#), January 2013,

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, ISSN: 0884-6413

The latest vegetable summary from the USDA was released on January 29, 2013 and show trends in vegetable production by state from 2010 to 2012. I decided to glean some numbers from the report and in the case of 4 crops show where Ohio ranks (only showing 2012 data). You might be surprised at some of the numbers. The PDF file of the complete summary can be found at: [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&ved=0CEwQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nass.usda.gov%2FPublications%2FTodays\\_Reports%2FZdNleSmPbC-K8GcDEw&bvm=bv.41934586,d.aWc](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&ved=0CEwQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nass.usda.gov%2FPublications%2FTodays_Reports%2FZdNleSmPbC-K8GcDEw&bvm=bv.41934586,d.aWc)

Fresh market vegetable and melon production for the 24 selected crops estimated in 2012 totaled 438 million hundredweight, up 1 percent from last year. Harvested area covered 1.68 million acres, up 1 percent from 2011. Value of the 2012 crop is estimated at 10.1 billion dollars, down 6 percent from a year ago. The three largest crops, in terms of production, are onions, head lettuce, and watermelons, which combined to account for 36 percent of the total production. Onions, tomatoes, and sweet corn claim the highest values, accounting for 26 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 24 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2012, California continues to be the leading fresh market State, accounting for 44 percent of the harvested area, 48 percent of production, and 50 percent of the value.

### Principal Fresh Market Vegetable Area Planted and Harvested – States, 2012.

[Only includes estimates for the selected crops in the NASS annual program. These crops are not estimated for all States that might produce them. See the 2007 Census of Agriculture for a comprehensive tally of total vegetable acres by State. Includes processing total for dual usage crops (asparagus, broccoli, and cauliflower)]

	Area planted (acres)		Area harvested (acres)
California	747,400	California	735,600
Florida	201,400	Florida	186,700
Georgia	111,400	Arizona	108,600
Arizona	109,800	Georgia	102,800
New York	65,600	New York	63,270
Texas	63,400	Texas	53,250
Michigan	53,200	Michigan	49,200
Washington	46,100	Washington	44,700
North Carolina	40,800	North Carolina	40,200
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>34,950</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>32,750</b>
New Jersey	26,700	Oregon	25,930
Pennsylvania	26,700	New Jersey	25,700
Oregon	26,450	Pennsylvania	25,350
Illinois	23,800	Illinois	22,500
Colorado	21,500	Colorado	20,600
Virginia	17,500	Virginia	16,500
Indiana	16,500	South Carolina	15,400
South Carolina	16,400	New Mexico	15,000
New Mexico	15,400	Indiana	14,600

Tennessee	12,700	Tennessee	11,300
Wisconsin	12,400	Wisconsin	11,200
Maryland	10,980	Maryland	10,200
Idaho	8,700	Idaho	8,500
Alabama	6,300	Delaware	5,900
Delaware	6,100	Alabama	5,000
Massachusetts	5,200	Massachusetts	4,800
Connecticut	4,700	Connecticut	4,300
Oklahoma	4,200	Nevada	3,720
Nevada	4,020	Oklahoma	2,900
Arkansas	3,200	Arkansas	2,800
Mississippi	2,800	Missouri	2,400
Missouri	2,700	Mississippi	2,300
Maine	1,700	Maine	1,500
New Hampshire	1,500	Utah	1,500
Utah	1,500	New Hampshire	1,300
Vermont	900	Vermont	800
Rhode Island	700	Rhode Island	650

	Production (1,000 cwt)		Value of production (1,000 dollars)
California	212,213	California	5,044,895
Florida	38,095	Florida	1,145,281
Arizona	31,941	Arizona	696,666
Georgia	21,860	Georgia	515,598
Washington	18,571	New York	405,444
Oregon	14,033	Washington	316,235
New York	13,340	Texas	199,127
Texas	11,211	Michigan	175,883
North Carolina	8,453	North Carolina	174,410
Michigan	7,916	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>145,755</b>
Colorado	6,597	New Jersey	143,194
Idaho	6,205	Oregon	136,316
Illinois	6,111	New Mexico	121,505
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>5,476</b>	Colorado	111,214
New Jersey	4,682	Pennsylvania	90,217
New Mexico	4,418	Nevada	86,442
South Carolina	4,399	Virginia	83,477
Indiana	3,358	South Carolina	80,210
Virginia	2,901	Indiana	56,789
Pennsylvania	2,854	Idaho	52,050
Nevada	2,706	Illinois	51,999
Wisconsin	1,903	Tennessee	36,995
Delaware	1,382	Wisconsin	32,981
Maryland	1,211	Maryland	28,688
Tennessee	1,067	Arkansas	24,966
Missouri	960	Delaware	22,946
Alabama	812	Alabama	18,442
Utah	810	Massachusetts	15,600
Arkansas	708	Connecticut	12,320
Mississippi	403	Missouri	9,888
Oklahoma	348	Utah	9,132
Massachusetts	312	Oklahoma	5,185
Connecticut	280	New Hampshire	4,836
Maine	90	Mississippi	4,675
New Hampshire	78	Maine	4,590
Rhode Island	49	Rhode Island	2,695
Vermont	40	Vermont	2,080

**Bell Peppers** for Fresh Market and Processing Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2012

	State	Area planted (acres)		State	Area harvested (acres)
1	California	23,400	1	California	23,300
2	Florida	18,800	2	Florida	18,000
3	New Jersey	3,700	3	New Jersey	3,700
4	Georgia	3,600	4	Georgia	3,400
<b>5</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>3,100</b>
6	North Carolina	2,500	6	North Carolina	2,500
7	Michigan	1,600	7	Michigan	1,500

Yield per acre	(cwt)	Production	(1,000 cwt)
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California	425	California	9,893
Florida	250	Florida	4,500
New Jersey	375	New Jersey	1,275
Georgia	260	Ohio	1,203
Ohio	325	North Carolina	775
North Carolina	310	Michigan	567
Michigan	183	Georgia	390

Price per cwt	(dollars)	Value of production	(1,000 dollars)
Florida	46	California	280,820
Michigan	40	Florida	207,000
Georgia	39.9	Georgia	50,873
New Jersey	38	New Jersey	28,872
North Carolina	29	Ohio	22,680
California	28.4	North Carolina	22,475
Ohio	24	Michigan	14,820

**Pumpkins for Fresh Market and Processing Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price, and Value – States: 2012**

	State	Area planted (acres)		State	Area harvested (acres)
1	Illinois	17,000	1	Illinois	16,200
2	Ohio	7,600	2	Ohio	7,200
3	Pennsylvania	7,100	3	Pennsylvania	6,800
4	Michigan	6,800	4	Michigan	6,300
5	New York	6,400	5	New York	5,800
6	California	5,500	6	California	5,500

	Production (1,000 cwt)		Price per cwt (dollars)
Illinois	5,563	New York	33.5
California	1,870	Pennsylvania	15.1
Ohio	1,742	California	14.7
Pennsylvania	1,258	Michigan	14
New York	986	Ohio	13.4
Michigan	945	Illinois	5.9

	Value of production (1,000 dollars)
New York .....	33,031
Illinois .....	32,819
California .....	27,489
Ohio .....	23,343
Pennsylvania .....	18,996
Michigan .....	13,230

**Tomatoes for Fresh Market Area Planted and Harvested – States and United States, 2012 [Cherry, grape, tomatillo, and greenhouse tomatoes are excluded]**

	Area planted (acres)		Area harvested (acres)
California	31,500	California	31,000
Florida	30,000	Florida	29,000
Virginia	4,600	Virginia	4,500
Ohio	4,300	Ohio	4,100
Tennessee	3,700	Tennessee	3,400
North Carolina	3,400	North Carolina	3,300
New Jersey	3,000	New York	2,800
New York	2,900	New Jersey	2,700
South Carolina	2,800	South Carolina	2,700
Pennsylvania	2,500	Pennsylvania	2,400
Michigan	2,100	Michigan	2,000
Alabama	1,400	Alabama	1,300
Arkansas	1,100	Arkansas	1,000
Indiana	1,100	Indiana	700
Georgia	(D)	Georgia	(D)
Texas	(D)	Texas	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

	Yield per acre (cwt)		Production (1,000 cwt)
Virginia	420	California	9,765
Florida	330	Florida	9,570
North Carolina	325	Virginia	1,890



Alabama	320	North Carolina	1,073
California	315	Tennessee	850
Arkansas	285	Ohio	697
South Carolina	250	South Carolina	675
Tennessee	250	New Jersey	567
New Jersey	210	New York	546
Michigan	200	Alabama	416
New York	195	Michigan	400
Ohio	170	Arkansas	285
Indiana	160	Pennsylvania	271
Pennsylvania	113	Indiana	112
Georgia	(D)	Georgia	(D)
Texas	(D)	Texas	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

	Price per cwt (dollars)		Value of production (1,000 dollars)
New York	86.4	Florida	267,960
Pennsylvania	84.6	California	221,666
Indiana	68	Virginia	62,370
Arkansas	64	New York	47,174
Ohio	61.4	Ohio	42,796
New Jersey	54.4	North Carolina	37,019
South Carolina	42	New Jersey	30,845
Michigan	40	Tennessee	28,900
North Carolina	34.5	South Carolina	28,350
Tennessee	34	Pennsylvania	22,927
Virginia	33	Arkansas	18,240
Alabama	30.6	Michigan	16,000
Florida	28	Alabama	12,730
California	22.7	Indiana	7,616
Georgia	(D)	Georgia	(D)
Texas	(D)	Texas	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

**Sweet Corn** for Fresh Market Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, Price and Value – States 2012

	Area planted (acres)		Area harvested (acres)
Florida	49,000	Florida	42,000
California	34,000	California	33,800
Georgia	28,000	Georgia	27,000
New York	21,700	New York	20,600
Ohio	16,400	Ohio	15,100
Pennsylvania	15,000	Pennsylvania	14,200
Washington	12,000	Washington	11,400
Michigan	10,100	Michigan	9,100
New Jersey	7,500	New Jersey	7,200
Wisconsin	7,500	North Carolina	7,200
North Carolina	7,300	Colorado	6,800
Colorado	6,900	Wisconsin	6,400
Illinois	6,800	Illinois	6,300
Indiana	5,600	Indiana	4,800
Massachusetts	5,200	Massachusetts	4,800
Connecticut	4,700	Connecticut	4,300
Maryland	4,200	Maryland	3,800
Oregon	4,000	Oregon	3,700
Virginia	4,000	Virginia	3,600
Texas	3,400	Texas	3,200
Delaware	3,300	Delaware	3,100
Maine	1,700	Maine	1,500
Alabama	1,500	New Hampshire	1,300
New Hampshire	1,500	Alabama	1,000
Vermont	900	Vermont	800
Rhode Island	700	Rhode Island	650

	Yield per acre (cwt)		Production (1,000 cwt)
California	175	Florida	6,930
Georgia	170	California	5,915
Florida	165	Georgia	4,590

Washington	155		New York	2,266
Colorado	150		Washington	1,767
Oregon	136		<b>Ohio</b>	<b>1,586</b>
North Carolina	120		Pennsylvania	1,037
New York	110		Colorado	1,020
Delaware	107		Michigan	946
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>105</b>		North Carolina	864
Michigan	104		New Jersey	684
New Jersey	95		Wisconsin	595
Wisconsin	93		Illinois	548
Illinois	87		Oregon	503
Rhode Island	75		Delaware	332
Texas	75		Massachusetts	312
Pennsylvania	73		Connecticut	280
Connecticut	65		Indiana	264
Massachusetts	65		Texas	240
Maine	60		Maryland	228
Maryland	60		Virginia	158
New Hampshire	60		Maine	90
Alabama	58		New Hampshire	78
Indiana	55		Alabama	58
Vermont	50		Rhode Island	49
Virginia	44		Vermont	40

	Price per cwt (dollars)			Value of production (1,000 dollars)
New Hampshire	62		Florida	180,180
Rhode Island	55		California	123,032
Vermont	52		Georgia	104,652
Maine	51		New York	68,433
Massachusetts	50		Washington	58,311
Connecticut	44		Pennsylvania	40,132
Pennsylvania	38.7		<b>Ohio</b>	<b>37,430</b>
Maryland	36		Michigan	24,218
Illinois	35		New Jersey	23,119
Indiana	33.9		North Carolina	20,736
New Jersey	33.8		Illinois	19,180
Washington	33		Colorado	16,932
Alabama	30.3		Massachusetts	15,600
New York	30.2		Wisconsin	15,232
Virginia	30		Connecticut	12,320
Delaware	28		Oregon	10,613
Florida	26		Delaware	9,296
Michigan	25.6		Indiana	8,950
Wisconsin	25.6		Maryland	8,208
North Carolina	24		New Hampshire	4,836
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>23.6</b>		Virginia	4,740
Georgia	22.8		Texas	4,680
Oregon	21.1		Maine	4,590
California	20.8		Rhode Island	2,695
Texas	19.5		Vermont	2,080
Colorado	16.6		Alabama	1,757

## Ohio State University to host statewide Farm to School Conference March 13

By Tracy Turner *Written Tuesday, February 05, 2013*

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Ohio State University Extension will host a Farm to School Conference March 13 for those interested in starting or expanding a farm to school program.

OSU Extension, with the support of the Ohio departments of education, health and agriculture, will host the conference as part of its goal to continue to expand the successful program, which works to increase students access to healthy foods and to help them learn more about food, health, nutrition and agriculture, said Julie Fox, director of the Ohio Farm to School program.

Registration for the Ohio Farm to School Conference, which will be held at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, is now open to the first 250 registered participants, Fox said.

The conference runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$50 and includes conference materials, a jump drive with Farm to School resources, breakfast, lunch, free parking and more. Registration can be done online at <http://go.osu.edu/F2SRegistration>



For more information on Ohio Farm to School program, visit <http://farmtoschool.osu.edu>