



The Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

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FDA Listening Session April 30 on Proposed Produce Safety Rule

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would like to have your input on the newly proposed food safety rules that will impact the produce industry. On April 30, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State, Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Farm Bureau will be hosting a listening session for the public to hear comments and concerns growers may have about the proposed produce safety rules.

The event is free, but registration is requested. The online registration form can be found at the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Food Safety web page at <http://bit.ly/FDAmtg>. Below is a list of details regarding session information.

FDA Listening Session

Location: Shisler Conference Center, The Ohio State University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), 1680 Madison Ave, Wooster, OH 44691

Duration: 1:00–4:00 PM

FDA Guest Attendees:

Michael Taylor, Deputy Commissioner of Foods for FDA

Jim Gorny, senior advisor for produce safety

Joy Johanson, Produce Safety Staff Expert and Consumer Safety Officer.

More Details:

WOOSTER, Ohio -- A listening session is scheduled for April 30 to hear comments and concerns about the U.S Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) [proposed new food safety rules](#) for fresh produce.

The session will be 1 to 4 p.m. in the Shisler Conference Center on the Wooster campus of Ohio State University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), 1680 Madison Ave. OARDC is the research arm of Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The program is being hosted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State, Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Farm Bureau.

"The FDA is coming here because they want to hear from Ohio's produce growers," said Ashley Kulhanek, agriculture and natural resource educator for OSU Extension. "They are encouraging comments. Because it's a proposed rule -- not final yet -- this is the opportunity to ask questions and make your concerns heard, because once it's final, it's done."

The event is free, but registration is requested. The registration form is online at the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Web page at <http://bit.ly/FDAmtg>

Many growers have questions about how the proposed rule will affect their operations, Kulhanek said, or if they can be exempt from the rules. "This is your chance to get clarification about the rule and how it will apply to you," she said. "The meeting will include two hours just for open conversation, questions and answers with the audience."

Michael Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine, is scheduled to attend the session and will be available for questions, Kulhanek said.

"Participants will have access to some top-level FDA administrators," Kulhanek said. "You can get information right from the source."

Representatives from the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Farm Bureau will also be in attendance.

The long-awaited proposed Produce Safety rule was published on Jan. 16. It is one of the measures the FDA has taken to comply with the 2011 Food Safety Modernization Act. The proposed rule focuses on standards for growing, harvesting, packing and holding produce on farms. It is geared toward produce, including fruits, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, sprouts and nuts, that are likely to be eaten fresh. Not included is produce that is rarely consumed raw, such as potatoes, or is destined for commercial processing.

The rule applies to conventional and organic farms and to greenhouses. Hydroponic produce is also included.

The FDA has already held three public two-day meetings (in Washington D.C., Oregon and Chicago) that the law required, Kulhanek said. "Now the FDA is reaching out to more farmers in different regions. FDA has been hosted in North Carolina and Georgia recently for similar listening sessions."

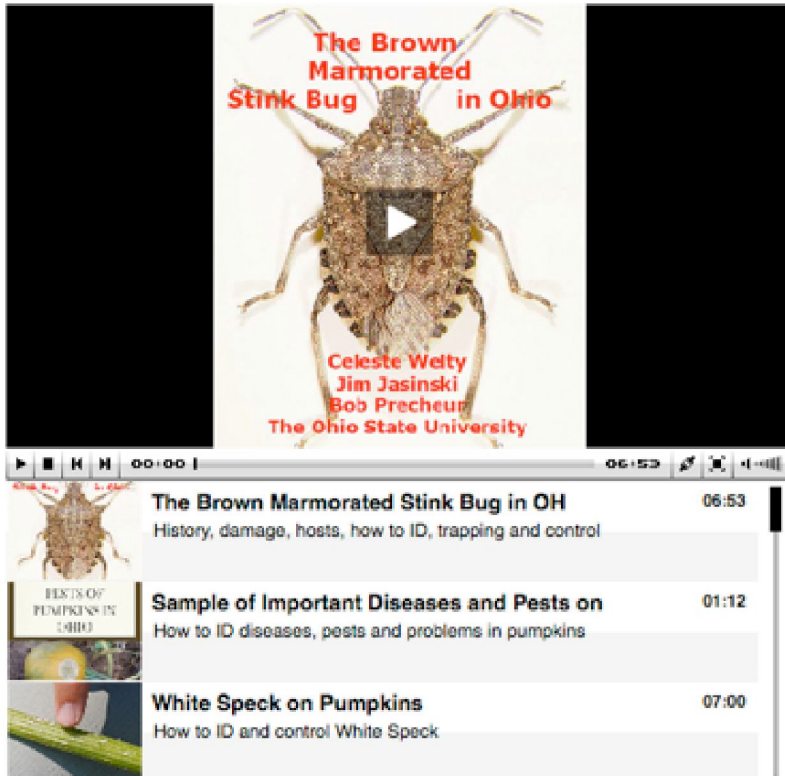
This meeting is more informal, Kulhanek said. The public can still officially comment on the rule online or in writing by May 16. To comment, click the link from the [Federal Register page](#), or go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for FDA-2011-N-0921. The Federal Register page also includes information to submit comments in writing.

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in OH – the video

★ Bob's Video Vegetable Notes

Check out our new videos below

Use the scroll bar on the right of the player list to see all the videos available!

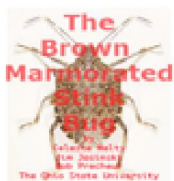


Want to get the 411 on this new invasive pest. Here are the things you need to know about its history, life cycle, identification, monitoring, management & control. This video is a short introduction into this pest.

For more detailed information, consult the ebooks published last year.

These are enhanced eBooks with two short videos and 1 short audio piece. The epub format will work on mobile devices that have an eReader that can use the 'epub' file format. They are available for iOS (iBooks) and Android devices. There are some plug-ins for browsers that will handle epub files. Both the epub file format and iBooks Author format are available for download from the VegNet home page.

<http://vegnet.osu.edu>



[Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in OH \[epub file\]\[Size: 14mb\]](#)



• [Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in OH \[iPad only, iBooks Author\]\[Size: 41mb\]](#)

Can Your Customers Find You

Do you want to learn how to make the most of your Mobile Media Marketing? While's there's no single "app for that," we have a full-day workshop designed to help you see how you look to mobile customers so you can improve your visibility, findability and interaction.

The Maps & Apps Workshop will be held Wednesday, April 24, at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on OSU's Campus. The cost is \$75 per person and \$25 for each additional person from the same business. Space is limited so be sure to RSVP soon. Deadline to register is Friday, April 12. You can email me and pay with a check, or call and pay via credit card.

Attached is the flyer or you can go to <http://go.osu.edu/MapsAndApps> for more information.

Strawberry Plasticulture workshop at OSU South Centers on May 16th.

Charissa McGlothlin, Office Assistant, OSU South Centers

Brad Bergefurd will be the one hosting the workshop. I have attached the flier. The workshop will include information on the following: a short classroom education on the most recent research updates on plasticulture strawberry production and how this can be used on Ohio farms as a season and harvest extension technique, a walking tour of our plasticulture strawberry field research trials with description of this new to Ohio strawberry production method, field trials to view will include variety evaluations, day neutral (summer bearing) strawberry evaluations, use of white and black plastic mulch for soil temperature modification, winter row cover management study results for freeze and frost protection , drip irrigation and fertigation management, with row covers, bed shaping/ plastic laying and transplanting equipment on display. For further information about the workshop go to <http://go.osu.edu/StrawberryWorkshop>

Limited seats available, so register today!

Deadline to register is May 14th

Strawberry Plasticulture Workshop

**The Ohio State University South Centers
Piketon, Ohio**



**Thursday, May 16th
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Brad Bergefurd, Horticulture Specialist

Limited Space Available. Registration Fee \$5.00 (Refreshments and drinks provided)

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, May 14th, 2013

To register, contact:

Charissa McGlothlin at 740-289-2071 Ext. 132 mcglothlin.4@osu.edu

For further information go to <http://go.osu.edu/StrawberryWorkshop>

The Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center (OARDC) and Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and are committed to ensuring that all research and educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

Kath L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension; Steve Black, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, OARDC. TDD No. 800-589-6292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1888.



“SPECIALTY CROPportunities”

Melanie Filotas, IPM Specialist, Specialty Crops

SPECIALTY CROPportunities was designed to assist growers considering production of a wide range of non-traditional crops, including many specialty vegetables and culinary herbs. It has information on agronomics, marketing and pests for 100 non-traditional crops, and we plan to add more crops in the future.

You can find it at the following link:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/CropOp/en/index.html>