

VegNet



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Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops

On the WEB at: <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

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Sweet Corn Management Schools for Growers ♦ Jim Jasinski, Integrated Pest Management Program, (O) 937-484-1526, (F) 937-484-1540, jasinski.4@osu.edu, <http://champaign.osu.edu/ipm.htm>

In Ohio, sweet corn is consistently the number one fresh market vegetable in acres produced, so get ready to knock the rust off your sweet corn management skills by attending one of our early summer workshops! The OSU Extension Vegetable Team, IPM Program, and USDA Wildlife Services have teamed up to bring growers two sweet corn management schools in southwest and northcentral Ohio. ♦ The first school will be held at the OARDC Western Ag Research Station in South Charleston on June 16, and the second will be held at the OARDC North Central Ag Research Station in Fremont on June 18. ♦ By holding the schools early in the season, growers should be able to put into practice some of the knowledge they acquire.

Both schools will offer a similar program of basic topics in the morning and advanced topics in the afternoon session. ♦ In addition to the presentations, two new resources will be given to each attendee, a Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management pocket guide and a DVD of nine regional specialists presenting at the 2008 Great Lakes Expo (published 2008). ♦ Lunch will be provided on site, followed by a field visit to station demonstration plots including a small Stewart's wilt and herbicide screen, plus the use of row covers and transplants in production.

Basic topics for the morning session will include producing early sweet corn and stand establishment tips, fertility requirements, adjusting your spray schedule according to corn earworm moth pheromone trap catches, and understanding how hybrid selection can impact Stewart's wilt, worm infestation, and rust. The morning session will finish out with how to control specific weeds and major factors that affect yield and quality.

Advanced topics for the afternoon start off with identification of common worms in sweet corn and expanding trapping programs to include fall armyworm and European corn borer, herbicide carryover concerns and varietal sensitivity, and lastly, raccoon and black bird management options.

Growers can sign up for the whole day at either location, or select just the basic or advanced sessions. ♦ Both PAT and CCA credits are being requested for these presentations. Space is limited for each school to the first 35 registrants. ♦ For more program details and to register for either school, visit <http://champaign.osu.edu/ipm.htm>. ♦ Contact Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension at 937-484-1526 or jasinski.4@osu.edu if you have specific questions about either sweet corn management school.

2. New Website: Welcome to the Ohio State Food Safety Program Website, *Creating a Future with Safer Food.* ♦ <http://foodsafety.osu.edu/>

Organic and Transitional Farmers Restored to Rightful Status in EQIP

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Washington, D.C. May 5, 2009 ♦ USDA today announced a special three-week sign-up for farmers in the process of converting to organic farming to receive technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a move applauded by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and its grassroots member organizations across the country.

The organic conversion assistance was provided for by the 2008 Farm Bill but the plan went awry when the Bush Administration issued rules for the EQIP program just before leaving office which baffled state and local offices of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). As a result, in a majority of states organic farmers and transitioning farmers were simply not being served, in contradiction of Congress' intent in the farm bill.

♦♦This was a wrong that needed righting, and with today's announcement USDA is not only setting it right, but doing so in an innovative and farmer-friendly manner, ♦ said Aimee Witteman, NSAC Executive Director. ♦ We thank NRCS and USDA leadership for listening to the concerns of organic farmers and applaud their new initiative. ♦

Today's announcement sets-aside \$50 million out of the \$1 billion EQIP program for a special three-week sign-up for farms converting to organic production, farms expanding their organic production, or existing organic farms who desire conservation support to reach even higher levels of environmental performance. The sign-up period begins Monday, May 11 and goes through Friday, May 29. Six core conservation practices (conservation crop rotation, cover cropping, integrated pest management, nutrient management, rotational grazing, and forage harvest management) are being made available to transitioning organic farmers on a nationwide basis. Each state may then also add a variety of ♦facilitating♦ conservation practices specific to the type of agriculture in their region.

♦♦Obviously we would wish to have more than a very short three weeks to work with our farmer networks to get the word out and get farmers into local NRCS offices to sign up for this exciting new initiative, ♦ said Witteman. ♦ We will work quickly to get the word out far and wide and our member organizations with expertise in organic agriculture will be helping farmers understand their options under the new program terms. ♦

Organic farming has strong environmental benefits for soil and water quality, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity. In recognition of this fact, Congress retooled the EQIP program in the 2008 Farm Bill to provide a general EQIP priority for organic farming in the program overall as well as a specific EQIP subcomponent for farms converting in whole or in part to organic farming.

The new initiative addresses the special ♦organic conversion assistance♦ component of EQIP in particular. Funding under the organic conversion section of the farm bill is capped at not more than \$20,000 per farm per year, and not more than \$80,000 per farm in any 6-year period. Organic farmers may opt to compete in this special pool, with the tighter payment caps, or may opt instead to compete in the regular EQIP pool for which the 6-year cap is \$300,000. However, under the terms of the new initiative announced today, farmers will receive higher payments, relative to conventional EQIP rates, for five of the six national core practices for organic conversion option. The higher payment rates reflect the higher management costs associated with the mandatory three-year organic transition period and the higher ongoing management costs associated with organic farming.

♦ We expect this program to evolve and grow over time, ♦ said Witteman. ♦ NRCS has made a good faith effort to address the needs of organic farmers and appears to be willing to make this program even better on an iterative basis in future years. This is a very welcomed new day. ♦

Bob's Video Vegetable Notes

Check out my 3 new videos from late April and early May: <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

7. How to Use a Cardy meter

6. Season Extension (examples from central OH)

5. Strawberry Season Preview (A visit with 3 growers)

Use the scroll bar on the right side of the playlist to see all the videos (see red arrow in picture below)

Previously:

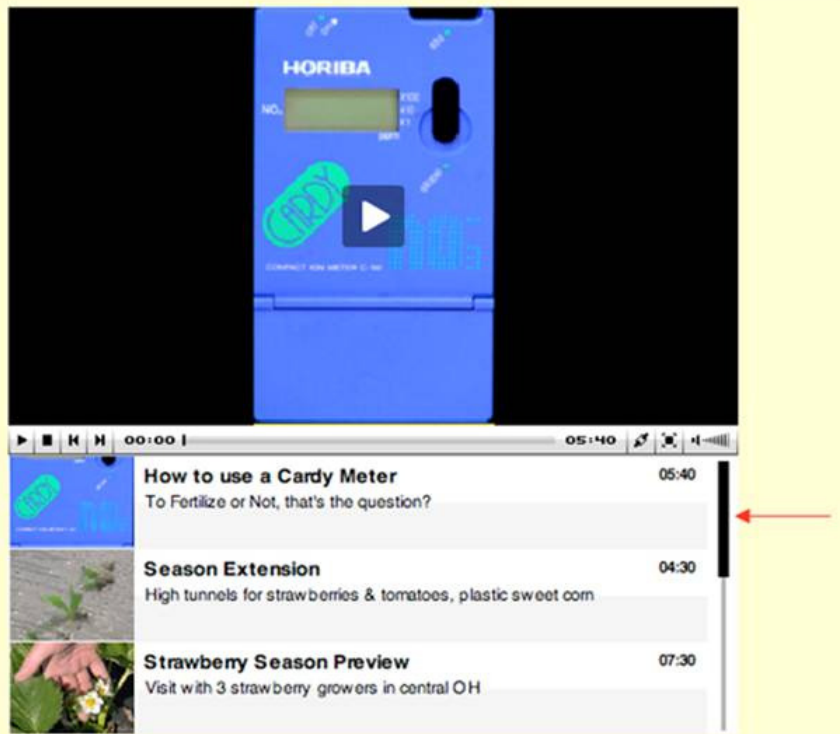
4. The Heirloom Tomato Project and Elle pots

3. Sweet Corn for you

2. Pumpkins for you

1. Introduction and the 2009 OH Veg Production Guide

The Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops



The screenshot shows a video player interface with a playlist. The top video is "How to use a Cardy Meter" (05:40) with the subtitle "To Fertilize or Not, that's the question?". Below it are "Season Extension" (04:30) with the subtitle "High tunnels for strawberries & tomatoes, plastic sweet corn" and "Strawberry Season Preview" (07:30) with the subtitle "Visit with 3 strawberry growers in central OH". A red arrow points to the vertical scrollbar on the right side of the playlist.

Don't forget Dr. Welty's Insecticide Update

This QuickTime movie podcast is not in the flash player at the top, so scroll down the page and you will find it in the right hand column. The podcast last about 9 minutes.



Insecticide Update for Vegetable Crops
Celeste Welty
Ohio State University
April 2009

Quicktime movie by Dr. C. Welty
[Insecticide Update '09, Click Here!](#)