VegNet

Vol. 16, No. 24. September 29, 2009◆
The Ohio State University Extension Vegetable Crops
On the WEB at: http://vegnet.osu.edu

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USDA Hearing on Proposed Leafy Greens Agreement in Columbus Oct. 6

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Columbus is one of just seven cities across the nation to host a public hearing on a proposed national marketing agreement covering the handling of leafy green vegetables.

The Columbus hearing is planned for 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Room D130, 400 North High St. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is holding these hearings to provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the proposal and to offer comments supporting or opposing it.

According to the USDA, the agreement, as proposed, would authorize the development and implementation of production and handling regulations designed to support the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Good Agricultural Practices, Good Handling Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices in the fresh leafy green vegetable industry. The agreement would be a voluntary program, so only those handlers who sign up with proposed agreement would be regulated.

"The goal is to reduce the risk of food safety problems related to leafy greens, such as the E. coli outbreak that occurred in fresh spinach in 2006," said Doug Doohan, fruit and vegetable specialist with Ohio State University Extension and a leader of the Ohio Roundtable on Safe Production of Fresh Produce. "However, there are big concerns that such an agreement would put small growers at a disadvantage. Ohio has many small growers of leafy greens, and I've heard them express fears that even though this program is voluntary on a federal level, many retailers would likely not accept product from any grower that doesn't join the agreement. That could put some, or many, of our growers out of business, and would likely not increase the safety of the food they supply."

Doohan, who also has an appointment with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, said he hopes many of Ohio's leafy greens growers and other interested parties will express their concerns -- or their support -- of the proposal at the hearing on Oct. 6.

Transcripts of other hearings held before Oct. 6 will be available on the USDA's Web site at http://www.ams.usda.gov/moab. In addition, the USDA will video-record hearings held in Monterey, Calif., on Sept. 22-24, and will make the video available for viewing at the same Web site.

More information on the proposal is available at http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/moab (click on "Proposed - Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.")

2009 Sweet Corn Hybrid Disease Nursery Report

From Dr. Jerald Pataky, University of Illinois
The summary of the 2009 University of Illinois sweet corn hybrid nursery is now available at www.sweetcorn.illinois.edu as Word or PDF files. Table 7 which lists disease reactions and ratings for 387 hybrids in the 2009 nursery also is available at this site as an Excel file.

In the 2009 nursery, hybrids were rated for reactions to three races of common rust (avirulent, D-virulent, and G-virulent), Stewarts wilt, NLB (races 0&1), MDM (strains A & B), SLB, and responses to three HPPD-inhibiting herbicides, Callisto (mesotrione), Laudis (tembotrione), and Impact (topramezone).

Editors's Note: For those without internet access, I have copies of the Excel and PDF file and I can mail you a hard copy if you so desire. The files are too large to fax. If interested, contact me at: Bob Precheur, OSU-HCS, 2001 Fyffe Ct , Columbus, OH 43210. 614-292-3857. Email: precheur.1@osu.edu

New & Emerging Cover Crops Field Day.

October 28, 2009, 9:30am to 2:30pm
Steve Groff's, Cedar Meadow Farm, 679 Hilldale Road, Holtwood, PA
www.cedarmeadowfarm.com

We are planning a major cover crop field day here at my farm on Oct 28th, 2009. Over 30 different species of new and emerging cover crops will be available to see. I planted them on 3 different planting dates and had manure spread across the ends of the plots. There are also 4 different cocktail mixes of cover crops and acres of my fields to see the various covers I am working with on my farm currently. We'll have the new Hi-Clearance Cover Crop Seeder here as a demonstration. The corn field that was seeded the end of August with this machine will be available to see as well.
Steve Groff

A brochure with more details [pdf file]can be found at: http://vegnet.osu.edu/news/field day brochure-final.pdf