

VegNet Vol. 10, No. 18, September 16, 2003

Isabel  
R. Precheur

The remnants from hurricane Isabel will pass by parts of this region by late Friday and Saturday. Rainfall from this storm may interrupt field operations and growers should pay attention to local forecasts later in the week. The Navy NOGAPS weather prediction model puts the center of the storm on Saturday over the OH and PA border. The National Weather Service's GFS model puts the storm moving through western PA into NY state. At this point, mostly the eastern half of OH will be affected by rain. Amounts will range from 0.25 to 0.5 inches in the center of the state to 1 to 2 inches in eastern OH. Rainfall amounts will be greater in extreme eastern OH into western PA.

Managing Liability for Fruit and Vegetable Growers: Ohio Specialty Crop Food Safety Initiative Sponsors November 20 Workshop

By

The Ohio Specialty Crop Food Safety Initiative (Initiative) is sponsoring its second Food Safety Workshop on Thursday, November 20 in Columbus, Ohio at the Marriott North Hotel. The workshop will focus on managing liability for fruit and vegetable growers, packers and shippers to increase the marketability and safety of their produce. While the Initiative stresses the prevention of microbiological contamination of fresh fruits and vegetables, it is best to prepare should such contamination occur.

Mary Donnell, Extension Agent, Ohio State University Extension Agricultural Business Enhancement Center and workshop coordinator says that topics will include developing crisis management plans, understanding how to work with media during difficult times, building a food recall system and exploring options in product liability insurance.

The featured presenter is Gil Meyer, Director, Issues and Program Management, Dupont Agriculture & Nutrition where one of his roles is serving as crisis coordinator. Meyer also serves on the executive committee of the International Food Information Council, a leading organization of the food industry and conducts workshops on crisis management.

Additional presenters include Paul Panico, Chief, Division of Food Safety, Ohio Department of Agriculture; Mary Donnell; John Wargowsky, Executive Director, Mid American Ag and Hort Services; Martha Filipic, Technical Editor, Communications and Technology, Ohio State University Extension; Dr. Shari Plimpton, Program Manager, Industry Outreach, Center For Innovative Food Technology; and Scott Bell,

Loss Control Manager and Christal Leggett, Custom Accounts Underwriter with Farmland Insurance-Nationwide Agribusiness Companies.

The workshop fee of \$40 includes a continental breakfast, lunch, workshop notebook and certificate of attendance. Attendance is limited to 100. Growers, packers and shippers from Ohio and other states as well as professionals working with fruit and vegetable growers, packers and shippers are welcome to register. November 10 is the workshop registration deadline while November 1 is the hotel registration deadline. Complete workshop information is available by contacting Jennifer Hungerford at 614-246-8289 or [maahs@ofbf.org](mailto:maahs@ofbf.org) or visiting [www.midamservices.org](http://www.midamservices.org) and clicking on "projects."

This Initiative is cooperatively managed by the Ohio State University Extension Agricultural Business Enhancement Center, Mid American Ag and Hort Services and the Center for Innovative Food Technology and is financed in part through a grant from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the State of Ohio and the United States Department of Agriculture under the provisions of the Specialty Crop Grant.

New Univ. of CA book offers tips for hiring, managing farm labor

A new book published by the University of California Agricultural Issues Center suggests ways agricultural employers, managers and supervisors can cultivate greater productivity and reduce turnover among employees. In the book, *Labor Management in Agriculture: Cultivating Personnel Productivity*, second edition, author Gregory Encina Billikopf discusses motivation and other factors that affect job performance.

"When it comes to profitability, there are many factors that farmers have little control over, such as cost of feed, crop prices and the weather," said Billikopf, a University of California labor-management farm advisor. "Much of what growers can do to enhance their bottom line, however, is associated with their employees." *Labor Management in Agriculture* covers such topics as the use of practical tests in hiring, the fine-tuning of incentive pay (including piece rates), the advantages and disadvantages of different pay structures, performance evaluations, interpersonal conflicts and employee discipline. The book focuses on management and supervision techniques rather than on legal requirements, and includes examples from the experiences of farm employers.

The publication is available in English (2nd Edition, 248 pp.) and Spanish (International Edition, 262 pp.). The hardbound book contains 18 chapters and more than 100 photos. This edition contains a new chapter on interpersonal negotiations and updates throughout that are based on the latest results in personnel management research. The book can also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor/>

Billikopf, who is based in Stanislaus County, has been a labor management farm advisor for the University of California since 1981. He is a frequent national and international speaker on farm labor management.

Labor Management in Agriculture (in English or Spanish) costs \$12.50 plus tax and shipping (where applicable) and can be ordered through the UC Cooperative Extension office in Stanislaus County. For more information, contact Elizabeth Resendez at 209-525-6800 or eresendez@ucdavis.edu

#### What's New At The VegNet Web Site

##### Problem Of The Week

A pictorial comparison of Squash Vine borer damage and Bacterial Wilt in pumpkins. While the symptoms are similar, there are some key differences. Check it out. Click on the 'Problem of the Week' button of the left side.

##### VegNet Vegetable Schools

A series of slide presentations are now available in order to update you on the latest pumpkin and sweet corn research. We begin with 6 pumpkin topics in Pumpkins 101 and have 10 slide presentations available in Sweet Corn 101. In sweet corn. Powerpoint presentations and html online slide shows are available now. Go to the VegNet homepage.

##### Pumpkins 101

The use of trap crops and Admire for cucumber beetle control and New varieties for 2001. We have presentations on cover crops for disease control and pumpkin fungicide use.

Perimeter Trap Cropping. Online html slide show | Perimeter Trap Cropping. PPT, 7 Mbytes

See also the Research Results section on the home page for text version of the report.

##### Sweet Corn 101

Presently only Powerpoint presentations available. Coming Soon: Online HTML slide shows. Check back often Nine topics including:

Aspects of Variety Selection based on Disease Control [ ppt 40 KB]

Internet Link To "Reactions of Sweet Corn Hybrids to Prevalent Diseases" Dr. Jerald Pataky [www.sweetcorn.uiuc.edu](http://www.sweetcorn.uiuc.edu)

Producing Early Sweet Corn [ ppt 3.5 Mbytes ]

Managing Weeds in Sweet Corn [ ppt, 9 Mbytes ]

Sweet Corn Herbicides & Variety Sensitivity. [ ppt 2Mbytes ]

Sweet Corn Development and Critical Periods for Irrigation Management [ppt 1.6 Mbytes ]

Flea Beetle Management in Sweet Corn [ ppt 510 KB ]

How To Keep Worms Out of Sweet Corn Ears [ ppt 8.3 Mbytes ]

Role of Bt Transgenic Hybrids in Sweet Corn Pest Management. [ ppt 21.2 Mbytes ]

Bt Sweet Corn Efficacy in OH, 1999-2000 [ppt, 208 KB ]

[Return to Vegetable Crops Homepage](#) | Ohio State University Extension

We appreciate very much the financial support for this series of vegetable reports which we have received from the board of growers responsible for the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit research and Development Program. This is an example of use of Funds from the "Assessment Program".

Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied. Although every attempt is made to produce information that is complete, timely and accurate, the pesticide user bears the responsibility of consulting the pesticide label and adhering to those directions.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension.

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