



UMASS  
**EXTENSION**



# Vegetable Notes

For Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts

Volume 22, Number 2

February, 2011

## **TWILIGHT MEETING AT FARMER DAVE'S IN DRACUT MA: IPM UPDATE, CORN HEAT, & WINTER GREENS**

**Time: Monday, March 14, 2011, 3:30pm-7:00pm.**

**Location: Farmstand and greenhouses at Brox Farm, 1276 Broadway Road (Rte 113)**

**Dracut, MA 01826-2813**

**Hosted by Dave Dumaresq**

**Sponsored by UMass Extension Vegetable Program**

Join us for our first 2011 vegetable twilight meeting, hosted by Dave Dumaresq of Farmer Dave's farm. Dave farms about 90 acres of vegetables and about 18,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of heated greenhouse space, at three different locations including Brox Farm in Dracut. He uses the greenhouses to grow flowers, winter and spring greens, greenhouse tomatoes, and vegetable transplants. Dave sells through his two farm stands, several farmers markets, a summer CSA with many pickup locations, and some wholesale. Recently he has started selling through winter farmers markets and both winter and early spring CSA's.

### **The full program will include:**

- Pre-season IPM update & weather monitoring information. Dave will describe innovative IPM techniques that he uses with assistance from crop consultant Jim Mussoni. Ruth Hazzard will introduce a new UMass Extension project that will offer basic and advanced training in specific IPM tactics, and Jon Clements will talk about our new network of weather stations and how you can use them to access on-line weather data and pest modeling to make more informed pest management decisions in both vegetables and fruit crops.
- Corn burning furnace for greenhouse heat. This is the third winter that Dave has heated his warmest greenhouse with shelled corn. We will see this innovative heating system in action and discuss the costs, benefits, and challenges. Ask questions of a grower who has been using this system successfully. We will review the economics of using corn for greenhouse heat, based on several years of economic data.
- Growing & marketing greens in the wintertime. Interest in winter markets is growing rapidly. Farmer Dave's has recently started growing and harvesting greens through the winter and early spring greens using a sub-irrigation bench filled with compost and potting soil. Dave's new 'spring greens CSA' is 10 weeks starting so we will see Dave's bench system in action, Becky Sideman UNH Extension Veg. & Berry Specialist and UNH Extension Greenhouse specialist Brian Krug will discuss their studies comparing benchtop production vs in-ground winter production for yield and energy use. Kate Donald from Seacoast Eat Local will talk about profitably marketing winter produce. Discussion of winter production and sales will continue over refreshments.

1 pesticide applicator recertification credit will be offered.

Refreshments will be served.

Directions from Route 93:

Take exit 46 for MA-110/MA-113 toward Lawrence/Dracut. At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Lowell St. Slight right at MA-113/N Lowell St. Continue for ~2.4 miles, the farm stand will be on your right.

For pre-registration or more information contact Andy Cavanagh at 413-577-3976 or [acavanagh@psis.umass.edu](mailto:acavanagh@psis.umass.edu). Pre-

registration is encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. There is no fee for attendance.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **New England Marketing Conference**

**March 1-3, 2011**

#### **Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center.**

The Harvest New England Association will be hosting a marketing conference for a third time - The Expanding New England Farm Enterprise: Reaping More From What We Sow; A Harvest New England Ag Marketing Conference and Trade Show.

Over 800 attendees attended the second conference in February 2009. Plans are for an even bigger and better event in 2011. This unique marketing conference targets New England farmers interested in learning new marketing ideas as well as fine-tuning strategies for business success. Five themed tracks with over 25 workshops will be offered covering a wide range of marketing and business planning topics, including using social media, funding, customer relations, value added, agri-tourism and more. A full trade show of nearly 100 vendors will provide information on the latest products and services for the agricultural community. For the latest conference updates and to register on line go to [www.harvestnewengland.org](http://www.harvestnewengland.org).

### **The Safety of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: Implementing GAPs on the Farm**

#### **A Produce Safety Workshop taking place at the Capital District Farmers Market in Menands**

**March 3, 4, 2011**

**381 Broadway, Menands, NY 12204.**

#### **Goals of this workshop:**

- Understand how GAPs (Good Agricultural Practices) impact produce safety
- Learn what is needed to have a USDA GAP/GHP audit
- Begin writing a farm food safety plan that complies with a USDA GAP/GHP Audit

#### **Growers participating in this training will receive:**

- A flash drive pre-loaded with templates to use in writing your own farm food safety plan including
- Templates of record keeping forms
- Farm Worker Training CD
- Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower Self Assessment for Food Safety Risks
- Bag with lots of other resources

Pre-registration and fee due by **March 1st**

Registration includes materials, lunch, breaks, and other program costs. Please add \$20 if you are bringing a second person from your farm on either or both days.

For More Information or if You Have Questions Please Call or email Kevin Iungerman with the Northeast NY Fruit Program at 518-885-8995, [kai3@cornell.edu](mailto:kai3@cornell.edu), or Chuck Bornt with the Capital District Vegetable & Small Fruit Program at 518-859-6213, [cdb13@cornell.edu](mailto:cdb13@cornell.edu).

Send Your Registration Form And Check Payable To: "Cornell Cooperative Extension", CCE Rensselaer County, Agriculture & Life Sciences Bldg., 61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180. Attention of: Marcie Vohnoutka.

### **Annual One-Day Farm Conference & Resource Fair**

**March 5, 2011**

**Bristol County Agricultural High School, Dighton, MA.**

Organized by SEMAP and Bristol County Conservation District. Join us for a day of workshops and networking. This years topics include Agri-Tourism, How to Develop a Farm Blog, Grant Writing for Your Farm, Working with Land Trusts to Protect Your Farm, and a panel discussion on Value Added. See <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=jp7zj6bab&oeidk=a07e37my6il95e54a7d&oseq=a01ncf16msos8> for more info.

### **Extending the Vegetable Season**

**March 8th, 2011 9am - 12 noon**

#### **Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, 175 5th Ave, Saratoga Springs**

Bejo Seed's Jan Van der Heide and Dennis Ferlito will discuss vegetable varieties that can be used to extend your winter harvest season. Vegetables just pulled from storage will be there to view (and taste!). Arctic refrigeration's Mike Mager will discuss storage criteria and vegetable farmers Richard Ball and Paul Arnold will talk about their own refrigeration units. The Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is conveniently located on the corner of Henning Road and Fifth Avenue, across from BOCES, just down the street from free race track parking. Easy access from the Northway at Exit 14 or Route 29 heading East from Saratoga Springs.

### **Growing Small Fruits: Options and Opportunities.**

**March 8, 2011**

**Rochester NH**

See <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/Docs/GrowingSmallFruitsBrochure2011.pdf> for program and registration.

### **2011 Grain Growers Conference**

**March 9, 2011 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m**

**UVM Dudley Davis Center, Burlington, VT**

This daylong event will provide you with a diverse array of educational topics on producing grain in the Northeast. This year the conference has been expanded to include 4 concurrent sessions throughout the day. The day is sure to have something for everyone!

For more information email [heather.darby@uvm.edu](mailto:heather.darby@uvm.edu) or [eecummin@uvm.edu](mailto:eecummin@uvm.edu).

Mailing address: UVM Ext, 278 South Main Street, St. Albans, VT 05478. PH # 802-524-6501.

Registration fee is \$40 and includes lunch. For more information go to: <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/2011-Grain-Growers-Conference.pdf>

### **NH Vegetable & Berry Growers Annual Meeting.**

**March 12, 2011**

**Boscawen NH.**

For program and registration go to <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/Docs/FlierNHVBGA11edited.pdf>

### **Mass Aggie Seminar: "Home Garden and Small Farm Series"**

#### **An Introduction to Growing & Pruning Grapes in the Home Garden**

**March 12, 2011**

Location: Varies around the state depending on workshop

For registration or more information go to <http://www.UMassGarden.com>

### **Mass Aggie Seminar: "Home Garden and Small Farm Series"**

#### **Managing Weeds Organically in the Home Landscape**

**March 19, 2011**

Location: Varies around the state depending on workshop

Go to <http://www.UMassGarden.com> to register for Gardening workshops

**Garlic Grower Meeting - Moving Forward with Garlic Bloat Nematode**

**March 25th, 2011 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

Saratoga CCE office, 50 W. High St., Ballston Spa, NY 12010. Garlic bloat nematode's distribution, damage, and future implications. Potential development of a seed certification program in New York will also be discussed. Call Crystal Stewart, 518-775-0018 or email [cls263@cornell.edu](mailto:cls263@cornell.edu) with questions.

**Irrigation and Fertigation Workshop for Vegetable Growers**

**March 29th, 2011 9am-12noon**

**CCE Rensselaer, 61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180**

\$15/person for enrolled members; \$25/person for general public.

Join irrigation specialists Dr. Stephen Reiners, Cornell and Steve Bogash, Penn State Coop Ext and Fran Dellamano of Belle Terre Irrigation as they discuss the intricacies of good irrigation and nutritional management. For more information contact Chuck Bornt, [cdb13@cornell.edu](mailto:cdb13@cornell.edu) or Laura, [lgn4@cornell.edu](mailto:lgn4@cornell.edu).

**Farmers' Market Workshops: Food Safety, Consumer Education, and Wine too!**

**March 30, 2011 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.**

**Burlington Public Library, Burlington, MA.**

The workshops will provide an overview of Massachusetts food regulations and permitting requirements as related to farmers' markets; update market managers on recent legislation that allows for the sale of wine at farmers' markets by licensed farm wineries and provide an opportunity for conversation, questions and discussion. Speakers and facilitators include representatives from the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources, MA Dept. of Public Health, Food Protection Program, Federation of MA Farmers' Markets and a local health inspector.

There is no fee, however space is limited!

RSVP at least one week prior to the date of the workshop to Martha Sweet at 781-893-8222 or by email: [martha@mass-farmersmarket.org](mailto:martha@mass-farmersmarket.org). When responding, please email any questions for the Q & A and include names and contact information (phone number and email) for each attendee.

*Vegetable Notes. Ruth Hazzard, Amanda Brown, and Andrew Cavanagh, editors. Vegetable Notes is published weekly from May to September and at intervals during the off-season, and includes contributions from the faculty and staff of the UMass Extension Vegetable Program, other universities and USDA agencies, growers, and private IPM consultants. Authors of articles are noted; author and photographer is R. Hazzard if none is cited.*

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