



UMASS
EXTENSION



Vegetable Notes

For Vegetable Farmers in Massachusetts

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October 25, 2010

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WINTER CSA MEETING

Stearns Farm, Framingham

Wed October 27, 2010 -- 3 pm to 5:30 pm.

Sponsored by Eastern MA CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training)

Stearns Farm is a well-established CSA that added a winter CSA component to their farm's offerings 3 years ago. Using a season-extending hoop house, a moveable greenhouse and root cellar, Stearns offers shares through November through March.

We will show how we move a greenhouse onto fall crops that are started in the field. A new Ledgewood tunnel has also been constructed over kale.

Kathy Huckins, Brian Huckins, and Trish Stoffano will talk about how the winter CSA works at Stearns – overview and history; membership and distribution; planting and harvesting varieties and schedules. More information on Stearns Farm is at: <http://stearnsfarmcsa.org/sfwiki/Public/HomePage/>

This tour is open to all growers. CRAFT tours are organized by and for a network of CSA farms in eastern and central Massachusetts. For more information about eastern MA CRAFTS see their website at <http://www.emasscraft.org/>

Please pre-register/RSVP with Kathy Huckins, Farm Manager at phone 508-561-3950

or email huckins@charter.net. Light refreshments will be served.

Directions:

Stearns Farm is located at 862 Edmands Road, Framingham, MA, just across the road from Barnbridge Circle. You can find us using Google Maps but please note: use "906 Edmands Rd" rather than the actual address 862 — this tricks Google's pointer to point at our entrance driveway.

SEASON EXTENSION PEST MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

November 2010

The Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group in partnership with the University of Illinois are organizing a Season Extension Pest Management webinar series to begin November 1st. The webinars are 1-2 hours long and intended for growers, educators, and NRCS staff. Each webinar is listed below in detail with specific topics, speakers, and times.

Register for the webinar series at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext

Please note there is a \$30 registration fee for this webinar series whether you participate in 1 or all 5 of the webinars. After you register, you will be sent information about where to send payment.

Please note that webinars 1, 2, 3 will be held at 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST) and that webinars 4 & 5 will be held at 1-2 pm EST (noon – 1 pm CST).

Webinar 1 - Introduction to Pest Management for Season Extension [GLVWG]

Nov. 1, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)

Webinar 2 - Pest management of Tomatoes in High Tunnels [GLVWG]

Nov. 3, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)

Webinar 3 - Pest Management in Winter Crops [GLVWG]

Nov. 8, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST)

Webinar 4 – Nutrition, Water, and Soil Management in High Tunnels [U of IL]

Nov. 16, 2010 1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST)

Webinar 5 – Interpreting NRCS High Tunnel Project Guidelines [U of IL]

Nov. 18, 2010 1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST)

NORTHEAST GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2010

November 3 - 4, 2010 · DCU Center, Worcester, MA

New England Floriculture, Inc., invites you to attend The Northeast Greenhouse Conference & Expo in Worcester, Massachusetts and join other growers and retailers for the largest nationally recognized floriculture industry show in New England.

Register Online at <http://www.negreenhouse.org/html/registration.shtml>

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS — Attend stimulating educational workshops on a wide range of topics by industry experts; acquire knowledge and gain valuable insight

TRADESHOW — Visit more than 120 innovative exhibitors during dedicated tradeshow time, to gather information on products and services that will benefit your business

NETWORK — Share ideas and build relationships, and make important face-to-face connections with others in the horticulture industry

HIGH TUNNEL BASICS WORKSHOPS

This series of two workshops in two locations will cover the basics of high tunnel setup and growing. The registration fee for each workshop is \$25, and preregistration is required. Lunch is included at each workshop.

Workshop I. The nuts & bolts of installing a high tunnel. Features Adam Montri from Michigan State University, who will share his experiences with tunnel installation. Other topics include financing for high tunnels, marketing to minimize risk, and site selection & construction tips from a panel of NH producers.

Fri, Nov 12 – Manchester, NH

Sat, Nov 13 – Plymouth, NH

Workshop II. High tunnel crop production basics. Covers the basics of growing crops in high tunnels. Topics include soil health and nutrient management, managing diseases and insects in tunnels, and profiles of crops grown in tunnels by a panel of NH producers.

Fri, Dec 3 – Plymouth, NH

Sat, Dec 4 – Goffstown, NH

For complete agenda and registration information, see <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/Agric.htm>, or call Suzanne Hebert at 603-862-3200.

ORGANIC GREENHOUSE WORKSHOPS

November 8, 15 and 22

Organic vegetable production in containers is gaining popularity in the bedding plant industry. Selecting the best growing media, understanding plant nutrition, and managing insects and diseases are the key to growing healthy young plants. Join us for this 3-night series on November 8, 15 and 22 that will focus on the organic production of spring transplants and bedding plants. The workshops will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in Goffstown NH. This workshop series is appropriate for both beginner and advanced growers. For registration information, see <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/Agric.htm>, or call Suzanne Hebert at 603-862-3200.

SEASON EXTENSION & HIGH TUNNEL WEBINAR SERIES

Nov. 1, 3, 8, 16, and 18, 2010

This on-line program takes place Nov. 1, 3, 8, 16, and 18, 2010; each is a 1-2-hour program. The first three take place from 6:30-8:30 pm, and the last two are from noon-1pm. The first three webinars focus on pest management in various season extension systems, especially for tomatoes and winter crops. The last two webinars focus on soil, water, and nutrient management, plus a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) high tunnel pilot project initiated in 2010. Pre-registration is required at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext and the cost is \$30 (for any or all webinars). Webinars will be recorded and available on-line soon after original airdate. For more info, contact Ann Hazelrigg, (802) 656-0493 or ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu.

FARM ENERGY AUDITS & PLANS

Stonewall Farm, Keene NH

Nov. 16, 2010

Schedule:

9:30am Registration and Coffee

9:45am Welcome & Introductions Project Overview—Jen Risley, Hannah Grimes Center & Amanda Costello, Cheshire County Conservation District

10am Energy Conservation and Renewable Fuels for Greenhouses in New England - VernGrubinger, UVM Extension

11am Energy Audits, Nuts and Bolts - Craig Metz, EnSave

11:45am Lunch— First Course (provided free of charge)

12:30 Funding Energy Audits and Energy Improvements

Brandon Smith, NH NRCS

Steve Epstein, USDA Rural Development

Gary Oden, Small Business Development Center Peggy O'Keefe, MicroCredit NH

Hollie Umphrey, Southern NH RC&D

1:15 Panel Discussion - Farmers share their experiences on energy audit process and outcomes. Moderator: VernGrubinger, UVM Extension

1:45 Tour of Stonewall Farm, Hands On Solutions @ Stonewall Farm, discussion of their energy audit process and the improvements made – John Bartok, Amanda Hopkins

2:45 Evaluation Next Steps—Carl Majewski, UNH Cheshire County Cooperative Extension

In addition to food, a farmer can harvest energy savings with an energy audit and energy plan for their farm. Farmers are

invited to learn more at the Farm Energy Audits & Plans Workshop on November 16, 2010, 9:30am—3pm at Stonewall Farm, 242 Chesterfield Road, Keene.

Vern Grubinger from University of Vermont Cooperative Extension will speak about energy conservation and renewable fuels for greenhouses and Craig Metz from EnSave will discuss the nuts and bolts of energy audits. Two panel discussions, one focused on securing funding for energy audits and improvements and another on farmers' experience with their own energy audits, will be followed by a tour of Stonewall Farm highlighting the energy improvements made at the farm.

Registration is free and lunch is included. Contact us at 603-756-2988 ext.116 or amanda.costello@nh.nacdnet.net. This workshop is part of the Extending the Season & Preserving the Harvest with Energy Efficient Technology Series. Funding is provided by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program through the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets and Food. Event partners: Cheshire County Conservation District, The Hannah Grimes Center & UNH Cheshire County Cooperative Extension.

USDA GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) TRAINING PROGRAM

Two Sessions:

Monday, November 22, 2010

Farm Bureau Federation Office

249 Lakeside Drive

Marlboro, MA 01752

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Registration deadline: 11/12/10

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Sheraton Springfield/Monarch Place Hotel

One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144

In conjunction: Annual Farm Bureau Mtg.

12:45 PM – 2:30 PM; 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Registration deadline: 11/19/10

Sponsored by: UMass Extension and the MA Dept of Agricultural Resources

Recent contamination outbreaks for tomatoes and spinach have raised concerns about the safety of fresh produce. UMass Extension and the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) are pleased to present a USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training Program for growers and other fresh produce handlers.

At the training, you will learn more about:

- * the costs and impact of diseases and outbreaks caused by food-borne pathogens
- * strategies for controlling potential microbial food safety hazards before planting and throughout all phases of production - planting, production, harvesting and postharvest handling
- * the USDA Third Party Audit process

You will also:

- * receive a manual filled with GAP resources
- * receive a CD loaded with templates needed to maintain records to verify USDA GAP that can be customized for your farm

At the end of the session, you will receive a certificate of participation including hours and one pesticide credit for participating through UMass Extension.

The key presenter for the training is Dr. Richard Bonanno, Ph.D. Extension Educator with UMass Extension. The cost for this GAP training is \$50.00. Send additional employees for \$10.00 which includes the presentation, pesticide credit, refreshments, but not the GAP manual. Space is limited. Please make your checks payable to University of Massachusetts. Note that we cannot accept cash payments. Send the check along with the registration information given below to Doreen York, Agriculture & Landscape Program, 210 Bowditch Hall, 201 Natural Resources Rd., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. If you have questions, please contact Doreen at 413-545-2254 or email at dyork@umext.umass.edu.

HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL CSA

November 13, 2010

Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre, MA. With 19 years of experience running a CSA, Julie Rawson of Many Hands Organic Farm in Barre, MA, will discuss elements of a successful CSA operation. Registration: \$40. NOFA membership discount: \$5. Early registration (by October 30, 2010) discount: \$5. www.nofamass.org/seminars/fallseminar.php

NEW ENTRY SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROJECT FARMER-TO-FARMER CONFERENCE

December 9, 2010

Sturbridge Host Hotel, in Sturbridge, MA. 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

The conference will provide: Farm Business Expertise: farmers will learn from seasoned experts and from each other about how to maximize farm business enterprise potential. Panel Discussions: Speaker panels will cover topics in the areas of soil fertility, farm business and financial planning, strategies for ensuring the health of livestock, and building sustainable communities around food. Peer to Peer Learning: a facilitated World Café discussion will give farmers a chance to choose discussion topics of interest on site and share best practices. Enjoy a networking lunch and a farmer-to-farmer networking reception. For more information, contact Kimberley Fitch at 978-654-6745, or e-mail nesfp@tufts.edu. Register at www.nesfp.org.

WINTER VEGETABLE AND BERRY MEETINGS

Friday January 7, 2011. Chicopee area (location TBA).

Saturday January 29, 2011. Waltham.

The January 7 program highlights the new Massachusetts Commonwealth Quality program, a voluntary certification program that recognizes farmers' use of Best Management Practices in producing lumber, dairy, seafood, and produce. The "Seal of Commonwealth Quality" which will distinguish Massachusetts products that meet program requirements in the areas of environmental and water conservation, crop production & pest management, worker protection, and food safety. The New England Vegetable & Berry Association, along with many other industry groups, is working with MDAR to launch this program in 2011. The morning program will focus on food safety. Come and learn how your farm can benefit!

The January 29 program will include a half day on soil and nutrient management, reduced tillage including deep zone tillage, and cover crops. The afternoon will have updates on pest management issues including new pesticide chemistries and all-too-familiar Phytophthora diseases of cucurbits, peppers, tomato and potato.

Co-sponsored with the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association and consortium of New England state Vegetable Programs.

Registration opens at 9:30 am and programs run from 10 am to 4 pm. Contact hours for pesticide applicator recertification will be offered at both meetings.

To register and for more information contact John Howell (413-665-3501, howell@umext.umass.edu) or Ruth Hazzard (413-545-3696, umassvegetable@umext.umass.edu) or see www.umassvegetable.org.

NOFA/MASS ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Worcester Technical High School, Worcester, MA.

January 15, 2011

Circles of Connection - 9am-5pm Michael Phillips to present keynote speech "Circles of Connection: On the Farm, Embracing Community, and Always in the Heart" and also to present all day seminar "Organic Orchardling" Nancy Phillips to present all day seminar "Herbs for Family Health" Details at www.nofamass.org/conferences/winter/index.php.