



VEGETABLE IPM MESSAGE

OCTOBER 22, 2001

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 19

UPCOMING EVENTS

New England Vegetable and Berry Growers All Day Meeting: November 3, 2001

New Location: New England Center @ University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.

We announced this event in our last issue (September 20). Since that time the *location of the meeting has been changed* to the New England Center on Strafford Avenue on the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH at the same time with the same events.

The morning program will focus on **raspberry cultivation** and the afternoon program will include talks on: **Vegetable variety trials, a Crop Storage Practices Update, Control of Atrazine Resistant Weeds, and Greenhouse Tomato Culture**. For more details see previous newsletter.

Directions to the New England Center at UNH are: From Portsmouth Traffic Circle, go North on Spaulding Turnpike to exit for Route 4 West. Take a left at the 3rd traffic light and a right at the 1st stop sign. Finally take a left onto Strafford Avenue.

For those who are not members of the NEVBGA, there is a \$10 registration fee. Pesticide applicator re-certification credit has been requested and will be reciprocal with all New England states. For more information contact Dom Marini at (508) 378-2546.

Northeast Community Supported Agriculture Conference III: December 7 - 9, 2001

Location: Frost Valley Environmental Education Center, Claryville, New York

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a rapidly growing approach to connecting consumers and farmers in a direct, season-long relationship. The Northeast CSA Conference III is designed for farmers, CSA members, extension and other agency personnel, representatives of non-profits, and anyone interested in CSA as part of a more secure and sustainable food system. The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) is organizing this event, which will last from Friday noon through Sunday afternoon, December 7-9, 2001. The program will include interactive workshops, featured speakers, trouble-shooting with CSA experts, and a pre-conference mini-school.

Cost for registration which includes six meals and two nights of on-site lodging will range from \$150 to \$280, depending on the style of lodging, which you choose.

For more information contact Beth Holtzman at 802-229-1441 or Ann at 413-323-4531, or e-mail csaconference@together.net.

Updated conference information will be posted at:

<http://www.csacenter.org/conference.html>

COME TO THE 12TH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND VEGETABLE AND BERRY CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW –

DECEMBER 11-13, STURBRIDGE, MA

Program booklets are now available! See below for where to get more information.

Mark your calendar for the best New England Vegetable and Berry Conference yet! This conference, held every other year in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, will offer twenty-four sessions of educational programs as well as an extensive Trade Show.

What makes this conference exceptional is the close collaboration of growers and Extension programs throughout New England. We gather the best speakers from within our region and from other parts of the country to tell you about on the best practices in vegetables and small fruit. Every session includes both farmers and researchers or Extension personnel, so you are getting the 'best of both worlds'.

Here is the list of sessions:

- ❖ Strawberry I
- ❖ Cole Crops
- ❖ Weed Management
- ❖ Biotechnology
- ❖ Strawberry II
- ❖ Tomatoes
- ❖ Hiring & Managing Labor
- ❖ Trickle Irrigation
- ❖ Blueberry I
- ❖ Peppers for Profit
- ❖ Bedding Plants
- ❖ Brambles
- ❖ Blueberry II
- ❖ Sweet Corn
- ❖ Greenhouse Tomatoes
- ❖ Cover Cropping for Soil Health
- ❖ Cucurbits
- ❖ Biological Control
- ❖ Field Cut Flowers
- ❖ Alliums
- ❖ Fall Ornaments
- ❖ Leafy Greens & Herbs
- ❖ Organic Farming
- ❖ Food Safety

For more information:

**The full program listing and registration forms are online at the NEVBC website, www.nevbc.org. Registration forms can be printed and mailed in.

For **registration information call Anne Carter at (413) 545-5216 or akcarter@pssci.umass.edu.

** For **conference information** call Vern Grubinger at (802) 257-7967 or vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu.

For **Trade Show information call Dom Marini at 508-378-2546.

** For **Sturbridge Host Hotel Reservations** call 1-800-582-3232.

Farm to School Cafeteria: Regional Conference: December 9-10, 2001

Location: Ithaca, NY

Cornell University's Agriculture, Food and Community Partnership, the Community Food Security Coalition, and many others, are going to present Farm to School Cafeteria at the Statler Hotel at Cornell in Ithaca, NY. This conference will help to stimulate new farm to school links, to support and strengthen existing projects linking K-12, college and university cafeterias throughout the Northeast with local producers and processors. There will be a variety of workshops, plenary sessions and discussion in which individuals will be able to network with farmers, school food and dining service buyers, processors, distributors, educators and policy makers. The conference will also focus on developing a language to strengthen the local food system.

For information contact Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman at (607) 255-0417, or hmm1@cornell.edu or go to www.cals.cornell.edu/agfoodcommunity/afc.cfm.

NEW FOOD PROCESSING CENTER TO OPEN IN WESTERN MA: OCTOBER, 2001

Location: Greenfield, MA

The Franklin County Community Development Corporation is very excited to announce the opening of a new commercial food-processing center in Massachusetts. "This shared use, commercial kitchen incubator is furnished with modern food processing equipment, walk-in cooler and freezer and dry

storage areas. This State Board of Health approved Center is a valuable element in supporting [Massachusetts] agriculture by adding value to your farm products, generating new revenues and creating new business opportunities. This Center, unique for Massachusetts, is ideal for specialty food entrepreneurs, farmers, caterers, churches, schools, and civic organizations from all areas. Special services are available including business lending, technical assistance, office equipment and multiple resources to assist people on how to craft their products."

To use the Center, begin by calling Program Manager, Andrea Kohles and complete a user application (which is short - one page!). Next, set up an appointment with Andrea to tour the facility and attend orientation training. This training is designed to introduce you to any commercial equipment you may not have experience with and to discuss safety, sanitation and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). The training takes about two hours. Andrea will discuss the hourly rate with you at that time as well as address any questions you may have. The final step is to set up your desired block of time to cook up your jams, jellies or other value-added delight.

Andrea Kohles, who has an extensive background in food handling, will be available full-time (9-5) to assist you with questions or problems that may arise while using the center.

Funding for this endeavor comes from the MA Department of Food and Agriculture, USDA's Rural Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Economic Development Initiative.

--Chris Wychorski, in the *Massachusetts Marketeer*, newsletter of the Federation of MA Farmers Markets, Fall 2001

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY: JOB OPPORTUNITY

The MA Audubon Society, Drumlin Farm Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln, MA are seeking an Education Manager. This individual would oversee and manage all on and off-site educational programs for schools, children and families, including the summer day camp. The Education Manager is challenged with the task of the development of programs in

accordance with the MA Audubon Society's educational goals and objectives, and aligned with Drumlin Farm's strategic priorities. If interested, please send a cover letter and resume to: Claudia Thompson, Director, Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, 208 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.

POTATO AND TOMATO: ELIMINATE SOURCES OF LATE BLIGHT

In August and September, four instances of **late blight** (*Pytophthora infestans*) were found in in tomato crops. the Connecticut River Valley and its surrounding hills. Although we did not find any instances in potato, it is possible that some fields or tubers were infected. The fungus that causes late blight can survive the winter on any living tissue. Potato tubers left in the field or in cull piles are a prime source for potential new outbreaks next summer. By paying particular attention to burying cull piles and disking fields well, farmers can reduce the risk of late blight outbreaks next season.

Watch for more detailed announcements of a daylong **POTATO GROWERS MEETING** next **March**. We will be hosting several speakers will be coming from University of Maine Extension potato program in Aroostook County, who will share their expertise on potato management.

GOT NEW IDEAS TO TRY? JOIN THE FARMER RESEARCH GROUP NETWORK

Do you have an idea for a new farming practice that you are experimenting with on your farm? Do you think that working with other farmers who are interested in the same idea might result in more meaningful, conclusive results? The **Farmer Research Group Network** provides organizational and scientific support to groups of three or more farmers interested in investigating ideas or practices to enhance their farms economic or environmental sustainability. The network helps farmers link up with other farmers who have similar interests and systematically research their ideas on their farms. It also provides small stipends to each participating farmer.

The Universities of CT and MA, and the CT and MA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the New England Small Farm Institute, and the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program support the Farmer Research Group Network. Funds are available to cover research materials, lab fees, consultant expertise; communication and meeting costs as well as stipends, which help, pay for farmers' time.

If you are interested, contact the Farmer Research Group Network through Sue Ellen Johnson (413-323-4531) or Tom Morris (860-486-0637). As of October 1, Farmer Research Groups are planning research to evaluate: 1) Manure management alternatives, 2) A fall soil nitrogen test alternative to the presidedress nitrate test, 3) Fall manuring of rye cover crops, 4) Direct cut grass silage, 5) Perennial ryegrass varieties, 6) Methods for pasture reclamation.

--Sue Ellen Johnson

IPM CERTIFICATION GROWS NATIONWIDE

THE FOOD ALLIANCE, a non-profit, IPM-based eco-label headquartered in Portland, OR has received a grant for \$810,374 from the Kellogg Foundation to continue its national expansion. The Food Alliance and affiliated Midwest Food Alliance have certified more than 100 farms and ranches for IPM, human resource management, and soil and water conservation practices. Funded project title: "Create a replicable model for organizations across the country interested in promoting market-based incentives for sustainable farming and ranching in their region." See The Food Alliance <<http://www.thefoodalliance>> for more information on the Food Alliance, or Kellogg Foundation <<http://www.wkkf.org/>> for more information on the Kellogg Foundation.

Sixteen **CORE VALUES NORTHEAST** tree fruit farmers have been certified as IPM producers for 2001. Certification is managed by the IPM Institute. For more information on the program and how to contact certified growers, see CVN <www.corevalues.org>.

RED TOMATO, a non-profit broker for CORE Values Northeast and other IPM-produced fruit and vegetables, has received a two-year grant in the amount of \$56K to help further the marketing of local, ecologically grown product using integrated pest management (IPM) methods. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I Office under the Agricultural Initiative grant program awarded the grant.

A new non-profit organization growing out of the Wisconsin Potato Collaboration is seeking an executive director.

PROTECTED HARVEST is dedicated to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and enhancement of wildlife and the environment. The executive director will report to the Board of Directors and will be responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission and financial objectives. The new position is funded by a grant from the Joyce Foundation. Contact Jeff Dlott CEO, Real Toolbox, 7600 Old Dominion Court, Apros, CA 95003. Phone: (831)684-9207, Fax: (831)684-9218, e-mail: <jeff@realtoolbox.com>.

The USDA Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program has awarded **IPM WORKS** of Madison, WI a two-year \$271,000 grant to complete research and development on comprehensive IPM risk management for corn and cotton farmers. The ultimate goal of the project will be to provide financial risk management products to cover the risks farmers face when adopting IPM techniques. For example, corn farmers following a crop consultant's recommendation not to treat for corn rootworm (i.e., as a result of below-threshold visual or trap counts for beetles) currently bear significant economic risk if the consultant's advice is in error. New financial products such as insurance policies or warranties could compensate farmers for rare failures of IPM techniques, and thus reduce an important barrier to adoption. FMI: See the web site for project partner Agricultural Conservation Innovation Center ACIC www.agconserv.com

*From IPM Institute News: IPM in the Marketplace
October 16, 2001, Volume 2, Issue No. 3*

Vegetable IPM Newsletter, Ruth Hazzard, Editor. This is the last issue for the 2001 Season. We hope the information has been useful to farmers and those who support farmers in New England! Watch for monthly issues of **Vegetable Notes** beginning in December.