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College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News

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a newsletter for commercial growers of fruit and vegetable crops

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle

Address any questions or comments regarding this newsletter to the individual authors listed after each article or to its editor, Rick Weinzierl, 217-244-2126, weinzierl@illinois.edu. The *Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News* is available on the web at: <http://www.ipm.illinois.edu/ifvn/index.html>. To receive email notification of new postings of this newsletter, call or write Rick Weinzierl at the number or email address above.

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University of Illinois Extension Specialists in Fruit & Vegetable Production & Pest Management

Upcoming Programs

- **Illiana Vegetable Growers School, January 6, 2009** ... Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, IN. Registration is \$25.00. For more information, contact Liz Maynard (emaynard@purdue.edu) or Maurice Ogutu (ogutu@illinois.edu) or see <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/fruitveg/events/IVGSBrochure2009.pdf>.
- **Illinois Specialty Crops and Agritourism Conference, January 7-9, 2009** ... Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. In addition to concurrent program tracks on fruits, vegetables, herbs, and agritourism and marketing January 8 and 9, three full-day workshops will be held on January 7; topics for these workshops are pumpkin production and marketing, biological control in greenhouses and high tunnels, and federal grant-writing basics. For more details, contact Diane Handley of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association at 309-557-2107 or handley@ilfb.org. **See Elizabeth Wahle's note below on cider contest entries.**
- **Midwest Organic Production & Marketing Conference & Trade Show, January 21 – 22, 2009** ... (in conjunction with the Indiana Horticultural Congress), Indianapolis, IN. See <http://orgconf.sustainability.uiuc.edu>.
- **11th Annual Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference, January 22 – 23, 2009** ... Rochester, MN. See <http://www.rivercountryrcd.org/valad.html>.
- **Illinois Horseradish Growers School, January 29, 2009 (a correction from issue 16)** ... Collinsville, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or wahle@illinois.edu.
- **Southern Illinois Tree Fruit School, February 3, 2009** ... Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or wahle@uiuc.edu.
- **Southwestern Illinois Tree Fruit School, February 4, 2009** ... First Presbyterian Church, Hardin, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or wahle@uiuc.edu.
- **Southern Illinois Vegetable Growers School, February 11, 2009** ... Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle at 618-692-9434 or wahle@uiuc.edu.
- **Stateline (IL-WI) Fruit and Vegetable Conference, February 16, 2009** ... Stratford Banquet Center, Harvard, Illinois. Contact Maurice Ogutu at 708-352-0109 or ogutu@illinois.edu.
- **Western Illinois Fruit and Vegetable School, February 17, 2009** ... Adams County Extension, Quincy, IL. Contact Mike Roegge at 217-223-8380 or roeggem@uiuc.edu.
- **Kankakee Area Vegetable Growers School, February 18, 2009** ... Kankakee, IL. Contact James Theuri at 815- 987-7379 or jtheu50@illinois.edu.
- **Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association Annual Conference, February 19-21, 2009** ... Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL. Contact Megan Pressnall, 217-782-6515, mpressnall@extension.uiuc.edu.

- **MOSES Organic Farming Conference, February 26-28, 2009** ... LaCrosse, WI. For information, see <http://www.mosesorganic.org/conference.html>.
- **Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools, March 3-4, 2009** ... Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. Contact Bronwyn Aly at 618-695-2444 or baly@uiuc.edu.

Food Rules is a 2-hour workshop about the rules governing the processing, transportation, and selling of farm products. It is a collaborative effort between the University of Illinois Extension and The Land Connection. Workshops feature a panel of state and county health department personnel, legal experts, and experienced farmers able to answer specific questions about farm products or planned products. These evening programs are slated for Rockford (Dec. 11), Champaign (Jan. 13), Quincy (Feb. 3), Peoria (Feb. 12), and Marion (March 3). See <http://www.thelandconnection.org/farmers/foodrules.cfm>.

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant (217-968-5512; cvnghgrn@illinois.edu)

Regional Updates

From southwestern Illinois ... Winter has finally arrived, with temperatures just barely making it above freezing during the day. Compared to the northern regions, the southern counties just received a dusting of snow and ice. Outside of horseradish, harvesting is finished for the season. Horseradish digging is ongoing with reports of rough soil conditions resulting in some equipment breakage—the crop itself is looking good overall.

Many of you have recently or should be receiving a letter from Illinois Department of Agriculture if your private pesticide applicators license is due to expire at year's end. The Private Pesticide Safety Education Program Clinic Schedule for the 2008/2009 season is available at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/psep/training/private/index.cfm>. If you do not currently hold a private applicators license and wish to qualify for one, contact your local University of Illinois Extension office to register for the next available class and to obtain the training material. For those who have already been through a training session three years ago, you should have or will be receiving a letter in the near future from your local UI Extension office with details for the next training session. There will be a \$30 fee associated with the training session. Some counties are offering testing-only sessions that are free of charge.

The Illinois Specialty Crop and Agritourism Conference in Springfield is just a month away. Illinois apple cider makers will again get a chance to see who is the best in the state. After a successful run last January, the 20th Annual Cider Contest and the 7th Annual Hard Cider Contest will again be hosted at the Illinois Specialty Crops and Agritourism Conference in Springfield, January 7-9, 2009, and will be sponsored by the Illinois State Horticulture Society. Illinois contestants will compete against other Illinois producers for the Illinois State awards. Illinois cider makers will also have the opportunity to submit their best ciders to challenge the out-of-state entries for the North American and Midwest Awards. Midwest awards are open to states surrounding and including Illinois, and North American awards are open to all cider makers in North America. For the Apple Cider Contest, contestants are asked to submit a one-gallon full container of unclarified apple cider that may be fresh or have been stored frozen. Previously frozen samples must be thawed by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 8, in time for judging. For contestants unable to register in person, ship your cider directly to the conference: Crowne Plaza, Attn: Sarah Lynch, 3000 Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 61703. Be sure to label shipped packages "Cider Judging Entry – Keep Refrigerated." Shipped entries will be accepted by the hotel 48 hours prior to the start of the conference. Those making hard apple cider will want to make sure your product is hard apple cider, not hard apple cider wine. Although there is no definite break or definition where hard apple cider stops and where wine starts, we are looking for a hard apple cider product with alcohol content below 8%. Hard apple ciders containing other fruit flavoring, such as pear, cherry, peach, or cranberry will not be considered for judging. Hard apple cider contestants are asked to submit a one-quart, but no more than a one-gallon, container of product for the hard apple cider-judging contest. Registration for all apple cider contests will be on Thursday, January 8, from 8:00 to 9:45 am. Judging will commence at 10:00 am. The fee will be \$10 per entry for each contest with one entry per orchard and/or farm family. Awards will be announced during the dinner banquet on Thursday, January 8. Entry forms can be found at: <http://www.specialtygrowers.org/confagenda.htm>. For additional Cider Contest and Hard Cider Contest information, contact Elizabeth Wahle, Cider Contest Coordinator, Illinois Specialty Crop and Agritourism Conference, University of Illinois Extension, 200 University Park Drive, Ste. 280, Edwardsville, IL 62025-3649; wahle@uiuc.edu; 618-692-9434; FAX 618-692-9808.

I just happened to be in the right place at the right time to see an active wild honey bee hive in a tree. I had never seen honeycomb in the open before and thought readers would enjoy seeing pictures as well ... truly fascinating.



Honey bees, wild colony. (Elizabeth Wahle)

On behalf of University of Illinois Extension, I would like to express my condolences to the family of Louis Keller, 87, who died Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, at St. Louis University Medical Center following a car accident. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and his grandson and best friend, Cory Michael Keller Knight. Louis was retired after a lifetime of farming with his brother John in Collinsville, growing a variety of crops including potatoes, sweet corn, horseradish, and row crops. He was a founding member of the International Horseradish Festival Committee and will be remembered well for his enthusiastic and dedicated support of the horseradish industry.

Elizabeth Wahle (618-692-9434; wahle@illinois.edu)

Fruit Production and Pest Management

Dixon Springs Blackberry Trial



DSAC Intern Lauren harvests A-1937.



A blackberry cultivar trial was established at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Ag Center in 2006. The following table contains the florican yield harvested in 2008. Several of these cultivars also have primocane yield as well. Primocane yields will be listed in the next newsletter.

Results of Blackberry Trial at DSAC – 2008 Floricane Crop Only (6/13-7/24).

Cultivar	Yield ^a (pounds per acre)
A-1937	13,921
Prime Jim	12,378
A-2215	12,288
A-2241 (Natchez)	11,943
APF-41	10,763
Prime Jan	10,400
A-2315	10,237
APF-27	3,847
APF-40	3,793
APF-46	3,285

^a Data represent means of two 20 foot plots.

Jeff Kindhart (618-695-2444; jkindhar@illinois.edu)

Vegetable Production and Pest Management

Effects of seeding rates of rye cover crop and nitrogen fertilizer application rates on pumpkin yield in northern Illinois

Pumpkin varieties ‘Magic Lantern’ and ‘Howden’ were direct seeded in strip-tilled areas where rye was seeded at the rates of 90 and 120 lbs per acre and compared with pumpkins planted on bare ground. In each plot, nitrogen fertilizer was applied at the rates of 45 and 90 lbs N per acre on a 5-ft wide band and incorporated into the soil before planting. There were significantly higher numbers of orange fruit and total weights of harvested fruit in strip-tilled plots than in bare ground plots. Rye seeding rates and nitrogen fertilizer application rates did not affect pumpkin yield. The average fruit size in strip-till plots was over 80% the size of fruits in bare ground plots for both varieties. Fruits from bare ground plots had more soil cover on the fruits (over 60% of the fruits) than fruits from strip-tilled plots (less than 20% of the fruits). There was higher incidence of pumpkin fruit rots in bare ground plots (over 20% in ‘Howden’, and over 8% in ‘Magic Lantern’) than in strip-tilled plots (less than 2% in both varieties).

Maurice Ogutu (708-352-0109; ogutu@illinois.edu)

Less seriously ...

All right, there’s humor in most everything. From Dave Barry’s colonoscopy journal (by way of Lee Rife) ...

A few of the funniest comments heard by doctors from their male patients during colonoscopies ...

- Can you hear me NOW?
- Any sign of the trapped miners, Chief?
- Hey! Now I know how a Muppet feels!
- Hey Doc, let me know if you find my dignity.
- You used to be an executive at Enron, didn't you?

And the best one of all ...

- Could you write a note for my wife saying that my head is not up there?

University of Illinois Extension Specialists in Fruit Production and Pest Management

Extension Educators in Food Crop Horticulture		
Bill Shoemaker, St. Charles Res. Center	630/584-7254	wshoemak@inil.com
Maurice Ogutu, Countryside Extension Center	708-352-0109	ogutu@illinois.edu
Elizabeth Wahle, Edwardsville Extension Center	618-692-9434	wahle@illinois.edu
Bronwyn Aly, Dixon Springs Agricultural Center	618-695-2444	balv@illinois.edu
Jeff Kindhart, Dixon Springs Agricultural Center	618-695-2444	jkindhar@illinois.edu
Peter Chege, Quad Cities Extension Center	309-792-2500	pchege@illinois.edu
Extension Educators in IPM		
Suzanne Bissonnette, Champaign Extension Center	217-333-4901	sbisson@illinois.edu
George Czapar, Springfield Extension Center	217-782-6515	gfc@illinois.edu
Doug Jones, Mt. Vernon Extension Center	618-242-9310	jonesd@illinois.edu
Dave Feltes, Quad Cities Extension Center	309-792-2500	dfeltes@illinois.edu
Russell Higgins, Matteson Extension Center	708-720-7520	rahiggin@illinois.edu
Campus-based Specialists		
Mohammad Babadoost, Plant Pathology	217-333-1523	babadoos@illinois.edu
Mosbah Kushad, Fruit & Vegetable Production	217-244-5691	kushad@illinois.edu
John Masiunas, Weed Science	217-244-4469	masiunas@illinois.edu
Chuck Voigt, Vegetable Production (& herbs)	217-333-1969	cevoigt@illinois.edu
Rick Weinzierl, Entomology	217-244-2126	weinzier@illinois.edu

Return Address:

Rick Weinzierl
 Department of Crop Sciences
 University of Illinois
 1102 South Goodwin Ave.
 Urbana, IL 61801

