



WEEKLY CROP UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Volume 18, Issue 1

March 5, 2010

From the Editor: Subscription Information for the 2010 WCU

We hope that this early issue of Weekly Crop Update, the first for 2010, will help you get your growing season off to a good start.

The next WCU for 2010 will be issued on March 26. The WCU will then be posted on the web, and sent to mail and fax subscribers by 4:30 p.m. each Friday until September 17. The cost of mail or fax subscription is \$40. You can subscribe by returning the form at the back of this issue.

The WCU is also available for free online as a printable PDF or in a blog format at the following web address:
<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/>

For those of you who access the newsletter via the internet we offer to send a weekly email reminder which will let you know when the WCU has been posted online, provide a link directly to the current issue, and give you a taste of the headlines. If you would like to receive the email reminder or if you experience problems during the season with the online WCU please contact me at emmalea@udel.edu or (302)-856-7303.

Emmalea Ernest

Vegetable Crops

[New Web Resources for the Vegetable and Fruit Industries in Delaware](#) - Gordon Johnson, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

As many of you know, I maintained an agricultural blog on the web when I was a county agent in Kent County, Delaware. The blog became an important resource for up-to-date information for growers and crop advisors in mid-state (www.kentagextension.blogspot.com). In my new position as Vegetable and Fruit Specialist for University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, I will no longer be updating that blog on a regular basis, although it will remain up as a resource.

However, I have started a new blog specifically for the vegetable and fruit program. It is at <http://udelvegetable.blogspot.com/>. I will be making daily posts to this site so check it out on a regular basis.

Another great resource will be the website of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware. It is at <http://delawarefruitvegetable.org/>. Click on the Blog/News tab for current updates and news of importance to the vegetable and fruit industry in Delaware.

Of course, don't forget our existing UD vegetable program webpage at <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/vegprogram/inde>

[x.htm](#). You will find variety trial results, links to publications, vegetable budgets, and other resources there.

Pea Planting Season - Gordon Johnson, *Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist*; gcjohn@udel.edu

Wet field conditions have delayed early pea plantings across the region in 2010. In wet years, many fields often get planted under conditions that are not favorable for good pea performance as processors try to keep to a schedule. Planting into damp, compacted soils will lead to poor root growth, increased root rots, stunted plants, and poor pea yields. While planting in soils with higher soil moisture than desired is often unavoidable, there are some decisions that you can make to increase the chance of success in these sub-optimum conditions

- 1) Pay close attention to field selection. Choose the best drained fields with little or no low spots. Choose fields with soil types that warm quickly (sandy loams, loamy sands).
- 2) Consider planting into fields that have residue from a previous crop.

Corn stubble is desirable in these conditions. While not ideal from a trash standpoint (pieces of cob or stalk can be a contaminant at harvest), stalk pieces in the soil helps to maintain drainage, reduce potential compaction, and keep roots aerated.

- 3) Reduce tillage trips across the field to the minimum necessary. Use equipment with the lightest "footprint" to reduce compaction (lighter tractors, lower pressure tires, etc.)
- 4) Pay attention to your seed quality and seed treatments. Use the highest quality seed for these plantings with maximum protection from seed treatments (fungicides and insecticides). Germination in cold, wet soils will be much slower and extended over a longer period and protection from seed treatments will be challenged. Handle seed gently to reduce damage (cracks in seed coats and splits).

5) Plant shallower than normal and reduce down pressure on drill press wheels (however, make sure that soil to seed contact is adequate).

FDA is Seeking Input Before Developing New Produce Food Safety Rules - Gordon Johnson *Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist*; gcjohn@udel.edu

The Food and Drug Administration has announced that by the end of 2010, the agency will issue a proposed rule to establish safety standards for the production and packing of fresh produce. The stated goal is "to reduce the risk of illness associated with fresh produce". Unlike past rule making efforts where experts devise the rules and the FDA seeks comments on the proposed rules, they are asking for input beforehand. In other words, they want your guidance in developing the rules. The FDA has stated that they need "the expertise and on-the-ground knowledge of those who grow, harvest and pack fresh produce". They further state that "Doing it this way will help (the FDA) develop the scope of the rule to reflect the realities of production and packing in produce operations". To seek input, the FDA has opened a docket (Federal Register notice location: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-3409.pdf>) to receive information before a proposed rule is written. You may input your comments electronically to the FDA by going to www.Regulations.gov and entering the following in the "Keyword" field: FDA-2010-N-0085. This will take you directly to the docket, "Preventive Controls for Fresh Produce: Request for Comments". In the far right of the screen under "Actions", click on "Submit a Comment". A page will come up asking for some information about you or your organization. You can then type your comment directly into the field provided and/or you can attach any related documents to your comment. Press "Submit" and then you will be able to view your comment and comments others have submitted. If you prefer to submit written comments, write the docket number at the top of the pages in your written submissions (FDA-2010-N-0085) and mail comments to:

Division of Dockets Management
HFA-305

Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

The comment period for this "Preventive Controls for Fresh Produce: Request for Comments" docket ends on May 24, 2010 so get your comments in soon.

In Delaware, the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be submitting both electronic and written comments to the FDA on behalf of its members. A committee of the FVGAD is being set up to do this. Any members wishing to serve on that committee should contact Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable and Fruit Specialist at the University of Delaware, gcjohn@udel.edu, phone (302) 856-7303.

Update on Alternatives if Fall Windbreaks Were Not Established for Spring-Planted Vegetables - *Gordon Johnson Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu*

Due to the wet fall in 2009, many vegetable growers on Delmarva were not able to plant small grain windbreaks such as winter rye in fields slated for watermelons, cantaloupes, and other vegetable crops in spring of 2010. A special edition of the Weekly Crop Update was issued on January 25, 2010

(<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=1649>) with some options for spring planted windbreaks.

Snow melt and continued wet weather has caused further delays for potential spring plantings. The following are some updated recommendations for spring windbreaks when the weather breaks (hopefully in the next 2 weeks).

Windbreaks most commonly are planted between groups of 3 or more beds to reduce wind damage and sandblasting on young crops. Some growers have windbreaks between every bed to help trap heat and provide additional protection on early transplanted crops.

By mid-March, winter rye, wheat, or barley are not good windbreak options because they will

probably not vernalize and produce stems. They will remain vegetative or short.

March-planted alternatives for windbreaks are spring oats, annual ryegrass, and tall mustards.

Spring oats, planted as early as possible, is probably the best option for March plantings. Use a high seeding rate (120 pounds per acre or more). Oats will provide good ground cover and will head in late spring. It will start to elongate in mid-May. While still not an answer as a full windbreak for early plantings it will reduce sandblasting and provide protection for later plantings. Height will be over 3' at heading

Annual ryegrass will also produce significant growth from a March planting and provide soil cover. Plant seeds at a rate of 30 pounds per acre. Annual ryegrass can get as high as 3' when producing seed heads but provides less of a windbreak. One concern is with annual ryegrass is that if it goes to seed it has the potential to become a weed problem in the future.

There are several tall mustard varieties that merit considerations as windbreaks from March plantings. As these mustards produce a flower stalk, they can reach a height of over 4'. They are often used as biofumigant cover crops. Varieties of these tall mustards include 'Idagold', 'Pacific Gold', 'Caliente 119', and 'Caliente 99'. These mustards flower 50-60 days after planting and can be over 4' in height. Plant at 10-15 pounds per acre.

Mixtures containing 2 or more of the crops mentioned above (spring oats, annual ryegrass, tall mustards) may be more desirable as a late winter or early spring planted windbreak. Reduce seeding rates of each component by 1/3 in mixtures.

The University of Delaware Vegetable Extension Program will be doing research on windbreak alternatives for late-winter or early-spring planting in 2010. We are seeking on-farm cooperators. If you are interested, contact information is given below:

Gordon C. Johnson
Extension Vegetable and Fruit Specialist
University of Delaware, Carvel Research and

Education Center
16483 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947
General Phone: (302) 856-7303
Direct Phone: (302) 856-2585 x 590
Cell Phone: (302) 545-2397, Fax: (302) 856-1845
Email: gcjohn@udel.edu

Pea Herbicides - *Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu*

Weed control options remain limited for processing peas. Pursuit, at 1.5 to 2.0 fluid ounces per acre, needs to be used as a pre-plant incorporated or preemergence treatment and is used primarily for broadleaf weeds. Preemergence applications of Command at 8 to 16 fl oz or Dual at 0.5 to 1 pt/A are labeled for control of annual grasses and some broadleaf weeds. Basagran and Thistrol are labeled for postemergence control of broadleaf weeds. Apply Basagran at 1.5 to 2 pints per acre after peas have more than three pairs of leaves. Do not add oil concentrate. Select, Assure II, Targa, or Poast can be used for postemergence grass control.

Fruit Crops

Peach Pruning Best in March-April - *Gordon Johnson, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu*

Research has shown that peach tree pruning is best done in March or April.

In past years with mild winters, there has been a tendency to prune on the early side. With the snow and cold weather in 2010 this has not been as much of an issue this year.

Pruning is done to remove suckers, manage fruit loads, manage vigor, manage tree shape, increase light penetration, and remove damaged or weak wood.

Pruning earlier than March increases the risk of cold injury to buds because trees are stimulated metabolically by the pruning. It is advised to

only do pruning to remove dead or damaged wood during the winter.

As trees start to become active in March, there is little or no increase in cold injury to buds by pruning. Sucker removal and removal of weak fruiting branches can be done at this time, along with managing the shape and openness of the tree. While selective removal of excess fruiting material can be done, the full fruiting potential cannot be evaluated until plants start to bloom. In addition, winter injury or poor plant vigor cannot be determined accurately in March. This may lead to excessive pruning of weaker trees that could be detrimental.

You can also prune peaches when plants start to bloom through the month of April. This allows for better assessment of fruiting potential and selective thinning of fruiting wood to manage crop loads. It also stimulates plants to produce more growth. In peach orchards where reduced plant vigor or damage is suspected, delaying pruning to late April or early May will allow for accurate assessment of tree status so that pruning can be matched to the level of vigor or extent of damage.

Summer pruning (July) can be beneficial, especially in trees with excessive growth. However, because peaches fruit the following year on wood produced this year, any removal of this year's growth will reduce fruiting wood for next year. Therefore, take care not to do excessive summer pruning. August pruning is not recommended on trees still in fruit but can be done on earlier cropped trees or non-bearing trees.

Avoid peach pruning from September through February and mid-May through June.

For a good article on the subject by Jerome Frecon, Agricultural Agent at Rutgers University, go to <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/plantandpestadvisory/2009/fr0113.pdf>.

Critical Temperatures for Strawberry Buds and Blossoms and Freeze Protection -

Gordon Johnson, Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist; gcjohn@udel.edu

As we move closer the spring season, it is important to consider critical temperatures for strawberry buds and blossoms and freeze protection, especially where floating row covers are being used to obtain earlier production.

While plants are in a dormant state or when buds are not yet active in strawberries, the buds can tolerate temperatures down to 10°F. As buds become active but before flowers open, the buds can survive down to temperatures of 22-27°F (depends on just how close they are to opening).

Removing row covers during warmer winter periods can help to delay bud activity and reduce susceptibility to freezes. Replace row covers in times when freezes are expected. Highest yield potentials are usually obtained by uncovering and covering in the late winter and spring based on expected temperatures when compared to the practice of keeping row covers on continuously into the flowering or early fruiting stage (another issue is that pollinating insects are restricted with covers resulting in smaller fruit size if left on too long).

As flowers open, strawberries can only tolerate drops in temperature down to 30°F. Small green fruit can stand temperatures down to 28°F.

During flowering and fruiting be prepared to freeze protect using row covers and in very cold conditions, sprinklers. There are usually several days where temperatures drop into the low 20s during the spring and freeze protection is critical. Removing row covers too early with no provision to replace them during freeze events will often result in severe yield losses.

There are two types of freeze events that you need to be concerned with. Radiation freezes are where heat from air is lost to a black, cloudless sky with little or no wind conditions. We can be very successful at protecting strawberries in these conditions with row covers and/or sprinklers. Advection freezes are where cold air is moving into the area with high wind. This cold air blowing across the crop with

significant wind speed is much harder to deal with and where some losses are likely, even with freeze protection measures.

For row covers, the heavier, the more protection against freeze. However, the heavier the cover, the less light, and the more growth is restricted. A balance is what is desired. Generally, covers in the 0.9-1.25 ounce/sq. yd. range give adequate freeze protection without restricting light too much.

Sprinklers can also be used to freeze protect, but they must be used correctly. The idea is to slowly build up ice over the period when temperatures are below freezing over the plant or row covers. As ice is formed, some heat is released to the plant surface and to the surrounding air, due to the heat of fusion. To do this, sprinklers must be turned on before temperatures are at 34-35°F. Use low volume sprinklers and apply irrigation throughout the night, building ice all night. Continue into the morning until ice has melted. An application rate of 0.15 inch per hour with no wind will provide protection to 22°F. At colder temperatures or higher wind speeds more water will be needed.

It is recommended that for protection against frost above freezing, use sprinklers or row covers alone, for freezing temperatures in the mid to high 20s use sprinklers or row covers alone, for temperatures in the low 20s or below, use both sprinklers and row covers. A combination of row covers and sprinklers has been shown to protect well below 20°F.

Agronomic Crops

Small Grain Weed Control - *Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu*

The current weather is forcing us to do things different than we normally do. One issue to keep in mind is the herbicide and nitrogen restrictions. Be sure to read the herbicide label carefully because some products can be tankmixed with nitrogen but only if the nitrogen is no more than 50% of the spray solution

(nitrogen is mixed 1:1 with water). A few specifics:

- Osprey cannot be applied within 14 days of nitrogen application.
- Harmony Extra can be applied with nitrogen, but use of surfactant differs depending on concentration of nitrogen and targeted weed species.
- Axial XL and PowerFlex can only be applied with nitrogen if it is mixed 1:1 with water; also PowerFlex cannot be applied with nitrogen if the amount is more than 30 lbs of N/A.

Axial XL and PowerFlex are two herbicides that are effective on annual ryegrass. Both of these can be double-cropped with soybeans. However, PowerFlex will injure vegetables planted after harvest.

There are reports of fields with poor chickweed control due to resistance to Harmony, Harmony Extra, or Finesse. If you are in that situation your alternatives are quite limited. Other small grain herbicides that we are familiar with do not provide acceptable chickweed control. One product to suggest is Starane Ultra (from Dow AgroSciences). This product is labeled for wheat and barley and has been used in the western US for control of Group 2 resistant weeds. Local data is limited, but in our trials it has good crop safety and good chickweed control. However, it will not control other key species such as wild garlic. Starane Ultra can be tankmixed with Harmony Extra to broaden the spectrum of control. Starane Utra by itself does not need an adjuvant and can be applied in nitrogen. Be sure to read and follow label directions.

Finally, some reminders on timing restrictions for small grain herbicides -- the timing restrictions are based on crop safety.

2,4-D: up to jointing stage (pre-jointing)
Banvel/Clarity: up to jointing stage (pre-jointing)

Osprey: up to jointing stage

Buctril: up to boot stage

Harmony Extra or Harmony GT: up to flag stage (pre-flag leaf)

Starane Ultra: up to flag leaf emergence

PowerFlex: jointing

Axial XL: prior to boot

Grain Marketing Highlights - Carl German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist; clgerman@udel.edu

Commodity Markets Struggle to Find Direction
Next week's release of the March 10th Crop Production and USDA Supply/Demand reports should shed light on demand revisions for '09/'10 marketing year corn, soybeans, and wheat. Prospective Plantings for the 2010 domestic cropping season will not be reported until March 31. Grain Stocks in all positions will also be released on that date. Based upon Monday's close (March 1), new crop corn, soybean, and SRW wheat prices are only slightly better than they were bidding two weeks ago, moving from an initial oversold to an overbought situation. Dec '10 corn futures closing at \$4.06 on Monday had gained 11 cents per bushel; Nov '10 soybeans at \$9.42 gained 11 cents per bushel; while SRW wheat at \$5.16 had gained only 4 cents per bushel since February 19.

Weekly Export Inspections

Weekly inspections, reported on March 1, should be viewed as neutral to bearish for corn. The reported 38.9 million bushels was below the 46.1 million bushels needed this week to be on pace with USDA's projection of 2 billion bushels for the '09-'10 marketing year.

Soybean inspections of 40.1 million bushels should be viewed as bullish as the market needed 12.6 million bushels this week to be on pace with USDA's projection of 1.4 billion bushels for the current marketing year.

Weekly wheat inspections of 17.7 million bushels should be viewed as neutral to bullish as the market needed 16.1 million bushels this week to be on pace with USDA's projection of 825 million bushels for the '09-'10 marketing year.

Market Strategy

During the next few weeks, we are likely to see the commodity markets drifting sideways with limited breaks to the upside and downside,

depending upon outside market forces, exports, and fund activity. Currently the Dow is trading at 10,438; the dollar index at 80.78; and nearby crude is trading at \$78.70 per barrel. For technical assistance on making grain marketing decisions contact Carl L. German, Extension Crops Marketing Specialist.

General

Insecticide Updates - *Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; jwhalen@udel.edu*

The following are a few new insecticide registrations as well as changes with labeled products that occurred since the last newsletter of 2009. As always, be sure to check the label for labeled crops, labeled crops within a crop grouping, use rates and restrictions. Federal labels can be found at <http://www.cdms.net/>. In addition, you should also check the Delaware Department of Agriculture's website to be sure these materials are labeled in Delaware <http://www.kellysolutions.com/de/pesticideindex.htm> (to use a material it must have both a state and federal label).

Baythroid XL (beta cyfluthrin) - A new supplemental label now exits and the following revisions and additions to the label include: revised buffer zone requirements, revised spray drift requirements, revised maximum usage chart, increased use rate on alfalfa, new use on cereal grain, and additional pests on grass <http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Baythroid.pdf>

Belay (clothianidin) - This label recently expanded to include control of sucking and chewing insects infesting cotton, cranberry, fig, grape, pome fruit, pomegranate, soybean, tuberous and corm vegetables (includes sweet potatoes) and tree nuts (<http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld8J6006.pdf>). More vegetable registrations are expected this spring - we will let you know when registrations are received.

Coragen (chlorantraniliprole) - A label expansion occurred at the end of January 2010.

Crops that have been added that are important to Delaware include corn (field and sweet), grass (forage, fodder and hay), a number of crops in the herb subgroup, snap beans, lima beans, field and garden peas, non-grass animal feeds, tuberous and corm vegetables. Please refer to the following link for use rates and the full list of crops included (<http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld8KF022.pdf>).

Furadan (applies to all crops): "Effective December 31, 2009, all crop tolerances for carbofuran were revoked by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This action by EPA effectively stops the use of Furadan on all food crops. As a result of the revocation, the Delaware Department of Agriculture has also cancelled all Special Local Needs labels for all Furadan products labeled in Delaware. Contact your pesticide distributor for assistance with the return or disposal of the any existing stocks. The Department understands that unopened containers may be returned to the pesticide distributors and that open container should be disposed of at local pesticide disposal days. FMC is accepting inventory as follows:

- Full and partially full 15 & 110 gallon U-Turns®
- Unopened 2x2.5 gallon cases in original FMC packaging

Delaware farmers are permitted to dispose of pesticides during Delaware Solid Waste Authority Household Hazardous Waste collection days. DSWA has requested that you contact the DSWA's Citizen Response Line at 1-800-404-7080 prior to delivery of the pesticides for disposal to make sure DSWA can handle the quantity being disposed of. FMC can be contacted for specific instruction for product return at 1-800-231-5808." *Information provided by Dave Pyne at Delaware Department of Agriculture (302-698-4500).*

Inovate - Soybean Seed Treatment - This new soybean seed treatment is now labeled and approved for use in Delaware. It includes the insecticide, NipsIt (clothianidin) and Rancona Xtra (ipconazole and metalaxyl).

Regent: The following correspondence regarding the use of Regent was received from BASF (the manufacturer of Regent) in February 2010: "On February 3, 2010, the EPA posted a Federal Register notice advising of its decision to allow the expiration of conditional registrations of select fipronil-based products, specifically REGENT 4SC for in-furrow corn application. The EPA felt a number of viable alternatives exist for treating corn furrows for root worm control.

Specifically,

(a) REGENT 4SC remains registered for use in potatoes. However, the conditional registration for the commercial product for in-furrow corn application has been allowed to expire effective November 15, 2009.

(b) BASF may manufacture REGENT 4SC with the label bearing both corn in-furrow and potato until March 31, 2010, and after which time it will be labeled for use on potatoes only in the U.S. marketplace (except NY where it never had a potato use).

(c) BASF may sell REGENT 4SC for corn in-furrow use through May 15, 2011. Distributors and retailers can sell, and growers can use, REGENT 4SC for corn in-furrow applications until stocks are depleted.

(d) Additionally, the EPA changed registrations on REGENT TS and REGENT 500TS for corn seed treatment, to grant unconditional registration for treatment of seeds for export only. No sales of fipronil treated seeds will be allowed within the U.S. without an EPA-approved product stewardship plan. BASF will work with seed partners to develop a stewardship plan that will be deemed mutually acceptable by both BASF and the EPA to allow fipronil-based solutions for the future protection of premium seeds in the U.S."

USDA Initiative Extends Deadline to Delaware Organic Producers

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extended the timeline to apply for a special Organic Initiative, available through the agency's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Organic producers and those transitioning to organic now have until

March 12, 2010, to apply for the current round of funding consideration during fiscal year 2010.

Additional information on this initiative is available here:

<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/NRCSorganic.pdf>

or contact one of the Delaware NRCS Offices:

Sussex County: (302) 856-3990, ext 3

Kent County: (302) 741-2600, ext. 3

New Castle County: (302) 832-3100, ext. 3

Announcements

Upcoming Produce Food Safety GAP/GHP Certification Sessions

All produce growers who did not attend voluntary produce food safety (GAP/GHP) training sessions in 2009 are encouraged to do so in 2010. This training program is offered by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, and the certificate is issued by the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Trainings are also sponsored by the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware. This certification program satisfies wholesale buyer requirements that growers attend GAP/GHP training. Smaller growers that do not market wholesale are also encouraged to be certified and learn about best ways to keep produce safe from food borne pathogens.

Growers that do limited wholesale and mostly direct market will only need to do 3 hours of training.

Growers that do significant wholesale must attend 6 hours of training to be certified.

Remaining Certification Sessions in 2010:

KENT COUNTY

Small growers (limited wholesale): Certification session at the Profiting from a Few Acres Conference (3 hour training), will be rescheduled for fall (February conference was canceled because of snow).

Contact Gordon Johnson (302) 545-2397
gjohn@udel.edu for more information

SUSSEX COUNTY

Wholesale growers:

Session 1 - March 11, 2010, 6-9 p.m.

Session 2 - March 18, 2010, 6-9 p.m.

Both sessions are at the University of Delaware, Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947.

Call (302) 856-7303 to register. Contact Tracy Wootten wootten@udel.edu or Cory Whaley whaley@udel.edu for more information.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

All growers:

March 9, 2010 – 9 a.m. - noon, with an afternoon session 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. geared toward farmers' markets for those who are interested.

Wholesale growers:

Second session to complete certification - March 16, 2010, 9 a.m. - noon

Sessions at the New Castle County Extension Office, 461 Wyoming Road, Newark, DE , 19716, Phone (302) 831-2506 to register.

Contact Anna Stoops stoops@udel.edu for more information.

Local Farmers Wanted for Western Sussex Farmer's Market

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to Noon

July 3 through August 28

The Boys and Girls Club of Western Sussex

310 Virginia Ave.

Seaford, DE 19973

NEEDED: Produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fruit, nuts, bread & baked goods, jellies, herbal products, flowers, etc.

Easy access for vendor set-up!

Call (302) 629-2686 for more information.

Invitation to Join the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware

As the new Extension Vegetable and Fruit Specialist for the University of Delaware, I encourage you to consider joining the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware. I have just developed a new website for the group.

Take a look at:

<http://delawarefruitvegetable.wordpress.com>

or

<http://delawarefruitvegetable.org>

You may join by following the instructions on the membership page at the website

<http://delawarefruitvegetable.wordpress.com/membership>

We welcome growers, farm owners, farm employees, farm family members and spouses, market masters, market owners and operators, restaurant owners, produce buyers, suppliers, consultants, industry representatives, agency representatives, university representatives, and all other supporters of our fruit and vegetable growers to become members.

Member benefits include:

- A member farm page or links to farm websites on the new web page
- Newsletter and weblog, Twitter page, and Facebook page (new in 2010)
- Winter educational meetings and educational programs throughout the year.
- Promotional materials for use by member farms (such as recipes)
- Promotion of the industry and farms at events throughout the state.
- Voice in legislative activities and input into regulations affecting the industry.
- Programs that can help produce businesses such as "Farm to School"
- Training programs such as Produce Food Safety and much more...

Members of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware are very diverse – from market gardeners selling at nearby farmers markets to grower-shippers who supply supermarkets throughout the east; from farms offering Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions to nearby families to processing vegetable growers providing regional freezing and canning plants with tons of raw product that will be sold throughout the country.

New Castle County Agronomic Grower Meeting and 3rd Annual Dinner

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Blackbird Community Center

120 Blackbird Forest Rd.

Townsend, DE 19734

This session will gear you up for the season ahead with the latest in pest pressures and control, variety trial updates and agronomic planning for the year. We'll be sure to cover nutrient management topics, as well. A [detailed agenda](#) is available online.

This meeting is free and everyone interested in attending is welcome.

There is no fee, but registration by April 2 is required. To register, request more information or if you require special needs assistance for this meeting, please call our office in advance at (302) 831-2506.

Weather Summary

Carvel Research and Education Center Georgetown, DE

Week of February 25 to March 3, 2009

Readings Taken from Midnight to Midnight

Rainfall:

0.17 inch: February 25

0.05 inch: March 2

0.30 inch: March 3

Air Temperature:

Highs ranged from 46°F on March 1 to 35°F on February 26.

Lows ranged from 36°F on March 3 to 29°F on February 26.

Additional Delaware weather data is available at http://www.deos.udel.edu/monthly_retrieval.html and <http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Weather.htm>

Weekly Crop Update is compiled and edited by Emmalea Ernest, Extension Associate - Vegetable Crops

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Weekly Vegetable and Agronomic Crops Newsletter

March 26 through September 17, 2010

<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/>

Timely Production Topics

Current Ag Issues

Disease and Insect Outbreaks

Latest Weed, Insect and Disease Control Options

Crop Progress Reports

Grain Marketing Highlights

Pasture and Forage Management

Weather Summary

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Information provided by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Specialists and Agents.

The Weekly Crop Update is available by:

First Class Mail (\$40/season), Fax (\$40/season), or on the Internet (FREE)

The Weekly Crop Update is mailed, faxed and posted on the internet each Friday by 4:30 pm.

To receive **FREE** weekly email reminders, email Emmalea Ernest, emmalea@udel.edu

To receive the WCU by First Class Mail or Fax, complete the form below and return to:
Emmalea Ernest, Carvel Research & Education Center
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