



FSMA Becomes Law

The Food Safety and Modernization Act was published in the Federal Register for three days, September 15th, 16th and 17th which means it has become law. Many of the provision requirements will kick in over the next two to four years. The rules are not as ominous as they once appeared to be to farmers but farmers will still be impacted depending on the size of the farm. Originally farms were going to be required to register with the FDA but this is no longer true. Farms may still be impacted but it should be much less. If a farm is GAP certified they will be in good shape regarding FSMA. Keep in mind though that FDA is just getting started with training and it will be several months before you will know exactly how this may affect your operation. Linda Titus will have more to say about this at the annual meeting and how it may impact you in the future.

Looking For Volunteer

The Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers are looking for volunteers in a variety of areas. Some of these include people willing to go onto the Board of Directors, farmers willing to hold twilight meetings at their farm location, and people interested in working on the newsletter. There are also other events during the year that volunteers are needed for such as “Ag Day At The Legislature”. Contact Bill Bamford or list the area you would be willing to help in on the MVSFGA application that is attached.

Up Coming Events

Also, please mark your calendar for the **2016 Maine Vegetable & Fruit School** at Seasons Event & Conference Center in Portland on March 15 and at the Bangor Motor Inn on March 16. More information will be available next month.

MVSFGA proposed budget for 2016

Highmoor Farm (Dave & Mark)	2000	same as 2015
Guides	1500	same
Newsletter	750	reduced by 250 (E-mail saves)
Dues (AGCOM & MFB)	200	increased by 25
Ag. Day at Legislature	50	same (didn't go in 2015)
Twilight meetings	150	increased by 50
Trades Show	600	same included the breakfast
Legislative Tour (AGCOM)	250	every other year
Web-site	250	to maintain or improve
Miscellaneous	100	whatever comes up (awards)
Total	\$5850	up from \$5425

The budget is based on a membership of 115 @ \$35 each which would allow for an income of \$4025.

MVSFGA

MVSFGA is an association of vegetable and small fruit growers dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of the vegetable and small fruit industry in Maine.

MVSFGA supports research education, and promotion and political advocacy. The association has provided important testimony at legislative hearings on such issues as pesticide regulation, labor, IPM, farmland preservation and technology transfer.

MVSFGA members receive the annual New England Vegetable Production Guide, and the New England Small Fruit Production Guide. Members also receive the association newsletter. To become a member of the MVSFGA please write to; William Jordan Jr. Treasurer, 21 Wells Road, Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107, email: whjir30@aol.com

Letters, comments, articles, calendars of events listings, and advertisements related to vegetable and small fruit production are welcome. Please send comments and information for the newsletter to: Walter Goss, 311 Elm Street, Mechanic Falls, Maine 04256, email: gossfarm@roadrunner.com.

MVSFGA Directors are : Bill Bamford (president), Lauchlin Titus (vice-president), William Jordan (Treasurer), Ford Stevenson (secretary), Rick Belanger, Keith Harris, Jeff Spear, Jason Osborne, Tom Stevenson, Lisa Turner

**Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Association Annual Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Fort Western Room, Augusta Civic Center

Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. Agriculture Marketing Loan Fund Breakfast
- 9:15 Maine Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Association Welcome & Announcements
Bill Bamford, President MVSFGA
- 9:30 Highmoor Farm Trials: Pumpkins, Sweet Corn, High Tunnel Tomatoes, and More
Mark Hutton, David Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 10:30 Farm Labor: Finding and Keeping Good Workers: Grower Panel
Rick Belanger, Robert Spear, Lisa Turner, Bill Bamford
- 11:30 Navigating Crop Insurance Options for Maine Vegetable and Fruit Growers
Erin Roche, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 11:45 The Food Safety Act and GAP: Changes for 2016
Linda Titus, AgMatters
- 12:00 MVSFGA Business Meeting
Bill Bamford, President, Presiding
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:30 New Vegetable Varieties, Focus on Disease Resistance
Tom Lewandowski, Harris Seeds
Lauchlin Titus, Seedway
Luke Donahue, Johnny's Selected Seeds
- 2:30 Worker Protection Update for Vegetable Growers
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
- 3:00 Vegetable Disease Spotlight: *Phytophthora*
Mark Hutton, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- 3:00 Berry Pest Outlook for 2016

(One credit for pesticide licenses is offered for attending the whole afternoon session).



Raspberry School 2016

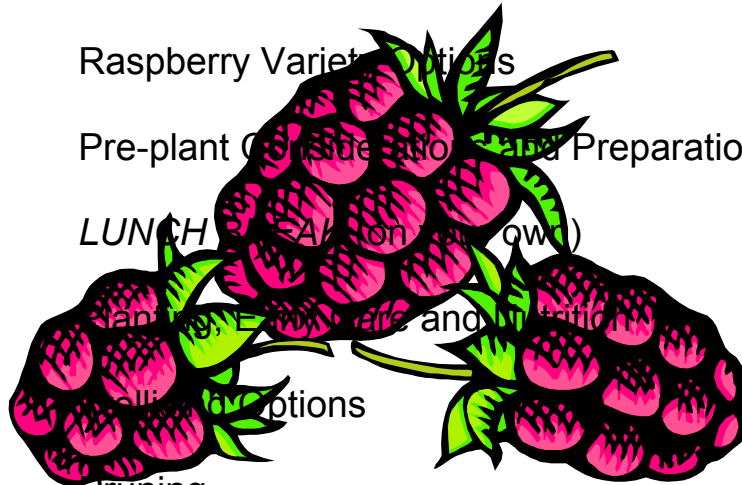
Thursday, January 14

Arnold/Howard Rooms, Augusta Civic Center

Presented by Dr. David Handley, Vegetable & Small Fruit Specialist

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
10:00 a.m.	Introductions and Objectives
10:15 a.m.	Raspberries: History and Botany
11:00 a.m.	Raspberry Variety Options
11:30 a.m.	Pre-plant Considerations and Preparation
12:00 noon	LUNCH (At on-site cove)
1:00 p.m.	Planting, Site Care and Irrigation
1:45 p.m.	Watering Options
2:30 p.m.	Pruning
3:00 p.m.	Pest Identification and Management
4:00 p.m.	Marketing Options and Business Management



4:30 p.m. Questions and Discussion

(Two pesticide credits are offered for attending the whole session)