

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service – Hancock County

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Area Vegetable Growers to Meet/Tour Tuttle Orchards

Greenfield —Whether you are a home gardener nurturing a couple of tomato plants or a commercial producer with many acres committed to vegetables, it is no secret that growing vegetables here in Central Indiana can be challenging either as hobby or vocation.

Good growers know that it is important to keep learning of new ways to keep plants healthy and productive as pest (insects, weeds, and disease) pressures change and new technologies emerge to help make us more productive.

On the evening of Monday, August 3, 2009 vegetable growers are invited to attend a free twilight tour to discuss some of these topics with Extension specialists from Purdue University at Tuttle Orchards in North western Hancock County. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. local time.

The purpose of this meeting is to offer vegetable growers of Central Indiana a chance to gather, discuss current growing conditions and learn of pest pressures their crops are experiencing and how to reduce the impact of these on the yield/value of their crops.

Participants will also have a unique opportunity to take a guided tour of the Tuttle Orchards vegetable fields and to learn from co-owner Mile Roney about his recent experiences with drip irrigation and high tunnel production of tomatoes.

Drs. Liz Maynard-Extension Horticulturalist and Rick Foster-Extension Entomologist will share their current research and provide an update on varieties and pest pressure that they are seeing across Indiana.

Dr. Maynard will display some new sweet corn varieties from her current trial work in Northern Indiana and Rick Foster will describe the potential the corn earworm trap that is sited at the Tuttle farm to reduce pesticide use and costs.

The evening will wrap up with a brief August business meeting of the Hancock Harvest Council.

The Hancock Harvest Council is a group of farmers seeking ways to enhance their place in the market by working together to meet the needs of consumers who wish to buy fresh farm products from local farmers. The Hancock Harvest Council serves farmers in Hancock and all contiguous counties.

Growers are encouraged to bring samples of plant problems that they are experiencing and to dress appropriately for the weather as much of this program will be held outdoors in the field.

While the program is free to anyone with an interest in vegetable culture it is requested that you pre register to assist with planning.

Tuttle Orchards is a diversified farm which includes not only fresh vegetable production but also a farm market, u-pick, fresh fruit and value added products such as cider and a variety of entertainment and educational opportunities for individuals, families and school groups.

Tuttle Orchards is located at 5717 North 300 West, Greenfield, IN.

Directions to Tuttle Orchards are available at <http://www.tuttleorchards.com/directions.htm>

This educational program is sponsored by the Hancock Harvest Council, Tuttle Orchards and the Hancock County office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.

Anyone that would like to preregister or who has questions about this program or vegetable production in general is welcome to contact Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Hancock County by calling 317-462-1113 or by e-mail at rballard@purdue.edu