

Farming — South America Style

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Increased carbon dioxide in a greenhouse may result in a better tomato crop yield, said Mike Orzolek, Penn State extension vegetable specialist, on Monday at the New Holland Vegetable Day at Summit Valley Elementary School.

"Increased lighting does not yield a better tomato harvest in greenhouses," said Orzolek to about 75 vegetable farmers from around the Susquehanna Valley.

Farmers often fail to consider proper greenhouse ventilation. "Ventilation is also critical, and fans with two speeds work best," said Orzolek.

"Some will try to sell you the Dutch house passive ventilation type of system," he said. "But passive ventilation does not work in Pennsylvania. It works only if they put in fans with active ventilation."

A nutrient injection system is also a large part of the greenhouse process. Orzolek examined the various stages toward growing good plants, through the traditional methods and with hydroponics. Proper feeding, pruning, and transplanting will help ensure a good crop harvest.

Orzolek was one of nine speakers invited by the Penn State College of Agriculture cooperative extension to the New Holland Vegetable Day. Included in the seminar were subjects ranging from vegetable varieties, weed control, managing roadside stands, and greenhouse pesticide management to bee management, transplant management, and dried flower production. In addition, the seminar also included topics such as managing roadside stands, plant



Yes, would you believe it? At left, maze mushroom, better known as corn smut, is a real delicacy, says Cristina Arnold, from El Aficionado, right, who buys sweet corn ears infected with the mold. Her company was on hand at the New Holland Vegetable Day at Summit Valley Elementary School on Monday. In this case, the gourmet dish has been seasoned with onion, garlic, and Poblano chile. The gourmet food has only 29 calories per 100 grams and a mere 0.4 grams of fat. "I'm interested in people who are growing sweet corn and buying the corn which has the mold." She is looking for young, fleshy ears approximately 5 to 7 days before harvest. She'll pay \$1.50 to \$2.00 a pound for the — uh, let's put it another way — *Huitlacoche*. Photos by Andy Andrews.

propagation, vegetable diseases, and management practices for optimizing vegetable production.

Foliar fertilizers, a video on fruit tree pruning, greenhouse seedling diseases, tree fruit management, the

use of plastics and rye wind breaks, and a pesticide license update rounded out the seminar.

"The New Holland Vegetable Day gets growers together to tell them about new equipment and

procedures used in the industry," said H. Bruce Hellerick, Lancaster County extension agent. "Farmers from all over the county, and many from out of state, are invited to attend."

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Attending the "Meet With Speakers" session at the New Holland Vegetable Day are, from left to right, Ed Kee, vegetable specialist from the University of Delaware, who spoke about vegetable varieties; Larry Yager, extension marketing specialist, who spoke about managing roadside stands; Wayne Beisinger, from Masonic Homes, who spoke about tree fruit management; Ray Good, who spoke about greenhouse seedling diseases; and Alan McNab, from the Penn State extension office, who spoke about vegetable diseases.

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