

Penn State Offers Mushroom Short Course

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Attention mushroom growers, marketers and scientists: here is your opportunity to learn about the current issues and research on Agaricus and specialty mushrooms at Penn State's 33rd

annual Mushroom Industry Short Course and second annual Specialty Mushroom Workshop. "This year we are featuring speakers from Israel, Germany, Canada, Switzerland and Australia, demonstrating the globalization

of mushroom growing, mushroom science, and mushroom marketing," said Dr. Paul Wuest, professor of plant pathology and chairman of the short course planning committee. "In addition, topics of the short course will reflect environmental protection and food safety, concerns that are foremost in the minds of growers."

Commercial exhibit will be open on Monday and Tuesday, June 10 and 11, and visitors may attend presentations on controlling insects and other diseases, composting, and using alternate casing materials. On June 12, demonstrations and tours of the mushroom facilities again are available, or visitors may attend the all-day specialty mushroom workshop.

attending the short course will be enrolled in the specialty mushroom workshop last year. "Last year's workshop exceeded all expectations, and the consensus was to offer it annually," said Dr. Daniel Royse, associate professor of plant pathology and chairman of the workshop planning committee. "This year, we have invited a diverse group of experienced speakers and panelists, and time has been set aside after each presentation for questions and discussions with panel members."

Wayne Countians Learn About Drinking Water Quality

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — More than 100 local residents concerned about the quality of their water had it tested as part of the Penn State Cooperative Extension water quality clinic program.

plies changes much more than that of well water supplies. Its quality is affected by changes in temperature, amount of rainfall and runoff, and the activity in the watershed.

The short course, which deals with the Agaricus mushroom, will take place on June 10, 11, and 12. The specialty mushroom workshop will take place all day on June 12. Both are in the J.O. Keller Conference Center on Penn State's University Park Campus.

The specialty workshop will cover research, production, and marketing of mushrooms such as Shiitake, Pleurotus, and Enoki. Some of the topics in the workshop will be the nutritional and medicinal value of specialty mushrooms, growing Shiitake mushrooms on natural logs, performance of specialty mushroom germplasm in substrate, production and diseases of Pleurotus mushrooms, and solving problems associated with specialty mushrooms. Many of those

Registration fees are \$100 for the short course and \$85 for the workshop. Those interested may register any time up to and including the days of the events.

The clinic, held April 8, featured Dr. William Sharpe, water resource specialist, and Brian Swisstock, water quality expert, both from Penn State.

Spring water should be tested more often. Sharpe indicated that two-thirds or 66 percent of the springs tested in northeastern Pennsylvania have tested positive for bacterial contamination.

The two events cover different mushroom production systems and marketing, and are scheduled so that visitors can attend both.

On Monday morning, June 10, the short course will begin with tours of the Penn State mushroom facilities and a wetland constructed with spent compost. The afternoon will feature presentations on topics including auto-

For more information or to pre-register, contact the Mushroom Industry Short Course or the Specialty Mushroom Workshop, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-8301.

Approximately 100 people attended the afternoon or evening sessions held in the extension meeting room of the Wayne County Courthouse.

Brian Swisstock discussed the safety of roadside springs. He pointed out to the audience that springs should not be considered safe to drink from unless they have been tested. He also discussed how contamination of water supplies may occur and what we can do to protect the quality and safety of our water.

Drinking contaminated water can pose health risks, especially to young children. Water with high levels of lead can lower the IQ of children who drink it. Besides the potential health problems of digestive upset, etc., poor quality water can have other negative effects. For example, "Water contaminated with iron can stain laundry and bathroom fixtures, and taste bad," said Sharpe.

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