

# Berries And Brambles Resource Night In Ohio

PIKETON, Ohio — Berry producers can learn about potential benefits and drawbacks of early harvest thanks to research at the Ohio State University Centers at Piketon. This and other research at the Center will be highlighted on July 18 during the Horticulture/Soil and Water Resources Night, at 1864 Shyville Road, shortly off of U.S. Route 32.

Black raspberries typically are not harvested until several years after the brambles are planted, said Shawn Wright, an Ohio State University Extension horticulture specialist. Researchers at the Center harvested black raspberries early in hopes of benefiting local berry growers.

"Growers may be able to recoup from some of their investments quicker by not waiting until the third year," Wright said. "It's not done commonly, but with increasing costs of production, anything will help."

Brambles usually are planted the first year, pruned the second and allowed to produce berries the third. Growers do not get a full crop the second year because the brambles are establishing their crown and root systems, Wright said. The "baby crop" would aid in getting income to the grower a year early.

"Some growers think that it's not worth the risk to the plant, but if you need cash for your operation, this may be a way to do so," Wright said. The experimental brambles will be monitored to

see if the earlier berries affect the traditional eight-year production cycle.

Along with the bramble research, the field night will highlight topics ranging from black berry variety trials to fertilization application to produce for an ethnic market. The event, which begins at 6 p.m., is free and open to

public.

The Horticulture/Soil and Water Resources Night is sponsored by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and Ohio State University Extension. For more information, contact Shawn Wright at wright.705@osu.edu or (740) 289-2071.

## Planted Acreage Reporting Deadline

POTTSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.) — July 15 is the final date to report planted acreage of 2002 crops at the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Acreage reporting is required to receive many of the benefits offered growers under the new Farm Bill.

The regulations open the loan deficiency payment and marketing assistance programs to all producers of soybeans, corn, wheat, barley, and oats. These two programs provide farmers with a benefit when commodity prices are low. All acreage of the above-named crops is eligible for benefit as long as your acreages are reported to FSA by July 15.

FSA presently is preparing to administer several other programs under the new Farm Bill. We expect to conduct a sign up late this summer for growers to enroll in the new improved production flexibility program.

This program runs from 2002 through 2007 and all growers will be eligible to enroll later this year.

Reported acreage of planted crops will be the basis for participation in this program as well.

Farmers can call or visit the FSA office on the Gordon Nagle Trail to retain their eligibility for all the management tools offered by USDA. Out-of-county producers should contact their area FSA office.



# Pennfield Feeds Hosts Open House

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — For the first time since it was built, farmers across the Northeast had the opportunity to tour Pennfield Feed's state-of-the-art feed mill located here, recently, at Pennfield Feed's Open House. According to Herb Bonnice, Pennfield's Northern Regional Manager, sixty farms were represented at the daylong event adding up to 300 to 400 people.

The plant, which produces steam flaked corn, steam flaked barley, pellets and forage replacer to make all types of dairy feed, is located at the site of the Kintner Milling facility, which Pennfield purchased in November of 1998. The new facility has been in operation since the fall of 2000.

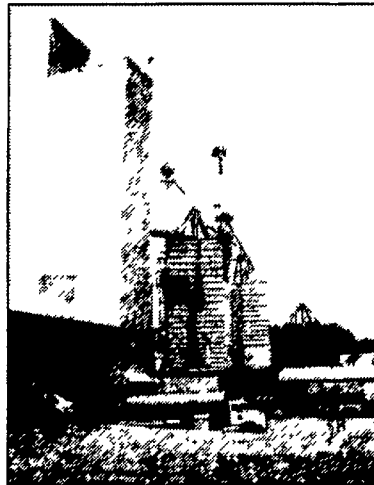
"We built the new facility beside the old plant," said Bonnice. "We still use the old facility for storage of incoming ingredients and for blending meal type feeds."

During the event, guided tours of the mill were offered, and Pennfield nutritionist Dr. Tim Snyder, and Penn State Dairy Economist Dr. Ken Bailey were on hand to answer producers' questions.

"We were doing particle size analysis for anyone who wanted to bring a sample of their TMR (Total Mixed Ration) to have it analyzed," said Bonnice. "We also had samples available for people to look at."

Visitors could also mingle with representatives from First Union

Bank, Zinpro Corporation, Al-Pharma Animal Health Division, Arm&Hammer and American Farm Products. Pennfield's safety coordinator, Mindy Cosner also had a display about farm safety.



Pennfield Feeds

The element of fun was not forgotten at the event, as kids were welcome to bounce in a large inflatable jumper, play games and eat lots of cotton candy and popcorn.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken barbecue and all the milk you could drink was provided for the guests and the day was topped off with Hillside Farm ice cream served by the Susquehanna County Dairy Court.

"We wanted to have a family day," said Bonnice. "Everything came together really nicely. We were real happy with it and everyone there had a great time."

## Date Change For Ohio Muck Crops Field Day

WILLARD, Ohio — Weather has put many things on hold for the early part of this summer, including the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center's Muck Crops Field Day. Originally scheduled for June 27, Muck Crops Field Day is now scheduled on July 25 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The field day will take place at the OARDC's Muck Crops Branch, located two miles south of Willard on State Route 103 South. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

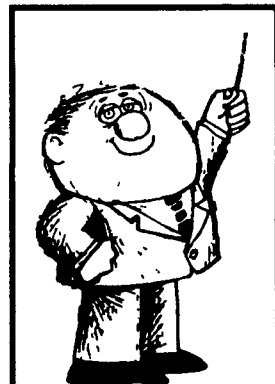
"With the rescheduling of this field day to July 25 it will allow us to provide more meaningful information for vegetable growers, processors, and the agricultural seed and crop protection chemical industries" said Ken Scaife, assistant to the director, field operations, at OARDC.

This year's program holds a

great variety of topics to interested attendees. Presentations will be given on weed control, cover crops, variety evaluation, and insect and disease control on many different vegetables. The Muck Crops Branch's fields will be open for viewing and presenters will be available for questions.

Scaife said the event will be of particular interest to commercial vegetable farmers, crop advisers, seed and crop protection chemical representatives and home gardeners.

"People will come away with information on new varieties and options for weed, insect and disease control," Scaife said.



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