VIDALIA VEGETABLE NEWS

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VIDALIA ONION FIELD DAY

The Vidalia Onion Field Day is scheduled for April 5, 2007 at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center. The event will begin at 12:00 pm with a sponsored lunch. This will be followed by visits to the field plots from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. There is a variety of research underway at the farm on onions including variety, fungicide, herbicide, and organic evaluations.

Reid Torrance will also give an update on plans to build a new office and meeting facility. This facility will help accommodate educational meetings among other things. There are also plans to have a laboratory and distance diagnostics equipment.

The University of Georgia is set to acquire the entire farm property at the Vidalia Farm from the Forestry Commission. Up until now the Forestry Commission has retained ownership of the farm with the University holding long term leases on two parcels of land. This acquisition will allow for the expansion of research at the farm. In addition, a more meaningful rotation plan can be implemented. The Forestry Commission will continue to have access to the property to monitor their progeny tests.

EXTENSION-RESEARCH UPDATE

The annual Extension-Research Update will be held at the Rural Development Center in Tifton. Research results on a variety of vegetable crops and practices will be presented. The update is planned for March 22, 2007 from 10 am – 3 pm. For more information contact Stormy Sparks at 229/386-3424. Registration is not required, but they would like to know how many are attending. Please contact Debbie Rutland (drutland@uga.edu, 229/386-3424) and let her know if you will be attending.

FROM MY DESK

It seems like I’ve been traveling a lot since the first of the year. I just returned from a trip to north Alabama. North Alabama is known for sweetpotato production as a primary crop, otherwise it has many small holdings with diversified vegetable production. Both retail and wholesale markets exist. In cooperation with Auburn University personnel we are trying to produce sweet onions in this region as a new crop for them. So far the onions appear to do well on plastic, but not on bareground. Talk to you next month.

Regards,
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