



Governor Ted Strickland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Specialty Crop Block Grant Funds OPGMA ‘Ohio Project’

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (November 6, 2009) – Seven listening sessions for the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association’s “The Ohio Project” will take place across Ohio. The project is funded with U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant monies that were secured by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

“This is yet another example of how federal funding is provided to the states to support projects that help advance our current agricultural practices,” said Ohio Agriculture Director Robert Boggs. “We applaud the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association for proposing an innovative project that will lead the industry in food safety initiatives.”

The Ohio Project looks to develop a food safety standard for fresh produce that is specific to Ohio. It will take into consideration climate, commodities and cultural practices unique to Ohio’s produce growers. The listening sessions will inform Ohio growers about the project, which will enhance their ability to further market goods based on established food safety practices.

Listening sessions will take place as follows:

Northeast Ohio

Nov. 10, 6 – 8 p.m.
Mt. Hope Auction
Mt. Hope, Ohio
Host: Raymond Yoder

Nov. 13, 8 – 10 a.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Garnet Room #2
4900 Emerald Ct. SW
Cleveland, Ohio
Host: Bill Dodd

Northwest Ohio

Nov. 11, 9 – 11 a.m.
ABE Center
639 S. Dunbridge Rd., Suite #4
Bowling Green, Ohio
Host: Beth Fausey

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Southwest Ohio

Nov. 11, 5-7 p.m.
Valley Vineyards
2276 E. U.S. 22 & 3 (Montgomery Rd.)
Morrow, Ohio
Host: Brad Bergefurd

Southeast Ohio

Nov. 12, 2-4 p.m.
OSU Athens County
280 W. Union St.
Athens, Ohio
Host: Hal Kneen & Rory Lewandowski

South Central Ohio

Nov. 12, 9-11 a.m.
Cynthiana Township Hall
Bainbridge, Ohio
Host: Fred Weaver, Bainbridge Produce Auction Manager

OPGMA Congress

Jan. 20, 2010
Kalahari Convention Center
Sandusky, Ohio
Host: OPGMA President Richard Wander

For more information about the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association, visit www.opgma.org.

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