

## VIDALIA VEGETABLE NEWS

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Bill Hurst is hosting the Microbial Food Safety for Melons workshop in Tifton. This will be held at the Tifton Campus Conference Center on Friday August 4, 2006 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The cost is \$25.00 for UGA/Extension personnel and \$50.00 for industry folks. Contact Bill Hurst for further details and a registration form at: (706) 542-0993.

The annual Onion Production Meeting will be held on Friday, August 18, 2006 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Captain's Corner Restaurant in Vidalia, GA. There will be a sponsored lunch followed by the meeting. Subjects to be covered at this meeting include variety trial results, direct seeding onions, an update on the onion virus situation, and organic onion production. This should be a great meeting and you should encourage your growers to come and well as attending yourself. For more information, please contact Chris Hopkins, county agent in Toombs County at: (912) 526-3101 or you may contact me.

### CHANGES AT THE VIDALIA FARM

There have been some major changes at the Vidalia Onion and Vegetable Research Center. The center is now under extension rather than experiment station oversight. This will not change the focus of the center, but it is hoped that under extension it will be better positioned to meet grower and allied industry needs.

The center is in the process of advertising for a technician and should begin interviewing and hiring someone shortly. Upgrades are planned for the center, which will include a distance diagnostics setup, high-speed Internet access, and a new computer and printer/copier. Additional capital improvements are also anticipated.

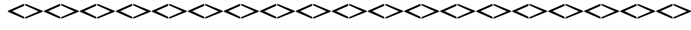
These changes are in addition to new equipment acquisitions that have occurred over the years. This has included a new plastic layer and transplanter, which we have put to good use for the first time this year. The center has acquired a new vacuum planter for large seed, so summer crops such as corn, squash, etc. can more easily be planted. There is also an air-blast sprayer for disease control.

### FROM MY DESK

We are in the process of wrapping up several summer projects, which include cantaloupe, watermelon, and squash variety trials. In addition, a pumpkin trial was just planted for fall production. Organic onion weed control and a cantaloupe seed increase are also

anticipated. Please don't forget about the August 18<sup>th</sup> production meeting. Please encourage all to attend. Talk to you next month.

Regards,



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