



April, 2017 Newsletter Volume 6:1

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Presidents Corner Kyle Dismukes

Spring time has arrived in Oklahoma! At this point in the season OFVA members are very busy. We all have different jobs and responsibilities, but our common mission is to be involved in supporting research and education on the production of fruits and vegetables. This spring OFVA members are busy planning and plotting research trials, and organizing educational events. Other members are prepping soil and planting for those specific research trials. There is no doubt that OFVA members have a huge impact on Oklahoma fruit and vegetable production! Let's get busy planting and educating!!

OFVA Member Products & Services Survey

During the January OFVA board meeting we discussed the importance of having a list of products and services offered from our association members. We believe this list is a crucial part of our association's progress and it will improve communication within the group, and our customers. In order to build the list we need some basic information about your farm products or services that you

provide. Attached to the same e-mail with this newsletter is a short survey! We are asking members to fill it out so we can organize the information and then market your products or services on our website.

OFVA Spring Board Meeting

President Kyle Dismukes has scheduled the OFVA spring board meeting for Thursday April 13th at 6:00 PM at the Pottawatomie County Extension office at 14001 Acme Road in Shawnee, OK. For directions to the County Extension office call 405-744-5408 or 405-273-7683.

Who is subject to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)? Lynn Brandenberger

The Food Safety Modernization Act was passed in 2011 and the final Produce Safety rule for FSMA went into effect in November of 2015.

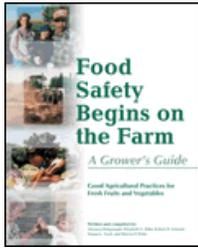
There has been some confusion about whether or not specific farms will be required to adhere to the



rule for produce safety hopefully we can help clear that up. First, there are exemptions based on the amount of sales that a farm has had. Farms that have average sales during the past three years of less than \$25,000 per year are considered exempt. Farms that have sales averaging more than \$25,000, but less than \$500,000 and that sell a majority of their produce to qualified end users (consumer, restaurant or retail food outlet) within the state or not more than 275 miles from the farm are also considered exempt.



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purchase.

That said, even exempt farms will need to prominently display their farm name and business address where the produce was grown on the produce label or at the point of

purchase. Regardless of whether a farm is exempt or not, all growers should be using food safety practices during production, harvest, and after harvest to ensure the safety of all produce that they are responsible for.

We'll be sharing more about the Food Safety Modernization Act in future newsletters.

For more information about food safety you should check out the following websites:

- Cornell's Good Agricultural Practices website:

<https://nysaes-bookstore.myshopify.com/collections/gaps>

- Guide to minimize microbial food safety hazards:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/UCM169112.pdf>

- OSU fact sheet on developing a food safety plan:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dweb/Get/Document-6659/FAPC-168web.pdf>

- OSU fact sheet on fresh produce safety logs:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dweb/Get/Document-6657/FAPC-167web.pdf>

OFVA Tee-Shirts Still Available

OFVA Tee-Shirts with our logo are still available from Kenda Woodburn, contact Kenda at: kenda.woodburn@okstate.edu.

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Asparagus Production---From A to Z

By Carl J. Cantaluppi, who is an asparagus expert with over 30 years of applied research experience with Land-Grant Universities.



This guide is a comprehensive 66-page bulletin that covers the planting, growing, harvesting, and marketing of asparagus. It includes a budget with costs and expected income per acre, for the serious commercial asparagus grower.

The guide includes several color photos of insects, diseases, and planting techniques to aid the grower.

To order your copy, send a check or money order for \$25.00 to Carl Cantaluppi (includes postage) and mail to: Carl Cantaluppi
1222 Grangers Rd. Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Coming Events

ODAFF Strawberry Tour will be on Thursday May 4th, registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the tour will leave the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture at 8:00 a.m. To sign up for the tour you will need to R.S.V.P. by Friday April 28th by either calling 405-522-5595 or e-mailing Micah Anderson at

micah.anderson@ag.ok.gov.



The tour will visit three farms in the Mustang area and will lunch in Mustang then



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return to the Department of Agriculture. It will be a great tour and folks will learn a lot about how strawberries are being grown in Central Oklahoma.

OSU/OFVA Vegetable and Fruit Spring Field Day will be on Thursday May 25th at the Cimarron Valley Research Station near Perkins. The field day will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will feature information on this year's spring trials including:

- Cabbage
- Sweet corn
- Blackberries
- Ornamentals
- Cover crops



For more information on the field day check the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture website at: <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/> or check the OFVA website at: <http://www.okfva.org/>.