Meigs High Tunnel Field Day
Thursday July 18, 2019 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Meigs Horticulture Research Farm
9101 S. 100 E., Lafayette IN, 47909

The field day at Meigs Horticulture Farm, presented by the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department and the Department of Entomology, will focus on aspects of high tunnel cantaloupe, cucumber, and tomato crop production. It will feature tours of conventional and hydroponic high tunnel production research. Eighteen high quality specialty melon varieties will be on display, grown vertically or the conventional way. Research have shown that the yield of personal sized melons grown in high tunnels are about three times higher than conventionally grown melons. Past research with insect exclusion netting have shown to exclude cucumber beetles effectively from the high tunnel environment. This year, we are working on implementing new technology to detect bacterial infection in the plants, prior to visual wilting symptoms, in order to improve management. The sensors we are using for early detection will be available and on display. New research are looking at the known risks involved when growing tomatoes without crop rotation in high tunnels. We are comparing the impact of mono cropped tomato vs. a more diverse rotation on soil microbial communities, crop resistance to insect pests and pathogens and yield. In addition, we are grafting heirloom tomato scions onto wild tomato rootstock to determine whether grafting provides greater resiliency in buffering high tunnel tomatoes against yield decline in monoculture over time. Attendees will also have an opportunity to discuss current challenges and future directions of research areas for high tunnel production systems.

Presentations and Tours
1. Production of Specialty melons in High Tunnels
2. Early Detection of Bacterial Wilt
3. Impact of Crop Rotation and Rootstock on the Resilience of High Tunnel Tomatoes

Lunch and Refreshments are provided.

Registration is free, but required.

Register here  https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0HXQwD1uRi0nwAB
For questions please contact Lori Jolly-Brown at ljollybr@purdue.edu or 765-494-1296