

## Common Ground Country Fair

### Unity, Maine

September 20 – 21, 2002

#### General Information about the Common Ground Country Fair:

The CGCF allows fairgoers to make connections with a rapidly expanding base of organic farms in the state of Maine. Hundreds of vendors, exhibitors and demonstrators, roughly 1500 volunteers, and an estimated 60,000 Fairgoers gather in Unity, Maine to: share knowledge about sustainable living; eat delicious, organic, Maine-grown food; buy and sell beautiful Maine crafts and useful agricultural products; compete in various activities; dance; sing and have a great time.

#### PSI Mobile Seed Processing Unit Demonstrations:

Thousands of fairgoers stopped by the PSI tent to catch a glimpse of lettuce seed being threshed, soy beans being sent through the belt thresher or tomatoes being processed with the wet vegetable seed separator at the 2002 CGCF in Unity, ME. Larry Robertson, Teri Ferrin, Deb Johnston, Bill Garman, John Oughterson (all from USDA-ARS, PGRU) and Michael Glos (NOFA – NY) worked from sunrise to sunset explaining the basics of seed production and threshing and processing seed for fairgoers who were encouraged to bring their “dirty” seed. Formal demonstrations were given three times during each day at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm but, for every minute throughout the day, various seed was being cleaned either manually, mechanically or by some combination of the two.

In addition to assisting several locals with cleaning their seed, the PSI team was also able to do some valuable networking with CR Lawn and Eli Kaufman from MOFGA’s Restore Our Seed Project (a project similar to the PSI project being done in Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont) and with representatives from FEDCO seeds and Johnny’s Select Seeds (both located in Maine).

#### Pictures from MOFGA’s Common Ground Country Fair:



Eli Kaufman (MOFGA’s Restore Our Seed Project) showing her students how to thresh lettuce seed.

**More Pictures:**



Bill Garman (USDA-ARS, PGRU) demonstrates the air column to interested fairgoers.



Fairgoers line-up to see Michael Glos (NOFA – NY) demonstrates the Clipper Office Tester.



*Left to Right:* John Oughterson, Larry Robertson, CR Lawn, and Michael Glos processing watermelon seed the old-fashioned way.



Deb Johnston (USDA-ARS, PGRU) cleans some seed using a hand screen.



John Oughterson (USDA-ARS, PGRU) demonstrates the wet vegetable seed separator.



One of the many local farm stands that were displayed during the festival.