

Common Ground Country Fair
Unity, Maine
September 24-25, 2004

General Information about the Common Ground Country Fair:

The Common Ground Country is a celebration of rural, sustainable living. 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:

Fairgoers from this year's 28th Annual CGCF showed much enthusiasm for the PSI's Mobile Seed Processing Unit. The PSI booth was manned by Melina Gay, William Garman, John Oughterson, and Larry Robertson (all from USDA-ARS, PGRU), and Michael Glos (NOFA – NY). This year 250 tomato seed packets containing one of five varieties of heirloom seed were distributed to the public for free! Demonstrations were given at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. Even children brought seed they had been saving to be cleaned by the PSI's seed cleaning "experts". We added over 25 new names to our ever increasing mailing lists, as well as cleaned, cucumbers, lettuce, flower and many other seeds for visitors of our booth. Well over 1,000 people stopped to visit our booth and either listen to the demonstrations, ask questions, or have seed cleaned.

Pictures from MOFGA's Common Ground Country Fair:



Above: Melina Gay cleaning soybeans with a young seed cleaner. John Oughterson and Michael Glos demonstrating the Wet Vegetable Seed Separator.

More Pictures:



Above: Handing out information under the tent. Bill Garman and Michael Glos demonstrating the Clipper Office Tester.



Above: Mobile Seed Processing Unit set up with air column in foreground. People looking at the PSI poster.