

Common Ground Country Fair
Unity, Maine
September 19-20, 2003

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:

Fairgoers from this year's 27th Annual CGCF showed much enthusiasm for the PSI's Mobile Seed Processing Unit. The PSI booth was manned by Teri Ferrin, William Garman, John Oughterson, and Jason Perrault (all from USDA-ARS, PGRU), and Michael Glos (NOFA – NY). 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.

In addition to helping the local farmers clean seed and demonstrate the uses for the manual and mechanical seed cleaning devices, we were able to discuss further the interests of the "seed movement" with Eli Kauffman and CR Lawn (Fedco Seeds), Will Bonsall (Scatterseed Project), along with many others interested in seed production and seed saving.

Pictures from MOFGA's Common Ground Country Fair:

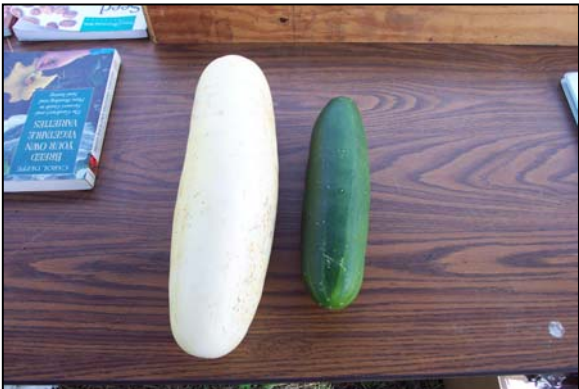


Above: Fairgoers watching the wet vegetable seed separator demonstrations.

More Pictures:



Above: John Oughterson demonstrating the air column to students and (right) Jason Perrault and Bill Garman cleaning a fairgoers Brassica seed.



Above: (left) Demonstrating the difference between a cucumber grown for seed and a cucumber grown for eating and (right) Michael Glos demonstrating the Clipper Office Tester.



Above: (left) Demonstrating manual seed cleaning with a fairgoers flower seed and (right) Michael Glos demonstrating the benefits of the air column.