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Vegetable Chemical Use Survey *Press Release*

VEGETABLE PRODUCERS TO SHARE PESTICIDE PRACTICES

(Athens, GA, September 15, 2004) – What pesticides do vegetable growers use to control weeds, insects and diseases? What nonchemical pest-suppression practices do vegetable producers apply? Can consumers be confident that eating more vegetables is a healthy choice? To answer these questions and gather reliable, objective information about production practices, the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service will go directly to the source by asking vegetable producers to complete the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS) during the fall of 2004.

“VCUS data is needed to paint a true picture about the modern production practices used by Georgia’s vegetable producers,” commented Dave Abbe, Director of the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service. Snap beans, cabbage, cucumbers, onions, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons are in the survey for 2004.

Some 400 producers in Georgia will be included in the VCUS. The survey interviewers will gather data about vegetable nonchemical pest suppression practices and pesticide applications. Agricultural pesticides are subject to periodic re-registration, so it is imperative that producers report pesticides used.

Georgia farm operators selected to participate in this year’s survey will soon be notified by letter, and interviewers will visit participants at their convenience to collect the data. VCUS is one example of how the USDA and producers work together to provide meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information that makes U.S. agriculture and rural communities among the most robust in the world.

The results of the VCUS will be published in July 2005. All agricultural statistics are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call (800) 253-4419 and ask to speak to someone about Vegetable Chemical Use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE TELEPHONE: 1-800-253-4419

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.