



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
Office of the Director
Box 9740
Mississippi State, MS 39762

August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Workshop at Mississippi State University: Reducing Aflatoxin Contamination in Corn

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Jonathan Pote, Associate Director
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

The Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in cooperation with USDA-ARS will host a workshop, "Reducing Aflatoxin Contamination in Corn," at Mississippi State University on October 27 and 28, 2009. The meeting will provide a forum for federal and state scientists and administrators and representatives from commercial companies and grower groups to discuss current research on reducing or eliminating aflatoxin contamination in corn and to develop focused, coordinated plans for future research.

Topics addressed at the workshop will include the following:

- Identifying, developing, and releasing corn germplasm with resistance to *Aspergillus flavus* infection and aflatoxin accumulation.
- Techniques for quantifying resistance: inoculating corn plants with *A. flavus*, detecting and quantifying aflatoxin, and quantifying fungal infection.
- Identifying and mapping genes associated with resistance to aflatoxin contamination in corn and developing molecular markers.
- Using atoxigenic strains of *A. flavus* to reduce aflatoxin accumulation in corn.

Speakers will include University and ARS scientists conducting research in these areas as well as representatives from commercial companies and producer groups. Additional information on the scientific program and instructions to participants will be forthcoming. Questions about the program or program suggestions can be directed to Paul.Williams@ars.usda.gov, 662-325-2735.

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, Starkville, Mississippi, will serve as the host hotel. On-site registration for the workshop will begin Monday afternoon, October 26, 2009 at the hotel. The formal program will begin Tuesday morning in the Fowlkes Auditorium of the Colvard Student Union on the Mississippi State University campus. The program will conclude Wednesday afternoon. Because of limited parking on campus, a shuttle will be provided to transport participants from the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites to the Colvard Student Union. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided at the Union.

Please forward this information to others who might be interested in participating in the workshop.

Poster Presentations:

Scientists and graduate students wishing to make poster presentations on topics related to aflatoxin contamination in corn are encouraged to do so. Posters will be limited to 4' x 4' in size. Those planning to make poster presentations should notify Dr. Williams of their intent and provide the following information by September 15, 2009:

- Title of Presentation
- First and last names of all authors with presenter designated
- Affiliations of authors

Workshop Registration:

Pre-registration is available, and workshop participants are strongly encouraged to register before October 1, 2009. The cost for registration is \$60.00. A registration form is attached. Mail the completed form with a check or money order (we are not set up to accept registrations by credit card) payable to Mississippi State University to Anna B. Chromiak, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Mississippi State University, Box 9650, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Hotel Information:

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, which will serve as the host hotel, has reserved a block of rooms at the conference rate of \$89.00 per day plus taxes (9%). The hotel will honor the standard per diem rate of \$76.00 for federal employees with appropriate identification. Conference rates will be in effect for reservations made before October 16, 2009. Please mention that the room is for a participant in the "Corn Meeting" when making reservations in order to receive the conference rate.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
110 Highway 12 West
Starkville, MS 39759
Phone: 662-324-0076 or 1-877-863-4780

Airport Information:

Golden Triangle Regional Airport (16 miles from airport to Starkville)
2080 Airport Rd.
Columbus, MS 39701
(662)327-4422
www.gtra.com
Airport code is GTR

Tupelo Regional Airport (68 miles from airport to Starkville)
2704 W. Jackson St.
Tupelo, MS 38801
(662)841-6570
www.flytupelo.com
Airport code is TUP

Jackson Evers International Airport (125 miles from airport to Starkville)
100 International Dr. #300
Jackson, MS 39208
(601)939-5631
www.jmaa.com
Airport code is JAN

Birmingham International Airport (145 miles from airport to Starkville)
5900 Airport Highway
Birmingham, AL 35212
(205)595-0533
www.bhamintlairport.com
Airport code is BHM

Memphis International Airport (163 miles from airport to Starkville)
2491 Winchester Rd.
Memphis, TN 38116
(901)922-8000
www.mscaa.com
Airport Code is MEM

Contacts for further information:

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