FARM TOURS PLANNED FOR 2006.

Tuesday, July 11, 2006 3:00 PM.
Roanoke Farm Ltd., David Kottman
*Sweet corn variety trials.*
Farm is located at;
1692 County Road 2080, Armstrong, MO 65230.

Thursday, July 20, 2006 12:30
Ozark County Creations, Dennis Hatfield
*You pick tomato farm with on farm market.*
Farm is located at;
30226 Holly Rd, Pierce City, MO 65723

Several other tours are in the making yet, like a high tunnel tour at Bradford Research farm on strawberries. Also maybe a tour set up around the Central Missouri Produce Auction. On this tour we will be touring several successful vegetable growers that grow both in the greenhouse and in the field. The tour would start out at CMPA. Will keep you posted on the details as I get them.
Roanoke Farm tour. Tuesday, July 11, 2006 3:00 PM
By David Kottman.

When Rusty Lee suggested a summer farm tour of my farm last winter at the Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference, I agreed in a burst of optimism that is familiar to anyone who has opened a beautiful seed catalog in the midst of winter. Now it seems certain that July 11 will arrive with a crowd of visitors on the MVGA tour, and a totally unprepared farm looking as messy, disorganized, and weedy as every other summer. But, that is the purpose of these tours, to see how other farms actually manage to grow and produce their crops.

The focus of the vegetable operations at Roanoke Farm, Ltd. is to intensify and diversify my crop farm, by selling produce through the Columbia Farmers Market. We began vegetable farming in 2000, and have constantly strived to improve our capabilities. Selling retail through a farmers market requires that we have produce all season long, limit our volume of production to match the weekly sales potential, and grow a wide variety of crops to make good display at market. Likewise, selling at retail prices offsets some of the inefficiencies inherent in producing relatively small quantities of multiple crops.

Features of the tour will include a 16' X 24' greenhouse for starting transplants on benches or in float beds, and a newly expanded 26' X 200' high tunnel for extending the season on warm season crops. Multiple varieties of tomatoes, melons, and peppers should still be bearing in the tunnel on tour day.

Outside, will be a machinery display and demonstration. For transplanted crops we choose between a chain type Mechanical Transplanter for bare fields or a Nolt’s compact waterwheel transplanter used on plastic mulch, which is laid with Nolt’s combination bed maker/mulch layer.

At Rusty’s request, I hope to demonstrate the Byron 103 snap bean harvester and a Pixall shaker table for cleaning the beans. We’ll have multiple planters displayed; including a one row Planet Jr., two row Mater-Macc vacuum planter for sweet corn, IH 900 for peas and bean, up to field crop sized machines. Other machines of interest may be cultivators set up various ways using tines, vegetable sweeps, rolling fenders, no fenders, etc.; regular crop sprayers and sprayers for reaching over tall crops; plows, harrows, and tiller.

A special highlight will be a sweet corn demonstration plot featuring ten SE/Se Synergistic varieties and nine Sh2/Sh2 augmented varieties. Growers will have a unique opportunity to see these exciting new hybrids growing in the field, and perhaps taste test, if ripe. Special thanks to Rispen Seeds, Morgan County Seeds, Chesmore Seeds, and Abbott & Cobb for providing trial seeds for this plot. Some of the newer varieties displayed will be “Applause”, “Cameo”, “Charmed”, “Providence”, “ILFS774A” & “277A”, and “A&C # 734”.

Our production fields will also display several varieties of snap beans, tomatoes, peppers, melons, onions and other produce as the season and conditions allow. Some of these crops are grown on plastic mulch with drip irrigation, so the use of those systems may also be of interest.

I am looking forward to hosting the many friends and acquaintances I’ve made across the state since first attending a MVGA meeting in 2000, and meeting many more on July 11 at my farm.

David Kottman
Roanoke Farm, Ltd.
1692 Country Road 2080
Armstrong, MO 65230
Dennis Hatfield Farm tour, Thursday, July 20, 2006
12:30 PM. By Norman Kilmer

After reading David’s description of his farm tour, I called
Dennis Hatfield. We just had to put a plug in for Ozark
Country Creations, Dennis Hatfield farm name.

Dennis has a very unique and diversified farm. How many
vegetable farms can you think of that starts the season off with
high tunnel tomatoes, then on to u-pick field tomatoes and
finally finishes off the season with selling dried gourds over
the Internet? Than fall high tunnel tomatoes until late January.
Retail tomatoes available about 9 months of the year. I do not
know of any other farm of this type.

On this farm we will get to tour 35’ X 48’ greenhouse where
Dennis starts his transplants in. This greenhouse starts the high
tunnel tomato plants and later on starts the around 13,000 field
tomato plants.

Also of interest will be the 26’ X 196’ hybrid high tunnel.
This is a heated high tunnel unlike most which are not. The
heaters that are used in this hybrid high tunnel are a very high
efficient out put heaters. Dennis is able to get his tomatoes on
the market a little earlier. This in turn demands a higher retail
price.

Growers will also be able to tour the field tomato patch of
around 13,000 plants. This patch is also a u-pick tomato field.
There is a 15-pound minimum of tomatoes picked by the you
pickers. There are several roadside vendors that pick their
own tomato in larger quantities to sell at their stands. The on
farm market is also supplied from this field of tomatoes. Some
customers would rather just buy their tomatoes and not fool
with picking them.

Most of the produce raised on this farm is sold at retail with
some being sold direct in larger lots to local stores, etc.

The gourd field may also be of interest to some growers. As
Dennis grows a fair amount of larger gourds to be dried and
sold through the Internet. This is also an unusual form of
marketing produce that is raised on a small farm.

There will be some special equipment on display for this
tour. I know Dennis has a special home built single row
“rainbow” sprayer that he uses to spray his tomatoes. Other
equipment may include tomato washing/sorter/packing line,
mulch layer, etc.

Hope to see you there. Norman Kilmer.

Directions to Ozark Country Creations;
Dennis & Becky Hatfield Farm Tour
30226 Holly Rd
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-5454 or 476-2145

From Kansas City;
Highway 71 south to I-44 continues south on Highway 59.
Turn unto highway 60 east (Grandy exit), from Grandy
continue on 9 miles on highway 60 to Walleye Rd. Turn left
unto Walleye Rd. “Gourds & Produce Farm” message sign on
left side of highway 60. Follow signs ¼ mile to farm. Driving
time from Kansas City, around 3 hours. Carthage is the last
stop for fast food.

From St. Louis;
I-44 west through Springfield to the Monett exit (exit 44).
Follow signs to Monett on highway H, to intersection of
highway 60. (several fast food places at this intersection).
Turn right (west) on highway 60, go about 10 miles, watch for
large church building (green roof) on right side of road. Slow
down, Walleye Road turn off about 100 yards in valley. Turn
right on Walleye Rd, “Gourd & Produce Farm” message sign
on right side of road. Follow sign for ¼ mile to farm.
Driving time from Columbia, MO, 4 hours.

Note: If you miss the Monett exit, turn off at exit 38, highway
97, Pierce City exit, follow highway 97 to highway 60. Turn
west on highway 60, 5 miles to Gourd & Produce Sign.