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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASABE TO DEVELOP STANDARD FOR SPECIALTY CROP EQUIPMENT SANITARY DESIGN

ST JOSEPH, MICHIGAN— The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) has initiated the development of a new standard for specialty crop equipment.

S664, Direct to Consumption Specialty Crop Equipment Sanitary Design Requirements, will establish industry consensus sanitary design standards for specialty crop equipment that is used in direct-to-consumer specialty crop production.

This work began when FDA approached the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) to learn more about sanitary design of equipment that is used in the production of specialty crops. AEM worked with FDA to share information on the current state of the industry and understand some of the concerns that they had. In doing so equipment manufactures decided to be proactive in their approach and work with ASABE to help establish industry standards around sanitation for what is an emerging equipment market.

ASABE is recognized worldwide as a standards-developing organization for food, agricultural, and biological systems, with more than 280 standards currently in publication. Conformance to ASABE standards is voluntary, except where required by state, provincial, or other governmental requirements, and the documents are developed by consensus in accordance with procedures approved by the American National Standards Institute. For information on this or any other ASABE standard, contact Scott Cedarquist at 269-932-7031, cedarq@asabe.org. A current listing of all ASABE standards projects can be found on the ASABE web site at www.asabe.org/projects.

ASABE is an international scientific and educational organization dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food, and biological systems. Further information on the Society can be obtained by contacting ASABE at (269) 429-0300, emailing hq@asabe.org or visiting www.asabe.org/.

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American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers