

2006 Organic Vegetable and Fruit Systems Training: Evaluation Results

Tuesday, May 23

Marketing Environment for organically Produced Fruits and Vegetables
Charles Hall **3.39** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Grower and Marketer Experiences
Mike Bradley, James Wilson, and Todd Manley **3.12** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

What it Takes to Successfully Grow and Market Organic Vegetables and Fruit
Debbie Roos **3.58** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Wednesday, May 24

TDA Programs and Opportunities for Organically Certified Produce
Dan Strasser **3.27** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Organic Production Methods
Debbie Roos **3.27** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Drip Irrigation Benefits, Challenges, and System Design
Brian Leib **3.21** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Field Sessions - 4 groups **3.58** Overall value of all field sessions

	Learning	Effectiveness	Information	
Organic Blueberry, Blackberry and Grape Production Dave Lockwood	8.48	8.77	9.03	Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score) 3.58 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)
Build Bed & Install Plastic Mulch and Drip Irrigation System Brian Leib	8.50	9.37	9.15	Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score) 3.63 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)
Post Harvest Handling of Fruits and Vegetables Bill Morris and Pam Rye	8.36	8.58	8.67	Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score) 3.47 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)
Machinery and Equipment Gary Honea	7.13	7.29	7.97	Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score) 2.94 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Thursday, May 25

Field Sessions - 3 groups **3.48** Overall value of all field sessions

Greenhouse Facilities
Jim Wills & Walt Hitch **9.08** **8.23** **7.35** Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score)
3.70 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Insect Identification and Control
Debbie Roos **9.19** **8.58** **7.92** Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score)
3.35 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Operate Drip Irrigation System
Brian Leib **9.56** **8.81** **8.07** Scale = 1 to 10 (10 = highest possible score)
3.27 Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Cindy and Hank Delvin **3.95** Scale = 0 to 4 (0=no value; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent)

Overall Evaluation of Training: We would appreciate your candid responses to the following:

As a result of the 3-day Fruit and Vegetable Training, please rate the following statements by circling the appropriate number on the scale.

		<u>Strongly Disagree</u>								<u>Strongly Agree</u>		
1.	My general understanding of the fruit and vegetable industry has improved.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.04	9	10	
2.	My capacity to conduct successful fruit and vegetable educational programs has been strengthened.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.00	9	10	
3.	My resource base for fruit and vegetable educational information has expanded.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.96	9	10	
4.	My comfort zone with teaching others about fruits and vegetables is larger.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7.60	8	9	10
5.	I feel that cooperative working relations within Extension at all levels, between states and other agencies will be enhanced.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.20	9	10	
6.	The fruit and vegetable training was worth my effort and time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.96	9	10	

General Considerations

1. Compared to other trainings you have attended, this one was:
55% Outstanding **45%** Better _____ About average _____ Poorer than most
2. To what extent did the content meet your needs and interests?
66% Very well **34%** To some extent _____ Not at all
3. Training Quality
 - a. Did the training make you want to participate **97%** yes **3%** no
 - b. Was the pace appropriate (not too fast or too slow)? **94%** yes **8%** no
 - c. Were the presentations/ activities interesting and lively? **100%** yes _____ no
 - d. Did the training stimulate new ideas, techniques or thought processes? **97%** yes **3%** no

Organic Vegetable and Fruit Systems Training Written Evaluation Comments

Day 1 - May 23, 2006

1- What was the best part of the training conducted in Day 1?

Food

What it takes to be successful

Pero Presentation - interesting

Pero Farms perspective and the opportunities for TN producers

Good mix of topics & presenters

Marketing environment for organically producers veg and fruits

Debbie excellent- very good

Speakers and food

Industry folks

All very informative

Pero

Contact w/ potential market... Pero

Probably the presentation by Pero Farms. It was just info that I didnt know about

Debbie Roos

Debbie Roos- great perspective on differences between organic & conventional farmers, resources, addressing their needs through Extension programs, etc.

hearing actual growers

Debbie Roos presentation & how to incorporate it into our program

Debbie Roos discussion of marketing organic

Debbie Roos tour of becoming organic farmer

Good information & presentation

The day was devoted to marketing, just what I needed

Good info- Good snacks

Experiences of growers and educators

Debbie Roos is an excellent resource person.

Resource materials that were handed out

Resource materials

Debbie Roos presentation- She did an excellent job. Very sincere and personable

James & Michael and Debbie's website

Debbie Roos

Debbie Roos's website

2- List suggestions that would improve the rest of this training

Smaller segments

More from a "Todd Manley" perspective

well put together

Hands on - Field

Give breaks after two hour presentations
not so repetitive on certain issues
Shorter presentations- more opportunity to get up and stretch
schedule good
Not as much sitting or different chairs
Less sitting
Internet connections

3- Other comments regarding Day 1

Good
Long in classroom
Obviously more than 24 hours in a day in Chatham County WHEW!
Great star and great fruit
very good
good start
Overall good
Excellent
A tour of Pero & their opportunity would be great
Great day
Enjoyed all of it
Has been great so far
Good setting and classroom. Knowledgeable speakers
Charlie Hall for president. Gonna be a great conference.
Good schedule time layout
What agency does certification of organic tourism
Where does grower get cost share in TN
Good snacks, relaxed atmosphere
Good food & lots of it
Refreshments were great
We need more comfortable chairs
Good program
Good ideas

Day 2- May 24, 2006

1- What was the best part of the training conducted in Day 2?

Dr. Lockwood
Strasser, Lockwood
Good training for agents
Post handling
Field - Food
Organic certification information
Hands on to good info on organic
Organic production methods

Debbie Roos

Hands on work w/ bedding & drip irrigation

Designing and building plastic beds and irrigation

Everything was great. Lockwood had a great session

Actually seeing irrigation work in the field

Well run, on schedule

Getting outside

Being outside (hands on) learn by doing

The building bed

Cover crops on web site. Hands on field training. Debbie is very Knowledgeable. Thanks for the resource books.

The irrigation

Hands on field sessions were great

Irrigation organization

Irrigation hands on. Organic discussion from Debbie Roos

In the field w/ Dr. Lockwood

Hands on

Hands on is always good. Good info packets given for equipment & post harvest

Blueberries & blackberries

Hands on training

In field demos & education

The stops and rotation

Food, hands on

2- List suggestions that would improve the rest of this training.

Not to repeat programs. Dan Strasser program was repeat of Debbie Roos

New equipment

Would be good to have access to Internet for teaching

Opportunity for roundtable discussion (what's going on, what's working, what's not)

Round table q&a

Try to give organic producer a list of what they can do not what they cannot

More hands on - the more familiar agents are with a practice, the more effectively we can pass along the information

Overall I thought everything went well. You probably fed us too well to get us out and moving so much.

More detail on less topics

Do more than lecture in fields

Hands on, topic find and classroom reduction

Change tempo of morning program. Too much sitting at one time, break it up.

More field training

Enjoyed outside exercise

Comfortable chairs

3- Other comments regarding day 2

May be good to have a certifying agent on program to answer some questions
Review TN Ag Enhancement Program Applications for livestock and growers
Brian's info is too detailed- need to make for agents to understand
Need more time with Bill Morris and Pam Rye
Excellent overall
All very good
Excellent training
Wonderful
Bed building and irrigation- hands on was excellent
Lunch was great, mix of activities was divided well within the day
Good job
Good job, like hands on and food
The irrigation was very good
Split session in 50 minutes segments when presentations are over 1:30. Just 5 to 7 minutes
standing break is good. Good training
Good program
Very good
Appreciate all the work and planning that went into this
Gained 5 pounds
Excellent training, very beneficial
The machinery had good handouts but maybe change delivery style or method, more visible
examples
Good

Day 3 - May 25, 2006

1- What was the best part of the training conducted in Day 3?

Greenhouse - Jim & Walt
Hank and Cindy Delvin & greenhouse
Hank & Cindy Delvin
CSA- farming/farmers
Greenhouse facilities- field exercise
Greenhouse- Jim Wills did an excellent job. Also Walt Hitch. Brian Leibs field demo was great
too. Brians was a great hands on.
Discussing and viewing tomatoes in greenhouses; excellent info
Very good in-service
Greenhouse management/production, insect ID control, Cindy Delvin
Cindy and Hank Delvin presentation, excellent
Hank and Cindy Delvin were all phenomenal. The information was all so valuable.
Enthusiasm, without the blue smoke.
Delvins
It didn't rain on us in the field.
Hands on- field sessions, especially greenhouse- very interesting
Hearing from actual producers always brings things home
Cindy and Hank- all very good

Greenhouse session and the greenhouse info/handout
Grower experiences were interesting & useful. Try to incorporate more of this.
The greenhouse budget information for tomatoes, Hank and Cindy brings the practical experience to the group.
Beneficial insect photos great. Needed to focus presentation on actual insects
Debbie Roos
Delvins and CSA
Greenhouse
Grower experiences by far
Greenhouse
Greenhouse facilities & irrigation . Delvins were excellent, needed more time

2- Other comments regarding Day 3

More greenhouse info
Irrigation was weak. Leave it off next time. Field tours of organic operations need to be planned.
Excellent
Resources that are available for agents
Good to mix-up half day- with outside and inside. Better tempo change
Hank & Cindy Delvin were a great addition to the presenters with great information. Very interesting
Need more time for Greenhouse production and insect control and ID
Entire group should have experienced the Delvins presentation
As good as the other days were, Day 3 was my favorite. Everything on day 3 was so practical and realistic.
Need more info on putting it all together- We have to have a mechanism to try to get this jump started for clientele, could we have specialists visit, via CENTRA, or in person. My office could host group settings, via CENTRA, and could answer a lot of questions.
Great job again
Cindy and Hank Delvin did a great job putting the growers experience into perspective.
Excellent
Provide internet connection for presenters inform then or if its not available prior to their arrival.
More session like the Delvins on actual hands on real stuff maybe flower folks and livestock producers.
All sessions were good
All presentations were good- loved the Delvins

Overall Evaluation of Training - General Considerations

4- What did you like BEST about the training?

Filed training - Greenhouse and food safety marketing and food
Hank and Cindy Delvin - Greenhouse, what is organic
Being in the field and hands-on
Hands on interaction food
Greenhouse tomatoes, irrigation training
Hands on session and field work
Good training
Greenhouse production - Cindy and Hank Delvin, Fruit production
Irrigation
It started out with a focus on marketing. We have a population way outside of any county to sell to.
Delvins, greenhouse info or org cert
The amount and quality of resources I can use in programs I do
Hands on field experience
Field was best but very good learning opportunity in classroom
Combination of field and classroom
Concurrent sessions
When we were moving between sessions rather than sitting and watching Power Points
Hands on training- Covering organic is needed
Hands on
Diversity of topics (crops, equipment, marketing)
Diversity, combination of hands on and class
Field exercises. Mainly blueberries/ growers experiences on the classroom side
Hands on training
Delvins

5-What did you like LEAST about the training?

Irrigation
Irrigation- attitude of some organic people. They should be realistic.
Equipment talk
N/A - everything was good
Long classroom sessions, sitting in one place gets long
Dan Strasser info
Direct marketing display
The information about TN research efforts is not touted. Nobody I talked to has this info, or access to it. We need a clearing house for all things organic and all things hydroponic.
It was all positive
So many powerpoints in a row- would have been better to mix it up a bit more.
Equipment was probably the best info to me personally
All good
Skip info on evaluations, etc. things as Extension Agents already know and do

It seemed to move slow and some sessions too long and covering things that extension agents know how to conduct.

Some of the presentations repeated information.

Periods of long classroom

There was some repetition...hit a subject well and go on

Not sure about food safety pres.

Slight redundant at times

6- Given the primary focus of this training was production techniques/ technologies, what other subject matter would you like to see at future training?

More marketing

More producers, more emphasis on production techniques

Some variety information on vegetables and weed management

Purchasing feed, growing transplants, planting scheduling etc. cust mgt.

Seeing more machinery/ equipment used in the field

Dr. Lockwood in fruit management , greenhouse production

More tours and hands on activities less classroom

More on markets like direct internet sales - How can individual shipments be packaged for shipping - what products would offer much of this via centra- direct to producers.

Market

Marketing, visits to farms, more research in soil management for us to see and use.

Troubleshooting insect, disease, and nutrient problems

High tunnels

Step by step production - how to solve problems

For organic in services; overview and provide handbook on actual certification processes/guidelines.

Incorporate animal all natural organic production - Presenters need more knowledge on are as well. Lots of questions about this in counties.

If organic, what types of organic chemicals work (ie baking soda etc disease control)

Recommended varieties in the field

Budgets, More on labor requirements per crop

At future organic training? In depth info

Composting, organic fertilization

Yes. Best was organic certification protocol

More grower experiences

7- If I were running the training I would:

Probably follow same meeting outlines

Tours, no irrigation

Make no change

I would have the whole Wednesday section outside. What about chairs under a tree for some of the talks -that occurred in AM.

Mix field classroom more.

Have it again in 3 years

Have agents plant tomatoes in bags

Provide at least one social activity for participants ex: schedule social time couple hours etc.

Offer all power points via the web. Have web access for presenters to use during training. My office has a wireless hub that gets that done.

Have a 2 hour field session in the morning the second day, and another 2 hour session in the afternoon rather than 4 hours at a time to help break up the powerpoint and classroom time more.

Overall, though, it was a great training.

Be sure map is right

Split the longer time blocks given to 1 speaker into multiple speakers or rotate speakers. Ex: 2 hours of powerpoint by 1 speaker in TOO long, Mix it up!

Provide internet access for presenters or let them know that she will not have any and can make different arrangements for her presentation.

One morning have sausage biscuits. 2 full days instead of 3.

Probably not done as good of a job

Like to have session to share agent experiences in different counties, different crops, different systems.

Give myself a raise

Change nothing good facility and good ratio of field/classroom

Appoint Charlie Hall Dean

8- And furthermore:

Good job

Irrigation - was a waste of time. Producers interaction was great. More on Pero.

Good job

Food - well done Also, fellowship with other agents great

All of the information was great, but there were so many topics in such little time, it was hard to absorb it all - Hank and Cindy were awesome presenters!

This was an outstanding training opportunity

There was so much to learn - I don't know where to start- in relaying information to producers.

Good training

Great job providing us the presentation on the website is the way to do it - the provided books look great.

Well organized, schedule/agenda was kept on time, good job!

Food and snacks were plentiful and very good.

Hire a vegetable specialist

I would recommend this training