

Organic Vegetable and Fruit Systems Training Agenda

Training Dates: May 23, 24 and 25, 2006
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Location: Plateau Research and Education Center
Crossville, Tennessee

DAY 1, TUESDAY, MAY 23 – **All times are Central Daylight Saving Time**
(Breaks will be taken at appropriate times)

Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Arrival - Plateau Experiment Station	
1:00 - 1:20 p.m.	Welcome, introductions and orientation	Walt Hitch, David Perrin and Clark Garland
1:20 - 1:50 p.m.	Marketing Environment for Organically Produced Vegetables and Fruits a. Factors driving produce industry b. Overview of marketing options	Charles Hall
1:50 - 3:30 p.m.	Grower and Marketer Experiences Marketer Experiences	Mike Bradley and James Wilson Pero Packing & Sales, Inc.
	Grower Experiences	Todd Manley, Manley Farms Jefferson County
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	What It Takes to Successfully Grow and Market Organic Vegetables and Fruit	Debbie Roos, Chatham County North Carolina Sustainable Agriculture Extension Agent
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Additional Marketing Ideas	Charles Hall
5:30 p.m.	Dinner on your own	

DAY 2, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Tennessee Department of Agriculture Programs and Opportunities for Production and Marketing of Organically Certified Vegetables and Fruits	Dan Strasser
8:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Organic Production Methods (Topics could include the following and/ or other topics as appropriate) a. Holistic Farming System b. Crop Diversity (importance and managing) c. Soil Health and Soil Building (crop rotation, cover crops, fertility and cultivation) d. Variety Selection (for disease, production and marketing) e. Propagation (potting mixes, supplies, and best practices) f. Planting (bed preparation, planting schedules, seeding and transplanting) g. Weed Control (straw, living and plastic mulches and mechanical) h. Biological controls i. Resource materials	Debbie Roos
10:45 - 12:00 Noon	Drip Irrigation Benefits, Challenges and System Design (in the classroom)	Brian Leib
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on site	
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (in the classroom and field) Group 1 - Organic Blueberry, Blackberry and Grape Production	David Lockwood
	Group 2 - Build Bed/ Install Plastic Mulch and Drip Irrigation System	Brian Leib and Jim Wills
	Group 3 - Post Harvest Handling of Fruits and Vegetables (Preparing for market, preserving quality, food safety, source verification)	Bill Morris and Pam Rye
	Group 4 - Machinery and Equipment	Gary Honea
5:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own	

DAY 3, THURSDAY, MAY 25

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions (in the classroom and field)	
	Group 1 - Greenhouse Facilities - Walking Tour (includes discussion of season extension water, heat and ventilation)	Jim Wills and Walt Hitch
	Group 2 - Insect Identification and Control (in classroom)	Debbie Roos
	Group 3 - Operate Drip Irrigation System	Brian Leib
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Grower Experiences (includes a discussion of community supported agriculture)	Cindy and Hank Delvin
11:45 - 12:15 p.m.	Putting it all Together Into an Educational Program - Team and Guests from Other States	
12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on site	
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn	