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**FARMER TRAINING MINI-CONFERENCE**

 *May 29 - 30th, 2015 at ALBA’s Rural Development Center (Salinas, CA) and Triple M Ranch (Las Lomas, CA)*

**PARTICPANTS:**

David Ringuette (Professor and Co-founder, GoFarm Hawaii)

Nicki Anderson (Farm Manager of SLO City Farm, Central Coast Grown - San Luis Obispo, CA)

Steven Marx (Board Member, Central Coast Grown - San Luis Obispo, CA)

Jill Bleher (Garden Project Program Manager, County Jail Honor Farm – San Luis Obispo, CA)

Rob Smith (Operations and Incubator Director, VIVA Farms - WA)

Michael Frazier (Executive Director, VIVA Farms - WA)

Mauricio Soto (Farm Manager and Farmer, VIVA Farms – WA)

Cathryn Henning (Education Coordinator, Wild Willows Farms - San Diego, CA)

Martha Contreras (Chief Financial Officer, Victory Organic Vegetables - Bakersfield, CA)

Pablo Morales (Manager, Victory Organic Vegetables - Bakersfield, CA)

Sandra Chavez (Executive Assistant, Victory Organic Vegetables - Bakersfield, CA)

Tom Bentley (Pajaro Valley High School, Teacher - Watsonville, CA)

**TRAININGS AND INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS PROVIDED BY:**

ALBA staff and farmers

CA FarmLink

El Pajaro CDC

University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)

**AGENDA:**

**Thursday, May 28th (optional) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

6:30-7:30pm - Dinner at Monterey Coast Brewery & Restaurant (downtown Salinas)

**Friday, May 29th Rural Development Center (Salinas)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8:00- 8:15am - BREAKFAST (bagels, yogurt, fruit, granola, coffee, tea juice)

8:15- 9:45am - Welcome, Introductions and Organizational Overview (Chris Brown)

9:45-10.45am - Farm Tour and Meet Participants (Nathan Harkleroad, Mike Oliver)

10:45-11:00am - BREAK

11:00-11:45am - Adult Education Practices (Damian Parr, UCSC)

11:45-12:30pm - Program Evaluation (Jan Perez, UCSC)

12:30-1:30pm - LUNCH (taco bar) with ALBA staff and farmers (Catered by Taqueria Hidalgo)

1:30-2:15pm - PEPA & Incubator Overview (Nathan Harkleroad)

2:15-3:00pm - Regulatory Compliance (Kaley Grimland)

3:00-3:15pm - BREAK

3:15-4:00pm - Cooler and Food Hub Operations (Patty Howe, Lou Fierro and Karen Marie Feliz)

4:00-4:45pm - ALBA Finances (Patty Howe)

5:00-5:45pm - Partner presentations (CA FarmLink, Pajaro CDC)

**Saturday, May 30th\_ Triple M Ranch (Las Lomas) & Rural Development Center\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

8:45-9:30am - BREAKFAST (frittata, yogurt, granola, fruit, coffee, tea, juice) at farmhouse

9:30-11:00am - Triple M Tour (Kaley Grimland)

11:00-1:00pm - LUNCH in area on your own and return to Rural Development Center (Salinas)

1:00-3:00pm - Observe and participate in PEPA Field Day

3pm-onwards - Enjoy Salinas Saturday evening or DEPART

**NOTES**

* Or consider extending your stay through Sunday, May 31st to enjoy a day of FUN on the Central Coast (\*see below for suggested activities!).
* Please RSVP as space is limited! NO COST for the conference itself.
* Breakfast and lunch provided on May 29th, and breakfast on May 30th. All other meals and travel costs will be covered by attendees.

**PLANNING HELP**

* *Further ALBA and Events Details:*
* Rural Development Center address: 1700 Old Stage Rd., Salinas, CA 93908 (approx. 8 miles south of downtown Salinas)
* Phone: (831) 758-1469
* Contact: Nathan Harkleroad (cell: 805-234-0546, nathan@albafarmers.org)
* *Nearest major airports to ALBA:*
* Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) – 27 miles

 - San Jose International Airport (SJC) – 73 miles

 - San Francisco International Airport (SFO) – 103 miles

* *Convenient hotels in Salinas:*
* Courtyard Marriot – 17225 El Rancho Way (12 miles)
* Quality Inn – 144 Kern St. (10 miles)
* Others: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g33002-Salinas_California-Hotels.html>
* *\*Suggestions of things to do on Sunday:*
* Visit the Steinbeck Center in downtown Salinas
* Visit the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/), Cannery Row
* Visit Santa Cruz downtown, beaches, boardwalk or redwoods
* Kayak Elkhorn Slough and enjoy Moss Landing
* Big Sur
* Wine tasting