

Cornell Organic Apple Production Workshop

Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Date: March 11, 2011

Registration begins at 8:00 AM

- 8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and announcements. (Kevin Iungerman, meeting facilitator)
- 8:45-9:30 Organic certification requirements for apples. (Brian Caldwell and Greg Peck) (Description of the terms, certification organizations and requirements to market apples as certified organic, including pesticide and equipment restrictions; space and time separation requirements from non-organic crops; grower question and answer).
- 9:30-10:15 Grower panel –Experiences growing organic apples in the Northeast. (Brian Caldwell, Steve Clarke, Jim Bittner) (3 current organic growers will discuss the significant pest management and horticultural issues they have faced while growing organic apples in the NE)
- 10:15-10:30 Break.
- 10:30-11:00 Orchard site selection and design decisions. (Ian Merwin) (Site selection and management issues including starting out versus transition to organic certification; cultivar selection including the use of apple scab-resistant cultivars to avoid disease issues; replanting versus top working).
- 11:00-11:30 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management in organic blocks (Steve Hoying) (sources of organic nutrients; nutrient management pre and post planting).
- 11:30-12:00 Groundcover and weed management. (Ian Merwin) (Use of mechanical methods and organic-approved chemical herbicides to control weeds in organic orchards)
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided).
- 1:00-2:00 Pre-bloom organic orchard pest management strategies. (Dave Rosenberger, Art Agnello) (Pests of concern during the pre-bloom period and chemical and biological control strategies to reduce their impacts)
- 2:00-2:45 Managing the organic orchard during bloom. (Dave Rosenberger, Peter Jentsch, Terence Robinson) (Pest of concern during the bloom period, and chemical and biological control strategies to reduce their impacts; chemical thinning sprays to manage cropload).
- 2:45-3:00 Break.
- 3:00-4:15 Post-bloom pest management of the organic orchard. (Dave Rosenberger, Peter Jentsch) (Pests of concern during the post-bloom period and chemical and

biological control strategies to reduce their impacts)

- 4:15-4:45 Is organic profitable? (Greg Peck) (trends in organic production and pricing, impacts on long-term yields; organic versus conventional production costs)
- 4:45-5:00 Review strategies for success. (Greg Peck) (summary bullet-point review of the day's key take-home orchard design, site selection, pest management and horticultural practices discussed during the meeting – I will ask each presenter to provide these prior to the meeting so this final talk can be prepared ahead of time)
- 5:00 Adjourn.