

# Beginning Farmer Service Organization Professional Development Training

## October 28-30, 2013

### Advanced Organic Vegetable Production: *Example Actions*

Based on what you have learned in the past 3 days,	
What changes will you make in your own services/program?	How will you monitor BF changes as a result of improved training/services?
By 11/15 I will plan/define list of BF training topics for winter	Begin identifying clients as beginning farmers in our database
By 2/15/14 I will offer a workshop on soil/water management and cover crop planning	Workshop evaluations and further in-depth sessions that facilitate info sharing among peer group of farmers
By 12/15 I will set up some winter grower discussions for Jan- March. These are informal discussions, smaller groups, beginner level	Grower feedback in general and do they want to keep meeting? If they do, that's a success. If they keep coming, that's a success.
By 12/2014 I will create 2-3 new activities to teach topics like cover crops and soil health and practice them with teammates	Growers who are involved in these activities will be surveyed
By 12/15/13 I will restructure 2014 programs to provide more winter classroom teaching, with carefully planned activities- not just information dumping. Focus on pre-season planning needs. Review all teaching tools we received and select several to use. Use AgSquared for crop planning workshop and Inc. farms.	Participants in our winter pre-season classes will report immediately that they feel better prepared for the 2014 season than they were for 2013. Evaluations mid-season and post-season will attempt to assess whether their in-season management was easier, smoother and/or more effective as a result of pre-season planning
By 2/5/14 I will meet one-on-one with 5 growers to review soil tests and develop nutrient management/cover crop plans for 2014 season	Foliar tests in the summer, one-on-one follow-up meeting in early 2015
By 6/14, I will incorporate the soil and compost analysis tools into an upcoming field day	I will be able to tell by the number of BFs attracted to this event and by the level of success of the activity
By end of 2013 I will tighten up my cover crop/nutrient release timeline and plan	Fieldwork with the carbon copy forms to compare before and after notes
By Jan 4, I will modify our CCE website to include invitations to be part of new BF network	Work with IT and Cornell Small Farms to successfully implement. Track weekly and visit queries
By 2/1 I will plan a meeting for mentors and mentees to discuss needs, expectations, and include an educational portion	Mentor and mentee check-ins by phone or email
By 12/2014 I will develop a comprehensive case study I will use to teach concepts	Growers who are involved in these activities will be surveyed
By 1-30-2014 I will restructure 2014 programs to focus on "field-walks" at our incubator farm , in combination with CRAFT farm topics	Record the suggestions made by mentor to each incubator farmer at each field walk. Record which suggestions were implemented. At mid-season and post-season evaluations, asses with each farmer how well the suggested changes or actions worked