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Clinch Powell
Sustainable Development Initiative

SARE Sustainable Agriculture News

November, 1997

Newsletter

Salatin Trip a Big Success Forty three people traveled to Swoope Virginia on Monday, October 13th, to Polyface Farm, Inc where Joel Salatin discussed his highly profitable system for rotational grazing, pastured chicken, turkey and layers and other elements of his highly integrated farm. Many of the people who attended were cattlemen from Greene and Washington Counties Tennessee, Washington, Scott, Wise and Lee County Virginia, and other neighboring communities. Pasture improvement without chemical amendments, animal health, stocker cattle, and achieving profitability were among the many topics discussed in detail between Mr. Salatin and the participants. Mr. Salatin's system builds upon and extends concepts of rotational grazing, currently being promoted by Cooperative Extension and adopted by an increasing number of farmers. The high level of interest of so many local farmers encourages us to believe that Joel's workshops in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee, scheduled for 1998 and 1999, will be well attended and well received.

Marketing Team After an extensive search and interviewing process, the Clinch Powell Marketing Team has **hired Ms. India Watkins as the Sustainable Farm Products Marketing Specialist.** Ms. Watkins, a native of Central Virginia has lived and worked in the Appalachian region of Virginia and Tennessee for nearly two decades. For many years, she owned and ran her own successful jewelry and craft business and has considerable experience in niche marketing of products. Most recently she has been the development director of the Appalachia Service Project in Johnson City, Tennessee, where she developed a wide range of promotional materials and established regional and national networks of fund raising and support. Ms. Watkins begins her position on November 17th with a two day trip to the Appalachian Community Economic Network's Kitchen Incubator in Athens, Ohio where she will learn about their very successful value adding food facility.

Technical Assistance **On-farm demonstrations and trials are (finally!) underway.** Although somewhat belated, the demonstration and research trials of the Technical Assistance Team are beginning to take shape. In addition to the fencing, watering, and pasture components of our livestock programs, the Technical Assistance Team recently initiated the biological production components of our on-farm research. Dr. John Caldwell, Dr. Herman Warren and Mr. Andy Hankins traveled to the region on October 24th along with Archer Christian and Mark Schonbeck. Visits to the farm of Carl

& Susan Kling, David King and Bev Eggleston helped to solidify the Technical Assistance Team's questions about how to begin our on-farm research. Further visits by these technical resource people and others from the University of Tennessee are anticipated in the winter and early spring.

Late fall planting of garlic and elephant garlic is taking shape on four farms; three in Virginia and one in Tennessee during the first two weeks of November. Two different production systems will be evaluated along with the profitability and marketability of garlic as one alternative crop. Thanks to Andy Hankins for his guidance and to participating farmers Cathy Guthrie, Charlotte Price, Carl & Susan Kling, and Bob Sullivan.

Beginning in November, Mark Schonbeck will be sharing the duties of coordinating the research and technical assistance efforts along with Archer Christian. Archer will focus on the livestock component while Mark will look at the biological production elements. We are delighted to have Mark on board as he brings both research and hands-on experience to the issues of biological fruit and vegetable production. Mark's number is 540-745-5835.

Education Team Inspired by a summer composting workshop and the tour of Joel Salatin's farm, a Greene County land owner has offered some land for a sustainable agriculture demonstration project to be run by high school students. The land will also be made available to high school teachers who are interested in incorporating a hands-on dimension to their curriculum. For more information, contact Sally Causey, Rural Resources/Education Team Leader at 423-636-8171

This coming summer, Rural Resources will coordinate advertising and placement for farm apprentices for our region. If you, or someone you know, is interested in hosting a farm apprentice for the 1998 growing season, please contact Jennifer Arnold, Rural Resources/Education Team at 423-636-8171.

Next Education Team Meeting: Tuesday, November 11 at 6pm in Churchill, TN at the Mountaineer Restaurant on Hwy. 11-~~1~~ W

Other Upcoming Events:

December 4-6 Acres USA National Conference, St. Louis, MO
December 11-13, "Farm Diversification: From Planning to Profit",
Natural Bridge, VA

Clinch Powell Sustainable Development Initiative

Regional Sustainable Agriculture Project

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