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SARE Project LS 97-084

*Clinch Powell*  
*Sustainable Development Initiative*

*SARE Sustainable Agriculture News*

*October, 1997*

*Newsletter*

### *Salatin Trip Draws Big Crowd!*

On Monday, October 13th, nearly four dozen people, including farmers, community leaders and Extension agents, will be traveling to Swoope, Virginia to spend a day with **Joel Salatin** as part of Clinch Powell's Sustainable Agriculture efforts. Mr. Salatin, a nationally known farmer, author and innovator, will lead participants through a tour of his beef, pork, poultry and stocker cattle operations, while also sharing his expertise on farm profitability and marketing. Joel will be leading workshops in the Clinch Powell region as well, beginning in mid 1988.

### *Postponement*

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The full meeting of SARE project participants, **originally scheduled for October 24th, has been postponed until early January.** This decision was made at the October 8th SARE Team Leader meeting in order to allow the three teams to concentrate on getting their projects off the ground.

### *Team Progress*

Six members of the **SARE Education Team** met in Kingsport on October 7th and brainstormed dozens of ideas for workshops, field days and other educational events which will help build farmer and consumer awareness of sustainable agriculture issues in the region. The team will meet again on **November 11th, 6:00 p.m. at the Mountaineer Restaurant in Churchhill, TN.** Team leader, **Sally Causey (423-636-8171)** reports that the group also began development of a creative outreach and communication strategy to reach beyond the traditional media. The Education team welcomes new members Roy Settle, Sullivan County Natural Resource Conservation Service, Lowell Fowler, Wise County Cooperative Extension, Paul Kuczko, Wallens Creek Farm, Mike Cassell, Scott County Extension, and Bill Keith, regional agent for NRCS in Russell County.

Plans for an initial allocation of funds to develop lower input livestock operations have been finalized by the **Technical Assistance Team** and approved by the Clinch Powell Board of Directors. The allocations include: \$10,000 for the development of mobile fencing, watering and pastured poultry operations on Emerald Family Farm in Mendota, \$5,000 to complete water systems and begin establishment of warm season grasses at Wallens Creek Farm in Lee County, and \$2,750 for pasture improvements comparing rock phosphate and biological treatments at Thorntree Farms in Nicklesville, Virginia. Similar research and trials will be conducted on a Tennessee farm, beginning in the spring of 1998. Thanks to team leader Archer Christian, who developed these recommendations in consultation with Paul Peterson, Virginia Tech Forage Specialist, and the three lead farmers, Paul Kuczko, Martha Mewbourne and Bev Eggleston.

Following up surveys of local growers and meetings with county Extension agents, Archer and Anthony have nearly completed a plan for research trials related to **biological production of fruits and vegetables, and examination of alternative crops**. Thanks to Dr. John Caldwell and Andy Hankins for their assistance in developing these plans.

The **Marketing Team** has completed a round of interviews in our search for a **Market Development Specialist** to coordinate and lead Clinch Powell's marketing efforts. Look for a profile of our marketing staff person in an upcoming newsletter.

#### *Other events and dates*

October 16th - Greene County Beef Expo; call Milton Orr, Greene County Extension, 423-638-4196.

October 20th, 6:00 p.m. Clinch Mountain Farmers Board Meeting, Gate City, VA; call Mike Cassell, 540-386-7574.

October 21st, 4:00 p.m. - Workshop on water systems for grazing land, Elk Garden, VA; call Bill Keith, 540-889-1150.

**Clinch Powell Sustainable Development Initiative**

**Regional Sustainable Agriculture Project**

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