

Advanced Organic Horticulture Southeastern Extension Agent Training September 8-10, 2009

Trainers: Elena Garcia, Ext. Horticulture Specialist, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Arkansas
Jeanine Davis, Assoc. Professor & Ext. Specialist, Dept. of Hort. Science, NC State
Tony Kleese, The Earthwise Company, Wake Forest, NC
Debbie Roos, Agricultural Extension Agent, Chatham Co., NC
Richard Boylan, Agricultural Extension Agent, Ashe and Watauga Co., NC;

Assistants: Heather Friedrich, Program Specialist, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Arkansas
Amy Hamilton, Research Specialist, Dept. of Horticultural Science, NC State University

Host Farmers: Ray Christopher, Timberwood Organics, Efland, NC
Alex Hitt, Peregrine Farm, Graham, NC
Andy Zeman, Benjamin Vineyards, Graham, NC
Robin Kohanowich, Sust. Ag. Program, Central Carolina Comm. College, Pittsboro, NC
Sandi Kronick, Eastern Carolina Organics, Pittsboro, NC.

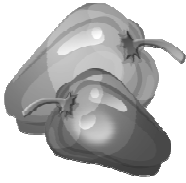
Tuesday

2:00 Welcome, Introduction, Instructions for Training-Elena and Jeanine
2:15 Each Co-PI gives a ten minute status report on organic agriculture in their state and what their institution is doing in organics-Elena
3:00 All attendees give five minute (or less) introduction, experience in organic, and level of interest by clients-Jeanine
3:45 What Don't You Understand About Certification?-A very brief overview (NOP, certifiers, transition time, OMRI), followed by Q&A-Tony
4:30 How to Answer Questions About Controlling Disease and Insect Problems Organically When You Don't Know the Answers-Debbie
5:15 How to Help a Farmer Design a Crop, Cover Crop, and Crop Rotation Plan-Richard
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Successful Extension Programs in Organics-Two Examples from NC and Agent Share Session-Debbie and Richard
8:00 Teams meet briefly for face-to-face introductions and finalize plans they made by email

Wednesday

6:30 Breakfast buffet served
8:00 drive to Timberwood Organics
8:45 tour Timberwood Organics <http://www.timberwoodorganics.com/>
9:45 drive to Peregrine Farm
10:30 tour Peregrine Farm <http://chatham.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-small-farms/hittmadden.html>
12:00 drive to Benjamin Vineyards
12:30 tour Benjamin Vineyards and eat lunch <http://www.benjaminvineyards.com/>
2:00 drive to Central Carolina Community College (CCCC), student farm
2:45 tour CCCC farm <http://www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/sustainableagriculture/>

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(Wednesday continued)

- 3:30 drive to Eastern Carolina Organics (ECO)
- 4:00 tour ECO <http://www.easterncarolinaorganics.com/>
- 4:45 return to Rizzo Center
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Teams meet and develop solution to their assigned problem
- 7:30 Co-PIs meet and discuss curriculum development and finishing project

Thursday

- 6:30 Breakfast buffet served
- 7:45 Teams meet to finalize presentation of solutions
- 8:15 Organic Products: Do I Base My Recommendations on Research or What I'm Seeing in the Field?-Jeanine
- 8:45 The Best Resources for Helping Your Organic Farmers-Debbie
- 9:15 Food Safety and GAPS: How Will This Affect Organic Farmers?-Tony and Agent Share Session
- 9:45 Team Solution Reports-fifteen minutes each
- 11:30 Wrap-up, Evaluation-Elena

***There are no scheduled breaks** during the classroom training sessions. Our experience has been that it takes too long to get everyone assembled again to restart the sessions. So, let's keep this casual. There will be food and drinks available throughout the day. Feel free to get up, stretch, move around, get a snack, and use the restroom as you need to.

The Rizzo Center has been an outstanding partner on this training project. We wanted to have our training here because of the special commitment they have made to sustainability. They really worked with us to make their facilities and services available to us at a price that would fit within our grant budget. Note that the Rizzo Center has eliminated the use of Styrofoam cups, practices water conservation, buys organic or locally grown food to make up at least 40% of menu items, and donates surplus food to a local food shelter, to name just a few of their sustainable practices.

Greenway Transit is the first and only transport company in North Carolina whose vehicles will soon be running exclusively on human energy or biofuels (biodiesel, veggie oil and ethanol-E85), reducing air pollution and environmental impact and increasing mileage and efficiency. Bike rickshaws, diesel cars and vans, hybrid and dual fuel vehicles are used for the fleet. Our tour bus will be powered with biodiesel.

This training was paid for with a grant from the USDA-Southern SARE program, Project # ES07-088. Building Organic Agriculture Extension Training Capacity in the Southeast. PI: Elena Garcia, University of Arkansas. Co-PIs: Jeanine Davis, NC State University; Charles Mitchell, Auburn University; Obadiah Njue, University of Arkansas; Kenneth Ward, Alabama A&M; Rufina Ward, Alabama A&M; Geoff Zehnder, Clemson University.