

# Looking to the Future: Small Farming for Food Security

## On the Farm Workshop Series 2013

Join several local sustainable small scale farmers for a six part series of workshops focusing on beginner farmer topics and practices. Each workshop includes presentations and hands on experience. Come with your questions and concerns and be ready to get dirty. Learn more about the host farms by checking out their websites.

### **Introduction to the Organic Small Farm Model**

May 20, 10am-5pm (\$15 + bring a lunch)

Bertrand Farm, Inc., 3575 W Bertrand Rd, Niles, MI, [www.bertrandfarm.org](http://www.bertrandfarm.org)

A look at the history of agriculture and how we got to where we are today. Included in this day long workshop are the fundamentals of organic farming including composting, cover cropping and crop rotation. Pre-reading suggested: *New Organic Grower* by Eliot Coleman; *Teaming with Microbes* by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis.

### **Green House Production I**

June 10, 1-5pm (\$10)

Clay Bottom Farm, 11434 CR 34, Goshen, IN, [www.claybottomfarm.com](http://www.claybottomfarm.com)

How to grow vegetables all year long using organic methods. Participants will learn basic season extension techniques using greenhouses and hoop structures. Workshop will cover seed starting and transplanting techniques. It will also cover crop rotation practices as well as provide an overview of crops suitable for year-round production. Suggested reading: *The Four Season Harvest* by Eliot Coleman.

### **The Birds and the Bees**

June 24, 1-5pm (\$10)

Prairie Winds Farm, 21439 Osborne Rd., Lakeville, IN, [www.prairiewindsnaturefarm.com](http://www.prairiewindsnaturefarm.com)

Poultry including chickens, turkeys, and geese can provide eggs & meat for the table, nutrient rich compost for vegetable crops, and insect control. Beehives provide pollination for the crops and delicious honey for the home. Topics will include management of chicks, facilities, and free range flocks, opening a beehive, and native nectar sources for both honey & native bees.

### **Permaculture Practices on the Small Farm**

July 15, 1-5pm(\$10)

Prairie Winds Farm, 21439 Osborne Rd., Lakeville, IN, [www.prairiewindsnaturefarm.com](http://www.prairiewindsnaturefarm.com)

A look at several simple and affordable conservation practices to add to your small farm operation. Talk to an NRCS representative about conservation programs in your area. View permaculture practices including windbreak, wastewater wetland, prairie & wetland restoration, wind powered livestock watering and rotationally grazed pastures. Discuss heritage breed livestock and the benefits of genetic diversity on the farm. Suggested reading: *Introduction to Permaculture* by Bill Mollison.

### **Green House Production II**

July 29, 1-5pm(\$10)

Clay Bottom Farm, 11434 CR 34, Goshen, IN, [www.claybottomfarm.com](http://www.claybottomfarm.com)

Tips for increasing yield of summer greenhouse crops. This workshop will provide an overview of crops that can be grown in the greenhouse in the summer. Workshop will cover irrigation, weed management, and crop rotation practices, as well as trellising & pruning techniques to increase yields. Suggested reading: *The New Organic Grower* by Eliot Coleman

### **Preserving the Summer Harvest**

August 12, 1-5pm(\$10)

Bertrand Farm, 3575 W Bertrand Rd, Niles, MI, [www.bertrandfarm.org](http://www.bertrandfarm.org)

Food preservation is key to winter sustainability in the Midwest. Learn the basics of preserving so the surplus harvest can be put to good use all winter long. Water bath canning, freezing and dehydrating will be included in this workshop.

## **Register Today**

Workshop size is limited. Save a space today by sending a note of registration interest with payment to the listed sponsoring farm and include your contact information. Save \$10 by registering for all six workshops (send payment to Bertrand Farm).

**Disclaimer:** None of the farms involved claims to be certified organic. We strive to use organic methods and be sustainable in our growing practices. Please address farm owners directly for information on specific practices at each farm.