



## Organic Production & Hoophouse Production JUNE 2013 Mississippi Trainings for Resource Conservation Professionals



*Save  
The  
Dates*

MON	June 17	Goodman	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
TUE	June 18	Meridian	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
THU	June 20	Pontotoc	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
FRI	June 21	Pickens	<a href="#">Register Here</a>

Southern SAWG, with support from Southern SARE PDP and in collaboration with Mississippi NRCS will offer four separate one-day training events focused on Organic Horticulture and High Tunnel (hoophouse) production. These events are designed for resource conservation professionals serving farmers who are practicing or interested in organic and/or high tunnel production. Farmers who themselves serve as trainers or mentors to other farmers or to technical service professionals are also eligible to attend.

The training events will be held on farms and led by practitioners with personal and practical experience with commercial organic and high tunnel farm enterprises. The focus will be on production of specialty crops on smaller farms, and will include discussion of how NRCS cost share and technical assistance can be profitably applied on these farms, especially in operations with organic and/or high tunnel production. This training is intended to help resource conservation professionals better serve farmers, including farmers with or considering NRCS EQIP Organic Initiative or Hoophouse cost-share agreements.

There is no charge for this training for qualifying agricultural professionals, but registration is required and is limited. FREE Lunch will be provided for pre-registered attendees.

### *Need More Info?*

*Contact Pam • [pam@ssawg.org](mailto:pam@ssawg.org) • (918) 868-3727*

### Topics to be covered include the following:

- Principles and implementation of organic and natural farming systems;
- Building and managing soil health and fertility in an organic system;
- Crop diversity and crop rotation, including complex rotations as management strategies;
- Weed, pest and disease management in organic systems;
- Organic standards and approved materials;
- Protecting organic certification in presence of potential contamination by air or water;
- High tunnel siting, construction, ventilation, and material/design options;
- Basic production in high tunnels, including bed design, irrigation, ventilation;
- Critical factors for profitable high-tunnel hoophouse production;
- How market opportunities influence natural resource management decisions;
- Economic viability on a small farm: Markets, customers, enterprise diversity, labor availability & cost;
- Working with small plot sizes and small equipment, including in hoophouses;
- Irrigation on small acreage;
- Program outreach to new audiences using a grassroots approach.

*June 2013 • [www.ssawg.org](http://www.ssawg.org)*