

Organic Production & Hoophouse Production

February 2014

Louisiana Trainings for Resource Conservation Professionals



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

MON	Feb 24	Raceland	Register Here
TUE	Feb 25	Lafayette	Register Here
WED	Feb 26	Homer	Register Here
THU	Feb 27	Alexandria	Register Here

Southern SAWG, with support from Southern SARE PDP and in collaboration with Louisiana 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, held on farms and in classrooms, will be 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 • (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.



View inside high tunnel at Au Naturel Farm near Smiths Grove, KY

February 2014 • www.ssawg.org

Each training event will begin with registration promptly at 8:30am and adjourn at 3:30pm. Lunch will be provided and eaten indoors off-site.

2014 Schedule of Louisiana Trainings

February 24, Monday

Classroom: LSU Ag Center

Farm: Arthur Lirette Farm near Raceland

February 25, Tuesday

Classroom: US Wildlife and Fisheries
Conference Room

Farm: Mark and Mary's City Farm LLC
Lafayette

February 26, Wednesday

Classroom: LSU Hill Farm Research Station

Farm: Gail Bridges Farm near the Hill
Farm - Homer

February 27, Thursday

Classroom: LSU Dean Lee Dewitt Livestock
Facility Conference

Farm: Inglewood Farm



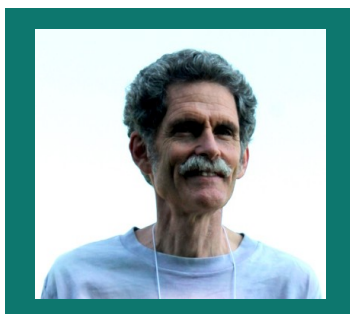
High tunnel in the background at
Dripping Springs Garden near Huntsville, AR
Photo by Mark Cain

Meet Our Trainers

Mark Cain has been operating a successful diversified organic farm enterprise in Arkansas for over 20 years. Mark produces mixed vegetables, culinary herbs, blueberries, and specialty cut flowers for the popular Fayetteville Farmers Market and CSA distribution.

Dr. Mark Schonbeck, an independent consultant in sustainable agriculture from Floyd County, VA has been conducting organic related research and developing organic resources in cooperation with land-grants, nongovernmental agencies and farmers for 22 years.

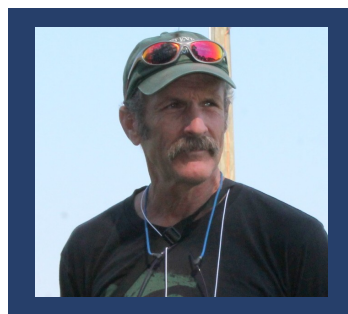
Andrew Williams is a retired NRCS conservationist from Alabama with 35 years of experience as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, RC&D, and state outreach coordinator.



Dr. Mark Schonbeck



Andrew Williams



Mark Cain



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