



GREAT PLAINS VEGETABLE GROWERS CONFERENCE

January 10-12, 2008

Ramada Inn, St. Joseph, Missouri

Thursday, January 10 - High Tunnels and CSA Mini-School

High Tunnels – Essential Equipment for the Market Farmer

- 8:00 am Registration
- 9:00 am High tunnels at Peregrine Farm: A different look at the old tunnel. Alex Hitt, Peregrine Farm, NC
- 11:30 am Managing soils in high tunnels: Survey Results and recommendations – Sherry Knewton.
- 1:00 pm Basics of high tunnel production – Eldon Everhart, Iowa State University
- 2:00 pm Pest management for vegetable crops in high tunnels – Linda Naeve, Iowa State University
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm Grower panel (panelists to be announced)

Community Supported Agriculture(CSA) Mini-School

Elizabeth Henderson - Peacework Organic Farm, NY

Tom Ruggieri and Rebecca Graf – Fair Share Farm, Kearney, MO

Chris Blanchard – Rock Spring Farm, IA

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Opening remarks
- 8:45 am Introductions
- 9:45 am The CSA Model – Is it Right For You?
- 10:30 am Getting Started: Finding land; Finding members & organizational structure; Establishing a core group; Legal structures & insurance; Keeping members connected: online, newsletter, on-farm events; Distribution
- 1:00 pm Growing the Food: Crop planning: what to grow and how much; Succession planting; Harvest & post-harvest handling; Apprenticeship & labor management
- 2:15 pm The Share: What is a share? Pricing & budgets; Cooperating with other farms; Other markets
- 3:00 pm Q & A
- 3:30 pm Closing. CSA as an agent of social change vs. marketing approach
- 4:00 pm Mini-school adjourns



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Friday, January 11, 2008

Time	Small fruit	Melons/Pest control and safety	Urban agriculture/Pumpkins/cucurbits	Organic
9:30 - 10:30 am	<i>Aronia berry production</i> - Eldon Everhart	<i>Muskmelon and watermelon variety update</i> - Chris Gunther	<i>Approaches to Urban Agriculture</i> - Panel of organizations from Lincoln, KC, and St. Louis	<i>Organic tomato production</i> - Liz Maynard
10:30 - 11:00 am	Break			
11:00 - 11:30 am	<i>Growing Blackberries and Raspberries in the Midwest</i> - Pat Byers	<i>Considerations on foliar application and volume of pesticides</i> - James Quinn and Wayne Peterson	<i>Cucurbit diseases and their control</i> - Megan Kennelly	<i>Juggling successions of many vegetable crops - lettuce, carrots, greens using organic methods</i> - Liz Henderson
11:30 - 12:00 pm		<i>Pesticide applicator safety - using the right gloves?</i> - Linda Naeve	<i>Pumpkin research in Indiana: Drip irrigation and cover crops</i> - Liz Maynard	
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch			
	Sweet corn/Farmers Market	Cut flowers	Pumpkins/cucurbits/tomatoes/drip	Organic
1:30 - 2:00 pm	<i>Sweet corn varieties: What's new?</i> - Liz Maynard	<i>Woody Ornamentals as Specialty Cuts</i> - Lane Greer	<i>Growing and selling pumpkins and squash at the Depot Market</i> - Dan Kuhn	<i>Organic weed control including no-till production</i> - Kathleen Delate
2:00 - 2:30 pm	<i>Growing sweet corn on our Nebraska farm</i> - Andy Daniels		<i>Using a Corn Maze to Boost U-Pick Pumpkin Sales</i> - Kathy Hohl	
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Break			
3:00 - 3:30 pm	<i>Growing and selling sweet corn, melons, tomatoes and other vegetable at Farmers Markets</i> - Jirak Family Produce	<i>Biomass heating in the commercial greenhouse: Is it worth it?</i> - Stacy Adams	<i>Tomato yellow shoulder and its control</i> - Chris Gunther	<i>Time management for farmers - Productivity and the plow</i> - Chris Blanchard.
3:30 - 4:00 pm			<i>Farmers market happenings</i> - Mercedes Taylor-Puckett	
4:00 - 5:00 pm	State Association Meetings			
8:00 - 10:00 pm	Grower Innovation Night (Bring your ideas on new equipment designs, growing and marketing techniques, etc., and compete for fabulous prizes)			

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Saturday, January 12, 2008				
Time				
	Marketing and Finance	Cut Flowers	Pest Management	Farm Development/Food Safety
9:00 – 9:30 am	<i>Nutritional info for vegetable sales - Lisa Markley</i>	<i>An update on new cultivars for the Midwest - Lynn Byczynski</i>	<i>Vegetable weed control with herbicides - Reid Smeda</i>	<i>25 years of building a farm - Alex Hitt</i>
9:30 – 10:00 am	<i>Salesmanship - Joe Wilson</i>			
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break			
10:30 – 11:00 am	<i>Revenue insurance for vegetable growers - Art Barnaby</i>	<i>Cut flower production on our NC farm – Alex Hitt</i>	<i>High and low impact and organic pest control materials for vegetables and cut flowers - Ray Cloyd</i>	<i>Harvest and postharvest handling for freshness and food safety - Chris Blanchard</i>
11:00 – 11:30 am	<i>Comparison of historic and post-modern fruit and vegetable production in Kansas -Rhonda Janke</i>			
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch			
	Marketing and finance	Cut Flowers	Ethnic/ Specialty vegetables/ Organic No-till	Food Safety
1:00 – 1:30 pm	<i>Rural Grocery stores as a market outlet – Paula Ford</i>	<i>Native plant cut flowers – Marilyn Odneal</i>	<i>Growing and selling Ethnic vegetables - Steve Salt</i>	<i>Food safety practices for market farmers - Mary Fandrey</i>
1:30 – 2:00 pm	<i>Farm to Institution – James Quinn, Pete Garfinkel</i>	<i>Postharvest handling of woody ornamentals - Lane Greer</i>		
2:00 – 2:30 pm			<i>Cultivation and fertility systems on a no-till organic farm – Patrice Gros</i>	
2:30 – 3:00 pm				<i>Implementing food safety compliance for Balls foods suppliers - Diana Endicott</i>

November 29, 2007

Dear Nebraska Growers:

We hope you will be able to attend the Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference, January 11-12 at the Ramada Inn, St. Joseph, Missouri. Pre-registration is \$35.00 per day, which includes breaks and meals (\$40 per day if mailed after Jan. 4th and at the door). As you will notice in the program, we have expanded to include presentations on fruit and a larger section on specialty cut flowers, including woody ornamentals. If you are considering an alternative fuel source for your high tunnel or greenhouse, you'll want to get some updates from growers, so check that out. All in all, it's an exciting line-up. Of course one of the best things is time to talk with other growers involved in commercial horticultural enterprises.

This year you have a choice to attend either the High Tunnels Workshop or a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) mini-school on Thursday, January 10. *Pre-registration is required for both.* The High Tunnels Workshop fee is \$50 and the CSA mini-school is \$60, which includes a workbook. If you plan to attend either workshop, please check this option on the registration form.

We will have educational information from all 5 states - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota, along with vegetable specialists and growers from those states. Approximately 35 exhibitors in a trade show with the latest seeds, supplies, equipment, and grower information. There will be ample opportunity to visit with other growers, exhibitors and speakers. We hope to see you in January! It will be an excellent educational opportunity!

Before closing, I'd like to extend a personal welcome to those who wonder if it's worth the time and money. Give me a call or e-mail. I may be able to put you in touch with someone near you who has attended in the past. Growers from all parts of Nebraska come and learn how good it is to have a large, regional conference specifically for the Great Plains.

Laurie Hodges
Horticulture Extension Specialist
lhodges1@unl.edu
402-472-1639



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.



DIRECTIONS:

Meeting facilities will be in the Ramada Inn, located one block west of Exit 47 (Frederick Avenue) on I-29, the N-S Interstate through St. Joseph, Missouri.. There are several hotels and restaurants in this area.

Hotels in St. Joseph, MO

**Headquarters Hotel is the Ramada Inn - 4016 Frederick
- 800-228-2828 (\$65 per night plus tax room rate)**

Other Hotels:

Best Western	S. 169 Hwy.	(816) 232-2345	Hampton Inn	3928 Frederick	(816) 390-9300
Budget Inn	1328 N. Belt	(816) 233-3146	Holiday Inn	3 rd & Felix St.	(816) 279-8000
Comfort Suites	917 N. Woodbine	(816) 676-1601	Motel 6	4021 Frederick	(816) 232-2311
Days Inn	4312 Frederick	(816) 279-1671	Stoney Creek	1201 N. Woodbine	(816) 901-9600
Drury Inn	4213 Frederick	(800) 325-8300	Super 8	4023 Frederick	(816) 364-3031

For a map of the city of St. Joseph: www.ci.st-joseph.mo.us/citymap.pdf St. Joseph Convention Bureau: www.stjomo.com

**2008 Great Plains Vegetable Conference
(Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota)
January 10- 12, 2008**

The grower associations and Extension vegetable specialists for the five states are cooperating on tests and trials that will have practical value to the growers of the region. This year the program will have concurrent sessions on small fruit, melons, pest control, pumpkins, organic growing, cut flowers, marketing, food safety, and much more. Many of the speakers will be producers who are associated with the topics they are explaining. Professors from the five state universities will also present topics.

There will be approximately 35 exhibitors available to provide information about seeds, irrigation, horticulture equipment, chemicals and other topics. There is plenty of parking close to the Ramada Inn. **Lunch and breaks are included in the registration fee.** Mark your calendars and send in the pre-registration form below **postmarked by FRIDAY January 4.**

<p>FOR INFORMATION & ALL REGISTRATION QUESTIONS CONTACT: Tom Fowler, Horticulture Specialist or Katie Cook, Office Manager Univ. of Missouri Extension, Buchanan County 4125 Mitchell Avenue St. Joseph, MO 64507 816-279-1691</p>	<p>Program Information: Laurie Hodges, Horticulture Extension Specialist- UNL 377 Plant Sciences Lincoln, NE 68583-0724</p>
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2008 Great Plains Vegetable Conference - PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

(Please **print** as it should appear on your name tag)

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

High-Tunnel Workshop _____ January 10 @ \$50.00 = \$ _____ *OR* *Community Supported Agriculture mini-school* _____ January 10 @ \$60.00 = \$ _____

Great Plains Vegetable Conference
 _____ January 12 @ \$35.00 = \$ _____ *(Registration after Jan. 5 - \$40 per day)*
 _____ January 13 @ \$35.00 = \$ _____ *Registration fee includes breaks & meals*
Cancellations with refund only before Jan. 9
for GPVG Conference or HT Workshop

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make check or money order payable to: → **GPVGC, University of Missouri Extension**
Send BY FRIDAY January 4, 2008 **4125 Mitchell Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64507**
 Office:(816) 279-1691 Fax:(816) 279-3982