A Course for Farmers and Agriculture Professionals:

Ecologically-Based Pest Management for Sustainable/Organic Vegetable Production

June 22 & 23, 2010 at the Madren Conference Center and the Clemson Organic Farm, Clemson, SC

This two-day course will cover the key principles and concepts that can be used to effectively manage diseases, insect pests and weeds in small-scale, diversified vegetable production with an emphasis on non-chemical approaches approved for certified organic crop production. The focus will be on implementation of preventative cultural practices that can be integrated into the farm plan to discourage diseases, pests and weeds from becoming a problem. The training will emphasize a holistic, integrated and systems approach to pest management, and will include classroom instruction and a trip to the Clemson Organic Farm where participants will see examples of real-life pest problems and demonstrations of cultural pest management practices, with ample time for open discussion about pest problems and solutions.

This course is the first in a series of Organic Pest Management trainings to be held throughout 2010 and 2011 and supported by a grant from Southern Region SARE. Subsequent trainings will focus specifically on disease, insect and weed management. Announcements of these training events will be released soon.

Instructors:

Dr. Mark Boudreau, Plant Pathologist, University of Georgia. Dr. Boudreau is an expert on disease management for organic crop systems, has conducted research and published numerous articles on disease control in certified organic production, and has served as a consultant to farmers and agriculture professionals on organic agriculture and disease management.

Daniel Parson, Farmer, Parson Produce, Clinton, SC. Daniel received a M.S. degree in Sustainable Agriculture from Clemson University, and operates a small, diversified farm where he grows a variety of vegetable crops using organic production practices. Daniel is the recipient of the 2009 Georgia Organics Georgia Land Steward of the Year award.

Dr. Mark Schonbeck, Virginia Association of Biological Farming. Dr. Schonbeck is a consultant in sustainable agriculture, homestead gardener, and editor of the Virginia Biological Farmer. He has conducted on-farm research and written articles on cover cropping, mulching, and other practices for organic soil improvement and weed control and is experienced with organic weed management challenges in our region.
Dr. Powell Smith, Extension Entomologist and Vegetable Specialist, Clemson University. Dr. Smith is an expert on sustainable/organic insect pest management for vegetable crop production and conducts statewide training programs for farmers and Extension personnel. He has focused much of his research in the area of biological control, and has developed insect pest management programs for local growers that rely on conservation of natural enemies that has greatly reduced their dependence on insecticides.

Dr. Geoff Zehnder, Coordinator of the Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Agriculture Programs at Clemson University. Dr. Zehnder’s background is in entomology with a particular interest in pest management for organic vegetable production systems. He has held research and Extension positions in vegetable insect pest management at Virginia Tech and Auburn Universities before coming to Clemson, and also directs the Student Organic Farm project at Clemson.

Agenda

DAY 1
9:00  Introduction and basic concepts of organic pest management (Geoff Zehnder)
10:45 Organic insect pest management (Powell Smith)
12:30 Lunch
1:30  Organic disease management (Mark Boudreau)
3:15  Group discussion
4:15  Adjourn

DAY 2
8:30  Organic weed management (Mark Schonbeck)
10:30 On-farm organic pest management planning (Daniel Parson)
12:15 Lunch
1:30  Tour of CU Organic Farm with instructors to observe and discuss pest management problems and solutions

REGISTRATION

Registration for non-South Carolina extension personnel is $40 which includes course instruction, resource materials and lunch both days. (fee waived for Clemson and SCSU Extension agents**). Registration deadline is June 17th.

Please complete and return the registration form below via email to Kelly Gilkerson, kgilker@clemson.edu, AND send your check in the amount of $40 (payable to ‘Clemson University’) to Kelly Gilkerson, Dept. of Entomology, 114 Long Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. Once your check has been received you will receive a confirmation of your registration via email. (Please include contact email information with your check correspondence)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kelly Gilkerson (kgilker@clemson.edu) or Geoff Zehnder (zehnder@clemson.edu) for additional information.
Yes, I plan to attend the training on June 22 and 23:

Name: ___________________________________________
Affiliation: _________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________

_____ I work with Clemson or SCSU Cooperative Extension
_____ I am not affiliated with Cooperative Extension and my $40 registration fee is
enclosed (Payable by check only.) Please make check out to: Clemson University and
mail to: Kelly Gilkerson, Dept. of Entomology, 114 Long Hall, Clemson University,
Clemson, SC 29634

_____ I prefer a vegetarian lunch or have the following dietary restrictions:

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