

TN Organic Production Network

Holeman Building, Ellington Agriculture Center, 440 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37204

2:00-4:00pm Central Time, December 3, 2008

TN Organic Production Network initiative goals:

1. To support, promote an advance organics in TN through networking and partnerships
2. To collaborate to address the critical issues in organic agriculture in Tennessee

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| I. Welcome & Introductions | 2:00 PM |
| II. Presentation | 2:05 PM |
| A. Overview of Organics in Tennessee | |
| B. Review previously identified needs and priorities | |
| C. Introduction to the TN Organic Production Network initiative | |
| III. Round table discussions | |
| A. Producers & Industry—TOGA, Appalachian Harvest, others | 2:20 PM |
| 1. Perspective on critical infrastructure needs to support organic? | |
| 2. What are technical assistance needs? | |
| 3. Support needed for transitioning to organic crop systems? | |
| 4. Support for Farmer-to-Farmer networking/partnering/mentoring? | |
| 5. Market Development | |
| B. Policy & Legislative Issues at State and National Level—Legislators, TN Farm Bureau, others | 2:40 PM |
| 1. Process and cycles for developing policies and legislation | |
| 2. Opportunities to develop policy to support: | |
| a. The economic and environmental sustainability of TN farms & farm families | |
| b. Research on organic crop production systems in Tennessee | |
| C. Department of Agriculture Programs—USDA NRCS, USDA FSA, TN Dept of Ag | 3:00 PM |
| 1. How to access 2008 Farm Bill programs for organics? | |
| 2. Knowledge in organics needed to develop programs and standards? | |
| D. Organic Research—UT, TSU, TN Tech | 3:20 PM |
| 1. Research priorities to support consumer responsive, market driven organic production operations? | |
| 2. Strategies for developing statewide research collaborations? | |
| IV. Next steps | 3:40 PM |
| A. Discuss opportunities for collaborations & follow-up items | |
| B. Ideas for how to continue the conversation & how to develop the network: | |
| 1. Regionally throughout the state | |
| 2. Focus areas (infrastructure development, research, policy, etc.) | |
| 3. Investigate examples/models for initiatives and programs to develop for TN | |
| V. Adjourn | 4:00 PM |