Directions to the UT Organic Crops Unit

The UT Organic Crops Unit is located at 7315 Government Farm Road on the site of the former Small Grains Unit of the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center. The facility is approximately 7 miles from the UT Agricultural Campus in Knoxville. Visitors should follow U.S. Hwy. 129 and take the exit for Highway 168 (John Sevier Highway). Government Farm Road will be 1.7 miles on the right.

If you need to request an accommodation for accessibility, please contact us at 865-974-7161.

Upcoming Workshops

Organic Crop Production Workshop Series
The UT Organic and Sustainable Crop Production Program is offering this free workshop series for commercial producers and agriculture professionals interested in learning about organic crop production practices. Visit http://organics.utk.edu/workshops.htm for more information.

SproUTing Growers Workshop Series
This free workshop series provides potential growers with the business planning and management, vegetable and small fruit planning and production, and direct marketing skills needed to plan and carry out a farming venture. Visit http://organics.utk.edu/sprouting_growers_workshops.htm for more information.

2010 UT Field Days
For more information about field days and special events, including start times and locations, contact the UT Extension office in your county, or visit UT AgResearch online at http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/news/FieldDays.

May 13—Tobacco and Forage Production
June 5—Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods
June 10—Beef and Forage
June 15—Fruits of the Backyard
June 24—Tobacco, Beef and More
July 8—Summer Celebration
July 22—Milan No-Till
August 3—Steak and Potatoes
September 8—Cotton Tour
September 16—Turfgrass
September 30—Pumpkin
October 7—Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo

Special Events
June 26-27—Blooms Days
August 31—Fall Gardeners’ Festival
October 9—Heritage Festival
October 16—Fall Folklore Jamboree
The Organic Crops Field Tour

Welcome to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Organic Crops Field Tour. UT AgResearch, in cooperation with UT Extension and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, launched an organic agriculture initiative in 2008 to involve more Tennessee farmers in organic production to increase farm income. Applied research projects at the farm focus on conservation tillage techniques; high-tunnel production; variety trials; and the use of cover crops to optimize fertility, enhance beneficial insect populations, reduce soil-borne pathogens and manage weeds.

Thank you for your interest in our program. If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please contact any of the speakers or visit us online at http://organics.tennessee.edu or http://east.tennessee.edu

Preregister for the Organic Crops Field Tour by calling the East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center at 865-974-7201 by April 23, 2010.

Program Schedule

Programs located in the tents will be presented twice. Both presentation times are noted on the schedule.

Tent A
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Tunnel Vision: Extending Your Production Season with High Tunnels
Annette Wzelaki, Extension Vegetable Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences
Jeff Martin, Graduate Student, Department of Plant Sciences

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  Ain’t That the Berries—Growing Small Fruits Organically
David Lockwood, Extension Fruit and Nut Crops Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  Natural Alternatives for Disease Control
Bonnie Ownley, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

Tent B
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Organic Production: A Systems Approach
Mary Rogers, Organic Research Associate, Department of Plant Sciences

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  Solving the Mysteries of Marketing
Shasta Hubbs, Coordinator, Farm-to-Market Program, Center for Profitable Agriculture

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  From Land to Hand: UT Market Garden Project and Internship Program
Grant McCarty, Intern Coordinator, Department of Plant Sciences

Tent C
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Reduced-till Broccoli Research
Sarah Broughton, Graduate Student, Department of Plant Sciences

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  Utilizing Cover Crops in Organic Systems
Gary Bates, Extension Forage Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  Composting 101
Forbes Walker, Extension Environmental Soil Science Specialist, Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science

11:30 a.m. – noon  Visit Exhibit Tent

Noon – 1:15 p.m.  Sponsored Lunch
Feature Presentation: “Plants You Didn't Know You Could Eat”
Jeff Ross, Garden Manager, Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tennessee

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  Choice between Walking Tour or Equipment Demonstration

2:30 p.m.  Adjourn