

Speakers:

Alan Bruhin – Sevier County Extension Director

John Coykendall – Master Gardener, Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tennessee

Lee Ellis – Research Associate, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Bill Lively – Service Supervisor, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

Leo Lubke – Sevier County Master Gardener

Lisa Phipps – Blount County Master Gardener

Mary Rogers – Extension Assistant, UT Department of Plant Sciences

Jeff Ross – Garden Manager, Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tennessee

Bobby Simpson – Associate Director, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center

John Skinner – Extension Apiculture Specialist, UT Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

John Wilson – Blount County Extension Director

Michael Wilson – Graduate Student, UT Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

Annette Wszelaki – Extension Vegetable Specialist, UT Department of Plant Sciences

Matthew Young – Chief Field Inspector, Tennessee Crop Improvement Association

*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 Research 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.

*Organic Crops
field tour*

*May 15, 2009
8:00 a.m.*

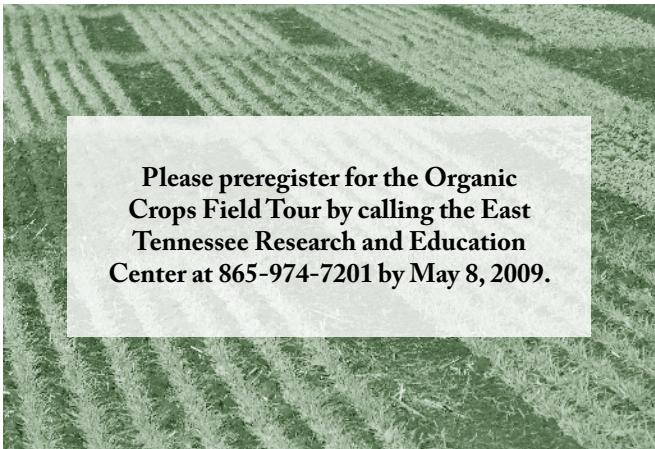
East Tennessee Research & Education Center
Organic Crops Unit
7315 Government Farm Road, Knoxville



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Please preregister for the **Organic Crops Field Tour** by calling the **East Tennessee Research and Education Center** at 865-974-7201 by May 8, 2009.

UT's First Organic Crops Field Tour

The East Tennessee Research and Education Center is proud to present the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's first Organic Crops Field Tour. The center has 12 research projects planned or underway on 21 acres of a 90-acre facility dedicated to organic crop production.

University of Tennessee AgResearch, in cooperation with UT Extension and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, recently launched an organic agriculture initiative. The intent of this initiative is to involve more Tennessee farmers in organic production to increase farm income, which may help some to keep the family farm in the family. Organic production has the potential to increase profits by reducing the use of off-farm inputs and providing consumers with locally-grown, high-quality organic products.

Applied research projects at the center focus on conservation tillage techniques; high-tunnel production; variety trials; and evaluating the use of cover crops for optimizing fertility, enhancing beneficial insect populations, reducing soil-borne pathogens and managing weeds. Additional work is also underway to encourage native bees.

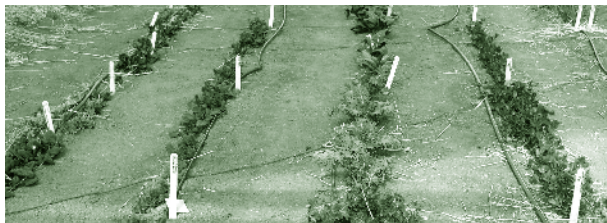
You are invited to tour the facility. Fourteen acres are currently transitioning to organic production. We hope to have this acreage certified by 2011. Another seven acres will remain in conventional production for comparison research purposes.

Organic Grower Talks:

- 1) Field Equipment and Techniques for Sustainable Agriculture – Lee Ellis
- 2) Insects and Diseases in Organic Crop Production – Mary Rogers
- 3) Cultivating Native Bees for Pollination of Fruit and Vegetable Crops – Michael Wilson
- 4) Use of High Tunnels for Season Extension of Vegetable Crops – Annette Wszelaki
- 5) Getting Certified for Organic Production – What's Involved? – Matthew Young
- 6) Visit Exhibit Tent – Commercial and Educational Exhibitors

Home Gardener Talks:

- 1) The Use of Growing Degree Days in Planning a Home Garden – Alan Bruhin and Leo Lubke
- 2) Heritage Seed and Seed Saving – John Coykendall
- 3) UT Apiary Programs and Pollinating Your Garden – John Skinner
- 4) Growing Organic Home-Grown Tomatoes – Lisa Phipps, Jeff Ross and John Wilson
- 5) Overview of Organic Crops Unit – Bill Lively and Bobby Simpson
- 6) Visit Exhibit Tent – Commercial and Educational Exhibitors



Program

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Registration and Visit Exhibitors/Coffee and Doughnuts
- 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 8:15 a.m. Divide into groups according to main interests and rotate through six presentations. Sessions will begin at 8:20 a.m., 8:50 a.m., 9:20 a.m., 9:50 a.m., 10:20 a.m., and 10:50 a.m. (Each topic will be presented a total of six times.)
- 11:15 a.m. Adjourn

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 organics.tennessee.edu or knoxville.tennessee.edu.

2009 Organic Crop Production Workshop Series

If you are interested in learning more about organic crop production practices, a workshop series that targets commercial producers and agriculture professionals has several more events scheduled for 2009:

Identifying & Managing Weeds, June 8
Identifying & Managing Pests, July 13
High-Tunnel Production, August 10
Identifying & Managing Diseases, September 14
Developing an Organic Plan, October 12
Marketing Organic, November 9

Each three-hour workshop will be broadcast using ITV technology to three locations across the state including Knoxville, Nashville and Jackson. There is no fee for participating in the workshops, but registration is required. Please contact Mary Rogers, Extension Assistant, UT Department of Plant Sciences, at 865-974-0710 or mroger30@utk.edu for more information or to register for a workshop. Additionally, contact Mary if you would like to receive e-mail reminders and updates about the workshop series each month.