

Spring & Summer 08

Farm Field Days & Conferences

Demand for locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables is at an all time high through farm to school, farmers markets, food cooperatives, restaurants, distributors and at the work place.

Join the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Risk Management Agency, OSU Cooperative Extension Services, OSU Lane Research Center, Langston University, the Noble Foundation and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry for a first hand look at innovative successful producers and how they are maximizing their production to meet demand, current research that is happening in the state and resources that are available to producers.

- **Saturday, April 12, 2008 – Plow & Prep Day at the Oklahoma Vegetable Research Station in Bixby, OK located at 13711 S. Mingo Rd. – 1 pm – 3:30pm. Rain date is scheduled for the following weekend April 19, same time**
Start your growing season off right by learning how soil is prepared for small farm acreage for maximum production and how to efficiently cultivate soil and hoe weeds to maintain small farm plots throughout the season. Learn how to harvest and prepare produce for market and also how to calibrate fertilizer applicators and small sprayers. See the right equipment to use, how to use it and also see a demonstration of how plasticulture can be beneficial to growers. For more information contact Sue Gray, Tulsa County OSU Extension Center, 918-746-3717, sgray@tulsacounty.org.
- **Thursday, April 17, 2008 - Farm to School and Direct Marketing Farm Field Day at Crow Farm - 5 pm – 8 pm**
Join Ricky & Claudia Crow at their farm in Earlsboro located near Shawnee. Claudia and Ricky will describe their current foray into farm-to-school, backed up by two decades of experience growing and direct-marketing vegetables. The Crows will showcase their farm to school crops, hoop house tomatoes, plasticulture crops, and wash line facilities. Registration, due by April 14, is \$10 and includes dinner. To register, 918.647.9123 or visit www.kerrcenter.com/HTML/events.html#fieldday.
- **Sunday, May 4, 2008 - Farm to School at THE Farm – 2pm – 6pm**
Join Vicki and Joe Townsend at The Farm in Atoka County. This event will focus on season extension techniques. These are important for farm-to-school in Oklahoma, because they allow farmers to ripen crops earlier in the spring, and later in the fall, when school cafeterias are serving meals. Registration, due by April 28th, is \$10 and includes dinner. To register, 918.647.9123 or visit www.kerrcenter.com/HTML/events.html#fieldday.
- **Thursday and Friday, May 21 & 23rd, 2008 - 17th Annual Farming Conference, Langston University's Oklahoma City campus.**
- **Join Langston University** for their annual farming conference that will cover a multitude of topics related to diversified agriculture. For more information, contact Mathilda Hall, Center for Outreach Programs, 1-866-466-2231(toll free) or 405-466-6154.

- **Thursday, May 29, 2008 - From Field to Buyer: Making the Most on Growing Crops at Peach Crest Farm – 5pm – 8pm**

Join Susan Bergen at Peach Crest Farm, north of Stratford. What you will see is how a non-farming person, with the help of many farming people, has made a farm work,” says Bergen. “You will see how we irrigate, integrate and implement what the customer is looking for on this acreage: great tasting produce, grown in environmentally friendly constraints, and sold at a reasonable price. Registration, due by May 29th, is \$10 and includes dinner. To register, 918.647.9123 or visit www.kerrcenter.com/HTML/events.html#fieldday.

- **Saturday, June 21, 2008 –Lane Agriculture Center Research and Extension Public Field Day, Lane, OK, 9:00am – 3:00pm**

This is a great opportunity to learn about the current research projects that include organic vegetable gardening practices, weed control and fertilizer practices for organic growers, production practices for onions, melons, tomato, squash, etc., vegetable plant disease control, alternative crops for fuel, and selecting and caring for lawn grasses. Trailer tours will be provided for viewing field projects and cold watermelon will be served. Directions: 10 miles east of Atoka, Oklahoma on Highway 3. For more information, call 580-889-7343, www.lane-ag.org

- **Thursday, June 26, 2008 – Bixby Vegetable Research Station Field Day, Bixby, OK located at 13711 S. Mingo Rd. 10:00am for farmers market growers and 6:00pm for home gardeners.**

This is a great opportunity to learn about the current research that is being done in fruit and vegetable production. For more information, call 918-369-2441.

- **Thursday, July 10, 2008 – Organic Soils Building Workshop & Fruit & Vegetable Variety Trials Field Day at Lane Agriculture Center Research and Extension, Lane, OK 2:00 – 6:00pm**

Come and learn how to build healthy soils organically through cover cropping, crop rotation, composting and more – “Healthy Soils make Healthy Plants”. The soils workshop will be followed by dinner and then a tour and discussion of Lane’s certified organic fruit & vegetable variety trials. More information will be available on the Kerr Center’s website at www.kerrcenter.com

- **Tuesday & Wednesday, August 5 & 6, 2008 – Future Farms Conference 2008, Oklahoma City, OK.**

The Kerr Center’s biennial conference once again has a fantastic lineup for the 2 day conference. The first day will consist of 3 full day bus tours to choose from. Each tour will be traveling to different parts of the state and show examples of diversified agriculture, from fruit and vegetable production to specialty livestock production to cheese making to vineyards and more. The second day will offer 3 tracts of workshops in production, financial planning and marketing. For more information and to register, call 918-647-9123 or visit www.kerrcenter.com

- **Sunday, September 14, 2008 – Season Extension & Hoop Houses at Trebuchet Gardens, 2:00 – 6:00pm**

Fall is the perfect time to build a hoop house to extend your growing season. Join **Tod & Jaime Hanley** at Trebuchet Gardens located on the east side of Norman, OK and see how they took the information learned at a workshop at the Noble Foundation and combined their engineering background, and built a 25' X 96' hoop house for under \$1000 and grows in them for year-round production. They market their produce through 3 local food markets, individual customers and work with children through the Farm to School program.

Upcoming Classes, Short Course, College Courses, and internships to look for:

- **The Oklahoma Market Gardening School Short Course** will commence on Thursday, October 2, 2008 and will be held weekly for 8 weeks in Oklahoma City. The course will teach you all aspects for being successful in market gardening from developing your business and marketing plan to soils and fertilizer management to crop establishment, irrigation, season extension, pest management, food safety and fruit and vegetable production guidelines. Increase your chance for success in your market garden business by enrolling in this short course. For more information, contact Steve Upson, Noble Foundation, 580-223-5810, sdupson@noble.org or Lynn Brandenberger, OSU Vegetable Extension Specialist, 405-744-5408, lynn.brandenberger@okstate.edu
- **OSU-Oklahoma City Horticulture Center will begin its brand new Associates of Applied Science degree with a Sustainable Crops Production emphasis.** This first time in Oklahoma degree program will begin Fall 2008. For more information, contact Julia Laughlin, Horticulture Department Head, 405-945-3348, jlaugh@osuokc.edu
- **Sustainable Agriculture Internship Program sponsored by the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture** – under construction – watch the Kerr Center website for details as they develop at www.kerrcenter.com
- Look at your individual **County Cooperative Extension** office calendars for local county market garden classes.

**If you need help connecting with markets to sell your fresh locally grown produce or would like to sell to a school close to your farm or need more information about the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry Marketing Division and its resources, please contact Chris Kirby, Farm to School Program Administrator, 405-522-2106, chris.kirby@oda.state.ok.us www.oda.state.ok.us
www.okfarmtoschool.com**

