

Central Illinois Farm Beginnings 2009 Spring Field Days/ Workshops



Saturday, March 14, 2009 Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

General Plant Propagation and Production for the Vegetable Grower

David McLaughlin, Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Coordinator of Horticulture Program, Richland Community College and 2007-2008 CIFB Student

Location: Richland Community College, Decatur

Learn how to successfully start vegetables and flowers from seed, plugs, bare root or plant propagation. This workshop will include hands-on planting, transplanting and plant propagation, as well as practical plant practices and equipment the beginning farmer can utilize. Topics will include: Vegetable and Flower Production (variety selection, production equipment, production volume and scheduling, containers, soil mixes, seeding, plug and bare root and transplanting); Plant Propagation (plant selection and taking cuttings) and Sales. Participants will receive transplants to include in their farming operation.

Monday, March 16, 2009 Time: 6:30-9:00 pm

Web Marketing for Your Farm

Simon Huntley, Lead Developer, Small Farm Central (www.smallfarmcentral.com)

Location: University of Illinois Extension, Sangamon County Unit Office, Springfield

Do you need a website? Learn how the internet can be a critical part of your marketing plan. This session will feature two perspectives. First, Simon Huntley will discuss his website development software that is specifically designed for the needs of small farms. Second, we will learn how CIFB graduates developed a website on their own.

Saturday, March 28, 2009 Time: 9:30 am-4:00 pm

VegScout School

Dr. Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, Extension Specialist-Crop Systems, University of Illinois Extension, Macomb Center

Location: University of Illinois Extension, Sangamon County Unit Office, Springfield

This full day of instruction will consist of a series of lectures on insect, weed and disease identification followed by hands-on identification of live samples and color photos. Discussion of troubleshooting problems in organic and sustainable production systems, scouting techniques, sample collecting and record keeping will also be presented.

Saturday, May 16, 2009 Time: 1:30-4:30 pm

Evaluating Soil Quality and Soil Maps

*Leslie Cooperband and Wes Jarrell, Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
Roger Windborn, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service*

Location: Prairie Fruits Farm, Champaign

This hands-on workshop will demonstrate how to collect soil samples for soil testing, and how to measure simple soil quality indicators such as soil structure (tilth), water infiltration and soil penetration resistance. We will review soil test results and how to interpret findings. We will also discuss how to use county soils maps developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, particularly when considering land for purchase or lease.

Saturday, May 23, 2009 Time: 10:00 a.m-12:30 pm

Equipment for Small Farmers

Marty and Kris Travis, Stewards of Spence Farm

Location: Spence Farm, Fairbury

Learn how implements can contribute to satisfying, sustainable small-scale farming and help you achieve your goals. Information about the function and use of tractors and various implements will be demonstrated, including a bale mulcher, crop cart, tractor tiller, converted horse drawn cultivators, and a potato planter. Safe handling and use of the implements to prevent accidents will also be covered. Marty and Kris will share how you can set up a small farm inexpensively using some older style equipment, but also be innovative with some of the newer stuff.

The events listed here are part of the Central Illinois Farm Beginnings (CIFB) program, but are also open to the public. There is a fee of \$30 per event for registrants who have not been enrolled in CIFB. To register, visit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/> or contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant of Illinois Extension and co-facilitator CIFB, (217) 968-5512, cvnghgrn@illinois.edu.