



GREAT PLAINS GROWERS CONFERENCE

www.greatplainsgrowers.org
St. Joseph, Missouri

On Thursday choose between one of four workshops: High Tunnel, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Fruit Grower's or Farm Smarter, Not Harder.

January 6, 2011

Community Supported Agriculture(CSA) Mini-School
Fulkerson Center, Spratt Classroom 205

- 8:30 **Welcome & Introductions from Panel Participants**
- 9:30 **The CSA Model – Is it Right For You?**
- The assessment process
 - CSA as an alternative marketing approach
 - CSA & risk
 - Scale and getting started
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 **Getting Started**
- Finding land
 - Finding members
 - Organizational structure & core group
 - Legal structures & insurance
- 11:00 **How a Multi-Farm CSA Functions – Paul Conway**
- Keeping Members Connected:** online, newsletters, events.
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Growing the Food**
- Crop planning: what to grow and how much
 - Succession planting
 - Harvest, post-harvest handling
 - Apprentices
 - Employees
- 2:00 **Break**
- 2:15 **The Share**
- What is a share?
 - Pricing & budgets
 - Cooperating with other farms
 - Other markets, institutions
- 3:00 **Closing**
- 3:30 **Questions & Answers**
- 4:00 **Minischool adjourns**

Come enjoy refreshments & snacks in the Trade Show Area during breaks and also a special wine reception from 4-6:30 pm.

WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTORS/FACILITATORS:

Chris Blanchard - Rock Spring Farms offers a Four Season Vegetable Share, Individual Seasonal Vegetable Shares (Spring, Summer, Autumn & Deep Winter), and Fruit Shares. Chris is the conference's keynote presenter. Check out Rock Spring Farm's website where further info can be found on the CSA program- <http://www.rsfarm.com/CSA.html>

Paul Conway is a farmer member of Rolling Prairie which is the oldest Midwest vegetable cooperative. The original group of farmers joined together in 1994 providing a vegetable subscription service to Lawrence and Kansas City. Over 300 households receive a weekly bag of locally grown produce during the growing season. While not all the farms are certified organic, they still follow the same natural, ecologically sustainable, organic practices for growing food used since starting sixteen years ago. Rolling Prairie Farmer's Alliance is a special type of CSA. The farmers in the alliance operate as a cooperative, which serves as a kind of insurance policy for the subscribers. The seven farms span four counties in the rolling prairie of Northeast Kansas. If one farm gets frosted, hailed out, flooded, dried up, or attacked by grasshoppers, chances are others can take up the slack. Marketing efforts are more efficient, leaving us more time to concentrate on growing food without the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Rolling Prairie is fairly unique with its cooperative structure and how long it has been in business, when compared to the majority of CSA's in the country.

Rebecca Graff & Tom Ruggierri established Fair Share Farm, Kearney, MO, in 2003 after apprenticing on CSA farms in the northeast and Midwest. Situated on Graff family land, the farm grows a wide variety of vegetable, herbs, flowers and small fruit for its CSA members.