



Presentation Descriptions

January 5-7, 2012

Thursday Workshop, January 5:

High Tunnel Workshop

High Tunnel Year-Round Production – Paul & Sandy Arnold

Paul and Sandy have been practicing season extension on their farm, which is in zone 4, since 1992 and working with year-round production in high tunnels since 2006. They will discuss each month's detailed production systems in their two high tunnels (30' x 144') to produce summer crops like tomatoes, basil, squash, spinach, and beans and also winter/spring crops such as spinach, lettuce, mesclun, Asian greens, arugula, kale, mustards, turnips, broccoli raabs, broccolini, and swiss chard. Using various row-cover and hoop techniques, their 2 unheated tunnels yield over \$1200 per week in produce for the winter weekly farmers' markets with outside night time temperatures reaching 15 to 20 degrees F below zero. Varietal choices and challenges as well as organic insect and disease controls will be discussed.

Advanced Soil Management in High Tunnels – Matt Klenhenz

High tunnel vegetable production differs from open field production in several key areas. For example, covering soil for extended periods can alter properties of the soil beneath it relative to nearby uncovered soil. Likewise, rotation, irrigation, and nutrient management and equipment and traffic patterns are often high tunnel-specific. Together, they can also foster changes in soil that farmers may want to recognize and prevent, if needed. In this session, we will discuss the soils beneath high tunnels -- in short, what steps may be needed to maintain their health? The speaker will provide his perspective on these topics but audience participation will be encouraged during this interactive session.

NRCS High Tunnel EQIP Review & Update – Paul Duffner

First offered in 2010, the Season High Tunnel program in EQIP has been extremely well received and applications in 2010 and 2011 exceeded available funding. A review of the offering will be provided including the High Tunnel program requirements, the application process, approximate dollars available to successful applicants, and changes to the state funding process for 2012.

Production and Marketing at the Snug Haven Farm – Bill Warner

Snug Haven Farm grows crops year-round in about an acre of hoop houses. The hoop houses allow for a jump on the seasons, and income all year. Having fresh green product at a winter farmers' when the temperature is at zero or below is an easy sell. There is not a lot of competition at that time of year. With hoop houses a farmer can stay ahead of the production cycle of most farms and get a premium for their product.

Economics of Moveable and Stationary High Tunnels – Mike Bollinger

Movable high tunnels help growers by mitigating the problems associated with stationary greenhouses, relating to soil, pests, and crop rotations and timing. Movable high tunnels also help maximize the economic viability of diversified farms using covered structures, while also improving farm efficiency, increasing food security, and simply providing more delicious locally grown food through the year.

1st Year Experience with a Moveable High Tunnel – Dan Kuebler

Movable unheated tall tunnels provide the opportunity for the small grower to extend their growing season and cash flow as well as provide a healthy rotation system for soil health. This presentation will be an overview of the first season of assembly, construction and production of a 30' x 48' moveable tall tunnel. Join us as we continue to explore new ideas and methods of production for the small farm.

High Tunnel Research Update from Lincoln University of Missouri – Sanjun Gu & Steven Kirk & from Kansas State University – Cary Rivard & Sarah Masterson

Growers throughout the US are adopting the use of grafted tomato plants in order to reduce soilborne disease and increase yield. Grafting can be especially useful for organic and/or high tunnel growers. In 2011, several field trials were conducted throughout Kansas to determine the relevance of grafting for growers in the Midwest. In this session, we will talk about how grafting can benefit high tunnel growers and what rootstocks make good selections for the Great Plains.

Thursday Workshops, January 5:

GAP/ Food Safety – Chris Blanchard & David Markwardt

Chris Blanchard's Presentations

As the demand for local and organic food has exploded in the last five years, so has the expectation on the part of consumers and institutional buyers for clean produce that lasts on the shelf and in the refrigerator. At the same time, institutions have begun demanding food safety assurances, and now the Food Safety Modernization Act has opened the door for FDA regulation of the production and handling of fresh vegetables and produce. Join Rock Spring Farm's Chris Blanchard during our GAPs workshop, as he'll take a look at ten simple steps you can implement on your farm to ensure the safety of your farm's produce and discuss methods developed at Rock Spring Farm to meet the documentation and record-keeping requirements of the GAPs audit process in a way that flows with the work on the farm, rather than existing as a separate set of tasks and requirements.

How to Initiate a USDA Audit and What to Expect During the Process – David Markwardt

The USDA GAP and GHP audit programs are eleven year-old programs, based on the FDA Guide to Minimize Microbial Contamination in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, that strive to ensure produce safety. These audit programs assist growers to manage food safety risk factors, and enable growers to become certified based on site inspections. Passage of the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act in January 2011 has resulted in some changes for growers. David will explain the current status of federal food safety legislation and how it affects growers. Plus, David will explain how a USDA audit works, give regional USDA contacts, and outline what growers should expect during the audit process.

Fruit Growers Tree Fruit Workshop I

Weed Management for Peaches and Apples – Wayne Mitchem

This presentation will focus on herbicide application and timing that has resulted in effective weed control in Southeast orchards. Topics will include herbicide options, rates, and tank mix combinations. There will also be a discussion related to herbicide use and prevention of herbicide injury.

New Fruit Tree Varieties & Rootstock Update – Wanda Heuser Gale

Disease Management of Apples – Keith Yoder

This discussion will include an overview of the major early season and summer diseases of apples, mostly presented in chronological order. Special emphasis will be placed on fungicide resistance management concerns and late season rots, including white rot and bitter rot.

How GAPs Affect My Farm – Cory Schweizer

In this session, you will hear how one grower has adopted Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) into their orchard. Cory Schweizer, of River Bend Apples and Schweizer Orchards (St. Joseph, MO) will discuss the pro, cons, and necessary steps that it takes to grow and pack tree fruit under the GAPs audit system.

The Basics of Beekeeping in the Midwest – Jim & Valerie Duever

There are lots of good reasons to keep bees. Their honey taste great, and selling it can add another source of revenue to your farm. If you are a grower, many of the crops you grow require bees to insure good pollination. Finally, bees are simply fascinating, and caring from them is a rewarding experience. You will learn the basics that you need to get started, including equipment, hive construction, where to get your bees, bee care, and more. Our workshop instructors will take you through step-by-step management of your bees, and what to expect in that first year. You will also learn of reference sources, and how to find local bee clubs and beekeepers that can help you get started. Our instructors will also assemble a hive during the workshop. As a bonus, one workshop participant will walk away with that hive, which will be given away as a door prize.

Friday General Session Presentations:

Keynote presentation – Paul & Sandy Arnold

With a dream and bare land, Paul and Sandy Arnold began building a thriving, profitable business in 1988. Pleasant Valley Farm has grown into a small, vibrant organic farm that feeds the local community, a crucial action as we work in the field of agriculture. Through their eyes, you will learn how farming can be fun, rewarding and profitable as they relate some of the key lessons they have learned and developed through 23 years of creating the most satisfying lifestyle in the world. What were the hits and how to learn from the misses? Come and join them as they give all farm families the knowledge that will get them started down the road to income generation and long-term profitability.

Small Fruit: Weed Control Options in Strawberries – Liz Wahle

Striking a balance between long-term weed control needs, crop sensitivity, and herbicide efficacy can be challenging in matted row strawberry production. Under discussion will be the pros and cons of each labeled strawberry herbicide and where each fits best in an overall weed control program.

Small Fruit: Elderberry Developments – Patrick Byers

The presentation will focus on recent developments with elderberry in Missouri. New cultivars will be discussed, as well as reports on ongoing research efforts. Elderberry cultural practices will be shared, and the current state of Missouri's elderberry industry will be presented.

Small Fruit: Disease of Brambles & Blueberries – Megan Kennelly

Brambles and blueberries are colorful, fun specialty crops but unfortunately they are susceptible to several diseases. This presentation will help you identify and manage these diseases, keeping your crop healthy and profitable.

Small Fruit: A Grower's Experience with Berry Production – Cory Schweizer

This presentation will focus on commercial production of blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry; the information will help small-scale growers as well as larger producers.

Small Fruit: Basics of Table Grape Production for Local Markets – Andy Allen

Interest in table grape production for local markets has been increasing in recent years. This presentation will discuss the basics of table grape production for fresh market sales. Among the topics to be discussed are appropriate varieties for the Midwest, trellising, canopy management, disease management, vineyard nutrition, and harvest and handling of table grapes.

Small Fruit: Irrigation Scheduling for Berries: The Plant-Soil-Water Relationship – Craig Pisarkiewicz

We will be discussing how water moves through the soil, how much water soils can hold and how soil moisture affects the plants ability to remove moisture from the soil. We will discuss how all of these relationships effect the scheduling of the irrigation system. We will also discuss equipment that can be used to help schedule irrigation systems based on either EvapoTranspiration (ET) or Soil Moisture.

Beginner Organic: Transplant Production Systems – Chris Blanchard

Greenhouse-grown vegetable transplants are an important part of a successful vegetable farm, and the systems you use for everything from transplant trays and benches to the transplanter you use to set your crop in the field have a significant impact on the quality of your transplants and the cost of producing them. Join Rock Spring Farm's Chris Blanchard for a review of transplant systems on farms throughout the Upper Midwest.

Beginner Organic: Opportunities, Challenges and Resources for the Transitional Organic Vegetable Grower – Matt Kleinhenz

Organic vegetable farming has its own set of challenges and opportunities. For some, the 'transition' period, which can last up to three years, can be difficult. During transition, organic methods and inputs are used but certification is disallowed, often because of soil management history. Many factors influence a farmer's success during transition. In this session, we will discuss the potential benefits of initiating organic production. And, we will review transition issues, strategies, and resources. The speaker will provide his perspective on these topics but audience participation will be encouraged during this interactive session.

Beginner Organic: Organic Certification Topics – CANCELLED

Beginner Organic: Basics of Pest Management in Organic Systems – Jaime Piñero

The National Organic Program (NOP) final rule (USDA, 2000) emphasizes the use of preventive and cultural practices that enhance crop health including crop rotation, cover cropping, sanitation measures, disease-resistant cultivars, etc. This presentation will cover the basic aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in organic vegetable production. It will emphasize that organic farmers need to develop a system of cultural, biological, and/or genetic strategies in a comprehensive pest management program before applying a pesticide as a control measure. The most effective OMRI-listed pesticides that can be used to control insect pests and diseases will be listed and discussed.

Friday General Session Presentations:

Beginner Organic: Overview of Organic Vegetable Disease Management – Dr. Sally Miller

This is a basic introduction to the major diseases of vegetables and their management in organic systems. Basic management principals and techniques will be described, with specific examples of important diseases, including the diagnosis and biology of the pathogens. Emphasis will be placed on cultural practices and use of biological and other disease management approaches allowed in organic vegetable production.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Diseases of Cucurbit Crops – Megan Kennelly

From cucumbers to pumpkins, cucurbits are important crops for many growers, whether large-scale or small-scale. Unfortunately, cucurbits are susceptible to a range of plant diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, and fungi. This presentation will provide an overview of how to prevent, diagnose, and manage these problems.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Insect Management in Vine Crops – Rick Weinzierl

This presentation will be a review of insect pest identification, life histories, scouting methods, and effective control practices for cucumbers, melons, squash, and pumpkins.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: My Experience with Tomato Variety Trials: Reflections on Varietal Tolerance to Disease and Insect Pressure – Liz Wahle

Variety trials not only provide yield data for comparison, but also observational details like relative pest resistance and overall fruit quality. Under discussion will be importance of field trial not only by the seed industry and university system, but also on-farm trials to select the best suited cultivars to your growing conditions.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Using Cover Crops in Vegetable Productions: How-To & Benefits – Rich Hoormann

Vegetable production intensively uses soil resources over a long growing season. Soil resources require attention to maintain productivity during a limited open season. Cover crop research has demonstrated positive results for improving physical, biological, chemical and nutrient characteristics of soil resources beyond just maintenance. This talk presents information on cover crop species suitable for influencing specific soil properties along with how to information on successfully including in vegetable production systems.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Weed Control in Field Tomatoes – Liz Wahle

Field grown tomatoes may be grown with and without plastic mulch. Under discussion will be chemical weed control options for both production systems, detailing problematic weeds and other concerns when developing a weed control program for tomatoes.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Vegetable Diseases, Headline News Edition – Megan Kennelly

Growing vegetables can be a real challenge, since each crop has its own special needs and special problems, including diseases. This session will cover some current hot topics in identifying, preventing, and managing vegetable diseases.

Conventional Vegetable IPM: Updates on New Insecticides & Regulations – Rick Weinzierl

This presentation will be an overview of recent insecticide registrations, effectiveness and selectivity of new products, and regulations affecting the use of existing insecticides.

Marketing & Agritourism: U-Pick Operator Panel in include Basic Operation Overview, Risk Management Issues, Marketing Methods, Working with the Public, and Resources – Becki Rhoades, John Pendleton, Shelley Schierman, Lance Chastain

Get the real dirt on what it takes to operate successful U-Pick operations. Our panel of diverse agritourism enterprise operators will share strategies for marketing, risk management and superior customer service.

Marketing & Agritourism: Marketing to Restaurants – Bill Warner

Restaurants are an important piece of the marketing strategy at Snug Haven Farm. Restaurants can be more reliable and consistent than farmers' markets. Consistency with your product and quality level enhances your relationship with them. With a good working relationship restaurants can also take some of your excess product during peak season. At Snug Haven Farm we work with the restaurant on ways to use our seconds or odd sizes so that we have our best looking product for market.

Marketing & Agritourism: Web 2.0 for Farms: Reaching Customers via the Internet – CANCELLED

Marketing & Agritourism: Buy My Rutabagas: Marketing Horticultural Crops for Retail Sales – Chris Blanchard

To market your produce to food stores, you need to understand the world of retail produce. Chris Blanchard will share Rock Spring Farm's approach to marketing to produce buyers, including communication, branding, how to determine your price, and how stores determine their prices.

Friday General Session Presentations:

Tree Fruit Workshop I: The Threat Posed by the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug – Tracy Leskey

The brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål), is an invasive stink bug (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) that was introduced into Allentown, PA sometime in the mid 1990s. The native range of BMSB includes Korea, China, Taiwan, and Japan. Since its initial introduction, BMSB has established throughout much of the mid-Atlantic and has been officially detected in 35 states and the District of Columbia. This insect has caused significant injury to a number of crops including tree fruit, small fruit, grapes, vegetables, ornamentals and row crops. In addition, it can be serious nuisance pest for homeowners and businesses.

Tree Fruit Workshop I: Labor Augmenting Technologies for the Orchard – Mykel Taylor

I will present results from a Washington State survey of apple growers on the use of orchard platforms, a labor augmenting technology recently introduced to U.S. growers from Europe and New Zealand. The benefits and costs of platforms will be discussed along with barriers to adoption, managerial adjustments, and the opportunities platforms may offer to growers facing labor supply challenges.

Tree Fruit Workshop I: Online Marketing Tools – Kelly Carney

This presentation will provide growers with some examples of online tools that can be used to help capture local markets. Kelly Carney is a grower in central Arkansas, but is also a retired IT professional. Come and listen to the many ways that Kelly has integrated online marketing to build his sales and help his farm grow.

Tree Fruit Workshop I: Codling Moth Update – Rick Weinzierl

Codling moth is one of the most devastating pest of apples and continues to plague apple growers in the Great Plains. Come and hear about the biology of this pest in addition to current recommendations on managing codling moth in the orchard.

Tree Fruit Workshop I: Considerations & Introduction to the Tree Fruit in the Midwest – Patrick O'Malley

Growing tree fruit in the Great Plains can be done successfully, but certainly has its challenges. This session will cover basic growing methods and considerations for new and/or soon-to-be tree fruit growers. Topics to be discussed will include different fruit tree production issues such as type of fruit tree, rootstocks, and site conditions.

Saturday General Presentation Descriptions:

Conventional Vegetables: Growing Pumpkins in the Midwest – Chuck Marr

This presentation will be an overview of pumpkin growing in our region including varieties, fertilization, weed control, dealing with powdery mildew, and implications of marketing strategies for pumpkin growers.

Conventional Vegetables: Recommended Sweet Peppers from K-State Trials – Charles Barden

Results from several years of state-wide Master Gardener observational and limited yield trials will be presented, comparing performance of several types of sweet peppers. Each year new cultivars of peppers and tomatoes are grown at 15 sites across Kansas. Several outstanding varieties of green and yellow bells, gourmet mini peppers, and elongated horn-type peppers have been identified. Sources of seed for the recommended cultivars will be noted.

Conventional Vegetables: Growing Winter Vegetables in the Greenhouse – Lee Matteson

Lee Matteson will be sharing his experience and techniques used to grow salad greens and tomatoes inside greenhouses and high tunnels. These techniques are used to grow high quality vegetables out of season, and this allows him to capture higher retail prices.

Conventional Vegetables: Interesting Observations from a Sweet Corn Demonstration Plot – Liz Wahle

Demonstration trials are a relatively easy way to evaluate a large number of cultivars under the same growing conditions. Seed companies do a great job of supplying base line information but having farm specific performance data helps select cultivars best suited to local growing conditions. Under discussion will be the best cultivars from a Southern Illinois demonstration trial and how that information compares to other trials.

Conventional Vegetables: Integrating Row Covers & Soil Amendments to Improve Cucumber Production – Ajay Nair

In recent years, growers have expressed interest in developing integrated pest management strategies for cucumber beetle control. In that context, row covers are increasingly being used in cucumber production. In addition to insect exclusion, row covers serve various other purposes which include season extension, increased plant growth, enhanced yield and earliness. This presentation will focus on how row covers modify crop micro-climate and affect cucumber plant growth and yield. In addition, effects of compost applications in conjunction with row covers will also be discussed.

Conventional Vegetables: Biodegradable Mulches for Vegetables – Joe Hannan

Polyethylene mulches do not degrade and must be removed from the field and discarded each season. Several degradable plastic mulches have been developed that are meant to be incorporated into the soil profile, eliminating the need for removal, with no negative impact on soil quality or health. However, these degradable plastics often do not meet degradation expectations. Several new plastics have been evaluated for ease of use and degradation in vegetable crops.

Saturday General Presentation Descriptions:

Conventional Vegetables: Chili Variety Trials – What is the Best One to Grow in Missouri – Steven Kirk

Jalapeno, Poblano and New Mexican 'Big Chili' (Anaheim, etc.) types of peppers are the most popular chilies grown and consumed in America today. Anyone who has attempted to grow these chilies in Missouri and around the Midwest, have experienced the challenges associated with these peppers. At Lincoln University Cooperative Extension's George Washington Carver Farm, we have undertaken the task of determining which of the many cultivars of these 3 chilies will perform best under our often extreme growing conditions. 2011 is the first year of our Chili Pepper Variety Trial, and the preliminary results will be featured in this presentation.

Conventional Vegetables: Missouri Vegetable Variety Trials Updates: Tomato & Watermelon – Sanjun Gu

The 2011 results of field tomato and seedless watermelon variety trials conducted by Lincoln University of Missouri will be presented. Tomato varieties were tested in Central Missouri. Seedless watermelons were tested in Southeast, Southwest and Central regions of MO.

Advanced Organic: Long-term Soil Management – Matt Kleinhenz

The expression "Healthy soils, healthy crops, healthy people" is popular among organic farmers. To many, it indicates that soil, crop and human health are directly connected. Farmers recognize that soil stewardship influences input costs and revenue -- the balance being profit potential. Successful organic farmers account for rotation, production calendars, crop nutrient demand, weed control, and many other factors when making soil management decisions. In this session, we will discuss overall soil management issues and strategies -- in short, what steps may be needed to maintain soil health? The speaker will provide his perspective on these topics but audience participation will be encouraged.

Advanced Organic: Disease Prevention and Crop Rescue in Field and High Tunnel Organic Vegetables – Dr. Sally Miller

One of the most critical challenges to production of high quality vegetables is the wide variety of diseases that weaken, kill or render portions of crops unsalable. This presentation will feature integrated approaches to optimizing plant health, preventing diseases and treating them if necessary in organic vegetable production systems. High tunnels present a very different environment for crop production than open fields, and plants face a different variety of disease pressures in the two systems. Specific examples of critical diseases of high tunnel and field tomatoes and other vegetables will be used to illustrate disease management approaches that are integrated into the production system.

Advanced Organic: Improving Vegetable Production through Cover Crop and Compost Amendments – Ajay Nair

One of the core philosophies of organic production systems is the development of healthy and productive soil that provides essential nutrients for plant growth and supports diverse and active soil biotic communities. Incorporation of cover crops and compost bear paradigm importance under organic production systems as they improve soil organic matter, supply nutrients, and improve soil health and quality. This presentation will focus on two cover crops, cereal rye and hairy vetch, and dairy compost and discuss their effect on crop yield, fruit quality and soil health under organically managed cucumber and tomato production systems.

Advanced Organic: Organic Field Tomato Production: 2011 Research Findings – Kathleen Delate

Tackling the challenge of field production of organic tomatoes will be discussed, including the use of disease-tolerant cultivars, compost, mulches, drip irrigation, and the effects of organic no-tillage treatments. Results from ISU and University of Florida research will be presented.

Advanced Organic: Using Trap Crops to Minimize Insect Pest Damage to Organic Vegetables – Jaime Piñero

Trap crops are plants that are planted next to a higher value crop so as to attract the pest to that area thus preventing or making less likely the arrival of the pest to the cash crop. Insects congregated in trap crops can be more easily attacked by natural enemies and/or killed by small amounts of insecticides or by other physical means (e.g., flaming). This presentation will (1) explain the advantages of using trap crops, (2) provide examples of plants that can be used to manage insect populations in various vegetable crops, and (3) provide tips and explain the procedures.

Advanced Organic: Organic Pesticides and Biopesticides – Raymond Cloyd

This presentation will discuss the types/classes of organic pesticides and biopesticides commercially available for use on horticultural crops, their advantages and limitations, and the major insect and mite pests they are most effective against. In addition, this presentation will attempt to provide reliable information and "defuse" the misconceptions associated with organic and biopesticides.

Advanced Organic: Challenges Faced in 2011 – Liz Graznak & Bob Lominska

Liz Graznak

The 2011 farming season in central Missouri was cold & wet early, blazing hot & dry thru most of the summer & absolutely gorgeous this past the fall. We farmers never know what to expect as far as the weather goes so, we have to plan for all possible scenarios. Farming is a challenging business and being prepared is key. We'll revisit the 2011 growing season and briefly discuss tactics for being prepared for all the scenarios that mother nature throws our way.

Saturday General Presentation Descriptions:

Cut Flowers Workshop: The Why of Weird Sunflowers – Laurie Hodges

This presentation will emphasize growing quality sunflowers by understanding the causes of flower abnormalities that reduce market quality. A brief overview of growing sunflowers for the local cut flower market will be included.

Cut Flowers Workshop: Growing Cut Flowers for Bouquets: An Overview of Harvest Mood Flower Farm – Linda Chapman

If you're interested in learning about varieties of flowers that have customer appeal, effective marketing strategies, and other value-added ways to raise your farm's floral profit margin, come join Linda during the cut flower presentation. Beginning and veteran flower growers will all come away from the day with new inspiring ideas about how to energize their 2012 season.

Farmers' Market: Ten Things to Think About Before Getting Started in Market Farming – Chris Blanchard

Getting started in market farming means more than just growing vegetables. It means taking on the responsibilities of owning a business, managing markets, grappling with philosophies, and managing a labor force. Join Rock Spring Farm's Chris Blanchard for a look at ten things to think about as you prepare the ground for starting your market farm, or as you seek to expand your market farm into a significant income-generator for yourself and your family.

Farmers' Market: Record Keeping & Marketing Tips for Farmers' Market Success – Paul & Sandy Arnold

Marketing is very critical to the success of any farm and the Arnolds will show how they approach their only marketing channel to make a living at farming--- 3 weekly farmers' markets, two of which operate year-round. Displays, products, presentation, workers at their tables, and the variety of products are critical parts of the equation and all need managing to keep customers happy and coming back. However, beyond the actual displays, record keeping is an important tool to know what to bring each week and also what crops have higher values to increase profitability. They will go over their farm's simple but valuable tracking system which can show how some crops can earn at a level of over \$200,000 per acre!

Farmers' Market: Farm Visits & Inspections – Eileen Nichols & Deb Connors

Markets can use these visits not only to verify production, but also to alert vendors to food safety issues, to connect vendors willing to teach with those wanting to learn and to gather information for publicizing products and producers.

Farmers' Market: Measuring Success: Establishing a Plan to Evaluate Your Market – Mercedes Taylor-Puckett

What does success look like? Without goals and a plan it's hard to know. We'll take a look at how developing pre-season goals and selecting the appropriate evaluation tools can assist market organizers to determine what is and isn't working.

Farmers' Market: State Farmers Market Association Panel – Eileen Nichols (MO) & Elaine Cranford (NE)

Both Iowa and Missouri have established market associations while Nebraska is working to get its off the ground. What goes into developing a state association? What are its benefits? How do you keep it thriving? And how might we collaborate regionally to strengthen our markets?

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: Cultivate KC – Katherine Kelly

Urban farming will be the initial focus with the lead off presenter Katherine Kelly of the non-profit Cultivate KC, which helps people grow and eat healthy, quality food in city neighborhoods. Katherine has been a vegetable grower in the Midwest and active with local foods, urban farming and nonprofits in Kansas City since 1996.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: Learning the Language: Successful Methods for Immigrant Farm Training – Warren Kittler & Rachel Pollock

Several urban farm training programs in the US support immigrants and refugees as they strive to develop successful, sustainable farm businesses. Kansas City's New Roots for Refugees program and Lincoln's Growing Farmers Training Program serve different immigrant communities in different settings with different methods. Learn how each program has evolved to overcome the challenges faced by immigrant vegetable growers.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: Serving the Homeless through Urban Ag – Rachel Deffenbaugh & Bob Kocher

Gateway Greening's City Seeds Urban Farm uses organic practices to grow a diversified selection of seasonal crops. However, it is City Seed's programming that really makes this urban farm exceptional. This informational session will focus on the therapeutic horticulture and jobs training programs that are conducted with individuals suffering from homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness and/or recidivism. The programs utilize the farm as a therapeutic and educational tool to assist individuals in their recovery and employment goals.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: South Dakota Youth Gardening Programs – Chris Zdorovtsov

SDSU Extension partnered with the local urban agricultural initiative, known as 'Ground Works,' by integrating a school garden into classroom curriculum; assisting with an after school program focused on plant and food sciences and leadership development; and developing lessons for summer programs that feature types of vegetables, plant science topics and components to teach character.

Saturday General Presentation Descriptions:

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: *Growing With Your Community* – Melissa Millsap

Melissa will present an overview of their organization and current projects (urban farm, DIRT and CRAFT) which includes their vision; process in working with the district, plan for sustainability and the curriculum; and successes/frustrations and they are working towards solutions.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: *Ornamental Edibles: Integrating Food into the Landscape* – Matt Bunch

Many of us live in cities and urban areas and find it hard to grow food in that environment. Space, sunlight, squirrels, homeowners associations, and neighborhood aesthetics make urban home food gardening a challenge. There are fruits and vegetables and techniques for growing them that can turn a food desert home landscape into a feast for the mouth and the eyes.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: *Pruning and Training Apples & Pears for Community Garden Production* – Patrick O'Malley

Pruning equipment, objectives, and techniques will be discussed. This will be followed by an explanation of pruning and training systems for apples and pears including central leader and espalier.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: *The Master Gardener's Backyard Garden at the nearby K-State Center* – Alan Stevens

Come hear about the 'backyard garden' at this Kansas State University Research station. It is primarily designed, planted, and maintained by the Johnson County Master Gardeners and focuses on vegetable and fruit crops. This collaborative effort between a university research farm and a nearby Master Gardener group can provide motivation and insights to others interested in this type of project.

Urban Hort. & Comm. Gardens: *Locating & Growing in High Tunnels Within City Limits* – Greg Garbos

Local zoning and regulations can make putting up a high tunnel in an urban area, not to mention a community garden, a bit complicated. Here from someone who has had some experience in this matter, and also what some of those community gardens are producing in high tunnels for the benefit of those using these gardens.

Fruit Growers Tour & Grape Vine Pruning Session at Schweizer Orchard – Cory Schweizer & Marlin Bates

This Orchard and Vineyard tour will be located at Schweizer Orchards, just outside of St. Joseph and approximately 25 minutes from the conference location. We will plan to meet at the farm and you will be able to see traditional as well as high-density apple orchard systems. Cory Schweizer will lead the tour and provide us with considerations for growing tree fruit in Missouri in addition to the ins and outs of growing Apples with high-density systems. In addition to Apples, Cory will provide us with a tour of their grape vineyard and Marlin Bates (MU Extension) will provide a demonstration of grape pruning methods on several different pruning systems. He will also talk about some of the challenges of growing grapes in the Great Plains and ways to manage this crop successfully.