



Organic Certification 101

Saturday, November 7th 2009

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

K-State Research and Extension Station
35230 W. 135th St.
Olathe, KS 66061

Cost: \$30.00 (includes lunch)

The USDA regulates use of the term “organic” and requires that growers using that term to describe or market their products comply with the standards outlined in the National Organic Program (NOP). The certification and inspection process required to use the term organic can seem intimidating, but basic recordkeeping, crop rotation practices, soil management and careful selection of inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers form the foundation of the program. We will review both the practices and paperwork necessary for certification. .

- 9:00 - 11:00** **Organic Certification 101**
Daniel Parson*, Parson Produce (GA)
Learn about the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) requirements for getting your farm certified. Taught from a grower's perspective, the speaker will give practical tools to help with every aspect of obtaining and maintaining organic certification. The emphasis will be on record-keeping, applications, resources, and approved materials lists. Materials will include a copy of the rule as well as a farm plan worksheet that will be used in the presentation.
- 11:00 – 11:15** **Break**
- 11:15 – 12:00** **Certification Inspector Q&A**
Elizabeth Nelson, Organic Inspector
Liz Nelson inspects crop, livestock and processing facilities for several different certification agencies. She will discuss the inspection process from the inspector's perspective, review common mistakes/problems found during inspections and answer questions.
- 12:00 – 12:45** **Lunch (provided)**
- 12:45 - 2:45** **Organic Certification continued**
An overview of soil building and crop rotation strategies for certified organic farms.
- 2:45 – 3:00** **Break**
- 3:00 –4:00** **The Decision to Certify**
Jill Elmers, Moon on the Meadow Farm and Bob Lominska, Hoyland Farms
The decision to pursue organic certification will be different for every farm, taking into account the possible benefits and challenges. Moon on the Meadow recently became certified while Hoyland elected to allow their certification to lapse; Jill and Bob will discuss how they came to their decisions.
- 4:00 - 5:00** **Resources for Certification (including EQIP and state certification cost share programs).**
Mary Fund, Kansas Rural Center
An introduction to the programs and funds available to help growers with certification costs and practices.

* Daniel Parson is in his twelfth season of organic growing. He started in 1998 at wildflower organics in Dawsonville, GA, where he worked four years. Next, he managed the Clemson University student organic farm for two years, and operated Gaia Gardens in Decatur, GA for five years. This year is the start of a new venture, Parson Produce, featuring a CSA and market garden near Clinton, SC. Daniel has two degrees from Clemson, a BS in Biological Sciences, and an MS in Plant and Environmental Science, focusing on cover crops and organic systems. Daniel has presented on various organic topics to many state and regional groups, including Southern SAWG and Georgia Organics. Recently, Daniel won the 2009 Georgia Organics Land Steward of the Year Award and was listed on Mother Nature Network's 40 farmers under 40.

* **TO REGISTER, CONTACT LAURA CHRISTENSEN: GROWERS@KSU.EDU or (816) 805-0362** *