2010 Small Farm Conference July 31 and August 1, 2010

The Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held July 31-Aug. 1, 2010 in Kissimmee, FL. It will feature educational sessions, exhibitors and more. Early registration is encouraged. For more information about the event and how to participate, visit the “Florida SF/AE Conference” on the Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises website, http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu.

We are pleased to announce Will Allen as the Keynote speaker for the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference. Recently named as Time's 100 World's Most Influential People, Will Allen is also the recipient of multiple awards including a MacArthur Fellowship in 2008. He is founder and chief executive officer of Growing Power, Inc., an organization that continues to receive ever-growing acclaim for its innovated approach in providing education and healthy foods to communities, where before there were “food deserts”. The organization has one simple goal: "to grow food, to grow minds, and to grow community". For more information and a flyer to distribute about Will Allen see the first attachment.

Online registration is fully functional on the Conference website at http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/2010/index.shtml

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Bob Hochmuth at 386-362-1725 ext. 103 or bobhoch@ufl.edu; Contact Susan Kelly for exhibit information at 352-793-2728 ext. 236 or sakelly@ufl.edu

Deadlines to remember

- First, there are only 34 days to the June 15th deadline for applications for the farmer scholarship.
- Second, there are only 61 days to the July 12th deadline for the 'Early Bird' registration deadline for the most economical price of $110 for both days. Afterwards it increases to $160 !

Check out the YouTube video for the Conference http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1EVJYq6cEA

National Goat Conference- It’s very Close! Tallahassee

Please mark your calendars for the National Goat Conference, September 12-15th, 2010 at the Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee, FL, hosted by Florida A & M University.

Conference Goal:

The overall goal of the National Goat Conference is to provide educational and training opportunities for producers, agricultural professionals, and students on goat production, management and marketing to help enhance the viability of the goat industry in the U.S.

Please visit the website at: http://www.famu.edu/cesta/main/index.cfm/cooperative-extension-program/small-ruminant/national-goat-conference/general-information/

Troubleshooting Tomato Problems

Check out Market Maker

The goal of MarketMaker is to make the site a resource for all businesses in the food supply chain. They are as interested in helping a grocery store find farm-fresh eggs as we are helping the farmer find a place to sell them. MarketMaker is rich with demographic and business data that the user can query. Details can be summarized on a map to show concentrations of consumer markets and strategic business partners. Providing this kind of information in a map-based format makes much more sense than business lists and statistical tables.

Census data is also a feature of the site. For example, a producer wanting to sell meat to Hispanic consumers can request a map showing the greatest concentration of upper-income Hispanic households, then request a complete demographic profile of those locations.

For more information, see the national website at http://national.markettmaker.uiuc.edu/

Florida -MarketMaker is open at this time exclusively for farmers. In early fall when all intended users will be offered access to register to use FL MarketMaker. At this time they are requesting farmers register online to begin a comprehensive database of FL farmers and their food products. To this end, please, go to the following website: http://fl.markettmaker.uiuc.edu/index.php

German Agricultural Students visit Immokalee

Collier County Ag Agent collaborated with the Triesdorf - Agriculture Germany and All-American tours to host thirty German college senior agriculture students to explore local fruit and vegetable farms and farmer’s markets in Collier. The students visited Silver Strand III Citrus Grove and the Immokalee Produce Market

(Manager - Forrest Taylor, pictured to the right)

Landscaping 101—A program for the Home Gardener

Whether it’s called landscape, garden or yard it’s a big investment in time and money for the homeowner. Learning how to choose the right plants, how to keep them healthy and how to discourage insect pests and plant diseases can save additional time and money.

**Landscaping 101** is a six-week program designed to help the home gardener make the most of their investment. Topics include Plant Selection, Irrigation, Fertilization, Pruning, and more... The class will be limited to 30 participants, pre-registration is required.

- **When:** Every Tuesday, June 29 – August 3, 2010, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- **Where:** Collier County Extension Office, 14700 Immokalee Road, Naples
- **Cost:** $40 (Due the first day of class)

Need more information? Want to register? Contact the CC University Extension Office at 239-353-4244

The **25th Annual Tomato Disease Workshop** will be hosted by University of Florida on November 16-18, 2009. The conference will be held at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center located in Balm, FL. A tomato marker workshop is planned for the 16th of November in association with the Tomato Breeder Workgroup. All the details are online at http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Robert D. Halman, County Extension Director/Agriculture Agent

14700 Immokalee Road Phone: (239) 353 - 4244  FAX: (239) 353 - 7127
Naples, FL 34120 - 1468  E-mail: rdhalman@ufl.edu

Please make this newsletter a two way communication tool by keeping me informed of your educational programming needs and other comments. Enjoy!