Webinar series will offer extensive high tunnel information

Learn about season extension in high tunnel production systems in a new webinar series sponsored by the Center for Crop Diversification, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and the Barnhart Fund for Excellence. There will be six webinars, each 75 minutes long, in February and March of 2015. The series will cover market opportunities, structure options and construction, organic production and certification, crop and equipment options, pest pressure and control, as well as a summary of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative. For more information, and to register, please contact Miranda at 859-218-4384 or miranda.hileman@uky.edu.

All webinars will be broadcast from 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. EST.

Webinar Schedule

- **February 17** — Season Extension Opportunities & EQIP Funding
- **February 24** — Structure Options, Construction, Ventilation & Temperature Control
- **March 3** — Organic Certification & Marketing High Tunnel Crops
- **March 10** — Crop, Irrigation & Equipment Options
- **March 17** — Insect, Weed & Disease Control
- **March 24** — Producer Views & Series Wrap-up
KDA taking applications for 2015 hemp pilot projects

Kentucky Department of Agriculture press release

FRANKFORT — Kentucky farmers and processors interested in participating in the 2015 round of industrial hemp pilot projects must apply by Jan. 1, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has announced.

“The first round of pilot projects with the universities and individual farmers in 2014 yielded a tremendous amount of data about production methods, seed varieties, harvesting and processing techniques, and uses for the harvested hemp,” Agriculture Commissioner James Comer said. “We’re looking to conduct a wide scope of pilot projects in 2015. When the day comes that commercial hemp production is open to all producers and processors in Kentucky, we want to be ready.”

A physical address of the location for the production fields to be used to grow, process, or store industrial hemp must be submitted with the application. Applicants are asked to provide global positioning coordinates for the property if possible. Applicants who are selected will undergo background checks and site visits.

A person with a felony drug conviction within 10 years of submitting an application shall not be eligible to participate in any pilot project.

The application is available for download on the department’s website at www.kyagr.com/hemp. Applications may be completed electronically and submitted to doris.hamilton@ky.gov. Applications also may be printed, filled out, and mailed to Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Industrial Hemp Program, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Applicants may attach a business plan or other supporting documents. Applications expire Dec. 31, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified in late January.

For more information on Kentucky’s industrial hemp program, go to www.kyagr.com/hemp.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

The Center for Crop Diversification would like to thank all of its supporters for your interest and encouragement over the past year. We’ve been growing and changing, developing new resources with you in mind, and we hope that you’re able to take advantage of them! We really appreciate the financial assistance we’ve received, as well as the working relationships and collaborations that have been formed over the past year. We couldn’t have done all this without you! Thank you. Happy holidays and we’ll see you next year!

Don’t miss the 2015 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

The 2015 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held January 5-6 at Embassy Suites in Lexington. Pre-conference activities include tree fruit, small fruit and vegetable round table discussions on Sunday, January 4. The registration fee of $40 includes a year’s membership in the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, Kentucky State Horticultural Society or Organic Association of Kentucky, or entrance into the Grape & Wine Short Course.

The conference will include sessions on farmers
markets, commercial fruit and vegetable production, greenhouse and high tunnel production, small fruit production, organic production, the Grape and Wine Short Course, direct marketing, and agritourism. Out-of-state speakers will include Brad Bergefurd, horticulture specialist, The Ohio State University; Dr. Imed Dami, viticulturist, The Ohio State University; Dr. Dan Egel, Extension plant pathologist, Southwest Purdue Agriculture Program; Cane Hickey, Ph.D. student, Alson H. Smith Jr. Agriculture Research and Extension Center; Whitney Horral and Melanie Ellis, Indiana growers (Melon Acres); Nathan Johanning, Extension educator, University of Illinois; Michael Jones, Scott Labs; Dr. David Lockwood, Extension fruit specialist, University of Tennessee; Todd Steiner, enologist, The Ohio State University; and Dr. Christopher Walsh, professor of pomology, University of Maryland.

There will be an optional Celebration of Kentucky Wines on Monday evening. Exhibitor/grower and conference luncheons will feature Kentucky Proud products. The conference trade show will feature approximately 50 vendors, including companies offering seeds and agricultural supplies, and educational exhibits. Check the Center for Crop Diversification Events page at http://www.uky.edu/ag/CCD/events.html for the conference program and registration form. Be sure to visit the CCD booth at the trade show!

SSAWG Conference offers wealth of educational options

The Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference will be held January 14-17 in Mobile, AL. The program includes short courses, mini courses, field trips, and an extensive slate of presentations on a variety of topics. These include sustainable and organic crop production, in fields and in high tunnels; grazing and holistic livestock management; direct and cooperative marketing; farm and food policy; farm enterprise and business management; farm to school; food hubs; beginning farming; local food systems and more.

The SSAWG Conference, which typically draws in excess of 1,000 attendees, also features a trade show with a variety of vendors offering agricultural supplies and educational exhibits. For more information and to register for the conference, visit the SSAWG website. Stop by the trade show and visit the Center for Crop Diversification booth.

Also coming up in January ....

January is a busy month for agricultural conferences. In addition to the Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and the SSAWG meeting, check out the offerings at the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference in Springfield (January 7-9), the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association Congress in Sandusky (January 19-21), and the Indiana Hort Congress in Indianapolis (January 20-22). Be sure to take advantage of an educational opportunity in your area.

Check out new sweet corn app

The Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group has just released an app about sweet corn management! The University of Kentucky’s very own Shawn Wright, Extension specialist with the Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability, put all the weed information together for this app. The Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management guide is a quick, colorful, and handy reference for growers, Extension educators, crop consultants, and industry field representatives who work in the North Central Region and Ontario, Canada. The information presented is brief, and cannot include every possible pest or management option in fresh market or processing sweet corn production in these areas. So, the guide focuses on the most critical pests and management options. Download it for free from the iTunes App Store at https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/ wa/viewSoftware?id=799546284&mt=8.

Subscribe!

Thanks for reading, and please contact Miranda at miranda.hileman@uky.edu if you are interested in subscribing to our online newsletter.