Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference
August 1 & 2, 2009
Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, Florida
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1
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Hello!
We invite you to participate in the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference. The conference is scheduled August 1 and 2, 2009 in Kissimmee, Florida.

Increased consumer demand for local products such as organic, heirloom, hydroponic, grass-fed beef, pastured poultry and ethnic meats and vegetables are providing new and increased opportunities for producers.

The USDA defines small farms as those with gross annual sales of $250,000 or less. Small farms contribute 37% of the value of all agricultural products sold in the U.S. In Florida, 93% of the 47,000 farms are defined by the USDA as small farms and this number is growing.

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE
The conference will provide two full days of educational and networking activities geared to small farms. Educational events will consist of presentations, workshops, demonstrations, and discussion groups on a variety of topics. Topics will include:

* Alternative Energy
* Alternative Enterprises
* Business and Marketing
* Horticulture
* Livestock including live animal exhibits
* Organic & Sustainable Farming
* Policy and Regulations

Networking opportunities will range from visiting with exhibitors with new products and technologies to refreshment breaks and lunches featuring product from Florida farms.

If you are affiliated with, interested in, or just want to learn more about diversified farming enterprises and community-based food systems in Florida, you will want to participate in this conference.

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND

* Small Family Farms
* Transitional Farmers
* Beginning farmers
* Allied-industry representatives
* Educators and researchers
* Institutional members
* Agricultural associations
* Policy-makers
* Foundations
* Anyone interested in strengthening the small farm community in Florida

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REGISTRATION

Register by JUNE 1 to receive the REDUCED Rate

Full Attendee: Sat & Sun $100.00

Saturday Only Attendee $70.00

Sunday Only Attendee $70.00

Click on the link below for Registration Information
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/registration.htm

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COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

Hear the Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson talk about the Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference by clicking on the following link.

http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/bronson.mp3

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BECOME AN EXHIBITOR - Visibility is VITAL to Success

* Increase awareness of the value of your products and services to clients.
* Strengthen relationships with existing customers and clients.
* With roughly 800 anticipated small farm producers and other attendees, the conference is big enough to make participating worthwhile, but small enough to build meaningful and personal relationships.
* The exhibit area will be the primary gathering place for attendees.
* A portion of Saturday's program is dedicated to visit with exhibitors.
* One complimentary registration is included with each exhibit package providing you with an additional benefit to participate in educational sessions and the lunches, maximizing your networking time.
* Learn about innovative research findings to improve your business, AND increase your opportunities to meet new customers.

CLICK on the below link to learn more about becoming an exhibitor
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/exhibit.htm

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We wish to thank the organizations that take the extra step to partner with us by being a sponsor. It is with great pleasure to recognize the following for their support.

SUSTAINING PARTNER
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
If you would like to learn more about how your organization can become a sponsor, please visit Become a Sponsor on the conference website or contact Bob Hochmuth, Chair of the Fund raising Committee. Email: bobhoch@ufl.edu

CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FLORIDA SMALL FARMS
http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu

The Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference is hosted by:
University of Florida/IFAS and Florida A&M University

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

General
Mandy Stage
Conference Coordinator
TEL: 352-392-5930
EMAIL: mstage@ufl.edu

Educational Program
Danielle Treadwell
Committee Co-chair
TEL: 352-392-1928
EMAIL: ddtreadw@ufl.edu