

Using High Tunnels for Season Extension: Introduction & Special Topics

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Time: 9:00am – 2:30pm

Location: North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University Farm, 3136 McConnell Road, Greensboro, NC

Registration Fee: \$25– Includes Lunch

Register Online: <http://go.ncsu.edu/season-extension-3-28-17>

As the consumer interest in the local food movement rapidly expands, medium and large scale buyers are seeking to increase sales of local products. One strategy growers can explore to meet this need is season extension through the use of high and low tunnels.

High tunnels are low-tech, low-cost tools that allow growers to extend the growing season of vegetables and small fruit crops, potentially increasing market opportunities and farm profits. **Two separate sessions will be offered; We will be together for lunch and the farm tour.**

- A **beginners session** in high tunnel production and basic regional marketing strategies. Topics include type and structure of high tunnels, site selection and orientation, key construction points, crop selections and key management strategies of crops and high tunnels.
- An **advanced session** for growers already producing in high tunnels and increasing their regional wholesale marketing strategies. Topics include microclimate characteristics, planting dates for vegetable crops, trellising and pruning, cover crops, insect pest screening, and low/high tunnel strawberries.

The latest research results from A&T will be shared. Presenters will also discuss various high tunnel equipment vendors, noting the features important to include for extended season growing in the Piedmont region. NRCS high tunnel cost share program details will be available. The day will conclude a high tunnel farm tour at NC A&T research farm.

Speakers Include: **John Beck**, Extension Associate, Horticulture Unit Coordinator, **Sanjun Gu**, Horticulture Extension Specialist **John Ivey**, Guilford County, Extension Agent, Agriculture - Crop Science, **MaryJac Brennan**, Forsyth County Extension Agent, Small Farms & Local Foods Coordinator, **Laura Lauffer**, Project Coordinator, Local Farms and Food, N.C. A&T State University, Cooperative Extension Program, North Carolina Growing Together, CEFS

**Questions? Call Laura Lauffer at 336-285-4690
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