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NC GROWING TOGETHER Connecting Local Foods to Mainstream Markets





Using High Tunnels for Season Extension: Introduction & Special Topics

Date: Monday March 27, 2017 **Time**: 9:00am – 2:30pm

Location: Morning: Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension Office & Afternoon: Lomax Incubator Farm (both in Concord) **Registration Fee**: \$25– Includes Lunch

Register Online: <u>http://go.ncsu.edu/high-tunnels-3-27-17</u>

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. Although high tunnels are considered low-tech, maximizing production and profits can be difficult. During this workshop participants will be equipped with the knowledge to increase their high tunnel production efficiency through proper management techniques. A special topic of grafted heirloom tomato production will be discussed and demonstrated at a local farm. Session topics include high tunnel production, transplant production, grafted heirloom tomatoes in a high tunnel, and NRCS high tunnel cost share programs. We'll also discuss regional marketing opportunities for high tunnel production.

The afternoon hands-on portion will be at the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm where research is currently being conducted on grafted heirloom tomatoes in a high tunnel. Greenhouse and transplant production will also be demonstrated.

Speakers Include:

Laura Lauffer, Project Coordinator, Local Farms and Food, N.C. A&T State University, Cooperative Extension Program

Local Representative, Natural Resource Conservation Service **Gena Moore**, Organic Research Coordinator, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Aaron Newton, Lomax Farm Manager, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

Lauren Duncan, Area Horticulture Agent, NC Cooperative Extension

Regional farmers include:

Allen Blake, Owner of Maters and More Farm Cody Hammel, Hammel Heritage Farm

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