

The Nevada Organic Advisory Council presents . . .



Growing Profits by Growing Organic

Featuring Miles McEvoy

Deputy Administrator, National Organic Program

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

April 7-8, 2011

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
8050 Paradise Road, Ste. 100, Las Vegas, NV, 89123

For More Information, Visit the Friends of Nevada Organics

Web Site at <http://www.friendsofnvorganics.org/> or

NRCS Nevada at <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov>

Nevada Organic Conference 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011

8:00-8:30 A.M.	Registration Continental Breakfast/ Mixer provided by Whole Foods Market and Davidson's Tea	
	TRACK ONE	TRACK TWO
8:30 -9:15 A.M.	ORGANIC SYSTEMS PLANS Peggy McKie, NDOA	BENEFICIAL INSECTS Rex Dufour, ATTRA
9:15-10:00 A.M.	CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THROUGH NCAT Jeff Schahczenski	BUILDING SOIL ORGANICALLY Mark O'Farrell, Hungry Mother Organics
10:00-10:30 A.M.	Break	
10:30-11.45 A.M.	NEVADA STATE ORGANIC PROGRAM Steve Marty, NDOA	WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES James Gatzke, NRCS
12:00-1:00 P.M.	Lunch prepared by Chef Michelle Palmer	
1:15--2:30 P.M.	MARKETING YOUR ORGANIC PRODUCE Darcy Landis, Whole Foods and Rick Lattin, Nevada Grown	ORGANIC FARMSCAPING Jana Vanderhaar, MLA
2:30-3:15 P.M.	CROP INSURANCE Jeff Schahczenski, NCAT	URBAN FARMING Genevieve Morgan, San Vicente Farms, Silver City, N.M. and Rhonda Killough, Project AngelFaces, Las Vegas
3:15-3:30 P.M.	Break	
3:30-4:00 P.M.	VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS Rick Lattin, Nevada Grown Steve Foster, UNCE	ORGANIC PROCESSING John and Sharon Davidson, Davidson's Teas
4:00-5:00 P.M.	CONSERVATION METHODS Moapa Band of Paiutes Farm	NRCS ORGANIC AND HIGH TUNNEL INITIATIVES Albert Mulder, NRCS

Friday, April 8, 2011

8:00-9:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast / Mixer provided by Whole Foods Market and Davidson's Tea	
9:00-10:00 A.M.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator, USDA National Organic Program	
10:00-10:30 A.M.	Break	
10:30-12:00 A.M.	USDA ROUNDTABLE: "WHAT CAN THE USDA DO FOR YOU" Featuring Representatives from FSA, AMS, USDA-RD, and NRCS	



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SPEAKER INFORMATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MILES MCEVOY has served as Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program, since September, 2009. For more than 20 years, McEvoy led the Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Organic Food Program, one of the nation's first state organic certification programs. In 2001, he helped establish the WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program. From 1993 until 1995, McEvoy was the founding Director of The Food Alliance, a program that blends sustainable farming practices and social welfare components into an eco-label program.



In 1998, he helped establish the National Association of State Organic Programs and served as President from 2001-2004 and 2007-2009. He also assisted the Montana and Oregon Departments of Agriculture in developing their states' organic certification programs. He holds a Master's of Entomology from Cornell University.

JOHN and SHARON DAVIDSON, former owners Davidson's Tea in Sparks, Nev., now work for the company as consultants. The Davidsons converted a large product line of conventional teas to organic many years ago, and operate a fully organic processing facility in Sparks. They're involved in import/export of organic teas and spices, and market their teas nationally and internationally.

REX DUFOUR has been with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) since 1994, and opened and has managed a new California office for NCAT since 2001. The focus of his work is on organic and ecological pest management, farmscaping, and training agriculture professionals about organic agriculture. Rex's publications and trainings emphasize that good pest management and healthy plants begin with healthy soils. Rex spent 9 years doing development and pest management work in Thailand and Laos. Through NCAT, Rex helped develop Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans for potatoes and small grains on US Fish and Wildlife Service land leased to farmers in Tule Lake, Calif. He has been trained as a Certified Organic Crop Inspector by the International Organic Inspectors Association. Rex graduated from The Colorado College with a B.A. in Biology and has a M.Sc. in IPM from UC Riverside.

STEPHEN FOSTER is an Assistant Professor and Extension Educator in Pershing County. He holds a B.S. degree in Food Technology and a M.S. degree in Agricultural Education. He has been an Extension Educator for 16 years in which time he has developed and taught in numerous agricultural outreach programs, including

livestock production, agronomic crop production, farm management, recordkeeping, and recordkeeping analysis. As a Certified Agronomic Crop Advisor, Foster conducts applied research and ties this directly to his outreach teaching for producers in Central-Northeast Nevada.

JAMES GATZKE, manages the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Caliente, Nev. During his nine years in the office, he has worked with farmers to conserve water by implementing a variety of irrigation systems from center pivots to pipelines for flood irrigation to drip systems. He designed the irrigation system used by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension for their on-farm trials using high tunnels. Before joining the NRCS, James worked with indigenous farmers (organic farmers due to poverty and isolation) in the Panamanian cordillera to level and irrigate rice paddies.

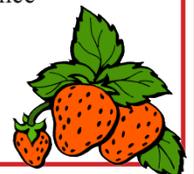
RHONDA KILLOUGH is founder and director of Project AngelFaces, a grassroots organization with four programs that, in essence, provides fresh fruit and vegetables to Las Vegas Seniors and Youth. My four programs are Food Recovery, Community Support, Organic Gardening and Tribal Gardens. There is much excitement buzzing about Project AngelFaces. We are creating systems of support for all aspects of the community, with our focus on supporting at risk youth and seniors in need through providing access to increased nutritional opportunities.

DARCY LANDIS is the local forager for Whole Foods Market Las Vegas and Arizona. Whole Foods Market is the largest retailer of natural and organic foods in the nation. Focus on local producers is an extension of their commitment to our community, customers and growers. Whole Foods Market supports the idea that organic practices are the best action we can take to support our shareholders and our environment.

RICK LATTIN owns Lattin Farms in Fallon, Nev. Along with his entire farm family, he has converted most of his formerly conventional farm to organic. He is an expert in specialty crop marketing, and does a lot of outreach and promotion for the Nevada Grown label. Rick brings his expertise on transitional farming in Northern Nevada, value-added products, farmer's markets, agritourism, and much more!

STEVE MARTY attended school at MSU in Bozeman, MT and then at UNR, receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental and Resource Science and Chemistry. He worked in the Nevada Department of Agriculture's

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Nevada Organic Conference 2011

Pesticide Regulatory Program and the Entomology Department before getting his current job as an Agriculturist IV for Seed and Organic Certification. Steve will discuss NDOA's Organic Certification Program.

PEGGY McKIE is an Agriculturist IV with the Nevada Department of Agriculture. She manages multiple programs for the department including nursery inspection and licensing, export certification, and producer certificates. She is involved in Nevada's organic certification program as an inspector and inspection report reviewer. She has been inspecting Nevada's organic farms and processors since 1999.

GENEVIEVE MORGAN is a third generation Nevadan who took an interest in farming at a young age. She is currently farm manager at San Vicente Farms in southern New Mexico, while also working on food policy issues. Genevieve will discuss her experiences as a beginning farmer and encourage other young people to consider farming as a rewarding career. In addition, she will explore the realities of urban farming.

ALBERT MULDER is currently the state agronomist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Albert was raised on a nursery in Calif. with 25 acres of green houses. He graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in crop science and worked for the Calif. Dept. of Agriculture before buying an alfalfa farm and ranch in Diamond Valley, Nev. where he grew high quality alfalfa and timothy hay. He joined the NRCS in 2002.

MARK O'FARRELL is currently the owner of Hungry Mother Organics in Carson City. He has been involved in organic agriculture for the past twenty-five years, and has served as a vocational agriculture teacher, an extension agent, and vegetable farmer. Mark will be presenting the results of Hungry Mother's 2010 Cover Crop/No-till Vegetable trial and addressing the use of cover crops and soil fertility management.

JEFF SCHAHCZENSKI is an Agricultural and Natural Resource Economist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), with expertise in marketing and economics, conservation policy, crop insurance and specialty crops.

JANA VANDERHAAR, a landscape architect in training, currently is in the process of setting up her Verdant Connections landscape design and consulting firm. She teaches organic gardening classes and canning workshops at the River School Farm, and is involved in various local food groups in the Truckee Meadows. Together with her husband Tom and son Tristen, she is creating a full-spectrum farm on a third of an acre urban lot in Reno.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors



Special Thanks to Marcia Litsinger, 2011 Conference Coordinator

Marcia Litsinger, along with her husband Steve, operate Churchill Butte Organics in Dayton, Nevada. Steve and Marcia have been farming organically in Nevada for over 30 years. Their off-the grid solar powered farm supports a year-round CSA membership of 15 families and supplies restaurants with fresh herbs. Marcia has served as chair and co-chair of the State of Nevada Department of Agriculture's Organic Advisory Council for many years.

On their farm, the Litsingers have had 8 interns and have mentored countless others. They have been involved with the Community Garden Project in Carson City, 9 school gardens, Carson City Farm Days with the Extension Service, Lyon County Healthy Communities, Lyon County Library, and hoop house mentoring through WNC/Specialty Crop Institute.

In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Marcia a member of the State Committee for the Farm Service Agency of the USDA, serving under the Secretary of Agriculture. Her work helps to ensure that the FSA aggressively and fairly serves every producer in Nevada.

