



January 11-15, 2016

Conference to be held at Brunswick County
Cooperative Extension Office, Bolivia, NC

For southeastern NC farmers, backyard growers and interested
community members...education to help diversify any size operation!



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Costs indicated on Registration Form: <http://go.ncsu.edu/2016growingfarms>

SCHEDULE

	Monday 1/11/16	Tuesday 1/12/16	Wednesday 1/13/16	Thursday 1/14/16	Friday 1/15/16
9:00	LOWE’S FOODS TOUR	TAYLOR’S RESTAURANT TOUR		SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS	FARM BUSINESS PLANNING
9:30					
10:00		HAAG & SONS SEAFOOD TOUR			
10:30					
11:00	BURGAW FOOD HUB TOUR	GREENLAND’S FARM TOUR		SOILS	COST-SHARE PROGRAMS
11:30					
12:00					MARKETING
12:30					
1:00				ROTATIONS: ○ COMPOSTING ○ INTEGRATED PEST MGT. ○ COLD FRAME	ROTATIONS: ○ POULTRY PROCESSING ○ COVER CROPS ○ AGRABILITY
1:30			ESTATE PLANNING		
2:00					
2:30					
3:00					
3:30					
4:00					

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS:

ESTATE PLANNING: Future of Your Farm - *Theodore Feitshans*; NCSU, Department of Ag and Resource Economics

SHIITAKE MUSHROOM WORKSHOP – *Sam Marshall and Mark Blevins*, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension
Shiitake mushrooms are in high demand from grocery stores, restaurants, and individual consumers and growing mushrooms for local retail sale is a low-input and very profitable way to satisfy the growing demand for local food in our area. Spend a half-day learning about the basic process and benefits of growing shiitakes through hands on demonstrations.

SOILS – *Tim Hall*, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

COMPOSTING – *Heather Caveny*, Centripetal Farms

Save money, increase profits, and improve soil health by composting! Learn more about different methods of composting that can be scaled down for the backyard gardener or scaled up for a large farm.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT – *Mark Blevins*, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Reaching for a sprayer is okay, but there are so many other easy, effective and inexpensive ways to manage insects, weeds and diseases in your vegetables. Learn good from bad bugs, strategies for starting with healthy crops, and using chemicals wisely in this session.

COLD FRAME DEMONSTRATION – *Sam Marshall*, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Looking to extend your growing season, maximize your profits, and take the summer off?! This high tunnel production workshop will cover the basics of growing fruits and vegetables and utilizing season extension to enhance your farming and home gardening operation.

FARM BUSINESS PLANNING – *Kim Gamlin*, Small Business Center; and *Marilyn Graham*, Sustainability through Innovation Leadership Center

Learn about the importance of a business plan, how to market your business, and how to identify the right legal structure for your farm. Thinking of expanding or diversifying your farm? We will be looking at how to evaluate a new enterprise opportunity, how to grow your business, and how to plan for the future through succession planning.

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS – *Lisa Noel*, USDA; *Monica Gore*, FSA; and *Jeremy Roston*, NRCS

REAP offers GRANTS, GUARANTEED LOANS, and combination grant and guaranteed loans to help eligible applicants purchase, install, and construct *renewable energy systems* and make *energy efficiency improvements* to non-residential buildings and facilities.

MARKETING – *Mark Seitz*, Pender County Cooperative Extension

Marketing. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Things to Think About for Your Produce Business. Marketing is as simple as selling an idea and as complex as trying to figure out what your customers want. It's a moving target with no perfect answer. Attend this session learn new ideas for developing your marketing strategy.

POULTRY PROCESSING – *Mark Blevins*, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Pastured poultry is popular, but they are hard to sell and eat with the feathers on. Here you'll learn about regulations that allow any size farm to process and sell thousands of birds each year. We'll discuss how to maximize meat quality and proper cuts of poultry, then have a hands-on processing demonstration with the equipment Brunswick County Extension has available for local use.

COVER CROPS – *Sam Marshall*, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Whether you are farming small scale or have a larger commercial operation, the success of your farm depends directly on the soil. Utilizing cover crops in your farming practice will help maximize soil health, increase productivity, and help manage insect, weed, and disease pests. This one hour session will cover the basics of cover crops, including incorporating cover crops into your cash crop rotation.

AGRABILITY – *LaMar Graft*, NC Agromedicine Institute

The mission of NC AgrAbility is to educate and assist farmers, ranchers and farmworkers engaged in production agriculture who are living with disabilities to enable them to stay actively engaged in production agriculture, agriculture-related occupations, and/or daily life. NC AgrAbility works to improve the quality of life for these individuals by helping to eliminate or minimize obstacles that limit independence and productivity in agriculture.

