



# INDEX 2002-2003

Active Projects

Project Index from the Southern Region SARE Program

Active Projects

## Partners in innovation

The second round of Sustainable Community Innovation grants, co-funded by Southern Region SARE and the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC), has just been announced. So far 16 Southern communities have received grants totalling nearly \$160,000 to implement projects that link sustainable farm and non-farm economic development. With awards up to \$10,000 each, the projects range from establishing farmers' markets to creating awareness of tasty edamame soybeans to surveying whether consumers would pay more for blueberries harvested by workers making a living wage.

While the projects are diverse in subject matter, they share some key characteristics, including their innovative approaches to partnering. For example, when The Okemah Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce proposed to introduce herbs as a high-value, low-acreage crop to the area, they looked to the local school system and a nearby correctional facility to find prospective growers. Staff from Langston University will help develop an herb farm at J.H. Lilley Corrections Facility where inmates can become skilled at growing, drying and marketing herbs. Students who belong to local 4-H and FFA chapters are using educational materials from OSU Cooperative Extension Service about growing and selling herbs. They are also receiving assistance in applying for



Andy Schroeder gives a first-class hayride around The Cedars Farm during the Prince William County Farm Tour in Virginia. Project CS02-003. Photo by Lisa Schroeder.

operating loans through the USDA Rural Youth Loans program to establish and operate herb-centered enterprises.

"We are using tribal lands for the herb gardens and most of the students are tribal members," said Shirley Almerigi, a retired accountant and 4-H volunteer who sees beyond the economic potential of the project. "By introducing the herbs we are expanding their knowledge of foods and seasonings in hopes of combating our

mounting problems with diabetes."

To tie it all together, the inmates, students and other growers will take part in a herb festival that will become a new component in Okemah's long-standing heritage celebration—Pioneer Day.

In Florida, Harvest for Humanity, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, is cooperating with the University of Florida, IFAS Center, to improve the quality of life for farm workers through a living wage, affordable housing, education and traditional community support. Under the umbrella of Harvest for Humanity, founders Richard and Florence Nogaj (nojay), have established the Harvest Farm, the largest blueberry operation in South Florida. The 36-acre farm, currently with 50,000 plants, employs several full-time, salaried farm workers. After five years, the employees will be allowed to purchase the farm through stock options using no-profit, no-interest loans.

**This index lists all the Southern Region SARE projects that were active in 2002 plus all the new projects that were funded in March 2003.**

**Download or print any project report from the [SARE Data Base](#)**

**For a mailed copy of any project report contact Southern SARE at:**

**Phone: (770) 412-4787 or**

**Fax: (770) 412-4789**

**[sueblum@griffin.uga.edu](mailto:sueblum@griffin.uga.edu)**

INCLUDE PROJECT NUMBER WHEN ORDERING

**Continued on page 2**

Continued from page 1

## Partners in innovation



This index of projects is published by the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE).

SARE funds projects that develop environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable agricultural methods. SARE is funded by USDA and EPA.

The Southern Region SARE Program is administered by the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University. The Southern Region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S.V.I.

Communications Committee  
Janie Hipp, Chair  
Kerr Center  
Oklahoma

Peggy Bartlett, Vice Chair  
Emory University  
Georgia

Jill Auburn  
National SARE Director  
Washington DC

Majorie Bender  
American Livestock  
Breeds Conservancy

Shirley Harris  
Producer  
Tennessee

Lora Lee Schroeder  
EPA  
Georgia

Wayne Solley  
US Geological Survey  
Georgia

Send comments and address changes to:  
Gwen Roland, editor  
Ph: (770) 412-4786  
Fax: (770) 412-4789  
groland@peachnet.edu

Jubilation, an affordable housing complex, includes a farm store, a community kitchen, class rooms and a meeting room for use by residents or for renting to the community. Because of the lack of affordable housing in the area, Jubilation was expanded from the original plans for 20 units to 80 units at the request of the Collier County staff. The County has also recommended Harvest Farm for a community development block grant to support the kitchen.

The SARE-funded part of this long-term, community effort is to survey whether consumers are willing to pay slightly more for farm products labeled as being USA grown and picked by workers paid a living wage starting at \$8.50 per hour. During the 2002 harvest season 80 percent of consumers surveyed said they would be willing to pay five percent more for berries if the extra cost would insure the farmworkers a living wage. A second survey is being conducted this season.

“In the real world only half of that 80 percent will actually follow through with paying more, but that would be enough to change the paradigm,” says Nogaj. “It’s comparable to the union-made labels, Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval and the movement to save the American automobile industry. Now we need such a certified label movement to save U.S. agriculture. It will help eliminate poverty among our farm workers and provide sufficient income for growers.

In Georgia, the Carroll County Farmland and Rural Preservation Committee is introducing their traditional farm-based population to suburban newcomers with a downtown farmers’ market selling only locally grown produce. Partners include the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), which is providing vouchers for WIC participants to use at the market. Jessica Lewis, a DHR nutritionist, also serves on the farmer’s market steering committee to provide nutrition education and cooking demonstrations.

In economically challenged southwest Virginia, Cooperative Extension wanted to improve the standard of living for rural families by stimulating agritourism. It all started with an agritourism curriculum developed by extension staff for their agents, farmers, travel agents and government officials. The effort was given a jump start when U.S. Representative Rick Boucher included it on the program of Virginia’s Annual Tourism Summit.

Prince William County, also in Virginia, used their grant to repeat a successful farm tour that had been funded locally, including \$5000 in money and services from the county’s board of supervisors. When that first tour attracted 3000 visitors to seven farms, the tour committee knew they had a winner and applied for a SARE grant to expand the next year’s tour. Getting local government onboard early can be a challenge, but it’s worth the work,

Continued on page 24

Cotton Mill Farmers’ Market in Carrollton, Georgia, is helping new residents and the county’s rural population appreciate the economic and social value of agriculture. Project CS02-002

# Research and Education Program Final Reports

**LS97-087 An Integrated Vegetable Production, Postharvest and Marketing System for Limited-Resource Farmers in South Georgia**, University of Georgia, \$134,8000, Freddie Payton, Ph:(706) 542-3350, fpayton@cviog.uga.edu

The project assisted small-scale vegetable farmers in developing and implementing a 24-hour field to supermarket production and marketing system. The project integrated appropriate production, postharvest handling, and marketing systems technologies for fresh vegetables shipped from South Georgia to retailers in Atlanta. Small-scale vegetable farmers can supply retail markets with fresh produce under this system. To assure a constant supply of quality produce, a central packing facility is needed and farmers should have irrigation. The project created tools that can be used by farmer groups in exploring the feasibility of beginning or expanding marketing projects for fresh fruits and vegetables.

**LS98-90 An Integrated System of Organic Food Production and Urban Food Waste Recycling, Full Circle Solutions**, \$142,623, Ann Barkdoll, Ph: (352) 373.9313, flcircle@gator.net

A rumen-like machine that digests food wastes was tested by organic farmers in Florida seeking an alternative to expensive organic fertilizers. Anaerobic bacteria in the digester convert the food waste to carbon dioxide and methane while the nutrients end up in the water, leaving behind a small amount of solid residue that can be land applied or cured to a mature compost. The digester is housed at Possum Hollow Farm, where Joe Durando recycles food waste from a cafeteria. He uses the methane to heat the digester. The nutrient-rich water is used to fertilize crops on four farms.

**LS98-93 Accountability at Local, State and Federal Levels for Impacts of Agricultural Conservation Practice on Water Quality**, USDA-ARS, GA, \$223,322, Dwight Fisher, Ph: 706-769-5631 ext. 268, dsfisher@arches.uga.edu

Under the Government Performance Reform Act, federal conservation programs are evaluated by impact on natural resources. However, assessment is not always a component of these programs designed to improve or protect our natural resources. We sampled water quality for 3 years at 2 week intervals in portions of a watershed that had received federal funding of conservation practices. Spatial and temporal variation made it problematic to detect and describe impacts of conservation spending designed to reduce non-point pollution. Local impact wasn't necessarily reflected at a larger scale as landscape features such as impoundments and point discharges became predominant.

**LS98-95 Intergenerational Education for Sustainable Agriculture**, College of Charleston, \$176,240, Keith Richards, Ph: 479-587-0888, ssfarm@lynks.com

Our project introduced the concepts of sustainable agriculture and its impacts on our environment, economy, and community to students and teachers through on-site educational gardens and activities at schools and community organizations. We helped each



Pumpkin harvest. Project LS99-099. Photo by Caroline Sherony

educational site develop curricula plans for gardening, entrepreneurship and value-added enterprises, along with strategic planning for personal and community objectives. Family farmers were also introduced into program activities. Additionally, we created a regional network of schools and community organizations that are exchanging information on innovative programs and curricula, disseminating information to other educators and community leaders, and promoting sustainable agriculture education for young people.

**LS98-96 Integrating Farmer-Driven, Value-Added Enterprises Into Sustainable Agriculture Systems**, Southern SAWG, AR, \$120,590, Keith Richards, Ph: 479-587-0888, ssfarm@lynks.com

We developed and tested a model for providing information and training to sustainable family farmers who would like to create farm-based, value-added enterprises. In support of this service, we completed a report on the keys to creating successful enterprises and established an information bank of resources supportive of these enterprises. Among our findings, we discovered that assistance is best when provided to farmers in a whole systems way, yet facilitated individually. We also discovered that farmer-to-farmer networking is critical to the success of value-added enterprises, and organizational networking is critical in building a service support infrastructure.

**LS99-99 Economic and Environmental Effects of Compost Use for Sustainable Vegetable Production**, Virginia Tech, \$153,969, Greg Evanylo, Ph: 540-231-9739, gevanylo@vt.edu

A comparison of the agronomic, economic and environmental effects of compost, poultry litter, and inorganic fertilizers on three organic farms demonstrated that soil chemical and physical properties were improved with agronomic rates of compost compared with low rates of compost, poultry litter or fertilizer.

# Research and Education Program Final Reports

Accurately estimating nitrogen availability, not the source of nitrogen, was most critical to preventing groundwater contamination by nitrate-N and increasing yields.

**LS99-103 Pastured Poultry and Vegetable Production,** Southern University, \$89,800, James McNitt, Ph: 225-771-2262, jmcnitt@subr.edu

Trials to assess effect of pastured poultry on crops planted after the birds show that the optimum time for planting mustards, cucumbers and squash is 7 to 14 days after the birds have been on the area. Trials assessing the fertilizing effect of the chickens using squash and cucumber indicate that, after the birds have been on the area, conventional fertilizer application can be reduced by 50 percent.

**LS99-104 Polyculture of Paddlefish with Catfish in the Southern Region,** Kentucky State University, \$140,135, Steve Mims, Ph: 502-597-8110, smims@dcr.net

Paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula*, is an alternative fish species that can be cultured together with channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, providing additional income to farmers through diversification. The growth model for this regional project preformed in Alabama, Kentucky and Oklahoma indicated significantly greater weight gains of fish in KY (2.74 kg) and AL (2.52 kg) than fish in OK (2.24 kg). The addition of paddlefish to a catfish pond can increase production up to 300 kg/ha to contribute to farm income. Market survey responses from chefs of high-end restaurants suggest that paddlefish is versatile and unique and was well received by customers.

**LS00-109 Increasing Growers' Quality of Life Through Direct Marketing: Farmers' Markets and Consumer Supported Agriculture,** UNC at Greensboro, \$45,516, Susan Andreatta, Ph: 336-256-1164, s\_andrea@uncg.edu

This research examined the potential for direct marketing, capitalizing on farming near urban centers. A goal for this research project was to identify ways farmers in North Carolina could improve their quality of life by increasing the community's support for local agricultural products. Data were collected on farmers' current production and marketing strategies and on consumers' purchasing priorities. These data were used to develop outreach programs designed both to modify farmers' strategies and to educate consumers about local agricultural production. Presentations were made to farmers and consumers on direct marketing at local farmers markets and CSA arrangements.

**LS01-122 Assessing the Immunological Health of Standard Turkey Varieties vs. Industrial Turkey Stocks,** American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Pittsboro, NC, (planning grant) \$18,052, Donald E. Bixby, Ph: (919) 542-5704, dbixby@albc.usa.org

Poultry and conservation experts gathered to plan a research

effort to compare the immuno-competence, productivity, and biological fitness in range-based systems of purebred Standard varieties and industrial strains of turkeys. Participants agreed that documentation resulting from such research would provide farmers with valuable information needed to make genome selection; conserve genetic diversity; and provide further evidence that genetic biodiversity is essential to prevent the catastrophic collapse of the turkey industry. A proposal was developed and submitted to SSARE to test the hypothesis that standard varieties of turkeys have superior immuno-competence and perform better in range-based production systems than industrial stocks.

**LS01-124 Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants in the Southeastern USA,** Fort Valley State University, GA (planning grant), \$12,600, T.H. Terrill, Ph: 478-825-6814, terrillt@mail.fvsu.edu  
Farmers, small ruminant organization leaders, extension personnel, and scientists from a number of different disciplines in 5 states in the southeastern US, the US Virgin Islands, Denmark, and New Zealand met for two SARE proposal planning workshops at the Fort Valley State University during June and August, 2001. As a result of these workshops, a full proposal was developed and submitted to the Southern SARE Office in January, 2002.

This proposal concerns on-farm testing of an integrated small ruminant parasite control program that will combine both conventional (strategic use of anthelmintics) and novel (nematode-trapping fungi, condensed tannins) control methodologies. This proposal was funded as LS02-143.

**LS02-142 Defining the Research Needs of Farmers in Organic Horticultural Production in the Southeast** (planning grant), Georgia Organics, GA, \$21,080, George Boyhan, Ph: (912) 681-5639, gboyhan@arches.uga.edu, www.georgiaorganics.org

Institutionally based research efforts to address problems of organic producers are quite limited in the southeast. This planning grant initiated a process for improving availability and accessibility of information on organic agriculture in the southeastern region by engaging farmers, researchers, extensionists, and educators to: 1. identify issues critical to organic production in the southeast; 2. prioritize researchable questions to address these issues; and 3. organize multi-disciplinary research and education teams, including farmers, to develop grant proposals on the most important questions.

A survey of organic farmers in the region was done to identify key production and marketing issues of organic horticultural commodities. A farmer-research roundtable with participants from throughout the southeastern U.S. was held to refine and prioritize identified survey issues. For the top priorities, seven multidisciplinary teams of researchers and farmers were formed to develop research proposals addressing these priorities. These proposals will be submitted to a variety of sources for funding.

## Research and Education Projects in Progress

**LS98-92 Development of Sustainable Cropping Systems for Canola on Limited-Resource Farms in Alabama**, Alabama A&M, \$124,488, Udai Bishnoi, Ph: 256-858-4204, ubishnoi@aamu.edu

**LS98-97 Introducing Alternative Crops into Traditional Cotton-Grain Farming to Aid Transition to Freedom-to-Farm Agriculture**, Texas A&M Extension, \$114,279, David Bender, Ph: 806-746-6101, d-bender@tamu.edu

**LS99-100 Systems for Sustainability of Alfalfa Production on Acid, Coastal Plain Soils Using Various Harvesting Strategies**, Texas AES, \$149,750, Vincent Haby, Ph: 903-834-6191, v-haby@tamu.edu

**LS99-102 A Sustainable Integrated Production System for Native Pecan and Beef Cattle Producers**, Oklahoma State University, \$210,188, Dean McCraw, Ph: 405-744-5409, dmccraw@okstate.edu

**LS99-105 Enhancing Feasibility for Range Poultry Expansion**, Heifer Project International, \$175,740, Steve Muntz, Ph: 859-497-0603, steve.muntz@heifer.org

**LS99-106 Integrated Crop and Sylvan Systems with Swine**, North Carolina A&T University, \$156,262, Charles Talbott, Ph: 336-334-7672, talbott@ncat.edu

**LS99-107 Ecological, Sustainable and Economic Impact of Legume-based Pasture Systems for Limited-resource, Small-ruminant Farmers**, University of the Virgin Islands, \$114,810, Elide Valencia, Ph: 340-692-4033, evalenc@uvi.edu

**LS00-110 The Impact of Agricultural Systems on Soil Quality on Sustainability**, NC State University, \$191,263, Jim Harper, Ph: 919-515-2746, james\_harper@ncsu.edu

**LS00-112 Greenwater Tank Culture of Tilapia with the Effluent Used as a Source of Water and Nutrients for Terrestrial Crops**, Univ. of Virgin Islands, \$133,310, Donald Bailey, Ph: 340-692-4038, dbailey@uvi.edu

**LS00-113 Whole Farm Planning for Production of Grassfed Beef**, NCAT/ATTRA, AR, \$214,069 Ron Morrow, Ph: 501-442-9824, ronm@ncatark.uark.edu

**LS00-114 Investigation of Sustainability of Dairy Goat Industry by Innovative Method of Product Development**, Fort Valley State Univ., GA, \$225,470, Young W. Park, Ph: 478-827-3089, parky@mail.fvsu.edu



Private landowners in four states learn to be better stewards of their timber stands through hands-on workshops produced by Mississippi State University Extension. Project LS01-129.

**LS00-115 Establishing Sustainable Production and Information Exchange Systems for Limited-Resource Vegetable Farmers in Louisiana**, Baton Rouge Economic And Development Authority, Louisiana State Univ., \$167,526, Andrew W. Smiley, Ph: 225-336-9532, awsmiley@earthlink.net

**LS00-117 System for Value-Added Export of Manure Nitrogen and Phosphorus through Turfgrass Sod**, Texas A&M University, \$149,726, Donald M. Veitor, Ph: 979-845-5357, dviator@tamu.edu

**LS01-119 Use of Goats for Sustainable Vegetation Management in Grazing Lands**, Langston University, Langston, OK, \$172,210, Arthur L. Goetsch, Ph: 405-466-3836, goetsch@luresext.edu

**LS01-120 Long-term, Large-scale Systems Research Directed Toward Agricultural Sustainability**, Paul Mueller, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, \$230,000, Ph: 919-515-5825, Paul\_Mueller@ncsu.edu

**LS01-121 Enhancing Sustainability in Cotton Production Through Reduced Chemical Inputs, Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage**, USDA-ARS, Watkinsville, GA, \$207,876, Harry H. Schomberg, Ph: 706-769-5631 ext. 222,

# Research and Education Projects in Progress

hhs1@arches.uga.edu

## **LS01-123 Crop/Livestock Integration: Restoring a Traditional Paradigm in Contemporary Agricultural Research,**

Coastal Plain Station, UGA, Tifton, GA, (planning grant), \$21,121, Gary Hill,  
Ph: 229-386-3215, ghill@tifton.uga.edu

## **LS01-125 Sustainable Vegetable Production in Rural Mississippi,**

Alcorn State, MS, \$133,260, Franklin O. Chukwuma,

Ph: 601-877-2312, olisa@lorman.alcorn.edu

## **LS01-126 Sustaining Ecological and Economic Diversity Among Limited Resource Landholders by Expanding Opportunities for Management of Productive Woodlands,**

NCSU, Raleigh, NC, \$180,431, Sarah Warren,  
Ph: 919-515-7996, sarah\_warren@ncsu.edu

## **LS01-127 Organic Management of Cucumber Beetles with Cucurbits,**

Kentucky State University, KY, \$134,038, Gary Cline,

Ph: 502-597-6186, gcline@gwmail.kysu.edu

## **LS01-128 Influence of Microbial Species and Functional Diversity in Soils on Pathogen Dispersal and Ecosystem Processes in Organic and Conventional Agroecosystems,**

NCSU, Raleigh, NC, \$167,842, Jean Beagle Ristaino,

Ph: 919-515-7716, jean\_ristaino@ncsu.edu

## **LS01-129 Developing Strategies for Education of Underserved Forest Landowners,**

Mississippi State University, MS, \$169,875, Glenn Hughes, Ph: 601-545-4455, ghughes@ext.msstate.edu



Vivien Allen at the exhibition for members of Congress sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Project LS02-131.

During the first year of research, a green manure crop of Sunn hemp reduced nitrogen fertilizer requirements of subsequent vegetable crops by 33 to 66 percent. Project LS02-140



## **LS02-131 Forage/Livestock Systems for Sustainable High Plains Agriculture,**

Texas Tech Univ, TX \$251,805, Vivien G. Allen, Ph:

806-742-1625, vallen@ttacs.ttu.edu

## **LS02-132 Cover Cropping and Residue Management for Weed Suppression, Soil Fertility and Organic Crop Production,**

NC A&T Univ, NC, \$99,154, Keith R. Baldwin, Ph: 336-334-7957,

kbaldwin@ncat.edu

## **LS02-133 Rotational Grazing on Land Receiving Manure Applications;**

**Impacts of Land Management Practices on Soil and Water Quality,** Natl. Center for Appropriate Tech (ATTRA), AR, \$195,972, Barbara Bellows,  
Ph: 479-442-9824, barbarab@ncat.org

## **LS02-134 The Importance of Genetics: comparing standard turkey varieties and industrial stocks,**

Amer. Livestock Breeds Conservancy, NC, \$182,386, Donald E. Bixby, Ph: 919-542-5704, dbixby@albc-usa.org

## **LS02-135 Values, Attitudes and Perceptions of Forestry Constituency Groups Relative to**

**Sustainable Forestry in the South** (planning grant), Mississippi State Univ., MS, \$17,969, Stephen C. Grado, Ph: 662-325-2792, sgrado@cfr.msstate.edu

\* **LS02-136 Enhancing the Economic and Environmental Competitiveness of Small Farms Through Agroforestry,** Univ of Florida, \$189,600, Shibu Jose, Ph: 850-983-5216, sjose@ufl.edu

## **LS02-137 Participatory Implementation of Sustainable Vegetable Systems for Small and Limited Resource Farmers,**

Auburn Univ, AL, \$161,280, Joseph W. Kloeppe,  
Ph: 334-844-1950, jkloeppe@acesag.auburn.edu



Goat grazing mimosa. Photo by Sandra Solaiman LS02-141.

# Research and Education Projects in Progress

**LS02-138 An Investigation of the General and Niche Market Goat Meat Demand**, Fort Valley State Univ, GA, \$161,074, Mack C. Nelson, Ph: 478-825-6827, nelsonm@fvsu.edu

**LS02-139 Developing Sustainable Stored Grain IPM Systems in Oklahoma and Texas**, OK State Univ, OK, \$133,371, Ronald T. Noyes, Ph: 405-744-8416, rnon@okstate.edu

**LS02-140 A System Approach for Improved Integration of Green Manure in Commercial Vegetable Production Systems**, Univ. of Florida, FL, \$171,840, Johan Scholberg, Ph:352-392-1811 ext.230, jmscholberg@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

**LS02-141 Sustainable Year-Round Forage System for Goat Production in the Southern USA**, Tuskegee University, AL, \$178,120, Sandra Solaiman, Ph: 334-727-8401, ssolaim@tusk.edu

**LS02-143 Novel Methods for Sustainable Control of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants**, Fort Valley State Univ, GA, \$242,677, Will Getz, Ph: 912-825-6955, getzw@fvsu.edu

**LS03-144 (planning grant) Expanding the Marketing Opportunities for Organic Growers in Texas**, Sam Houston State University, TX, \$19,924, Douglas H. Constance, Ph: 936-294-1514, soc\_dhc@shsu.edu

**LS03-145 (planning grant) Technical and Economic Analysis of the Potential for Converting Poultry and Swine Production Facilities to Greenhouses and Mushroom Houses**, Univ.of AR, AR, \$17,448, Michael R. Evans, Ph: 479-575-3179, mrevars@uark.edu

**LS03-146 Appalachian Grown: Toward Regional Community-based Food Systems**, NC, \$154,030, Gary F. Gumz, Ph: 828-649-9452, director@asapconnections.org

**LS03-147 (planning grant) Bioactive Natural Products: A feasible method of organic disease management in float bed production systems**, University of Tennessee, TN, \$19,883, Kimberly D. Gwinn, Ph: 865-974-7135, kgwinn@utk.edu

**LS03-148 Development of sustainable vegetable production systems for south Florida and Virginia based on use of cover crops and precision irrigation**, Tropical Research & Education Center, FL, \$179,776, Waldemar Klassen, Ph: 305-246-7001, x257, Klassen@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

**LS03-149 Enhancing Sustainability of Organic Broccoli Production through Integration of No-tillage and Farmscaping**, Virginia Tech, VA, \$163,741, Ronald Morse, Ph: 540-231-6724, morse@vt.edu

**LS03-150 (planning grant) Sustainable and profitable control of invasive species by browsing goats on small farms**, Agricultural Research Center, TX, \$14,199, James P. Muir, Ph: 254-968-4144, j-muir@tamu.edu



Educating consumers as well as farmers helps support local food systems. Project LS00-109. Photo by Susan Andreatta.

**LS03-151 Development of Organic Production Practices for Pawpaw on Selected Rootstocks**, Kentucky State University, KY, \$153,698, Kirk W. Pomper, Ph: 502-597-5942, kpomper@gwmail.kysu.edu

**LS03-152 Improving Organic Crop Production with Enhanced Biofumigation and Composting Systems**, Univ of Tennessee, TN, \$273,440, Carl Sams, Ph: 865-974-8818, carlsams@utk.edu

**LS03-153 Integrating Biological Control into Pecan Weevil Management: A Sustainable Approach**, USDA-ARS, GA, \$217,500, David I. Shapiro-Ilan, Ph: 478-956-6444, dshapiro@saa.ars.usda.gov

**LS03-154 Examining pasture-based dairy systems to optimize profitability environmental impact, animal health and milk quality**, North Carolina State Univ, NC, \$226,903, Steven P. Washburn, Ph: 919-515-7726, Steve-Washburn@ncsu.edu

**LS03-155 (planning grant) Creating a value chain system for local and regional farm products**, Clemson University, SC, \$19,310, Geoff Zehnder, Ph: 864-656-6644, zehnder@clemson.edu

**LS03-156 Saving our Seed: A program to train farmers**, Carolina Farm Stewardship Asso., NC \$204,500, Tony Kleese, Ph: 919-542-2402, ed@carolinafarmstewards.org

**LS03-157 Suppression of weeds and other pests in fresh market vegetables using wild radish cover crop**, Clemson Univ., SC, \$173,125, Jason Norsworthy, Ph: 864-656-2607, jnorswo@clemson.edu

*\* Funded in part by NRCS National Agroforestry Center*

# Professional Development Final Reports

**ES97-33 Alternative Sustainable Agriculture Practices for Selected Crops in Puerto Rico**, Puerto Rico Extension Service, \$10,000, Miguel Monroig-Ingles, Ph: (787) 832-4040, m\_monroig@seam.upr.clu.edu

The project trained agricultural professionals, producers and other groups in the use of sustainable practices for coffee and starchy crops. Those practices were gathered from farmers, agronomists, ecologists, conservationists and others and printed in two abbreviated compendiums to be distributed among this clientele. The major goal was for coffee and plantain farmers to adopt the sustainable practices for the preservation of the environment, for economic benefits and for social justice for the people of the mountain region of Puerto Rico. Compendiums were prepared and are available for distribution. Adoption of sustainable practices have already increased by forty five percent.

**ES97-35 Integrated Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture**, University of Puerto Rico, \$25,740, Hipolito O'Farrill-Nieves, Ph: (787) 833-7007

The College of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico (CCA) is committed to the development of sustainable agriculture in Puerto Rico. With this purpose in mind, a team of researchers, extensionists, and professors developed a strategic plan. The purpose of this plan is to facilitate the dissemination of information and create the mechanisms to make responsible decisions related to sustainable agriculture within the island's complex social-economic-political-environmental-technical framework. It will help to coordinate relevant agricultural research and development, education, and the disclosure of information for the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices. Also, it will help CCA achieve the acceptance and recognition among farmers, students, government, and society as a whole of the social, environmental, and economic benefits that can be derived from the implementation of sustainable agriculture.

**ES98-037 Oklahoma Master Woodland Owners Program**, Oklahoma CES, \$23,640, William Ross, Ph: (405) 744-3854, rossw@okstate.edu

Oklahoma's Master Woodland Owner program is a "train-the-trainers" program designed to address NIPF issues by producing knowledgeable forest landowner volunteers to help deliver programs promoting sustainable forest management. Initial training began in April 1999, and was completed in June 2000. Training sessions included basic forest ecology, forest health, best management practices, pine and hardwood management, taxation and estate planning. Graduates report over 1000 volunteer hours since graduation, with practices adopted on an estimated 2900 acres. Plans for the future include developing demonstration areas featuring different aspects of good forest management, including low-input uneven age management and best management practices.



Master gardeners learn to scout for beneficial insects on home garden plants. Photo by W. Wilbur. Project ES01-055.

**ES98-039 Multi-Disciplinary Training on Pasture-Based Dairy Systems**, North Carolina State University, \$52,578, Steve Washburn, Ph:(919) 515-7726, steve-washburn@ncsu.edu

Team building during a 1998 study tour of Irish pasture-based dairying included discussions on 13 farms and four teaching, extension, and research centers. Discussions centered on production, economics, environmental, and social aspects of pasture-based dairying. The 15 participants then planned training to enhance understanding of pasture-based dairying in the region. Training was held in SC, NC, and VA during summer of 1999 and 130 professionals from 15 states participated. Two regional dairy grazing conferences were also supported along with other educational events. As a result, several producers have started, improved, or increased use of pasture on their dairy farms.

**ES98-041 Training in Value Added Syrup Crops**, Alcorn CES, MS, \$99,912, William Patton, Ph:(601) 877-6552, wbpatt@lorman.alcorn.edu

The Alcorn Cooperative Extension Agronomy Program expanded in syrup crops in 1999 due to a grant from Southern Region SARE Professional Development Program. This expansion utilized a Mill on Wheels (a gas engine powered mill for extracting juice) on one trailer and a Patton's Modified Stubb's Pan on another trailer. Advisory groups, regional conferences, tours, field days, workshops used the Mill on Wheels to take the program to the people. The equipment was transported to county and state events that offered educational and marketing opportunities.

Participants produced crops in supervised demonstration plots

# Professional Development Final Reports

and employed improved methods of harvesting. Participants were trained in processing and followed up by processing and marketing their own syrup at scheduled festivals, fairs and field days throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

The impact is summarized as over 2,088,560 people attended fairs, festivals, field days and county demonstrations where syrup harvesting, processing, and marketing demonstrations/training were presented. Two hundred twelve (212) small farmers participated in production demonstrations. Two hundred thirty five (235) professionals were trained in sustainable syrup crops. One hundred fifty five (155) beginning and seasoned syrup processors were trained in value-added methods.

Participants grossed \$112,951 during marketing demonstrations. The syrup crop in Mississippi alone returned \$1,467,203 to producers during the three-year project. Since 1999 syrup price in these states has increased from \$8.00 per two (2) half gallon tin cans to \$34.00 for four (4) quarts and \$52.00 for eight (8) pints. Thus, value adding has quadrupled the price of syrup in quarts and most producers average an even higher price per gallon.

**ES00-048 Training in Size-Appropriate Technology for Hill Farmers**, Univ. of Kentucky, \$85,712, Betty King, Ph: (859) 257-3404, bking@uky.edu

The Size Appropriate Technology Project determined that small scale farm equipment is a practical alternative to conventional equipment for farmers operating on small acreages and hill or other marginal land. The project revealed that farmers, extension agents, and small farm assistants were mostly either unaware of the existence or skeptical of the usefulness of equipment such as 2-wheel tractors and their attachments before seeing our demonstrations. Although there have been some reservations about "walking" equipment, most of the response has been very positive, and a significant number of farmers have purchased equipment similar to our demonstration units. Probably our most significant achievement is the propagation of the idea of appropriate technology, of fitting the equipment to the farm and/or the farmer.

**ES01-53 Innovative Cropping Systems: Promoting Conservation Technology to Your Clients**, Colonial SWCD, VA, \$49,913, Brian Noyes, Ph: (804) 932-4376, Brian\_Noyes@va.nacdnet.org

The Innovative Cropping System Incentive Program (ICS) was enhanced by SARE-PDP Funds to support a two-day training session held on May 21 & 22, 2002. Attending professionals had an opportunity to learn detailed information concerning state of the art agricultural management systems. ICS methods, such as Continuous No-Till combined with intensive biomass rotations and nutrient management, are primary tools utilized for soil quality improvement. Information was provided to raise awareness and confidence for professional support of ICS. Resource conservation and crop production efficiencies were presented. The participating

speakers and topics presented a diverse program providing local, state and national perspectives. The second day provided access to numerous field research and demonstration plots. The program accommodated approximately 200 individuals. Virginia Tech designated the session as required in service training for Cooperative Extension. Certified Crop Consultant and Nutrient Management Certification Credits were offered. Materials, such as the ICS national award winning video, research data and informational publications were made available to all that attended.

**ES01-055 Delivery of Biological Control Information and Technology in Florida**, University of Florida, \$49,919 James P. Cuda, Ph: (352) 392-1901, ext. 126, jcuda@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

The Integrated Pest Management/Biological Control (IPM/BC) program at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) delivered practical training in biological control and IPM as the preferred pest management strategy. This program improved the knowledge base of extension professionals by developing and implementing in-service training programs in biological control techniques and IPM protocols for conventional and organic growers, Master Gardeners and other pest consultants. The program developed educational materials for training extension professionals and producers on the biology and appropriate use of natural enemies and antagonists, and it furnished demonstration projects in the proper use of biological control agents. This program supported and drew from other existing State Major Programs.

**ES01-057 South Carolina Farm and Forest Land Conservation Training**, Clemson University, \$25,428, Ben Boozer, Ph: (803) 788-5700, benb@clemson.edu

This project assembled a partner-based group of stakeholders to develop a series of train-the-trainer workshops across South Carolina to help natural resource educators, policy makers, agency representatives and other professionals discuss land use issues and effective conservation tools for farm and forest land owners. Workshop participants received information and resources to discuss the social and economic issues surrounding changes in land use, engage the public in community discussions on conservation, examine tools and practices available to promote conservation, learn of South Carolina experiences with conservation tools, and consider the next steps for individual landowners and state policies.

# Professional Development Projects in Progress

**ES98-040 Grazing Management Training to Enhance the Sustainability of Pasture-Based Beef Production Systems**, North Carolina State University, \$31,745, Jim Green, Ph:(919)515-2390, Jim\_Green@ncsu.edu

**ES99-043 Multimedia Training Resources on Sustainable Greenhouse Vegetable Production**, NCSU, \$39,877, Mary Peet, Ph:(919)515-5362, mary\_peet@ncsu.edu

**ES99-044 Development of a Dairy Farm Sustainability Checklist and Distance Education Program for Training CES and NRCS to Work with Dairy Farmers**, NCAT, AR, \$54,621, Ann Wells, Ph(501)442-9842, annw@ncatark.uark.edu

**ES99-045 Achieving Rangeland Sustainability Through Total Resource Management**, TAES, \$157,061, Wayne Hanselka, Ph:(361) 265-9203, c-hanselka.

**ES99-046 Building Capacity in Organic Agriculture**, Georgia Organics, Inc., \$115,000, Craig Triplett, Ph: (404) 248-0705, craig@georgiaorganics.org

**ES00-47 Training in Alternative Research Strategies for Sustainable Farming Systems**, \$101,838, North Carolina State University, Noah Ranells, (919) 515-7597, noah\_ranells@ncsu.edu

**ES00-049 Nutrient Management Plans as Tools to Achieve Sustainable Animal Waste**, Division of Conservation, KY, \$83,056, Stephen Coleman, Ph:(502) 564-3080, steve.coleman@mail.state.ky.us

**ES00-050 Training Professionals and Developing Teaching Materials in Sustainable Fire Ant Management**, Auburn University, AL, \$40,155, Kathy Flanders, Ph:(334) 844-6393

**ES01-052 The Third Tuesday-Thursday Thing**, Kentucky State University, \$50,000, Marion Simon, Ph:(502)597-6437, msimon@gwmail.kysu.edu

**ES01-054 Growing with the Community: A Hands-on Training Design for Agriculture Educators, Farmers, and Community Leaders**, Florida Organic Growers, \$49,735, Ellen Huntley, Ph:(352) 377-6345, foodfog@aol.com



Participants visit a palm grower who uses compost as potting soil medium. Photo by Teresa Salame. Project ES01-056

**ES01-056 Training in Production and Utilization of Composted Waste Materials in Warm, Humid Climates to Improve Soils for Horticultural Crops**, University of Florida, \$47,896, Monica Ozores-Hampton, Ph:(941)658-3400, ozores@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

**ES01-058 Sustaining Agriculture Through Community Partnerships**, Central Carolina Community College, North Carolina, \$49,884, Robin Kohanowich, Ph:(919) 542-6496, rkohanowich@gw.ccarolina.cc.nc.us

**ES01-059 Training for Pasture Land Management Research Extension & Education**, Virginia Tech, \$49,981 John M. Galbraith, Ph:(540) 231-9784, ttcf@vt.edu

**ES02-060 Enhancing Educator Knowledge of Sheep and Goat Production**, NCAT, AR, \$49,998 Linda Coffey, Ph:(479) 442-9824, lindac@ncatark.uark.edu

**ES02-061 A Statewide Journey of Sustainable Success: Hands-On Training**, University of Tennessee, TN, \$48,000, Rob Holland, Ph:(931) 486-2777, rholland@utk.edu

# Professional Development Projects in Progress

**ES02-062 A Training and Educational Program to Ensure the South's Future Farmland and Forestland**, Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, OK, \$119,905, Jim Horne, Ph:(918) 647-9123, [jhorne@kerrcenter.com](mailto:jhorne@kerrcenter.com)

**ES02-063 Adding Value with Small-Scale Fruit and Vegetable Processing**, University of Kentucky, KY, \$41,965, Betty S. King, Ph:(859) 257-3404, [bking@uky.edu](mailto:bking@uky.edu)

**ES02-064 Calhoun Fields Laboratory: A Program for Experimental Training in Organic Farming Systems**, Clemson University, SC, \$49,926, Geoff Zehnder, Ph:(864) 656-6644, [zehnder@clemson.edu](mailto:zehnder@clemson.edu)

**ES03-065 Building Sustainable Soil Systems**, NC A&T State University, NC, \$119,848, Keith Baldwin, Ph: (336) 334-7957, [kbaldwin@ncat.edu](mailto:kbaldwin@ncat.edu)

**ES03-066 Producer Managed Efforts in Marketing of Livestock & Livestock Products**, NC A&T State University, NC, \$89,400, John O'Sullivan, Ph: (336) 334-7957, [johno@ncat.edu](mailto:johno@ncat.edu)

**ES03-067 What Service Providers Must Know About Organic Rules and Regulations**, University Florida, \$133,762, Rosalie Koenig, Ph:(352)392-3631, [rosiesfarm@mindspring.com](mailto:rosiesfarm@mindspring.com)

**ES03-068 Curriculum in Organic Agriculture for Agents and Teachers**, Georgia Organics, \$70,810, Craig Triplett, Ph: (404) 329-0390, [craig@georgiaorganics.org](mailto:craig@georgiaorganics.org)

**ES03-069 Training Educators to Protect Honey Bee Pollinators with Sustainable Pest Management**, University of Tennessee Ag Ext Service, TN, \$126,648, John Skinner, Ph: (865) 974-7135, [jkskinner@utk.edu](mailto:jkskinner@utk.edu)

**ES03-070 Barriers and Opportunities for Adding Value to Small Ruminant Animals**, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, KY, \$44,490, Betty King, PH: (859) 257-3404, [bking@uky.edu](mailto:bking@uky.edu)

**ES03-071 Developing a Hair Sheep Production System for Southwest Virginia**, Thorntree Farm, VA, \$51,879, Martha Mewbourne, Ph: (276) 479-3057, [tfarm@mounet.com](mailto:tfarm@mounet.com)



More than 800 county agents and farmers were trained in sustainable fire ant management in Alabama. Pre- and post training testing showed the participants' general knowledge of fire ant management increased by 29 percent.

Project leader Kathy Flanders estimates the program resulted in almost 19,000 people switching from a crisis-oriented fire ant control program to a sustainable fire ant management program.

In addition to the environmental and human health benefits, the switch is estimated to save the stakeholders \$1.3 million per year. Photo from field day at the Sand Mountain Research and Extension Center by Kathy Flanders. Project ES00-050

## Farmland Preservation Workshops This Summer

Professional development workshops that will provide training in farmland and forestland preservation will be held this summer at three locations in the southern U.S: Oklahoma City, July 24 and 25; Memphis area, August 5 and 6; and Atlanta, August 12 and 13.

The goal of the "train the trainer" workshops is to educate leaders and educators who will pass on what they learn to those who contact them for assistance. Extension educators and officials; NRCS, FSA, and other USDA personnel; as well as state farm and forestry leaders are examples of people who will find the workshop helpful. In many cases professional development credits will be available for attending this workshop.

Deadline for registration is July 2, 2003. Each workshop is limited to approximately fifty participants. For a registration form or more information about the workshops, instructors and hotel accommodations contact Barbara Chester or Anita Poole at the Kerr Center, 918-647-9123, [bchester@kerrcenter.com](mailto:bchester@kerrcenter.com) or visit [www.kerrcenter.com](http://www.kerrcenter.com)

# Producer Grant Program Final Reports

## **FS98-070 Red Plastic Mulch as an Alternative to Insecticides in Production of Seedless Watermelons, SC, \$7,390, John Frazier, Ph: (803) 625-3987**

The producer conducted field research over two seasons to determine if the use of red plastic mulch—as opposed to black plastic—worked better on strawberries. The black plastic worked much better because it produced more strawberries early in the season. This was so important that it outweighed the fact that the strawberries produced on red plastic were larger. Soil temperatures were higher under the black plastic, it was less expensive than the red plastic and the berries were easier to see.

## **FS98-073 Developing a Dairy Hair Sheep: Assessing the Potentials, VA, \$4,377, Amy Hayner, Ph:(804)246-5929**

There is a market for dairy products from sheep, especially where high quality cheeses are enjoyed. But wool does not bring the prices that it once did. The producer noticed that some individuals in her Katahdin meat hair-sheep herd seemed to be very heavy milkers. She out-bred her Katahdin to East Friesian hoping to strike a balance between the low-maintenance hair sheep and the highly inbred dairy sheep. She recommends, particularly with the current strong market for sheep milk and cheese, to use the first cross for dairying and not their offspring.

## **FS99-085 The Effects of Cover Crops on Weed and Insect Management in Blackberries, NC, \$9,935, Sam Bellamy, Ph:(910) 287-6403**

We utilized a system of weeder geese in “geese tractors” to control weeds in blackberries. On my farm, blackberries require a minimum of six to seven sprays throughout the year. Because blackberries are gaining in popularity and prices for the fruit are increasing, the time is ripe to develop sustainable methods to reduce chemical in-puts and maintain or increase yields. We built “geese tractors” and moved them throughout the season. We saw very little insect damage and the geese were effective in controlling grasses. However, with the grasses controlled and providing little competition for the broadleaf weeds, dock and smartweed were more evident. But the geese were out there day in and day out controlling weeds and insects and freed up labor for other things.

## **FS99-086 Paper Wasp Colonization for Tent Caterpillar Control in Pecan Groves, GA, \$506, Frank Bibbin, Ph:(912) 775-3347**

Tent caterpillars, army worms, horn worms, and grasshoppers were defoliating Frank’s pecan trees. Conventional insecticides ended up killing beneficial insects such as paper wasps, lady beetles and lacewings as well as harming beneficial bird populations. Since paper wasps can be permanently colonized, Frank built and placed 275 wasp boxes—which he built from PVC end caps and mounted on stakes about three feet high or hung from trees—throughout his twenty-four acre grove. He had 55 to 60 percent wasp occupancy.

He also built bat boxes to provide homes to several thousand bats which eat insects. This combination of natural beneficial predators—wasps and bats—was more successful than one approach alone. His pest control system is less likely to fail him if something causes problems with a single predator because the other hungry predator already lives in his grove.

## **FS99-092 The Effect of Cropland-applied Poultry Litter on Water Quality, OK, \$9,556, Rick Jeans, Ph: (580) 628-2223**

There are many large poultry operations in eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas and the large amount of poultry litter is applied in that relatively small area. There are thousands of acres of cropland to the west of the poultry operations which could utilize the phosphorus in poultry litter. This producer used his producer grant to determine if poultry litter could be transported to other areas and if it would be environmentally and economically feasible. He found that while biologically successful, he needed a 25 percent increase in yield to make the transporting of poultry litter profitable. He also learned that he needed to keep his neighbors’ noses in mind when and where he applied the poultry litter.

## **FS00-118 Developing Marketing Strategies for Culinary and Medicinal Herbs, Indian Springs Farmers Association, MS, \$15,000, Ben Burkett, Ph:(601) 543-0900**

African-American farmers in the United States are disappearing at a disturbing rate. Traditional crops alone do not provide the income and security that black farmers need to sustain the family farm. The Indian Springs Farmers Association (ISFA) located in Mississippi, and comprised of 45 small farmers, conducted field trials and marketing investigations of culinary and medicinal herbs. They also experimented with harvesting techniques. The ISFA developed markets at the Crescent City Farmers Market in New Orleans, LA and with Alliant Food Services, Inc. They didn’t sell their herbs by mail because they decided that the fresh herbs would not hold up well enough to market them that way. They also found that many customers asked for 100 percent certified organic products.

## **FS00-120 Cut Flowers: Tilapia Aquaponics Study, VA, \$5,111, Bert McLaughlin, Ph: (804) 932-3693**

The production of Tilapia in tanks with recirculating water systems, within environmentally controlled buildings, is well-established. Many Tilapia growers remove nutrients and enhance the profitability of their recirculating water systems by growing hydroponic vegetables to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from the water. The producer grew fresh cut flowers (which have a higher summer value than vegetables) in a gravel bed using the effluent from his Tilapia tanks. He found he could produce cut flowers with no fungus or wilt problems but couldn’t use insecticides on the flowers since they would kill the Tilapia. The only problem he has left to solve is insects.

# Producer Grant Program Final Reports

**FS00-121 Marketing to the Department of Defense Food Service**, New North Florida Co-op, FL, \$15,000, Glyen Holmes, Ph:(850) 352-2400

It is becoming increasingly difficult for small farmer cooperatives with limited resources to survive in today's agricultural environment. Limited-resource farmer cooperatives must consider alternative enterprises and innovative ways of marketing their products. The New North Florida Cooperative Association (NNFC) provided leafy greens as a value-added product and muscadine grapes to the Department of Defense (DOD) food service program. The key factors in providing these products were volume required, frequency of deliveries and transportation logistics. Because they were providing fresh produce—as opposed to frozen or canned—they had to ship daily and in comparatively lower quantities. They also found that while there is a tremendous market opportunity with the DOD, they need to put more effort into infrastructure development in limited-resource farmer cooperatives.

**\* FS00-123 Cooperative Marketing of Organic Produce and Animal Products Direct to Consumer**, Organic Growers Assoc., AR, \$15,000, Margaret Carey, Ph:(870) 434-5454

The organic wholesale market is losing its viability for small-scale farmers due to competition from large-scale growers. Ozark Organic Growers Association (OOGA) addressed the problem by combining the marketing and distribution efforts of a diverse mix of growers and producers who served as their own distributors and marketers. Their product line included fruit, vegetables, mushrooms, turkey and eggs, beef, pork and lamb. The most challenging and costly aspect of the project was distribution of product. Producers were responsible for getting their product processed, packaged and delivered to centralized distribution points. This was difficult to coordinate and proved to be very costly. Ultimately, they did not solve this problem for the whole group. Some growers in the more remote rural areas now sell individually and some are going out of business.

**FS01-130 Improving Salad Mix Quality and Yield Through Soil Management and Post Harvest Techniques**, KY, \$9,600, Carol Cassidy, Ph: (502)747-5822, cassedy@dcr.net

The natural foods industry is currently moving toward voluntary compliance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). GAP is a set of food safety guidelines and standards issued by the FDA and USDA designed to improve food safety practices on farms. These standards create another challenge for many small organic producers to meet when marketing their produce. The producer demonstrated that organic methodology is safe and free from contaminants, both in the field and post-harvest. In her extensive soil and plant trials, the producer found no evidence of *E. coli* 0157:H7, the one that is of concern for human health. Through her sound and careful management practices, which included the correct composting of manure, she was able to provide fresh produce for her customers.

**\*\* FS01-132 Ginseng Production Utilizing Natural Fungicides**, NC, \$9,986, Robert A. Eidus, Ph: (828) 649-3536, robert@ncgoldenseal.com

Ginseng growers use agricultural chemicals—primarily fungicides—which allow growing in closely spaced monocultures. But, ginseng can become stressed and subject to fungus problems in a closely spaced monoculture. This producer grant project was conducted to research the efficacy of two alternatives to chemical fungicides; the use of goldenseal and horsetail. In mid-trial, the plots were vandalized and many of the roots were stolen. The grower found no real benefits from the use of goldenseal and horsetail but wasn't able to grow the roots long enough to really tell.

**FS01-137 Marketing Edamame Soybeans in Kentucky**, KY, \$9,133, Sara McNulty, Ph: (270) 926-0591, sjmfirst@aol.com

The transition away from tobacco and row crops presents many challenges for traditional farmers. The producer recognized there is a growing market for soy foods. She raised edamame soybeans (a variety that can be eaten fresh) to promote in farmers markets. She sold one-pound bundles (15-18 stalks) of beans on the stalk. At produce stands she sold beans wholesale, off the stalk, and in the pod. She concluded that growers need to examine efficient ways to mechanically harvest, sort and shell the green soybeans for the frozen market. She feels this niche market offers exciting prospects for growers and consumers alike.

**FS02-154 Scott County Hair Sheep Faire**, VA, \$3,068, Martha Mewbourne, Ph: (276) 479-3057, ttfarm@mounet.com

This producer recognized that new agricultural enterprises and products were needed to help farmers/ranchers in her area. She raises hair sheep and sells lamb meat. She finds they are well suited to the area, are hardy and don't require shearing; a time consuming activity with little financial reward. To encourage other growers to raise hair sheep she conducted a one day Hair Sheep Faire. About 150 to 200 people attended the day of activities and demonstrations all about hair sheep. There were workshops and demonstrations by growers, university experts and a veterinarian. And an excellent chef prepared many different delicious lamb dishes including grilled lamb kabobs and burgers on site. With the financial returns from the lamb meat and the advantage of not having to shear, she is convinced that hair sheep are a good alternative for growers in her area.

*\*Funded in part by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

*\*\*Funded in part by NRCS National Agroforestry Center*

# Producer Grant Projects in progress

**FS98-069 Integrated Goat Management System for Fiber and Meat**, OK, \$10,000, Claud Evans, Ph: (918) 623-1166, cde4@earthlink.net

**FS99-084 Utilization of Wood Waste and Agricultural By-products in High-value Gourmet Mushroom Production**, KY, \$9,507, Gary Anderson, Ph:(502)862-4459

**FS99-087 The Effect of Municipal Compost on Christmas Trees**, TN, \$6,985, Curtis Buchanan, Ph:(423)753-5160

**FS99-088 Internal Parasite Resistance Selection Method for Sheep**, TX, \$4,844, Ray Cloudt, Ph:(254) 697-4400

**FS99-089 Developing a Model for Direct Marketing in Southern Communities**, FL, \$7,020, Trace Giornelli, Ph:(352)-462-5455

**FS99-090 Crop Rotation and Rotational Grazing Study**, TX, \$9,876, Ken Graff, Ph:(830) 741-8501

**FS99-094 Developing an Organically Approved Soil Mix for Use in Vegetable Transplant Production**, FL, \$7,660, Rosalie Koenig, Ph:(352)331-1804

**FS99-095 Breaking the Herbicide Habit: Integrating Cover Crops with Herbicide Application**, Puerto Rico, \$9,960, Rebecca Perez-Rossello, Ph:(787)828-1147

\*\* **FS99-096 Use of Low-value Hardwoods for Shiitake Mushroom Production**, NC, \$1,929 Walker Rayburn, Jr., Ph:(252) 426-7167

\*\* **FS99-097 Oriental Persimmons and PawPaws: Two Sustainable Crops for the South**, NC, \$6,534, Lesley Sanderson, Ph:(910) 521-4761

**FS99-102 Cattle Lane Construction Alternatives that Enhance Intensive Grazing Systems**, SC, \$9,850, Tom Trantham, Ph:(864)243-4801

**FS99-103 Evaluating the Cost of Row-Crop Production using Precision Farming Technologies**, TN, \$7,816, J.Tucker, Ph:(931)363-1832

\*\* **FS00-106 Cover Crops for Christmas Trees and Other Orchard Crops**, GA, \$6,327, Thomas H. Aiken, Ph:(770) 358-4184

**FS00-107 Use of Winter Cover Crops and Summer Soil Solarization in Sustainable Vegetable Production systems**, LA, \$9,981, Owusu Bandele, Ph:(225) 771-2262



Cover crops continue to be a popular research topic for producers. Photo by Gwen Roland.

**FS00-108 Community Supported Agriculture Marketing Program**, Bayview Citizens for Social Justice, Inc. VA, \$14,975, Alice Coles, Ph:(757) 331-1840

\*\* **FS00-109 Marketing Timber After Adding Value Through the use of One-Person Sawmills and Solar Kilns**, KY, \$10,000, Michael Best, Ph:(606) 985-8648

**FS00-110 Impact of Louisiana Native Coastal Prairie Habitat on Beneficial Insect Populations**, LA, \$9,288, Terry Bordelon, Ph:(337)783-8200

**FS00-112 Practical Evaluation of Vermicompost on Horticultural Crops**, FL, \$9,820, Cynthia L. Connolly, Ph:(850) 997-7224

\* **FS00-115 Agricultural Entrepreneur Course**, Farmers Market Assoc., VA, \$14,500, Sharon Keith, Ph:(540) 889-8041

**FS00-125 Does Compost Use Affect Post-Harvest Quality of Vegetables?**, FL, \$9,960, Nancy Roe, Ph:(561) 638-2755

**FS00-126 Locally Produced Chicks for Use in Pastured Poultry System**, KY, \$9,869, Laura Rogers, Ph:(606) 528-7435

**FS00-127 Alternative Production Methods for Increasing Sustainability of North Florida Strawberry Producers**, South Georgia Farmers Coop, FL, \$9,964, Larry Gillard, Ph:(904)782-3936

## Producer Grant Projects in progress

**FS01-129 Development of Multi-Herd Management Software for Small Farmers**, FL, \$9,949, Dee Blaha, Ph: (352) 796-0459, dblaha@innet.com

**FS01-131 Fungicidal Effects of Compost Tea on Organic Strawberry Production**, TN, \$9,814 John Dysinger, Ph: (931) 583-2701, johnandpamdysinger@juno.com

**FS01-133 Low Cost Method of Establishing High Seral Native Grass Species**, OK, \$8,518, Terry Stuart Forst, Ph:(580) 367-9939

**FS01-134 Soil Nutrient and Organic Matter Improvement and Maintenance in a Crop Rotation System**, MS, \$6,423, Hilbert W. Gramelspacher, Ph:(662) 673-9040, multi@tecinfo.com

**FS01-135 Soil Fertility Improvement in Fruit Orchards by Windrowing Urban Plant Debris and Poultry Litter**, FL \$8,644, William C. Graves, IV, Ph: (561) 569-5733, wgraves510@aol.com

**FS01-136 A Natural Control for Algae in Virginia Farm Ponds**, Virginia Fish Farmers Association, VA, \$5,140, Linda Layne, Ph:(804) 842-1801, farmlady99@yahoo.com

**FS01-138 Developing a Model to Increase Support for Organic Farming Research at Land Grant Institutions**, Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. FL, \$14,999, Marty Mesh, Ph: (352) 377-6345, fogoffice@aol.com

**FS01-139 Composted Yard Waste as a Replacement for Pine Bark Mulch in Blueberry Production**, Harvest for Humanity, Inc., FL, \$9,800, Richard J. Nogaj, Ph: (941) 657-4888, dhfh@ix.netcom.com

**FS01-140 Using Companion Plants to Increase Biological Control for Thrips in Pepper Crops**, FL, \$9,300, Chuck Obern, Ph:(836) 983-8269

**FS01-141 Pastured Poultry Production**, KY, \$7,003, Mac Stone, Ph:(502)597-7871, kysufarm@mis.net

**FS01-143 Biological Fly Control on Arkansas Dairies Utilizing Parasitoids**, AR, \$15,000, Floyd Wiedower, Ph:(501)335-7204

**FS01-144 Opti-Maizing Beef Cattle Profits and Environmental Quality**, Pulaski County Ag. Advancement Council, KY, \$12,716, Beth Wilson, Ph:(606) 679-6361

**FS02-145 Cotton Mill Farmer's Market – Linking the Community to the Farm**, Carroll Co. Farmland & Rural Preservation Partnership, GA, \$15,000, Meredith Barr, Ph: 770-836-1204, jacbar1@msn.com

**FS02-146 Farmscaping Organic Broccoli to Increase Beneficial Insect Numbers**, Watauga River Farms, NC, \$9,855, Charles Church, Ph:(828) 297-3775, sanghunter@aol.com

**FS02-147 Appropriate-Scale, Inexpensive Cheese Vat for the Farmstead Cheesemaker**, VA, \$6,430, Vicki H. Dunaway, Ph:(540) 789-4477, ladybug@swva.net

**FS02-148 Market Enhancement and Outreach Project**, Farm & Garden Market Cooperative Asso., KY \$12,800, Janet Eaton, Ph:(859) 858-4948, lexfarmmarket@yahoo.com

**FS02-149 Ultraviolet Light Absorbing Films and Nets for Insect and Disease Control in an Organic Greenhouse**, FL, \$8,010, Jim Gibbons, Ph:(561) 461-4756, jbgibbon@bellsouth.net

**FS02-150 Fixed Film Anerobic Methane Digester**, OK, \$9,184, Michael H. Green, Ph:(580) 336-2071, gmrtrty@perryisp.net

**FS02-151 Increasing Soil Organic Matter in Citrus Soils**, TX, \$8,112, Jim Hoffmann, Ph:(956) 682-7676

**FS02-152 Biodiverse-Organic Christmas Tree Production**, NC, \$9,333, Mark Lackey, Ph:(336) 385-2002, Biodiversity@skybest.com

**FS02-153 Making Honey Bee Pollination More Sustainable by Reducing Miticides to Control Varroa Mites**, VA, \$9,340, Wyatt A. Mangum, Ph:(804) 633-4007, wmangum@mwc.edu

**FS02-155 Cooperating for Success: Building a Value-added Marketing Cooperative for Advantage in the Marketplace**, Appalachian Spring Cooperative, TN, \$15,000, Paul Miller, Ph:(423) 733-4007, appalspring@yahoo.com

**FS02-156 Winter and Summer Cover Crops for Organic Pecan Production**, GA, \$9,766, Kim M. Moore, Ph:(229) 776-1218, kmoore@surfsouth.com

**FS02-157 Northern Tennessee Farmers' Association Cooperative Farmers' Market Project**, Northern Tennessee Farmers Association Cooperative, TN, \$13,755, Michael Osborne, Ph:(931) 358-3206

**FS02-158 Winter Green Manure Crops for Organic Vegetable Production in the Tidewater Virginia Region**, VA, \$4,785, J. W. Phillips, Ph:(804) 448-0182, phillipsfarm@bealenet.com

# Producer Grant Projects in progress

**FS02-159 Improving Stocking and Insect Control Procedures to Increase Survival of Saltwater Shrimp Post-larvae in Inland Ponds**, Greene Prairie Aquafarm, AL, \$6,667, David Teichert-Coddington, Ph:(205) 372-2844, dteichertcoddington@hotmail.com

**FS02-160 Small Dairy Business Plan For On-Farm Mini-Processing Facility**, AR, \$9,980, Sam Ward, Ph:(501) 253-5649, sward@ipa.net

**FS03-161 Sustainable Pastured Layer Research Project**, Texas/Mexico Border Coalition Community Based Organization, TX, \$14,992, Graciela Alvarado, Ph: 956-743-5348, gbennack@coserve.org

**FS03-162 Oklahoma Farm Direct Retail Market Project**, Cherokee Small Farm Project, OK, \$15,000, Kathy Carter-White, Ph: 918-456-0671 ext. 2653, kcarter-white@cherokee.org

**FS03-163 Managing Beneficial Insects and Using Pest Trap Crops in Organic Broccoli**, Watauga River Farms, NC, \$9,950, Charles A. Church, Ph: 828-297-3775, sanghunter@aol.com

**FS03-164 Test Growing & Marketing Specialty Woody Cutflowers**, Shady Grove Gardens & Nursery, NC, \$8,555, Susan Wright Cochran, Ph: 828-297-4098, sggarden@skybest.com

**FS03-165 Economics of Plant Spacing on Tomato Yield and Quality**, AR, \$7,378, Paul E. Cooper, Ph: 870-226-8410, cootercooper@yahoo.com

**FS03-166 White Wheat Marketing System**, Oklahoma White Wheat Producers' Alliance, OK, \$15,000, Bob Dietrick, Ph: 580-854-6484

**FS03-167 Mountain Tailgate Market Association Marketing Initiative**, Mountain Tailgate Market Association, NC, \$14,280, Charlie Jackson, Ph: 828-293-3262, Charlie@greenfirefarm.com

**FS03-168 Kentucky Coordinated Poultry Alliances**, Shady Lane Poultry Farm, Inc., KY, \$7,086, Matthew D. John, Ph: 859-737-2636, mdlejohn@highstream.net

**FS03-169 Using Compost Tea to Enhance Growth of Pasture for Livestock Grazing**, VA, \$8,784, George Nolting, Ph: 540-832-5224, gnolting@ns.gemlink.com

**FS03-170 Short- and Long-term Crop Replacement Project**, NC, \$9,787, Phyllis Kinlaw Pate, Ph: 910-739-2067, pkpate@bigplanet.com

**\*\*FS03-171 Dairy Goat Woodland Grazing Project**, NC, \$9,900, Brit Pfann, Ph: 919-745-5176, theinn@celebritydairy.com

**\*\*FS03-172 Puerto Rico Shade Grown Coffee Project**, PR, \$9,956, Luis Miguel Rico, Ph: 787-894-6341, haciendaverde@centennialpr.net

**FS03-173 Pasture-based Goat and Sheep Producer to Processor Transfer Station Project**, Mid-Atlantic Meat Goat & Lamb Marketing Cooperative, VA, \$15,000, Marilyn Sanford, Ph: 434-645-8084, glenmar@hovac.com

**FS03-174 Goat Range-Nutrition Performance Test**, American Meat Goat Association, TX, \$13,113, Marvin F. Shurley, Ph: 915-387-6100, marvin@sonoratl.net

**FS03-175 Greenhouse Grown Fraser Fir Tree Seedlings**, Sugar Grove Botanical Farm, Inc., NC, \$7,401, Justin Wells, Ph: 828-297-7132, sugargrovebot@toolkitmail.com

**FS03-176 Developing Guidelines for Farmers to Market Directly to Consumers at Community Farmers' Markets**, Alachua County Farmers' Market, Inc., FL, \$14,000, Sharon Yeago, Ph: 386-454-3950, slyeago@hotmail.com

**FS03-177 Nigerian Dwarf Goats for Value-added Dairy Products to Provide Sustainable Off-season Farm Income**, Kush-Hara Organic Farm, VA, \$7,317, Liane Young, Ph: 540-854-7114, kushhara@aol.com

*\*Funded in part by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

*\*\*Funded in part by NRCS National Agroforestry Center*

# Graduate Student Projects

**GS00-002 (Final Report) Control of Soilborne Plant Pathogens of Tomatoes with Incorporation of Indian Mustard,** University of Tennessee, \$10,000, Carl E. Sams/Stephanie Gail Harvey, Phone: 865-974-8818, carlsams@utk.edu

This project investigated the potential of Brassica species as a biofumigation cover crop for control of soilborne disease in tomato production. In a laboratory jar test, Indian mustard inhibited mycelial growth of *Sclerotium rolfsii*, the fungal agent that causes Southern blight of tomatoes. In field trial, Brassica cover crops *B. juncea* L and *B. campestris* grew over winter and were tilled into the soil the following spring. In Spring 2000, marketable tomato fruit yield was significantly higher in the Brassica treated plots than in the control plots treated with rye.

In Summer 2001, marketable tomato fruit yield was not significantly different between treatments. In an additional laboratory study, individual isothiocyanates (ITCs) (one of the active compounds released from the Brassica species) were assayed for activity against selected plant pathogens and potential synergistic effects were investigated.

Results suggested that there were differences in pathogen sensitivity to the compounds studied. Additive and synergistic effects were observed when combinations of ITCs, suggesting that some of the effects seen with the uses of whole tissue application maybe due to a combination of chemicals instead of the dominate ITC present.

**GS00-003 Resilience of Nitrogen Availability and Retention in Soils of Kentucky Certified Organic Farms,** University of Kentucky, \$6,590, Mark S. Coyne, (859) 257-4202, mscocyn00@ppop.uky.edu; Victoria Bhavsar, (859) 257-2103, toria@uky.edu

**GS00-004 Interactions Between Predators and Insect-Parasitic Nematodes in Soil,** North Carolina State Univ., \$10,000, Mary E. Barbercheck, Ph: (919) 515-1651, mary\_barbercheck@ncsu.edu; Marie Newman, Ph: (919) 515-1651, marie\_newman@ncsu.edu

**GS00-005 Improving the Impact of Trichogramma Against the Diamondback Moth Through the Use of Field Experiments and Farming Systems Analysis in Puerto Rico,** University of Florida, \$10,000, Gary Leibe, Ph: (407) 884-2034, ext. 154, gll@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu; Richard Pluke, Ph: (352) 373-1929, rpluke@hotmail.com

**GS00-006 Evaluation of Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage for Conventional and Organic Sweet-potato Production in North Carolina,** North Carolina State Univ., \$9,927, Nancy G. Creamer, Ph: (919) 515-9440, Nancy\_Creamer@ncsu.edu; Danielle D. Treadwell, Ph:(919) 515-1220, Danielle\_Treadwell@ncsu.edu



Senor Ruben Ortiz kept a diary during a season of growing cabbage in Orocovis, Puerto Rico. The diary will represent the conventional production method in project GS00-005, which is evaluating biological management of diamond back moth. Photo by Richard Pluke.

**GS01-007 Economic, Agronomic and Ecological Cost/Benefits of Field Border Management Practices in Agricultural Systems of Mississippi,** Mississippi State University, \$9,934, Wes Burger, Ph: (662) 325-8782, wburger@cfr.msstate.edu; Mark Smith, Ph: (662) 325-2384, mds10@ra.msstate.edu

**GS01-008 Breeding a Better Cover Crop: A Screen of Rye Germplasm for Weed Suppression and Nitrogen Scavenging,** North Carolina State University, \$9,986, Nancy Creamer, Ph: (919) 515-9447, nancy\_creamer@ncsu.edu; Chris Reberg-Horton, Ph: (919) 515-1199

**GS01-009 Competition for Nitrogen and Groundwater Nitrate Levels in Temperate Alley Cropping Systems,** University of Florida, \$10,000, Shibu Jose, Ph: (850) 983-2632, sjose@ufl.edu; Samuel Allen, Ph:(352) 367-9131, scallen@ufl.edu

**GS01-010 Enhancing the Sustainability of Tall Fescue Forage Systems for Beef Cattle Production with Non-Toxic Endophyte Technology,** University of Georgia, \$10,000, Mark McCann, Ph: (706) 542-7924, mmccan@arches.uga.edu; Jane Bondurant, Ph: (706) 542-0284, jbondur@arches.uga.edu

# Graduate Student Projects

## **GS01-011 Suppression of Soil Borne Phytopathogenic Fungi of Tomatoes via Integrated Production Systems, (Final Report)**

University of Tennessee, \$10,000, Carl Sams, Ph: (865) 974-8818, carlsams@utk.edu; Martin Lyons, Ph: (865) 9974-8820

During the growing seasons of 2001 and 2002 field studies involving sustainable pre-plant treatments for use in plasticulture tomato production were trialed. Compost based treatments were found to be effective at both increasing yields and decreasing the incidence of Southern Blight. Biofumigation treatments also favorably influenced crop production although they were not as effective as synthetic fumigants. Low dose chemical fumigation, when combined with organic amendments, proved to be a feasible alternative to full dose fumigation. Solarization treatments were implemented during the spring and did not significantly suppress soilborne diseases.

**GS02-012 Optimizing Water Use for Three Old World Bluestems in the Texas High Plains**, Texas Tech Univ., TX , \$10,000, Vivian G. Allen, Ph: (806) 742-1625, vallen@ttac.ttu.edu; Dirk Philipp, Ph: (806) 742-0988, dirkphilipp@ttu.edu

**GS02-013 Developing a System to Produce Organic Plug Transplants for Organic Strawberry Production**, University of Florida, FL, \$9,500, Daniel J. Cantliffe, Ph: (352) 392-9905 ext. 203, Ashwin V. Paranipe (same phone)

**GS02-014 Streambank Erosion Associated with Grazing Activities in Kentucky**, Univ. of Kentucky, \$9,836, Dwayne R. Edwards, Ph: (859) 257-3000, ext. 109, Carmen T. Agouridis, Ph: (859) 257-3000, ext. 207, cagourid@bac.uky.edu

**GS02-015 Evaluation and Characterization of Reaction**

Precise measurement of drip irrigation is being used to determine which of three old world bluestem grasses most efficiently converts water to biomass in the Texas High Plains. Of the grasses, so far Dahl or Caucasion out perform Spar, the most commonly planted grass in the region.  
Project GS02-012.  
Photo by Dirk Philipp.



Various potting mixtures are being tested for growing organic strawberry plugs in low-cost greenhouses. Project GS02-013. Photo by Ashwin Paranipe.

**Products from Ozonated Aflatoxin Contaminated Corn**, Louisiana State Univ., LA, \$10,000, Joan M. King, Ph: (225) 578-5186, jking@agcter.lsu.edu; Alfredo D. Prudente, Jr., Ph: (225) 578-5186, aprude1@lsu.edu

**GS02-016 Collaborative Learning by Family Farmers: A Participatory Model of Agriculture Alternatives**, The University of Tennessee, TN, \$9,540, John M. Peters, Ph: (865) 974-8145, jpeters@utk.edu; Robin A. Fazio, Ph: (865) 982-4262

**GS02-017 Velvet Bean as a Biological Control of Weeds and Pathogens**, UGA Coastal Plain Exp Station, \$8,000, Sharad C. Phatak, Ph: (229) 386-3901, phatakj@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu; Nicole L. Martini, Ph: (706) 542-2471, nicoleg@arches.uga.edu

**GS02-018 Analysis of a Biological Control Strategy and its Potential in a Pest Management Program in Florida Cabbage**, Florida A&M Univ., FL, \$10,000, Stuart Reitz, Ph: (850) 412-7062, sreitz@nettally.com and Nathan Herrick, Ph: (850) 412-7057, bugs333@juno.com

**GS02-019 Chemical Ecology of *Microtheca ochroloma***, Univ. of Florida, \$3,057, FL, Mickie Swisher, Ph: (352) 392-2202 and Kristen Bowers, Ph: (850) 412-7057, kebowers@nettally.com

**GS03-020 The Assessment of Conservation and Traditional**

# Graduate Student Projects

## **Tillage Systems on Weed Dynamics, Insect Abundance, and Northern Bobwhite Quail Life and Behavioral Patterns,**

Clemson University, SC, \$10,000, Bill Bowerman, Ph:864-646-2185, bowerm@clemson.edu; and Derek A. Eggert, Ph:864-646-2194, dereke@clemson.edu

**GS03-021 Development of Methodology to Measure Net feed Efficiency in Bulls to Enhance profitability and environmental sustainability of beef production,** Texas A&M University, TX, \$10,000, Gorden E. Carstens, Ph: 979-845-5065, g-carstens@tamu.edu; and J. Trent Fox, Ph:979-845-5065, jtfox@tamu.edu

**GS03-022 The use of Mesocosms for Larval Fish Production,** Univ of Florida, FL, \$ 9,485, Frank Chapman, Ph:352-392-9617, fac@ifas.ufl.edu; and Jon S. Kao, Ph: 352-392-9617, jskao@ufl.edu

**GS03-023 Aphids as Beneficial Insects? Using a fire ant – aphid interaction for the sustainable management of insect pests in Southern cotton,** Auburn University, AL, \$7,040, Micky D. Eubanks, Ph:334-844-2556, meubanks@acesag.auburn.edu; and Ian Kaplan, Ph:334-844-2671, kaplaia@auburn.edu

**GS03-024 Optimizing Forage Production and Quality Within a Temperate Silvopasture System,** Virginia Tech, VA \$9,959, John Fike, Ph: 540-231-8654, jfike@vt.edu; and Alicia Lenore Buerger, Ph:540-231-8654, abuerger@vt.edu

**GS03-025 Integrating Effects of Natural Enemies into Winter Wheat Greenbug Management,** OK State University, OK, \$ 9,973, Kristopher L. Giles, Ph:405-744-6298, kgiles@okstate.edu; and Douglas B. Jones, Ph: 405-744-6298, dbj@okstate.edu

**GS03-026 Compatibility of Plant Defense Elicitors with Aphid- and Nematode-Resistant Tomato Varieties in Integrated Pest Management,** Univ of Arkansas, AR, \$10,034, Fiona Goggin, Ph:479-575-6751, fgoggin@uark.edu; and William Cooper, Ph: 479-575-3659, wrcoope@uark.edu,

**GS03-027 Natural Vegetation and its Influence on Weed Populations in Neighboring Fields,** NCSU, NC, \$ 9,932, J. Paul Mueller, Ph: 919-515-5825, Paul\_Mueller@ncsu.edu and Susan T. Jelinek, Ph: 919-515-3492, Susan\_Jelinek@ncsu.edu

**GS03-028 Evaluation of Beneficial Insect Habitat for Organic Farms,** NCSU, NC, \$10,000, David B. Orr, Ph: 919-515-8424, david\_orr@ncsu.edu; and H. Michael Linker, Ph: 919-515-5644 mike\_linker@ncsu.edu; and Lisa M. Forehand, Ph: 919-515-8424 lisa\_forehand@ncsu.edu

Global Positioning System collar tracks cattle location and activity to facilitate a study of grazing and streambank erosion in Kentucky. Photos by Carmen Agouridis. Project GS02-014



**GS03-029 Performance and Quality of Pasture-raised Poultry: Label Rouge –type,** Univ of Arkansas, AR, \$ 9,940, Casey M. Owens, Ph: 479-575-7118, cmowens@uark.edu and Anne Fanatico, Ph: 479-575-7118, afanati@uark.edu

**GS03-030 Evaluation of Microbial Ecology in Pasture Ecosystems with Long-term Poultry Litter Additions,** Univ of Arkansas, AR, \$ 9,990, Marv Savin, Ph: 479-575-5740, msavin@uark.edu and Peter Tomlinson, Ph: 479-575-5740 ptomlin@uark.edu

# On-Farm Research Projects

Production and marketing of watermelons and other traditional Southern fruits and vegetables were addressed in many of the initial on-farm research projects.



**OS02-001 Production, Marketing and Financial Analysis of Seedless Watermelons Growing in Tobacco Transplant Greenhouses**, Virginia Tech CES, VA, \$12,118, Paul Chambers, Ph: 540-889-8056, paulcham@vt.edu

**OS02-002 Specialty Flowering Bulbs as a Sustainable Alternative Crop for Tobacco Farmers in Middle Tennessee**, Univ of Tennessee, TN, \$14,910, Stephen Garton, Ph: 865-974-7324, sgarton@extl.ag.utk.edu

**OS02-003 Central Alabama Soil Quality Improvement for Cotton Growers**, AL, \$2,116, Leonard Kuykendall, Ph: 334-361-7273, lkuykend@acesag.auburn.edu

**OS02-004 Incorporation of Triticale/Clover into Existing Grazing Management Systems to Enhance Beef Cattle Production Sustainability**, (Final Report) AL, \$967, Perry Mobley, Ph: 334-613-4221, PMobley@alfains.com

A comparison of Triticale to more commonly used small grains for grazing showed that there is definitely some usefulness to Triticale as a part of a small grain forage system. It must be noted that there are definite differences between different varieties of Triticale as was shown in this test. Trical 2700 Triticale will produce more forage than Trical 336 in the fall. Furthermore Trical 2700 will have similar yields to rye, but it will retain its forage quality for a longer period of time than rye. It was found that Harrison Oats produced the highest forage yields during the entire test, but produced very little forage in the fall.

**OS02-005 Direct Marketing Assessment for the Potential of Ethnic Crops**, VA, \$9,775, Jason D. Murray, Ph: 773-737-8978

**OS02-006 Evaluation and Maintenance of Sustainable Systems for Alfalfa Production and Marketing Strategies on Coastal Plain Soils**, Texas A&M Univ., Agricultural Research and Education Center, TX, \$15,000, Larry Redmon, Ph: 903-834-6191, l-redmon@tamu.edu

**OS02-007 Developing Sustainable Internal Parasite Control Programs for Small Ruminants**, Virginia State University, VA, \$14,995, Joseph P. Tritschler, Ph: 804-524-5957, jtritsch@vsu.edu

**OS03-008 Limiting Grazing Cattle Access to Ponds to Improve Water Quality, and Water and Feed Intake**, University of Kentucky, KY, \$14,945, Jose R. Bicudo, Ph: 859-257-9420, jbicudo@bac.uky.edu

**OS03-009 Year Round Beef Cattle Grazing Strategy to Eliminate or Reduce the Use of Stored Feeds**, KY, \$15,000, David Ditsch, Ph: 606-257-9511, x231, dditsch@uky.edu

**OS03-010 Poultry Litter Research Project**, Clemson Extension Service, SC, \$12,600, David Gunter, Ph: 843-393-0484, dgunter@clemson.edu

**OS03-011 Goat Friendly Pastures**, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, KY, \$14,975, Terry Hutchens, Ph: 859-257-2465, thutchen@uky.edu

**OS03-012 Introducing Legume Cover Crops into Large Scale Grain-Cattle Production Systems**, Texas County OSU Extension, OK, \$14,521, Steve Kraich, Ph: 580-338-7300, kraich@okstate.edu

**OS03-013 Growing Organic Fruits and Vegetables for Local Farmer's Markets**, SC, \$9,925, York Glover, Ph: 843-470-3655, yglover@clemson.edu

**OS03-014 Kentucky Blueberry Market Development**, Bluegrass Blueberries, KY, \$4,786, Larry Martin, Ph: 270-432-5836, a61853@scrtc.com

**\*\* OS03-015 Performance of Various Forage Combinations Under Thinned Pine Canopies in North Florida**, University of Florida North Florida Research and Education Center, FL, \$14,982, Jarek Nowak, Ph: 850-875-7142, jnowak@ufl.edu

**OS03-016 Use of Parasitoids and Passive Traps as Alternative Methods of Fly Control on Dairy Farms in Arkansas**, Univ of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, AR, \$15,000, Jodie A. Pennington, Ph: 501-671-2190, jpennington@uaex.edu

**OS03-017 Soil Water Movement in Vegetables Grown with Plasticulture**, Univ. of Florida, IFAS, FL, \$14,096, Eric Simonne, Ph: 352-392-1928, x208, esimonne@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

*\*\*Funded in part by NRCS National Agroforestry Center*

# Sustainable Community Innovation Projects

**CS02-001 Agri-tourism: A Strategy Toward Sustainable Farm, Business, Family and Community**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, VA, \$8,230, D. Brian Calhoun, Ph: (540)469-4030, dcalhoun@vt.edu

**CS02-002 Downtown Farmers' Market– Linking the Farm to the Community**, Carroll County Farmland and Rural Preservation Committee, \$8,600, Rob Gordy, Ph: (770) 836-6911, robgordy@cbtwga.com

**CS02-003 Making the Connection: Enhancing Agricultural Understanding in an Urbanizing Area, (Final Report)** Prince William County Farm Tour Inc., VA, \$7,300 Suzanne Heflin, Ph: 703-754-7564, hsheflin@erols.com

Producing and distributing a 4th grade activity book in conjunction with the Prince William County Farm Tour proved to positively impact the educational efforts of the farm tour, but had little impact on event attendance. Refinements in book distribution and production of teacher materials will elevate awareness and utilization of the activity book in the future.

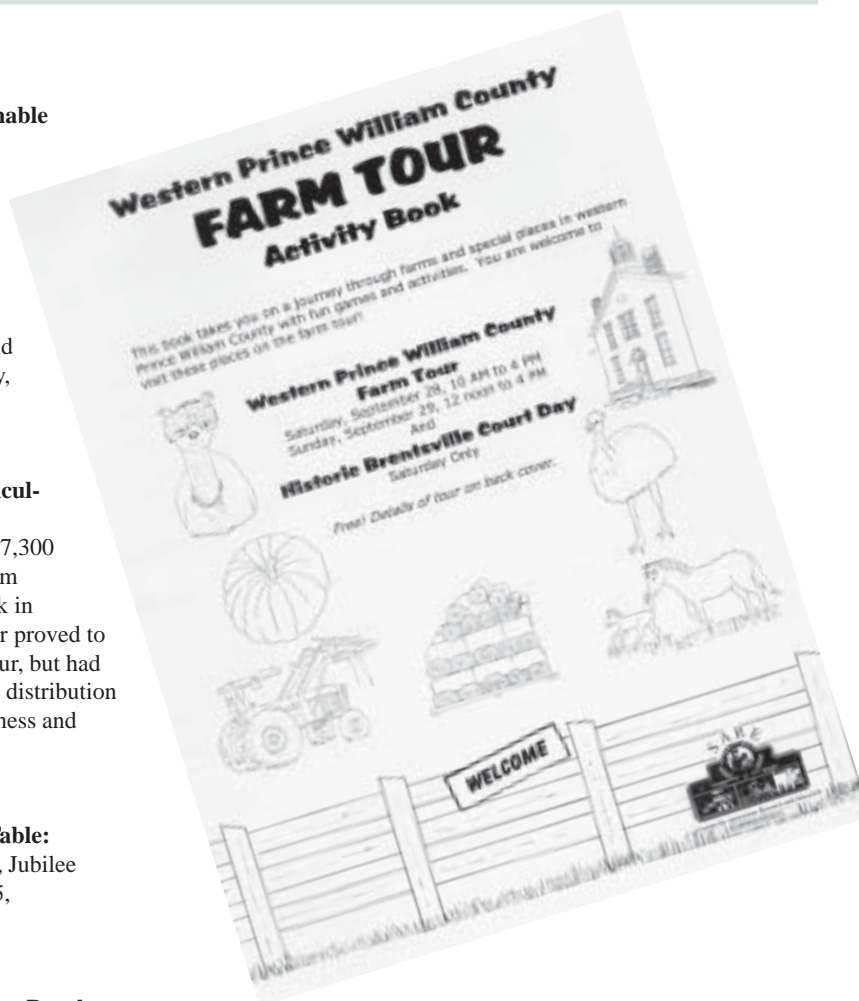
**CS02-004 Homegrown, From Our Farms to Your Table: Growing a Farmers' Cooperative in East Tennessee**, Jubilee Project, Inc., \$6,436, Steve Hodges, Ph: 423-733-4195, stevehodges@naxs.net

**CS02-005 SE North Carolina Agri-Tourism Corridor Development**, The Conservation Fund, NC, \$7,000, Nancy Hunt, Ph: 919-967-2223, nancyhuntcf@yahoo.com

**CS02-006 Keen on Beans: Establishing Edamame Awareness and Demand for Kentucky Consumers and Growers (Final Report)** Daviess County Extension Service, University of Kentucky, \$8,712, Martha W. Lee, Ph: (270) 685-8480, mlee@uky.edu

Nutrition education and market development for edamame soybeans was conducted in Daviess County, Kentucky in 2002 for targeted groups. Following production, harvesting, and storage of test plot beans, the diverse team of producers, UK Cooperative Extension, state and local officials collaborated with marketing and industry officials in five states to produce significant marketing/producer awareness milestones.

**CS02-007 Pioneering the Way to the Future**, Okemah Chamber of Commerce, OK, \$6,900, Diann Neal, Ph: 918-623-2440, diann.neal@sbcglobal.net



Artist Nicky Staunton's original drawings of seven farms and the historic Brentsville Courthouse made learning fun for youngsters in Prince William County. The activity books were distributed in the schools so that even children who didn't attend the tour could learn about the farms. Project CS02-003.

*Sustainable Community Innovation grants are co-funded by the Southern Rural Development Center*

# Sustainable Community Innovation Projects

**CS02-008 Test Marketing of New Label in Southwest Florida for USA Grown /Living Wage Produce**, Harvest for Humanity, Inc., FL, \$5,200, Richard J. Nogaj, Ph: 239-657-4888, dhfh@ix.netcom.com

**CS03-009 Strengthening Rural Communities Through Direct Marketing**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC \$9,941, Susan Andreatta, Ph: (336)256-0439, s\_andrea@uncg.edu

**CS03-010 “Santa Rosa Fresh” Marketing Assistance**, Santa Rosa County Agribusiness Committee, FL, \$10,000, Paula Davis, (850) 983-1848, paulad@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

**CS03-011 Making the Connection: Enhancing Agricultural Understanding in an Urbanizing Area**, Prince William County Farm Tour, Inc., \$7,200, Suzanne Heflin, (703) 754-7564, hsheflin@erols.com

**CS03-012 Sustainable Agriculture Innovations Lead to Rural Success**, Canutillo Independent School District, \$10,000, Gayla Kessinger, (915) 877-7466, gkessinger@canutillo.k12.tx.us

**CS03-013 Expanding Community-Based Retail Opportunities for Agricultural Products Through the Woodford County Farmers’ Market Association**, University of Kentucky CES Community and Economic Programs, \$9,700, Betty King, (859) 257-3404, bking@uky.edu.

**CS03-014 Northwest Arkansas Local Food Initiative: Promoting All-Ozark Meals**, ATTRA, \$9,978, Julia Sampson, (479) 442-9824, julias@ncat.org

**CS03-015 Community Development Through a Regional Food System Plan**, Accomac-Northhampton Planning District Commission, \$10,000, Barbara Schwenk, Ph: (757) 787-2936, schwenk@easternshore.org

**CS03-016 Taylor Community Supported Agriculture Project**, The United Christian Community Association, \$10,000, Evelyn Williams, Ph: (334) 627-3970, evelynwilliams@hotmail.com



It could be called a soy bean blitz headed by Martha Lee, Daviess County Extension Agent in Kentucky. Project CS02-006 promoted the healthy, tasty, high-value edamame soybean to growers, consumers, industry officials, and nutritionists through state fairs, television programs, conferences and personal appearances. The result has been a spike in media coverage, consumer demand and grower awareness. Check out the web site at [www.edamame.org](http://www.edamame.org).

**CS03-017 Putting Pike on the Map**, Citizens to Promote Pike, Inc., GA, \$9,680, Chris Curry, (770) 567-0428, billchrisfarm@aol.com

**CS03-018 New River Sustainable Agriculture Marketing Plan, New River Community Partners, \$10,000**, Hollis Wild, Ph: (336)372-8118, hwild@skybest.com

# Which SARE grant program for you?

Southern SARE administers six separate grant programs, each with its own priorities and audiences. The process begins with the release of calls for proposals for each of the programs. The SSARE web site [www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare](http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare) is the quickest way to receive the calls for proposals as soon as they are released. If you don't have web access, call (770) 412-4787 near the release date for a mailed copy.

**Research and Education Projects** generally are conducted by interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, and often, multi-state research teams coordinated by a principal investigator from a non-governmental organization, university or governmental agency. These projects include farmers as participants. Awards up to \$350,000 will be considered. **As of 2003 a social science priority area has been added.** For more information call Jeff Jordan at (770) 412-4788.

**2003**

**April 1** Call for 2004 preproposals released

**June 2** 2004 Preproposals due

**August** Invitation by AC for full proposals

**November 14** Full proposals due

**2004**

**February** AC announces all 2004 awards

**Producer Grant Projects** are developed, coordinated and conducted by producers or producer organizations. These projects are generally located in one state, often on one farm. There is a \$10,000 limit for funding proposals submitted by an individual producer and a \$15,000 limit on proposals submitted by producer organizations. For more information about Producer Grants call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

**2003**

**August 1** Call for 2004 proposals released

**December 5** Proposals due

**2004**

**February** AC announces all 2004 awards

**Graduate Student Awards** are intended for full-time graduate students (masters or Ph.D.) enrolled at accredited colleges and universities in the Southern Region. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded to each successful applicant for up to three years of project activities. The funds are paid directly to the university for use on the graduate student's project. For more information call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

**2003**

**March 1** Call for 2004 proposal released

**December 12** Proposals due

**2004**

**February** AC announces all 2004 awards

**Professional Development Program Projects** train agricultural information providers in sustainable agriculture techniques and concepts. For more information contact Rosanne Minarovic at (919) 515-3252.

**2003**

**March 1** Call for 2004 preproposals released

**May 16** 2004 Preproposals due

**August** Invitation by AC for full proposals

**November 14** Full proposals due

**2004**

**February** AC announces all 2004 awards

**On-Farm Research Projects** are conducted by agricultural professionals such as extension agents, NRCS and/or NGO personnel who currently work with farmers and ranchers. Cooperators must include at least three producers at all stages of the project. Funded for a maximum of \$15,000 for up to two years of activities. For more information call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

**2003**

**August 1** Call for 2004 proposals released

**December 5** Proposals due

**2004**

**February** AC announces all 2004 awards

**Sustainable Community Innovation Projects** link sound farm and nonfarm economic development with agricultural and natural resource management. Applicants may be farmers, ranchers, researchers, community organizations, environmentalists, ag and community development professionals, entrepreneurs, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Funded for a project maximum of \$10,000 for up to two years of activities. Call John Mayne at (770) 229-3350.

**2003**

**July 1** Call for proposals released

**September 5** Proposals due

**November** Sustainable Community Innovation awards announced

## Partners in innovation Continued from page 2

according to Suzanne Heflin, who heads up the SARE project.

“It’s always hard to get people in on a vision,” she says. “But remember, people on those boards volunteer because they love their area and that includes the natural resources and agriculture. It is worth it to sit down with them and let them hear about your vision. And when you do, remember to emphasize the economic advantages of tourism as well as ag as a business.”

In urbanizing areas, there’s usually a built-in ally that’s often overlooked, according to Heflin. “I’ve worked in several counties, and they all have something about ag preservation in their land use plans, but it is often just on paper because no one has any ideas to put into action. It’s often enough to remind them that your vision will allow them to fulfill that part of their plan.”

She also recommends that land use planners trying to get the ear of government should ask a farmer to join the planning committee because farmers are still so respected in our society. If you can’t find a farmer with enough time to serve, bring the community to the farm.

“Farm tours can be a survival tactic in some communities when you get the decision makers out there to talk face-to-face with the farmers themselves. At first it was difficult to convince our county leaders that rural tourism has really taken off; they thought tourism meant going to New York City or somewhere. Once they saw how many people enjoyed visiting our local farms, they were eager to develop that potential.”



Eighty percent of consumers surveyed as part of project CS02-008 said they would be willing to pay five percent more for blueberries if the extra money went to pay the farm workers a living wage. Photos by Dick Nogaj.

The University of Georgia  
Campus at Griffin  
Southern Region SARE  
1109 Experiment Street  
Griffin, GA 30223-1797

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRIFFIN, GA  
PERMIT NO.155