

Southeast PA Organic Producers To Meet

BIRD-IN-HAND (Lancaster Co.)-Pennsylvania Certified Organic will hold a Southeast regional meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22 and 23, from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Christ and Levi Miller's Farm, Bird-in-Hand. Keynote Speakers Klaas & Mary-Howell Martens, certified organic farmers from the Pen Yan area of New York, will do a team presentation about cultivation techniques as well as issues surrounding genetically modified organisms. The Martens spoke at a recent Acres USA conference in Minneapolis and have published articles on many organic farming topics.

Program, Tuesday February 22

Members of PCO will present a panel discussion on organic certification and national standards. The panel will open the meeting each morning and will consist of various PCO members, including: Executive Director Leslie Zuck; President Michael Brownback of Spiral Path Farm, Loysville; Vice President Preston Boop of Briar Patch Farm, Mifflinburg; Standards Chair David Griffiths of Seven Stars Farm, Phoenixville; Certification Chair D. David Martin of Danda Farms, Manheim; Education Chair Jeff Moyer of the Rodale Institute, Kutztown; Livestock Chair Roman Stoltzfoos of Springwood Organic Farm, Kinzers; Materials Chair Alfred Walker; Inspectors Brian Magaro, Al Johnson and Lyn Garling.

Emily Brown-Rosen of the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) will talk about what it is that OMRI does, what goes on in the review process, OMRI's consultation position to

the USDA National Organic Standards Board. Brown-Rosen will answer questions about the materials review process.

Tim Bowser, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, (PASA), will speak about keeping organic standards high in the certified organic process and the need to preserve the organic market as a true niche.

Dr. Hubert J. Karreman will present practical tips for barn situations. Dr. Karreman is a dairy practitioner in southeast Pennsylvania who specializes in working with organic herds, grazing herds and those who want to reduce reliance on antibiotics and hormones. He will speak about natural treatments for common barn conditions.

Dave Wise, Program Biologist for Ducks Unlimited & Chesapeake Bay Foundation, will talk about stream bank fencing and propagating and harvesting streamside plants for resale as a potentially profitable project for family farms.

Ned MacArthur, of Natural Dairy Products marketing under the brand Natural By Nature, is a distributor of certified organic dairy products. He will speak about organic dairies from the processor's point of view.

An evening social hour and informal reception with Klaas & Mary-Howell Martens is planned for 7-9 p.m. Tuesday.

Program, Wednesday February 23

The PCO panel will focus on specific standards issues and questions, including crop rotations, dairy herd transition, requirements for manure application and buffer areas. This is an opportunity for PCO

Registration Form

Please preregister so we can arrange for food and seating, which is limited.
Walk-ins may be accepted if space allows, but might not be guaranteed meals.

Names/address/phone of all people attending	Day(s)	Fee
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I wish to make the following Donation(s):

Door Prize _____	Refreshments _____	Cash sponsorship \$ _____
		Total enclosed \$ _____

I would like to help: (circle) Set up Work at registration Clean up

Send to: PA Certified Organic, PO Box 452, Centre Hall, PA 16828
phone: 814-364-1344; fax 814-364-2330, email PaOrganic@aol.com

to hear your concerns and suggestions, and to answer questions about organic standards.

Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens will give their presentation Wednesday morning.

Dr. C. Edgar Sheaffer will talk about holistic issues facing farmers as they transition their herds into certified organic status. Dr. Sheaffer is a holistic veterinarian who started Clark Veterinary Clinic in Palmyra and has forged the way for homeopathic remedies to be used on a variety of large animal species, especially cattle and horses.

Dave Mattocks, President of The Fertrell Company, and will speak about issues of soil fertility on certified organic farms.

The meeting is open to all, however, seating and food is limited, so pre-registration is recommended. Cost is \$15 for one day and \$25 for both days, including hot buffet lunch. Pennsylvania Certified Organic is a non-profit educational organization that represents 450 members and certifies more

than 200 organic farms, processors and handlers within the Commonwealth. For information on joining PCO, registering for the meeting or displaying your products or services, contact Leslie Zuck at PCO, 814-364-1344; fax 814-364-2330; email PaOrganic@aol.com.

Sponsors & Exhibitors

A number of organic agriculture-related businesses will have display tables and representatives available to discuss their products and services: Aaron Groff & Son; Aaron King Seeds; Ducks Unlimited/Chesapeake Bay Foundation; The Fertrell Company; Fisher & Thompson

Pladot Mini-Dairy; Hess Farm Supply; Homestead Nutrition Inc.; I & J Manufacturing; Meadow Green Valley Inc.; McGeary Organics; Miller's Natural Foods; Northeast Nutri-Ag; Organic Unlimited; and Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture.

Directions to the Miller's farm: From Route 30 or Route 340, turn north on N. Ronks Road in Bird-in-Hand. Follow to T and turn right onto Church Road. Make the next left onto Monterrey Road. Go over a small bridge and turn right at Miller's Natural Foods sign.

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