

Harvest of Traditions with Branched Oak Farm

Branched Oak Farm, proud NSAS members!! Sunday, October 18th, 1-5pm. Their annual farm tour is coming up October 18th! Join them between 1-5pm. Take a hayrack ride, listen to a story-teller, learn to square dance, take a hayrack ride, have a snack. Sponsored by Slow Food Nebraska!! and the Nebraska Folklife Network!. Check out their cool website for more details! www.branchedoakfarm.com.

Center for Grassland Studies Fall 2009 Seminar Series

Monday, October 12th. 3:00 pm-4:00 pm. Heidi Hillhouse, Post Doctoral Research Associate, Dept. of Agronomy and Horticulture, UNL, will present "Patterns of Plant Establishment in Tallgrass Prairie Plantings." Free and open to the public. <http://www.grassland.unl.edu/semf09.html>. East Campus Union, 35th St and East Campus Loop, Lincoln NE

Niche Meat Processing Webinars

October 14 & 20, 2009. Webinar

#1) Wednesday, Oct. 14, 9-10am PST/noon-1pm EST

"Mobile Poultry Processing Units in California, Montana, and Vermont -- How's It Going?" Coordinators of three new MPPUs will tell us how they work, challenges and strategies, and lessons learned. At the time of the webinar, go to:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/nichemeat/> and follow instructions.

#2) Tuesday, Oct. 20, 10-11am PST/1-2pm EST

"Interstate Sales of State Inspected Meats" USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service issued its proposed rules last month, and public comments are due Nov. 16. On this webinar, we will discuss the proposal, highlighting elements NMPAN has identified as important for comment. At the time of the webinar, go to:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/nichemeat/> and follow instructions

"Human Health, Quality of Life, and Natural Environments: What is the Connection?"

School of Natural Resources Fall Seminar Series. Wednesday, October 14th. 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Dr. Alan Ewert, Professor and Endowed Chair, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism, Indiana University. Room: 107 Auditorium HARDIN HALL, 3310 Holdrege Street. NE Corner of 33rd and Holdrege. Sharon Kelly, 402-472-9873, skelly1@unl.edu

Permaculture Design Certification Course

October 16-24, 2009. Montrose, Minnesota. This intensive week-long course covers many areas of permaculture design work, including soils, water and earthworks, ecobuilding, permaculture strategies for different climates, rural and suburban permaculture, and more.

http://www.pricoldclimate.org/event/permaculture_design_certification_class

Grand Opening Celebration at Open Harvest

October 16, 2009. From its humble start in 1975 in a cramped space at 27th & Randolph, Open Harvest today boasts 3,200 active members, generates over three million dollars in annual sales, employs over 60 people, and contracts with over 60 local vendors. This summer the sales area expanded by a whopping 70% when it took over the space formerly occupied by Eyes of the World. The expansion boosts total square footage to nearly 10,000. The Grand Opening celebration will take place October 16 with a 9:00 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Chris Beutler.

Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance Conference

October 13-14, 2009. Twin Falls, Idaho. The program will feature a general session for industry business, educational seminars and a farm tour.

<http://www.tilth.org/events/western-organic-dairy-producers-alliance-1>

News

USDA putting more money into food producer-consumer connection

RAYMOND - Bush is out, Obama is in, and the people on the production end of the food pipeline in Nebraska are noticing there's a lot more to it than that.

"Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" is an example of renewed efforts in the U.S. Department of Agriculture to connect consumers more directly with the people who grow what they eat.

It could also be said the government's biggest food promoter and food regulator is putting more of its money closer to where the mouths are. In one week, according to USDA officials, the funding total for "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" added up to \$65 million.

Krista Dittman - whose 10 years in food production in the Lincoln area has taken her from selling a few dozen eggs to making and marketing a dozen different kinds of

cheese - likes the message she's getting from a new federal initiative and from growing numbers of customers.

Read the rest at, http://journalstar.com/news/local/article_ffb3c870-b609-11de-bd5e-001cc4c002e0.html

Upcoming

A Vision for the Future of Agriculture - Kathleen Merrigan Lecture

October 20, 2009. Ames, Iowa. Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, is the former director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program at Tufts University, where she was on faculty in the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. She will speak about her initiatives in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she is second in command. Complete details at <http://www.lectures.iastate.edu/lecture/18656>

Fall Grape Growers Workshop

October 31. Lincoln. Fall Grape Growers Workshop. Vineyard floor management and weed management will be the featured topics: How do you control those pesky goblins (weeds) that steal water and nutrients? What are the pros and cons of clean cultivation versus cover crops for row middles? More information will be forthcoming at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture/>.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE: Sustainable Mini-Farming Workshop

October 22-24, 2009. Fairfield, IA. This workshop is an exciting opportunity for farmers and gardeners of all levels to gain an in-depth understanding of the GROW BIOINTENSIVE philosophy and techniques developed by John Jeavons and the Ecology Action staff over the past 37 years. For more information, go to www.johnjeavons.info or call John Jeavons at (707) 459-5958. Cost: The workshop cost is \$350 if registration is received by September 22, plus approximately \$70 for the publications. Lunches and a networking dinner are included; lodging and other meals are not

eXtension National Conference

October 20-23, 2009. St. Louis, Missouri. eXtension is pleased to host the first eXtension National Conference bringing together everyone involved in and interested in

eXtension for exciting keynote speakers, concurrent breakout sessions, networking, round table discussions, formal and informal presentations and more on how to effectively inform, educate, and engage online customers.

<http://about.extension.org/2009-extension-national-conference/>

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~The mission of NSAS is to promote agriculture & food systems that build healthy land, people, communities & quality of life, for present & future generations!