

WHEN: 5:30—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 28, 2004

WHERE: Center Valley Organic Farm
8364 S State Rd 39, Clayton IN

HOST: Cissy Bowman, owner/operator
Center Valley Organic Farm

RSVP requested call:

Hendricks County Extension Office,
317-745-9260
by 4:00 p.m., September 24
or send the registration form below by
September 22.

**Registration Form
Organic Farm Tour**

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Send to:

Jon Cain
Hendricks Co. Extension Office
P O Box 7
Danville IN 46122-0007

Phone: 317-745-9260

Fax: 317-745-9267

DIRECTIONS:

Center Valley Organic Farm
8364 S State Rd 39, Clayton IN

From U.S. Highway 40 in southern Hendricks County—go to Belleville and turn south on Highway 39 at the stoplight. Proceed south about 2 miles. The Center Valley Farm “homestead” is the second white house on the right, past the big electric tower which is on the east side of the road.

From I-70—take the Monrovia/Belleville exit (#59), turn north and proceed 1.7 miles. The house is on the west side of the road, has a white roof and a curved glass greenhouse attached to the front. *Do not go to Center Valley Farm down on 900 S and State Rd 39—they are not the same farm!* The store/office is located at 8370 S State Rd 39 in the gold house with brown trim, just south of the white house. There is a brown sign with tallow letters just north of the driveway to the gold house saying, “Center Valley Organics, Consumer Supported Farm”

WHAT TO WEAR:

Dress appropriately for the weather (we’ll be outside for the entire tour). In case of significant rain that day, note the rain date (we’ll be parking in a pasture field)...If you have a question about weather cancellation, call the Hendricks County Extension Office until 4:00 p.m. the day of the tour.

Jon Cain, Extension Educator, AgNR
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Purdue University, Indiana Counties and
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Cooperating
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Purdue Extension -
Hendricks County
and Purdue Small
Farms Team
Presents-
**Organic
Farm
Tour**

**Small Farms
Sustainable Ag
Tour**



**Date: September 28, 2004
(Rain Date: October 5,
2004)**

**Time: 5:30—7:00 p.m.
Center Valley
Organic Farm
Clayton IN**

Background

In recent years the demand for organically grown vegetables, other crops, milk, meat, etc. had grown considerably, especially near larger cities, resulting in an increase in the number of organic producers located near large cities. Hendricks County is one of many Indiana “urbanizing” counties making it possible for existing farmers, small farm owners, as well as “wannabe” small farm operations to consider getting into organic production.

Organic farmers, among other things, rely strongly on crop rotation, cultivation, natural predators and other ways to manage weeds, insect pests and soil fertility.



*Sustainable family farms
are the goal!*

And organic vegetables bring premium prices—sometimes more than double what their conventional counterparts earn. Profit potential per acre is thus often higher, a boon for farmers whose farm is small but expensive. For example, New Farm’s June 15 Organic Price Index reported eastern U.S. wholesale prices of \$23.25 for 20 pounds of organic broccoli vs. \$13 for conventionally grown broccoli; \$30.25 for 48 pounds of organic carrots vs. \$13 for conventional; \$31.50 for 24-count organic romaine lettuce vs. \$17 for conventional; and \$44 for 24-count organic celery vs. \$18.50 for conventional.

USDA’s national organic standards—found on

line at www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/standards.html require a three year transition period between stopping the use of synthetic chemicals and other conventional crop practices and applying for organic certification.

Hendricks County has a very robust agricultural economy, but at the same time is urbanizing rapidly. So the connection between active farmers and active consumers is growing too. For farming to remain a significant and valued way of life and source of income, farmers at the edge of urban areas, especially those who want to farm organically, need more information, which is the purpose of this tour.

ABOUT THE TOUR

This program is organized and sponsored by the Purdue University Extension “Small Farms-Sustainable Ag” team.

The tour host, Cissy Bowman, will present information geared at an introductory level on a small scale organic farm. She will discuss such things as managing insects, weeds, and diseases; providing nutrients; consumer supported agriculture (CSA); on-farm composting; marketing; as well as a brief introduction to certification. She will answer questions as time permits and questions are encouraged. Those wanting greater detail about certification should wait until after the program to ask these questions.

ABOUT THE HOST

When Cissy started growing food organically there were no standards or regulations that defined what organic meant. In 1990, when the “Organic Foods Production Act” was passed as

part of the 1990 Farm Bill, Cissy was already working with consumer and environmental groups in and outside Indiana to ensure that the new organic standard would be one that could be embraced by organic farmers and consumers as a standard of integrity and credibility.

She works as a USDA Accredited Organic Certifying Agent and as Education Program Director for the non profit Hoosier Organic Marketing Education (HOME) group. She also serves as chair of the Indiana Organic Peer Review Panel.

If you require auxiliary aids and services due to disabilities, please contact the Hendricks County Extension Office prior to the event.



Contact person: Jon Cain
317-745-9260

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