



EVENT RELEASE

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INVITATION TO BIOCONTROL FARM WALK

September, 2003

The Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Tilth would like to invite all interested growers to attend a biological control farm walk **Thursday, September 25th from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.** The farm walk will be a tour of two farms; Horton Road Organics of Horton and WinterGreen Farm of Noti, Oregon. Both farms are certified organic, and market their vegetables, herbs and fruits at farmers markets, restaurants, wholesale and as community supported farms. WinterGreen Farm, the larger of the two farms, has about 60 acres in production. They process and dry herbs and vegetables on the farm and are also Demeter certified as a biodynamic farm. Horton Road Organics has about 5 acres in production and enjoys the reputation of being a very popular market and community supported farm. They also run a dynamic internship program for future farmers. The farm tour will begin at Horton Road Organics at 3:00 P.M.

The farm walk is meant to heighten our appreciation of the natural biodiversity that already exists on farms and how we can use what we know about these systems to increase farm habitats for beneficial organisms. Practices that Horton Rd., WinterGreen Farm, and other farmers use to restore, enhance and maximize natural enemy populations on their farms will be highlighted and discussed. There will be opportunities to sweep, catch and identify insects on the farms as well. This is also a BYOB (bring your own bug) event so if something has been bugging you all summer and you don't know what it is pop it in a jar and bring it along. Be sure to limit your samples to one or two, non-stinging or biting insects! Participants are also invited to bring a vegetarian food dish, your own plates and cutlery, and share a pot luck meal at the end of the walk.

The farm walks are sponsored by OSU's, Integrated Plant Protection Center and Oregon Tilth who are working together on a project to support grower-led activities that build the knowledge and implementation of conservation biological control (CBC) on local farms. Conservation biological control can be defined as methods used on and around farms to restore and enhance natural enemy populations that can increase to numbers that may limit pest populations. Such methods may include insectary plantings, grassy field margins, beetle banks and hedgerows.

If you are interested in attending the farm walk please contact Paul Jepson at 541-737-9082 or email at jepsonp@science.oregonstate.edu.