

ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION: FROM SEEDS TO SALES

BLACKBERRY MEADOWS FARM

7115 RIDGE ROAD, NATRONA HEIGHTS, PA 15065 (ALLEGHENY COUNTY)

APRIL 9, 2013

10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.



Learn how Farmers Jen Montgomery and Greg Boulos plan, market, and manage a 150-member CSA and discuss soil fertility and ecology with Soil Ecologist Mary Barbercheck.

Blackberry Meadows Farm is an 85-acre farm in Allegheny County on which Jen Montgomery and her husband, Greg Boulos, have a diversified vegetable production. Organically-certified vegetables are marketed through a 150-member CSA and sold at two Pittsburgh farmers' markets.

Jen will lead us on a tour of their fields and orchards and then focus the day's activities on the production within their four high tunnels. Participants will learn how Jen and Greg manage their planting schedule, crop rotation, watering, pest management and harvesting.

Mary Barbercheck, Soil Ecologist, Penn State University, will discuss increasing soil fertility and soil ecology within a high tunnel.

In addition, Jen will also describe their recent initiative to start a heritage seed saving collective.

This will be an opportunity to network with other growers to discuss organic certification, seed sourcing and saving, direct marketing strategies and high tunnel opportunities and challenges.

Jen Montgomery is PA-WAgN's 2013 Fruit & Vegetable Production Mentor and has 15 years of experience.

AGENDA

10:00 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions
10:30 a.m.	<i>Farm Tour—Jen Montgomery</i>
11:30 a.m.	<i>Sourcing Seeds and Seed Saving—Jen Montgomery</i>
Noon	Networking Lunch
1:00 p.m.	<i>Improving Soil Fertility in the High Tunnel—Mary Barbercheck</i>
2:00 p.m.	<i>Pest Control and Weed Management in Organic Production</i>
3:00 p.m.	Questions & Answers
3:15 p.m.	Evaluation
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn

REGISTRATION

Registration Fee: \$15
(includes lunch & materials)

Online Registration:
<http://agsci.psu.edu/wagn/events>

For additional details contact:

Patty Neiner at
prn103@psu.edu or 814-865-7031

All are welcome to participate in events
sponsored by PA-WAgN.

DIRECTIONS

<http://bit.ly/Apr9Directions>



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Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network is a partnership of Penn State Cooperative Extension & Outreach, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, PA Certified Organic, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Rodale Institute.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.