

Precision Small-Scale Farming Equipment

Learn about equipment set-up for reducing hand labor in small-scale vegetable production - plus some other cool stuff from three experienced vegetable farmer educators

Thursday May 21, 7:30 am to 12:00 Noon
SRJC Shone Farm Pavilion
7450 Steve Olson Lane, Forestville, CA 95436

Hand labor is the most expensive cost item in small-scale farming, so its no wonder that farmers are always looking for innovative ways to reduce labor costs. One solution is to find a tool that might work to reduce the need for repetitive manual work – leaving more time for more skilled work. This workshop, led by very knowledgeable practitioners will show how various small-scale pieces of equipment can be pieced together to reduce hand labor. Examples will be shown of innovative equipment for establishing beds, precision planting, cultivation, and other forms of weed management. The workshop will also feature a field demonstration with several different pieces of equipment.

\$20 early registration on-line in advance by May 15th

\$30 after May 15th

Register here: <http://ucanr.edu/precisionfarming>

7:30 to 8:00: Registration and coffee + snacks

8:00 to 8:30: Introduction – Growing Vegetables Many Different Ways – *Paul Vossen, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor for Sonoma and Marin Counties*

8:30 to 10:15: Precision Small-Scale Equipment and Other Techniques to Reduce Hand Labor in Vegetable Production

Jim Leap, Retired UC Santa Cruz Farm Manager

10:15: BREAK and WALK to the SRJC Sustainable Ag Fields

10:30 to 12:00 – Noon: Field Demo for Setting Up, Seeding, and Cultivating Vegetable Beds

Leonard Diggs – SRJC Farm Manager



Speakers

Jim Leap: Jim Leap has been involved in “hands on” sustainable production systems since 1974. After several years of apprenticing on farms, Jim started his own mixed vegetable farm in the San Joaquin Valley in 1979 and focused primarily on direct marketing. After receiving a BS degree in Agricultural Science from CSUF in 1989 Jim accepted the Farm Manager position at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) at the University of California Santa Cruz in early 1990. Since coming to the Central Coast Jim has been actively involved in mentoring beginning farmers in the region and has presented countless workshops on a range of topics related to small-scale organic production systems. Since retiring from UCSC in 2010 Jim has been working as an agricultural technician with the USDA ARS in Salinas California assisting in the management of 25 acres of organically certified research ground. Jim has also been involved in mentoring beginning farmers and providing workshops on a range of topics on the Central Coast and in the bay area with support from USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher funding through CASFS as well as through SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education).



Leonard Diggs: Leonard has been the farm manager for the Santa Rosa Junior College, Shone Farm for 17 years. Beyond managing the entire farm, Leonard oversees the production and marketing of many different specialty crops on the Sustainable Agriculture fields. Leonard came to Sonoma County in 1991 and worked at the Farmery for 6 years managing 45 acres of berries, cut flowers, salad mix greens, heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. He has also farmed organically in Sonoma and Lake Counties. He has been and instructor at the SRJC for many years teaching courses such as: Specialty Crops, Organic Crops Planning, Warm Season and Cool Season Vegetables, and Tractor driving.

Paul Vossen: Paul has experience working with local vegetable farmers as the University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor for Sonoma and Marin Counties for 35 years. He farmed 3 acres of mixed specialty vegetables, cut flowers, and berries in Windsor for 10 years. He was one of the first to grow and write about heirloom tomatoes, salad mix greens, and T-tape for irrigation. He established the Specialty Crops Production Class at the SRJC and taught it in cooperation with other faculty for 15 years.

