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Providing Organic Education Since 1993

Farm Beginnings® Farmer Training Launches with Full Class!

Farm Beginnings®, a year-long farmer training program begins TOMORROW, October 24th, 2015.

The OGS Farm Beginnings® Farmer Training program is at capacity with 14 farms and 23 farmers (Each farm can have up to 2 participants in the class).

The program is designed to offer beginning and expanding farmers the practical skills and knowledge needed to start and grow successful long-term farm businesses. Farm Beginnings® is focused on sustainable agriculture practices and is taught by established farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

How did we get here? Here's a blog roll of our journey.

- [National CRAFT & FC Meeting](#) (Hosted in Asheville)
- [USDA Supports WNC Farmer Programs](#)
- [Community Foundation Supports Farmer Training Programs](#)
- [OGS Hires New Farmer Program Associate](#)
- [Meet Nicole DelCogliano](#)
- [Training with Farm Beginnings Collaborative](#)
- [Farmer Focus Group](#)
- [Farm Beginnings® Comes to WNC.](#)
- [OGS, SAHC, WNFL Form Farm Pathways and M.Xpress article.](#)
- [Cultivating Our Regional Allies.](#)
- [OGS Becomes Newest Member of Farm Beginnings Collaborative](#)
- [OGS Collaborates with Laura Lengnick, Local Author.](#)
- [OGS Barriers to Farming Survey in the News: Citizen-Times Article and Mountain Xpress Article](#)
- [OGS Lauches Farm Beginnings® Farmer Training Program](#)



Ask Tom: Heat and Triangular Tomatoes



Dear Tom,

We have part of our tomato crop in a high tunnel this year. They have been very productive, but some of the fruit are small and oddly shaped. We are also seeing some blossom drop with no fruit forming. The outside tomatoes are fine except for blight. Any suggestions?

-Bill in Waynesville

Dear Bill,

Your hoop house may be raising the crop temperature enough to be causing pollination problems. Seventy to 82 degrees is ideal for tomato pollination.

Their flowers have both male and female parts in the familiar cone that we see in tomato blossoms. Some movement is needed to transfer the pollen. In field tomatoes wind causes blossom movement and pollen transfer. Depending on how your hoop house is vented, limited pollen may be moving to the pistil because of reduced wind. Persistent high humidity or wet conditions can make the pollen grains sticky so they fail to transfer within the flower. Night temperatures above 70 F interfere with the growth of the pollen tube to the future fruit. Day temperatures in the high 90s can interfere with pollen production. If pollination does not occur in a few days the blossom will drop and no fruit is formed.

[Read More HERE](#)



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www.livingwebfarms.org

Our Staff is Growing....

Our staff is growing. We now number 7. Check out our new [staff and board photos](#) to get to know us.



Upcoming Programs



What: Farm Dreams? An exploratory workshop for farm dreamers.
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015
Time: 10am-4:00pm
Location: Buncombe County Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC 28801
Bring: Brown bag lunch or eat downtown.
Cost: \$55
Register: [Online here.](#)

Workshop Description:

Are you dreaming of starting your own farm? Farm Dreams? is an entry level, five-hour, exploratory workshop designed to help people who are seeking practical, common sense information on whether sustainable farming is the next step for them, and how to move forward. This is a great workshop to attend if you are in the exploratory stages of getting started farming.

Join us to explore the practicalities of your farm dreams. We'll cover common sense, relevant information to discover if sustainable farming is the next step for you.

[Register Now for Farm Dreams.](#)

23rd Annual SPRING CONFERENCE

Organic Growers School

Join us for the 23rd Annual Organic Growers School Spring Conference.

Who: For healthy eaters, home growers, & farmers!

What: This much-loved annual event provides practical, regionally-appropriate workshops on organic growing, permaculture, homesteading, urban farming, and rural living.

When: March 11-13, 2016

Time: 9am to 5:30 pm on both Saturday & Sunday, plus a keynote.

Where: SHERRILL CENTER at UNCA in Asheville, NC

Sponsors and Exhibitors,
we'll be sending you a packet
and link next week.

Participant Registration will
open in mid-December. Stay
Tuned!



ORGANIC GROWERS SCHOOL
SPONSORSHIP
& EXHIBITOR
INFORMATION

23rd Annual
SPRING
CONFERENCE

March 12 -13th, 2016
Pre Conference Workshops March 11th

Exciting New Location!
Sherrill Center at UNCA
Asheville, NC

WWW.ORGANICGROWERSCHOOL.ORG

This one-of-a-kind event brings people of all walks of life together for a weekend of learning & networking.

More than 2,000 participants kick off the growing season, with over 70 classes and hands-on workshops for the beginning gardener, homesteader, & advanced commercial farmer.

www.organicgrowersschool.org

Organic Growers School • PO Box 17804 • Asheville, NC 28816

<http://www.organicgrowersschool.org>

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