



CCOF's Education Programs: January-June 2017

THE ORGANIC TRAINING INSTITUTE

Organic Innovation and Inspiration—CCOF Annual Meeting and Conference → February 9-10; Visalia, CA

Join us for CCOF's 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference. This year's theme—Organic Innovation and Inspiration—will feature the innovative techniques organic producers, handlers, retailers, and other change-makers are using to address current economic and environmental issues, as well as big ideas for tackling the challenges of tomorrow. The festivities begin Thursday evening with our first annual CCOF Foundation Awards Feast. Friday's full-day conference will focus on the innovations that are shaping our organic world.

Introductory Food Safety Workshops for Produce Growers (3 workshops) →

- 1 February 27; Greater Sacramento Region, CA
- 2 March 3; Greater San Diego Region, CA
- 3 March 9; Greater Chico Region, CA

Buyers increasingly expect farmers to be proactive about the safety of the produce they sell. Join the CCOF Foundation and FamilyFarmed for a workshop that will outline basic on-farm food safety requirements and get you on your way to creating an individualized food-safety plan for your farm. Organic farmer and workshop instructor Atina Diffley will cover food-safety risk assessment, recordkeeping, and action plan development, and will also address food safety topics specifically relevant to organic growers. These hands-on workshops are ideal for small- to mid-sized produce growers that sell directly to consumers, restaurants, or local retail outlets.

Sustainability Metrics and Meeting Consumer Demand for Transparency in the Food Chain → March 28; Online webinar

In today's market, consumers have increasing interest in the details of sustainable food production. To meet consumer demand for more information, retailers and processors have responded by setting sustainability metrics. What factors into these metrics for consumers and the companies who set them? How does organic fit into these metrics, and what does it mean for organic producers who sell to companies who use them? Join representatives from Whole Foods Market and the Sustainable Food Trade Association for a discussion on meeting consumer demand for transparency throughout the food supply chain.

California's Healthy Soils Program: Build Soil, Build Business → April 20; Online webinar

As organic farmers and ranchers have long known, healthy soil can improve yields, increase water retention, and promote biological diversity, all while also helping mitigate climate change. California will soon launch the Healthy Soils Initiative, a program that provides grants to farmers and ranchers for practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon by improving soil health through practices such as mulch and compost addition, conservation plantings, cover cropping, reduced tillage, and more. Join us on this webinar to learn what practices are eligible and how to apply. Meet the USDA National Organic Program requirements to maintain and improve soil and natural resources, and you can get paid along the way!

Building Successful Organic Businesses – A Webinar for Growers → May 25; Online webinar

Successful farms are successful businesses! Bookkeeping, marketing, and business planning all play into the cultivation of a successful farm. Join the CCOF Foundation for a webinar featuring tips and insights from organic growers who have built strong, innovative farm businesses, and the experts who support them making it happen. You'll walk away knowing about the multitude of business development resources available to farmers.

Recordkeeping for Organic Handlers and Processors → June 22; Online webinar

Recordkeeping can be an obstacle for handlers and processors who are committed to organic practices but don't have the infrastructure in place to track their organic practices. This webinar will assist you in developing a recordkeeping system for your operation that supports compliance with the USDA National Organic Program standards for certified organic handlers and processors. Examples of forms and templates will be included to help make your recordkeeping easier and more complete.



Learn more about our organic trainings at www.ccof.org/organic-training-institute »