

Going Organic Project Fact Sheet

Project Background

The Going Organic (GO) program was started in 2003 by the CCOF Foundation to protect the environment and promote human health through the production and consumption of nutritious organic food. With the initial pilot funding from CCOF Inc. and the C.E. Heller Foundation the Chapters; Fresno/Tulare, North Coast, and North Valley initiated a pilot year.

In 2005 the CCOF Foundation was awarded a three and a half year California State Water Board agreement to expand the Going Organic project to the North Coast Chapter and all CCOF Chapters in the Central Valley: Fresno/Tulare, North Valley, Yolo, Sierra Gold, and Kern. In the first year the Going Organic Project:

- Held 10 Public Meetings
- Held 6 Organic System Plan (OSP 101) Training Sessions
- Recruited 40 new farmers to organic track production
- Assisted new farmers in placing over 1,200 acres into organic track the first year
- Linked the 40 new farmers with 25 long term CCOF farmers as mentors
- Initiated water monitoring site in Solano County to compare water quality from organic farms

Plans for 2006-2008

Through a series of regional seminars and local on-farm meetings, the mentors, trainees, CCOF chapter members, non-organic farmers, advisors, and agricultural neighbors will be given information about the benefits and challenges of organic farming. They will be helped to overcome the perceived and real barriers to farming organically. Speakers will discuss fertility, compost, cover cropping, wildlife habitat, natural pest control, the certification process, erosion control, marketing, Organic System Plan (OSP) development, federal cost-sharing incentive applications, and more.

Additionally, The San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), www.sfei.org, will conduct watershed health assessments to establish a representative assessment of organic farming practices compared to similar non-organic farming run-off sites and regional monitoring stations.

Going Organic Public Meeting Schedule

The project will hold free public meetings. For a complete schedule, refer to www.ccof.org/goingorganic.php. In some cases there will be a luncheon fee for those that register early and plan to stay for lunch.

Organic System Plan Training

The following sessions will be held in Winter 2007 to provide a 3-hour course in filling out an Organic System Plan. The meeting is highly interactive as a CCOF Inc. Regional Service Representative guides the participants from Page 1 through Page 20 of a Grower OSP.

For Further Information and to apply:

Visit the Going Organic program online at: www.ccof.org/programs.php

Going Organic Project Contact Information

Going Organic Project Director	Cathy Holden, Chair, CCOF Foundation	916-487-9049
Going Organic Project Coordinator	Fred Thomas, CERUS Consulting	530-891-6958 fred@cerusconsulting.com
Big Valley		
GO Management Team Member	Glenn Anderson	209-667-7494 andalm@earthlink.net
GO Chapter Leader	Bill Thompson	209-988-6388 foursea@clearwire.net
Fresno-Tulare		
GO Management Team Member	Mike Braga	559-675-1743 bragafarms@yahoo.com
GO Chapter Leader	Bill Thompson	209-988-6388 foursea@clearwire.net
Kern		
GO Management Team Member	TBA	
GO Chapter Leader	TBA	
North Coast		
GO Management Team Member	Julie Johnson	707-967-8027 jaj@tressabores.com
GO Chapter Leader	Ginny Lambrix	707-526-9111 ginny@deloachvineyards.com
North Valley		
GO Management Team Member & GO Chapter Leader	Carl Rosato	530-589-1696 woodleaffarm@sbcglobal.net
Sierra Gold		
GO Management Team Member	Randy Hansen	530-626-9696 hansenrr@pacbell.net
GO Chapter Leader	Steve Bird	530-647-0690 celticgardens@netzero.com
Yolo		
GO Management Team Member & GO Chapter Leader	Greg House	530-753-3361 greg@cocoranch.com