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IFAS EXTENSION

The National Organic Standards Training Materials: Trainer's Manual ¹

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This publication is only available in PDF format. The following is a brief overview of the Trainer's Guide and the links to the eight modules.

Trainer Manual:

Overview of the Training Modules

The overall purpose of these training modules is to provide agricultural service providers with enough knowledge to answer questions regarding the National Organic Standards of the USDA's National Organic Program. The development of the modules was accomplished through the contributions of individuals from the University of Florida, University of the Virgin Islands and Kentucky State University. The development of the modules and assessment of their utility as a learning tool was made possible through funding provided by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) of the USDA. Each module is designed to actively engage participants in gaining knowledge about the key concepts and important components of the regulations. The modules require participants to utilize resources that are particular to the organic regulations and developed by both the private and public sectors. It is our goal that at the

end of the trainings, service providers will know the resources that are available to them and will feel comfortable using the resources and addressing the needs of their stakeholders.

The following materials are the trainer's training materials. Each trainer's module coincides with the associated participant's modules available in EDIS publication FCS8795/FY820. Trainers who conduct this training should also review the participant's materials before dispersing them to participants.

The complete training materials, which includes the trainer's and participant's manuals and associated materials such as PowerPoints and videos, are available as a for sale DVD publication *Understanding the National Organic Standards: Training Materials* at the University of Florida's IFAS Extension Bookstore. If you are interested in purchasing the DVD please contact the IFAS Extension Bookstore:

UF/IFAS Extension Bookstore

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How do I use the Modules?

The modules are designed to enable anyone with minimum knowledge of the organic regulations to perform a training, as long as they review and understand the reference materials as they relate to the activities and information provided in the trainers manual. The time indicated for the activities is accurate as long as the trainer controls the extent to which participants are allowed to stray from the content of the module. Additionally, trainers should follow the instructions carefully because the modules are designed to cover the subject matter and objectives within a specific time period. Trainers should be well prepared so that they can address any questions of the participants. Many times, participants ask questions that are addressed in other modules and it is important for trainers to know the content of those modules so that they can make participants aware whether or not their question(s) will be covered.

How long shall I plan for a Training?

The modules are designed to be used as a two day training or can be used as individual modules for shorter training programs, depending on the needs of the participants. Together, they provide an excellent overview of the regulation. Individually, they address specific parts of the regulation that might be of importance to a particular group of service providers. However they are used, we have found them to be an effective learning tool.

Are all of the activities required?

Some modules have optional activities that you may or may not want to include depending on the amount of time you have and the needs of your service providers. We indicate activities as optional if they enhance the knowledge of the trainees but they should still be able to obtain the learning and

application objectives without doing the optional activities.

How much preparation work do I need to do before the Training?

The majority of the preparation work is in downloading the background materials and manuals from websites and making copies of the materials for the participants. The materials can be incorporated into spiral bound workbooks or hole punched and incorporated into a three ring binder. All of this takes planning and funding. So allocate enough time and money for these activities. Additionally, the trainers need adequate time to read through the materials and understand what they need to do to in order to successfully implement the training.

Modules

Module 1: The Certification Process in Brief,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81901.pdf>

Module 2: The Farm Plan,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81902.pdf>

Module 3: Soil Quality and Fertility Management,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81903.pdf>

Module 4: Seeds, Annual Transplants and Plant Stock, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81904.pdf>

Module 5: Crop Pest, Weed & Disease Management,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81905.pdf>

Module 6: Maintaining Organic Integrity,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81906.pdf>

Module 7: Handling and Processing,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81907.pdf>

Module 8: Livestock,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/fy/fy81908.pdf>

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