

2022_Horticulture_Field_Day

📅 Thu, 8/18 9:01AM 🕒 8:45

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

suzanne, field, projects, cultivars, iowa, talk, iowa state, fruit, iowa state university, vegetable, olivia, little bit, partners, work, organic vegetable, growers, small farms, registration link, high density, farm

SPEAKERS

Suzanne Slack, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Christa Hartsook, Olivia Hanlon

C Christa Hartsook 00:15

Hello, and welcome to the small farms podcast, a production of the Small Farms Program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Our podcast covers the opportunities and challenges associated with rural life.

O Olivia Hanlon 00:28

In this episode, I interview Suzanne Slack, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Fruit Specialist, and today we are talking about the upcoming horticulture field day here at Iowa State. I'm Olivia Hamlin, Small Farms Extension Specialist and welcome to the show. Suzanne, welcome to the show. We're glad to have you back.

S Suzanne Slack 00:47

Thank you for having me. I'm excited to be here.

O Olivia Hanlon 00:49

So you've joined us pretty recently here, Suzanne, but can you remind us all what exactly you do here in your role at Iowa State?

S Suzanne Slack 00:57

Yeah, so I am the Perennial Fruit Specialist for Iowa State. So I work on apples, cherries, pears, all the small fruits too, so blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, anything that's a fruit and grows perennial. I'm your person to talk to.

O Olivia Hanlon 01:12

Awesome. So one of your big projects this year, Suzanne is this upcoming field day. So why don't you tell us a little bit about what will be covered and what people can kind of expect?

S Suzanne Slack 01:23

Sure. So the field day is a joint effort from a bunch of different specialists. So we'll get to see lots of different projects and lots of different demonstrations. So this year, we're going to look at... so this year, we're going to look at our new apple orchard. So for those who went last year, they saw the little baby trees, how they're a lot bigger now, so we'll talk about high density management in apple and how those different cultivars are doing in that high density system. There are new cultivars that are just commercially available within the past few years, so they can be a scary investment. We'll also look at some of our work on grapes and some of the new things that we're trying out to improve wine quality. And the other fruit related projects that we'll show off this year is high tunnel strawberries. As far as the field day goes total, besides that, we'll also be talking about pest management in cucurbit crops, three sisters intercropping, as well as looking at some different cropping systems involving organic vegetable production, biochar, and some beneficial insect work. One thing that we will also be talking about in depth this year is drift damage from pesticides. So we'll show off some of our lovely drift damage that we had at the farm this year, as well as what we can do about it to prevent that from occurring on our farms in the future.

O Olivia Hanlon 02:48

Okay, Suzanne, what should people expect to gain from the day? And what should people expect in general for the day?

S Suzanne Slack 02:57

Yeah, so in general, people should expect to learn about some of the research and projects that we're doing at Iowa State, but also kind of see what the newest systems and all of the newest technology is that we have in Iowa. So we have a smart sprayer that will show off as well as just looking at some of these newer ideas with fertilization and new cultivars. So they'll get a peek of what's working on our farm in Iowa, and maybe it'll work on their farm as well.

O Olivia Hanlon 03:26

Okay, very good. Suzanne, can you tell us when this field day will be held and where folks should plan to show up at?

S Suzanne Slack 03:33

Yes, so the field day will be at the Iowa State University Horticultural Research Station. The address is 55519 170th Street in Ames, Iowa. So it's just north of Ada Hayden Lake. We'll have

signs on the highway posting to where the field is, if you're not familiar with the station. It runs from two o'clock to 6pm. And we will provide food for dinner and it will be occurring on August 15, 2020, that's a Monday.

O Olivia Hanlon 04:06

Okay, Suzanne, last year, I think when I went we did a little bit of gathering up front first, and then I think we maybe took a trolley ride around. Could you tell us a little bit about kind of how the day will run?

S Suzanne Slack 04:17

Yeah, so it's gonna be similar. So at two o'clock, we'll meet up we'll have a tent and a booth to talk about a little bit from our sponsors, and as well as people, some of the organizations that we're partnering with for this event. Then, we're going to take a walk over and look at all of our high tunnel facility. In 2020, we had a derecho, so last year, I think there was little bit of a transition between the old system the new system. So this year, we'll get to show off our new high tunnels as well as all the projects we're doing in the high tunnels. Then we'll take a trolley over to the high density apple orchard and take a look at that. Then we'll make our way around the farm check out some of the vegetable plots some of the organic cucurbits as well as the three sister intercropping project, we'll head over to look at some more interesting projects that we're doing. Dr. Nair has a project looking at using chickens in organic vegetable production as part of the system. So we'll go check out the chickens, then we'll stop with the winegrapes, and check out our projects over there, and we'll mosey on back to the patient headquarters for lunch or for dinner.

O Olivia Hanlon 05:23

Perfect. And you mentioned those partners a little bit here, Suzanne, can you tell us who are some of the partners for the field day that folks could expect to interact with?

S Suzanne Slack 05:32

So we're partnering for this field day with Practical Farmers of Iowa, the Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

O Olivia Hanlon 05:42

Alright, Suzanne, if people decide that they are interested in this, do they need to register for this field day? And if so, where can they do that?

S Suzanne Slack 05:52

Yes. So we would prefer if you register, like I said, we'll have dinner at the end. So you need to

know how much dinner to provide. So if you wouldn't mind registering, that would be great. And the registration link is on the vegetable, Horticulture Vegetable Lab website. And I think I can provide you a link Olivia that you can post for this. But it's if you search 2022 ISU Fruit and Vegetable Field Day in your favorite search bar, I'm sure it'll pop up.

O Olivia Hanlon 06:20

Alrighty. And yes, I will put that link that that Suzanne shares with me into the show notes so that you all can easily access that. Suzanne, does it cost for folks to register for this field day?

S Suzanne Slack 06:31

No. So it's completely free. And that is think that is thanks to our partners. So we've gotten some funding for this event from the USDA NIFA OREI project, as well as North Central SARE, and from IDALS Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

O Olivia Hanlon 06:49

All right, Suzanna, if people are looking for more information on the field day or a full list of projects that will be covered there, where could they find that? Or who should they get in contact with?

S Suzanne Slack 07:01

So that there's a brief description on the registration link that I will be giving to you so they can look at look at it, but they want more specifics and what's listed they can either get in contact with me or Dr. Ajay Nair.

O Olivia Hanlon 07:14

Perfect. To wrap up, Suzanne, why is this field day such a good opportunity for producers out there? And why should they consider attending?

S Suzanne Slack 07:23

Oh, that's a really good question. So it's a great learning opportunity, because we showcase things that maybe are maybe a little riskier for growers to do. So we have the funding available to try out some of these newer, these newer technologies, or these maybe a little scary new cultivars that we don't know how they're going to do in Iowa. They were, you know, tried and raised in California. How are they going to do here? That's a very valid question. And that's one of the first reasons they should go and the second reason is to, to really see what we're doing. You know, as extension, we're here to serve our growers. And we want to make sure that growers know what we're doing and if they have any feedback or comments or things that they think that we should be working on instead, we'd love to hear from them.

O Olivia Hanlon 08:07
Awesome. Well, is there anything that we did not get covered here that you'd like to Suzanne?

S Suzanne Slack 08:11
I don't think so. Hopefully, it's a great event. Hopefully, it's not too hot. We're excited to have everyone and we hope that they enjoy seeing what we're doing this summer.

O Olivia Hanlon 08:22
Yes. And we hope to see everyone there. Thanks for joining us today, Suzanne.

S Suzanne Slack 08:26
Thank you so much for having me, Olivia.

I Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 08:28
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