Saturday, February 10, 2018

Pre-conference
8:00 AM Refreshments
8:00 AM Registration opens

Opening session
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM Welcome and opening comments
Christa Hartsook, Coordinator, Small Farms Program, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Ames, IA
8:45 AM – 10:15 AM Opening session
Craig Chase, manager, Local Foods Program, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; Paul Dietmann, Fearless Farm Finances
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Break

Concurrent session A (select one topic)
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Interested in Hops Production in Iowa?
Diana Cochran, assistant professor, Horticulture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
While it may be simple to pop a top, growing hops is not so simple. The common hop is a perennial vine that produces cone shaped fruit annually. It is the cone shaped fruit that is desired by brewers for bittering and flavoring of beer. With the increase in microbreweries and craft beer, hop production has created a lot of buzz in nontraditional growing regions. This talk starts with an introduction to hops and hop yard establishment, before moving through the different aspects of crop management.

Fearless Farm Finances 2.0
Craig Chase, manager, Local Foods Program, Iowa State University, Ames, IA; Paul Dietmann, Fearless Farm Finances

Raising high quality vegetable transplants
Ajay Nair, Extension vegetable production specialist and associate professor, Horticulture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Transplant production plays a key role in a successful vegetable production system. Growing healthy, high quality transplants is the first step growers must take to achieve maximum yields of high quality produce. This session will focus on seeds, growing medium, containers, watering, fertilization, lighting, and hardening of transplants.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Lunch (provided)

Concurrent session B (select one topic)
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM Setting the table for Iowa's favorite farmland birds: Bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants
Adam Janke, Extension wildlife specialist and assistant professor, Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Tapping trees for maple sugaring
Jesse Randall, associate professor, Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Mushrooms: production vs. hunting
Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, Extension Plant Pathologist and Diagnostician, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
This introductory talk will briefly discuss wild mushroom edibility, safety, and regulations. Familiarize the participants with concepts for cultivation in control environments, cultivated species, substrate, pests and disease management.

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM Break

Concurrent session C (select one topic)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Introduction to fruit tree grafting
Patrick O’Malley, Extension horticulture specialist, Iowa State University, Iowa City, IA
Common techniques for fruit tree grafting will be explained and demonstrated. Participants can practice whip and tongue grafts on some provided sample wood. Actual rootstock and scions will not be available since this type of grafting is best done in early April.

Installing drip irrigation systems
Joe Hannan, Extension horticulture specialist, Iowa State University, Adel, IA
Participants will build and test their own mock drip irrigation system.

Beginning beekeeping
Randall Cass, Extension entomologist, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

3:00 PM Conference adjourns