

United States Department of Agriculture



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“Transmitted via Email”

May 19, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN 180-4-9

SUBJECT: CPA-TRAINING – ORGANIC TRAINING FOR AG PROFESSIONALS

Purpose: To transmit information about this training and provide information on NRCS attendance

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

To help agricultural professionals learn more about opportunities in the organic agriculture sector, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and local partners are continuing a series of one day “**Organic Short Courses for Ag Professionals**” this summer. The courses are open to all extension educators, NRCS and other agency staff, crop consultants, lenders, implement dealers and other agricultural advisors.

The next session will be hosted by the University of Minnesota’s Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWOC) in Lamberton on Wednesday, June 16, 2004. Course topics will include farmer motivations and experiences with organics, regulations and legal requirements, certification processes, production and market trends and specific areas of weed and nutrient management, herd health, and business/marketing issues. Participants will have a choice of three tours to see organic practices close up at area crop and livestock farms and businesses. Conservation Education Units are available.

Enrollment is limited to 50 and pre-registration is required. Cost for the June 16 course is \$10 if postmarked by June 9 and \$25 after that day. To register, call the SWROC at 507-752-7372.

NRCS employees are authorized to attend this course on government time and expense, and must request approval from their supervisor to attend.

Similar day long courses will be held at Cloquet on July 19 and at Red Lake Falls on August 3 for those areas of the state. A twin cities area course is being planned for fall. Employees are encouraged to attend the training session at the location closest to where they work.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AE