The Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network presents

2014 Regional Food & Farm Forum: East Alabama

Randle Farms / Auburn University Student Center
Auburn, AL
Tuesday, October 28
Co-hosted by the Auburn Real Food Challenge

Randle Farms: (follow map from I-85 to farm at http://bit.ly/randle2)
1:30-2:00pm Registration
2:00-3:30pm Tour

Travel to AU Student Center Ballroom, 255 Heisman Drive, 3rd floor. Map at https://goo.gl/maps/yj7Xm. Park only on the 4th level of the stadium parking deck – the lower levels are permit-only.

AU Student Center:
4:15-4:40pm Welcome, introductions, and housekeeping
10-minute break
4:50-5:20pm Roundtable discussion (session I)
10-minute break
5:30-6:00pm Roundtable discussion (session II)
10-minute break
6:10-6:40pm Lightning talks
This session features 1-3 minute “elevator speeches” about projects, programs, and resources it would benefit all Forum attendees to know about. Some slots are already filled, but if you have something to share, stand up! We’ll do as many as we have time for.
10-minute break
6:50-7:50pm Dinner
We will spend some time towards the end of dinner, getting your feedback on some of these questions: “What is the value of a statewide network or statewide umbrella organization?” Please be thinking on this topic throughout the day and let us know what you think!
7:50-8:00pm Evaluations and Wrap-up
Roundtable Discussions:
These informal discussions are meant to be engaging regardless of participants' prior knowledge about the topic. Facilitators have experience in their topic, and they will help keep the conversations going, but these are not lectures or presentations. We are all experts, and we are all learning – the roundtables are meant to recognize that, and to lift up ALL forms of expertise.

So, if you're someone who normally dominates a conversation, don't silence yourself, but leave room for others to speak, and make a point to do some good, active listening. Likewise, if you tend to be quiet, make a point to speak up and share something with the group – you may know just the answer someone's been looking for, or pose a question others never even realized they had.

Session I (4:50-5:20pm):
Table 1) Understanding and Influencing Food Policy – How do our laws affect the food we grow and eat? What can we do about it? What's already being done about it, and how can we pitch in? – Kisha Nicolas, River Region Food Policy Council, and Carol Gundlach, Alabama Arise
Table 2) Compost and Vermicompost (Worm Compost) – Turn garden and kitchen waste into fertilizer (and other products like compost tea). – Charles Walters, River Oaks Farm
Table 3) Value-Added Products and Cottage Foods – Use value-added products (herb mixes, pickles, baked goods, jams and jellies, and more) to diversify your product line, increase your income and make your business more resilient. – Becky and George Rogers, Pecan Point Farm
Table 4) Building Successful Educational Gardens – Avoid common pitfalls and plan for success with your school garden or community-based educational garden. – Amanda Edwards, EAT South, and Jen Sellers, FoodCorps Mississippi
Table 5) Starting and Managing a Successful CSA – Discuss everything from crop planning, marketing, customer retention, cash flow, to innovative twists on the classic CSA. Catherine Doe and Jetson Brown, EAT South, and Charlie Griffin and Frannie Kenworthy Griffin, Hepzibah Farms
Table 6) Your suggestion*
Table 7) Your suggestion*

Session II (5:30-6:00pm):
Table 1) Protecting Alabama’s Waters – Learn and discuss how to ensure clean, safe, and sufficient water for agriculture, recreation, drinking and more. Cindy Lowry, Alabama Rivers Alliance
Table 2) Fermentation – Learn about the history of fermentation, how to ferment fruits and vegetables and why, and exchange tips, ideas, and recipes! Lindsay Whiteaker, Harvest Roots Farm and Ferment
Table 3) Small-Scale Dairy: Opportunities and Challenges – Local, direct-market dairy has big potential as an economic driver and contributor to better health... but there are a lot of barriers as well. Learn about starting, running, and marketing a small-scale local dairy, and brainstorm ways to grow the sector. Aric Adams, AA Farm Creamery
Table 4) Fighting Local Hunger with Local Food – Food assistance programs often rely on corporate donations of highly processed foods. Discuss ways that local farmers and volunteers can come together to support the needy in their own communities. Mary Lynn Botts, Society of St. Andrew
Table 5) Pest Management – What ARE the pests attacking your crops, and how (and when) should you manage them? Which "pests" are actually beneficial? Ayanava Majumdar, ACES
Table 6) Your suggestion*
Table 7) Your suggestion*

* Your suggestion: Passionate about a topic you don't see here? You can lead a discussion on it! Write the topic title and your name (the facilitator) on the large agenda poster near the registration table.
Be sure to visit the exhibit booths!

- Society of St. Andrew
- First South Farm Credit
- VOICES for Alabama's Children
- Nationwide Insurance
- Tuskegee University
- Small Farm/Organic IPM Project
- Michelle French Design
- Alabama Gulf Seafood
We hope you enjoy the 2014 East Alabama Regional Food & Farm Forum in Auburn!

There are two remaining events in the series: November 10 in Falkville (Cullman/Morgan Co), and December 4 in Baldwin Co. We'd love to have you join those events as well! More info at http://www.facebook.com/ASANonline (QR code at right).

Help us move local, sustainable agriculture forward in Alabama! ASAN is a lean-and-mean nonprofit organization, and support from members goes a LONG way towards enabling us to do the work we do all across Alabama. Please consider joining ASAN as a member today, and help ASAN grow! There are membership forms at the registration table.

Notes:
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

This event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of the following:

First South Farm Credit
AARP
Alabama GULF Seafood
Nationwide
extension

“A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves.” --Wendell Berry