



THINKING ABOUT ORGANICS?

“Sound and Sensible Organic Certification in the Gulf States” Workshop Series Will Be Offered by NCAT and QCS

The workshop will be held December 11, 2014, in conjunction LSU Ag Center Hammond Research Station located at 21549 Old Covington Highway, Hammond, LA from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Lunch is provided.

For information and to register for upcoming workshops, go to the NCAT webpage at www.ncat.org/events/.

Objectives

- To enlist new farmers and ranchers interested in the National Organic Program and help them learn how to become NOP certified in the Gulf States Region, which includes **Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia**
- To provide information and expertise to farmers interested in the National Organic Program and answer questions regarding organic farm practices and NOP certification
- To provide outreach to new, beginning, minority, and historically underserved farmers interested in organic and sustainable farming
- To aid farmers in transitioning from conventional farm systems to certified organic and sustainable farming practices



Two Workshop Series

The first workshop series will cover the basics of organic production and how to get certified organic. NCAT will work in collaboration with Quality Certification Services (QCS) of Gainesville, Florida, which provides organic certification as a program of Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. (FOG).



The second workshop series will be in the spring of 2015 and act as a follow-up for farmers who took part in the first series as well as any others interested in switching to certified organic production. The workshop team will help any of the workshop participants who want to set up a site inspection on their farms. There will be workshop days in each of the five states to answer questions participants may have, conduct mock inspections, and schedule organic certification inspections.