

Greetings Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference Participants!

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/SmallFarms/>

The following are a few updates and reminders before you pack and head to the conference.

Whether you are an attendee, sponsor, exhibitor, or speaker, please take a moment to read this communication in its entirety so you are fully informed of pertinent details and can make a note of what applies to you. *Don't forget to print out a parking pass.*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CHECK-IN AND MATERIALS

Registration Hours – Friday: 1:00pm-7:00pm, Saturday 7:00am-6:00pm, Sunday 7:30am-12:00pm.

Registration is located in the front lobby of the Exhibition Building in the Osceola Heritage Park (OHP). Check-in to pick up your name badge and materials. Your name badge will serve as your pass while attending the conference and it helps to introduce you to other participants. Please wear it while attending all functions. **(Tour attendees: check in at registration AFTER returning from tours).**

Sponsors, Exhibitors, Speakers and Volunteers - Pick up your name badge and materials anytime during the conference and exhibit setup **Friday, 1:00-5:00pm**. Any additional special instructions will be provided to you at check-in.

CONFERENCE LOCATION AND PARKING PASS

The conference will be held at the Osceola Heritage Park (OHP) in Kissimmee, Florida.

Address: Osceola Heritage Park, 1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744, Tel: 321-697-3333. Directions can be found through the conference website: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/location.html

Parking Pass Required - Parking fees are covered through the conference so there is no charge for parking, but a parking pass is required. Print out the parking decal and OHP layout (two pages) and place the parking decal on your automobile's dashboard. http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/Parking_Decal.pdf

Arrive Early - The OHP is a 120-acre complex with multiple events occurring simultaneously. **If arriving after 8:00am, it's suggested that you allow an additional 20 minutes' drive time through the complex.**

FRIDAY TOURS (PRE-REGISTRATION FOR A TOUR WAS REQUIRED)

Participants who have registered for a Friday Tour - NOTE YOUR TOUR BOARDING and DEPARTURE TIMES.

Tours depart before registration opens, and at different times. Busses will depart PROMPTLY at their scheduled times. [Livestock boards @ 9:45AM; Fruit & Veg. boards @ 12:45PM] *If for any reason you miss the bus, alternate transportation is not available.* ALL information such as boarding times, location, required liability waivers for each tour are available at the following link. Please read.

www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/details.html#Friday

ATTENDEES WHO INDICATED SPECIAL MEAL REQUEST WITH THEIR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Food and beverage functions are presented in a break/reception or buffet style setting with a variety of scrumptious selections from which to choose. We have provided the OHP with a list food allergies indicated through registration, and these ingredients will be clearly labeled. If you have **any** questions about what ingredients are in specific dish, we encourage you to ask one of banquet staff members for clarification. If there

is any doubt whatsoever, ask for assistance by management or conference staff. We will be more than happy to help in any way possible.

Saturday Lunch for vegetarian, vegan or gluten free - For those that indicated vegetarian, vegan or gluten free on their registration, we've made a special lunch station. At check-in, these individuals will receive a card with the location of this station. Show the card to the station attendant to gain access. Any dairy, non-meat by-products, or non-gluten free items will be clearly labeled at this station. At 1:15pm, this special station will be opened to all attendees for sampling of any remaining dishes. You will also find other non-meat items upon the other buffets, but this special station allows us to make sure vegetarian/vegan/ gluten free selections are available to those who indicated such on their registration form.

CONFERENCE ATTIRE

This is a professional, educational, and networking event. However, sessions are held in three buildings and depending on the sessions you're attending, you may be walking from one building to another throughout the day. Suggested attire is casual, comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Cotton trousers or jeans are perfectly acceptable attire for the conference.

Rain, rain, rain ..it has been a rainy year. Bring a jacket or an umbrella in case of inclement weather. If bringing an umbrella be sure label it with your name and telephone number (or email) for easy identification. As a safety precaution, umbrellas should be left at entrance to the buildings. You may also want to bring a light sweater to wear during sessions as meeting room temperatures will vary.

Building Transportation - if you have difficulty walking, shuttle transportation will be available between buildings.

HELPFUL LINKS

Agenda-at-a-glance: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/agenda.html

Session Descriptions: www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/details.html

Exhibitor Listing: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/exhibitor_lst.html

Educational Posters: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/posters.html>

Join us in thanking ALL our SPONSORS!

* Conference Sponsors: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/sponsor_rec.html

* Outstanding Contributors to the FL Small Farmer Reg. Scholarship:
http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/scholarship_cont.html

* Food and Beverage Contributors: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/food_rec.html

SPECIAL SESSION AND INFORMATION

Cordon D'Or Florida Culinary Academy Awards: Friday, 2:00pm-5:00pm, Kissimmee AB in the Exhibition building. Exhibitors and attendees are invited to attend this special ceremony recognizing the many achievements of people in the culinary scene across the State of Florida.

Kissimmee Visitor Information: Saturday, 12:00-4:00pm, a representative from the Kissimmee Conventions and Visitors Bureau will be in the exhibition building lobby to answer questions if you are exploring the Kissimmee area. Here is the *Visit Kissimmee* website. <http://www.visitkissimmee.com/leisure/>

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging facilities that supported the conference by offering attendees a lower rate can be accessed through the conference website. Many will honor the conference rate until capacity is reached. Wherever you are staying, please allow an appropriate amount of drive time to the conference.

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/accommodations.html>

Florida State Government Employees: Remember to bring a copy of your Florida sales tax exemption certificate with you and present it to the front desk AT CHECK-IN. In accordance with Florida State Law, only charges paid by the tax exempt organization's check OR credit card imprinted with the tax exempt organization's name will qualify for exemption.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Beginning Thursday, July 31 we will be traveling and setting up for the conference and will not be available. We will be open 1:00pm Friday at the conference to assist with any further requests.

On behalf of the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference Committees, we wish you a safe trip to Kissimmee and we look forward to your participation!

Sincerely,
Mandy

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