

For Immediate Release
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Organic Farming ‘Grower’s Own Conference’ to be Held

Twin Falls, ID – Certified organic farmers and others using organic methods are invited to attend a conference in Twin Falls, Idaho on February 12 - 13. The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides is hosting the Grower’s Own Conference.

This conference features a farmer-to-farmer exchange, with participants sharing their knowledge and experience with various organic farming methods and issues.

Prior to the conference, farmers will provide input on the topics to be discussed and then come prepared to share their experiences. Farmer-to-farmer exchanges have been used for 10 years by farmers in Oregon and one is now being offered in Idaho.

Possible topics to be covered include cover cropping, cultivation equipment, cropping rotations, weed management, greenhouse production, food safety, planters, integrated pest management, value-added products, and others.

Organic farmer Beth Rasgorshek of Canyon Bounty Farm in Nampa, Idaho is helping to organize the conference and encourages farmers to participate. “We all have valuable experiences to help contribute to the success of other farmers. It could be something very simple, but it could be an epiphany to another farmer,” she says. “It’s not just for the success of our individual farms, but for all organic agriculture in Idaho.”

The conference will kick off with dinner, virtual farm tours, and a presentation on crop insurance from USDA Risk Management Agency on the evening of Friday, February 12 from 5 – 9 pm at the Canyon Crest Event Center in Twin Falls. The farmer-to-farmer exchange will run from 8 am – 5 pm on Saturday, February 13.

The conference costs \$55 and includes dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact Jennifer Miller at jmiller@pesticide.org or 208-850-6504 for registration materials by January 20, 2010.

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