



Event Release

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A Farm Walk at Stahlbush Island Farms: Planning for Success. Organic Vegetable Production, Habitat Diversity and Ecological Pest Management

EVENT DATE: Wednesday, July 11th, 2007

PLACE: Stahlbush Island Farms, Medford, OR

TIME: 2:00-5:00 P.M.

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Have you ever wondered what blossom, beetles, willow trees, vetch, GPS technology and clay have in common? These are all components of diverse, ecological pest management strategies for organic vegetable farmers. Interested in seeing how they could work on your farm? The Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University (OSU), and Stahlbush Island Farms invite you to an afternoon of insight and discovery on our first **BYOB** (bring your own bug) farm walk of the year. Join us in this unique opportunity to follow a large organic vegetable farm on its journey to shape the farm into a Mecca of habitat for beneficial insects and get a close up look at the practices and a few farm implements used in large scale organic vegetable production. The farm walk, hosted by Stahlbush Island Farms, will be in **Medford, Oregon, July 11th, from 2-5 PM**, ending with a potluck dinner at 5:00.

Bill and Karla Chambers started Stahlbush Island Farms over twenty years ago. Stahlbush Island Farms is an environmentally-friendly farm and food processor based in Corvallis, Oregon, committed to sustainable agriculture. Some of their crops have been certified organic for three years and all of their crops have been certified sustainable by the Food Alliance, www.foodalliance.org for ten years. For more information on Stahlbush Island Farms go to www.stahlbush.com.

Stahlbush Island Farms routinely employs conservation tillage, crop rotation, cover crops and GPS technology on the 4000 acres they crop. The farm walk will be held on 1000 acres they are currently leasing in Medford to grow squash, corn and pumpkins. They are interested in creating more habitat for beneficial organisms at this site and we are inviting all area farmers to come participate first hand in a unique planning session as we strategize, plot and “scape” Stahlbush’s farm fields to optimize future populations of beneficial organisms, enhancing existing farm landscape and water features from a ecosystem, farmer and insect point of view. Join in the discussion of how conservation of habitat fits into other ecological pest management strategies you already employ on your farm such as trap cropping, floating row covers and selective pesticide use.

This is a **BYOB** (bring your own bug) event so if something has been *bugging* you this summer and you don’t know what it is pop it in a jar and bring it along. Participants are also invited to bring a vegetarian food dish or something to pop on the grill, your own plates and cutlery, and share a pot luck meal at the end of the walk.

Contact Gwendolyn Ellen at 541-737-6272, gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu for info and directions.

The farm walks are sponsored by OSU’s, Farmscaping for Beneficials Project at IPPC to support grower-led activities that build the knowledge and implementation of conservation biological control (CBC) on local farms. Conservation biological control can be defined as methods used on and around farms to restore and enhance beneficial organism populations that can increase to numbers that may limit pest populations. Such methods may include insectary plantings, grassy field margins, beetle banks and hedgerows.