

## ORANGE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Mike Lanier, Area Agent, Agribusiness, at 919-245-2063 or [mlanier@orangecountnc.org](mailto:mlanier@orangecountnc.org) or fax #919-644-3067, or in person at the County Extension Office at least 30 days prior to the event.



## The Breeze Farm Incubator and PLANT Workshop Series



*A Place Where Aspiring Farmers Can Grow*

*Thank you so much for a wonderful class. I really learned a lot, and feel inspired! I have learned about many community resources that I will continue to use.*

— 2013 PLANT Student

*What could be more superstitious than the idea that money brings forth food?*

— Wendell Berry

# The Breeze Farm Incubator Minimizes the Financial Risks of Starting a Farm Business



A view of the beginner field and high tunnels.

## Land Lease

The Breeze Farm incubator, started in 2008 in Orange County, NC, is located approximately six miles northeast of Hillsborough at 4909 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541. It provides a place for people interested in learning to farm, but without a place to do so. It also provides tools, infrastructure, and services as part of the lease which minimizes the start-up capital need to start a small farm. This arrangement allows aspiring farmers to determine whether farming is really something they want to pursue without the worry of having to pay back loans.



## What We Provide

Orange County Cooperative Extension provides deer fencing, irrigation, black plastic for weed control, a shaded wash station with a stainless steel sink, cooler space, a BCS tractor, hand tools, and space to tools. High tunnel space is sometimes available for an additional cost. Additional land may also be available for more experienced farmers who desire to take the next step beyond the beginning stage. Those lessors will have many of the same benefits as the beginners, but not all. If you are interested in this opportunity, call for more details.

## PLANT Workshop Series

The PLANT Workshop Series meets for three hours weekly for eight weeks during January and February. The Series covers a broad range of topics needed for beginning farmers to be successful, including business planning, marketing, recordkeeping, obtaining capital resources, farm equipment, irrigation, soils, cover crops, weed control, insect and disease identification and control, post-harvest handling and more.

Many sessions are taught by local experienced farmers. There is also a session in which farmers who have recently started farming talk about their experiences as beginning farmers.

The series is required for all aspiring farm-

ers with little growing experience who would like to lease land at the Breeze Farm. There are social benefits of attending the workshop series as well, as students get to meet experienced farmers who farm and sell in the surrounding area. Students also get to socialize with each other as they snack on local food during the break in the middle of each workshop.



2013 PLANT Class

Classes are held from 6 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday nights. The cost of the series is \$110. Registrants may also bring a spouse or business partner to share materials with for an additional \$55. To register go to <http://orange.ces.ncsu.edu/> or <http://breezeincubatorfarm.weebly.com/index.html>. Call if you need more information.

