



## 6<sup>th</sup> National Small Farm Conference *"Promoting the Successes of Small Farmers and Ranchers"*

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:** **Deadline: February 29, 2012**

The conference includes preconference short courses, plenary sessions, breakout sessions, oral and poster paper presentations, exhibits, success stories, and educational tours. This conference will bring together a diversity of nearly 800 professionals from academia, non-governmental organizations, farm leaders from local, state, and national levels who work with small farmers and ranchers. One of the plenary sessions will consist of farmer panelists who will highlight small farm opportunities and challenges. The conference aims to strengthen collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, and provides an opportunity to share new ideas in research, extension and outreach with the goals of enhancing farm income and improving the quality of life within communities.

### **OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

There are four ways you can propose to be a part of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Small Farm Conference program.

**Oral Papers.** Present a paper reporting the results of education/outreach activities, research or lessons learned from professional experience. Oral presentations are opportunities to share successes of programming efforts in assisting small farmers and ranchers. These presentations will take place in concurrent sessions. Each presentation will last 20 minutes (15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Please submit no more than three proposals per author. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for poster presentations.

**Poster Papers.** Present a poster reporting the results of education/outreach activities, research or lessons learned from professional experience. Posters will be displayed in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and presenters will be available to answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees at set times during the conference. Poster boards will be provided and the dimensions will be four-feet high by eight-feet wide (4'x8').

**Exhibits.** Exhibits provide a venue for national, state, and local small farm program managers from land-grant colleges and universities, community based organizations, and other public and private sector

organizations to share information about programs and services for small farmers and ranchers. Exhibitors will be provided with an 8' x 10' fully draped exhibit space, one 6 ft. table, two chairs, and a sign. The name of your organization, all contact information and your abstract will be listed in the conference proceedings.

**Success Stories.** "Making A Difference" These stories should center on work you have undertaken working with small farmers, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, immigrant farmers, farm workers, limited resource farmers and others with vested interest in improving their livelihood through farming as an enterprise. Please share stories which have resulted from activities that stand out (impacts) in working with your clients and have ultimately resulted in making a difference to their livelihood and lifestyle changes. Examples might include efforts where assistance has been provided in "Working from Rags to Riches" or "Assisting a Farmer or Farmers in reducing delinquency rates".

Sample success stories are at the weblink below:

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag\\_systems/pdfs/small\\_farm\\_success\\_stories.pdf](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/pdfs/small_farm_success_stories.pdf)

## **SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS**

PLEASE NOTE: All abstracts – oral and poster papers, exhibits, and success stories – must be submitted to [smallfarm@tnstate.edu](mailto:smallfarm@tnstate.edu) using the attached template.

Information required for abstracts on oral and poster papers, success stories and exhibits include:

- \* Title of presentation
- \* Complete contact information
- \* Presenting author and affiliation
- \* Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- \* Selected topic area
- \* Abstract of 250 words or less
- \* Please identify the type of submission by checking the box option for your submission (s). Please indicate in the abstract form if submission is for oral, poster, exhibit or success story
- \* Please submit in Times New Roman

An abstract is indicative of final paper quality; therefore, authors are urged to prepare quality abstracts. The abstract should emphasize purpose, objectives, methods, results, and conclusion. Stating results will not be needed in abstract submissions for exhibits since you will primarily be describing the information contained in the Exhibit Display.

**Review of Abstract Submissions.** A review committee will consider all abstracts submitted by the **deadline of February 29, 2012**. Decisions will be made thereafter and all successful applicants will be sent guidelines and deadlines to submit conference presentations.

## **GENERAL CONFERENCE TOPIC AREAS**

We welcome proposals for presentations that address one or more of the topic areas of emphasis outlined below. Please choose one of these areas when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topics.

## **CONFERENCE TRACKS:**

- Alternative and Traditional Enterprises
- Marketing Opportunities
- Outreach to Underserved Communities
- Research and Extension Priorities

- Program Planning and Implementation

## **SHORT COURSES**

These will be available as preconference workshops. Selected topics for short courses will be posted on the conference website once finalized.

Below is the weblink to past national small farm conferences:

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag\\_systems/in\\_focus/smallfarms\\_if\\_conferences\\_past.htm](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/smallfarms_if_conferences_past.htm)  
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## **CONFERENCE CONTACTS**

### **Oral Papers**

Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin,  
[dawn\\_mellion@suagcenter.com](mailto:dawn_mellion@suagcenter.com);  
Phone: 225-931-2786

### **Poster Papers**

Dr. Zena Clardy, [zclardy@tnstate.edu](mailto:zclardy@tnstate.edu);  
Phone: 615-963-4887

### **Exhibits**

Dr. Solomon Haile, [shaile@tnstate.edu](mailto:shaile@tnstate.edu);  
Phone: 615-963-5445

### **Success Stories**

Ms. Maria Moreira,  
[mmoreira@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mmoreira@umext.umass.edu);  
Phone: 413-658-4279

### **Conference Planning**

Dr. Denis Ebodaghe,  
[debodaghe@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:debodaghe@nifa.usda.gov);  
Phone: 202-401-4385

Dr. Fitzroy Bullock, [fbullock@tnstate.edu](mailto:fbullock@tnstate.edu);  
Phone: 615-963-5449

**Please Note:** The 6th National Small Farm Conference cannot reimburse presenters for travel expenses to the conference. This includes authors and exhibitors. Submitting a request to present at the conference (oral, poster, exhibit or success stories) implies agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee, attend the conference, and make the presentation in person. More information regarding conference registration, conference tracks, and educational tours will be available at the conference website in the near future.



**ABSTRACT TEMPLATE FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL SMALL FARM CONFERENCE**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

NAME OF PRIMARY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPES OF ABSTRACT

- ORAL       POSTER       EXHIBIT       SUCCESS STORY

If you checked "oral", please select a conference track from below where your abstract has the best fit.

- ALTERNATIVE AND TRADITIONAL ENTERPRISES  
 MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES  
 OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES  
 RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PRIORITIES  
 PROGRAM PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Abstract: 250 words or less in Times New Roman