

Location and Time

The course will be offered at two locations.

1. UT/TSU Extension, Lane Agri-Park,
Conference Rm B, 315 John Rice Blvd.,
Murfreesboro TN
Date: **July 3, 2018 (8.0am-5.0pm)**
2. West Tennessee AgResearch Research and
Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd,
Jackson, TN 38301
Date: **October 9, 2018 (8.0am-5.0pm)**

To apply:

Application for registration to the program is accepted throughout year. Complete the Application to the Continuing Education at the following link:

<http://www.tnstate.edu/organic>

Office of Continuing Education

Center for Extended Education and Public
Service, Tennessee State University

ContinuingEd@tnstate.edu

(615) 963-7372

- ◆ **Prior Requirement:** Science or Agriculture background is desirable, but not necessary for admission
- ◆ Applications can be submitted to Program Coordinator (Dr. Dilip Nandwani) or online (link is provided above)
- ◆ Cost: \$50, includes cost of certificate, coffee breaks, educational materials



PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dilip Nandwani, Ph.D.

Program Coordinator

Associate Professor-Organic Agriculture

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Dept. of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Tennessee State University, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd

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Quiteka Moten

Coordinator, Office of Continuing Education

TSU Avon William Campus, Nashville, TN

Email: qmoten@tnstate.edu

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Chandra Reddy, Ph.D.

Dean and Director of Research/Administrator of
Extension

Latif Lighari, PhD

Associate Dean, Cooperative Extension

Samuel Nahashon, PhD

Professor and Chair (interim)



Organic Certification Course

*“How to Become
Certified Organic”*



TSU Organic Agricultural Research and Education

“Think. Work. Serve.”

Department of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences

www.tnstate.edu/agriculturalprog

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Why should you be Certified Organic?

Organic Certification is done by USDA Third Party Certifier. This course teaches about how to become certified organic. Becoming certified organic helps you:

- ^ Receive premium prices for your products
- ^ Access fast-growing local, regional, and international markets
- ^ Be part of local economies
- ^ Access funding and technical assistance
- ^ Market products to consumers
- ^ Help the environment via certified practices: Improve water quality, Soil health, Conserve energy, Increase biodiversity

Benefits of Organic Certification?

- ^ Organic certification verifies that your farm or handling facility complies with the USDA organic regulations.
- ^ This certification allows you to sell, label, and represent your products as organic. Farms all over the world may be certified to the USDA organic standards.
- ^ Satisfies organic certification requirement
- ^ Certification allows you to call your product "organic" and to use the USDA seal.

Program Description

The course is taught over 5 parts :

1. **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE** Definition, An overview and scope, Values of organic agriculture, Careers in organic agriculture
2. **ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND MARKETING:** Introduction, Organic certification process, Transition to organic production, Record-keeping, Inspection, Management and Marketing
3. **PLANT APPLICATIONS:** Organic seeds and seed starting techniques, Propagation, Composting, Nutrient management & Fertilizer
4. **CROP MANAGEMENT: Soil,** Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Irrigation, Weed control, Tools and farm equipment
5. **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS: Garden** site selection and design, Site preparation, Planting and maintenance, High tunnels

Length of course: One day (7.5hrs)

-Each successful student will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

-Receive one CEU on completion of course



Who Should Apply?

The OCP program is suited for both new science graduates and aspiring transitional or conventional farmers, agricultural professionals employed in nursery, greenhouses, extension services, private or public sectors. Some of the many professionals who may find this program beneficial are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Farmers/Growers | ◆ Students |
| ◆ Food Handlers & Processors | ◆ Small Businesses/Entrepreneurs |
| ◆ Educators | ◆ Nursery & Greenhouse Producers |
| ◆ Natural Resource Managers | ◆ Agriculture Service Professionals |
| ◆ Extension Specialists | |

Sample
Certificate

