

“Growing Local” - Press Release!

Whether you're starting your own garden, or hoping to expand the possibilities on your existing produce patch, this workshop is for you! On December 9, 2011, from 8:00am to Noon, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be hosting “Growing Local,” an organic vegetable and produce workshop. The workshop will be held at the Douglas County USDA Service Center, located at 900 South Washington, Tuscola, IL. Please join us, as we learn more about “Growing Organic” from Rich Tobiasz, Master Gardener and long time organic farmer. Rich will cover basic soil nutrient management, pest control, weed management, crop rotations, and marketing produce, all with an organic twist. We'll also welcome Dan Anderson, from U of I Extension, as he shares his research on “Controlling Canadian Thistle, Organically.” Interested in government practices and programs that may fit your operation? NRCS will be covering erosion control methods, such as cover crops, seasonal high tunnels, and more! The workshop will wrap up with a panel of experienced farmers, ready for your questions and discussion. Please pre-register, **by December 5th**, by contacting **Jamie Houck, at (217) 347-7107 ext. 132 or Jamie.Houck@il.usda.gov.**

For more information or for individuals requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact **Jamie Houck, at (217) 347-7107 ext. 132 or Jamie.Houck@il.usda.gov.** USDA–NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.