Presentation Schedule

Morning Session:

8:00 – Registration

8:30 – Growing Fruits and Vegetables from the Farm to Table
      Bob & Cora Lamar, Oak Hill Farms, Poteet

9:00 – Rootstock Selection and High Tunnel Production with Grafted Tomatoes
       Dr. Cary Rivard, Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, Kansas State University

10:00 - Break (visit with sponsors and exhibitors)

10:15 – Improving Crop Performance Using Drip Irrigation in Open Field and High Tunnels
        Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Specialist, Horticulture

11:15 – Pesticide Laws & Regulations
        Brad Tullis, Inspector V, Pesticide Division, Texas Department of Agriculture

12:15 – Lunch (visit with sponsors and exhibitors)

Afternoon Session:

1:00 – Integrated Pest Management for High Tunnel Strawberries
       Dr. Cary Rivard, Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, Kansas State University

2:00 – How to Get the Most from Your High Tunnel
       Dr. Russ Wallace, Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

2:30 – Consumer Expectations for Growing Quality Commercial Strawberries
       David Figliola –Business Development Manager, H.E.B., San Antonio

3:00 – Break (visit with sponsors and exhibitors)

3:15 – Promoting Insect Pollination in Tunnels and Beyond
       Lauren Ward, M.S., Apiary Manager, Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, Bryan

4:15 – Comparing Organic vs. Conventional Pest Control in High Tunnel Strawberries
       Dr. Russ Wallace, Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

5:15 – Depart (Have a safe trip home!)
2015 Texas High Tunnel Conference Speakers and Topics

Bob & Cora Lamar, Growers, Oak Hill Farms, Poteet: Growing Fruits and Vegetables from the Farm to Table, Bob and Cora have farmed for 30 years and will share their expertise on how to be successful vegetable and fruit growers through their individual marketing strategies and good agricultural practices.

Dr. Cary Rivard, Fruit & Vegetable Specialist, Kansas State University: Rootstock Selection and High Tunnel Production with Grafted Tomatoes. In his first presentation, Dr. Rivard will discuss grafting techniques for tomatoes that will allow producers to graft resistant rootstocks to their selected varieties as an integrated method of disease control in tomatoes. In his second presentation called Integrated Pest Management for High Tunnel Strawberries, Dr. Rivard will present up-to-date information on the use of integrated pest management techniques including using biological and organic control versus chemicals, scouting for pests and making management decisions for strawberries grown in high tunnels.

Dr. Larry Stein, Associate Department Head, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist, Horticulture: Improving Crop Performance Using Drip Irrigation in Open Field and High Tunnels. Dr. Stein will discuss techniques that will aid in irrigation efficiency using drip technology for both vegetables and fruits in high tunnels as well as in the open field production.

Mr. Brad Tullis, Inspector V, Pesticide Division, Texas Department of Agriculture: Pesticide Laws & Regulations. Mr. Tullis will discuss selected laws that will provide up-to-date information on pesticide safety, handling, usage, worker safety, REI’s, etc.

Dr. Russ Wallace, Vegetable Extension Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: How to Get the Most from Your High Tunnel. Dr. Wallace has conducted 6 years of research on multiple crops using high tunnels. In his first presentation he will discuss methods to maximize crop production including rotation, alternative crops and growing techniques. As strawberry acreage increases in the state, in his second presentation, Dr. Wallace will discuss his research results on Comparing Organic vs. Conventional Pest Control in High Tunnel Strawberries using biocontrol and chemical sprays, and the effectiveness of both programs.

Mr. David Figliola, Business Development Manager, H.E.B., San Antonio: Consumer Expectations for Growing Quality Commercial Strawberries. Mr. Figliola will share his ideas on what consumers are looking for when purchasing strawberries including expectations on quality, taste, appearance and other preferences to enhance local strawberry marketing.

Ms. Lauren Ward, M.S., Apiary Manager, Texas A&M Honey Bee Lab, Bryan: Promoting Insect Pollination in Tunnels and Beyond. Bee pollination is essential for many vegetable and fruit crops. Ms. Ward will discuss techniques for how to get the most from natural bee populations and promoting and protecting bee populations to increase crop yields in both high tunnels and open field environments.