

Integrated High Tunnel Workshop

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Need/Goal:

Main - Increase production of value added crops and extend the planting season to increase local produce availability.

Secondary - Connect growers with local resources available to assist with tunnel acquisition, construction, and utilization from start to finish.

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (Acquisition Cost Share)
- Allendale Co. Soil & Water Conservation District (Construction Grant)
- Northwestern Supply, Inc. (Irrigation Supply Company)
- Clemson Extension (Season Extension & Value Added Production)
- Greenfield Organics (Local Producer with Established High Tunnel)

Specific Evaluation Criteria:

Knowledge –

- Increase client knowledge of high tunnel construction
- Increase knowledge of irrigation options for high tunnels
- Increase client knowledge of Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
- Increase client knowledge of season extension & value added crops

Aspirations –

- Apply for an NRCS High Tunnel EQIP cost share
- Grow a new value added crop
- Utilize season extension methods

Educational Practices:

Workshop is divided into a classroom workshop and on-farm site visit.

The workshop consists of presentations from Clemson Extension on season extension and value added crop production, NRCS on the seasonal high tunnel initiative, Allendale County S&WCD on their high tunnel construction grant opportunity, and from Northwestern Supply, Inc. on irrigation options for high tunnels.

The on-farm site visit was of a local farm that utilized a high tunnel in their current operation that was acquired through the NRCS program and showed different irrigation systems in use.

5 hour interactive class with local commercial vegetable producers

- PowerPoint presentations
- Hands on irrigation session
- On-Farm Site Visit
- Pre and Post Evaluations



Results:

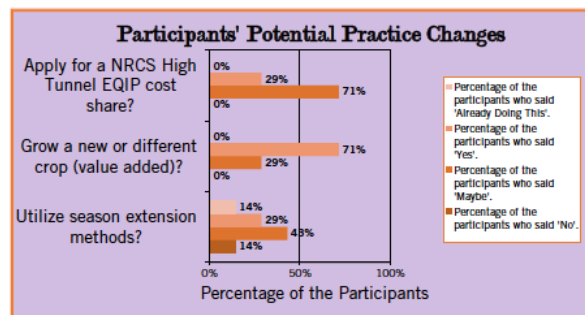
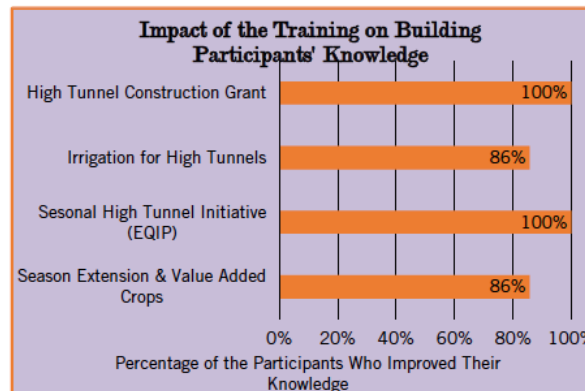
- 100% of participants were satisfied with the training and would recommend it to others
- 13 local producers increased knowledge of season extension, value added crop production, high tunnel construction, irrigation and cost share.
- 29% of the participants planned to apply for the NRCS Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative to purchase, install & utilize a high tunnel.
 - Of those that planned to apply, one producer has applied, constructed, and begun use for the 2019 season.
- Connections between the different agencies have now been established, and as long as funds are available for the NRCS cost share, this workshop will be repeated to encourage growers to expand their production opportunities.



On-Farm Tour



Classroom Workshop



New 2019 High Tunnel