

**Informed Consent  
Protocol Title:**

High Tunnel Organic Vegetable Production for the Southeast Advisory Panel  
Assessments

**Please read this consent document carefully  
before you decide to participate in this study.**

**Purpose of the research study:**

The purpose of this study is to develop sustainable high tunnel systems to promote the growth and expansion of organic vegetable production in the Southeast. By building a strong partnership with organic producers and other stakeholders, this project will target long-term environmental and economic sustainability. The objective of this study is to gain insights from farmers and agricultural service providers evaluating our research and contribute to the improvement of organic horticultural crop production in the Southeast. To achieve this, we seek farmer and agricultural service provider recommendations about our current research, its promise, its limitations, and recommendations for the future. Dr. Mickie Swisher in the Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences is the person who is responsible for this study.

**What you will be asked to do in the study:**

You will be asked to provide the research team with a wide range of perspectives about the research treatments and procedures and make targeted recommendations to improve research and outreach activities. All panel members will recommend farmers for on-farm trials, recommend participants for the annual research assessments, review results of on-station and on-farm trials, and make suggestions for annual adjustments to procedures and protocols. We will ask specific questions to ask the Advisory Panel identified by the researchers based off the research being conducted in the project. We may ask additional follow-up questions based on the dynamics of the discussion, but they will not go outside the scope of the research conducted in this project. We will provide written reports of recommendations made through the assessments and other panel activities and panel members will receive copies of all annual reports for review. The research team will digitally record and take notes during the panel meetings. We will host one panel meeting per year over the life of the project (four years).

**Time required:** Up to 3 hours per meeting (12 hours total).

**Confidentiality:**

The participants' confidentiality is protected to the extent provided by the law. Only the researchers will have access to the information collected. The completed forms will be kept for no more than three years and will be filed under lock in Dr. Mickie Swisher's office. We may use the information provided in reports and journal publications, but we will NOT identify specific participants as the source of the information.

**Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**  
Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences

**Risks and benefits:**

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in the study. The potential risk to the respondent is no more than that encountered in typical discussions among agriculturalists about farming.

**Compensation:**

None.

**Voluntary participation:**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no penalty for not participating.

**Right to withdraw from the study:**

You have the right to withdraw from this study at any time with no penalty. You are **NOT** required to answer any question.

**Whom to contact if you have questions about the study:**

Marilyn Swisher, Professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences  
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**Whom to contact about your rights as a research participant in the study:**

IRB02 Office, P.O. Box 112250, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2250  
Phone: (352) 392-0433  
Email: IRB2@ufl.edu

**Agreement:**

I have read the procedure described above. I voluntarily agree to participate in this research evaluation and I have received a copy of this description.