

Features

Spend a day at Hamakua Springs Farm

It's part of Kohala Center's 'Cool Farms, Hot Lunches' fun learning series

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Published: Sunday, June 21, 2009 7:46 AM HST

Farm-fresh lettuce. Tomatoes and cucumbers straight off the vine. The Kohala Center's "Cool Farms, Hot Lunches" learning events continue with a visit to Hamakua Springs Country Farms with owner Richard Ha from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 27.

Ha and his wife, June, operate Hamakua Springs Country Farms (formerly Kea'au Bananas). The 600-acre hydroponic farm on the Hamakua coast produces tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, and other specialty vegetables for island markets, restaurants, and top local chefs.

The farm also works at the intersection of food and energy production. Learn about the farm's alternative energy use and its development of a "zero-waste system" in response to rising energy costs. End the morning by joining Richard and June Ha for lunch.

To learn more about Hamakua Springs Country Farms, visit <http://hamakuasprings.com>.

The Kohala Center designed "Cool Farms, Hot Lunches" as a way for participants to connect with one another, with cultural and scientific experts, and with Hawaii Island's natural, cultural, and spiritual landscapes.

Future learning events include "Honopua Farm with Ken and Roen Hufford: A Waimea Family Farm" on Saturday, July 25; "Agricultural Sustainability in Puanui Ahupua'a: Past, Present, and Future" on Saturday, Aug. 22; and "Salt-making in the Ahupua'a of Ka'upulehu" on Saturday, Oct. 24. On farm visits, hosts will share their favorite recipes.

Space is limited. Reserve the Hamakua Springs Country Farms visit now. Visit <http://www.kohalacenter.org> and click on "Programs & Events" and "Current Events" or contact The Kohala Center at info@kohalacenter.org or 808-887-6411. Cost is \$25 for The Kohala Center's Circle of Friends; \$75 for nonmembers, which includes event and Circle of Friends membership. To learn more about the Circle of Friends, visit <http://www.kohalacenter.org> and click on "Join Us" and "Become a Member."



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Richard and June Ha of Hamakua Springs Farm are surrounded by fresh lettuce, tomatoes, bananas, and cucumbers. - Courtesy Photo