Aloha kākou,

The Kohala Center’s Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services team would like to keep you informed of programs, workshops, and events that may be of interest to you and other members of Hawai‘i’s agricultural community. We’ll aim to keep such announcements to no more than twice per month. If you wish to be removed from this email list, please click “unsubscribe” at the bottom of this message. Please visit The Kohala Center’s website at kohalacenter.org if you would like additional information about these events and other programs. We hope to see you at an event soon!

Mahalo,

Nicole, Melanie, and Anna-Lisa
Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services
The Kohala Center
kohalacenter.org/business

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SUPER Seedy Saturday**
Saturday, November 8, 2014
2 – 6 p.m.
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, UCB 100
The Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative, a program of The Kohala Center, is sponsoring its first-ever SUPER Seedy Saturday with a seed exchange and screening of *Open Sesame – The Story of Seeds*, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session. Please bring seeds to share for a local seed exchange, but please refrain from bringing plants, *keiki*, or other material with soil, as we do not want to spread Little Fire Ant.

**Beginning Farmer-Rancher Mentorship Program**
*Application deadline: Friday, November 14, 2014*
The Kohala Center’s Beginning Farmer-Rancher Mentorship Program aims to support the next generation of beginning farmers to succeed in starting a new farm or agribusiness through education and training, on-farm mentoring, and technical assistance. The ten-month training program consists of full-day instructional sessions held in Honoka‘a one Saturday per month for ten months, and 160 hours of on-farm mentorship from a successful farmer or rancher. Students will be matched with a successful farmer or rancher to gain hands-on agricultural production, business management, and marketing experience. Program applicants will be accepted based on the successful pairing of a mentor farmer and a beginning farmer/rancher. Preference is given to applicants who are U.S. veterans and/or are considered “socially...
Little Fire Ant Awareness Meeting

Presented by Heather Forester, Hawai‘i Ant Lab
Saturday, November 15, 2014
10 – 11:30 a.m.
North Hawai‘i Education and Research Center (NHERC) Conference Room, 45-539 Plumeria Street, Honoka‘a

The Little Fire Ant, an invasive species that threatens agriculture, homes, and native ecosystems, has recently been found in Honoka‘a. The venom dispensed by these aggressive ants can cause blindness in household pets and livestock, and can inflict painful, long-lasting stings on humans. Major infestations have been known to ruin homes and farms. We all have a vested interest in curtailing their further encroachment to other regions of the island and the state. Heather Forester, a Hawai‘i Ant Lab invasive ant support technician, will present an informational session covering biology and methods for control.

For more information, email honokaaseedexchange@gmail.com.

REAP Workshop
Monday, November 17, 2014
3 – 4 p.m.
The Kohala Center, 65-1291A Kawaihae Road, Waimea

USDA Rural Development, in partnership with The Kohala Center, is sponsoring a workshop on the Rural Energy for America (REAP) loan and grant program. Topics to be covered include eligibility requirements, application information, and tips for submitting a better proposal. Interested businesses and farmers/ranchers are welcome to attend. Please note that this program does NOT apply to residential use. Space is limited to 20 participants, so please RSVP to Denise Oda at denise.oda@hi.usda.gov or 808-933-8323.

The Pumpkin Primer: Key Ways to Grow Edible Heirloom Squash

Presented by Anna Peach, Squash and Awe
Saturday, November 22, 2014
9 a.m. – 12 noon
Hōnaunau Elementary School, Hōnaunau

This workshop will offer tips for successful squash growing in a school garden. Additional topics to be covered will include nutrient recycling, soil building practices of creating fish emulsion and bokashi, natural pest control, seed selection, melon fly traps, water conservation, variety selection, companion planting and pollinators. Anna has created an interesting squash growing strategy that creates a perennial plant from an annual by using pruning and mulching technique. For more information and to register, contact Donna Mitts at dmitts@kohalacenter.org or 808-936-2117.