

**V2Organic Colloquium and Field Trip to Costa Rica**  
**Hort 372/ LACIS 440 – Spring 2015**  
**Jim Nienhuis 262-6975 [nienhuis@wisc.edu](mailto:nienhuis@wisc.edu)**  
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**Room 351 Moore Hall – every Monday afternoon**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Discussion Topic Hort 372 3:30-4:20</b>	<b>Instructors / presenter</b>	<b>con fir me d</b>	<b>LACIS 440 3:30-4:45 (activities below 4:20—4:45</b>
1 Jan 26	Overview and organization of colloquium	Jim Nienhuis and Alberto Vargas		Organization of LACIS 440 as a compliment to Hort 372 (Nienhuis and Vargas)
2 Feb 2	Breeding for adaptation to organic agriculture	Jim Nienhuis	yes	Trip overview - Nienhuis
3 Feb 9	Pest control in a real organic farm – TIPI produce	Steve Pincus Beth Kasmir	yes	Organic agriculture in Latin America - Vargas (Nienhuis at winter nursery)
4 Feb 16	Chefs and producers of organic vegetables	Eric Elderbrock, Johnny Hunter and Jon Binkley	yes	Identification of topics and schedule (Nienhuis and Vargas)
5 Feb 23	Lessons learned in organic agriculture	Doug Rouse	yes	Alberto Vargas presentation (Nienhuis at bean meeting)
6 March 2	Chefs and producers of organic vegetables Food systems flavor and organic agriculture	Julie Dawson	yes	UW travel nurse – Linda Johnson
7 March 9	Organic Certification at MOSES	Harriet Behar	yes	preparation for trip (Nienhuis and Vargas)
8 March 16	The Michael Fields Institute	Geroge Reinstad	yes	preparation for trip (Nienhuis and Vargas)
9 March 23	Student presentation			Final preparation for trip
10	<b>Spring Break trip to Costa Rica March 28-5</b>			
11 April 6	Student presentation (2 groups)			Student group presentation
12 April 13	Student presentation (2 groups)			Student group presentation
13 April 20	Student presentations (2 groups)			Student group presentation
14 April 27	Student presentations (2 groups)			Student group presentation
15 May 4	Student presentations (2 groups)			Student group presentation

**Grading** – Students will be graded in a traditional A-F scale based on the content and quality of the oral and written presentation and ability to lead a discussion of the class on their group topic. The grading scale is as follows: [93-100=A, 88-93=AB, 83-87=B, 78-83= BC, 70-77=C, 60-70=D, <60=F] The content of the written presentation will be evaluated based on the criteria of historical context, ecology, social context, production practices economic importance (local, national and export) and environmental impact

**Learning Objectives:** To engage students in a discussion of the biology, ecology, marketing, and social context of organic agriculture production contrasted to traditional agricultural production systems. The discussion will be facilitated by an invited speaker or a group presentation on a topic relevant to organic agriculture.

**Presentation:** You must work with your group and prepare the following: 1) a one-page abstract that summarizes your presentation and highlights the important points associated with your investigative research. The summary should be copied and distributed to the class (30 copies) 2) a 20-min power-point presentation of your investigative report including sources of information. I would urge you to use the library rather than just google, as your conclusions must be supported with DATA, not opinions.

Readings suggested by Dr. Nienhuis:

- 1) Back to the land: the paradox of organic food standards. 2004. Julie Guthman, Environment and Planning, Vol. 36, pages 511-528
- 2) What is organic agriculture. Jody Padgham, 2012. UW-Extension publication. A3811-8 UW-Extension and Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
- 3) Guidebook for Organic Certification. 2006. Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Spring Valley, WI.
- 4) Labeling Organic Products. 2010. National Organic Program. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Wash. D.C.
- 5) Organic Foods. Food and Nutrition Information Center. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Wash. D.C.

Reading suggested by Dr. Vargas:

- 1) Hall, Charles A. S. 2000. Quantifying sustainable Development : the future of tropical economies / edited by Charles A. S. Hall ; associate editors, Carlos Leon Perez, Gregoire Leclerc. San Diego, Academy Press.
- 2) Galt, Ryan E. 2009. 'It just goes to kill Ticos': national market regulation and the political ecology of farmers' pesticide use in Costa Rica. Journal of Political Ecology 16: 1-33
- 3) Galt, Ryan E. 2008. Pesticides in export and domestic agriculture: reconsidering market orientation and pesticide use in Costa Rica. Geoforum 39 (3): 1378-92.

*Students are also encouraged to read a chapter from a Latin American studies textbook, for example:*

- 4) Seligson, Mitchell. 2011. Costa Rica. In Wiarda, H and H Kline (eds), Latin American Politics and Development. Westview Press.