



Introduction to Aquaponics

REGISTER ONLINE: www.flaa.org



Description

A one-day training seminar designed to teach the basics of raising fish and aquaponic plants in a naturally balanced, integrated culture system. Participants will learn about the basic needs of food and/or aquarium fish and how they should be cared for and raised. Participants will also learn how to use the wastewater from the fish to raise pesticide-free, nutritious healthy vegetables without soil. A (self-drive) field trip to MorningStar Farms in Dade City – an innovative aquaponics installation and teaching facility - will allow participants to see firsthand a working aquaponics facility.



DATE

October 25, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

COST

\$95 Lunch Included
\$125 after 9/30/13

A one day course that will cover the topics most important to being successful in aquaponics including aquaponic methods and applications, aquatic livestock and plant choices along with an overview of water quality, growing techniques, system requirements, fish health and feeds, plant care and selection, system startup basics and business considerations. This course will include 3 hours of classroom instruction by leading experts in their field, followed by a field trip to an innovative aquaponics installation and teaching facility.

You'll learn the basics of sustainably raising fish, herbs and vegetables together, using fewer resources than traditional farming, and the added benefit of producing food without the use of pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers, all year 'round! This is your chance to learn about aquaponic food production and how you can grow fresh fish and herbs/vegetables for your family or in a profitable business venture.

Aquaponics is the fastest growing segment of aquaculture. It is a sustainable food production system that combines conventional aquaculture, the raising aquatic animals such as food fish or aquarium fish, with hydroponics – the cultivating plants in water in one eco-environment. In aquaculture, effluents accumulate in the water, increasing toxicity for the fish. This water is led to a hydroponic system where the by-products from the aquaculture are broken down by nitrogen-fixing bacteria, then filtered out by the plants as nutrients, after which the cleaned water is recirculated back to the animals.

Target Audience

Perfect for middle and secondary school or vocational students and teachers of science, ecology, and agriculture, gardening clubs, FFA clubs, and individuals interested in learning an innovative way to produce a constant supply of fish and herbs and/or vegetables using a simple, naturally balanced, ecologically sound system. No prior knowledge of aquaponics is required or assumed.

Location

Florida Department of Agriculture
Nora Mayo Hall Building
500 3rd St., NW
Winter Haven, FL 33880

