**SAMPLE**

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Contact: Joe Smith

Smith Farms

(453) 546-8989

[joesmith@aol.com](mailto:joesmith@aol.com)

**Building Better Soils with Compost**

***An On-Farm Demonstration***

Improve the health of your soil and grow better vegetables by learning how to make compost and apply it on your farm or garden. Smith Farms will teach current and aspiring farmers and home gardeners what they need to know about creating the best compost. The presentation and tour will show examples of healthy soil and vegetables at their on-farm event “Growing Beautiful Vegetables in Healthy Soil.” This demonstration, hosted by owner Joe Smith, will be held at Smith Farms, 54 Taylor Road, Raleigh North Carolina, on August 1, 2016. From 9 am to noon, participants will hear from Joe about the best practices he has learned for making and applying compost from on-farm resources, and then walk through fields showing the difference between vegetables grown with compost and those grown without.

After the presentation and field tour, a lunch featuring locally-grown foods will be served, with Joe available for more question and answer. The fee for the field day and lunch is $25. Reservations are required by July 25. Registration and payment information can be found at [joesmithfarms/event](http://www.joesmithfarms/event).

In 2014 Joe received a Farmer-Rancher grant of $13,200 from the Southern SARE to determine what materials from his farm worked best in the compost he made. He also divided up his vegetable fields to determine the best rates of application. At the end of this project, he found three common materials that made good, clean compost and determined the best rate of application. He will share his findings at this event. More information about Joe’s project can be found in the SARE database of projects, [mysare.sare.org/sare\_project/FS14-000](http://mysare.sare.org/sare_project/FS14-000).

Joe, who has been farming for 13 years, says “I am excited to share what I’ve learned about growing better vegetables, improving my soil, and using what would have been waste products with my fellow farmers. To see the difference in the quality of both my produce and soil is truly amazing.”

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