2:00-5:00. Transitioning to USDA Organic Certification: The Benefits, Challenges, and Processes

Speakers

1. **Meagan Collins,**
   Certification Coordinator/Inspector
   Quality Certification Services, Gainesville, FL

   Meagan Collins is a certification coordinator and inspector for Quality Certification Services (QCS). Her area of specialization includes crop production and processing and handling for both organic certification as well as food safety certification. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Horticultural Sciences with a specialization in organic and sustainable crop production from the University of Florida.

2. **Francisco Arroyo,**
   Owner/Operator KYV Farm,
   St. Augustine, FL

   Organic certified vegetable grower, operates a 300 member CSA and market gardener for a couple of farmers markets in the local area. Arroyo’s farm produces over 60 different varieties of certified organic vegetables, fruits and herbs, without conventional pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. The farm is community-oriented, with a full seasonal calendar of events, including tours, workshops, and farm feasts.

3. **William Kazokas,**
   Senior Tomato Breeder,
   Semillas Fitó

   William ‘Bill’ Kazokas, Ph.D. has been involved in organic agriculture for over 25 years. His career has given him first-hand experiences from small-scale growing to international research. As an IOIA trained certification inspector for QCS, QAI, and CCOF, Dr. Kazokas learned first-hand the challenges that conventional growers face when transitioning to organic production systems.