

## Farm Day in the South eastern Region

On May 28 the Southeastern region hosted a "Farm Day" at the residence and farm of Brian and Barbara Allen in Mt. Pleasant District in St. Andrew.

The day's activities included a tour of the farm and a discussion session. The participants were able to socialize with each other over lunch and discuss various aspects of organic farming including contamination control, soil conservation and nutrient management techniques, and crop selection. Organic certification was also discussed.

### Soil Conservation techniques seen on the Farm Tour.



The meeting was designed to bring the members of the region together and to facilitate the flow of ideas among the members.

Sixteen persons attended and Ms. Reid, the interim chair of the region, reported that the feedback received indicated that the interactive meeting style was a productive and enjoyable experience.

### Delicious Veggie Stew in the making



## JOAM Participates in Wellfest 2005

JOAM was invited to participate in Wellfest, a wellness festival held May 13-15, 2005. The festival was held in New Kingston on Knutsford Boulevard and at Emancipation Park. As a result of the organizers' interest in having JOAM participate in Wellfest, the coordinators were able to secure sponsorship for the JOAM booth.

Members of JOAM were invited to assist with staffing the booth and to display their products for sale. Robin Crum Ewing, Joya Hairs, Dorianne Rowan-Campbell and Allied Farms displayed their internationally certified organic products. A wide range of organic products were on display including cold-pressed coconut oil, packaged pimento, coffee and various fruits and vegetables. Literature on organic agriculture, including the JOAM literature were also on display

From all accounts JOAM's participation in Wellfest 2005 was well received. We look forward to participating next year where it is hoped that we will have even more certified products to display.

## Southeastern Region Expels Inertia

Ms. Nickeisha Reid, the interim chair of the Southeastern region (St. Thomas, Kingston and St. Andrew) has been setting off fireworks in the region. Ms. Reid began by e-mailing, telephoning and meeting with

members of the region. She has also established contact with three members of the region currently based overseas and was able to meet with one of these members who happened to be visiting the island.

The members of the Southeastern region have been consulted as to the direction they would like to see the region take. Ms. Reid has received ideas from several members regarding activities they would like to see the region carry out as well as objectives they would like to meet as a region. Five members have volunteered to serve on a committee with the responsibility of planning and implementing projects.

Since this initial contact with the region, two meetings have been held in the parish of St. Thomas and one in St. Andrew. We are happy to see the renewed activity in the Southeastern region. Ms. Reid and the members of the region should be commended for their effort.

## National Organic Agriculture Programme

The National Organic Agriculture Steering Committee (NOASC) has drafted the proposal for a National Organic Agriculture Programme project. This proposal will be submitted to

the Ministry of Agriculture for consideration and approval.

## Increase in Membership Fees

At the last General meeting the general membership of JOAM voted to increase membership fees. The consensus was to double the regular membership fees from JA\$500 to JA\$1000. This will take effect in October of 2005. Fees for the New Year are accepted as early as August. Members are encouraged to pay fees early and take advantage of paying lower fees for the upcoming administration year. Fees can be paid at any branch of the National Commercial Bank to the JOAM account **37 1013431**. Do not forget to mail in a copy of the deposit slip. Alternately, the fees may be mailed in.

## JOAM Website Update

The Public Relations Committee is currently working on upgrading the JOAM website. As a result, the website cannot be accessed.



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Members are welcome to share with the PR Committee what they would like to see on the website or assist in its creation.

## Upcoming Events

The public and general members of JOAM are encouraged to participate in the JOAM events. Some upcoming events are:

- **June 21, 2005** – meeting of the Northeastern region at Woodside in St. Mary. Contact Marie Dixon for further details.
- **June 23, 2005** – meeting of the Southeastern region in St. Thomas. Contact Nickiesha Reid, for further details.

## JOAM Needs Your Help

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement has come this far through the work of many dedicated individuals who have volunteered their time and other resources. We would like to thank all those persons who have helped to take us to where we are today. JOAM can only go further if persons continue to support it with their time and skills. If you would like to serve on a committee or help in your regional group please let us know. Your help will aid in the growth of the local industry.