Announcer: The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap: Do you like growing your own plants, fruits, and vegetables? Then, the upcoming Greenhouse and High Tunnel Workshop at Missouri State University's Fruit Experiment Station in Mountain Grove, might just be for you. Scheduled from October 12 to 13, 2017, the workshop is a joint effort among Missouri State's Darr College Of Agriculture, University of Missouri Cooperative Extension and Lincoln University. Participants will learn more about using a greenhouse or high tunnel effectively to control the growing environment better and extend the growing season.

I'm Emily Yeap. Jennifer Morganthaler, agriculture instructor at MSU, is with me today to talk about the workshop and what it will cover.

Jennifer M.: Topics are gonna range from technical overview for high tunnels, soil health, cucurbits and high tunnels, basic hydroponics. We're gonna have nutritional management of greenhouse crops, bedding plant and ornamental container production, tomato and cucumber production in the high tunnel, and seedling production and scheduling, as well as others. We are gonna have commercial sponsors and vendors, so you'll have time to break and talk to the vendors about their products as well.

Emily Yeap: Morganthaler explains more about high tunnel growing.

Jennifer M.: A high tunnel is essentially very similar to a greenhouse except for a high tunnel does not have heat. It usually has passive ventilation. The sides usually raise or lower and allow the air flow through the system. A high tunnel's just a way of extending your growing season.

Emily Yeap: The workshop will feature different types of presentations.

Jennifer M.: Some of the presentations will be more lecture format and some of it will be hands-on demonstration. We're gonna have a tour of the high tunnel and the greenhouse, so you'll get to see all the crops we currently have growing and the demonstrations that we have set up.

Emily Yeap: The demonstrations in the high tunnel and greenhouse will include seed starting and growing crops, such as basil and tomatoes. Workshop presenters include faculty members from all three universities, as well as local farmers.

Jennifer M.: We have Curtis Millsap from here in Springfield, Liz Graznak from Happy Hollow Farm, and Craig Jennings from Three Oaks Farm. It's gonna be a variety of educators, extension outreach personnel and actually growers and producers themselves.

Emily Yeap: Participants will also be able to get their water tested. They need to bring a 12 to 20 ounce bottle of water and $15 cash or check made payable to Webster County Extension. People with gardening skills of all levels are welcome to attend this workshop.

Jennifer M.: Anyone who’s interested in specialty crops in the greenhouse or high tunnel, whether you already have one and just want to become more sufficient or improve something or learn something new, or if you're just thinking about getting involved. Our topics are gonna range from basic introductory to some more in-depth, so there will something for everyone at the workshop.

Emily Yeap: Registration is on a first come, first-served basis. The cost is $50 per person and includes materials and lunch. Industry sponsors that made the workshop possible include Atlas Greenhouse, BWI Companies, GFG Ag Services, Grimes Horticulture, High Caliper Growing System, Indoor Garden Supply, Johnny's Selected Seeds and MPR Supply Company. To get more information or to register, call 417-547-7500. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer: For more information, contact the Office of University Communications at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.