Phone: 856-451-2800 Fax: 856-451-4206



Cultivating Cumberland

March - 2012 VOL. 17, ISSUE 3

### Inside this issue:

Plant & Pest Reminder	1
Rutgers Vegetable Crops Blog	1
Agritourism Comprehensive Website	2
SADC Land	2
Help Workshops for Farmers & Forest Land Owners	3
Beekeepers Alert	4
2012 Atlantic City Proceedings	4
2012 Vegetable Recommendations	4
Tour of USDA Beltsville, MD Ag Research Facility	5
Calendar of Important Events	6-8
Regularly Scheduled	0

### Attachments:

NRCS - Save the Date flyer

Meetings

Bee-ginner's Beekeeping

Secretary's Report to the State Board of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development

Blueberry Growers Food Safety
Training

### **Plant & Pest Advisory**

The Plant & Pest Advisory Vegetable Crops edition (weekly), Fruit edition (weekly), Landscape, Nursery & Turf edition (biweekly) and the Cranberry edition (biweekly) are now available for the 2012 Season. Be sure to place your standing order so you don't miss of the up-to-date information. If you need an order form, please contact our office at 856-451-2800 x1.

### **Rutgers Vegetable Crops Blog**

To get the up-to-date information visit the Rutgers Vegetable Crops Blog at: http://jerseyvegcropsagupdates.blogspot.com/

Information is posted daily and this is the quickest way to disease information that pertains to your crops. Check it out daily!

PAGE 2

### Comprehensive Website Supporting Agritourism in NJ

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Agritourism Team

There are four main resource sections to the site for Farmers, Ag Educators and Tourism Professionals, Land Use or Polcy Planner Professionals and Farm Visitors. The site map address is: http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/Agritourismwp/agritourismSiteMap.html

These web resources are rich in practical checklists for farmers: business planning tools, hospitality training practices for family and employees, and understanding Accepted Management Practices (AMPs) and Right-to-Farm as they apply to Agritourism. (for these resources visit website: http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/Agritourismwp/agritourismRightToFarmAMP.html) We feel that Rutgers has detailed contributions to offer in two areas and more will be rolled out over the coming year.

Risk management for farmers listed under "Agritourism Risk Mgt on Farm" and because sustaining urban fringe farming involves interaction and support from land use planners and policy professionals, we offer suggestions and policy tactics supporting Agritourism in NJ under "Agritourism for Planners and Policy Makers".

For Ag educator professionals, we offer an online version of the traditional "County Agent's File Cabinet" of Agritourism Resources on subject from using social media, to health and safety of children and conducting and evaluation school field trips and a vast range of allied topics, listed under "Ag Professional's Agritourism 'File Cabinet".

Agritourism offers adaptations small and mid-size farms can make to maintain their economic viability and sustainability, to directly connect agriculture and food to non-farm consumers and to overcome the increased costs, lower production efficiencies and regulatory conflicts ever present in farming NJ's urban fringe.

Brought to you by the Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Agritourism Team: Bill Bamka, Jenny Carleo, Michelle Infante-Casella, Meredith Melendez, Lucas Marxen, Jack Rabin and Brian Schilling. With partial grant support from the USDA NE-SARE Program.

### **SADC-Land Leases and Beginning Farmers**

NJ Farm Bureau "This Week in Farm Bureau Vol. XI VIV No. 7

The SADC has started a new project with grant funding to develop model land leases and contracts for both farmers and landowners. It will also support the ability of beginning farmers to gain access to farmland. After a research and data gathering phase, the end product will be a guidebook with recommendations on farmland leases. Dave Kimmel at the SADC staff (609-984-2504) is the contact person.

PAGE 3

### **Workshops To Explain Help Available** for Farmers and Forest Land Owners

Barbara Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist NRCS

New Jersey farmers and forest land owners who want to know more about how to improve the quality of the soil and other resources on their land are invited to attend one or more of nine morning workshops being offered in March and early April at various locations. Each workshop will include a presentation on the workshop's specific topic, how to develop a conservation plan, and the technical and financial assistance available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Technical experts will be on hand to answer questions and take applications from those who wish to sign up for NRCS assistance.

**Energy Conservation** workshops will cover ways to save money on your monthly electric bill and the funding available for farm energy audits, renewable energy and other energy savings measures. This topic will be offered March 12 at the Gloucester County Complex, Delsea Drive, Clayton, March 14 at the Monmouth County Ag. Complex / NRCS Service Center, 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, and March 15 at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Garibaldi Hall on Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. These start at 8:30 a.m.

Ethnic Specialty Crops workshops will highlight opportunities for farmers interested in growing crops for this market. Topics such as marketing, horticultural challenges, trial results and production tips will be presented. This workshop will be offered three times: March 16 at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton (Language assistance for speakers of Korean, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese will be available at this workshop.), March 21 at Alstede Farms in Chester, and March 29 at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County in Mill-ville. All start at 8:30 a.m.

Soil Quality and Composting will be the topic covered at the March 27 workshop at Genesis Farm in Blairstown. Experts will cover soil quality basics, crop management and fertility, composting and marketing organic and certified naturally grown food. Session starts at 8:30 a.m.

Forest Landowners workshop will include information on best practices for forest management and the cost share programs available to provide funding for these efforts. Maintenance of farmland assessment will also be covered. This workshop will be offered twice: March 31 at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton and April 5, at the NRCS Service Center, 51 Cheney Road, Woodstown. Both start at 9 a.m.

Registration for these workshops is required. Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is available at all sessions. Please request any necessary disability accommodation when you register. If language assistance is needed, please note that at time of registration and every effort will be made to accommodate these requests.

Workshops are sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with Gloucester County Soil Conservation District (SCD), Mercer County Soil Conservation District, and Morris County Soil Conservation District. Visit www.nj.usda.gov/about/events for workshop details and registration information, or call Gloucester County SCD (856) 5895250, Morris County SCD (973) 2852953, or Mercer County SCD (609) 5869603.

PAGE 4

### Beekeepers Alert

New Jersey law (NJ Pesticide Control Regulations at NJAC 7:30-9.11, pages 10-12) requires that beekeepers be notified when pesticides that are labeled as hazardous to bees are applied with three miles of a registered bee yard. Agricultural pesticide applications are exempt from this notification, with the exception of the following crops within the dates indicated or when the flowering stage:

Apples - April 15 to May 15 Pears - April 15, to May 15

Strawberries - April 15, to May 15 Peaches - April 15 to May 15

Blueberries - April 15 to May 15 Cranberries - June 15 to August 15

Holly - June 1 to June 30 Vine Crops (Cucurbits) - June 1 to August 31

Sweet Corn Flowering Stage Cover crop or weeds Flowering Stage

If you would like to be notified, fill out and submit the application which can be found on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJ DEP) website (www.state.nj.us/agriculture/). If you have questions, call 609-984-6601. The list is updated once a year. The deadline for submission to be included in the list and notified prior to spraying or application is March 1, 2012. The current NJ DEP "List of Officially Registered Beeyards" can be found on the DEP website.

### **2012 Atlantic City Proceedings**

The 2012 Atlantic proceedings are available at the Veg Crops On-Line Resource Center (http://njveg.rutgers.edu) on the homepage. Also, tomato and potato growers can also sign-up to receive the NEWA disease forecasting reports (i.e., Tom-Cast, Late blight) which the Veg Path and IPM program will be initiating this season.

### 2012 Vegetable Recommendations

The 2012 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations book is now available in the Extension Office, 291 Morton Avenue, Rosenhayn for \$15.00. Our office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30.

### TOUR OF USDA BELTSVILLE, MD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES

Thursday, March 22, 2012,

### Sponsored by: Cumberland County Board of Agriculture

Leave from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office at 6:00 a.m.

291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332

### Tour will include:

Day Neutral Strawberry Production under Low Tunnels Using IR Plastic for Summer & Fall Production, and Anthracnose Controls for Annual Strawberry Production Systems with Strawberry Breeder, Dr. Kim Lewers

Tomato, Pepper and Eggplant Breeding Program presentation and tour. Production systems with vetch.

Labor Saving Mechanization and Equipment especially for small fruit and vegetable farms.

### Germplasm Repository

A separate tour is possible for nursery growers once we arrive at Beltsville that could go to the National Arboretum (Need to know the interest for this soon – email Shirley Kline at <a href="https://hvbf@netzero.net">hvbf@netzero.net</a> to register interest in this aspect of the tour).

Transportation costs covered by Cumberland County Board of Agriculture

Tour participants will be responsible for paying for their own lunch.

### Preregistration required by March 15, 2012

Fax registration to 856-451-4206 or mail to RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave.,	
Millville, NJ 08332 or e-mail registration to commander@njaes.rutgers.edu	

Name(s)		
Address:		

PAGE 6

### **Calendar of Important Events**

### **March 2012**

### March 3

**2012 Community Garden Conference,** The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave., Morris Township, NJ. \$50 by 2/4; \$60 after. For more info or to register call 973-326-7603 or visit: www.arboretumfriends.org.

### March 4-6

**California Small Farm Conference,** Hyatt Regency, Valencia, Calif. For more info call 831-659-0436, email: smallfarmconference@gmail.com or visit: www.californiafarmconference.com

### March 6

**Turf Culture,** RCE of Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20; 9am-noon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### 

**Apple Scab in Pennsylvania Workshop**, Penn State Fruit Research & Extension Center, 290 University Dr., Biglerville, PA. 8-noon For more info call 717-334-6271 or email: tab36@psu.edu

### 

**Central Jersey Turf & Ornamental Institute,** Battleground Country Club, Millhurst Rd., Manalapan, NJ. For more info call RCE Middlesex County 732-398-5262.

### March 7-8

**18th Annual Conference & Eco-Marketplace,** The Ecological Landscaping Association, MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield MA. For more info call 617-436-5838 or visit: www.ecolandscaping.org

### March 7-8

**Managing Turfgrass and Landscape Weeds,** Rutgers Cont. Prof. Education, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ; \$395 by 2/22; \$445 after. Pesticide Credits: 2-Core, 8 each for Cat. 2 & 3A and 16 each for Cat. 3B, 6B, 8C and PP2. For more info call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu

### March 8-10

**NYS Farmers Market Manager Training Program**, Keeping the Momentum Going Marriott Courtyard, Saratoga. For more info call Diane Eggert at 315-637-4690, email: deggert@nyfarmersmarket.com or visit: www.nyfarmersmarket.com

### March 9

**Turfgrass Disease Management,** Rutgers Cont. Prof. Education, 201 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ; \$195 by 2/24; \$225 after. Pesticide credits: 10 each for Cats. 3B, 6B, 8C & PP2. For more info call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu

### March 13

**Turf Pest Problems,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20; pesticide credits: 6 each for Cat. 13, 3B and PP2; 9am-noon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### /≯March 13

**Blueberry Open House,** Kerri Brooke Caterers, 753 South White Horst Pike, Hammonton, NJ. 9 am - 4 pm. For more info call Gary Pavlis 609-625-0056

### 

Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Your Backyard, RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick; 6:30 p.m. \$20 register by March 9th. For more info call 732-398-5262

### March 20

**Food Safety & Audit Workshop**, Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research & Extension, 125A Lake Oswego Rd., Chatsworth, NJ. For more info or to register call 609-726-1590.

### March 20

**Garden Animals: Friend & Foes,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20; 9amnoon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### March 22

**South Jersey Rain Garden Training,** Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, 1645 Ferry Ave., Camden, NJ. \$25.00 For more info call Amy Boyajian 732-932-9800 x6164 or visit: www.water.rutgers.edu

### March 23

**Roadside and Right-of-Way Vegetation Management,** Rutgers Cont. Prof. Education, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ; \$195 by 3/9; \$225 after. For more info call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu

### March 24

**36th Annual Home Gardeners School,** Rutgers Continuing Professional Education, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ, 9am-4pm, \$55 by 3/10; \$69 after, box lunches available. For more info and a list of classes call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu.

### 

**A-Z Lawn & Mower Maintenance,** RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ; 9-11 a.m.; \$20 register by March 21. For more info or to register call 732-398-5262.

### 

**Organic Lawn & Landscape Care,** RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ; Noon—2 p.m.; \$20 register by March 21st. For more info or to register call 732-398-5262.

### March 27

**Pruning,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20 9am-noon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### March 28

**4 Hour Basic Pesticide Review,** Wayne Knerr, Helena Chemical, RCE of Cumberland County, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville, NJ; pesticide credits anticipated. 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### 

**Intro to Backyard Composting,** RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ; 10-noon; FREE. For more info or to register call 732-745-4170.

### **April 2012**

### April 3

**Small Fruit,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20 9am-noon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### 

**Evening Meeting for Tree Fruit Growers,** Gloucester County Office of Government Services-Auditorium, 1200 N. Delsea Dr., Clayton, NJ. 7:15-9:30 p.m. For more info call 856-307-6450 x1.

### 

**Vermi-Composting Workshop,** RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; FREE. For more info or to register call 732-745-4170.

### April 10

**Woody Ornamentals,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20 9am-noon. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### April 17

**Plant Diseases,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20 9am-noon. Pesticide credits: 6 each for Cats. 13, 3A & PP2. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### 

**Evening Meeting for Tree Fruit Growers,** Gloucester County Office of Government Services-Auditorium, 1200 N. Delsea Dr., Clayton, NJ, 7:15-9:30 p.m. For more info call 856-307-6450 x1.

### April 24

**Pesticides: What you Need to Know,** RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, NJ; \$20, 9am-noon. Pesticide credits: 6 CORE. For more info or to register call 856-451-2800 x1.

### **April 24-25**

**PA Nutrition Education Network's Annual Conference 2012,** Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. For more info call 717-233-1791, email: pa\_nen@phmc.org or visit: www.panen.org/annualmeeting

### **△April 26-28**

**Bee-ginner's Beekeeping,** Rutgers Cont. Ed., 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ; \$175. For more info call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu/BEES

### May 2012

### 

**Get Your Garden Started Day & Plant Sale,** RCE Middlesex County, Earth Center, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ; 10-5 p.m. Consult with the MG's for great plant selections & care. For more info or to register call 732-398-5262.

### 

**Bee-ginner's Beekeeping,** Rutgers Cont. Ed., 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ; \$175. For more info call 732-932-9271 or visit: www.cpe.rutgers.edu/BEES

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

✓ Indicates meeting will be held at RCE of Cumberland County

Pesticide Certification Exam Schedule—Cumberland County 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)

2012

Mar 28 Apr 4
May 2 Jun 6 Sep 26
Oct 24 Nov 7 Dec 19

To Register call 609-984-6614 For directions call 856-451-2800 Cumberland County Agriculture
Development Board
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332
(Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)

2012

Mar 14 Apr 11
May 9 Jun 13 Jul 11
Aug 8 Sep 5 Oct 10
Nov 14 Dec 12

\*Meetings start at 10 a.m. Reg. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Call DeAnn at 856-453-2211 Cumberland County Board
Of Agriculture
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332
(Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)

7 pm meetings 2012

Mar 15 Apr 19
May 17 Sep 20 Oct 18
Nov 15 Dec 20

For info call Shirley Kline, President 856-685-3784

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA)
Pesticide Container Recycling
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex 169 Jesse's Bridge Rd. (located off Route 55 Exit 29) Deerfield Township, New Jersey

Dates for 2012 coming soon

Sincerely,

James R. Johnson Agricultural Agent

**Nursery Management Commercial** 

Internet: jjohnson@njaes.rutgers.edu

Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D. Agricultural Agent

Vegetable & Herb Production

Weeley L. Kline

Internet: wkline@njaes.rutgers.edu

**Pesticide User Responsibility:** Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.

**Use of Trade Names:** Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label.

## Have you visited the Cumberland County website for the Present and/or past issues of "Cultivating Cumberland"? It's a great resource for information and dates....... http://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu/

### Public Notification and Non-discrimination Statement

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Rutgers Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 732-932-5000, ext. 584.

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Extension Extension Center 291 Morton Avenue ent Station





"Helping People Help The Land"

SAVE THE DATES!

### Find help to improve the quality of the soil and other resources on your farm!

Attend one or more of the workshops being offered throughout the state to learn how the Natural Resources Conservation Service can help you improve the natural resources on your operation.

Workshops will feature one specific topic, like energy conservation, forest management, or specialty crops. Each will include presentations about the technical and financial assistance available from NRCS and how to develop a conservation plan. NRCS soil conservationists will be on hand to help answer questions and/or to help you begin an application for NRCS assistance.

Registration is required. Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is available at all sessions. Please request any necessary disability accommodation when you register.

These workshops are offered by NRCS in partnership with:

- Gloucester Soil Conservation District
- Mercer County Soil Conservation District
- Morris County Soil Conservation District

### Details and registration forms for all workshops are available online at http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/about/events

NRCS conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters, and manage natural resources to benefit your farm operation. Once enrolled, a cooperating farmer could receive payments for implementing conservation practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long term agricultural production and sustainability. Participation in NRCS conservation programs is voluntary.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

### Informative Workshops for New Jersey Farmers

### **ENERGY CONSERVATION (3 Locations)**

March 12, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Gloucester County Complex in Clayton

Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250

March 14, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

NRCS Service Center in Freehold Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

March 15, 2012 8:30 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Roseland Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

### ETHNIC SPECIALTY CROPS (3 Locations)

March 16, 2012 - 8:30 a.m. \*

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

\* Note: Language assistance will be available at **this session** for native speakers of Korean, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. If you know any farmers who might be interested, please encourage them to register and attend!

March 21, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Alstede Farms in Chester Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

March 29, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County in Millville Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250

### SOIL QUALITY AND COMPOSTING

March 27, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Genesis Farm in Blairstown

Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

### FOREST LANDOWNERS (2 Locations)

March 31, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

April 5, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

NRCS Service Center in Woodstown

Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250

### RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



April 26, 27 and 28, 2012

Course code: AE0401CB12

(OR)

May 17, 18 and 19, 2012 Course code: AE0401CC12



### Come cultivate your abilities as a beekeeper!

This two and a half-day program is designed to provide the necessary information needed for **new** beekeepers to start and care for a honey bee colony.

"A-Z information on beekeeping and hives!"

The first two days will cover basics of bee biology, hive management, queen bee purchasing, honey extraction, candle-making and more. The course concludes with a third, half day hands-on program that will include assembling hives, opening and examining colonies as well as honey tasting.

### "This class covered everything I needed to know."

Whether you have little or no experience in beekeeping, or you are a veteran already working with bees, you will gain valuable insights on disease and mite prevention, hive management, and honey production.

Instructor, **Bob Hughes**, is a sideline beekeeper with over 25 years of beekeeping experience.

Instructor, **Tim Schuler** currently serves as State Apiarist with the NJ Department of Agriculture and has over 22 years of beekeeping experience. "Their command of this topic was truly impressive. Their obvious interest and their approachability made these courses a real pleasure!"

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE: APRIL - AE0401CB12	MAY - AE0401CC12
---------------------------------------	------------------

PHONE (732) 932-9271

FAX (732) 932-8726

MAIL

Registration Desk, NJAES - OCPE, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

ONLINE www.cpe.rutgers.edu/ BEES

**KEYCODE: RCE** 

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Billing Address Zip Code (required)



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[]e-mail []fax

We will never sell, rent or exchange your contact information with a 3rd party.

### Secretary's Report to the State Board of Agriculture

February 22, 2012

Specialty Crop Block Grant Applications — The Department is now accepting applications for USDA Specialty Crop Block Grants. A total of \$375,000 is available to organizations representing New Jersey's specialty crop industry for use during 2013. Individual producers are not eligible to apply. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, nursery crops and floriculture. Most of New Jersey agriculture falls into the specialty crop category. To be eligible for a grant, projects must "enhance the competitiveness" of specialty crops and might include, but are not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, "buy local" programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development and developing cooperatives. The deadline for submitting applications is April 30, 2012. Twenty projects were awarded \$792,000 in grants this year.

National Outstanding Young Farmer -- For the fourth year in a row and the sixth time in the last 12 years, a New Jersey farmer has been chosen as a National Outstanding Young Farmer. Paul "Duce" Tallamy II, a beef and produce farmer from Wantage, Sussex County, was named one of the four 2012 National Outstanding Young Farmers on February 11 by the National Outstanding Young Farmer Congress in Springdale, Arkansas. John Melick from Oldwick, Richard A. Norz from Hillsborough and H. William Sytsema from Wantage, were 2011, 2010 and 2009 New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmers who went on to become national winners. Since 1999, every New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer has been among the top 10 National Outstanding Young Farmers, as well. The Tallamy's operate four retail markets, all within 20 miles of the home farm, selling their own sweet corn, cut flowers, fruits and vegetables. At their farm in Wantage, they offer pick-your-own strawberries, cut flower and pumpkins and USDA-certified all natural beef. Joy Tallamy runs class trips and farm education tours and they host yearly strawberry, ice cream, sweet corn and harvest festivals.

**Sudden Oak Death Survey** – A survey looking for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the invasive plant pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death in oak trees, concluded this month with no positive test results. The Department conducted the New Jersey 2011 Farm Bill *Phytophthora ramorum* Landscape Environment Survey in 89 towns within 17 counties, centering on nurseries and garden centers with either *P. ramorum* infection or trace forwards. Sudden Oak Death has caused the death of many oak species on the West Coast of the U.S. The fungus also infects many other species of plants typically sold in the nursery trade, including Camellia and Rhododendron. *P. ramorum* does not kill these plants, but the plants serve as hosts that could potentially bring the fungus to the East Coast.

HealthierUS School Challenge Award – The U.S. Department of Agriculture and New Jersey Department of Agriculture held ceremonies for three schools that earned the HealthierUS School Challenge Award, which recognizes schools that promote good nutrition and physical activity. John Hill School and School Street School in Boonton and the Irene E. Feldkirchner Elementary School in Green Brook attained the Bronze Level of the award, which earned each school \$500. The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Sponsored by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the initiative encourages all schools to take a leadership role in helping students to make healthier eating and physical activity choices that will last a lifetime.

**Delicious Orchards Anniversary** – Secretary Fisher and State Board of Agriculture member Hugh McKittrick helped Delicious Orchards, the popular Colts Neck country food market, celebrate its  $100^{th}$  anniversary by visiting the store on January 31, along with Senator Jennifer Beck, Assemblywomen Mary Pat Angelini and Caroline Casagrande, the Monmouth County Freeholders and Colts Neck Mayor Jarrett Engel. Starting out in 1911 as wholesale apple growers, Delicious Orchards has evolved into a destination, not just for nearby residents, but for people from all over the region. The store specializes in fresh produce – local when in season – from scratch baked goods, cheeses, meats, seafood – wild caught and local when available – gourmet groceries, coffee and tea.

**Beekeeping** – State Apiarist Tim Schuler and the President of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association may have been instrumental in allowing beekeeping in Lower Township. The Township Planning Board was considering placing restrictions on residents who keep bees on lots less than one acre. The pair educated the board on the Department of Agriculture's Best Management Practices for keeping bees in popular areas, as well as the behavior of honey bees in comparison with other types of stinging insects. Several days later, it was reported that the board would not put restrictions on beekeeping in their township. Currently there are six municipalities which have prohibitions or restrictions on beekeeping out of the 566 municipalities in the state.

**Sea Clam Meeting** – The Department will hold a meeting in Bridgeton on March 15 to discuss improving utilization of sea clam processing wastes in New Jersey. The meeting will bring together sea clam processors, researchers, feed companies, protein separation technologists and industry support professionals who have been in communication on this issue over the past few months. New Jersey is the nation's leading harvester of both sea clams (38.5 million pounds) worth \$25.3 million. Early estimates are that processors of ocean quahogs and surf clams in the region incur aggregate costs of approximately \$250,000 to send over 3.5 million pounds of processing byproducts to landfills every year. Proteins and oils recovered from this waste stream could be worth over \$250,000 as animal feed ingredients or feed palatability enhancers.

Animal Waste Management – The outreach effort is continuing to alert animal operations about the March deadline for developing and implementing animal waste management plans as required by the Animal Waste Management Rules. No significant response has been received yet but reports of inquiries by animal operations are reported by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension offices. Only six declaration pages have been received by the Department during this reporting period, bringing the total number of plans to 403.

Avian Influenza Detected in Backyard Flock – Low-path Avian Influenza, H5N2, was identified in a Monmouth County backyard poultry flock in January during routine surveillance. The flock of about 100 birds was quarantined and additional biosecurity measures were placed on the farm to prevent the spread of the disease. There was no increase in morbidity or mortality on the farm. The flock and environment were sampled weekly and after four consecutive negative tests for avian influenza, sampled seven days apart, the flock was released from quarantine on February 7.

# Make sure your application is complete.

Work with your state USDA contact to ensure ruled ineligible and not considered for funding. Applications that are deemed incomplete will be information. necessary forms and provided the required that you have completely filled out the

# Submit your application before the deadline

opportunity to add information before the information is missing. That will give you an USDA state contact can often let you know if Office. If you submit your application early, the Applications are submitted to the USDA State

financial need. producers and rural small businesses that have Who is eligible?

The program is designed to assist agricultural

eligible. income from the agricultural operations are ranchers, who gain 50% or more of their gross All agricultural producers, including farmers and

non-profit entities are not eligible. electric cooperatives are typically eligible, but apply. A private entity, a rural utility, and rural Business Administration size standards can also Businesses in a rural area meeting the Small

> USDA Rural Development State Office Suite 500 North, 5th Floor Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 856-787-7700, Ext 7752 phone 856-787-7757 fax Victoria.Fekete@nj.usda.gov 8000 Midlantic Drive

## For more information

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nj/reg.html Development's web site, go to: For REAP information on New Jersey's Rural

to: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill For the Rural Development's national website, go

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/tools.html guidance, go to: including forms and technology-specific project For further information on the application process



Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Washington D.C. 20250-9410.

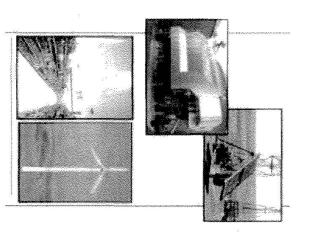




Committed to the future of rural communities.

America Program Renewable Energy for Section 9007

(REAP)



## Renewable Energy for America (REAP) Program

Renewable energy and energy efficiency systems provide a significant opportunity for rural economic development and growth. These opportunities include increasing local revenue, bolstering the local job market, and increasing the economic yield of land. As many U.S. farmers have discovered, renewable energy is the new cash crop of the 21st century. Landowners are reaping long-term additional revenue from their land while continuing with their existing operations.

Energy efficiency improvements are a useful tool for increasing farm or business productivity while reducing costs. By investing in energy efficient equipment, agricultural producers and rural small businesses can enjoy savings and increased reliability for years to come.



At least \$55 million is available each year for grants and guaranteed loans to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

# What is the Section 9007 program?

To foster rural economic development and growth, Congress passed the *Renewable Energy* for *America Program* as Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

This program provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

## How much are the grants?

The 2008 Farm Bill authorized funding for 4 years (\$55 million in FY 2009, \$60 million in FY 2010 and \$70 million in FYs 2011 and 2012). The program offers grants and guaranteed loans that will be awarded competitively to fund renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

Grants can fund up to 25% of a project's total eligible costs. Grants are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy projects or \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements.

Grants as low as \$2,500 for renewable energy projects and \$1,500 for energy efficiency projects will be considered.

Guaranteed loans can fund up to 75% of a project's total eligible costs - with a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$10 million.

Combination grants and guaranteed loans can fund up to 75% of a project's total eligible costs.

# What types of projects are eligible?

Projects such as retrofitting lighting or insulation, or purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficient units are eligible. Energy efficiency improvements in new building construction are typically not eligible.

Eligible renewable energy projects include projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and hydrogenbased sources. The project can produce any form of energy, including heat, electricity, or fuel.

For all projects, the system must be located in a rural area, must be technically feasible, meet environmental requirements and must be owned by the applicant.

### How Do I Apply?

More specific details are available on the USDA Section 9007 web site. Here are a few tips.

Determine your eligibility. If you have any questions, contact your USDA state office for help in determining your eligibility

Scope out your project. You will need to assemble a project team. First contact area experts to assist you in designing your project.

Start early. Applications require well designed projects and detailed information about the applicant's agricultural/business operations. The application process can be time consuming.

# The technical report is a team effort. Your installer/contractor should be able to provide most of the technical information required in the application. The USDA has guidelines to help clarify the technical requirements.

### Blueberry Growers Food Safety Tuesday, March 20, 2012 Training

Meeting Registration: \$20 per person (Registration fee covers morning

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Make check payable to:

## Extension Service Programs Account

Please cut off registration form and mail with payment to Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research and Extension

Chatsworth, NJ 08019 125a Lake Oswego

Attention: Robin Yerkes

We cannot accept purchase orders or vouchers.

### **DIRECTIONS TO**

## Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research and Extension

125a Lake Oswego Chatsworth, NJ 08019 609/726-1590

## From Hammonton:

- Northeast on Bellevue Ave. (Rt. 54) toward S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
- 2. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> Right on Central Avenue
- 3. Turn Right on S. White Horse Pike/US-30
- 4. Take 1st Left on Pleasant Mills Road/CR-542. Continue following CR-542
- 5. Turn Left on Carranza Road/CR-563
- 6.Turn Right on Lake Oswego Road. Go 1 mile to the Marucci Center



## New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

### **Safety Training Blueberry Food**

### Up-to-date Food Safety Information

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Philip E. Marucci Center for Blueberry & Cranberry Research and Extension Chatsworth, NJ 08019 125a Lake Oswego

FAX 609/726-1593 Tel: 609/726-1590



Monday, March 19, 2012 Registration Deadline

## **Program Details**

## Topics Covered:

- Pathogens & Produce: What You Should Know
- Food Safety Modernization Act
- Worker Hygiene
- Harmonized Food Safety Standards
- Where Growers are Losing Points on the Harmonized GAP's Audit
- Water Disinfection Systems for Irrigation
- **USDA Verification Audit**

Registrations are confirmed when forms and payment are received by the Philip E. Marucci Center. No confirmation notice will be sent.

Registration deadline: Monday, March 19, 2012.

## Workshop Presenters:

Wesley Kline, Rutgers
Peter Oudemans, Rutgers
Larry Hardwick, USDA
Meredith Melendez, Rutgers
Kelly Bauer, PPG Industries
Donna Schaffner, Rutgers Food
Innovation Center

Questions concerning registration can be directed to Robin Yerkes at 609-726-1590



This session is supported in part by NJDA/USDA 2012 Specialty Crop Block Grant #12-25-B-1243

Register by Monday, March 19, 2012