

Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Extension Education Center 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332-9791 http://cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu

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Cultivating Cumberland

September - 2012 VOL. 17, ISSUE 9

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Attachments:

FSA August Newsletter

Produce GAPs Harmonization Auditor Training Reg. Form

WATER ALLOCATION RENEWALS

Farmers holding DEP water allocation certifications may be wondering what happened to their 5-year renewals. Because of the Permit Extension Act, enacted under Govenor Corzine's term in 2008, anyone holding a state permit (such as a water "cert") set to expire in 2008 or later was automatically extended to June 1, 2013. Another bill is pending with the governor that could push the extension to June 1, 2015. So, farmers holding valid water use certifications for 2008 or later are still authorized to use water at least through June 1, 2013. In the interim, the DEP has implemented some measures to improve the renewal process for those few exceptions that still need to be processed. Eventually, the DEP will announce a schedule to re-start the process of renewals and batch them to spread out the work flow for themselves and county agricultural agents.



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Produce Wash Water Webinar

Center for Produce Safety 530-757-5777, cpsinfo@cps.ucdavis.edu

Webinar: Top FAQs about Produce Wash Water Management for Small-scale and Direct

Market Farms

Date: Friday, September 21, 2012 **Time:** 10:00—11:15 am (Pacific)

Speaker: Trevor V. Suslow, Ph.D., University of California, Davis

Moderator: Robert Whitaker, Produce Marketing Association

Recent recalls and outbreaks involving fresh produce, and evolving risk management expectations at all farming and marketing scales, are driving attention to water quality management during pre-shipment washing and cooling. This webinar will focus on the most common frequently asked questions from small-scale and direct marketing farm operations seeking to install or improve their wash system. Participants will hear "plain-language" science-based responses to these FAWs, as well as peer-to-peer experiences of growers working through the challenges of designing and managing a wash system that fits their resources and meets their food safety goals. Following brief informational presentations a question and answer session will provide the opportunity to further explore system management and monitoring options and focus on key needs in this important aspect of an overall farm safety plan.

To register for this webinar, visit: https://intertox-events.webex.com

Spotted Wing Drosophila Fact Sheets Completed and On-line

Kathy Demchak and Dave Biddinger, Penn State University; and Bryan Butler, University of MD Penn State Extension, Vegetable and Small Fruit Gazette, Vol. 16 Issue 8

Thanks to receiving funding from the NE-IPM Center, we were able to complete a set of 4 full-color factsheets on spotted wing drosophila (SWD), and they are now available on-line. These fact sheets were written with northeastern U.S. growers of the most susceptible crops (raspberries, blackberries, day-neutral strawberries, and cherries) in mind.

"Spotted Wing Drosophila, Part 1: Overview and Identification" is available at http://goo.gl/ZQLTO and briefly summarizes the concern surrounding spotted wing drosophila. The factsheet contains photographs that illustrate in detail the differences between SWD adults and other local fruit fly species that could be mistaken for SWD.

"Spotted Wing Drosophila, Part 2: Natural History" is available at http://goo.gl/wSA82. This factsheet discusses the life cycle of SWD in detail, along with explaining how environmental conditions and nearby crops can affect presence and numbers of SWD.

"Spotted Wing Drosophila, Part 3: Monitoring", at http://goo.gl/7t7kU covers how to monitor for SWD adults in fields, and SWD larvae is fruit. The fact sheet also provides details on how to store and ship samples should identification from others be needed.

"Spotted Wing Drosophila, Part 4: Management" at http://goo.gl/13WsR discusses cultural practices for minimizing populations, and chemical options that will provide effective control for growers of susceptible crops.

Sunburn in Fruits and Fruiting Vegetables

Gordon Johnson, Extension Vegetable & Fruit Specialist

High temperatures, clear skies and high light radiation, and long daylengths are a recipe for developing sunburn in fruits and fruiting vegetables. We commonly see sunburn in watermelons, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, apples, strawberries, and brambles (raspberries and blackberries).

There are three types of sunburn which may have effects on the fruit. The first, sunburn necrosis, is where skin, peel, or fruit tissue dies on the sun exposed side of the fruit. Cell membrane integrity is lost in this type of sunburn and cells start leaking their contents. The critical fruit tissue temperature for sunburn necrosis varies with type of fruit. For cucumbers research has shown that the fruit skin temperature threshold for sunburn necrosis is 100 to 104°F; for peppers, the threshold is 105 to 108°F, and for apples the critical fruit skin temperature is 125-127 °F. Fruits with sunburn necrosis are not marketable.

The second type of sunburn injury is sunburn browning. This sunburn does not cause tissue death but does cause loss of pigmentation resulting in a yellow, bronze, or brown spot on the sun exposed side of the fruit. Cells remain alive, cell membranes retain their integrity, cells do not leak, but pigments such as chlorophyll, carotenes, and xanthophylls are denatured or destroyed. This type of sunburn browning occurs at a temperature about 5°F lower than sunburn necrosis (115 to 120° F in apples). Light is required for sunburn browning. Fruits may be marketable but will be a lower grade.

The third type of sunburn is photooxidative sunburn. This is where shaded fruit are suddenly exposed to sunlight as might occur with late pruning, after storms where leaf cover is suddenly lost, or when vines are turned in drive rows. In this type of sunburn, the fruits will become photobleached by the excess light because the fruit is not acclimatized to high light levels, and fruit tissue will die. This bleaching will occur at much lower fruit temperatures than the other types of sunburn.

Genetics also play a role in sunburn and some varieties are more susceptible to sunburn. Varieties with darker colored fruit, those with more open canopies, and those with more open fruit clusters have higher risk of sunburn. Some varieties have other genetic properties that predispose them to sunburn, for example, some blackberries are more susceptible to fruit damage from UV light.

Control of sunburn in fruits starts with developing good leaf cover in the canopy to shade the fruit. Fruits most susceptible to sunburn will be those that are most exposed, especially those that are not shaded in the afternoon. Anything that reduces canopy cover will increase sunburn, such as foliar diseases, wilting due to inadequate irrigation, and excessive or late pruning. Physiological leaf roll, common in some solanaceous crops such as tomato, can also increase sunburn.

In crops with large percentages of exposed fruits at risk of sunburn, fruits can be protected by artificial shading using shade cloth (10-30% shade). However, this is not practical for large acreages. For sunburn protection at a field scale, use of film spray-on materials can reduce or eliminate sunburn. Many of these materials are Kaolin clay based and leave a white particle film on the fruit (such as Surround, Screen Duo, and many others). There are also film products that protect fruits from sunburn but do not leave a white residue, such as Raynox. Apply these materials at the manufacturer's rates for sunburn protection. They may have to be reapplied after heavy rains or multiple overhead irrigation events.

VOL. 17, ISSUE 9

Rutgers Cooperative Extension New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Plant & Pest Advisory

Vegetable Alert!

Date: 8/22/12 Alert Author: Andy Wyenandt

Pest: Late blight

Found: Late blight has been confirmed on tomato on an organic farm near Lawrenceville in Mercer

County, New Jersey.

Notes: Late blight was confirmed on actively sporulating leaf lesions from a 2 acre organic tomato field near Lawrenceville, NJ. This is the third report of Late blight in NJ on potato or tomato this year. As we head into the fall, please remember that cooler night temperatures and longer periods of dew are ideal for late blight development. All tomato growers should remain diligent in the scouting of their fields and continue with their regular fungicide maintenance programs.

Crop(s) at risk: All tomato and potato crops.

Potential impact: Significant losses may occur if not controlled properly.

What growers should do: Control of late blight begins with regular scouting, recognizing symptoms and preventative fungicide applications. All potato and tomato growers in NJ should scout fields and include a late blight specific fungicide in their regular fungicide program.

Commercial fungicide recommendations for controlling late blight can be found in the 2012 Commercial Recommendations Guide below. All organic growers should consider applying a copper-based fungicide on a regular schedule.

Links to the 2012 Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations Guide.

Tomato: http://njveg.rutgers.edu/assets/pdfs/ppg/12ppg/2012-Sect-F-Tomatoes.pdf

If you suspect late blight to be present on your farm, let me know via email at wyenandt@aesop.rutgers.edu.

NEW JERSEY DRIP TAPE RECYCLING PROGRAM Year Round Collection

New Jersey farmers are encouraged to recycle their <u>drip irrigation tape</u> at the Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex. The Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex will continue to accept drip irrigation tape charging farmers a fee of \$30 per ton, an almost 50 percent savings in landfill tipping fees. The vehicles used to transport the drip tape to be recycled are not required to be licensed by DEP so long as the material is transported directly to the Solid Waste Complex.

Location:

Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex 169 Jesse Bridge Road (Located off Route 55 Exit 29 (Sherman Avenue-Route 552) Deerfield, New Jersey

Contact: Dennis DeMatte, Jr. (856) 825-3700

Prior to delivery of the agricultural plastics, all growers **MUST** call the Cumberland County Improvement Authority to establish an account with the Authority. Growers using a licensed solid waste hauler **MUST** inform the Authority prior to delivery in an effort to maintain proper billing and documentation.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday-Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday by appointment only

TIPPING FEE: \$30/per ton

SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS: When you enter the Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex, please be sure to identify the material as agricultural plastics. This is necessary because there is another program to recycle nursery and greenhouse film and the agricultural plastics must be kept at a separate tipping area than the nursery and greenhouse film.

Quality Control Measures

- A farmer's quality control of the agricultural plastics is probably the most important variable to a
 successful recycling program. Not all agricultural plastics are made of the same plastic resins. Only low-density polyethylene drip irrigation tape will be accepted. If you are unsure of the type of
 plastic you have, contact the CCIA for guidance.
- Once the drip irrigation tape is removed, shake it to remove the contaminants (soil, plant material, mulch plastic, twine). Excessive contaminants could cause the material to be rejected at the collection site. Minimizing these contaminants will lower the tipping fee for recycling.
- Drip tape should be rolled up and tied with ONLY drip tape. DO NOT use twine, wire, etc. If any other material is used to tie the bundle, the load will be rejected
- Store the drip irrigation tape so it is not exposed to sunlight that will further degrade the material.
- Keep the material as dry as possible because moisture will add to the weight of material and increase the cost of recycling to the farmer. If the material cannot be stored indoors, cover it with plastic.
- Keep the plastic as clean possible.

Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative Auditor Training & Tomato Metrics Workshop

September 11-13, 2012, Beltsville, MD 2012 Final Course - Register Today



Mark your calendars for the Produce GAPs Harmonization Auditor Training & Tomato Metrics workshop, September 11-13, held at the <u>National Agricultural Library</u> in Beltsville, MD.

The first two days will feature the official training materials developed by the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative Calibration Committee. The training is designed to calibrate auditors in food safety expectations of growing and harvesting operations using the Harmonized Standards and is the final Train-the-Trainer workshop offering in 2012.

The program also offers an additional third day, targeted to those auditors and operations interested in GlobalG.A.P. Produce Safety certification to meet buyers' requirements for a GFSI audit. The September 13 session will also feature discussion on how the Tomato Metrics have been incorporated into the Harmonized Standards and the GlobalG.A.P Produce Safety certification.

For those who wish to attend, please register using the attached form and return to Erin Grether at egrether@unitedfresh.org or call 202-303-3402. More information about the Harmonized Standards, including downloadable versions of the Field Operations and Harvesting and the Postharvest Operations standards, is available on the United Fresh website: http://www.unitedfresh.org/newsviews/gap_harmonization

Please note that you must attend the first two days of the workshop in order to complete the Auditor Training course. The third day is optional, for those interested in the GlobalG.A.P Produce Safety certification or Tomato Metrics.

ENCOURAGING A NEW GENERATION OF FARMERS

A new program designed to provide a helping hand for beginning farmers is set to debut in the coming year. In collaboration with Duke Farms, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) is launching an incubator farm that will create a network of solutions to a complex issue – too few beginning farmers and not enough access to farmland. The goal is to once again make small-scale farming a viable profession in New Jersey.

"We are thrilled to offer this new program," said Eve Minson, Beginning Farmer Program coordinator. "The Incubator Farm is basically a low-risk opportunity for a new farmer to launch a business. Through this three-year program, he or she will have access to land and a chance to test out a business model on a small-scale, build up capitol, graduate onto his or her own land and run a successful business."

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the average age of American farmers is over 55 and continues to increase, while the number of young farmers under the age of 25 has declined by 30 percent. At the same time, new people are coming to agriculture and beginning farm enterprises; however, many of these new farmers do not come from farming backgrounds and may not possess the technical or hands-on skills needed to start a successful farming business. In response to this issue, the USDA has begun to grant funds to regionally-based groups to train and support beginning farmers through their Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. NOFA-NJ was a recipient a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant in 2011.

"Duke Farms is pleased to support this innovative program that promotes farming in New Jersey," said Timothy M. Taylor, executive director, Duke Farms Foundation. "Obtaining access to land is a major hurdle for most beginning farmers, so we are making 140 acres of our land available for the incubator farm. In addition, we will also help in the preparation of the land by plowing, disking and tilling. Supporting healthy agricultural practices is part of our mission, to encourage and educate people to become good stewards of the land."

Application information on the Beginner Farmer Program is available from NOFA at www.nofanj.org and farming will get underway in 2013. This project was supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2011-49400-30739.

For further information, contact:

Eve Minson, Beginning Farmer Program Coordinator The Northeast Organic Farmers Assoc. of New Jersey 334 River Road Hillsborough, New Jersey 08844 908-371-1111

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Calendar of Important Events

☼ Indicates the newly added event since last calendar

September 2012

September 1

Farm Service Agency, NAP closing for Christmas trees, Fin Fish, Flowers and grass (SOD).

September 11-12

Food Use Workshop: Setting Priorities for 2013 Research, St. Louis. For more information contact Van Starner by email: starner@aesop.rutgers.edu or visit: www.ir4.rutgers.edu

Composting and Soil Health, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn. Class is Free, for more information or to register call Viola Carson 856-451-2800 x4.

September 18-20

Fresh-Cut Products: Maintaining Quality and Safety Workshop, University of California, Davis. For more information contact Penny Stockdale at 530-752-7672, email: pastockdale@ucdavis.edu or visit: http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu

September 20

7A Category Exam Training, Westfield, Union County, \$140. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

Rain Barrel Workshop, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn, 9:00-11:00 a.m., \$35.00 includes instructions and materials. Everyone will take home a rainbarrel. To register call Viola 856-451-2800 x4. Pre-registration/payment required.

Water Conservation for Lawns and Gardens, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn. Class is Free, for more information or to register call Viola Carson 856-451-2800 x4.

September 30

Farm Service Agency, NAP closing for Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye and Wheat. Final date to report value loss crops for 2012: ornamental nursery, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ginseng and turfgrass sod.

October 2012

Washington Public Policy Conference, Hyatt Regency, Washington, Washington, DC. For more information visit: http://tinyurl.com/61g7yeu

October 4-5

7B Category Exam Training, Westfield, Union County, \$270. In lieu of 40 hours on-the-job-training. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

Pond Maintenance to Prevent Weeds and Algae, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn. Class is Free, for more information or to register call Viola Carson 856-451-2800 x4.

Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Spence Field, Moultrie, Ga. For more information and to register as an exhibitor visit: http://sunbeltexpo.com

October 18

3A Category Exam Training, Westfield, Union County, \$140. In lieu of 40 hours on-the-job-training. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

October 23

3B Category Exam Training, Freehold, Monmouth County, \$140. In lieu of 40 hours on-the-job-training. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Convention and Exposition, Anaheim, Calif. For more information visit: www.freshsummit.com

October 28-31

Pack Expo International, McCormick Place, Chicago, Ill. For more information visit: www.packexpo.com

November 2012

November 2-6

2012 Irrigation Show & Education Conference, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. For more info visit: www.irrigation.org

November 4-6

International Pepper Conference, Naples, FL. For information visit:

http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/Pepper2012/

November 5-6

UCGAPs Practical Skill-Building for On-Farm Assessments Workshop, University of California, Davis. For more information contact Penny Stockdale 530-752-7672 or email: pastockdale@ucdavis.edu.

November 7-8

Northeast Greenhouse Conference and Expo, DCU Center, Worcester, MA. For more information visit: http://www.negreenhouse.org/index.html

November 8-10

Southeast Strawberry Expo, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, N.C. For more information email: info@ncstrawberry.com or visit: www.ncstrawberry.org

→ November 8-10

Fresh Produce Association of the Americas Convention and Golf Tournament, Tubac Golf Resort, Tubac, Ariz. To register visit: http://bit.ly/4cEalF

November 15

3B Category Exam Training, Westfield, Union County, \$140. In lieu of 40 hours on-the-job-training. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

November 14-15

Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association Conference & Trade Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Washington. For more information call 509-585-5460 or visit: www.pnva.org

November 28-29

Mississippi Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference, Jackson, Miss. For more information call 601-955-9298, email: info@msfruitandveg.com or visit: www.msfruitandveg.com

☼ November 28-December 1

Annual National Onion Association Meeting, Palm Springs, Calif. For more information visit: www.onions-usa.org

December 2012

December 3-5

Washington State Horticultural Assoc. Annual Meeting, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Wash. For more information contact Nicole Brunner by email: Nicole@wahort.org

December 4-6

Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO, DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Mich. For more information visit: www.glexpo.com

December 6

3A Category Exam Training, Morris Plains, Morris County, \$140. In lieu of 40 hours on-the-job-training. For more information call 866-851-4389 or email: classes@njpma.com

January 2013

January 7-8

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conf., Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, Ky. For more information contact John Strang 859-257-5685 or email: jstrang@uky.edu

January 8-10

Minnesota Apple Growers Winter Conference, LaCrosse, Wis. For more information contact Ralph Yates, 507-895-2388, email: info@minnesotaapple.org or visit: www.minnesotaapple.org

January 9-11

Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conf., Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Ill. For more information contact Diane Handley 309-557-3662 or email: dhandley@ilfb.org

January 10-12

Great Plains Growers Conference and Trade Show, St. Joseph, Mo. For more information contact Christy Dipman at 785-532-6173 or email: cdipman@ksu.edu or visit: www.greatplainsgrowers.org

January 10-13

Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conf., International Trade & Conv. Center., Savannah, Ga. For more information call 877-994-3842 or visit: www.gfvga.org

January 14-16

Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Assoc. Congress, Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio. For more information call 614-487-1117, email: opgma@ofa.org or visit: www.opgma.org

January 15-16

Southeastern Apple Growers Meeting, Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, NC. For more information contact Peggy Laughter at 828-685-3241.

January 17-18

Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference, St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, Minn. For more information call 763-434-0400, email: info@mfvga.org or visit: www.mfvga.org

January 20-22

Wisconsin Fresh Fruit & Veg. Conf., Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Wisconsin Apple Growers. For more information call 800-722-3120, email: office@waga.org or visit: www.waga.org.

January 21-22

Northwest Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show, Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Mich. For more information call 231-946-1510 or email: nwmihort@msu.edu

January 21-23

Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association Congress, Kalahari Resort, Sandusky, Ohio. For more information call 614-487-1117, email: opgma@ofa.org or visit: www.opgma.org

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January 22-23

Wisconsin Cranberry Growers School, Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Stevens Point, Wis. For more information call 715-423-2070

January 22-24

Indiana Horticultural Congress, Wyndham West, Indianapolis. For more information contact Tammy Goodale at 765-494-1296, email: tgoodale@purdue.edu or visit: www.inhortcongress.org

January 22-24

Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo, Oncenter Convention Center, Syracuse, New York. For more information contact Jeanette Marvin by email: nysvga@twcny.rr.com

January 23-26

Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms, Little Rock, Ark. For more information visit: www.ssawg.org

January 24-25

lowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers & Marketers Conference, Ankeny, Iowa. For more information contact Darrell Geisler 515-964-2640 or email: dkgeisler@hughes.net

January 29-30

Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference, London, Ontario. For more information call 519-681-1875, email: opvg@opvg.org or visit: www.opvg.org

January 29-31

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey, Pa. For more information contact William Troxell 717-694-3596, email: pvga@pvga.org or visit: www.mafvc.org

January 30-Feb. 1

North American Raspberry & Blackberry Conference, Portland, Ore. For more information call 919-542-4037, email: info@raspberryblackberry.com or visit: www.raspberryblackberry.com

February 2013

February 1-6

28th Annual NAFDMA Convention, Portland, OR. For more information call the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association 413-244-5374 or visit: www.nafdma.com

NJ Agricultural Convention & Trade Show, NJ Vegetable Growers, Atlantic City, New Jersey. More information coming soon.

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

2012

(Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)

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

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

Sep 20 Oct 18 Nov 15 Dec 20

2012

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
Questions? Call Karen Kritz, NJ Dept. of Ag 609-984-2506

September 21

October 19 November 16

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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August 2012

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County News

USDA Service Center

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County FSA 1318 S. Main Rd. Bldg. 5A Vineland, NJ 08360 856-205-1225 (phone) 856-205-0691(fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Anthony Melora Florence Ale Charles Muzzarelli Sr. Lori Kertz James Wenger

County Committee meets 2nd Wednesday of month

Staff

Angela Andreoli, CED Robert Maxwell, FLM Ellen Schmidt, FLO Matt Pavone, FLO Lori Tobin, PT Dawn Freeman, PT



August 7, 2012

Drought Disaster Assistance

USDA has streamlined the disaster designation process, lowered emergency loan rates and created greater CRP flexibility to help farmers and ranchers in drought-stricken areas across the country.

FSA's low-interest emergency loans will help producers recover from losses due to drought, and other natural disasters. The interest rates have been reduced to 2.25 percent, providing a much-needed resource for producers hoping to recover from production and physical losses associated with natural disasters.

New guidelines were announced for emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. Annual rental payments for farmers enrolled in the CRP, who use those lands for emergency grazing and hay production, will be reduced by 10 percent instead of 25 percent. Also, because of the current severe drought, all counties with a drought level of D0 or higher, as measured by the US Drought Monitor, are approved for emergency haying and grazing outside of the primary nesting season (PNS).

USDA encourages all farmers and ranchers to contact their crop insurance companies and local USDA Farm Service Agency Service Centers, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as food purchased due to lost supplies. More information about federal crop insurance may be found at www.rma.usda.gov. Additional resources to help farmers and ranchers deal with disaster losses may be found at www.usda.gov/disaster.

Farm Loans Available

There are several types of Farm Loans available from the Farm Service Agency. The following lists the types available:

- Direct Operating or Farm Ownership Loan
- Emergency Loans
- Guaranteed Operating Loan or Farm Ownership Loan
- Youth Loans

Please contact the office for more information.

Timely Filing of Loss

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for ALL CROPS INCLUDING GRASSES. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (notice of loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The following is a list of the remainder deadlines for 2013 NAP coverage:

9/1/2012- Christmas Trees, Fin Fish, Flowers & Grass (SOD)

9/30/2012- Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye & Wheat

11/20/2012- Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots

12/31/2012- Asparagus, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Greens, Herbs, Horseradish, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsnip, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb & Turnips

3/15/2013- Beans, Brussel Sprouts, Cantaloupe, Celery, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Honeydew, Oats, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Sorghum, Sorghum Forage, Soybeans, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatillos, Tomatoes, Watermelon & Yams

The following crops are covered by independent crop insurance agents for these counties:

Atlantic County- Apples, Blueberries, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, and Soybeans

Cape May County- Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Processing Beans and Soybeans Cumberland County- Apples, Barley, Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Nursery, Peaches, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Soybeans, Tomatoes, and Wheat

Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs. The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or owner-

ship is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

- DCP Cropland Method the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;
- Default Method the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

Highly Erodible Land Initiative Sign-Up

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment.

For more information producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- <u>Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process,</u> please visit: <u>www.farmerclaims.gov</u> or call 1-888-508-4429:
- Pigford The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;
- <u>Keepseagle The Native American Farmers</u> <u>Class Action Settlement please visit:</u> <u>www.lndianFarmClass.com</u> or call 1-888-233-5506.

<u>Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Up-dates</u>

The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/. Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

Atlantic/ Cape May/ Cumberland County USAD Farm Service Agency 1318 S. Main Rd. Bldg. 5A Vineland, NJ 08360



Bank Account Changes

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. For timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA office if the account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

| Dates to Remember | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| September 1 | NAP closing for Christmas trees, Fin Fish, Flowers & Grass (SOD) | |
| September 3 | Office Closed- Labor Day | |
| September 30 | NAP Closing for Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye & Wheat | |
| September 30 | Final date to report value loss crops for 2013: ornamental nurse- ry, Christmas trees, aquaculture, ginseng & turfgrass sod | |
| October 8 | Office Closed- Columbus Day | |
| November 12 | Office Closed- Veterans Day | |
| *November 15 | *NEW* Reporting deadline for 2013 small grains such as wheat & barley** | |
| November 20 | Apples, Apricots, Blueberries, Caneberries, Cherries, Cranber- ries, Grapes, Honey, Nectarines, Onions, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Scallions & Shallots | |
| Continuing | Sign up under Continuous Sign Up (CRP) programs | |

Civil Rights/Discrimination Complaint Process

As a participant or applicant for programs or activities operated or sponsored by USDA you have a right to be treated fairly. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, 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, you may file a discrimination complaint. The complaint should be filed with the USDA Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights within 180 days of the date you became aware of the alleged discrimination. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Produce GAPs Harmonization Auditor Training Registration Form

| Name: |
|--|
| Company: |
| Email: |
| Yes, I will attend the Produce GAPs Harmonization Auditor Training on Tuesday, September 11 & Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm both days. |
| Yes, I will attend the session for auditors and operations interested in the GlobalG.A.P. Produce Safety certification on Thursday, September 13, 2012 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. |
| Please complete this form & email to Erin Grether |
| at United Fresh Produce Association, egrether@unitedfresh.org. |
| If you would like to register by phone, please call 202-303-3402 and speak to Erin directly. |
| Space is limited to 80 participants, so register NOW! |
| The Auditor Training course will be held at: |
| The National Agricultural Library |
| Abraham Lincoln Building |
| 10301 Baltimore Avenue |
| Beltsville, MD 20705-2351 |
| Please note that you must attend both days 1 and 2 of the workshop in order to complete the course. The third day is optional, for those interested in the GlobalG.A.P Produce Safety certification |
| or Tomato Metrics. A light continental breakfast will be served at 8 am each morning. |
| The workshop begins promptly at 8:30 am. |
| Comments? |
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