The Tom Everett Memorial Scholarship

Somerset County Board of Agriculture Announces Annual Memorial Scholarship

The Somerset County Board of Agriculture is proud to announce The Tom Everett Memorial Scholarship. This annual scholarship was created to honor Tom’s personal and agricultural legacy, his initiative and leadership, and seeks to recognize those individuals whose goals are synonymous with Tom’s living definition of success.

A Hillsborough resident and tireless advocate for agriculture, Thomas Everett was a Somerset County farmer his whole life. Farming for the Everett family began in New Jersey around 1910 when Tom’s grandfather purchased the Beekman land in Hillsborough to develop a dairy and grain farm.

Tom earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Delaware Valley College in the study of agronomy. In addition to being a busy farmer, Tom wore many hats as an active participant in agricultural government. He served as the first chair for the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board; he was a member and leader of his County Board of Agriculture, a member of the New Jersey Farm Bureau land use committee, New Jersey’s Direct Marketing Association, Vegetable Growers’ Association, and Grain and Forage Producers Association.

Eligibility information and applications are available by calling the Somerset County RCE office at 908-526-6293 or online at our web site, http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu.
The Somerset County Board of Agriculture presents

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION DAY

Duke Farms
Duke Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ

Sunday, September 17, 2006
12 noon – 5 pm

Enjoy wagon tours, equipment displays, and highlights of all the agriculture Hillsborough and Somerset County have to offer! This Open House will be held Shine or Rain! Please call 908-526-6293 for details.

National Farm Safety Health Week. September 17-23, 2006

National Farm Safety & Health Week, September 17-23, 2006, is an annual promotion from the National Safety Council commemorating the hard work, diligence, and sacrifices of our nation’s farmers and ranchers. Farming is one of the few industries in which the families (who often share the work and live on the premises) are also at risk for injuries, illness, and death. The diversity of New Jersey’s agricultural industry leads to unique occupational safety and health problems. Awareness of farm hazards and minimizing associated risks is key to reducing injuries in the agricultural industry of the State. For more information on farm safety, health and personal and financial security, please visit Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Farm Safety web site at www.rce.rutgers.edu/farmsafety or write The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), 10250 Sundown Road, Peosta, IA 52068, (888) 844-6322, online at www.nsc.org/necas

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Update
Positions filled across the state

Bergen County: Ms. Tamara Pellien, Program Associate, Department of 4-H Youth Development. Tamara has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sports Management from Rutgers University. She most recently was the Teen Director with the Boys and Girls Club of Hawthorne, NJ where she was responsible for planning and implementing activities for middle and high school students.

Sussex County: Mr. David Foord, Program Associate, Department of 4-H Youth Development. David received a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Middlebury College and is working on his Master's degree in Environmental Studies from Montclair University. He most currently held the position of Interim Program Leader in the Environmental Program at Cornell Cooperative Extension. He also has in-depth experience in writing and managing grants and other resources.

Cape May County: Ms. Jenny Carleo, County Agricultural Agent, Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents. Jenny earned a B.S. in agricultural science and M.S. degree in plant biology from Rutgers University. She previously served as an Agriculture Program Associate in Atlantic County Extension office since 2003. She will provide leadership of educational programming, volunteer programs and research for commercial agriculture and horticulture production in Cape May County.
Northeast Small Farm and Rural Living Expo

Augusta, NJ - This annual event provides educational workshops, lectures, and demonstrations for people interested in farming and rural living. The programs offered include risk management for small farms, livestock management (sheep, equine, etc.), forest and natural resources conservation, commercial horticulture production, organic and traditional farming, and rural living. The Small Farm Expo is sponsored by a tri-state Cooperative Extension team with representation from NJ, NY, and PA.

The 6th Annual Small Farm and Rural Living Exposition and Show will be held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17, 2006. This is the same site that hosts the annual NJ State Fair.

Programs held each day are designed for individuals interested in farming and country living. Sessions will highlight equine, livestock, horticulture, rural living, and new and emerging issues. Admission is $5 per person, with anyone under the age of 14 free.

Complete information on the entire weekend is available at www.smallfarmexpo.org.

Rutgers Snyder Farm Hosts The

16th Annual Great Tomato Tasting

August 30, 3pm - dusk

Come and enjoy a great day and great tomatoes at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm and The Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden

Pittstown, NJ - The 16th Annual Great Tomato Tasting will take place on Wednesday, August 30th at The Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden in Pittstown, (Hunterdon County), NJ from 3:00 p.m. to dusk. This year's tomato tasting will include over 70 varieties, heirlooms and hybrids, from New Jersey and all over the country.

This annual event, hosted by The Snyder Research and Extension Farm and sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension, draws between 900 and 1,200 people, and will have a variety of activities including an educational wagon tour highlighting the research and demonstration projects designed to serve NJ's residents and consumers; door prizes and drawings; and of course the opportunity to taste many unique varieties of tomatoes that you just can't find in the supermarket.

Throughout the evening, Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, along with Master Gardeners, will be on hand to answer and assist in any and all of your gardening questions. To cover the program's expenses there is a $4 cover charge for adults only, as children under the age of 18 are free.

To RSVP please call (908) 713-8980, or visit the Snyder Research and Extension Farm's web site at http://www.snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/.

Snyder Research and Extension Farm is located 1.5 miles south of Pittstown, NJ at the intersection of Locust Grove Road and Route 615 (Pittstown Road). The Snyder Research and Extension Farm is Rutgers' Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The farm's 390 acres provide a valuable capacity to research soil and climate conditions and crops of northern New Jersey.
USDA Releases New Farmers Market Resource Guide

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner released the Farmers Market Resource Guide, which is a list of grants, programs and other financial and information resources available from public and private organizations.

"At Farm Bill Forums across the country, producers supported farmers markets as an additional opportunity to offer consumers fresh produce and increase their income," said Conner. "The Farmers Market Resource Guide provides an important resource that will help to promote farmers markets by sharing practical information about funding and other resources that are available."

Developed by the newly formed Farmers Market Consortium (FMC), which includes the USDA as a major partner, the Guide contains information about each participating agency or foundation and gives details about more than 100 projects and grants available to help start or improve farmers markets.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service took the lead in forming the FMC, which is a public and private partnership dedicated to helping promote farmers markets. In addition to USDA, the consortium includes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Ford Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, the Project for Public Spaces and several farmers market non-profit groups.

Direct marketing of farm products through farmers markets is an important sales outlet for agricultural producers nationwide. Farmers markets continue to rise in popularity, mostly due to the growing consumer interest in obtaining fresh products directly from the farm. There are currently more than 3,700 farmers markets operating in the United States, offering consumers farm-fresh, affordable, convenient and healthy products, while helping farmers supplement their income.

The Farmers Market Resource Guide, which will be periodically updated, is available online at http://www.ams.usda.gov/ or a printed copy can be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing Services Branch, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 2646, South Bldg., Washington, DC 20250, 202-720-8317.

Information on NJ’s community farmer markets and other direct marketing is available online at http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/. Photos for this article courtesy of Rutgers Online Image Library and Jack Rabin.
Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the USDA Risk Management Agency Outreach and Assistance Partnership Program, in cooperation with Hunterdon and Morris County Boards of Agriculture hosted a Farm Safety Twilight Meeting on Tuesday, August 1 at Snyder Research Farm in Pittstown, NJ.

Over seventy attendees were on hand for the meeting and dinner, most importantly to hear and learn about tractor and equipment safety, where the ‘death zones’ are on farm equipment, pesticide safety, storage, and reporting to your fire department, first aid until the ambulance arrives, child safety on the farm, and chain saw safety in farm applications.

RCE faculty and staff from Hunterdon, Morris, Warren, Somerset, Burlington, and Salem put together an outstanding program with highly qualified instructors. Three NJDEP Pesticide Core Credits were awarded at the end of the meeting.

**FUEL - EFFICIENT LAWNS AND LANDSCAPES**

Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont

With the price of gasoline on the rise, most are looking for ways to cut their costs and save energy. If you have a lawn or garden, you may not realize just how much fossil fuel you are using. By knowing where these are used, you can look for ways to reduce consumption. This will reduce your costs, and help the environment.

In a recent PPPro online newsletter Paul Tukey, editor of People, Places and Plants magazine, provides some sobering facts and helpful suggestions. Each year, a family with a one-third acre (14,000 sq. ft. or approx. 120’ x 120’) lawn will on average:

* Consume five gallons of gas for mowing and trimming
* Apply the equivalent of seven gallons for fertilizing
* Burn up to five gallons for watering
* Consume an additional gallon for cleanup

That’s 18 gallons of fuel per household. With 120 million U.S. households, that’s the equivalent of almost 2.2 billion gallons of fuel used just for lawn care each year. This does not count other landscaping activities. So just how do we use so much?

Yale University has estimated that the United States uses more than 600 million gallons of gas to mow and trim lawns each year — about two gallons of gas for every man, woman and child, or five gallons per household. Mowers also consume engine oil in their crankcases, and two-stroke mowers consume oil in their fuel.

Creating synthetic nitrogen for fertilizers requires the heating of natural gas to combine atmospheric nitrogen and hydrogen into ammonia. The amount of natural gas required to make approximately 200 bags of lawn fertilizer would heat your home for a year. Each 40-pound bag contains the fossil-fuel equivalent of approximately 2.5 gallons of gasoline. Transporting these bags of fertilizer from the factory and to your home requires additional fuel.

So what can you do? Here are some tips to a “fuel-efficient” landscape.

* Use an electric or non-powered push mower
* Use traditional hand rakes and brooms instead of power ones and blowers to save fuel, and at the same time reduce air and noise pollution.
* Consider replacing your old mower. Newer engines run much cleaner
* Reduce the area mowed through use of groundcovers
* Compost all yard wastes, except for diseased plants and plant parts
* Consider landscaping to reduce up to 25 percent of home energy consumption. Foundation plantings can lessen heat loss from buildings. Evergreen windbreaks can reduce heating costs in winter in windy areas. Deciduous shade trees can reduce energy needs for cooling in summer.
RECYCLE YOUR DRIP IRRIGATION TAPE YEAR-ROUND

If you're looking for a cost effective way to recycle your drip irrigation tape then look no further. The Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA) will continue to collect and recycle drip tape generated by New Jersey farmers in 2006.

Mulch film, silage bags, peat moss bags and other agriculture plastics will no longer be accepted. Quality control of the drip tape is the most important variable to a successful recycling program. Here are some guidelines to follow:

Once the drip tape is removed, be sure to remove as much of the contaminants as possible (dirt, water, plant material, etc.). Excessive contaminants will cause the material to be rejected at the collection site. Drip tape should be rolled up and tied with only drip tape. Keep the material as dry as possible because moisture will add to the weight of the material and increase the cost of recycling to the farmer. If other material is commingled with the drip tape, the entire load will be rejected for recycling.

Collection Site Information (year-round), $30 per ton. Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex, 169 Jesse Bridge Road, Deerfield, NJ. Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Sat. by appointment only). Dennis DeMatte, Jr., Recycling Coordinator, 856-825-3700

When entering the Solid Waste Complex, identify the material as drip tape. This is necessary since the CCIA also has a nursery and greenhouse film collection program and the drip tape must be stored in a separate area. Vehicles used to transport the drip tape are not required to be licensed by the NJDEP so long as the drip tape is transported directly to the collection site. Prior to delivery of the drip tape, all growers must establish an account with the CCIA or utilize a licensed solid waste hauler. Additional questions regarding the recycling of plastics generated in agriculture contact Karen Kritz, NJ Department of Agriculture, 609-984-2506 or e-mail Karen.Kritz@ag.state.nj.us

CSREES Small Farm Resource Guide Available

The CSREES Small Farm program has produced the second edition of the Small Farm Resource Guide, an online compilation of more than 300 organizations that offer expertise or information relevant to small production enterprises. The guide lists a wide-range of organizations, including USDA and other Federal agencies, the Land-Grant University System, community-based groups, and other public and private sector organizations. Information in the guide is arranged by state and includes program descriptions, useful publications, and contact information: www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/pdfs/sf_resource_guide.pdf

Hillman Appointed Associate Director of Research at NJAES

Dr. Brad Hillman has been appointed the associate director for research at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), effective July 1st. Dr. Hillman is a Professor of Plant Pathology at Rutgers. He has previously directed both the Plant Pathology and Plant Biology Graduate Programs, and has acted as vice-chair of the Department of Plant Pathology. As Associate Director for research, Dr. Hillman’s duties will include strategic leadership and oversight of NJAES’ research portfolio, supervision of staff assigned to the research office, and representation of the NJAES at local, state, and national levels. He will also design and implement both competitive and commissioned research programs to achieve NJAES goals and will coordinate research with Extension activities.

Dr. Hillman has been a faculty member at Rutgers since 1989. In his nearly two decades here, he has made significant contributions in research and teaching. He has been recognized with the Rutgers University Presidential Board of Trustees Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence and the Cook College / New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Research Excellence Award. Brad is active in a number of professional associations, and is a dedicated and committed faculty member. Welcome, Dr. Hillman!
New USDA Booklet

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a booklet entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. The booklet contains practical measures to protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional or intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases. To get a copy, stop by your local FSA Service Center. More information is available at www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity.

The 2006 Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden

Sunflower (Helianthus annuus) Selections
(Variety information from Johnny's Select Seeds, Winslow, Maine)
http://johnnyseeds.com

Soraya

The first sunflower to win an All-America Selections award. This big sister to Sonja has larger flowers and thicker, sturdier stems. Branches average 20" and sport 4-6" blooms. May yield as many as 20-25 stems/plant. It is also suitable for year-round greenhouse production; height 72".

Pro Cut Yellow Lite

The earliest blooming cut sunflower! Tall, with strong stems, 3-4" blooms, pollenless; height 60".

Moulin Rouge

This sunflower selection has exquisite, deep burgundy petals surrounding an ebony center. A pollenless, branching variety with 3-4" blooms that are a hit with everyone. Use in bouquets mixed with contrasting colors. Side stems are thinner, yet stronger than most other branching varieties, averaging 30"; height 60-80".

Sunrich Gold

This selection is a nonbranching, pollenless sunflower, with golden yellow petals and a bright green disk. Ideal for cut flower production. 4-6" blooms. Ready 10-14 days before the Sun series. height. 48-60".

Sunny

This selection is a single-stem sunflower bred especially for the cut flower grower. Flowers are 5 1/2-6 1/2" in diameter with short petals that are less easily damaged in transport. The dark disk is pollen-free; height. 60-72".

They’re Back! Gypsy Moth 2006

More than 125,000 acres of trees were defoliated by gypsy moths in NJ this summer, the highest amount since 2001. Two drier than usual springs in a row kept a beneficial fungus dependent on moisture from growing and killing off the gypsy moth caterpillars. The fungus, Entomaphaga maimaiga, has helped control the gypsy moth population recently. Gypsy moth caterpillars are responsible for 125,743 acres of defoliation this year, compared to about 44,000 last year and 6,500 acres in 2004. The hardest-hit counties were Sussex, Burlington and Ocean. Sixty-nine (69) municipalities in 15 counties experienced defoliation from gypsy moth caterpillars this year compared to 14 counties and 55 municipalities last year. Contact your municipality and ask about the possibility of participating in the 2007 State Gypsy Moth Suppression program.
NEW ENERGY INCENTIVES IN 2007

It's not too soon to contact your local NRCS office and start the application process for 2007 Farm Bill Programs, according to Tony Kramer, State Conservationist for the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey. "We want to encourage New Jersey farmers and landowners to submit applications for 2007 programs now," Kramer said. "Beginning the process well in advance of application period closings affords more time for applicants to work with NRCS Soil Conservationists to develop conservation plans and decide what they really want to accomplish on their land."

NRCS accepts applications for all conservation programs the USDA agency administers throughout the year, but establishes funding periods for each program to facilitate application review and contract development. Farmers are encouraged to sign up now before the busy harvest season begins so they don't miss out on their opportunity for 2007 programs. Over $5 million of conservation funding was obligated to New Jersey landowners and farmers in 2006 through two programs administered by NRCS, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices that address soil erosion, conservation of irrigation water, and livestock-related concerns, including rotational grazing practices. "Practices that focus on renewable energy and fuel efficiency are being considered for next year's EQIP programs," Mr. Kramer said. Farmers who are thinking about converting farm vehicles to ethanol or using biodiesel may be able to apply for cost-share payments through EQIP in 2007.

The second most utilized program in the Garden State, WHIP offers technical and financial assistance for creating, enhancing and maintaining wildlife habitat on non-federal lands. Guidance for the 2007 programs is under development by the State Technical Committee, the advisory group to the State Conservationist. "We expect to finalize the list of eligible practices for 2007 programs later this summer," Kramer said. NRCS program information is available online at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov. Contact the NRCS office serving Hunterdon, Somerset, and Union at (908) 782-4614 ext. 3 for more details.

The “New” Jersey Fresh Campaign Program

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture launched a new marketing and ad campaign this past February at the Annual Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City. Joining the highly successful “Jersey Fresh” campaign promoting NJ’s fruits and vegetables are “Jersey Grown” which promotes our nursery crops, shrubs and trees, and “Jersey Seafood” promoting our highly sought-after aquaculture products.

Agriculture Keeps Somerset County Green!

The Somerset County Board of Agriculture will once again have “Jersey Fresh” bumper stickers available at the RCE office at 310 Milltown Road in Bridgewater. These are great reminders of how we all benefit from local farming and agricultural producers. Stop by to pick up yours today!