The Van Rycken Brothers landed in Brooklyn in 1663. They began their life in the new world with a new name; Suydam. It means “south of the dam”, and refers to the location of the home farm back in Amsterdam, Holland. Back in 1713, we were lucky enough to have part of the family move to Somerset.

Throughout the 290 + years since the Suydams came to New Jersey, the farm and the family continually evolved. At one time the farm was a fruit, vegetable and dairy operation supplying markets in New Brunswick and New York City. Through the generations, (now 13), the farm has adapted to accommodate changes in both the market demands and the surrounding community. Field crops such as corn, wheat and barley were grown. In the early 1900’s the focus moved to Holstein and Brown Swiss dairy cows. In 1960, Suydam Farms won an award recognizing them as having the “Highest Production Herd in the US.” Changing markets meant more changes for the farm. The dairy herd was later sold and hay production for horses and equine operations became the primary crop.

Today, hay is still a big part of the farm, along with seasonal retail crops. Farm grown products include potted and cut flowers, herbs, and vegetable plants, and field grown vegetables (Jersey tomatoes, of course), pumpkins, christmas trees, chicken eggs, and grain-fed pigs and lambs.

Suydam Farms remains a family farm to this day. It is currently operated by Ryck and Dee Jay Suydam and their four children; Matthew, Jenna, J. Paul and Lucas. A main goal of the Suydams is to keep the farm viable and an asset to the community, county, and agricultural industry in general. So why not stop by and see how a 300 year old working farm in beautiful Somerset, NJ continues to thrive. You probably drive right past it all the time if you commute or shop on Rt. 27, formerly known as “King’s Highway.” Seasonal stands and fall farm family events complete the farming year at Suydam’s. So, stop on by to feed the chickens, talk to the lambs, and bring your friends and family. You will be glad you did!

Suydam Farms, 1803 Route 27, Somerset; Email info@suydamfarms.net
(Trenton) – The New Jersey Farmers Direct Marketing Association has released the New Jersey Farm Markets 2007 Listing, as a printed copy available at the RCE Extension Office in Bridgewater and as a searchable online statewide database at www.njfarmmarkets.org.

Searching for “Somerset County,” the following Farm Markets are listed:

**Bardy Farms & Greenhouses**
149 Washington Valley Road, Warren, NJ 07059
Ph.: (732) 356-4244  Fax: (732) 356-2644
Website: http://www.bardyfarms.com  Email: bardyfarms@aol.com
Pumpkins, dairy products, milk, wreaths
Organic - fruits, vegetables, dairy, breads, groceries.

**Bernardsville Farmers Market**
Bernardsville Business District Corp.
Rt. 202 & Claremont Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924
Phone: (908) 766-2900
Email: christahat@patmedia.net
Field flowers, pickles, cheese.

**Griggstown Farm Market**
986 Canal Road, Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: (908) 359-5218  Fax: (908) 359-9414
Website: http://www.griggstownquailfarm.com

**Harrison Brook Farm**
PO Box 272, Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Phone: (908) 647-6711  Fax: (908) 647-6711
Website: http://www.harrisonbrookfarm.com
Email: lists@harrisonbrookfarm.com

**Hillsboro Farm**
219 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
Phone: (908) 500-0803
Website: http://www.hillsborofarm.com
Email: doug@hillsborofarm.com
Cider, jams, Indian corn, winter squash, mums, corn stalks, hay & straw, apples, pick your own pumpkins & gourds.

**Marion Farms**
3281 Valley Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: (908) 626-9333  Fax: (908) 626-1017
Email: graffe8455@aol.com
Pumpkins; home-baked pies; seasonal items; hanging baskets, shrubs & trees; annuals; perennials; custom wreaths; corn stalks; hay; fresh florals; more.

**Ripple Hill Farm**
181 Mountain Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
Phone: (908) 647-1300
Email: casorge@usa.net
Pick your own apples only.

**Runnin’ Free Organic Farm**
115 Wertsville Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
Phone: (908) 938-8326  Fax: (908) 369-4613
Website: http://www.theorganicegg.com
Email: eggman@theorganicegg.com
Certified organic produce & eggs.
The Somerset County Board of Agriculture proudly announces the 2007 Taste of Somerset Agriculture Picnic
Saturday July 28, 2007
6:00 pm – dark
River Road Park, River Road, Bedminster, NJ

This picnic is held annually in celebration of Thomas Everett, and to support the scholarship fund named in his memory.

Come on out and sample locally grown beef, pork, and poultry products along with the very best produce the county has to offer, all while catching up with old friends and making new ones!

Family Entertainment and Live Country Music provided by “Due South”

So, make plans now to join us by returning the registration form below!
Grab your lawn chairs or blankets, and bring your appetite!!

Location and Directions: River Road Park is located at 3050 East River Rd, Bedminster, NJ 07921
From the intersection of I-287 and I-78 (Bedminster), take I-287 North to Exit 22B, 202/206 North. Take first jug handle onto River Road west. Entrance is on the right, 50 feet after crossing Rt. 202/206.

________________________________________________________ (please print and return the form below with payment)

Name: ________________________ ________________________________

Tickets: _____ x $20 (adults) = $ ____ Total Enclosed
____ x $10 (children under 12) = $ ____ $ __________

Limited number of tickets available – don’t delay!

Please reply by July 21, 2007, with checks payable to:
Somerset County Board of Agriculture
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-526-6293
Are you a new farmer or farm cooperative and confident that you'll be successful, but you have minimal track record to date?

Have you written a business plan and done your homework on your proposed venture, but have limited financial resources?

Can you demonstrate responsibility, good work ethic, and follow-through?

Then, FarmStart might be for you.

FarmStart was created to assist beginning farmers and new cooperatives through start-up, providing investments in working capital of up to $50,000. Repayment of these funds is up to five years. Our purpose is much deeper than just providing the funds, though. FarmStart is envisioned as a key element in the success of startup ag businesses. Not only will recipients have the opportunity to develop a successful credit record, but also to learn the discipline of effective cash flow management.

Who is eligible?
Farmers, forestry producers, fishermen, farm related service businesses and cooperatives, generally in their first three years of business.

Direction
Each FarmStart participant will work with a Farm Credit representative, knowledgeable in financial management. Advisers will stay in touch and help participants follow through with business plan activities. They will also encourage FarmStart recipients to use other guidance and professionals as necessary to solve problems and develop the business venture.

Business Plan
We're looking for substance, not fluff. The business plan needs to be a productive exercise for the new business owner and demonstrate to FarmStart that he/she will have the ability to successfully use the investment. Five key business components should be included in the plan. Please refer to guidelines, available in your branch or with a local business consultant, on how to put a business plan together.

Free ag-specific computer software?
Yes! Red Wing Software, America’s premier provider of financial management software for agriculture, will provide CenterPoint software to FarmStart participants at no cost with the purchase of a Silver Level Customer Care Plan.

To sum up...
The goal of FarmStart is to not only provide the working capital but to also enable the start-up farmer to establish a positive business and credit history during this phase of his/her business career. Within five years time, recipients should be positioned to “graduate” to a conventional line of credit from First Pioneer or CoBank.

Contact
If you would like more information about this exciting new program, please contact your local branch of First Pioneer or send an email to FarmStart@FirstPioneer.com. Website address: www.FirstPioneer.com

“Success is a journey, not a destination.” Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr.

First Pioneer and CoBank are committed to helping new farmers succeed in today’s agriculture industry.
43rd Annual Rutgers Gardens Open House

The Rutgers Gardens
New Brunswick
Saturday
July 28, 2007

(New Brunswick) On Saturday, July 28, 2007 The Rutgers Gardens will present the 43rd Annual Open House from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. The Open House features lively and informative tours of The Rutgers Gardens and The Donald B. Lacey Display Garden, landscape plant sales, gardening talks, the popular “Ask the Expert” Clinic, and the latest releases in Annuals. This year’s events include music, tours, garden vendors, activities for children, and food sales. All proceeds from sales directly benefit The Rutgers Gardens. For a complete schedule of the days events and directions please check our web site www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu.

The Donald B. Lacey Garden contains spectacular plantings of annuals, tropicals, and perennial flowers as well as herbs and vegetables, grown and tended by volunteer gardeners. The theme for this year is “The Nature of Our Heritage.” The Gardens features “All American” award winning plant selections and many new and unusual varieties of annuals, tropicals, vegetables and herbs. So come on out and joins us in the gardens – you’ll be glad you did!

What’s the Buzz All About?
An Update on Colony Collapse Disorder

You probably have seen or heard the recent and ongoing media stories on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) of bees across the US. As we get into the summer months, it’s a good time to review the issue and to seek qualifies discussions and answers to this problem. The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is a member of MAAREC (The Mid-Atlantic Apiary Research and Extension Consortium) and their website www.maarec.org has up-to-date info on CCD and lots of other info on bees. Some of the topics reviewed online include:

What is CCD?
Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is the name that has been given to the latest, and what seems to be the most serious, die-off of honey bee colonies across the country. It is characterized by, sudden colony death with a lack of adult bees in/in front of the dead-outs. Honey and bee bread are usually present and there is often evidence of recent brood rearing. In some cases, the queen and a small number of survivor bees may be present in the brood nest. It is also characterized by delayed robbing and slower than normal invasion by common pests such as wax moth and small hive beetles.

The beekeeping industry has experienced heavy losses of colonies in the past. Is this something new?
Symptoms similar to CCD have been described in the past, and heavy losses have been documented. The condition has received many different names over the years including autumn collapse, May disease, spring dwindle, disappearing disease, and fall dwindle disease. Whether or not the current die-off is being caused by the same factors that caused heavy losses in the past or if new factors are involved is not yet clear.

Who is working on this problem?
A group of researchers, apiculture extension specialists and government officials from a number of different institutions across the country have come together to work on this problem and share information with beekeeper and the public. This group is called the CCD Working Group. For a complete list of the institutions and individuals involved please visit the CCD page on the Website: http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/. Other information on CCD and general topics in beekeeping is available online through the New Jersey Beekeepers Association, http://www.njbeekeepers.org.
USDA’s Farm Service Agency
County Committee Nomination Deadline Nears

Farmers from Franklin, Montgomery, and Hillsborough Sought for August 1 Deadline

(Frenchtown) Doreen Beruck, County Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) for Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, today reminded farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers that they have until August 1, 2007, to nominate eligible candidates to serve on the local FSA county committee.

“County Committees are important to Hunterdon and Somerset Counties because they assist local farmers and ranchers,” said Beruck. “They help deliver federal programs to Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, which is an important aspect of our service to agriculture. I encourage all producers to get involved by nominating eligible candidates to serve on county committees.” FSA county committees assist local farmers through their decisions on commodity price support loans, conservation programs, and other disaster programs, and by working closely with county executive directors.

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate. The local administrative area holding a 2007 election consists of Raritan Township, Hunterdon County and Franklin, Montgomery, and Hillsborough Townships, Somerset County.

A complete list of eligibility requirements and additional information are posted online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov; click on “News & Events,” then “County Committee Elections.”

Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing minorities and women are encouraged to nominate candidates.

All nominees must sign a nomination form (FSA-669A), which includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. Form FSA 669A is available at the Frenchtown Service Center or online at the web site listed above. All nomination forms for the 2007 election must be postmarked or received in the Frenchtown Service Center by close of business on August 1, 2007.

The County Committee nomination period began June 15, 2007. Voting takes place in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2, 2007. The final day to return voted ballots to the Frenchtown Service Center is December 3, 2007. Newly elected county committee members take office January 1, 2007.

THE 2007
NEW JERSEY GROWN
COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

With horticulture the state’s largest agricultural sector, Jersey Grown celebrates the highest quality locally grown plants, trees and shrubs.

To introduce municipalities to Jersey Grown materials, the NJ Department of Agriculture is sponsoring the New Jersey Grown Community Award program. This is a wonderful way to beautify a town, and the award program will recognize those towns that use Jersey Grown products creatively.

The New Jersey Grown Community Award program is open to all municipalities and will recognize exemplary plant design and maintenance projects while highlighting Jersey Grown plant material. Municipal representatives must be involved with the installation and maintenance of the project, and meet all other criteria and conditions of the program.

Details of the program are available online at http://www.jerseygrown.nj.gov/awards.html. The “entry kit” deadline for submissions is September 4, 2007. Awards will be presented at the annual League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City.
English as a Second Language for Agricultural Workers

Rutgers and the New Jersey Farm Productivity Enhancement Training Program announce additional sessions in this popular program.

Since a large number of farm/agricultural workers speak Spanish as their primary language, a critical need for English language training exists. This grant-funded class will present the basics of spoken "American" English to Spanish-speaking farm employees. The course is comprised of six (6) four-hour sessions (8:30 am - 12:30 pm) and will be held at the Cumberland County office of Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Millville, N.J. Course dates are September 11, 18, 25 and October 2, 9, and 16, 2007.

Program topics are tailored for workers in agricultural and farm-related industries. The vocabulary and phrases introduced are agricultural and will include interpersonal, day-to-day job-related communication in English. The course assumes that attendees have little or no knowledge of English and will introduce basic expressions, pronunciation and sentence structure.

Registration is $35 for the entire six days of training, course materials and breakfast at each session.

For further information please contact Keith Wilson (732) 932-9271 (ext. 617) or via e-mail at kwilson@cook.rutgers.edu.

What is Hay Net?
Buying and Selling Hay Virtually Anytime of the Day!

Got hay to spare? Need more hay right away? Looking for new or more suppliers or outlets is now available right at your fingertips – that is, as long as your home computer and keyboard are not too far off! The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Check out http://www.fsa.usda.gov and click on the “Hay Net” icon on the bottom right of the front page.

The Hay Net Web Site has been redesigned, so there are a few things to remember when getting familiarized with the site. There is a new one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online. When completing your registration with eAuthentication (described below), please remember to use the Email address you used with the previous version of Hay Net. This information will be very important when you want to remove ads that were posted through the previous site.

Users just wishing to browse ads do not need to have an eAuthentication user id. In the new site, as in the older site, Hay Net Ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months. Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date. Remove ads you no longer need advertised on our Web.

How Do I Access the Hay Net Service?

Browsing access to the Hay Net service is available to all USDA customers, without the need to create an account.

How Do I Place an Ad on Hay Net?

This process is easy and only requires creating a user ID and password and confirming your email by visiting the eAuthentication page and clicking on the 'Create an Account' link and following the instructions to complete a request for Level 1 access.

Once you have your eAuthentication account, you can click on the 'Login' link on the top of the page and enter your user ID and password on the USDA login screen. USDA provides Hay Net services in a secure online environment that protects participants' privacy through stringent security measures. FSA's HayNet customers can use a personal computer to submit Have Hay Ads or Need Hay Ads as well as view existing Ads. The HayNet process is available 24/7, except during routine backup and maintenance periods.
The Snyder Research and Extension Farm and The Melda C. Snyder Teaching Garden present the 17th Annual

Great Tomato Tasting

August 29, 2007
3:00 pm – Dusk

Join us in this unique opportunity to taste over 80 tomato varieties (including heirlooms and hybrids), farm grown produce, stroll through our demonstration garden, and take a wagon tour highlighting today’s NJAES farm research.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty, staff, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Door prize drawings throughout the event!

Registration – $4.00 per person, free for children under 10

Please RSVP (908) 713-8980
www.snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/

The Snyder Research and Extension Farm

Located near Pittstown (Hunterdon County), this research and extension facility is Rutgers’ center for sustainable agriculture. Snyder Farm initiates and disseminates research applicable to the production of a variety of food and fiber products, including grain crops, tree and small fruits, turfgrass, and ornamentals. The farm’s 390 acres provide a valuable capacity to research soil and climate conditions and crops of northern New Jersey.

Driving Directions:

From the North:

Take I 78 to Exit 15, go left at the bottom of the ramp onto Rt. 513 south to Pittstown. Do not follow Route 513 in Pittstown, go straight through the town for 1.5 miles to Locust Grove Road. Turn left to the farm.

From the South (Trenton area):

Take Route 202 & 31 north to the Flemington traffic circle. From the circle get on Route 12 West. Go 8 miles to Pittstown Road (airport sign at the intersection) turn right, go 3.5 miles to Locust Grove Road. Turn right to the farm.