Somerset County Hosts Farmland Preservation Master Plan Public Meeting on October 9th

(Bridgewater). The Somerset County Agriculture Development Board and the Somerset County Planning Board are hosting a second public meeting on updating the county’s Farmland Preservation Master Plan. The Morris Land Conservancy will facilitate the meeting on October 9th at 7:30 pm at the Somerset County offices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 310 Milltown Rd. in Bridgewater. Directions are available online at [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu).

Please RSVP your attendance to Tara Kenyon, Senior Planner, Somerset County Planning Board at (908) 231-7021, or by email at [Kenyon@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:Kenyon@co.somerset.nj.us).
Practicing Some Good Ol’ Horse-sense

(Trenton- NJDA) The Division of Animal Health at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has the following recommendations on biosecurity practices and management practices to keep your animals safe and healthy both at home and at competitions.

Biosecurity is the series of management steps taken to prevent the introduction of infectious agents into an animal herd. Most diseases are spread through direct or physical contact, oral ingestion through contamination of feed or water, or inhalation of infectious agents. Disease can also be transmitted via fomites - an inanimate object or substance that is capable of transmitting infectious organisms from one animal to another. This would include brushes, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, automobile tires, clothing, shoes and even human hands. Keeping in mind how disease is spread should help you in reducing the risk that infectious agents are carried onto or around your farm.

Precautions to protect your horses/livestock should include:

- Clean and disinfect equipment such as bits, bridles, lead shanks and clippers between uses on different animals.
- Horse specific equipment such as water buckets, feed buckets, and halters should be clearly labeled as belonging to an individual horse and used only on that horse.
- When filling water buckets, keep the nozzle of the hose above the water level to avoid carrying infectious agents from one bucket to the next.
- Wheel barrels should only be used for either feed/hay or waste removal. DO NOT use the same wheel barrel for both.
- Multi-dose medications should not be shared between horses.
- Quarantine new arrivals for at least 30 days (horses returning from other premises should be quarantined for at least 2 weeks). During quarantine, do not allow nose to nose contact. Keep separate equipment for the quarantine animals, including pitchfork, wheel barrel and brushes. Care for the quarantine animals last.
- Visitors to the farm should wear clean clothes and shoes. If you have visited another farm or been to a competition, you should change shoes and clothes as well as wash your hands before entering your barn.

When off premises with your horse/livestock, avoid using common water buckets, feed buckets, tack, equipment, hand grazing your animals at shows in a common eating area, and contact with animals of unknown origin. If you suspect your horse is ill, it should be examined by a licensed veterinarian. If not already in quarantine, isolate it from other animals in your barn.

Rutgers Equine Science Center

The mission of the Equine Science Center is “better horse care through research and education” in order to advance the well-being of horses and the equine industry.

This means that our science is devoted to finding solutions to problems afflicting equine athletes in order to maximize performance and prevent injury or illness. It also means that we assist in assembling the vast resources of this state university and the state of New Jersey to help the horse industry survive and thrive – using our scientific expertise as well as our role as catalyst in the development of policy that will ensure the horse industry’s sustainability.

A highlight of 2007 was the publication, “The New Jersey Equine Industry 2007: Economic Impact.” This study, the first of its kind for New Jersey, employed economic modeling to determine the direct and indirect impacts of the horse industry on the state's economy, on traditional agricultural enterprises, and on the maintenance of the working agricultural landscape.

Come and follow the development of a model environmental best management practices horse farm at our Ryders Lane facility. Please visit us online at http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/ or drop us a message at esc@njaes.rutgers.edu.
SAVE THE DATES! January 24 and 25 (Thursday and Friday), 2008 will mark the 7th Women in Ag Conference to be held in Delaware. The conference, to be held at Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center in Dover, DE, offers women who are involved with agriculture an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues and topics so they can make informed decisions concerning their agribusinesses and family lives.

The 2008 Keynote speaker will be Carolyn Cooksie, Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs USDA, Farm Service Agency.

Women are increasingly recognized as farm operators and in many cases, the primary operator on their farms. Statistics were collected on a national level in 2002 regarding women in agriculture, and will be collected again in 2007. In 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported that the census of agriculture counted 2,128,982 farms, and approximately 27.2 percent of those farms were operated by women.

For additional information on workshop topics, speakers, and registration, please visit The Women in Ag web site at http://ag.udel.edu/extension/kent/womeninag.htm or contact Ms. Laurie Wolinski at (302) 831-2538, L-gw@udel.edu

STREAMSIDE LIVING: HOW TO BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR

(Monmouth County) Property owners living along streams can assist with maintaining natural stream corridors as well as protect and enhance their property by practicing watershed friendly property management. Watershed friendly property management entails planning, planting, and caring for lawns and gardens in ways that complement the soils, climate, and natural character and vegetation of the watershed. Properly landscaped streamside areas can be beautiful, environmentally friendly, and easy to maintain. They can also aid in preventing erosion, act as a filter for rainwater from downspouts, walkways and driveways, and promote water conservation. The Streamside Living in Monmouth County seminar is designed to provide homeowners living along small streams, lakes, and ponds throughout Monmouth County with an understanding of good environmental practices that can maintain and improve water quality, protect streams and waterways, improve wildlife habitats, and enhance the quality of life in the region. But don’t be fooled – these workshops are excellent for anyone living along or near streams anywhere in NJ – that means you!

Intensive home turf management can harm local streams

Sessions will include “Understanding Streams and Watersheds” with Dr. Michael Witty, Postdoctoral Fellow Monmouth University Department of Biology; “Homeowner Impacts on Local Streams” with John Tiedemann, Assistant Director, Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute; “Taking Action: Sound Landscaping and Lawn Care” with Bill Hlubik, Middlesex County Ag Agent; “Taking Action: Sound Gardening and Avoiding Invasives” with Carol Smith, Master Gardener; “Taking Action: Rain Gardens” with Dr. Bill Sciarappa, Monmouth County Agent and Vivian Quinn, Program Associate; and on-site Demonstration Projects - Rain Garden Site, Butterfly Garden Site, and Sustainable Gardening Site. The morning will conclude at 1 pm.

This workshop will be held at the Monmouth County Agricultural Center and RCE Offices on Kozloski Road in Freehold, NJ. This workshop is part of the Monmouth University - Urban Coast Institute Coastal Watershed Seminar Series. Recertification credits may be available for CPWM, NJLA and Master Gardeners. For more information, and to register, please call (732) 932-9271 or at http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu.
NJDA Announces Annual Deer Fencing Program

(Trenton) Applications for the 2007 deer fence program are now being accepted. Please note that this year’s program has been expanded to include a new/beginning farmer category. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2007.

The fence is high tensile-woven wire 6 ½ feet in height with two strands of high tensile wire to be placed above the mesh at one-foot intervals. Under this program, up to 30% of the line posts will also be provided. The life expectancy of the fencing is 20 years. Each eligible applicant shall receive up to 5,000 linear feet of fencing and up to 30% of the corresponding line posts. Farmers who were awarded fencing and materials in the 2004 / 2005 or 2006 programs are not eligible to participate. To be eligible to receive deer fencing and posts under this program, an applicant must:

- Be a New Jersey farmer having documented proof of a minimum of $40,000 in sales of agricultural commodities produced by the applicant on a New Jersey farm OR;

- Be a New Jersey certified organic farmer having documented proof of a minimum of $20,000 in sales of agricultural commodities produced by the applicant on a New Jersey farm OR;

- Be a new or beginning New Jersey farmer with documented proof of $5,000 in sales of agricultural commodities produced by the applicant on a New Jersey farm that was established between 2000 and 2007 through present day. New or beginning farmers must also provide:
  - Farmland assessment documentation
  - Number of person hours worked on the farm annually
  - Itemized business expenditures over the prior year
  - Current stage of production
    - Number of acres in production
    - Number of bushels or pounds produced
    - Number of acres intentionally laid fallow

- Have a federal identification number and be the owner of the land upon which the fencing will be erected or the applicant must rent preserved farmland or farmland that is enrolled in an Eight-Year Farmland Preservation Program.

There are other criteria and restrictions regarding this fencing application, including installation seminars and procedures, timing of the fence installation following delivery, and future eligibility for NJDA and NJDEP deer fencing programs. For complete details, visit our web site http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu or call the NJDA Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources at (609) 292-5532.

Agricultural Producers and Crop Insurance: That’s What RMA Does!

The role of USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) is to help producers manage their business risks through effective, market-based risk management solutions. RMA’s mission is to promote, support, and regulate sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America’s agricultural producers. As part of this mission, RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). RMA was created in 1996; the FCIC was founded in 1938.

The Agency currently has three divisions: Insurance Services, Research and Development (R&D), and Risk Compliance. Insurance Services is responsible for program delivery (for example, managing contracts with the companies that sell and service policies), and local program administration and support. R&D is responsible for overseeing product development. Risk Compliance monitors compliance with program provisions by both producers and the insurance companies that sell and service policies.

The Garden State Crop Insurance Education Initiative is a joint project between the Risk Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture; Rutgers Cooperative Extension; and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, www.rma.usda.gov/.
For a complete position description and application, interested candidates should contact the North Jersey RC&D Council, 54 Old Highway 22, Suite 201, Clinton, NJ 08809; Phone: (908)735-0733 x4; Fax: (908)735-0744; Email: njrcdcouncil@northjerseyrcd.org.

All applications must be received by October 12, 2007. Anticipated starting date is November 2007.

North Jersey RC&D’s main mission is to facilitate the wise use and protection of the regions human and natural resources. This is accomplished by working with communities and regional partnerships to address issues related to water quality and water resource protection, sustainable farming and farm communities, building local community capacity and managing natural hazards that impact community planning.

Watershed Specialist Sought by North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

(Clinton, NJ). The North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council recently opened a search for the position of Watershed Specialist. The successful candidate will assist in the study/analysis and reporting of watershed conditions; the implementation of watershed management/protection projects; the characterization and assessment of watersheds; the development of management plans; and public education. In addition, the Watershed Specialist will assist with other efforts of the North Jersey RC&D such as rural fire protection through the implementation of dry hydrants. The watershed specialist may be required to perform the duties of the job on an emergent basis, outside of normal work hours, as needed. The North Jersey RC&D is a nonprofit organization that promotes a lively, team oriented work environment.

The official duty station will be the North Jersey RC&D Office in Clinton, NJ. Project work will focus on the six Counties covered by North Jersey RC&D (Sussex, Warren, Morris, Hunterdon, Somerset, and Union) as well as specific project work in the Raritan Basin that may extend into Middlesex, Monmouth and Mercer Counties.

Duties and Responsibilities include:
- Collects and analyzes water resource, land use, geographic and demographic data and information through field studies and research, and assists with preparation of clear, technically sound, accurate, informative and statistical reports containing findings, conclusions and recommendations; and drafts official correspondence regarding such reports.
- Assists in the development of watershed characterizations and assessments of watershed status, trends and significant causes, relative to available standards or thresholds.
- Assists in the preparation of water resource management plans and projects at the site specific, subwatershed, watershed, watershed management area and river basin scale to address substantive resource issues; the development of site-specific, subwatershed and watershed projects to remedy or prevent water resource impairment; and implementation of those projects.
- Assists in planning and preparing for, and participates in/facilitates, public information and public involvement activities, conferences and meetings with appropriate individuals and groups of officials interested in or responsible for water resource activities, and prepares minutes as assigned.
Photo Highlights from the 2007 Somerset County 4-H Fair
Board of Agriculture and Master Gardener Tent Displays

The 2007 Somerset County 4-H Fair Review

Since 1948, thousands of visitors have enjoyed the Somerset County 4-H Fair, and this year was no different, despite the weather challenges of the final day.

The Somerset County Board of Agriculture once again featured antique farm tractors and equipment courtesy of local collectors and restorers. An evening highlight was the Pie-eating contest hosted by the Board of Agriculture – you can see the crowds it drew nightly in the picture to the left.

The Rutgers Master Gardeners once again put on a marvelous display, showcasing their creative talents in tent design and children’s crafts while sharing their knowledge in helping the public with all kinds of gardening questions.

Partial funding for the Board of Agriculture tent displays came from the NJ Department of Agriculture’s Jersey Fresh program. So mark your calendars now for the 2008 Fair, August 13, 14, and 15 – can’t you just picture yourself there?
Farmers’ Input Sought on How to Minimize Conflicts with Neighbors, Towns

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) is seeking successful tips and strategies farmers have used to maintain good relationships with their neighbors and towns, for a publication it is developing to help farmers minimize conflicts.

The SADC is compiling advice from farmers that will be published in a pamphlet and discussed by farmers at farmer-panel workshops at various 2008 winter agricultural conferences. All farmer contributions will be kept anonymous.

The SADC is coordinating the project in collaboration with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the N.J. Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Farm Bureau, and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ). The project team expects to conduct interviews with as many as 45 farmers by the end of October. Other members of the agricultural community are encouraged to share their advice, tips and strategies through a special website that has been established for the project at http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmersadvice.htm. Farmers can complete a short survey and anonymously submit their comments directly to the project team through this site through November 1.
Attention Farmers:

Got A Spare Tire to Lose?

*Somerset County Farmers may drop-off tires starting*

**Monday, Oct. 22 thru Friday, Oct. 26**

**from 8am to 3pm**

**at the**

**Somerset County Public Works Facility**

located at 410 Roycefield Road in Hillsborough

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**Sponsored by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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**Why Recycle Tires?**

Recycling the rubber from scrap tires was very common until the 1960s, when it became easier to make synthetic rubber. People found it less important to recycle their tires. Also, recycling tires became more difficult with the onset of steel-belted tires.

Fortunately, the recycling of tires has increased in recent years. For one thing, discarded tires are an eyesore. But even properly disposed of scrap tires can create problems. A tire dump is a known breeding ground for mosquitoes. There is a higher incidence of mosquito-borne diseases near tire dumps.

Tires are now being recycled into running tracks, railroad ties, roofing shakes, parts on autos, sound barriers, playground safety mats, solid bicycle tires, tennis courts, compost bins, traffic delineators, and more.

For more information on this and other county recycling programs, call (732) 469-3363 or send an email to: solidwaste@co.somerset.nj.us.