Somerset County Agricultural Development Board Hosts River Friendly Farm Seminar

Rescheduled from previous date

(Bridgewater) The River-Friendly Programs, offered by the Stonybrook-Millstone Watershed Association, the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, provide technical support and expertise to farmers, businesses and private residents who wish to implement best management practices on their properties. This seminar will highlight some of the River-Friendly Programs, including River-Friendly Farm, River-Friendly Business and River-Friendly Resident, and provide information as to how these initiatives can be implemented in order to benefit you, your property, and your community.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
6:30PM—9:00PM; 4H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Directions are available online at http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu.
Please RSVP your attendance to the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board, Tara Kenyon, Senior Planner, Somerset County Planning Board at (908) 231-7021, or by email at Kenyon@co.somerset.nj.us.
The Rutgers Food Innovation Center Presents
Farmers Market Forums

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center, with the cooperation of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County and Rutgers Community Gardens, are hosting a series of three forums to highlight the findings of the Center’s research efforts into Farmers Markets in the state of New Jersey. They will report on the results of a survey designed in collaboration with Rutgers Food Policy Institute and will provide growers and Community Market Sponsors with opportunities to learn about Best Practices identified through the survey and other research activities. The forums are also intended to provide growers and market sponsors with a place to discuss how they might collaborate on ways to improve and advance the roles that Community Farmers Markets play throughout the state.

April 1 - from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Holly House in Rutgers Community Gardens, Log Cabin and Ryder Roads, New Brunswick.
April 2 – from 2:30pm to 6:00pm in the Freeholder’s Meeting Room, Passaic County Administration Building Annex (adjacent to the Patterson Farmers Market) 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Patterson.
April 3 – from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the Food Innovation Center, 87 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ.

Refreshments and a light fare will be included. These forums are free of charge. Please print this page, complete the registration form, and mail your RSVP to the attention of Dianne Carbonetta at The Rutgers Food Innovation Center, 87 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ, 08302. Please register by March 25, 2008, as space is limited.

Registration Form - Farmers Market Forums
Please Check One
☐ April 1, 2008, Holly House at Rutgers Community Gardens
☐ April 2, 2008, Passaic County Administration Building Annex
☐ April 3, 2008, Rutgers Food Innovation Center

Name: _____________________________
Phone: (_________) ___________________________
Address: ____________________________
Email: _______________________________
Number Attending: ____
2008 National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference

(OKLAHOMA) - April 1 - 2, 2008, with a pre-conference tour on March 31, at the Oklahoma City Sheraton, Oklahoma City, OK. The goal of this conference is to broaden risk management educational programming for women in agriculture, to encourage new programming efforts, and to strengthen existing programs.

The 2008 National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference will bring together private and public sector educators, crop insurance agents, lenders, and other agricultural professionals who are involved in outreach education, to share ongoing and emerging successful risk management education efforts directed toward women and their families, including but not limited to the ethnically diverse, who are involved in production agriculture. Conference participants will learn about educational efforts which assist women producers to effectively manage financial, production, marketing, legal and human resource risks associated with their agribusinesses.

For additional information about the 2008 National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference, please visit the conference website at: http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/wia/conferences/WIA2008/. For questions regarding this year's conference, please contact Laurie Wolinski at (302) 831-2538 or lgw@udel.edu.

Rutgers University Seminar Series on Raw Milk

(NEW BRUNSWICK) - The Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station is sponsoring a seminar series to help people understand the issues and provide science-based information about raw milk.

The Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment station recently formed a “Raw Milk Working Group” to conduct research and extension programs concerning raw milk. The group identified informed consumer choice as critical to dealing with the raw milk issue. The seminar series is designed to bring the latest science and objective discussion to the public.

Two seminars, “Raw Milk, Mother Nature's Inconvenient Truth,” featuring Mark McAfee, an organic dairy farmer, and “Raw Milk Wars, Government's Attempt to Dictate What Foods We Can Consume,” featuring attorney David G. Cox, were held earlier this February.

A third seminar, “Raw Milk, A Microbiology Primer,” is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, April 3, at the Marine Science Building. The speaker will be Dr. Mark Gebhart, MD., from Wright State University. Dr. Gebhart is a licensed physician and board certified medical specialist practicing in Ohio. He currently serves on the faculty of an accredited medical school in a university community of nearly 20,000 students. Dr. Gebhart has worked extensively in acute care medicine as a clinician, teacher, and researcher. He has taken a keen interest in nutrition and has extensively studied small scale organic farming, relationships of modern agricultural practices and human health and the impact of microbiology on human health and disease. The microbiology of food remains a mystery to many and is a science influenced by special interests and organizations with vested financial interest. Dr. Gebhart has taken special interest in raw milk obtained from grass fed cows and believes many of the gastrointestinal disorders affecting millions of Americans could be cured by consumption of this product.

The Rutgers raw milk Extension program is also conducting a search and review of the scientific literature pertaining to both raw and pasteurized milk. This information is being collected for educational purposes and is being organized for placement on an internal Rutgers Cooperative Extension web site for ease of sharing information among scientists.

Directions to the April 3 lecture site can be found at http://maps.rutgers.edu/building.aspx?168.
The exhibition is built upon a wealth of printed materials held in our Special Collections and University Archives, such as NJ state fair posters, farm equipment manufacturers’ catalogs, and product brochures for horses, cows, oysters, and fruit and vegetables in the Sinclair New Jersey Collection; items from the Manuscripts Collection including diaries from farm women, account books by farmers, and the personal papers of George H. Cook; rare maps and drawings from the Map collection including turn of the century county farm maps; and historic materials from the University Archives including photographs of farms across the state throughout the past 100 years and the records of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station from 1889-1962.

To highlight the exhibition the Libraries offer two programs, free and open to the public:

**Thursday March 13, at 5:00 pm** – “How New Jersey Agriculture Leads the Nation: Looking Back to Look Ahead”
Robert M. Goodman
Executive Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

**Thursday April 10, at 5:00 pm**
“The Transformation of New Jersey Farms: Perspectives from the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station”
Professor Emeritus William Roberts of Agricultural Engineering;
Professor Emeritus Morris Fabian of Agricultural Economics;
Professor Emeritus Charles Holmes, Mercer County Agricultural Agent;
Professor Emeritus Warner Thurlow, Middlesex County Senior Agent
Moderator: Mark Robson, Director, NJ Agricultural Experiment Station

Please visit the Archibald S. Alexander Library, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901. To RSVP for either event, call 732-932-7505 or email: hglazer@rci.rutgers.edu.

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**Attention Farmers:**

Diana E. Vigilante, Manager of the Somerset County Division of Solid Waste Management wants to ask:

**Got A Spare Tire to Lose?**

Somerset County farmers may drop off tires on Monday, May 19 through Friday, May 23, 2008 from 8am to 3pm at

**The Peapack Garage**
5 Holland Ave
Peapack, NJ

**Sponsored by:**
The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

For more information, please contact Somerset County Division of Solid Waste Management, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876 908-231-7681, Fax 908-707-1749 vigilant@co.somerset.nj.us.
“Can You Dig It?”
New Workplace Safety Brochure Available

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation worked with the Federal Network (FedNet) for Young Worker Safety and Health to develop the “Can You Dig It?: A Safety & Health Guide for Young Workers in Landscaping, Greenhouses, & Nurseries.”

The “Can You Dig It?” brochure is just one component of a comprehensive workplace safety message for young workers in the greenhouse, nursery, and landscaping industries; specifically targeted to young workers who have limited English proficiency. The information contained in the brochure was selected based on common landscaping risks, including pesticides, heat stress, noise, equipment use, and other workplace hazards.

The brochure has been sent to a large pool of agricultural worker safety stakeholders across the United States. The NASDA Foundation is viewing the “Can You Dig It?” brochure as a pilot project to determine the need for developing additional materials focusing on young agricultural worker safety and health.

Copies of this brochure are available at the RCE office in Bridgewater. For additional information and for this and other downloads, please consult http://youngworkers.net and www.nasda.org/workersafety/.

NJDEP Offers Compliance Assistance for Private Pesticide Applicators

The Department of Environmental Protection, Pesticide Control Program (PCP) measures the success of pesticide use and farm worker protection rules on the number of farms in compliance, not the number of violations issued. Consider requesting a compliance assistance inspection to prepare for a successful 2008. By working together, we can help ensure that the environment, your employees, and New Jersey agriculture overall remain healthy and productive. For further information, or to schedule a compliance assistance visit, please call the PCP’s Worker Protection Unit at (609) 984-6914.

Also, visit the PCP’s web site at www.pcpnj.org for the actual regulations (particularly Subchapters 8, 12, and parts of 9 and 10) and more information on worker protection (WPS). For a list of “Most Common Violations at Farms” (June 2007) for all areas of environmental protection, visit the Department’s “compliance advisory” web page at www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement. Common compliance problems include:

- Lack of safety training for field workers, or pesticide handlers (those who mix or apply pesticides, or handle application equipment).
- Failure to obtain a private pesticide applicator license (since November 2003, the pesticide applicator license requirement was expanded to include the use of “general-use” or “over-the-counter” pesticides, in addition to the longstanding requirement for licensing for the use of “restricted” pesticides).
- Failure to record the finish time of a pesticide application which serves as the start of a “Restricted Entry Interval” (REI). The REI is the time that must elapse between the end of a pesticide application and when it is permissible for a worker to enter the treated area or field, according to the pesticide label directions.
- Missing one or more of the required items in the “central posting” of pesticide safety information for farm workers and handlers.
- Failure to inform the local fire department in writing of the pesticides stored and the location of the storage area.

Online References and Resources:
www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-wps.htm
Pesticide Control Program Worker Protection Unit
www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/pcp-regs.htm
NJDEP Worker Protection Regulations
Rutgers William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest Announces Tour Dates and Topics for 2008

The Hutcheson Memorial Forest (HMF) is a unique area consisting of one of the last uncut forests in the Mid-Atlantic States, along with the surrounding lands devoted to protection of the old forest and research into ecological interactions necessary to understand the forest. The tract is administered and protected by Rutgers University.

The public is welcome on the regularly scheduled tours given on Sundays throughout the year. These tours are lead by Rutgers University faculty who volunteer their time. The tours take from about an hour to two hours in length. Depending on the expertise of the tour leader, the interest of the group, and what is flowering, flying, calling or crawling, various aspects of natural history, forest ecology, conservation issues and ecological relationships are pointed out and discussed. The 2008 tour schedule is as follows:

March 9 at 2pm, led by Peter Morin (Community Ecologist) discussing “Community Ecology of the Hutcheson Memorial Forest”

April 13 at 7:30am led by David La Puma (Conservation Ecologist) discussing “Bird Watching at HMF: Looking and Listening for Spring Arrivals”

May 11 at 2pm led by Lena Struwe (Plant Taxonomist) discussing “Looking Down in the Forest: A Search for Spring Wildflowers at HMF”

Trips leave from the entrance of the woods at 2150 Amwell Road (Route 514), Somerset, about 3/4 mile east of East Millstone, NJ. The trail through the woods may be muddy in places except in dry weather, so persons should come prepared. The trip through the woods takes between an hour and two hours. There is no charge, and reservations are not required on these guided public tours.

**Groups of more than ten persons may not attend the guided tours. Such groups are invited to write to the Director, Hutcheson Memorial Forest Center, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources, 14 College Farm Rd., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, or by email at TheOldWoods@gmail.com.

More information on Hutcheson Memorial Forest, additional tours, Rutgers research, preservation partners, and how to get involved are available online at http://hmf.rutgers.edu/.

Comprehensive Guide to Farm Vehicle Laws and Regulations Now at NJDA Website

One-stop Shopping Page to Assist the Agricultural Industry

(TRENTON) – Whether a grower wants to find out how to get farmer, farm use or tractor license plates, needs information on backup beepers for their vehicles, or the regulations for vehicle markings, a new web page has been developed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that gathers all that information and organizes into one convenient site. Located at www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/farmermotorvehicles.html, the “Motor Vehicle Laws and Regulations Impacting Farmers” web page covers such topics as farmer plates, farm use and tractor plates and tractor registration exemption, farmer and farm use regulations, commercial drivers licenses, reciprocity agreements, International Registration Plan, Unified Carrier Registration, International Fuel Tax Agreement, diesel emissions, backup beepers, and vehicle markings and conspicuity.

Set up in an easy to follow design, most of the motor vehicle laws and regulations that impact farmers in New Jersey are outlined on the page, with downloadable documents and links to other websites for more information.

For those who need more information, please call (609) 984-2506 or email Karen.Kritz@ag.state.nj.us.
In Memoriam:
Somerset County Board
Life Members

John Peter Vermeulen,
President of John Vermeulen & Son, Inc., for the past thirty years. He was a dedicated nurseryman who served as President of the NJ Association of Nurseryman and Eastern Region International Plant Propagators Society in 1966. He was Past President of the International Plant Propagators Society in 1969. He also served as President of Somerset County Board of Agriculture, Vice-President of NJ State Board of Agriculture and Director of NJ Farm Bureau. Peter received the NJ State Board of Agriculture citation for distinguished service to NJ agriculture in 1988. He was also awarded the NJ Farm Bureau Arthur West Distinguished Service Award in 1986. He also served on the Somerset County Agricultural Development Board and NJ Rural Advisory Council.

Lester Terhune passed away at the age of 90. He bought his parents farm in 1946 and farmed in Franklin Township the remainder of his life. He is remembered for giving hayrides through Griggstown until the roads became too congested. He was formerly active with the Somerset County Board of Agriculture (Honorary Life Member), the Belle Mead Farmers Co-op, and the Griggstown Reformed Church. He was a World War II veteran and a graduate of Rutgers University’s College of Agriculture.

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2008 TAKE SEATS ON STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
Ellis, Dorsett Sworn in to 4-Year Terms

(TRENTON) – Ann M. Dorsett of Woolwich Township and W. Scott Ellis of Yardville were seated at the January 23 State Board of Agriculture meeting in Trenton. They were selected for the positions at the 2007 State Agricultural Convention and later nominated by Governor Jon S. Corzine and confirmed by the State Senate.

“Both Ms. Dorsett and Mr. Ellis are welcome additions to the State Board, bringing a wealth of experience in New Jersey’s agriculture industry to their new positions,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus. “Each has their own strengths that will be crucial as the Board formulates policy for the Department of Agriculture.”

Dorsett and her husband Larry own and operate Dorsett Farms in Woolwich Township, a 70-acre horse farm that focuses on breeding, raising and marketing Arabian Pleasure horses. The couple began breeding and selling horses in the 1960’s. Born and raised on a 160-acre small crops farm in Eastern Kansas, Dorsett acquired a Masters Degree in Social Work and held the positions of Director of Social Work at the Medical University of South Carolina and President of the South Carolina’s social worker association. Ann was a 2007 recipient of a Distinguished Service Citation from the State Board of Agriculture for her outstanding contributions to agriculture in New Jersey. She has served as President of the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture and chairperson of the board’s Equine Committee. She has been active in various agricultural organizations, including New Jersey Farm Bureau, the Equine Advisory Board, Mid-Atlantic Arabian Horse Association and the New Jersey Animal Alliance.

W. Scott Ellis assumed management of Ellis Farms, a 700-acre producer of fresh market sweet corn and soybeans in Mercer and Burlington counties in 1980. Ellis has been owner and operator of the farm, first established in 1950, since 1995. Ellis is a director of the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association, a Supervisor of the Mercer County Soil Conservation District, a member and past president of the Mercer County Board of Agriculture and a Director of Farmers Brokerage and Supply. He also was Chairman of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council and has served on the New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council.

In addition, during the meeting, William V. Griffin, a nursery owner from Plainsboro, Middlesex County, was elected to serve as President of the Board, and Milton “Woody” Eachus, a dairy farmer from Pilesgrove, Salem County, was selected as Vice-President.

The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Its members serve for four years, with two members being replaced each year. By law, at least four of its members must represent the top commodity groups in the state. Members serve without salary, but may be reimbursed for expenses.
Farmers Interstate Transportation Impacted by New Unified Carrier Registration Agreement (UCRA)

Farmers who conduct interstate transportation are subject to a new registration program that was in place as of November 15, 2007. Following is a summary of the new Unified Carrier Registration that was prepared in consultation with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. Farmers are not exempt from the registration.

According to the Motor Vehicle Commission, the old Single State Registration (SSR) has expired and the new Uniform Carrier Registration (UCR) is now in its place. New Jersey has not adopted the new program and it appears that it will take a statutory change to implement UCR in New Jersey.

Under the SSR, only the power unit or tractor is assessed a fee. Under UCR both the power unit and trailer is assessed a fee. Presently there are 34 states enrolled in a UCR program for 2007. A New Jersey motor carrier, motor private carrier (most farms fall in this category), broker, freight forwarder, or leasing company conducting interstate transportation must choose a single base state with which it shall register and pay its UCR agreement fee. In 2007, UCR fees shall be based on the size of the fleet. $39 for a fleet of 0-2, $116 for a fleet of 3-5, $231 for a fleet of 6-20, $806 for a fleet of 21-100, $3840 for a fleet of 101-1000, and $37,500 for a fleet of 1001 or more. Since New Jersey is not enrolled in the program, an entity is required to choose a participating UCR state that is nearest to the location of the entity's principal place of business, for New Jersey that would be New York. PA and DE will be adopting the UCR program as of January 1, 2008. When New Jersey becomes a UCR participating state, the entity shall, effective with the first registration year in which the state is a participating state, choose the state as its base state. Enforcement of the UCR commenced on November 15, 2007.

NOTE: You must be registered in order to operate in interstate commerce. To avoid delays, it is highly recommended that you register on-line at the UCR National Web site at www.ucr.in.gov and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Prepared by the Agricultural Economic Development Committee, NJ Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission.

From the Secretary’s Desk: Charles Kuperus, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture

(TRENTON) - New Jersey’s agricultural operators saw their cash receipts rise for the third straight year in 2006, a 6 percent increase over 2005, from $873,507,000 to $923,933,000, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Combined with an increase in net farm income over the same period, the data show an improving trend for the Garden State’s farmers. In the period from 2003-06, New Jersey’s overall farm cash receipts increased by 9 percent, signaling a growth in the prices being paid to farmers.

Ornamental horticulture remained the state’s leading agricultural sector during that time, followed by vegetables and fruits, equine operations and field crops. While the improving financial picture was welcome news, some sectors of the state’s agricultural industry are faring better than others.

For more New Jersey state and county agricultural statistics, please visit the NASS website, http://www.nass.usda.gov/ and select New Jersey in the bottom left drop down box. You can then search by commodity, county, or review a general overview of NJ agriculture.