Somerset County
Agriculture Development Board Reorganizes

2009 Officers and Members Announced

(Bridgewater) Earlier this year, at the Annual Reorganization meeting, the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board announced the following for 2009:

**Chairman** - Mark W. Kirby
**Vice-Chairperson** - W. Peter Staats
**Secretary / Treasurer** - Steve Selody

**Voting Members**
John A. Johnson, Gail W. McKane, Richard Norz, and Catherine Sorge

**Ex-officio Members**
Jules Lobai, County Planning Board; Nicholas Polanin, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; Dr. Ernest Thurlow, Somerset / Union Soil Conservation District

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Liaison
Somerset County Planning Board Staff
Anthony McCraken, Assistant Director;

Tara Kenyon, Senior Planner; Catherine Bunting, Administrative Assistant

PRIVATE LAND, PUBLIC LEGACY - The County Farmland Preservation Program was created by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1983 in response to State Enabling Legislation, PL1983, Chapters 32 & 33 that was passed the same year. The Somerset County Agriculture Development Board leads the preservation program, with staff assistance from the County Planning Board. The program’s principal objective is to create critical masses of preserved farmland to stabilize the loss of our agricultural land base. Since the program’s inception, the County has preserved 84 farms totaling over 7,300 acres. The Agriculture Development Board serves as advisor, monitor, mediator and approval body to farmers, county and municipal government agencies and the general public in all matters relating to agricultural development and retention. Please call Ms. Kenyon at (908) 231-7021 for more details on farmland preservation programs and available funding.
News from the NJ Agricultural Economic Development Office

Revised Fact Sheet for Commercial Farm Buildings Now Available

(Trenton). Recently the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code was amended to exempt certain three sided livestock turn-out sheds and garden-type utility sheds erected on farms from building permits. The Fact Sheet for Commercial Farm Buildings, Standards Under the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code was amended to clarify these new provisions. In addition, the Fact Sheet includes a clarification on farm building exemptions from COAH fees. Copies of this fact sheet are available by calling the RCE Office here in Bridgewater 908-526-6293, or through the office of Agricultural Economic Development within the NJ Department of Agriculture, 609-984-2506 or karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us.

New Partner for Recycling Horticultural Nursery Pots

Did you know that you could donate the pots and help a homeless veteran? The VA Medical Center in Lyons, New Jersey, is in need of donated used horticultural pots ranging in size from 1.5 to as large as two-gallons for cultivating quality mums. Lyons operates a greenhouse where vocational opportunities are made available to homeless veterans. Many greenhouse operators are recycling their horticultural pots. However, to put them to a better use would be to donate them to the Lyons Greenhouse. Lyons Greenhouse will pick up the donated used pots. In addition, a donation acknowledgement letter will be issued for income tax purposes. To participate in this program, pots should be nested tightly, stacked and palletized. Generally, it is best to create 4-foot stacks and then lay each stack, on its side, on the pallet. The pallet should be stacked up to 6 foot including pallet and then banded or stretch-wrapped to avoid movement during transport. Lyons will pick up a minimum of 4 pallets and a maximum of 6 each trip. The Lyons Greenhouse handles all transportation costs. On the other hand, feel free to drop them off at Lyons Greenhouse (please call in advance). Please contact Mr. Robert Simonofsky, Lyons Veterans Medical Center, if you are donating pots or other items of interest: 151 Knollcroft Road, Lyons, NJ 07939. Robert.Simonofsky@va.gov, Office: 908.647.0180 ext 4690, or Cell: 908-285-1080

Motor Vehicle Laws and Regulations Impacting Farmers

New Jersey has signed agreements with both Delaware and New York to allow operators of vehicles with ‘farmer’ license plates to drive those vehicles from New Jersey into Delaware and New York and vice-versa without being cited by police.

Without the agreement, farmers had to purchase significantly more expensive “commercial” registrations to be able to drive their farm vehicles into the neighboring state. Another alternative for farmers was to hire commercial haulers to deliver their goods. Now, those farmers will be able to deliver their own products, as long as their vehicles are registered with “farmer” license plates in New Jersey, with Special Farm Vehicle Registration “FT” tags in Delaware or as an “agricultural” truck in New York. In all three states, vehicles with farmer or FT license plates or registered as agricultural trucks are restricted to hauling only the farmer’s own agricultural products and supplies.

In addition, New Jersey and Delaware signed a separate agreement recognizing each other’s commercial driver’s license exemption for farmers. In both states, farmers who have valid drivers licenses do not need commercial drivers licenses when the farm vehicle they are operating is properly registered as a farm vehicle, is used exclusively to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from the farm owned by the farmer, is not being rented for use by others, and is used within a radius of 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.

New Jersey signed similar reciprocity agreements on farm vehicle registration and the CDL exemption with Pennsylvania in 2005.

It is recommended that farmers carry copies of the reciprocity agreements in their trucks. The agreements can be found at: www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/farmermotorvehicles.html#8.

For more information on New Jersey farm vehicle regulations, visit: www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/farmermotorvehicles.html.
New Publications Available

Crop Rotation on Organic Farms: A Planning Manual

This new 150-page book, #NRAES-177, will be available in July 2009. This should be a boon to organic farmers, farm advisors, and educators interested in learning how to plan and manage an effective crop rotation system.

Working with expert organic farmers, the authors have developed crop rotation guidelines and strategies that can be applied under various field conditions and with a wide range of crops. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), www.sare.org, provided funding that made this book possible.

For 35 years, the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES) has published practical, science- and experience-based books on a variety of subjects including fruit and vegetable production; natural resources; landscaping; personal finance; composting; and livestock and dairy.

For more information or to place an order online, visit http://nraes.nysaes.cornell.edu.

Using Organic Nutrient Sources

When using organic nutrient sources - for example, compost, manure, green manures, meals, and so forth - recommendations for crop nutrient needs will need to be translated. Soil test reports do not give specific recommendations for using organic fertilizers/amendments. This is because the percentage and availability of plant nutrients in such materials is highly variable and usually depends on its source, method of storage, and the amount and type of materials used to make the nutrient source. Generally, the low nutrient content and often limited sources of many organic materials add to the difficulty in developing a specific recommendation.

This guide, available from Penn State University, is intended to help growers interpret soil test recommendations for using organic nutrient sources. Information presented applies to both organic and conventional farms.

This free publication is available online at http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uj256.pdf.
Roadside Farm Stands

Alan Ames
175 Mountainview Rd., Belle Mead. (908) 359-1249

Bardy Farms And Greenhouses
149 Washington Valley Rd., Warren
(732) 356-4244, Web site: www.bardyfarms.com

Cichowski Farms
100 Bennets Lane, Somerset
(732) 236-3651, Email: ckapalski@comcast.net

Dutch Hollow Farm Stand
895 Meadow Rd., Bridgewater (908) 725-3049
Email: dutchhollowfarm@netzero.com
Web site: www.geocities.com/dutchhollowfarm

English Farm
3625 Valley Rd., Liberty Corner
(908) 647-3420, Email: info@englishfarm.org
Web site: www.englishfarm.org

Fama's Nursery & Landscaping
1613 Highway 27, Somerset. (732) 545-8070
Email: info@famasnursery.com
Web site: www.famasnursery.com

Griggstown Quail Farm
Bunkerhill & Canal Rds., Griggstown
(908) 359-5218
Web site: www.griggstownquailfarm.com

Hillsboro Farm
219 Hillsborough Rd., Hillsborough
(908) 500-0803, Email: info@hillsborofarm.com
Web site: www.hillsborofarm.com

Linda's Farm Stand
831 Rt 202/206, Bridgewater
(908) 725-1555, Email: linplc@aol.com

Marion Farm
3281 Valley Rd., Basking Ridge (908) 626-9333

Melick's Town Farm
351 Rout 28, Bridgewater (908) 725-0225
Web site: www.melickstownfarm.com

Norz - Hill Farm & Market
116 South Branch Road, Hillsborough (908) 371- COWS
Email: info@norzhillfarm.com
Web site: www.norzhillfarm.com

Ripple Hill Farm
181 Mountain Rd., Basking Ridge
(908) 647-1300. Email: casorge@usa.net

Suydam Farms
1803 Route 27 & Skillman's Lane, Somerset.
(732) 846-7139, Email: suydamfarms@aol.com

Three Meadows Farm
1130 Burnt Mills Rd., Bedminster (908) 719-7781
Email: krupert001@aol.com

Community Farmers Markets

Bernardsville Farmers Market
Rt. 202 & Clairmont Road, Bernardsville
NJ Transit Station, (908) 766-5836 - Christa O'Conner
Email: christahat@comcast.net
June 13 - end of Oct., Saturdays, 9 am - 2 pm

Bound Brook Farmers Market
Main Street, Bound Brook NJ Transit Parking Lot
(908) 894-0515 - Karen Fritz, kfriztilda@aol.com
June 21st - Oct. 25th, Saturdays, 9 am - 2 pm

Downtown Somerville Farmers Market
Corner of Grove and East Main Street, Somerville
(908) 541-1600, Web site: www.FindSomerville.com
June 4th - Oct. 1st, Thursdays, 12pm - 6pm

Franklin Twp. Farmers Market
720 Hamilton Street, Franklin Township
(732) 873-2500, ext. 400 Efren Dato
Email: director@hsbce.org
May 3rd - Nov. 29th, Saturdays, 9am - 2 pm

Montgomery Farmers Market
Route 206, Montgomery Twp., Village Shopper
(908) 359-9665 - Kim Rowe, krowe48483@aol.com
June 13 - Oct. 24, Saturdays, 9:00am - 1:00pm

North Plainfield Farmers Market
Somerset & Race Streets, North Plainfield
(908) 755-1526, Doug Singletary,
Email: dougsingle@aol.com
July 11- September 26, Saturdays, 9am - 2pm
New Jersey Animal Waste Management Rule

(Trenton and New Brunswick). New Jersey livestock producers are now required to develop “Self-Certified Animal Waste Management Plans” as a management protocol to raise and keep all types of livestock including equine, beef, dairy, sheep, swine, goats, poultry species, and all other domesticated species deemed as farm animals.

On February 9, 2009 the clock began ticking with the approval of the regulations known as the Animal Waste Rule. This rule was developed over the past six years by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station/ Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts and related state animal associations.

All livestock producers are encouraged to attend a series of training meetings scheduled across the state this year. Educators from Rutgers Cooperative Extension will provide the training at four specific sites; registration will be required on a first-come first-served basis (meetings will occur several times at each site). Producers will have ample time to attend the training sessions, but should not wait to get signed up as there is a timeline for complying with the general requirements for designing the plan, filing the plan and implementing the plan over the next 18 to 36 months from the implementation of the rule.

All producers, regardless of size, must comply with the general requirements of the rule:

• Agricultural animal operations shall not allow animals in confined areas to have uncontrolled access to waters of the state
• Manure storage areas shall be located at least 100 linear feet from waters of the state
• Land application of animal waste shall be performed in accordance with the principles of the NJDA Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual
• Dead animals and related animal waste resulting from a reportable contagious disease or an act of bioterrorism shall not be disposed of without first contacting the State Veterinarian
• Any person entering a farm to conduct official business related to these rules shall follow bio-security protocol

Producers and those applying manure will be developing their own plans based upon the information and forms provided at the training sessions. It is important that all livestock producers attend the meetings to learn about how to write AWMP’s and how to file them. Rutgers Cooperative Extension offices in Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex Counties and Rick’s Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge are hosting educational sessions to provide livestock owners and producers key training in developing this plan. These will be held regularly across the state over the next two years, so please check the website to find the date and location that is most convenient for you.

Hunterdon County RCE, Flemington, NJ
908-788-1338
June 24, 1-3pm; July 29, 7-9pm; August 26, 1-3 pm
Salem County RCE, Woodstown, NJ
856-769-0090
July 8, 7-9pm; August 12, 7-9pm
Sussex County RCE, Newton, NJ
973-948-3040
June 24, 6-8pm; July 29, 1-3pm; August 26, 6-8pm
Rick’s Saddle Shop, Cream Ridge
609-265-5757 (registration phone number)
July 9, 6-8pm; August 27, 6-8pm

More detailed information is available by attending the workshops to complete a model template worksheet, and by visiting the companion website at:

http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/
### Somerset, New Jersey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>% change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>+ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms</td>
<td>32,721 acres</td>
<td>36,237 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Size of Farm</td>
<td>74 acres</td>
<td>82 acres</td>
<td>- 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Value of Production</td>
<td>$18,911,000</td>
<td>$15,064,000</td>
<td>+ 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Sales</td>
<td>$9,630,000 (51 percent)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Sales</td>
<td>$9,281,000 (49 percent)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Per Farm</td>
<td>$42,496</td>
<td>$34,081</td>
<td>+ 25</td>
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<td>Government Payments</td>
<td>$213,000</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>+ 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Per Farm</td>
<td>$8,186</td>
<td>$8,393</td>
<td>- 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Forms by Size

- **Forms by Size**

#### Land in Farms by Type of Land

- **Land in Farms**
  - Cropland: 60.9k acres
  - Feedlot: 7.5k acres
  - Pasture: 13.0k acres
  - Field: 18.1k acres
  - Woodland: 5.1k acres

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*United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)*
The Somerset County Board of Agriculture proudly announces the 2009 Taste of Somerset Agriculture Picnic

Saturday July 25, 2009

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Norz Hill Farm, Hillsborough, NJ

This picnic is held annually in celebration of the life of Thomas Everett and to fund the Board’s scholarship program named in his memory.

Come on out to Norz Hill Farm and enjoy 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! Rich and Debbie Norz and Rich Sr. raise fine produce and have common and uncommon livestock. Visit with their River Buffalo and brand new calf. There will be hay ride tours of the farm. Bring your camera!

Music provided by Barbecue Bob and the Spareribs
http://bbq-bob.com/

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: Norz Hill Farm is at 116 South Branch Rd, Hillsborough. For directions go to www.norzhillfarm.com or call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County at 908-526-6293.

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

Name: ________________________ ________________________________
Please print all attendee names (for name tags) when returning this form

Tickets: _____ x $25 (adults) = $ ____ Total Enclosed

_____ x $10 (children under 12) = $ ____ $ _________

We can’t attend, but would like to support the Scholarship with a donation of $ _________________

Limited number of tickets available – don’t delay!
Please make your check payable and mail by July 17 to:
Somerset County Board of Agriculture
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
The 2009 Somerset County
Board of Chosen Freeholders

Rick Fontana, Director, Bridgewater
Jack M. Ciattarelli, Deputy Director, Hillsborough
Peter S. Palmer, Bernardsville
Robert Zaborowski, Franklin
Patricia L. Walsh, Green Brook

The 2009 Somerset County
Board of Agriculture

Richard Norz, President, Hillsborough
Edward Seidel, Vice President, Belle Mead
Edward Pierce, Recording Secretary, Neshanic Station
Paul M. Smith, II, Treasurer, Hillsborough
Kenneth Osterman, County Director, NJ Farm Bureau, Neshanic Station
Joanne Powell, County Director (alt.), NJ Farm Bureau, Somerville

Promoting all forms of sustainable agriculture; assisting, enhancing and furthering agriculture as it relates to the economics, environment, aesthetics, and the high quality of life here in Somerset County.

The 2009 Somerset County
Agriculture Development Board

Mark W. Kirby, Chairperson
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairperson
Steve Selody, Secretary/Treasurer

Voting Members
Gail W. McKane
Richard A. Norz
John A. Johnson
Catherine Sorge

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Liaison

Celebrating 26 Years of Preserving farmland and enhancing the industry of agriculture in Somerset County

Ex-officio Members
Jules Lobai, County Planning Board
Nicholas Polanin, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Dr. Ernest Thurlow, Soil Conservation District

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Watch for the Next Issue of
Green and Growing
polanin@njaes.rutgers.edu