2010 Thomas Everett Memorial Scholarship
Applications accepted until January 31, 2010

The Somerset County Board of Agriculture is proud to administer 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. Two awards are available to eligible applicants: a $2,000 Academic Scholarship and a $500 Continuing Education Scholarship. In the event of two equally qualified applicants in these categories, deference will be given to the applicant residing in Somerset County.

The **Academic Scholarship** is available to college sophomores, juniors and seniors who are enrolled at any accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university in the United States. The applicant must be a New Jersey resident majoring in an agricultural subject area (ie. Botany, Plant Science, Animal Science, Agronomy, Entomology, etc) or related fields. The applicant must also intend to pursue a career in production agriculture or in a field related to agriculture. The applicant (or parent, if under 21) must also be a current member of NJ Farm Bureau.

The **Continuing Education Scholarship** is available to any current member of NJ Farm Bureau who will be attending an accredited or approved seminar, workshop, or conference related directly to production agriculture or a field related to agriculture. The committee will review both the applicant and the seminar for eligibility, and will be awarded as a full or partial reimbursement. Applicants in this category must be at least 18 years of age.

Previous Academic Scholarship winners are Daniel Ayars (2007) of Bridgeton, Matthew Puskas (2008) of Somerset (pictured to the right with Jon Higgins, Scholarship Chair, and Joanne Powell, Past-President of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture), and Cody Gerlach (2009) of Far Hills.

All applications, transcripts, and other supporting documentation should be sent to: Jon Higgins, Chairman, Tom Everett Memorial Scholarship, Somerset County Board of Agriculture, c/o RCE of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807 before the January 31 deadline.

Applications are currently available by calling 908-526-6293 option #4, or by downloading the scholarship brochure and the forms from our website, [http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/ag/boa.html](http://somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu/ag/boa.html).
New Jersey Department of Agriculture Gains Recognition for Farmer Vehicle Usage in all Surrounding States

Operators of Farm Vehicles Allowed to Drive Across State Borders

(TRENTON) -- New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher recently announced that New Jersey farmers may now drive their farm vehicles into Maryland without having “commercial” registrations.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture received a letter from the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration underscoring Maryland’s recognition of New Jersey farm plates as restricted, exempting them from the need for significantly more expensive commercial registrations. Through joint participation in the International Registration Plan (IRP), New Jersey recognizes Maryland restricted plates as well.

New Jersey also has agreements with Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware allowing operators of vehicles with ‘farmer’ license plates to drive those vehicles from New Jersey into those states and vice versa without being cited by police. Without these agreements, farmers either had to pay for the commercial registrations, face detainment by police - putting their perishable materials at risk, or hire commercial haulers to deliver their goods.

The agreements state the farm vehicle must be used exclusively to transport the farmers’ own agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from the farm owned by the farmer, may not be rented for use by others, and must be used only within a radius of 150 miles of the farmer’s farm.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations limit use of the CDL exemptions for the operators of farm vehicles to the driver’s home state unless there is a reciprocity agreement with adjoining states. New Jersey has a reciprocity agreement for farmers’ CDL exemption with Pennsylvania and Delaware. Farmers must have a valid CDL when traveling in all other states.

It is recommended that farmers carry copies of the Maryland letter and reciprocity agreements with Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware 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.

Public Meetings to Highlight Farm Bill Benefits to New Jersey Farmers

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will host five public meetings throughout New Jersey to introduce new opportunities for farmers available through Farm Bill programs.

NRCS will feature the “new” Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), presenting details of program eligibility and estimated payments. Farmers who agree to maintain conservation activities already underway on their operation and who agree to undertake new conservation activities may be eligible. CSP is available statewide and has an annual payment limitation of $40,000. Information about CSP is available online at www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov and at all NRCS Field Offices. The USDA-NRCS State Office is located at 220 Davidson Avenue, 4th Floor, Somerset NJ 08873; Phone (732) 537-6040.

FSA will highlight some new initiatives for 2010 including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) with payments up to $100,000; Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program; Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) with incentives up to $45/ton; and Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) for cold storage facilities, hay barns for biomass storage, and grain structures. For more information on programs from FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or call (609) 298-3446 x 219.

Scheduled meetings are as follows:

- Monday, November 30, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Columbus Service Center, 1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road Columbus, NJ. PHONE: (609) 267-1639 ext. 3
- Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Freehold Service Center, 4000 Kozloski Road, Suite D, Freehold, NJ. PHONE: (732) 462-0075 ext. 3
- Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Woodstown Service Center, 51 Cheney Road, Suite 2 Woodstown, NJ. PHONE: (856) 769-1126 ext. 3
- Thursday, December 3, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Frenchtown Service Center, 687 Pittstown Road, Ste 2 Frenchtown, NJ. PHONE: (908) 782-4614 ext. 3
- Thursday, December 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ. PHONE (908) 852-2576, extension 3, for more information.
The annual NOFA - NJ Winter Conference will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Douglas Campus Center of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. At the conference, there will be training and information on a range of topics such as late blight, agri-tourism and marketing, leafy greens regulations, fruit tree cultivars, locally integrated food & energy, seasonal eating, farm-school linkages, return to meadows and much, much more.

The keynote speaker will be John Jeavons, the Executive Director of Ecology Action of Willits, CA. [www.growbiointensive.org](http://www.growbiointensive.org). In addition to collaborating with independent U.S. and international regional centers, Ecology Action has also provided assistance at Stanford University, the University of California-Davis, and the University of Arizona. Mr. Jeavons advises students, teachers, gardeners, local producers, and representatives of private, non-profit and governmental organizations. He is particularly interested in cross-cultural exchange of agricultural methods globally and has worked with farmers in South Africa.

John Jeavons will also present a pre-conference workshop entitled GROW BIOINTENSIVE. This comprehensive and sustainable cropping system developed by Jeavons enables people in all regions of the world to grow a balanced diet on a small plot of land. Most life in nature occurs at the interface of soil, water, air and sun.

GROW BIOINTENSIVE soil preparation practices create growing beds with more surface area to maximize the effect of nature’s life processes. John Jeavons is also the author of “How to Grow More Vegetables, Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, and Other Crops Than You Ever Thought Possible On Less Land Than You Can Imagine.”

Details on the annual winter conference and plans for the Fall 2010 25-Year Anniversary of NOFA-NJ are available through their website at [www.nofanj.org](http://www.nofanj.org).

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**2011 NJ Outstanding Young Farmer Call For Nominations**

The Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) program is sponsored by Deere & Company, supported by the Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA) Fraternity and the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA), and administered by The United States Junior Chamber.

Today’s farmer is an entrepreneur in a complex agribusiness. He or she must understand all aspects of farming, including technology, farm implements, and other equipment used in today’s operations. He or she must also comprehend the complexities of fertilizer and insecticide to raise the high volume and quality crops demanded by consumers worldwide, while not running afoul of expanding environmental regulations.

As the farmer's business has changed, so has his or her involvement in the community. They are active citizens, participating in everything from local and state government to civic groups and charitable organizations. It is therefore fitting that farmers be honored for their contributions and achievements.

The OYF program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States, selecting its first group of national winners in 1955. Any individual or organization can nominate deserving young farmers’ names. Persons who have been nominated in the past or previous state winners who did not make it to the National competition can be re-nominated. However, these candidates must still meet the eligibility criteria.

Nominees must be farm operators, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming and must be between the ages of 21-40, not becoming 41 prior to January 1 of the year for which they are applying. Candidates who have a financial interest in the farm operation (a sole proprietor, partners, or a corporation) will receive higher ranking in the OYF judging process. However, nominees also may include salaried farm managers and employees who are actively involved in policy and management decisions.

New Jersey nominations for 2011 are being accepted through January 15, 2010. Interested candidates should contact Karen Kritz of the NJ Department of Agriculture by calling 609-984-2506 or by email at karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us. For more information on the state’s Outstanding Young Farmer program, visit: [www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html)
New Jersey Pesticide License
On-Line Payments

Ralph Smith, Manager, Bureau of Pesticide
Operations of NJDEP PCP

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has just implemented its online payment service, “Pay for a License” for its Pesticide Control Program. This service will significantly speed up processing by several weeks.

For pesticide licensing, the service is now accessible through the NJ Pesticide Control Program homepage at www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/. Commercial applicators and operators, applicator businesses, and pesticide dealers can now choose to pay their invoices for pesticide licenses online. Please note that this service is not tailored for Private Applicator or government fee exempt licensing.

To pay online, it requires:
- License number
- Invoice number (found on the paper invoice received in the mail)

If you do not have the invoice number, you may call the PCP at 609-984-6601 to retrieve it. Forms of payment currently accepted are: AMX, MC, Visa, Discover, and electronic checking.

Rutgers Environmental Stewards
2010 Classes Now Forming

Registration is now open for the Class of 2010 Rutgers Environmental Stewards! Classes will begin the week of January 10, 2010. Through the training classes, graduates become more knowledgeable about the basic processes of earth, air, water and biological systems. They increase their awareness of the techniques and tools used to monitor and assess the health of the environment. They gain a greater understanding of the research and regulatory infrastructure of state and federal agencies operating in New Jersey that relate to environmental issues. They are given an introduction to group dynamics and community leadership. The program’s goal is that graduates use their knowledge to expand public awareness of scientifically based information related to environmental issues and facilitate positive change in their communities.

Duke Farms is one of four sites that hosts the Rutgers Environmental Stewards certification program. Participants must complete 60 hours of classes and then offer 60 hours of volunteer work to receive their certification. Please visit our website at http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/ for details, forms, and a look at previous classes and projects.

Rutgers Food Innovation Center

The Rutgers Food Innovation Center (FIC) is a unique business incubation and economic development accelerator program, which provides business and technology expertise to startup and established food companies in the mid-Atlantic region, and utilizes its outreach capacity to reach food and agribusinesses throughout the world. The Food Innovation Center team, combined with the vast resources at Rutgers University and strategic partners developed throughout the nation, provides assistance in business development, market research, product and process development, workforce development and training, regulations and compliance support, and quality assurance and food safety systems. Examples of their efforts include:

New Opportunities for NJ Community Farmers Markets.
In cooperation with the NJ Department of Agriculture and funding from a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant, FIC conducted research into the best practices for community farmers markets. Surveys, focus groups and personal interviews with farmers and farm market managers statewide assessed the costs and benefits of directly marketing locally grown farm products at NJ community farmers markets. This free report is available at http://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/FarmersMarketGuide2009.pdf

Distance Education Opportunities
http://foodinnovationcenter.rutgers.edu/educational_resources/index.html

Entrepreneurs
Food Business Basics is a series of three online courses that are designed for entrepreneurs who are just starting, or starting to expand, a food business. If you are leading a start-up company, these courses are designed to help you own your business—and own your success.

Established food companies
The Growing Your Business series provides live and taped seminars and presentations targeted to small, established food companies, and takes up where Food Business Basics leaves off.

Farmers Markets
This is divided into two online courses that provide comprehensive and practical guidance for vendors and sponsors seeking to maximize their farm market opportunities. Both these courses are self-paced, with no instructor.
Animal Waste Management Training

On March 16, 2009 the clock began ticking for NJ’s livestock owners to comply with newly enacted state regulations known as the Animal Waste Management Rule. All livestock owners are encouraged to attend a training meeting scheduled across the state this fall and winter.

Educators from Rutgers Cooperative Extension will provide the training in **Middlesex County on December 15, 2009 from 7 - 9pm** at the Middlesex County Cooperative Extension Office. The meeting is free but registration is required, call 732-398-5262 to register. Other training workshops, webcasts, and regular updates, are listed at [http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/).

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 bio-terrorism 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 with 8 or more animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 lbs of live weight) will have to develop an Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP). This plan requires producers to describe how they manage manure on the farm. This includes storage, barnyard management, off-farm disposal, and field crop and pasture management. Producers will develop plans for spreading manure on crop fields or pastures that match nutrients in manure with crop nutrient uptake.

The 34th Annual

**New Jersey GREEN EXPO**

Turf and Landscape Conference

December 8 - 10, 2009
Trump Taj Mahal * Atlantic City
[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org)

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Turfgrass Association has been the voice of the green industry in New Jersey. The Association, by promoting a strong professional organization, has represented the broad concerns of the overall turfgrass industry while staying focused on various individual issues. Its mission is to promote the Turfgrass Industry and enhance the environment through education, professionalism, leadership and our partnership with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Through its organizational strength, NJTA has gained respect as the voice of the industry, and impacts significantly upon legislative and policy decisions affecting the industry in New Jersey.

Next month, the NJTA hosts the New Jersey Green Expo - a cooperative effort between NJTA and Rutgers, the State University, to provide a nationally-recognized educational program and trade show to promote the industry and generate funds to sponsor research and scholarship endeavors. Expo has become one of the premiere educational conferences and trade shows in the country. Expo registration and program details, along with membership applications are available online.
Welcome New Environmental and Resource Management County Agent

Rutgers Cooperative Extension has recently hired five Environmental and Resource Management County Agents. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection jointly funded these positions with RCE. These five new Agents will focus on helping urban and non-urban stakeholders address water resources issues. Each Agent is serving a two county area, and all of them have gotten off to a great start.

Ms. Pat Rector is the Agent for Morris and Somerset Counties. She is working with stakeholder groups to implement the Troy Brook and Black River Watershed Restoration Plans in Morris County. Pat is also working with New Jersey Water Supply Authority to conduct educational and outreach programs in the Peter’s Brook Watershed in Somerset County. Additionally, she is currently working to develop educational programming for Department of Public Works (DPW) employees, which will include several demonstration projects of greening of DPW yards in Somerset County. She can be reached at the Morris County RCE office, 973-285-8300, ext. 225 or by email at rector@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Water Resources Program

The goal of the Water Resources Program is to provide solutions for many of the water quality and quantity issues facing New Jersey. This is accomplished through research, project development, assessment and extension. In addition to Fact Sheets, we provide programs, lectures, seminars, and workshops as part of our outreach to citizens. We conduct research that will ultimately improve water resources in New Jersey. Focus Areas include Stormwater Management, Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Management, TMDL Development & Implementation, and Water Resources for Sustainable Communities.

Rain Garden Calendar

The Rain Garden Calendar for September 2009 to December 2010 includes photographs of demonstration rain gardens throughout the state. If you are interested in obtaining your very own Rain Garden Calendar, an online form is available from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program at www.water.rutgers.edu/. You can also call Cheryl Burdick or Amy Boyajian at 732-932-9800 ext. 6164.

Farm Management: News and Views: My Business - Lean and Mean!

A Virtual Conference to give you ideas, methods and objectives to help you manage your greenhouse and nursery business during difficult economic times.

The economy is challenging growers to examine everything from production methods, new crops, fuel efficiency, energy sources, credit, labor, and marketing. Current economic trends indicate that the Green Industry is in a period of hyper-competition and maturing consumer demand. This competitive market has resulted in consolidations, shakeouts, and even some bankruptcies. As a producer, you have two choices, either snooze and lose, or change and prosper. You need to examine your business to become lean and mean to weather this storm and position your business to compete profitability in these tough economic times. Here’s a “virtual conference” to give you information, ideas, and tools that will help you not only survive, but thrive. Topics include:

Greenhouse Energy Considerations

Heating system capacity calculations, alternate energy sources, recent developments in energy systems, and conservation options by Dr. A.J. Both, Specialist in Bio-Resource Engineering, Rutgers University.

The Virtual Grower: Useful Tool or a Leap of Faith?

Dr. George Wulster, Specialist in Floriculture, Rutgers University discusses the USDA Virtual Grower program and points out its strengths and weaknesses as a tool in your business.

How to Protect Yourself in Today’s Scary Economic Environment

What are the current economic events, common emotional reactions, historical investment performance trends, investment asset allocations, retirement in bad economic times, and investment resources. Dr. Barbara O’Neill, Specialist in Financial Resource Management at Rutgers University.

Finding a New Niche: Ornamentals for Rooftops

Dr. Rob Berghage, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Penn State explores the economic potential and relevant aspects of plant selection for rooftops.

Bio-fuel Boilers - What the Technology and Biomass Boiler Systems offer Today’s Business

Ms. Amy Preusser, Director of Sales, RIMACO, LLC

Tips on Surviving an Economic Downturn

Dr. Robin Brumfield, Specialist in Farm Management, Rutgers University, presents strategies in to reduce costs and increase profits in tough economic times.

Check it out on The New Jersey Farm Management Website: http://aesop.rutgers.edu/~farmmgmt/
The opportunities in the Landscaping and Horticultural Field are vast and growing. Now is an exciting time to get involved in an expanding program designed to help you become the best!

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Landscaping and Horticultural Technology

The Program

• Plant Science/Horticulture
• Landscape Design, Construction and Maintenance
• Nursery and Greenhouse Technology, Management and Production
• Sports and Specialized Turf Grass Science and Management

The Opportunities

• College credits offered through County College of Morris upon successful completion of the program
• Participate in the local chapter of the National FFA Organization to help develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success
• Participate in state and national competitions in the program areas and apply for over $1,000,000 in scholarships through the FFA
• Career opportunities are virtually unlimited: self-employment, college and paid internships through numerous supporters/partners

The Partners

• County College of Morris
• Somerset County Parks
• Duke Farms
• Storr Tractor Company
• Rutgers Gardens
• Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club
• Northern Nurseries
• Rutgers Cooperative Extension
• NJ Nursery & Landscape Association
• The Gardener News

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ERIC AT 908-526-8900 X 7255

The opportunities in the Landscaping and Horticultural Field are vast and growing. Now is an exciting time to get involved in an expanding program designed to help you become the best!
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 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

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.

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

Planning Board Staff
Anthony McCracken, Assistant Director
Tara Kenyon, Senior Planner
Catherine Bunting, Administrative Assistant

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