Somerset County Board of Agriculture Announces Reorganization

2011 Officers and New Members Announced

( Bridgewater ). At the Annual Reorganization meeting held last November, the Somerset County Board of Agriculture’s Nominating Committee presented the annual slate of officers and new members for the 2011 calendar year. At the December monthly meeting, members approved the following:

**Executive Committee**
- President - Rich Norz
- Vice-President - Ed Seidel
- Secretary - Ed Pierce
- Treasurer - Paul Smith

**NJ Farm Bureau Director** - Ken Osterman
**NJ Farm Bureau Director (alt.)** - Joanne Powell

**New Voting Members**
Matthew Sytsema of Griggstown and Matthew Puskas of Franklin

In addition, a very special presentation was made to long time member W. Peter Staats, inducting him as the newest Lifetime Member of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture. The presentation was made by his daughter, current member and Past President of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture, Joanne Powell, “in recognition of his unwavering support and outstanding contributions to agriculture throughout Somerset County.”

Pictured with Pete are (left to right) his daughter Joanne, son Ed Staats, and Pete’s wife Carol.
NOFA-NJ Holds Conference for Farmers, Gardeners, and Consumers
January 29-30, 2011
Princeton University

Princeton, NJ - Thoughts on food and food for thought, as well as local, organic food will be offered at an expanded 21st Annual Winter Conference on January 29 and 30, 2011 at Princeton University. The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey’s (NOFA-NJ) Winter Conference, is the premier gathering for organic and sustainable food, farming and gardening community in the state. This year’s conference, a two-day event titled Sowing New Seeds, offers over 40 workshops on a wide range of food, gardening, and farming related subjects. Featuring an informative and exciting keynote address by Dr. Michael W. Hamm, Professor of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University promises to offer insights into rethinking how we grow, transport, and eat our food. There will be workshops for livestock producers, vegetable growers, homesteaders, consumers, and, new this year, Beginning Farmers.

Topics include Addressing Food Issues, Natural Beekeeping, Western vs. Traditional Diets, Composting at Home, Alpacas 101, Conserving Farmland, Backyard Chickens, Running a Successful CSA, and Lawn Alternatives.

This year also launches the first NOFA-NJ Kid’s Conference presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Farm to School Network. Some of the topics for children include Homemade Scents, Worm Composting, and Taste Testing, Vertical Gardens, and Supermarket Spy Kids.

In addition to the two days of conference workshops, conference registration includes a discount to a pre-conference Compost Marketing workshop with Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.

This full-day course on Friday, January 28 at Duke Farms in Hillsborough will provide insights and sales techniques including technical information on compost application and benefits, feeds tocks, quality standards and marketing. Learn tips on developing a marketing plan for your compost operation, how to position your product, the ins-and-outs of compost market segments, strategies. To find out more information about the course, please contact Athena Lee Bradley at 802.254.3636 or by email at athena@nerc.org.

The conference promises to offer an educational and community-based experience with organic, local and sustainable food production and delivery issues at its heart and will be the event to attend for anyone interested in becoming more involved with these topics. Over 500 people are expected to attend. For more information, please visit their website at www.nofanj.org/winterconference.htm or call the NOFA-NJ office at 908-371-1111 x 5.

Major conference support has been provided by Princeton University and Princeton Environmental Foundation.

Pre-conference workshop sponsors include the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc., the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and a grant from the Northeast SARE (Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education).

Discounts on registration are available for members. New and Beginning Farmers can apply for a full scholarship to this conference. If you are considering farming as a business or have been farming for 10 years or less, please apply at http://nofanj.org/wc_scholarship.htm.

NOFA-NJ is an association of consumers, farmers, & gardeners working to create regionally-based, economically-viable organic and sustainable agriculture systems in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. NOFA-NJ’s programs are made possible with large support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Whole Foods. To find out more, visit www.nofanj.org.
‘Annie’s Project’ Comes to NJ
Farm Business Management Course For Women
to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information

Why Choose Annie’s Project? Annie was a woman just like you - she spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Together they did great things, but it wasn’t easy. This is Annie’s Project – to take her experiences and share it with farm women living and working in a complex business.

Annie’s Project has proven successful as a comprehensive educational program and support network for farm women, in helping them to learn to understand and manage the farm business. One significant component of Annie’s Project is the opportunity for women to network with other women who are involved in agriculture in their area.

You, along with your classmates will learn in-depth knowledge on:

• Marketing and Pricing
• Production Risk
• Financial Management
• Human & Personal Risk
• Legal Risk

You will also complete a full business plan during the course. The course is being offered in two locations this year, Cape May Court House and Hackettstown, NJ. The course will be held in six sessions at each location, in Hackettstown on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 and in Cape May Court House on Thursday, February 10. All classes will be held in the evening, 6-9 pm. Registration is $50.00 per person. (Provides materials, break refreshments and instructors). The registration deadline is Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

For more details, call the following depending on your location: (Hackettstown) Steve Komar: 973-948-3040 or Bob Mickel: 908-788-1339; (Cape May Court House) Jenny Carleo: 609-465-5115.

January 25 -26, 2011
Dover Downs Casino and Hotel
Dover, Delaware

Featured Speakers include Virginia Morton of Tallman Family Farms; SusieO, Speaker and Humorist; and Nancy Maxwell. For more information, please call: Ms. Laurie Wolinski at 302-831-2538 or e-mail: Lgw@udel.edu, or visit the Women in Agriculture website: http://ag.udel.edu/extension/kent/womeninag.htm

Virginia is a managing partner of Tallman Family Farms, L.L.C., also known as Tallman Potatoes, in Tower City, PA. The operation consists of a 1000 + acre potato and grain farm, and a potato packaging and distribution operation serving the Eastern US with tablestock potatoes. Virginia, one of eight siblings, was born and raised on the potato farm in Tower City. Along with four of her brothers, George, Bill, Joseph, and Richard, she continues to operate the original farming operation begun by her parents, George and Christine Tallman, in 1946.

Susie Oberdahlhoff is a city-born preacher's kid turned farm-wife and mother. She entertains audiences across the country with her wit and wisdom. Her unique perspective and gift of storytelling causes people to laugh at life and learn at the same time. Weaved throughout her stories, Susie incorporates her 4 P’s of Prosperity and reminds audiences of the importance of learning to bounce through life’s twists and turns. Susie lives on a working farm along with her husband Richard. They raise hogs, cattle, and hay on their acreage located in the rural area near Bowling Green, Missouri. They are parents of two children and two grandchildren.

Nancy is a second-year PhD student in Entomology at North Carolina State University. Nancy's interest in agriculture began when she worked at a local farm market in her home town in New Jersey. Nancy now lives in North Carolina with her husband and two young children. She would like to fulfill her life-long dream of owning a farm someday, but in the meantime, is content with researching solutions for growers and advocating the role of full-time career women (and mothers) in agriculture.
Horticultural News is published four times per year by the New Jersey State Horticultural Society. The New Jersey State Horticultural Society was organized on August 17, 1875 at Geological Hall, Rutgers College, New Brunswick, NJ. It remains the oldest Horticultural organization in New Jersey. Horticultural News began as the “The New Jersey State Horticultural Society News”, in October of 1920. The Society began “collecting paid membership in order to obtain funds to promote new features of the society and extend the usefulness of the society. The Horticultural Society News was started to be the official society publication.” Published by M. A. Blake, Professor at Rutgers College, the first president and chair of the publication committee.

Winfred P. Cowgill, Jr. (Win) was appointed the new editor effective June, 2010 and will co-edit with Dr. Wesley Autio, UMASS of Fruit Notes.

June 2010: Horticultural News has moved to an online web based format. The New Jersey State Horticultural Society has partnered with the University of Massachusetts Fruit Notes, Dr. Wesley Autio, Editor. Cowgill and Autio will be the new editors of Horticultural News and Fruit Notes.

Horticultural News focuses primarily on tree-fruit culture, but addresses small-fruit cultural issues as well. Most reports are from current research at Rutgers University, the University of Massachusetts, and other universities. The cost of Horticultural News is annual membership in the NJ State Horticultural Society. US Membership is $40.00 annually. Each one-year subscription begins January 1 and ends December 31.

When the electronic version is published, a special link will be emailed to you. Each issue will be made freely available on this web site six months after publication. Inquiries should be sent to Jerry Frecon, Business Manager, at njhortsoociety@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 116, Clayton, NJ 08312

http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/hortnews/

Electronic subscriptions are available as benefit of membership in the NJ State Horticultural Society. This is a great issue and has information about the annual meeting in Hershey (February 1-3, 2011) as well as updates on horticultural topics.
Technical and Financial Assistance to Improve Water Quality for Regional Farmers in Selected Watersheds Available

Agricultural producers and land owners in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties may be eligible for federal funding through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) for conservation practices to improve water quality.

Fundable practices include:

- livestock access control fencing
- composting
- cover crops
- nutrient management
- prescribed grazing
- pest management
- gutters
- stream crossings
- waste storage facilities
- livestock watering facilities

Applicants must have an interest in an agricultural operation predominately located within the three designated sub-watersheds of the Raritan River Basin. Applicants are encouraged to apply by March 18, 2011, for a share of New Jersey’s 2011 AWEP allocation of $159,048.

Twenty-two municipalities in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties are included in the program area which covers parts of the Spruce Run/Mulhockaway Creek, the Neshanic River, and the South Branch/Long Valley watersheds. Contact Patrick Natale with North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development at 908-735-0733 x 102 for information on eligibility.

Applications for the program must be submitted to a USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. Office locations are listed online at http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/.


Assistance Available for New Jersey Organic Farmers

USDA will offer funding to help organic producers and those transitioning to organic production implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations again this year. State Conservationist Tom Drewes announced that USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service has allocated up to $284,000 to support the Organic Initiative of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in New Jersey.

“Last year we were able to utilize $263,000 in New Jersey through the Organic Initiative to help producers implement conservation practices, like planting cover crops, establishing integrated pest management plans, or implementing nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards,” Drewes said.

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan announced the program nationally. “Increasing consumer demand for organically grown foods is providing new opportunities for small and mid-size farmers to prosper and stay competitive in today’s economy,” Merrigan said. “The 2008 Farm Bill calls for this assistance, and we want to help these farmers protect the natural resources on their land and create conditions that help foster organic production.”

Fiscal year (FY) 2011 marks the third year of USDA’s Organic Initiative, and up to $50 million is available this year for producers to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production.

Eligible producers include those certified through USDA’s National Organic Program, those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than $5,000.

Under Organic Initiative contracts, producers are paid 75 percent of the cost for the organic conservation measures they implement. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers are paid 90 percent. The program provides up to $20,000 per year per person or legal entity, with a maximum total of $80,000 over six years.

NJ farmers can apply for these funds through their local NRCS office. Office locations are listed online at http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, with the cutoff date set for March 4, 2011.
ATTENTION LIVESTOCK OWNERS

As required by law, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture adopted regulations in March 2009 that require all livestock farm owners to responsibly manage the manure generated on their operations – including those with horses, dairy cows, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry and all other domesticated species defined as livestock.

The regulations require:
- All farms with any livestock to comply with the General Requirements of the rule.
- All operations with 8 to 299 “Animal Units” (one Animal Unit = 1,000 pounds) to develop an Animal Waste Management Plan by 9/1/2010.
- Operations with 8 to 299 “Animal Units” with animal densities greater than 1 AU per acre are required to have their Animal Waste Management Plan reviewed to ensure conformance with the NJ-FOTG, while those with densities less than 1 AU per acre only need to submit their Declaration page to their local RCE office.
- Operations with 300 or more AUs, regardless of animal density, are required to develop and implement a CNMP and be certified by the NJDA.
- Farms that receive or apply 142 or more tons of animal waste per year must develop an Animal Waste Management Plan.

Key Deadlines:
- March 2010: All farms must comply with General Requirements
- Sept. 2010: Animal Waste Management Plans developed
- March 2012: Animal Waste Management Plans implemented

The State of New Jersey requires that all livestock farms proactively address and manage non-point source pollution that may originate from livestock operations. All livestock producers must meet the requirements of the Animal Waste Management Rule. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is providing a series of educational webinars about preparing your Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP). These are available at the program website and also through the eXtension Animal Waste Management Update. Please see these and other details at http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/
The Plant and Pest Advisory - a seasonal management newsletter available in four editions:

- Vegetable Crops (weekly)
- Fruit (weekly)
- Landscape, Nursery & Turf (biweekly)
- Cranberry (biweekly)

The 2011 Season -

- Stay informed of insect and disease advisories
- Get the latest information on your crop and region
- Reduce costs through IPM and more effective use of pesticides
- Learn effective cultural practices and the latest results of New Jersey crop research
- Improve storage/handling procedures
- Learn new marketing techniques and opportunities
- Be informed of upcoming meetings, seminars and trainings

The Plant & Pest Advisory is a cooperative effort between New Jersey county agents, research specialists, growers, landscapers and the agricultural services industry. This publication provides you with the most timely information on your growing problems and IPM needs.

Please fill out sections below:

- I’d like to receive the newsletter starting early Spring 2011: _____ by mail _____ by e-mail (same day)
- Check which edition(s) : mail e-mail
  - Landscape, Nursery & Turf (16 issues) . . . $32 . . . . . . $20
  - Vegetable Crops (29 issues) . . . . . . . . . .  $58 . . . . . . $36
  - Fruit (33 issues) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $66 . . . . . . $40
  - Cranberry (10 issues) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .  $20 . . . . . . $13
  Total Enclosed $______

- Business Name ____________________________________________
- Address ___________________________________________________
- City, State, ZIP ____________________________________________
- County____________________
- Billing Address (if different from above) _________________________
- Phone (___)_________________ E-Mail (e-mail subscriptions) ________________________

- Payment - Credit card Name on card__________________________
- Type of card: Master Card/Visa/Discover _______ Credit Card # ___________________________
- Exp. Date 3 Digit Security Code (on back of card) ____________________________
- Signature ____________________________

- Payment - Check Payable to: “Rutgers, The State University of NJ” and mail payment to:
  Rutgers Snyder Research & Extension Farm,
  Plant & Pest Advisory, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867
The 2010 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Jack M. Ciattarelli, Director
Robert Zaborowski, Deputy Director
Peter S. Palmer
Patricia L. Walsh
Patrick Scaglione

The 2010 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 2010 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

Mark W. Kirby, Chairperson
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairperson

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

Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Liaison

Celebrating 27 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