Rutgers NJAES Working Groups Announce
Agriculture Update Blogs

Now online and ready for the 2011 season

**Vegetable crops**
http://jerseyvegcropsagupdates.blogspot.com/

**Field and Forage crops**
http://fieldforagecropsnutrientmanagement.blogspot.com/

**The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**
http://njbmsb.blogspot.com/

Management decisions are often made by answering a series of ‘what if’ questions. Here are a couple to think about:

- What if you knew each morning what pests were being found the day before in your area? Would you be able to make better decisions about what to put in the spray tank that morning?
- What if you could quickly check a web site to see the current weather, a calendar of upcoming grower meetings, links to all Rutgers crop production resources in one spot? Would that help your daily routines?

The new Rutgers Crop Agriculture Update blogs allow you to do just that. Depending on what crop you’re growing, check the site to get our daily observations from the field and around the industry. You can also subscribe to the daily feed and each morning when a new post is offered, headlines will be emailed to you early enough to change plans if necessary. Need more details and the links will take you to the full story.

The benefit of the information age for your agricultural business is having the best available resources at your fingertips to help you plan your day and make the best decisions possible. The Rutgers Agriculture Update blogs will bring you the most up-to-date local observations from your county agricultural agents, state vegetable specialists and our IPM program coordinators. All you have to do is go online tonight or this weekend and check out this new resource, and click on the subscribe button in the left column to get the daily feeds. And don’t worry about what technology you have, we’ve tested it with iPod, ‘smartphones’ and iPads, and it’s working fine. Now, let these sites work for you!
The Somerset County Board of Agriculture proudly announces the 2011

Taste of Somerset Agriculture Picnic
Saturday July 30, 2011

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Three Meadows Farm, Bedminster, 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 Three Meadows Farm, http://www.threemeadowsfarmnj.com/. 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! In the past, Katy & Gary Rupert have been faithful donors of fresh vegetables to this picnic. Now they are hosting the event. Come see horses, cows, sheep, donkeys, goats, rabbits, turkeys and chickens! There will be hay ride tours of the farm. Bring your camera!

Returning this year - live music by DUE SOUTH
Grab your lawn chairs or blankets, and bring your appetite!!

Location and Directions: Three Meadows Farm is 2 miles west of Rt 202-206 out of Pluckemin on Burnt Mills Rd.
For more information, call Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County at 908-526-6293 x 4.

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

Early registration deadline is July 23, 2011! Deadline to register is July 29, 2011.

Name:________________________________ Email Address _________________________
Mailing Address ______________________________________________________________

Tickets: ____ x $25 (adults) = $ ____ Total Enclosed
____ x $10 (children under 12) = $ ____ $ __________

*** Ticket prices after July 23 - $35 for adults, $20 for children under 12 ***
ABSOLUTELY NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

We can’t attend this year but would like to support the Scholarship with a check for $ ________________

Please make your check payable and return by July 23 to:
Somerset County Board of Agriculture, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Please provide attendee names (for name tags) when returning this form.
‘Annie’s Project’ Comes to Somerset County

Farm Business Management Course for women to be offered in Bridgewater this November!

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.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

This six-week risk management educational program exclusively for women farmers that began in the Midwest and spread throughout the country will be presented in Bridgewater at the RCE Office and 4-H Center in Somerset County from Monday, November 7 through Monday, December 19.  Sessions will be held in the evening from 6 to 9 pm and cover topics including financial, personal, production, and business risk management, legal, human resource, and marketing and business planning.  More detailed information will be online at [The Somerset County RCE website](#) or by calling 908-526-6293 x 4.
Somerset County
Board of Agriculture and Farm Bureau present:

Farmer’s Night

Thursday
September 1, 2011

Farm Displays: 5:00 PM
Game Time: 7:00 PM
Tickets: $10, available at
RCE of Somerset County
310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ

Come early to enjoy the farm displays and support Somerset County Agriculture

Proceeds to benefit the Thomas Everett Memorial Scholarship Fund

908
526-6293 x 4
http://somerset.rce.rutgers.edu
It’s that time of year when we flock to garden centers and farm markets to buy flowers, vegetable plants, herbs and all things green to plant in our yards. The effort to buy local isn’t limited to food only. We can buy plants for our yards that are grown in New Jersey. Buying plants that are locally grown is a win-win-win situation. Not only will you find a diverse array from the usual to the unique, you’ll also find many varieties of plants that are suited to our region. The travelling distance from greenhouse or nursery to the market is minimal and often non-existent when grown on site. And finally – you are supporting local independent businesses, helping New Jersey’s economy and agriculture.

Along with the Jersey Fresh program, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture operates the Jersey Grown program. Find local Jersey Grown retailers at: http://www.jerseygrown.nj.gov

**Let’s Talk….Tomatoes**

Check out the Rutgers Tomato Variety Database for descriptions and images of hundreds of tomato varieties that Peter Nitzsche and others have grown at our research farms: http://njaes.rutgers.edu/tomato-varieties.

But no matter which variety you pick, growing tomatoes isn’t always as easy as it seems. Check out our online information for growing tomatoes in the home garden, www.njfarmfresh.rutgers.edu/growingtomatoes.htm.

**High Tunnel Resources**

The Rutgers NJAES High Tunnel web resources have been recently expanded, including a 60-image step-by-step how-to tunnel construction tutorial by A.J. Both, RCE Bioresource Engineering Specialist and Cumberland County Ag Agent Wes Kline. Find it all online at http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/hightunnels.html.

High tunnels can be adopted by farmers large and small for increased profits. A new generation of smaller, organic, and part time farmers use high tunnels to produce high quality produce from limited land and resources. Included is information on overcoming rotation limitations, sample costs, instructions on hot water seed treatment to minimize diseases, and additional research and practical resource links from colleagues.

The USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NESARE) supports high tunnels as a practice increasing farm profits while maintaining environmental quality, NJDA encourages them for local farmers to expanded sales opportunities, and NRCS USDA provides cost share to test high tunnels in over 40 states.
Beginning Farmer Website Unveiled

After a year of development, the Northeast Beginning Farmer Project is pleased to unveil a colorful new website with expanded tools and a wealth of new resources. Point your browser to www.nebeginningfarmers.org to find the enhanced site, which will extend high quality support to aspiring, new and diversifying farmers across the entire Northeast.

Do you wonder how other farmers breed pigs, process chickens and transplant seedlings? The new site features a growing selection of video footage capturing experienced farmers and their successful production techniques. You’ll also find our popular library of video interviews with farmers sharing advice on profitability, choosing an enterprise, evaluating land, and much more.

Enter the ‘New Farmer Hub’ to start drafting your business plan with the help of tutorials and interactive worksheets. Find answers to common questions, browse the Guide to Farming, and check out the latest beginning farmer online courses which can help you turn your dreams into action right from your home computer.

The Northeast Beginning Farmer Project is part of the Cornell Small Farms Program and is funded by a Beginning Farmers & Ranchers Development Grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Later Life Farming Website

How can farmers create a retirement paycheck for themselves and their families? Rutgers Cooperative Extension has designed a website to provide timely information about retirement planning for farm families. Found at http://laterlifefarming.rutgers.edu/, it specifically addresses farmers’ unique set of circumstances. For example, many farmers don't plan to "retire" in the traditional sense. Rather, they express a desire to simply scale back their work hours and/or the size of their farm operation. In addition, many farm families lack traditional retirement savings plans such as a 401(k). Their major asset is their land and farm property, which are typically illiquid assets. The impact of government regulations on farmers' land values is another unique challenge. Ten separate learning modules hosted at this site will help answer the question above, along with other tough ones like, “Where am I financially?” and “Am I really ready to retire?” and “Who'll get Grandpa’s farm?”

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/
Mother Nature Network (www.mnn.com) covers a broad scope of environmental and social responsibility issues on the internet and is designed for everyday people who simply want to make our world better. Graphic used with permission
The 2011 Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

The 2011 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 2011 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

Mark W. Kirby, Chairperson
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairperson
Gail W. McKane
Richard A. Norz
John A. Johnson
Catherine Sorge
Ed Seidel
Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Liaison

Celebrating 28 Years of Preserving farmland and enhancing the industry of agriculture in Somerset County

http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/scadb/

Ex-officio Members
Kenneth Brenn, County Planning Board
Nicholas Polanin, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Frank Calo, 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
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