



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES 2024 IMPACT REPORT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



45

Educational events



1,529

People reached



299

Inquiries received



VOLUNTEERS



24

New volunteers
trained



118

Total active
volunteers



10,048

Hours of volunteer
service



\$356,704

Value of volunteer
contributions

FARM RISK MANAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Encompassing both on-farm food safety and the general health and safety of our agricultural community, risk management has become a key program area.

- On-farm food safety: Kate took part in 2 on-farm readiness reviews and 3 site visits to enhance farmers' produce safety and delivered a quarter of the training modules during an online Produce Safety Alliance grower training course.
- Farmer health and safety: As chair of this Rutgers working group, Kate led the "Don't Sweat Heat Stress in Agriculture" program which delivered a factsheet, 14 e-newsletter articles, 2 webinars, and 2 in-person presentations. These resources reached over 5,200 people with the goal of preventing heat stress among agricultural workers.



NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME HORTICULTURE SPOTLIGHT

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Somerset County have taken a keen interest in educating the community on how and why to incorporate native plants into their home landscape. In 2024, their outreach activities included:

- Collection of native plant seeds and public distribution of seed packets
- "Know Your Natives" and "Plant This, Not That" articles in the Lawn & Garden News
- Native plant demonstration gardens in Bridgewater and at the Environmental Education Center
- Identification of 150+ native plants at Sourland Mountain Preserve for development of our third nature companion guide
- Interactive displays at the Somerset County 4-H Fair on firefly habitat and seed propagation
- Month-long 'Native Plants of NJ' display at Bridgewater Public Library which distributed 65 copies of Rutgers factsheet 1140
- Four invited presentations with 114 attendees

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