



# THE LATEST FROM AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES RCE OF CAPE MAY COUNTY

January 3, 2024

## COMING UP AT THE RCE

**Free Webinar for Farmers**

**Marketing Planning for Farmers**

Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Class will take place via Zoom

**Presenter:**  
Dr. Claudia Gil Arroyo, County Agent III,  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape  
May County

Participants will learn to...

- Identify the components of a marketing plan
- Develop goals and tactics
- Analyze markets and customers
- Evaluate results

Register at: <https://go.rutgers.edu/mkydnc2>  
Link will be sent after registering  
For information, call 609-465-5115, ext. 3601

**Free Webinar for Farmers**

**Introduction to the Rutgers Food Innovation Center**

Thursday, January 18, 2024  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Class will take place via Zoom

**Presenters:**  
Julie Elmer, Assoc. Director Food Technology, Rutgers Food Innovation Center  
Zuri Masud, RFIC Food Technology Specialist, Reveal Beverage Entrepreneur

Participants will learn about Value Added Agriculture including definitions and opportunities. Plus hear client stories.

Registration Required at: <https://go.rutgers.edu/Slvxoaxq>  
Link will be sent after registering  
For information, call 609-465-5115, ext. 3615

**2024 "Garden & Grow" Workshop Series**

**Growing Mushrooms at Home: Life after your Grow-at-Home Kit**

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 \* 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
355 Court House - South Dennis Road  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

**Presenter:**  
Liz Conover, Owner, Wood Song Mushrooms

Participants will learn:

- Basic conditions for successful mushroom fruiting
- Equipment set-up for growing mushrooms indoors
- Log inoculation tools and techniques
- Considerations for low tech growing methods using buckets and tubs

**Hands-on Demonstrations**

Cost is \$20 per person. Class limit is 15 participants. No Walk-In! Intermediate Class, no prior experience required  
Register at: <https://go.rutgers.edu/2lhupayw>  
For information, call 609-465-5115, ext. 3615

Claudia Gil Arroyo, County Agent III, Agriculture and Natural Resources,  
Cooperative Extension of Cape May County  
Jen Sawyer Caraballo, Rutgers ANR Program Associate

## EVENTS/COURSES/WEBINARS

- Nov -Jan [GenerationNext Seminars | Farmer Education](#) GenerationNext is a series of seminars, hosted by Farm Credit East, designed to advance your management skills and business knowledge. Each seminar includes group discussions, idea sharing and networking opportunities. Check link for dates and locations.
- Dec-Mar [Life Long Learning Winter](#) Programs by the American Horticulture Association
- Jan 9 [Road to Success: Launching Your Food Truck Venture](#). discover the essential steps and insider tips for launching a thriving food truck business.
- Jan 9-11 [North Jersey Ornamental Horticulture Symposium](#) 2024 January 9—Turf Day January 10—Tree Day January 11—Landscape Day (Hold for Snow January 12) 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM County College of Morris 214 Center Grove Rd. Randolph, NJ 07869
- Jan 11 [The Spongy Moth in Our Yards and Forests \(Virtual\)](#) 7 pm. join Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies for a presentation on spongy moths, an invasive forest pest that has recently resurged.
- Jan 11 [4 Ways to Financially Prepare for 2024](#) Free Webinar; 12-12:30pm; Delve into effective budgeting practices and resource allocation strategies that empower you to optimize your financial resources, ensuring increased resilience and fostering growth in the year ahead.
- Jan 15-Feb 19 [Bee-ginner's Beekeeping: The Basics of Apiculture](#) Participants can complete the course content (which will take approximately 14 hours) **at their own pace anytime during the period the course is open**. There is an optional live Q & A session with the instructors during which you can ask questions about the course content.
- Jan 17 [Retail Farm Market School: Spicing Up Your Market with Food Demonstrations](#). Free webinar. 12pm. Dive into the details of setting up a successful market food demonstration. This is an opportunity to learn what works best and get creative ideas for demonstrations at your market
- Jan 18 [Frontiers in Forest Health: Beech Leaf Disease](#). Explore everything about this affliction: recognizing it, its origins, and the risks it poses to forests. Additionally, delve into the latest research and potential strategies to manage beech leaf disease. Webinar, 8am.
- Jan 23 [On-Farm Solar Webinar](#) learn about site assessment, compare ground mounted and roof mounted systems, and hear about incentives and funding available for solar projects
- Jan 23 [Business Planning for Agritourism Enterprises](#). Free webinar. 1pm. This webinar will cover key steps for business planning and introduce you to a new online tool. AgPlan is a free, easy-to-use business planning app designed to provide customized assistance for different types of businesses, including agritourism.

Contact us:  
Claudia Gil Arroyo  
Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Agent III

[capemayag@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:capemayag@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
(609) 465 5115 Ext. 3602

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If you no longer wish to be part of our mailing list, please email us at [capemayag@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:capemayag@njaes.rutgers.edu)



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Classes begin  
January 23  
2024!

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Become a  
**RUTGERS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD**

A Rutgers Environmental Steward is a volunteer that is trained in the important environmental issues affecting New Jersey and works to help solve local environmental problems.

- Weekly classes taught by leading researchers from Rutgers, government, and the nonprofit sector. Tuesdays 5:30-8 PM. Approx. 11 online and 5 in-person sessions.
- Fieldtrips to environmentally significant sites are included.
- Topics include climate change, invasive species, recycling, soil health, renewable energy, water quality, habitat conservation, pollinator protection, and environmental policy.
- Complete a 60-hour project in your community to become certified.
- Program fee - Early bird price \$300 through Dec. 31. After Dec. 31, the price is \$325.

**Anyone can become an Environmental Steward!**  
No previous experience needed. You simply need a passion for the environment, a desire to learn, and a willingness to volunteer to create positive change in your community.

**To register or learn more visit: [envirostewards.rutgers.edu](http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu)**  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County  
(609) 465-5115, Ext. 3601

### Jersey Cape Beekeepers Association

**Is Beekeeping Right For You?**

**Come join us to find out**

**Location:** 355 Court House-South Dennis Road  
Cape May Court House NJ  
(At the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Building)

**Date:** Jan 18th 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Topics To Be Discussed**

- Cost associated with beekeeping
- Stings
- Physical Requirements
- Time and dedication
- Equipment location
- New Jersey regulations

Information on our upcoming Beginners Beekeeping Class

This is not a beekeeping class For Questions Call Fred Steinman 609-703-6884

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[New Jersey Conservation Stewardship Program NRCS](#) Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop resiliency, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals.

[FACT Fund-a-Farmer Grants – ATTRA](#) : **Applications are due January 15, 2024.** **Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)** awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. Grants are offered for farmers to improve or expand pasture for their animals, for farmers who are pursuing animal welfare certification, and for welfare-certified farmers to build capacity or maintain certification.

[Food Animal Concerns Trust Fund-A-Farmer Grant](#) FACT awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the 50 United States and five major U.S. territories who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys.

[Organic Farming Research Foundation](#) Are you an organic or transitioning farmer or rancher who wants to test out a new agricultural practice on your farm? OFRF's new Farmer-Led Trials program provides farmers with funding and technical assistance to investigate and learn about solutions to their most pressing production challenges.

[NRCS Accelerated Funding for High Tunnels](#) The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey is now accepting applications for High Tunnels through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA).

[Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network \(FRSAN\)](#). The long-term goal of the FRSAN projects is to establish a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network that provides stress assistance programs to individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching, and other agriculture-related occupations on a regional basis.

[Safeguard NJ Wetlands](#) The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

[High Tunnel Initiative | Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) High Tunnels are designed to help producers extend the growing season, increase productivity, keep plants at a steady temperature, and conserve water and energy. NRCS-NJ has established an evaluation period cut-off date for ACT NOW funding of January 26, 2024. Applications through ACT NOW funding will be selected if the minimum threshold ranking score is met. Applications submitted prior to the cut-off will be assessed and ranked as soon as they are received.

[FSA Online Loan Application Home \(usda.gov\)](#)

[USDA Reminds Specialty Crop Growers of Deadline to Apply for Assistance for 2023 On-Farm Food Safety Expenses](#)

[Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund](#). The Fellowship Fund is a small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in their beginning years of farming or ranching. The application will remain open until February 14, with award announcements being made in May.

Contact us:  
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**GOT GARDEN QUESTIONS?**  
Call the Cape May County  
Horticulture Helpline  
(609) 465 5115 Ext. 3653



## RESOURCES

[Farm Market & Agritourism: Build a value ladder and they will climb](#) – Vegetable Growers News

[Economic Analysis of Market Impacts of the National Watermelon Promotion Board: 2017-2021](#) by the National Watermelon Promotion Board shares findings that shows how the organization's marketing activities help shape the demand for watermelons.

[Mix organic, conventional methods to boost soil health](#) – Vegetable Growers News

[Farmland access](#) – ATTRA Publication

[Resilient Farmers, Ranchers and Communities: Social Sustainability in Agriculture](#) – SARE Outreach

[Risk Management Education for Farmers with On-Farm Visitors](#) – Iowa State Extension

[Farmer's guide to direct sales software platforms](#) – National Young Farmers Coalition

[CSA Innovation Network](#) - The CSA Innovation Network is a resource base of programs and tools built by and for individuals and organizations supporting Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) development.

[Farm Stress Management | UME Agriculture and Food Systems \(teachable.com\)](#) Farm stress management training will equip Agricultural Service Providers with skills and knowledge to support farm families in times of distress.

## PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

[Landscape, Ornamentals, Nursery, and Turf Pest Notes](#)

[Vegetable Crop IPM update](#)

[Tree Fruit IPM Report](#)

## NEWS

**Comment Period for the Soil Protection Standards (SPS) Extended** The public comment period on the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Rule Proposal to Establish Soil Protection Standards on Preserved Farmland has been extended to February 23, 2024. The proposed new rules, N.J.A.C. 2:76-25, Soil Disturbance on Preserved Farmland and N.J.A.C. 2:76-25A and Supplemental Soil Disturbance Standards can be accessed at the following website: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc>. To make a comment address it to Susan E. Payne, Executive Director State Agriculture Development Committee P.O. Box 330 Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 Or electronically to: [SADC@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:SADC@ag.state.nj.us)

**2024 NJ Hunting Licenses** now available. [New Jersey Integrated Electronic Licensing System \(aspirafocus.com\)](#)

## FACTSHEETS

[FS1355. Reducing Black Bear Damage to Farm Operations](#)

[FS1237. Japanese Stiltgrass Control in the Home Lawn and Landscape](#)

[FS102. Your Lawn and Its Care](#)

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