



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

## COMING UP AT THE RCE

January 31, 2024

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
Cooperative Extension  
Cape May County

**Start Your Gardens!**  
**Vegetable Gardening 5-Session Series**

This 5 Session Series will have three in-person workshops and two online webinars, teaching you what you need to get started on a successful vegetable garden at home. The main instructor is Jen Sawyer Caraballo, Program Associate in Commercial Ag, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County. Classes are open to all skill levels.

Sign up for all five classes or select individual classes. Scan the QR Code or use this link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/rch2406> to register for the complete series for only \$45 – a \$10 Discount!

For more information contact: Jen Sawyer Caraballo 609-465-5115 or sawyer@njaes.rutgers.edu

<p><b>February 28, 2024, 6:30-8:30 pm at RCE</b></p> <p><b>"Garden Planning &amp; Soil Basics"</b></p> <p>Participants will learn about soil health, how to test their soil, garden planning, site selection &amp; preparation. <b>Cost: \$25 – includes a soil test kit</b></p> <p><a href="https://go.rutgers.edu/202401qjn">https://go.rutgers.edu/202401qjn</a></p>	<p><b>March 27, 2024, 6:30-8:30 pm at RCE</b></p> <p><b>"Seed Starting &amp; Planting 101"</b></p> <p>Participants will learn seed starting, selecting seeds and supplies, how to care for their seedlings as well as when and how to plant and companion planting ideas. <b>Cost: \$15 – includes seed starts to take home</b></p> <p><a href="https://go.rutgers.edu/734hca8q">https://go.rutgers.edu/734hca8q</a></p>
<p><b>April 17, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom</b></p> <p><b>"Plant Care"</b></p> <p>Now that their seedlings are out in the garden, participants will learn about watering, fertilizing, general plant care as well as common pests and diseases that may affect their gardens. <b>Cost: \$5</b></p> <p><a href="https://go.rutgers.edu/1fe1tudr">https://go.rutgers.edu/1fe1tudr</a></p>	<p><b>May 22, 2024, 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom</b></p> <p>with Jen Sawyer Caraballo &amp; Belinda Chesler, Program Assoc. Atlantic County RCE</p> <p><b>"Harvesting: Use &amp; Storage"</b></p> <p>This class will discuss when to harvest various common garden vegetables, as well as ways to use them and storing methods. <b>Cost: \$5</b></p> <p><a href="https://go.rutgers.edu/phs2f0hr">https://go.rutgers.edu/phs2f0hr</a></p>
<p><b>June 12, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm at RCE</b></p> <p><b>"Extending the Season"</b></p> <p>In this class participants will learn how to use row covers &amp; hoop houses, planting cold hardy crops that can be harvested late into fall as well as plants that will overwinter for a spring harvest. <b>Cost: \$5</b></p> <p><a href="https://go.rutgers.edu/le5qkirc">https://go.rutgers.edu/le5qkirc</a></p>	

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Board of County Commissioners, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

**RUTGERS**  
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**Gardening Education Series 2024**  
*The Science Behind How Things Grow*

**February 6th – May 14th**  
**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Tuesday Evening Online Classes**

To register, please follow link: <https://go.rutgers.edu/t46jf6vs>

**About the Program:**  
This series will be delivered through 16 online classes plus additional webinar content and resources for in-home study. Classes will be recorded for later viewing.  
Cost for the program is \$250.00.

Lectures include the following topics: Botany, Soils, Entomology, IPM, Plant Pathology, Trees and Shrubs, Pruning, Turf, Weeds, Vegetable Production, Small Fruit, Tree Fruit, Composting, and Herbaceous Plants.

*This class is required for anyone wishing to become a Rutgers Master Gardener Volunteer in Cape May County. Additional training for the Rutgers Master Gardener Volunteer Program will continue after May 14, 2024.*

**For More Information Contact:**  
Jen Sawyer Caraballo, AVR Program Associate  
sawyer@njaes.rutgers.edu  
or 609-465-5115, ext. 3615

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## EVENTS/COURSES/WEBINARS

- Dec-Mar [Life Long Learning Winter](#) Programs by the American Horticulture Association
- 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-Feb [CSA WEEK PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE](#) The CSA Innovation Network is thrilled to share a *free* digital toolkit filled with resources, tools, and templates to help you promote CSA leading up to and during CSA Week, and beyond! Sign up to receive your package.
- Feb 5 [Winter Wonderings: Fueling Stations for Spring Pollinators](#) 6:30-8:00pm; Join author Heather Andrews to learn about "Fueling Stations for Spring Pollinators". Embrace the beauty and bounty of nature's wonders by transforming your garden into a haven for early emerging pollinators, setting the stage for a flourishing spring harvest. \$10 fee, registration required.
- Feb 6 [Winning Hearts and Wallets: The Power of Outstanding Customer Service](#) 12-12:30; Delve into the transformative impact of exceptional customer service on brand loyalty and financial success. Learn practical strategies, customer engagement techniques, and how to positively handle complaints in a way that empower your business to create memorable experiences, fostering customer satisfaction and loyalty in the competitive landscape farm marketing and agritainment.
- Feb 6-8 [NJ Ag Convention & Trade Show](#) Harrah's Resort and Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ
- Feb 13- Mar 26 [Online Trainings for Agritourism Business Planning](#) Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. For seven weeks, from February 13 through March 26, we will guide business owners and managers through the process of developing your business plan using AgPlan. Each week will cover a different section of the process.
- Feb 15 [How to Build a High-Converting Farm Website](#) Free webinar, registration required. A well-crafted farm website not only serves as a marketing tool but also provides a platform to showcase products, enhance overall visibility, and most importantly, sell more!

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

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355 Court House – South  
Dennis Rd.  
Cape May Court House,  
NJ 08210  
Mon – Fri 8:30AM – 4:30PM

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)



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

January 31, 2024

University of Maryland Extension Presents:

## Farm Stress Management

### ONLINE COURSE

**ENROLL FREE NOW**

**TOPICS INCLUDE**

- Stress Management
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Financial Literacy
- Legal Resources

**SARE**  
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education  
Equal Access Institution

This workshop is designed for Agriculture Service Providers to equip them with the skills and knowledge to support farms and farm families in times of distress. The University of Maryland Extension Farm Stress Management Team will train service providers to identify signs of distress, develop skills to communicate with those experiencing stress, and provide local and national resources. Financial and regulatory topics will also be discussed as they often contribute to farm stress.

[umeaqfs.teachable.com/p/farm-stress-management](https://umeaqfs.teachable.com/p/farm-stress-management)

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
Cooperative Extension

**Free Informational Talk for Farmers**

## Business Succession Planning for Farmers

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**  
**6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Rutgers Cooperative Extension**  
355 Court House - South Dennis Road  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

**Presenter:**  
**Keith Dickinson, CFP®, CAC, Business Consultant, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, Certified Agricultural Consultant with Farm Credit East**

**Topics to include:**

- Wondering if and how you can transition your farm business to the next generation without unnecessary problems and worry?
- Do you know what will happen to your farm when you die?
- Are you concerned about avoiding the fights and problems that commonly occur when family farms transition?

*We will discuss these and many other questions during our Farm Succession Planning Workshop. Please plan to attend and bring your own questions with you!*

**Register at: <https://go.rutgers.edu/livomziz>**  
**For information, call 609-465-5115, ext. 3601**

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## 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.

[Fruit Guys Community Fund](#) Projects are funded to help farms operate more sustainably as well as strengthen community, including but not limited to conservation, soil health, pollinator health, food access, energy efficiency, beginning farmer support, and more.

[Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops](#) Did your specialty crop operation recently incur on-farm food safety program expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification in calendar years 2022 or 2023? You may be eligible for financial assistance through USDA's Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC).

[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.

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

[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

**STOP THE BLEED®**  
SAVE A LIFE

THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RWJ TRAUMA CENTER, INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN AN UPCOMING **STOP THE BLEED® TRAINING SESSION!** Someone who is severely bleeding can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes. The number 1 cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. Learn the lifesaving skills to STOP THE BLEED® and be empowered to save a life.

**MARCH 4TH, 2024**  
**SUYDAM FARM GREENHOUSES**  
**7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**REGISTER USING THE QR CODE ABOVE!**  
For more info, please contact Cathy Blumig: (732) 873-3206 or info@wolgasttreefarm.com

[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.

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

## PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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

[Vegetable Crop IPM update](#)

[Tree Fruit IPM Report](#)

## 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](#)

[Effective Pricing Methods for Produce at Farmers Markets \(psu.edu\)](#)

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