



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

March 27, 2024



## START YOUR GARDENS!

This is a vegetable garden 5 session series.  
Click the links below to choose the sessions you wish to register for.



April 17	6.00pm	Zoom	<a href="#">Plant care</a>	\$5
May 22	6.00pm	Zoom	<a href="#">Harvesting: Use and storage</a>	\$5
June 12	6.00pm	RCE office	<a href="#">Extending the season</a>	\$5

### Partnership Spotlight: Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory

The Soil Testing Laboratory is a part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES). Located on the G. H. Cook Campus, the Soil Testing Laboratory is a service unit that offers chemical and mechanical analyses of soils for the residents of New Jersey and for Rutgers University researchers



Their mission is to provide accurate and timely soil and water test reports to meet the unique agricultural and environmental needs of our state.

Check out their website!

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/>

### OTHER EVENTS

- Dec-Mar [Lifelong Learning Winter](#) Programs by the American Horticulture Association
- Apr 2 [Selling through Food Hubs](#) – online (4-5:15 pm) NH Farm to School, the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), and the NH Food Alliance are hosting a [webinar series for producers interested in learning more about selling to the institutional market](#) including to schools, higher education, and hospitals.
- Apr 4 [Hiring & Retention: Building & Preserving Team Trust](#) – webinar (2-3:30 pm)  
An effective hiring and retention plan can save an organization from costly losses in productivity and turnover. High-retention workplaces tend to employ more engaged workers who, in turn, get more done.
- Apr 4 [Asian Longhorn Beetle](#) webinar 11:30 am
- Apr 17 [NJNPS Wednesday Webinar](#) – 7pm  
Ever wonder what's crawling, flying, and eating their way through your garden? Many of us use native plants to attract butterflies and bees, but what else might you find and what does that mean? Join Randi Eckel, PhD Entomology & owner of Toadshade Wildflower Farm as she identifies the insects found in your garden and offers a glimpse into their lives and ecological value.

The **2024 National Agritourism Survey** is now collecting responses, and you are invited to participate!  
All agricultural operations that welcome visitors – whether for on-farm education, direct sales, entertainment, recreation, special events, and more – are invited to complete it.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey

### NEWS

[RMA Offers New Resource for Specialty and Small-Scale Farmers | Farmers.gov](#)

NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program Webinar recording is available [here!](#)

Contact us:  
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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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**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:**

[CAPE MAY COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES](#)



### 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.

[America the Beautiful Challenge 2024](#) **Pre-proposals are due by April 4, 2024.**

The America the Beautiful Challenge streamlines grant funding opportunities for new voluntary conservation and restoration projects throughout the United States. This RFP consolidates funding from multiple federal agencies and the private sector to enable applicants to conceive and develop large-scale, locally led projects that address shared funder priorities spanning public, Tribal, and private lands.

[Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program](#) **Applications are due April 4, 2024.**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting applications for \$24 million in funding through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. This program supports the delivery of education, outreach, and technical assistance for beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories that are entering, establishing, building, and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. The maximum grant is \$250,000 per year for three years.

[Braiding Seeds Fellowship](#) The Braiding Seeds Fellowship, a project of Soul Fire Farm Institute in collaboration with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, carries on the legacy of the braided seeds by providing beginning farmers with resources, professional development, and mentorship to support their livelihood on land. Applications due May 1, 2024.

[EPA's Community Change Grants Program](#) has announced \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds for environmental and climate justice activities. Application deadline: Nov. 21, 2024.

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants](#) fund renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Multiple deadlines.

[USDA Value-Added Producers Grant](#) The Value-Added Producer Grant program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income.

[Amber Grant for Women](#)

WomensNet launched the Amber Grant in 1998 to honor the memory of an ambitious young woman who died at the age of 19, before she could realize her entrepreneurial aspirations. Every month, WomensNet awards one or more Amber Grants of \$10,000 each. Then, at the end of the year, one of those grant recipients is selected to receive \$25,000!

[Farm Business Mgmt. & Benchmarking Program](#)

The Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Competitive Grants Program provides funds for improving farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly-available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

[Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#)

The primary goal and objective of the GusNIP Produce Prescription Program is to demonstrate and evaluate the impact of projects on the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, the reduction of individual and household food insecurity and the reduction in healthcare and associated costs.

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

### FACTSHEETS

- [FS1356: 2024 Vegetable Integrated Pest Management Delivery Program](#)
- [Effective Pricing Methods for Produce at Farmers Markets \(psu.edu\)](#)

### PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

- [Landscape, Ornamentals, Nursery, and Turf Pest Notes](#)
- [Vegetable Crop IPM update](#)
- [Tree Fruit IPM Report](#)

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

### GARDENING TIP

BY Jennifer Sawyer Caraballo



Have you had your soil tested lately? Now is a great time. Sample taking is easy – just dig down 6” into several spots throughout your garden, mix up the soil to get an average representation of your garden. Fill out the form and mail off your samples to the Rutgers Soil Testing Lab.

For convenience, RCE of Cape May County has soil test kits for sale at our office. Call for more information.

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



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 & Education  
Equal Access Institution

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

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.

### FARM MARKETING TIP

By Claudia Gil Arroyo

Having a social media presence can make significantly increase your product sales and visits to your farm, but it can be quite demanding to create content. Here two tips to help you out:

- Create contests or giveaways for people to post about your farm and your products. All you need to do is give them a prompt! For example: What is your favorite thing about our farm? Then you can share their posts on your accounts.
- Use AI like ChatGPT to create captions, prompts and even blog posts. You can share some information about your farm and AI will do the rest.



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