



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

April 10, 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 | Plant care | \$5 |
| May 22 | 6.00pm | Zoom | Harvesting: Use and storage | \$5 |
| June 12 | 6.00pm | RCE office | Extending the season | \$5 |

Partnership Spotlight: Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS's conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty.



Check out their website!
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/new-jersey>

OTHER EVENTS

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, as she identifies the insects found in your garden and offers a glimpse into their lives and ecological value.

Apr 18 [Empowering Workers and Reducing Stress](#), a segment of the Hiring and Retention webinar series, addresses stress resiliency and employee motivation strategies to build performance and enhance the work environment. Work stress is a serious problem for the person who suffers from it and for the organization to which it belongs. 2pm

On Demand Recorded Webinar
[Transitioning Land to a New Generation: Getting Started](#) builds on our previous Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, or BFRDP, grant project, Farmland for the Next Generation. It is part of many ongoing, multi-faceted partnerships with organizations committed to helping beginning producers succeed.

Apr 25 [Tree Seedling ID](#) Webinar with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County 1-2:30 pm.
 Registration required

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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355 Court House – South
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 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



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[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.

[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 \(usda.gov\)](#)

NRCS NJ Urban Grant opportunity has opened today (April 4th) and will be open until June 7th. The NRCS Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is open for applications through June 7th, 2024. The opportunity can be found easily on Grants.gov through the basic search criteria by using the opportunity number, searching the CFDA of 10.902, or from this direct link: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/3533>

FACTSHEETS

[FS1357 Fescue Grasses as Permanent Cover Between Rows of Blueberry](#)

[Invasive Special of the Month: Jetbead](#)

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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

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RESOURCES

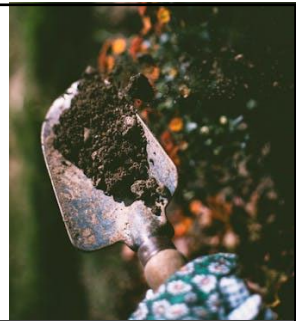
- [Farm Market & Agritourism: Build a value ladder and they will climb](#) – Vegetable Growers News
- [Economic Analysis of Market Impacts of the National Watermelon Promotion Board: 2017-2021](#) by the National Watermelon Promotion Board
- [Mix organic, conventional methods to boost soil health](#) – 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

It's April! Now is the perfect time to divide your fall blooming perennials and some of your non-flowering spring perennials. Dividing your perennials can rejuvenate older plants giving the roots more room to grow, can help control the size of the plant, and can increase the number of plants you have without hurting your wallet!

The University of MN Extension has a great spreadsheet for when to divide which perennials: [Dividing Perennials](#)



FARM MARKETING TIP

By Claudia Gil Arroyo



The best content you can create for your website and social media accounts tells a story. Your audience will better connect with your farm and your business if they can relate to them.

What is your farm's "why"? Try summing up your farm business purpose in one or two sentences.

Talk to your customers and visitors, learn their stories too. Sharing your story and theirs will help connect with your audience and result in more loyal customers.

Partnership Highlights

- The New Jersey Pine Barrens Partnership Project has been developed through the USDA's National Conservation Lands Program (NCLP) to address wildfire threats, water quality, forest health, and other ecosystem health issues. Forest lands that are degraded, damaged, or otherwise in poor health are not as resilient to wildfire. Forests, established by settlers, are being lost as well as accumulated fuel. Also, the decreasing average age of trees in the Pine Barrens region, which covers portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

Project Priorities

- Forest management plans
- Firewise habitat for at-risk species
- Reduce and mitigate wildfire threat
- Fire breaks
- Forest stand management
- Implementing carbon sequestration activities
- Stouten-pine beetle mitigation

SCAN ME

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. New Jersey - April 2024

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GOT GARDEN QUESTIONS?
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