



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

August 15, 2024

EVENTS

- Aug 16 [Ocean City Green Fair](#)
- Aug 20 [Business Financial Tracking: There's an App for That](#). Free webinar, 12pm.
- Aug 22 [Forest Farming: American Ginseng and Seed Saving](#). Free webinar, 6.30pm.
- Aug 27 [Food for Profit: Getting Started with Value Added Products](#). Free webinar. 12pm.
- Sep 10 [Using YouTube to Grow Your Business](#). Free webinar. 12pm.
- Oct 10 [Food for Profit: Entering the World of Instagram](#) Free webinar. 12 pm.
- Oct 15 [Markup vs Profit: Are You Really Profitable?](#) Free webinar. 12 pm.



NEWS

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New Jersey is now accepting FY2025 applications for the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), climate-smart practices through EQIP funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). While NRCS accepts applications year-round, New Jersey producers and landowners should **apply by October 18, 2024** to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

SARE's What is Sustainable Agriculture? Now Available in Spanish SARE's [What is Sustainable Agriculture?](#) bulletin and companion animated series are now available in Spanish! ¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible? features short, translated primers of proven sustainable practices that can be used to complement more detailed training materials.

The Community Change Grants NOFO is NOW OPEN! Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024. EPA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for \$2 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding available to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy. [Read the announcement for the NOFO](#)

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Center

The Plant Diagnostic Laboratory is a full-service plant health diagnostic facility of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES). Our mission is to provide accurate and timely diagnoses of plant health problems for the residents of New Jersey.

Located on the Cook Campus, the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory provides plant health diagnostic services in cooperation with Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension faculty and staff. There is a user fee for this service.

For more information: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/plant-diagnostic-lab/>

Diagnostic Services

1. Disease and Insect Pest Diagnosis
2. Plant and Weed Identification
3. Insect Identification
4. Fungus and Mold Identification
5. Nematode Assays
6. Screening for Acremonium Endophytes
7. Fungicide Resistance Screening
8. Other Services Available by Contract

FACTSHEETS

- [FS945: Bison Husbandry](#)
- [E291: Feeding Nitrate-Containing Forages](#)
- [FS1358: Developing Your On-Farm Food Safety Worker Training Program](#)



PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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



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



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

capemayag@njaes.rutgers.edu
(609) 465 5115 Ext. 3602

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



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RESOURCES

SARE's [What is Sustainable Agriculture?](#) now available in Spanish! [¿Qué es la Agricultura Sostenible?](#) features short, translated primers of proven sustainable practices that can be used to complement more detailed training materials.

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

[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](#) 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

[NCAT 2023 Annual Report](#) - Learn how NCAT's sustainable agriculture programs served military veterans, women farmers, Hispanic and Latino farmers, and others during the past year. Also, discover how NCAT's sustainable energy programs are making a real difference for households and the environment.

[Farm market & agritourism: Brand vs. logo](#) – Vegetable Growers News

[Beat the Heat: NWS Forecast Tools – Expanded.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#)

[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. At the end of the year, one of those grant recipients is selected to receive \$25,000!

[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 (June 30, September 30).

[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.

[New Dairy Processor Start-up Grant](#). The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces funds to support new dairy processing projects throughout the Northeast. Application open until September 2, 2024 at 2pm ET.

[Beecology: Citizen Science Project for Native Pollinator Conservation.](#)

[RFN-NJ Education Stipends for Historically Underserved Farmers](#)

FARM MARKETING TIP by Claudia Gil Arroyo

The key to market your farm and your products is to identify what sets you apart from your competition. A good exercise to do this is to analyze your business by identifying your unique selling points (USPs). Look at your products but also at your farm as a whole, your team, your vendors. What do you have that the others don't? What makes your business special? Focus on those USPs and your marketing efforts will be much more effective!



GARDENING TIP – August reminders By Jennifer Sawyer Caraballo

Add fall perennials to garden for a splash of fall color.



Thinking of renovating your lawn? Seed new lawns after August 15th.

Best time of year to seed is generally from **August 15th through October 15th.**

Check out <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs108/> for more information on **Renovating your lawn!**

Contact us:
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