



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

September 1, 2024

EVENTS

- Sep 5 [USDA Offers Free Webinar on Depreciation on Taxes](#). Free webinar. 12pm.
- Sep 9 [Log Landings for Bees: Enriching Pollinator Habitat in Forests](#). Free webinar. 12pm.
- Sep 10 [Using YouTube to Grow Your Business](#). Free webinar. 12pm.
- Sep 12 [Living on a Few Acres: Permaculture and Risk Management](#) Free webinar. 6-8pm.
- Sep 25 [From Hive to Honey](#) – at Cape May County RCE; 6:30-8pm; registration required. \$5.
- Sep 25 [Food Business Basics](#) at Rutgers Eco Complex from 8am – 5.30pm.
- Oct 2 [From the Ground Up: Hands-on Produce Safety Workshop](#) 10am-2pm. Registration required. \$50
- Oct 15 [Markup vs Profit: Are You Really Profitable?](#) Free webinar. 12 pm.

NEWS

IMPORTANT: EPA Announces Voluntary Cancellation for the Pesticide Dacthal- NO USE OF EXISTING STOCKS (Ed Notes on AMVAC buyback) WASHINGTON – Today, Aug. 28, following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's emergency suspension of the pesticide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA or Dacthal), the agency is initiating a process to cancel all products containing DCPA. On Aug. 19, 2024, EPA received a letter from AMVAC Chemical Corporation (AMVAC) stating its intent to voluntarily cancel the remaining pesticide products containing DCPA in the United States, and subsequently announced it intended to cancel all international registrations as well.

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.

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

The Food Innovation Center at Rutgers

The Food Innovation Center at Rutgers (FIC) is a unique food business incubator that is a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES). They support established early-stage entrepreneurs and existing food companies, from concept to commercialization. Combining years of industry expertise and the advanced technologies offered by Rutgers, we provide business, marketing, food safety, product design, and scale-up expertise within FDA- and USDA-certified facilities to help companies successfully build and grow their businesses.



For more information: <https://foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/>

GARDENING TIP – September

By Jennifer Sawyer Caraballo

September is a great time to renew your strawberry beds with new plantings! It gives the strawberry plants time to get their roots established for nice berries in June.

Now is also a good time to get those last-minute cool season crops in the ground, such as lettuces and other greens, for fresh veg for fall.

Want to extend your growing season? Try constructing a small hoop house or use row cover for your garden beds.



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

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

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RESOURCES

[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.

[USDA Funding Opportunities for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers](#). Learn how USDA provides financial assistance to individual farmers through loans, cost share and grant opportunities. Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 3:00 pm Eastern

[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

Partners can be great marketing tools! Look for other businesses or organizations in your area that can complement what you offer or that can strengthen your offerings. Joining efforts can enhance your marketing strategy and help you reach a broader audience.

Look at your local chambers of commerce, or other industry organizations that give you opportunities to network and create partnerships. Foster them and help grow not only your business but the industry as a whole.

After all, "a rising tide lifts all ships".



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RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS OF CAPE MAY COUNTY



RMGs Deb, Barbara & Mark at the Cape May Garden Club's Flower Show

RMG Intern Charlie mulching the rain garden.



Interested in becoming a Cape May County Rutgers Master Gardener Volunteer?
 To sign up to get more information, go to <https://go.rutgers.edu/fmrulxeb> to fill out our survey.

FACTSHEETS

- [E259: Deer and Elk Farming](#)
- [FS1359: Soil Health: Purpose and Management](#)
- [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](#)

Protect Yourself From H5N1 When Working With Farm Animals

H5N1 is a bird flu virus that could make you sick. Wear recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) when working directly or closely with sick or dead animals, animal feces, litter, raw milk, and other materials that might have the virus.

Wash hands with soap and water, then put on PPE in this order:

1. Fluid-resistant coveralls
2. Waterproof apron, if needed for job task
3. NIOSH Approved[®] Respirator (e.g., N95[®] filtering facemask respirator or elastomeric half mask respirator)
4. Properly-fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles or face shield
5. Head cover or hair cover
6. Gloves
7. Boots

While wearing PPE

- Use separate designated clean areas, one for putting on PPE and one for taking off PPE.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose after touching any contaminated material.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, vape, chew gum, dip tobacco, or use the bathroom.

Follow these steps to safely remove PPE

1. Remove the apron, if worn
2. Clean and disinfect boots
3. Remove boots
4. Remove coveralls
5. Remove gloves
6. Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
7. Remove head cover or hair cover
8. Remove goggles or faceshield and then remove respirator
9. Wash hands again with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

After removing PPE

- Shower at the end of the work shift.
- Leave all contaminated clothing and equipment at work.
- Watch for symptoms of illness while you are working with potentially sick animals or materials. Continue watching for symptoms for 10 days after finishing working; if you get sick, tell your supervisor and talk with a doctor.

Reusable and disposable PPE

- While removing PPE, dispose of all disposable PPE appropriately and set aside reusable PPE
- Clean and disinfect reusable PPE after every use

Prevent Heat Illness at Work

Outdoor and indoor heat exposure can be dangerous.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Others

Ease into Work. Nearly 3 out of 4 fatalities from heat illness happen during the first week of work.

- ✓ New and returning workers need to build tolerance to heat (acclimatize) and take frequent breaks.
- ✓ **Follow the 20% Rule.** On the first day, work no more than 20% of the shift's duration at full intensity in the heat. Increase the duration of time at full intensity by no more than 20% a day until workers are used to working in the heat.

- Drink Cool Water**
Drink cool water even if you are not thirsty – at least 1 cup every 20 minutes.
- Take Heat Breaks**
Take enough time to recover from heat given the temperature, humidity, and conditions.
- Find Shade or a Cool Area**
Take breaks in a designated shady or cool location.
- Dress for the Heat**
Wear a hat and light-colored, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing if possible.
- Watch Out for Each Other**
Monitor yourself and others for signs of heat illness.
- If Wearing a Face Covering**
Change your face covering if it gets wet or soiled. Verbally check on others frequently.

First Aid for Heat Illness

The following are signs of a medical emergency!

- Abnormal thinking or behavior
- Slurred speech
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness

1. CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY
2. COOL THE WORKER RIGHT AWAY WITH WATER OR ICE
3. STAY WITH THE WORKER UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

Watch for any other signs of heat illness and act quickly. When in doubt, call 911.

If a worker experiences: Headache or nausea, Weakness or dizziness, Heavy sweating or hot, dry skin, Elevated body temperature, Thirst, Decreased urine output.

Take these actions: Give water to drink, Remove unnecessary clothing, Move to a cooler area, Cool with water, ice, or a fan, Do not leave alone, Seek medical care if needed.

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GOT GARDEN QUESTIONS?
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