



April 2019 eNews

Promoting local, organic food & farming

Greetings!

It feels like spring may finally be here! April brings a whirlwind of activity for our farmers: spring planting, CSA signups, and the return of many farmers markets. Here at NOFA-NY, we're in a season of planning: updating our resources, preparing to launch our 2019 field day season, and even thinking ahead to next year's conferences. Read on for events, policy actions, and more!

Andrianna Natsoulas
Executive Director, NOFA-NY



We're looking for an app developer!



NOFA-NY has been granted funding to create an enhanced mobile platform that links organic, sustainable, and small-scale farmers with consumers. We're looking for proposals for design and development of a mobile app that builds off our existing **Food & Farm Guide** and **Price Index**.

Interested? Please see our **request for proposals (RFP)**

here. Submit proposals to Briana Alfaro, Outreach Coordinator, at **balfaro@nofany.org** with the subject: NOFA-NY Market App Proposal. Proposals must be submitted by April 30, 2019.

2019 Field Day Season



Summer is right around the corner, and NOFA-NY is building a fantastic lineup of on-farm field days across New York State. We're excited to be working with event partners including Cornell University, Farmers Market Federation of NY, and New York State Department of Ag and Markets. With more than 20 field days to choose from, there is sure to be something for everyone! We'll cover a wide range of topics, from organic apple production to

marketing to onion growing to dairy. NOFA-NY's Summer Field Day Series will run from June through September. Stay tuned for the full 2019 schedule, coming in May!

PS: NOFA-NY members receive a 10% discount for one person to all our events. Plus, you'll receive our Members Matter newsletter in the mail this spring with a complete listing of field day events. **Become a member here!**

CSA Fair in Brentwood, NY

If you live on Long Island, don't miss the CSA Fair this Saturday, April 13!

Find a community supported agriculture (CSA) program that works for you at this free event sponsored by the **Long Island Food Coalition, Slow Food North Shore, iEat Green,** and **NOFA-NY.**



Date: Saturday, April 13

Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Sisters of St. Joseph Farm – 1725 Brentwood Road, Building #2, Brentwood, NY 11717



NOFA-NY CERTIFIED ORGANIC, LLC

Getting Ready for Organic Inspections

Once you have applied for organic certification, you are required to have an annual on-site inspection of your operation to verify compliance. If you are new to the process, this can seem like an apprehensive time, awaiting the unknown. An excellent article from ATTRA about what to expect when your Organic Inspector comes calling is **available here**.

New and repeat producers can learn about the inspection process with this **NOFA-NY guidance document**.

Welcome to our Newest Staff Member!

Please join us in welcoming Kelly Christensen to NOFA-NY Certified Organic! Kelly started her position as a Certification Specialist, reviewing producer files for compliance with the National Organic Program Regulations, in March.

Kelly grew up on a horse farm in Western NY where she was allowed to run wild in the pastures and woods once her chores were done. Her childhood instilled a life-long love for the natural world, as well as a sense of duty and respect toward domestic plants and animals. In college she studied outdoor education and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation. Afterward she traveled the US for a number of years and served with a variety of non-profits including AmeriCorps NCCC. Kelly returned home in 2007 to apprentice on a small vegetable operation and has been farming ever since. She feels organic agriculture is essential because it contributes directly to the health of soils, animals, food systems, and communities.

Kelly is pleased to be part of an organization that supports organic farmers. When not working for NOFA she manages an organic livestock farm with her husband and his family. In her spare time Kelly explores the woods with her young son, reads, and spends time with her horse and cats.

State Policy Updates

The New York State Senate and Assembly are in session this week, and there are several bills under consideration that could affect the organic community. Here's what we're keeping an eye on:

- The Climate & Community Protection Act (**S2992/A3876**)
- The Birds & Bees Protection Act (**A11093A**)
- The Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (**S2837/A2750** and **S3843**)
- A bill to ban the use of chlorpyrifos (**S2156A/A2477A**)

NOFA-NY sends out Action Alerts to help our members contact their legislators and advocate for legislation that supports organic agriculture. You can sign up to receive Action Alerts **here**.

Classified Ads



photo credit: Kurt Lanning

Looking for on-farm experience? Visit NOFA-NY's **Classifieds page** for opportunities in New York and beyond. You can also use the classifieds to post land, equipment, and inputs for sale.

Note to employers: Have you filled a position listed on our page? Let us know so we can keep our posts up to date - just reply directly to this newsletter. Thanks!

Seed Savers Exchange wants to hear from you!

Seed Savers Exchange is seeking input from farmers and breeders about your experiences sourcing seed.



Seed Savers EXCHANGE

Seed Savers Exchange has spent the last 40 years working to conserve and promote America's culturally diverse garden heritage. They are looking for new ways to bring heirloom and historic varieties from their collection to more people. Breeders and farmers are fundamentally important in ensuring that quality seeds and produce abound and can be enjoyed by all.

Please help them out by taking a short survey on your needs for seeds and germplasm. If you're a farmer, **take this survey**. If you're a seed breeder, **take this one**. Both take fewer than 10 minutes to complete.

Questions? Contact Kathryn Gilbery: kgilbery@seedsavers.org. You can also contact her if you would prefer to speak by phone or would like other accommodations to complete the survey.

Thanks for reading the April eNews. Happy spring planting!

NOFA-NY | 315-988-4000 | info@nofany.org | www.nofany.org | donate to NOFA-NY

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