



## February 2019 eNews

*Promoting local, organic food & farming*

### Greetings!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual Winter Conference last month! This was my third Winter Conference and each year it is new and different. I have new unexpected inspirations, meet new people, and learn. I still have much reflecting to do after our flagship event - more thoughts are on our **blog here**.



The next NOFA-NY event is *Healthy Soils, Whole Farms*: our upcoming Organic Dairy & Field Crop Conference. Details are below, we hope to see you there!

Andrianna Natsoulas  
Executive Director, NOFA-NY

## NOFA-NY Events

### Healthy Soils, Whole Farms: Early Bird Discount

**Register today** for NOFA-NY's 8th annual Organic Dairy & Field Crop Conference on March 6, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool.

Don't miss the chance to hear from our 2019 **conference speakers**: Ray Archuleta, Gabe Brown, and Francis Thicke.

**HEALTHY SOILS,  
WHOLE FARMS**  
2019 DAIRY & FIELD CROP CONFERENCE

**You're invited!**  
NOFA-NY's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Organic  
Dairy & Field Crop Conference

**March 6, 2019**  
Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool  
Syracuse, NY

Early bird registration is just \$75, with an additional 10% discount for NOFA-NY members. Early bird pricing ends February 15, so **register today!**

Want to exhibit at the conference? Visit our **Business Support** page to learn more about sponsorship packages for our 2019 Organic Dairy & Field Crop Conference, along with our other 2019 events.

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## Thank you for attending the Winter Conference!



A big thank you to everyone who braved the weather to attend our 2019 Winter Conference: Climate of Change!

Check out our conference photos on **Facebook**, and if you haven't done so already, **please fill out this short, anonymous evaluation** to help us improve our programming

for future years.

We're already planning for 2020. Want to lead a workshop at next year's Winter Conference? **Tell us your idea here.**

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## Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Just before the conference, our community was offered an incredible opportunity: a matching gift challenge from a longtime, anonymous NOFA-NY supporter.

Any **donation** or **membership renewal** will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$9,000!) We kicked off this opportunity during the 2019 Winter Conference, and had many new people join, but we still have a way to go.



This matching gift will be extended for a few more weeks, so now is a great time to renew your membership. **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT and renew today!**

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NOFA-NY CERTIFIED ORGANIC, LLC

## Deadline Reminder: 2019 Renewal Application

Organic Handling and Crop and/or Livestock Operations: Your application submission deadline is Thursday, February 28, 2019.

*There is still time to receive a \$25 early bird discount for applications postmarked or emailed by Thursday, February 14, 2019.*

## Policy & Procedures: Thinking of Selling Your Organic Business?

Per NOP Guidance 2604: Certification and certificates issued to certified operations are not transferable to new owners in cases of mergers, acquisitions, or other transfers of ownership of the certified operation.

When there is a change in ownership of a certified operation, the certified operation must apply for and receive new certification from a certifying agent prior to selling, labeling, or representing products as organic.

**View full guidance from NOP.**

## Visit Us at the NY Farm Show

NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC will be at the New York Farm Show, from February 21-23 at the New York State Fairground in Syracuse, New York.



**NEW YORK  
FARM SHOW.  
2019**

Come see us in the Dairy Building, Booth D595! More info on the New York Farm Show is **here**.

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## Remembering Enid Wonnacott

Our thoughts are with our sister NOFA chapter in Vermont as we say farewell to a beloved member of the organic community, Enid Wonnacott, who passed away in January. You can read about Enid's remarkable life and contributions to organic agriculture **here**.

There will be a tribute to Enid at the NOFA Vermont Conference on February 16 and a celebration of life at Shelburne Farms on June 16. **NOFA-VT** has **established a fund** to continue the work that was so important to Enid. Donations can be sent to The Enid Fund, c/o NOFA-VT, P.O. Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477. Additionally,

## Policy Updates

### New York Small Farm Alliance of Cannabis Growers

Farmers in the Hudson Valley have formed New York's Small Farm Alliance of Cannabis Growers (Small FarmA). New York's Small Farm Alliance of Cannabis Growers is building a model based on social and ecological justice. Industrial pursuits have traditionally pushed out women, people of color, and our environment.

From Small FarmA:

*"We now have the chance to shift the paradigm if we participate to influence this new industry being birthed in New York State.*

*We have advocated that cannabis be grown pursuant to regenerative farming practices and promoted a model in which associations of small growers could operate cooperatively and be authorized to sell directly to consumers or retail stores if they choose. We have advocated that Big Canna's market dominance must be contained by proposing that the new law both limit the size of industrial grow operations as well as prohibit any industrial growers from being able to both grow and sell. We have also proposed a licensing structure that will minimize entry barriers for small growers."*

You can learn more about Small FarmA on their website:

<https://nysmallfarma.org/>. Small FarmA invites any farmers interested in getting involved to fill out their **survey**.

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### Protect New York's Pollinators!



Join NOFA-NY for a two-part webinar on advancing pollinator policy in New York.

Part I: The Birds and Bees Protection Act  
(Thursday, February 21, 4:30pm - 5:30pm)

Part II: How to Talk to Your Legislator  
(Thursday, February 28, 4:30pm - 5:30pm)

*The Issue:* Farmers need bees and other pollinators to produce New York's top fruit and vegetable crops -- pollination-dependent crops contribute an estimated \$1.2 billion annually to the state's agricultural economy. While managed honey bees provide about half of the total pollination services, New York is also home to more than 450 wild pollinator species.

In New York, beekeepers have lost more than 40% of their bee colonies every year for the last eight years. A quickly growing body of evidence identifies neonic use as a leading cause. Neonic contamination of New York's waters is widespread, with potentially devastating effects on the state's aquatic

ecosystems. Neonics are most often used in as a coating on conventional crop seed, but they are also extensively used as sprays or soil treatments in conventional agriculture, and appear in numerous products for lawns, golf courses, gardens, and other non-agricultural uses.

While neonics' harms to pollinators are unequivocal, no state has responded with comprehensive action. The Birds and Bees Protection Act—through a five-year moratorium on outdoor neonic uses and a careful, state-led review of their costs and benefits—provides immediately needed protections for New York's pollinators, water, and people.

*The Policy Makers:* Governor Cuomo and your New York State Assemblymember and Senator. They need to hear from you!

Interested in attending one or both webinars? Email Emma Ertinger (eertinger@nofany.org) to sign up.

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## \$5 Million Available for Source Water Buffer Program



\$5 million is available through the State's Source Water Buffer Program for the purchase of conservation easements to protect riparian

buffer systems on farmland that borders critical water resources.

Applications for funding will be accepted from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or a group of Districts partnering in a single application. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts may partner with municipalities or other not-for-profit conservation land organizations (land trusts) for the purposes of holding the conservation easement. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and until funds are exhausted.

The State will provide a maximum of 75% of the total eligible costs for the project, as long as a minimum 25% of the total eligible costs is contributed by the landowner, operator or project sponsor.

Funds can be used to cover costs related to purchasing development rights, title transactions, and property surveys, among others (a complete listing is available [here](#)).

Requirements, guidelines and eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

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## Check out our Classifieds for Food & Farm Jobs

Looking for on-farm experience? Visit NOFA-NY's [Classifieds page](#) for opportunities in New York and beyond!

### **Featured position: Farm Manager, Katchkie Farm, Kinderhook**

Katchkie Farm, a certified organic, 60-acre diversified vegetable and educational farm in Kinderhook, NY, seeks a full-time farm manager to oversee the day-to-day

operations of 10-acres of rotating vegetable production and educational programming. In 2019, the new farm manager will work with the existing farm manager during a transitional season. Learn more [here](#).

Note to employers: have you filled a position listed on our [page](#)? Let us know so we can keep our posts up to date. Thanks!

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## NY FarmNet Organic Survey



Our friends at NY FarmNet are working to strengthen their outreach to the organic community. They need your input!

Responses are needed for a research study on the financial and mental wellness of organic farmers in New York. Organic farmers are invited to share their perceptions and experiences with NY FarmNet, a non-profit which provides free and confidential services to all NY farmers, as well as existing financial and mental wellness. **Take the survey here.**

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Thanks for reading the February eNews - we hope to see you next month at **Healthy Soils, Whole Farms!**

NOFA-NY | 315-988-4000 | [info@nofany.org](mailto:info@nofany.org) | [www.nofany.org](http://www.nofany.org) | donate to NOFA-NY

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