Greetings!

Here we are in a new year, a new decade. There will be thoughts about the past ten years and plans for the future. Some things will remain the same, others will change. At NOFA-NY, we will continue our work, with a few new twists. Our Winter Conference will be as engaging as ever, but this year in Syracuse – if you haven’t yet, please register! We will continue to build our policy and education work, responding to the needs of our community. Our certification office will grow as organic farming does across the state. I look forward to seeing you in Syracuse next week as we plan for the next season!

Sincerely,

Andrianna Natsoulas
Executive Director, NOFA-NY

NOFA-NY Winter Conference: Next Week!

It's almost time for NOFA-NY's 38th Annual Organic Farming and Gardening Conference at The Oncenter in Syracuse, NY, from January 17-19!

This Friday, January 10, is the deadline to pre-register for the conference and save $20.

Visit our conference website to check out the workshops, keynote speakers, entertainment, trade show, and more - you don't want to miss it. We hope to see you in Syracuse!
Conference Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Peter Jemison, Ganondagan State Historic Site

Farmers of the Year: Lou & Merby Lego, Elderberry Pond Farm

Dairy Day Keynote: Mark McAfee, Organic Pastures

Dairy Day: Saturday January 18

This year, we have combined the Organic Dairy and Field Crop Conference and the Winter Conference. While there is field crop programming all weekend, the organic dairy workshops will be featured on Saturday.

Speakers include:
- Mark McAfee, Organic Pastures
- Andre Brito, UNH
- Peter Mapstone, Pastureland Dairy LLC
- Jeremy Mapstone, Pastureland Dairy LLC
- Rod Porter, Cayuga Ag Enterprises, Inc.
- Steven Weaver, Meadowley Farm
- Allen Wilder, UVM

Participants may register for Dairy Day only, or for the full conference. Questions? Call our office at 315.988.4000.

Improving Life on the Farm: Join our Focus Group!

Are you a farmer attending the Winter Conference? Please join 6-12 of your peers for a 90-minute focus group to explore your thoughts around wellness, fairness, and being connected to community. Your input will shape new programs being developed to improve social sustainability and overall farm success. This focus group will be facilitated by Anu Rangarajan and Violet Stone.

Contribution to this Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) research is voluntary, and focus group participants will be offered a modest gift card for their time.
Spots are limited! Please register in advance here or by contacting Violet at vws7@cornell.edu or 607.255.9227.

Thank you to our conference sponsors!

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Improved Pasture Management Project

NOFA-NY is excited to announce a dairy grazing support program that provides farmers targeted tools to help with grazing management, marketing capability, climate resilience, and soil carbon sequestration. This project will support a range of small to midsize dairy farmers that ship milk commercially.

The Improved Pasture Management Project will include direct support for 15 organic and sustainable farmers, focusing on tools to reduce farm expenses, build farm resiliency, and expand marketing opportunity. This program will be open to organic and conventional grazing dairy producers, and we anticipate building networks that share management practices between farmers utilizing different production methods. If you are interested in joining this network, please fill out an application and email it to Sarah Ficken at sficken@nofany.org

Grazing management provides a unique opportunity for farmers to market their products and build farm resilience through improved soil health and carbon sequestration. This program will provide farmers a better understanding of the resources available to them and the benefit of better grazing management for their farms' profitability.
NOFA-NY Inc. welcomes newest staff member

Sarah Ficken joined the NOFA-NY team this month as the Organic Dairy and Livestock Coordinator. She is passionate about sustainable agriculture, healthy food, and climate change. Sarah holds an MS in Agriculture from Washington State University and a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University. She currently farms with her husband and two small children on their dairy farm in Madison County. You can reach her at sficken@nofany.org.

NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC

NOFA-NY Annual Meeting - Please Plan to Attend

We hope you will join us at our Annual Meeting held at the NOFA-NY Winter Conference in Syracuse, NY on Saturday, January 18. Our meeting will follow the NOFA-NY, Inc. Annual Membership Meeting, held from 11:15 am to 1:15 pm. NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC will be discussing such topics as areas of growth, improvements in our programs, and regulations updates.

Renewal Applications Sent

By now you should have received your 2020 renewal application for certification. If you have not, please contact the certification office at 607.724.9851 as soon as possible.

Note that if you were sent an electronic application, we have streamlined the process so you can more easily update your PDF files. In your application packet you were given instructions (linked here) for opening and editing your documents using free PDF software.

Feel free to let us know if you have issues and we are happy to walk you through the process!

2020 Renewal Application Deadline Reminder


*Early Bird Discount applies if: postmarked/sent electronically between Dec. 16 and Jan. 2 - $25 discount*

All other Operations Due February 28, 2020.

*Early Bird Discount applies if:*
  - postmarked /sent electronically by Jan. 29 - $50 discount
  - postmarked/sent electronically between Jan. 30 and Feb. 14 - $25 discount

Thinking about becoming certified organic?

Now is a great time to start planning and applying for certification!
NOFA-NY Certified Organic is NY’s leading organic certifier with expertise in crops, livestock, dairy, hemp, fruit and we handle operations of all sizes and complexity!

Call our office today (607.724.9851), check out our website (www.nofany.org/certification) or visit us at the NOFA-NY Winter Conference in Syracuse, NY to learn how we can help you add value to your farm or processed products through organic certification!

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**Hemp Symposium this Saturday**

The New York State Small Business Development Center (NYSBDC) at Binghamton University will hold a Hemp Symposium and Expo this Saturday, January 11 at the Innovative Technologies Complex on the campus of Binghamton University. Check out the schedule of workshops and presentations [here](#).

NOFA-NY will be attending as well as exhibiting at the Expo. Come visit us to learn how you can get your hemp certified organic!

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**Policy Updates**

**NOFA-NY Testifies at NYS Assembly Budget Hearing**

On December 19, NOFA-NY Executive Director Andrianna Natsoulas testified before the New York State Assembly Committee on Agriculture. With Governor Cuomo expected to release his proposed state budget this month, farm groups highlighted growth in the agriculture sector and urged lawmakers to increase their support of the industry.

NOFA-NY’s testimony cited the example of Pennsylvania, which became the nation’s second-leading state for organic sales after the PA government invested $1.6M in marketing and promotion. Andrianna Natsoulas challenged Governor Cuomo to make a similar investment in farms to ensure Pennsylvania does not outpace New York in organic production. Check out news coverage of the hearing [here](#) and [here](#), and read NOFA-NY’s full testimony on funding and support for organic agriculture [here](#).

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**NASS Organic Survey Deadline Approaching**

The 2019 Organic Survey, conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) asks more than 22,000 US producers involved in certified or transitioning organic farming for information about their 2019 production, marketing practices, income, and expenses.

In December, NASS recently mailed unique survey codes to approximately 22,000 US
producers who self-reported organic farming in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Producers should respond online here using their unique survey code. The deadline for response is this Friday, January 10, 2020.

Visit the NASS website for survey FAQs. Survey results will be available in October 2020.

Promote your farm in our eNews

Calling all NOFA-NY Members: we want to feature your farm in an upcoming eNews! Fill out this short form to be featured in an upcoming NOFA-NY eNews and a member of our staff will follow up with you via email.

All farms that certify with NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC qualify as NOFA-NY Members, unless they have opted out of membership. Questions? Contact Emma Ertinger at eertinger@nofany.org.

The staff and board of NOFA-NY would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who made an end-of-year donation to NOFA-NY, renewed their membership, or joined as a member for the first time. Your support allows us to continue to provide our flagship event, NOFA-NY's Annual Winter Conference, while keeping registration fees affordable. Thank you!

What we're reading this month:

- Organic crop practices affect long-term soil health - from Cornell Chronicle
- Cursos gratis en español para agricultores / free courses in Spanish for farmers - from ATTRA's Cosecha Mensual newsletter
- Regenerating New York Harbor, One Billion Oysters at a Time - from Civil Eats
- This Year in Farming and Food - from Modern Farmer

Classified Ads

Open position: Volunteer opportunity with Native Offerings Farm at Casa Verano (Puerto Rico)

Help in developing an ecological retreat in Aguada, Puerto Rico. We are one mile from the ocean and five miles from the famous surf
breaks of Rincon. Tasks include clearing brush, painting, landscaping, planting, fencing and general farm work. Available January 23 though March 5. Exchange three hours work daily for use of an apartment or a room in the main house. Stay from three days to up to two weeks. See NOFA-NY’s Classifieds for more information.

Thanks for reading the January eNews!

NOFA-NY | 315.988.4000 | info@nofany.org | www.nofany.org | donate to NOFA-NY

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