



## March 2019 eNews

*Promoting local, organic food & farming*

### Greetings!

Just a week before the Spring Equinox, there is still snow on the ground and ice on the eaves. Although the Winter Conference seems like months ago, the impressions remain with me. This year, there were deep concerns with the Saratoga Hilton venue, including intolerance and racial discrimination. While I don't want to share details of participants' personal experiences, please know that NOFA-NY is aware of these concerns and is looking at alternative venues.



Additionally, some conference goers felt alienated by insensitivity, ignorance and old norms. NOFA-NY is working to confront our own institutional racism and build a space of equity and inclusion. If any participants at the NOFA-NY Winter Conference felt they were discriminated against or met with intolerance by anyone – hotel, staff, Board, fellow conference attendees – please let me know, by **email** or phone (315-988-4000, ext 501). I take this very seriously and I am dedicated to making change. I look forward to a season of growth with all of you.

Andrianna Natsoulas  
Executive Director, NOFA-NY

## Events

### Long Island CSA Fair

Calling all CSA farmers: **sign up today** for the Long Island CSA Fair!

The Long Island CSA Fair is a gathering to help consumers find the best community supported agriculture program for their families, and to help farmers fill their CSAs with supportive members. The fair will take place Saturday, April 13 in Brentwood, New York.

This event is sponsored by the **Long Island Food Coalition, Slow Food North Shore, iEat Green, and NOFA-NY**, and is organized by Bhavani Jaroff, founder of iEat Green and NOFA-NY Board Member.

**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

To sign up, email Bhavani Jaroff at [Bhavani@iEatGreen.com](mailto:Bhavani@iEatGreen.com).



---

## NOFA 2019 Summer Conference



**\$99** two day  
registration  
for  
NOFA members

Only available  
Jan 12 - Mar 18, 2019

The Super Early Bird discount for the 2019 **NOFA Summer Conference** is ending soon – register today!

Pay only \$99 for the entire two day conference if you **register** before Monday, March 18.

The NOFA Summer Conference will take place August 10-11, 2019 at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. Check out the lineup of workshops **here**. **Click here** to register.

---

## How was Healthy Soils, Whole Farms?

Thank you to the over 200 attendees who came to Liverpool last week for *Healthy Soils, Whole Farms*, NOFA-NY's 2019 Organic Dairy & Field Crop Conference! Check out photos from the conference **on our Facebook page**.



If you didn't fill out an evaluation form at the conference, you can give us feedback **here**. Thank you!

---

## Winter Conference 2020 RFP Open



Save the Date! NOFA-NY's 38th Annual Organic Farming & Gardening Conference will take place January 17-19, 2020.

Have a great idea for a workshop? NOFA-NY encourages those with knowledge, experience and passion for organic practices to propose workshop ideas for our 2020 Winter Conference! **Submit your proposal here**. Proposals will be reviewed at the end of March.

---

## Produce Safety School

Cornell Cooperative Extension will hold a food safety training on March 27 in Geneva, NY.

This is a full-day program focusing on putting farm food safety into daily production practices. Besides some classroom presentations, there will be demos and hands-on activities with produce wash equipment. This event is presented by the Cornell Vegetable Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Produce Safety Alliance. Topics to be covered include wash/pack line set up, using sanitizers, hygienic design, green spinners, and cleaning equipment.



Cost (includes lunch): \$20 for Cornell Vegetable Program enrollees, \$30 for non-enrollees. **Pre-register here**. For more information, contact Robert Hadad at **rg26@cornell.edu** or 585-739-4065.

---

## Citizens' Climate Lobby 2019 Northeast Regional

## Conference

Registration is open for the Citizens' Climate Lobby 2019 Northeast Regional Conference!

The annual Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Northeast Regional Conference is a great opportunity for new and experienced CCL volunteers to learn, practice skills, connect with each other, inspire each other, and strategize how to move our country toward solving climate change.

The conference will take place March 29-31 at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY.  
**Learn more and register here.**



NOFA-NY CERTIFIED ORGANIC, LLC

## Hemp Update

Did you know NOFA-NY Certified Organic has been a leading Industrial Hemp certifier for New York State? We have been certifying this crop since 2016. Per new legislation under the 2018 Farm Bill, we are now accepting applications for CBD oil processing! Please contact us to learn more at (607) 724-9851 or [certifiedorganic@nofany.org](mailto:certifiedorganic@nofany.org).

## Drawing Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the below winners of drawings held at various conferences and trade shows that NOFA-NY, LLC has attended this year. Winners will receive \$50 off their 2019 certification fees if applications were postmarked by the due date of February 28, 2019.

**Winner of 2019 Organic Dairy & Field Crop Conference Drawing held March 6: Rodney & Lynne Porter, Cayuga Ag Enterprises, Inc., Trumansburg, New York. Certified since 2007.**

**Winner of Pro-Grassive 100% Grass Fed Dairy Grazing Conference Drawing held February 27: Daniel L. & Susan D. Miller, Holland Patent, New York. Certified since 2016.**

**Winner of 2019 New York Farm Show held February 21-23: Fritz & Vreni Aeschlimann, Aeschlimann Farms, LLC., Frankfort, New York. Certified since 2006.**

**Winner of 2019 Winter Conference Drawing held January 18-20: Phil Barbato, Biophilia Organic Farm, Riverhead, New York. Certified since 2001.**

**2019 New Applicant Winner: Kevin & Jackie Tomko, Thornbee Farms, LLC, Walworth, New York.**

**Winner of Survey Drawing: Jan & Stephanie Martens, Martens Farm, Penn Yan, New York.** *Certified since 2008.*

Any producer who returned their 2018 Certification Survey was eligible for a drawing for \$50 off their 2019 Certification Fee. We want to give a big thank you to producers who completed this survey. Your feedback will go a long way to improving our program.

## Proposed Rule to Amend the National List for Crops and Handling

On February 15, 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a **proposed rule** in the Federal Register to amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances for crops and handling, based on April 2018 recommendations from the National Organic Standards Board.

This proposed rule would allow:

- Elemental sulfur to be used as a slug or snail bait to reduce crop losses.
- Polyoxin D zinc salt to control fungal diseases when other organic fungicides have been found to be less effective.
- Magnesium chloride to be reclassified from a synthetic to a non-synthetic substance, requiring handlers to ensure that the product complies with the non-synthetic classification by obtaining details about the source of the magnesium chloride and its full manufacturing process.

USDA welcomes comments on the proposed amendments. The 60-day comment period will close on April 16, 2019. See **the proposed rule** for more information on submitting comments.

### *About the National List*

More information on the National List, including how and why substances are added or removed from it, is available on **The National List page**.

---

## Policy Updates

---

### Take Action on SNAP



## Food for the Hungry Shouldn't have a Time Limit.

Submit a comment to keep #HandsOffSNAP at [FRAC.org/TimeLimitComments](https://www.frac.org/TimeLimitComments)

**FRAC**  
Food Research & Action Center

Food assistance is at risk again. Just months after Congress and the Administration debated and reauthorized SNAP benefits (also known as food stamps) through the Farm Bill, the Administration is now proposing to implement, through executive action, what it failed to secure through legislation.

Federal law already requires that states limit SNAP eligibility to just three months out of every three years for unemployed and underemployed adults without dependent children unless they can document 20 hours of work a week

Now the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed to make those time limits even harsher. USDA's proposed rule would undercut states' ability to waive these harsh time limits in many areas where there are too few jobs. By USDA's own estimates its proposal would eliminate SNAP benefits for an additional 755,000 adults and cut SNAP benefits on a ten year basis by \$15 billion.

Public comments on this proposed rule are being accepted through April 2. Here's how to take action:

- For Organizations: Use FRAC's comment portal [here](#). FRAC also has a helpful template with suggestions for customizing your comments. A basic template is [here](#).
- For Individuals:
  - Feeding America comment platform: <http://bit.ly/FASNAPComments>
  - Center for American Progress comment platform: [handsoffsnap.org](http://handsoffsnap.org)

### 37th National Pesticide Forum

Registration is open for the 37th National Pesticide Forum, which will take place April 5-6, 2019 at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City.



Convened by Beyond Pesticides and the Children's Environmental Health

Center at the Mount Sinai Institute for Exposomic Research, the forum will bring together speakers and workshops on science, policy, and action to protect the people and the environment from toxic pesticides. Visit **Beyond Pesticides'** [website](#) to learn more and register.

---

## Welcome to NOFA-NY's Newest Staff Member!



Meghan Prestemon joined the NOFA-NY team as an Administrative Coordinator in March 2019. Born and raised in Skaneateles, Meghan grew up in a family of small dairy farmers. After graduating from The College at Brockport SUNY in 2011 with a BS in Psychology she spent a number of years travelling the West Coast, learning and educating others about wellness and healthy living. Now Meghan is focusing on supporting and growing the organic community here in the Northeast. In her spare time you can usually find her

practicing yoga, hiking, hanging out on the lake, or reading a good book. Welcome Meghan!

---

## NOFA-NY is hiring!

Join our team! NOFA-NY is currently seeking a full time Community Engagement Director/Development Director. The Community Engagement Director provides leadership for NOFA-NY's membership and fundraising efforts by providing overall design and successful implementation of comprehensive and coordinated funding initiatives. **Visit our website** for more information and instructions on how to apply. Applications are being accepted through April 1, 2019.

---

## A heartfelt thank you



NOFA-NY wants to express our deep appreciation to Cecilia Bowerman, our Community Engagement Director, who is leaving NOFA-NY after a stellar four-year tenure. CeCe joined the NOFA-NY team in 2014 as our Membership Coordinator and later transitioned to the role of Community Engagement Director. During her time at

NOFA-NY, CeCe helped to revamp our membership program and implemented systems to improve our data management across the board. Her thoughtful attention to detail, commitment to our members and the organic movement, and panache for organizational infrastructure have been a great benefit to NOFA-NY. We will miss her a lot, and wish her the best of luck in her next steps!

## Help Bring Social Justice to Organic Farms

The Agricultural Justice Project (AJP) and NOFA are launching a project to support the organic farming community in addressing our shared social justice values while striving for dignified careers for farmers, our families, & workers on our farms.



Support our mutual efforts toward achieving a fair and equitable food system by **completing this brief survey** of your current farm practices. We are looking for 50 farms to complete this survey! AJP will select 20 farms from this group to receive additional AJP technical assistance and complete a self-assessment. Five to ten farms will also receive free mock audits of AJP's Food Justice Standards.

Your voice in this process is important to us! Whether or not farms choose to engage in AJP's Food Justice Certification, AJP and NOFA are committed to identifying and providing the levels of technical assistance needed by farmers who want to improve the labor policies and practices for their farms and calculating fair pricing.

All AJP assistance and training will be provided free of charge, with no obligation to engage in AJP's Food Justice Certification. Your responses to the survey are confidential. **Click here** to learn more about AJP's social justice standards and to fill out the survey.

Thanks for reading the March eNews!

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

**STAY CONNECTED:**

