March 2020 eNews
Promoting local, organic food and farming.

Greetings!

Welcome to the March edition of NOFA-NY’s eNews! The weather is getting a little warmer, crocuses are popping up, and our thoughts are turning towards spring. It's also CSA sign-up season. Be sure to check out our Food & Farm Guide if you’re looking for a Community Supported Agriculture program near you. While our farmers are gearing up to begin field work, our staff is busy planning for summer field days. We look forward to connecting with you this summer, keep an eye out for field day details in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Bethany Wallis
Executive Director, NOFA-NY

Upcoming Events

Long Island CSA Fair
Date: Saturday, March 21
Time: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Location: Sisters of St. Joseph, 1725 Brentwood Rd, Building 2, Brentwood, NY 11717
For the second year in a row, the Long Island CSA Fair will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. The site is centrally located for farmers from the East End as well as Nassau County. Farmers who would like to table should RSVP to Bhavani Jaroff at Bhavani@iEatGreen.com. The cost to table is $25.

Northeast Cider Conference
Date: Tuesday, March 24 – Thursday, March 26
Location: Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge St, Albany, NY 12207
At the inaugural Northeast Cider Conference, makers, growers, and other cider professionals operating at all levels of scale will have the opportunity to network, learn from their peers, problem solve, and identify new means for growing market share and building a distinctive Northeastern cider culture. Register here.

Organic Crop Insurance Webinar
Date: Tuesday, March 31
Time: 2:00 pm
Join eOrganic and the Organic Farming Research Foundation for a webinar about organic crop insurance options for 2021! Presenters will include Mark Lipson, UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems and Mark Schonbeck, Organic Farming Research Foundation. This webinar is free and open to all. Advance registration is required. Register here.

Real Organic Project Symposium
Date: Friday, April 3 – Saturday, April 4
Location: Dartmouth College, 6 North Main St, Hanover, NH 03755
Can real organic farming be saved? Join the Real Organic Project for their second annual Symposium for two days of TED-style talks from 25+ speakers that address this very question! Keynote speakers include climate author Paul Hawken, farmer Eliot Coleman, and NASA scientist David Grinspoon. Register here. Note: Friday tickets are sold out, but you can join the waitlist!

PermaJam PDC Ecological Design & Intensive Retreat
Date: Monday, June 1 – Wednesday, June 10
Location: Blossom Dell Sanctuary, 201 York Rd, Bloomingburg, NY 12721
A Permaculture Design Course (PDC) is a 72-hour program that teaches the principles and application of permaculture, guides students to create their own final design project, and results in a certification that is growing in global recognition. This PDC will include a standard core curriculum put forth by The Permaculture Institute of North America (PINA) and will be adapted to the conditions of the densely populated temperate Northeastern US. Register here.

Save the Date for NOFA-NY's 2021 Winter Conference!
We hope you will join NOFA-NY at our 39th Annual Organic Farming & Gardening Conference!

Our next Winter Conference will take place January 15 - 17, 2021 at the Saratoga Hilton & City Center in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Online registration will open in October 2020.
The Organic Farming Research Foundation and the Organic Seed Alliance are conducting a USDA-funded project seeking to learn more about the challenges & research priorities of organic farmers and ranchers. They've released two surveys – one for certified organic producers and one for farmers transitioning to organic – to inform this effort. Please fill out a survey today if you fall into one of these groups!

OFRF, OSA, and a broad coalition of organic champions were instrumental in securing an increase in federal funding for organic research from $20M to $50M in the 2018 Farm Bill. This increase provides an unprecedented opportunity for researchers to tackle challenges that inhibit the growth of organic production. Strong farmer participation in these surveys is critical to informing that investment.

Learn more and fill out a survey here. Thank you for your input!

NOFA-NY is excited to launch the Improved Pasture Management Project, a technical assistance and networking program for grazing dairy producers. Sarah Ficken, NOFA-NY’s Organic Dairy and Livestock Coordinator, will work with 15 dairy farmers across New York State to help them improve their grazing practices and adopt new technologies through one-on-one assistance and peer group networking.

The deadline to apply is March 15, so fill out your application today! Both organic and conventional grazing dairy producers are invited to apply.

Apply online
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.

Organic Hemp Certification

Did you know that NOFA-NY Certified Organic has been a leading Industrial Hemp certifier for New York State since 2016?

We certify hemp plants, seed, fiber, processed products, CBD Oil & more. Please contact us at 607.724.9851 to learn more.

NOFA-NY Policy Updates

Farmers invited to sign on to Climate Letter

2019's devastating losses from extreme weather have brought home the urgent need to address the climate crisis and its impacts on agriculture. Now is the time to join thousands of other farmers and ranchers across the nation to ask policymakers and federal administrators to help us meet the challenges of a
As a member group of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, NOFA is gathering signatures for a Farmer Letter on Climate Change. Please consider signing the letter to voice your concerns about climate change impacts on agriculture in the United States and to call for solutions that invest in our rural and agricultural communities.

**Carbon Markets to Combat Climate Change - Good for Farmers?**

Can carbon markets combat climate change? Would family farmers really benefit from carbon trading? Are measurements accurate, and would these markets really facilitate the sequestration of carbon permanently and sustainably?

The National Family Farm Coalition and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy recently did an analysis of carbon markets for agriculture. Their conclusion: carbon markets don't work for agriculture, especially family farms. Check out their analysis here.

**Funding Opportunities**

**Farm Micro-Grants for Adirondack Farms**
The Adirondack Council and Essex Farm Institute are seeking grant proposals for up to $5,000 from Adirondack farmers and value-added producers for projects that will enhance the environmental benefits their businesses provide. Project areas can include, but are not limited to, soil management, water quality improvements, energy conservation and emissions reductions. Apply here.

**Spring Funding Opportunities through USDA**
USDA has a number of open Requests for Applications. Thanks to our friends at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition for compiling this info - check out upcoming funding opportunities for farmers, non-profits, and universities here.
Farm Crew Member, Stone Barns Center (Pocantico Hills, NY)
Stone Barns Center seeks an experienced seasonal Farm Crew member to support the daily operations of the organization’s Vegetable Crops team. Learn more on our Classifieds page.

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Certified Organic (Spring Mills, PA)
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) is seeking an Executive Director to further its mission. The Executive Director will provide strategic direction and leadership for the organization in partnership with PCO’s Leadership Team, Board of Directors, its members, and regional stakeholders. The ideal candidate will possess a passion for the organic industry and a vision for its future as described by PCO’s core values. Learn more here.

What we're into lately:

- Climate Change Could Make Pawpaws a Valuable Crop for Northern Farmers – from Civil Eats
- Crowd Cow promised to bring craft meat to the masses. Some ranchers say it’s been a bad deal – from The Counter
- Growing Hybrid Hazelnuts by Philip Rutter, Susan Wiegrefe, and Brandon Rutter-Daywater – available from Chelsea Green

Thank you for reading the March eNews!
NOFA-NY, Inc | 315.988.4000 | info@nofany.org | www.nofany.org