



May 2019 eNews

Promoting local, organic food & farming

Greetings!

May is a busy time for farmers and ag-vocates alike! Check out some of our upcoming on-farm field days, stay up to date on agriculture & environmental policy in Albany, and learn about updates to the National List.

We hope to see you at a NOFA-NY field day this summer!

Andrianna Natsoulas
Executive Director, NOFA-NY



Policy Updates

NOFA-NY Testifies on Farmworker Legislation

NOFA-NY Executive Director Andrianna Natsoulas testified at a public hearing on the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act (FFLP) at SUNY Sullivan on May 2.

While NOFA-NY members **voted to support FFLP in principle**, "NOFA-NY cannot support this version of the bill. This was a really hard position for us to take, as we do support farmworker rights," said Natsoulas.



NOFA-NY's testimony on the proposed legislation asked lawmakers to reconsider provisions, namely overtime pay, that would disadvantage family farms. Click **here to read NOFA-NY's press release** on this bill. NOFA-NY's comments on and proposed changes to the legislation are on our **website here**.

Take Action on FFLP!

Your voice is needed now! Tell your State Senator and Assembly Member that you support fairness for farmers and farmworkers alike. Contact your legislator today - ask them to reconsider the bill's overtime pay provision. We have a **template letter you can use here**. Thank you!



Not sure who represents you? Find out here:

- **New York State Senate**
- **New York State Assembly**

State Legislature Votes to Ban Chlorpyrifos!

On May 1, the New York State Senate and Assembly **passed a bill to ban the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos** in New York State. Chlorpyrifos has been found to be toxic to the human brain and nervous system and is especially dangerous to the developing brains of infants.

The **bill** now goes to Governor Cuomo for his signature or veto.

NOFA-NY sends out Action Alerts to make it easy for our members to contact their legislators about food & farm policy. Sign up to receive Action Alerts **here**.

Five Open Seats on National Organic Standards Board

USDA is seeking nominations for five open seats on the **National Organic Standards Board** (NOSB). NOSB is a federal advisory board of 15 volunteers with statutory authority over what types of fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs can be used in organic production.

The open seats are designated for:

- one farmer
- one environmentalist
- one retailer
- two handlers



For more information on how to apply for a seat, visit the **NOSB website**. The deadline to submit nominations is May 20, 2019.

NOSB meets twice each year. The next NOSB meeting will take place October 23-25, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA. If you are a farmer interested in attending, stay tuned for information on scholarship funding in future eNews editions.

On-farm Field Days with NOFA-NY



We're gearing up for our 2019 field day season! NOFA-NY's on-farm field day series will cover a wide range of topics, from organic apple production to marketing to onion growing to dairy.

Check out the **Events page** on NOFA-NY's website - more field days are being added each day! Pre-registration will open at the end of May, and several field days will be free of charge.

Offset the cost of organic certification

Attention organic farmers: USDA funding is available to offset the cost of organic certification!

Through the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP), certified producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 75 percent of certification costs each year (up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope, including crops, livestock, wild crops, handling and state organic program fees).

Applications for OCCSP are being accepted until October 31, 2019. Contact your organic certifier for more information on how to sign up. If you're certified with NOFA-NY, you'll be receiving information on how to easily apply for this cost share assistance program.

We're Looking for Data Collectors!

NOFA-NY has been granted funds to improve our **Price Index** tool. Part of this effort includes bolstering the amount of data that is input on a regular basis. We are looking for individuals to collect Certified Organic prices at the **Brighton Farmers' Market** in Rochester and the **Troy Waterfront Farmers' Market**. For more details, please review the Data Collector description on our **Job Opportunities page**.

Questions? Contact our Outreach Coordinator, Briana, at balfaro@nofany.org.



NOFA-NY CERTIFIED ORGANIC, LLC

Certified Organic Record Keeping Requirements

NOP Regulations **Section 205.103** requires that:

(a) A certified operation must maintain records concerning the production, harvesting, and handling of agricultural products that are or that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))."

(b) Such records must:

- (1) Be adapted to the particular business that the certified operation is conducting;
- (2) Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the certified operation in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited;
- (3) Be maintained for not less than 5 years beyond their creation; and
- (4) Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.

(c) The certified operation must make such records available for inspection and copying during normal business hours by authorized representatives of the Secretary, the applicable State program's governing State official, and the certifying agent.

We have developed forms and worksheets to help you maintain compliance - you can access these **on our website here**.

For currently certified producers, records are typically requested at annual update (February 28 each year) for prior year activities. Current year activities are reviewed at the annual inspection. If producers have updates that fall outside of these time periods or updates to their Organic System Plan, they may send in updates throughout the year.

Livestock producers: Did you know you may send in your Animal List updates throughout the year? Typically, the list is submitted with your annual update application in February, and the office inputs your information and sends you a new computer-generated animal list to keep current throughout the year. If you need an updated computer-generated list that falls outside of this submittal date, you may send in your updates and request a new list at any time.

Job Opportunity: Certification Director



NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC announces a job opening for Director of Certification. This position provides leadership and oversight to grow and continually improve the NOFA-NY organic certification program. They are responsible for managing and overseeing certification processes, resources, and outcomes.

The Director maintains the integrity of the certification program and ensures compliance to the USDA National Organic Program Regulations while providing exceptional customer service. The Director collaborates with the parent company

(NOFA-NY, Inc.), staff, inspectors, applicants, and Management Committee to design and execute program.

For the full position description and instructions on how to apply, visit our **Job Opportunities page**.

National List Updates as of May 30th

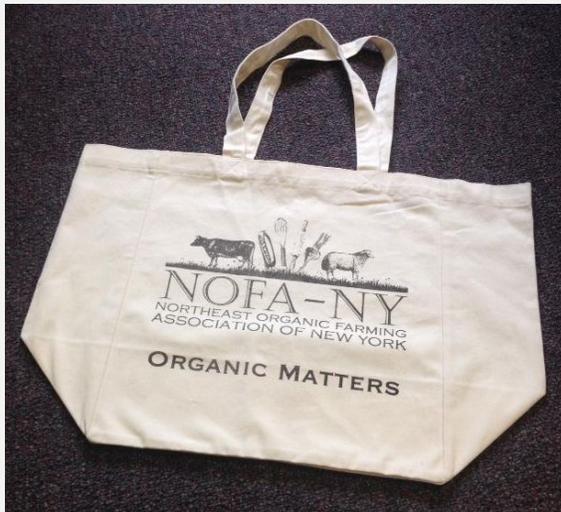
See the below changes to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances based on public input and the November 2017 National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations for livestock and handling:

- Allows elemental sulfur to be used in organic livestock production as a topical treatment to repel mites, fleas and ticks from livestock and their living spaces.
- Reclassifies potassium acid tartrate from a nonagricultural substance to an agricultural substance, requiring handlers to use the organic form when it is commercially available. Potassium acid tartrate is currently listed as a nonorganic ingredient allowed in organic products.



For more information on changes to the National List effective May 30, see the **Federal Register announcement here**.

Get Your NOFA-NY Tote Bag!



We've sold out of our NOFA-NY branded tote bags, but you can pre-order yours in our **shop** today! This sturdy organic cotton tote bag is perfect for running errands - especially when New York State's **plastic bag ban** goes into effect!

Check out the **NOFA-NY online shop** for tote bags, tees, hats, and more.

Pre-ordered bags will ship in June. All other items will ship within three business days of placing your order.

Thanks for reading the May eNews!

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

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