2018 Organic Farming Research Conference  
Rutgers University – Tray Hall  
January 26, 2018  
in Partnership with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey and Rutgers University

**Agenda**

8:00 – 8:20  Welcome and introductions

**Fertility**

8:20 – 8:40  Margaret Pickoff, *Improving legume based fertility for organic small grains: an evaluation of green manure termination methods*

8:40 – 9:00  Theodore Radovich, *From trash to treasure: developing organic compliant fertilizers from local by-products for crop production in Hawai‘i*

9:00 – 9:20  Brian McSpadden Gardener, *Quantifying and enhancing the benefits of compost based fertilizers for organic growers*

9:20 – 9:40  Amjad Ahmad, *Utilizing locally produced rendered meat to produce high nitrogen content liquid fertilizer*

9:40 – 10:00  Break

**Soil Health and Climate Change**

10:00 – 10:20  Tracy Misiewicz, *National comparison of the total and sequestered organic matter contents of conventional and organic farm soils*

10:20 – 10:40  Sara Via, *How life underground builds soil health and climate resilience*

10:40 – 11:00  Jeth Walkup, *Impacts of organic farming management practices on soil biogeochemistry*

11:00 – 11:20  William Sciarappa, *Assessing soil health and fruit quality in highbush blueberry*

**Animals, Pests, and Nutrition**

11:20 – 11:40  James Kotcon, *High tannin pasture forages for intestinal parasite management in organic sheep production*

11:40 – 12:00  Robert Cline, *Root knot nematode infection and reproduction on Cannabis cultivars for organic production*

12:00 – 12:20  Tiffany Fess, *Differences in nutritional content and gene expression in organic and conventionally produced crops*
Lunch

Biodiversity, Environment, and Tillage

1:50 – 2:10  Serpil Guran, Integrating food-energy-water (FEW)nexus and organic farming to achieve sustainable agriculture

2:10 – 2:30  Jose Franco, Organic transition approaches to facilitate conservation tillage in the northern great plains

2:30 – 2:50  Ramu Govindasamy, Consumer characteristics and willingness to pay for organic produce in the mid-Atlantic United States

2:50 – 3:10  Denise Finney, Ecosystem services from cover crop mixtures and monocultures in an organic feed and forage rotation

3:10 – 3:30  Sam Sundius and Carolyn Dimitri, Biodiversity, conservation and the organic systems plan

Economics and Marketing

3:30 – 3:50  T. R. Higgins, An economic analysis of the value of grazing organic winter cover crops

3:50 – 4:10  Haley Baron, Understanding the organic supply chain: the relationship between farmers and handlers in a growing market

4:10 – 4:30  Ryan Anderson, Crowdfunding for small farmers

Poster Session and Social

Refreshments Served

4:30 – 6:30  Guest Speaker:

Mark Shepard is the founder and President of the Restoration Agriculture Development, and CEO of Forest Agriculture Enterprises. He teaches Agroforestry and Permaculture worldwide and has also written the book, Restoration Agriculture. He runs New Forest Farm, the 106-acre perennial agricultural savannah, considered by many to be one of the most ambitious sustainable agriculture projects in the United States.

Poster Session:

M. V. Melendez, New Jersey farm soil copper levels resulting from copper fungicide applications

Alex Mayberry, Soil test nitrogen fertility for organic sweet potato production

Omidreza Zandvakili, Comparisons of the effects of a commercial organic liquid fertilizer with Hoagland and Arnon solution on growth and composition of lettuce

Eugenio Giraldo, Nitrogen recycling in organic agriculture everyone wins: farmer, environment, public health

William Sciarappa, Comparing conventional, hybrid, and distance learning courses in organic horticulture

Diana Jerkins, Financial support for organic producers from USDA-Farm Service Agency - 2018