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With the NJ farm season now in full-swing, it seems as though the last 6 months have passed in the blink of an eye! One half of a year can hold a whole lot of change, and world events continue to keep us working towards greater food security in the Garden State. If you haven't already, please consider supporting our work through a NOFA NJ **Membership**, **Donation**, or just through **supporting local producers**. It's more important than ever!

Here's a quick mid-season update on some (but certainly not all) of what NOFA NJ has been doing to support our community and promote organic food systems in New Jersey:

Supporting Community Food Security



We're leveraging our resources to support community food security projects throughout the state. Loading the truck up with tools and a BCS, we cut in beds and helped establish giving gardens for **The Chubby's Project** at **St. Michael's Preserve** in Hopewell and for the New Providence United Methodist Church. In addition, we've lent a hand to **CROPS NJ** with installing trellises in their community garden, assisted **Kids In Business** with planning organic food distributions, and so much more.

Earlier in the season, NOFA NJ coordinated the pickup and distribution of **thousands of seeds and seedlings** to fellow non-profit organizations. Many thanks to all the farms and organizations that shared their extras! If you or your organization needs support with garden efforts, be sure to give NOFA NJ a call or email.

Directly Supporting Farmers



NOFA NJ is always eager to assist our farmers in any ways possible, and we strive to connect our community to needed resources. We've coordinated a bulk group order for Vermont Compost, we've jumped on the opportunity to help farmers in the field, and we've continued to invest in the nofanjanj.org website to serve as a resource for everyone via [NJ LandLink](#), our [Classified Listings](#), our [YouTube Library](#), our [Find Local Organic](#) tool, our [Resource Library](#), and more.

Our 2022 JourneyPerson cohort has been selected, and our staff and select Board of Directors are working to develop tangible offerings to support our JourneyPersons over the next year and a half. Additionally, NOFA NJ will be working to support the development of a therapy farm with one of our active community members, who is currently seeking access to land (more details to come soon!).

Further, in 2022 we've applied for and were awarded two small grants that will help our farmers make some extra revenue: a NJ Specialty Crop Block Grant that will pay farmers to trial organic dry bean production and a NRCS Urban Conservation Grant that will support the installation of native trees, shrubs, and perennial pollinator plants in Camden, Trenton, and Atlantic City. NOFA NJ will coordinate and support these projects and continues to seek out grants that directly support our community.

Hosting Engaging Educational Programming



In six short months, we've coordinated a full docket of events, including Farm Tours, Workshops, Webinars, Farm Dinners, Film Screenings, Open Houses, Book Clubs, and more. From poultry processing to rainwater harvesting, our schedule of events has kept us busy and keeps our community growing in many ways. Please share all of the fun with your friends, family, coworkers, and anyone else who might be interested!

Helping Shape Good Food Policy



A3444 DANCER	
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1	AN ACT concerning organic farming and supplementing Title 4 of
2	the Revised Statutes.
3	
4	BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5	of New Jersey:
6	
7	1. There is established in the Division of Marketing and
8	Development in the Department of Agriculture the Organic Farming
9	Advisory Board.
10	a. The purpose of the board shall be to advise the Department
11	of Agriculture on topics related to organic farming, including the
12	certification program established pursuant to P.L.2003, c.176 (4:10-
13	79), the federal organic farming certification program implemented
14	by the United States Department of Agriculture, best practices for
15	organic farming, incentives to encourage more organic farming in
16	the State, and new techniques to carry out organic farming.
17	b. The board shall consist of seven members as follows:
18	(1) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee, who
19	shall serve ex officio as chairperson; and
20	(2) six public members, to be appointed by the Governor, with
21	experience or expertise in organic farming. To the maximum extent
22	practicable and feasible, the public members shall be chosen to

Affecting positive change starts in the soil, sure, but it also involves the exciting

(and sometimes tedious) process of lobbying. Lobbying might have negative connotations, but at its most basic definition, it means to *lawfully influence the actions, policies, or decisions of government officials*. At the core of policy work are relationships, and we've been busy meeting our elected officials and governing bodies. We've hosted Assemblyman Roy Freiman (Chair of the Agriculture and Food Security Committee) and other Assemblypersons for a multi-farm visit in May, and we will again be hosting elected officials for a Farm Bill Field Day later this month.

Further, we've been able to advise on and gain support for positive developments in organic agriculture and food security in NJ, including direct support on **Assembly Bill A3444** (which will establish an organic advisory board within the NJDA) and regular engagement with the **NJ Food Democracy Collaborative**.

As always, the NOFA NJ Policy Committee continues to actively advocate for good food and environmental protection, and NOFA NJ staff and volunteers continue to be present at important community events, such as **State Board of Agriculture meetings**, SADC meetings, etc...

Strengthening Community Partnerships



Our small state is home to a wealth of amazing organizations and incredible individuals within them, and we're all better together! NOFA NJ has been actively working to deepen relationships with established agricultural entities (e.g. **NJ Farm Bureau**, **NRCS**, **FSA**, etc.), fellow non-profit organizations (e.g. **Foodshed**

Alliance, Sourland Conservancy, NJ RCD, CFET, Newark SAS, Isles, etc.), municipal organizations (**ACUA**, etc.) and community groups. We've been attending community farmers markets, school educational events, and environmental festivals. We're constantly seeking out **how to grow NJ together and provide mutual support to everyone** working within food, agriculture, environmental protection and natural resource conservation.

Forging Ahead with Exciting Projects & Events

On top of everything we're doing, NOFA NJ staff and collaborators have been busy making progress on a number of grant projects and upcoming events. Grant and collaborative projects include efforts to **develop curricula to train more organic inspectors in the Northeast, to document NRCS program usage within the Delaware River Watershed, to establish a Farm Share CSA program** to offer discounted memberships in food deserts, to create a digital Farmer Advocacy Resource Guide, and more.

We're also planning and preparing for upcoming **farm tours**, workshops and events, most notably Festomato and our 33rd Winter Conference. Save these dates!: **Festomato** will be held Saturday, August 13 at Ironbound Farm in Asbury and our Winter Conference will take place January 28, 2023 at Rutgers University's Douglas Student Center.

Expanding Our Reach & Presence



We've eagerly increased our efforts to be a regular presence in North, South, and Central New Jersey, supporting urban, suburban, and rural growing efforts. Exciting things are happening all throughout our Garden State!

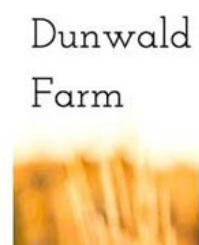
Become A Member

Donate

Support NOFA-NJ's important work by becoming a Member and helping to provide education, training, advocacy and community-building opportunities throughout NJ's food system

Your contribution helps to ensure a healthy, organic future for generations to come! No gift is too small and all are greatly appreciated. Support organic farmers, gardeners, and food systems today!

NOFA NJ thanks the following Key Partners for their generous support:



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