

# NOFA • NJ

## W • E • E • K • L • Y

### Technical Assistance & Organic Farming



Unlike farmers of former generations, today we are blessed with digital tools and technology to make learning and sharing information easier than ever before. From YouTube research to webinars, fact sheets, and AI-assisted tools, the answers we seek can often be found on the other side of a screen.

Even with all this tech, organic human connections are as important as ever!

**NOFA NJ's Technical Assistance Staff** is tasked with providing 1:1 and group support for our community's needs. While also busy working through a variety of funded projects, our TA Team's first and highest priority is to provide NOFA NJ Members with responsive, in-depth technical support. To ask a question, schedule a call, or arrange an on-farm visit, email [TA@nofanj.org](mailto:TA@nofanj.org).

**USDA's Transition to Organic Partnership Program** is designed with community-building and peer-to-peer learning in mind. Through TOPP, NOFA NJ is hosting a variety of educational workshops and networking events to keep farmers connected. With one year left in the program, sign up today to participate as a

# NOFA - NJ EVENTS

## 08/27 - Monthly Organic Open House

On the last Wednesday of each month from 9:00-10:00 AM, we provide a platform for farmers and community members to connect, share knowledge, and discuss relevant topics in organic farming. *Zoom link provided on event page.*

[MORE INFO](#)

## 08/27 - Good Grain Film Premiere at PPA - 10 Tickets Left!

Sponsored by [Cold Brook Farm](#) and [River Valley Community Grains](#). Join us for the Grand Premiere inside the historic 1930's barn at Pinelands Preservation Alliance in Southampton, NJ.

[MORE INFO](#)

## 9/3 - Monthly Technical Assistance Open Hour - Fall Cover

Join NOFA NJ's Technical Assistance Staff on the first Wednesday of each month at 9AM via Zoom for a deep dive into seasonally-appropriate topics. As always, you can email specific support requests ahead of time to [TA@nofanj.org](mailto:TA@nofanj.org). This month's discussion will be around the topic of fall cover cropping.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Pawpaws at West Farm Nursery & HCFM - 9/27 Date Added!

Taste and learn how to grow the delicious North American Pawpaw, the largest tree fruit native to North America. Charlie West has grown pawpaws on his farm in Branchburg for over 10 years and foraged for them during his childhood on the family farm in Ohio. After a career as a college professor of Botany and Biological Sciences,

he turned his attention to native fruit trees, especially pawpaws and American persimmons. The Weests will share tastes of several varieties of pawpaws and a few food items made from pawpaws.

[Register for September 27 Pawpaw Workshop](#)

[Join NOFA NJ at Hunterdon Community Farmers Market on 9/21](#)

## Where Else to Find NOFA NJ This Month

Catch the NOFA NJ Team at the following community events in August:

- August 31 - [Frenchtown RiverFest](#)
- August 31 - Tomato Tasting at [Somerset County Regional Farmers Market](#)

## COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS



*NOFA NJ's Equipment-Share Program is taking shape with the purchase of a truck, trailer, and tractor from [Belle Mead Garage!](#)*

### 9/20 - Cattail Hollow Farm Dinner

Join Cattail Hollow Farm for their seasonal on-farm dinner in the greenhouse, where three talented chefs transform the fall harvest into a masterful four-course feast.

[MORE INFO](#)

### 10/8 - Hands-On Produce Safety Workshop

This hands-on produce safety class in Cream Ridge, NJ is for farm owners, farm employees, farm managers, and those thinking about starting a farm. Focused on the

cleaning and sanitizing demonstration, and more. [MORE INFO](#)

## 10/14 - OATS Organic Fertilizer Webinar

Organic fertilizer for row crops can be hard to source and expensive - farmers don't want to apply more than they need. Join an organic agronomist and farmer to talk through some crucial questions: What are good sources of organic fertility? And how can we use field history, yield data, and soil tests to determine fertilizer rates? This webinar will be helpful for agronomists, technical advisors, and farmers. [MORE INFO](#)

## NJ Food Democracy Collaborative *Ask An Expert* Series

Join NJFDC's webinar series featuring conversations and Q&A with experts in multiple aspects of the food system.

- 8/26 - Aggregating From Local Farmers with James Klett, Fairgrown Farms
- 9/22 - Value-Added Products with Coddiwomple Canning & NOFA NJ
- 10/1 - Nonprofit Food Hubs with The Common Market & Urban Ag Cooperative

Each event is **open to South Jersey farmers and local food system stakeholders**. *If you are interested in participating and are outside of South Jersey, contact Jonathan Wetstein at [Jonathan@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:Jonathan@pinelandsalliance.org).* [MORE INFO](#)

## Take Action – Comment on USDA's Reorganization Plans by August 26

USDA is accepting public comments until August 26 on its sweeping plan to relocate nearly half of its 4,600 Washington, D.C.-based employees to five regional offices across the country. This comes after the agency already lost more than 15,000 employees through the administration's Deferred Resignation Program (DRP), including roughly one-third of the National Organic Program (NOP) team. This MOFGA web tool allows you to submit comments with ease. [MORE INFO](#)

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



FoHVOS

Land Steward

T.O.'s Hot Spice

Farm Helper

Ironbound Farm

Livestock Farmer/Asst. Manager

Gorgeous Goat Creamery

Market &amp; Farm Event Staff

Bone-In Food

Drivers

## GRANTS & FUNDING

### USDA NRCS EQIP & CSP Enrollment Open

EQIP and CSP can be great opportunities for both small and large operations seeking to improve the ecology and invest in conservation on the farm. Find a local USDA Service Center and connect with staff to learn more. [MORE INFO](#)

### Tilmor *Grow More Together* Grants

Tilmor is offering a limited number of grants to small commercial farms to help them maximize their mechanical weed control and boost farm efficiency. If you are a farmer looking to make an investment in a new 520 Tractor or Power Ox and believe that Tilmor equipment would have a positive impact in your operation this grant may be for you. Receive up to \$7,000 off the purchase of the 520 tractor or up to \$700 off the purchase of the Power-Ox 240! [MORE INFO](#)

Food Animal Concerns Trust Grants

FACT awards scholarships of up to \$400 for livestock and poultry farmers to attend educational events – including virtual events – to learn knowledge, skills and best practices related to humane animal management, business and farm finance, and/or value-added production processes. Scholarships are for registration costs only. [MORE INFO](#)

## Healthy School Food Pathway Fellowship

This Fellowship program helps experienced school food professionals realize their visions for healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable school food — both locally in their home districts and at a national scale. [MORE INFO](#)

## :: MARKET CONNECTIONS

*This new section of the NOFA NJ Weekly Email is a space to advertise bumper crops, to seek out new suppliers, and more. NOFA NJ Members are welcome to have their listing shared here, just email [nofainfo@nofanj.org](mailto:nofainfo@nofanj.org)!*

## Ironbound Farm Seeking Beef Tallow

Ironbound Farm is seeking beef tallow for sale in their Montclair and Asbury markets. [MORE INFO](#)

## Organic Food Incubator Processing NJ Tomatoes

Organic Food Incubator in Bloomfield has production runs of tomato products taking place in late August/early September. Producers wishing to turn extra tomatoes into sauces, salsas, & more should contact OFI today! [MORE INFO](#)

## :: SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Belle Mead Garage

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