



Fairness in Local Food Purchasing Programs

For the past three years, the Local Food Purchase Assistance program (LFPA) has supported food security throughout the state. LFPA paid farmers fair prices while food banks & pantries provided fresh, local farm goods to the community. This funding is a simple, straightforward approach to help farmers of all types stabilize and grow their businesses while contributing to food security efforts.

However, with federal funding cuts, **LFPA ends in just a few weeks.** For the last two years, NOFA NJ, partner organizations and farmers throughout the state have advocated for state-dedicated funding to pick up where LFPA drops off. Thankfully, the NJ Legislature, NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA), and NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate ([OFSA](#)) are **stepping up to establish continued funding** for a direct farm-to-pantry program.

This funding should be managed transparently and should champion the opportunity to support a variety of farms (small and large, beginning and experienced, urban and rural, etc.). NOFA NJ is excited to see this new model program, and we expect nothing less than fairness and accessibility as this funding is deployed.

Farmers: Sign-on to [this advocacy letter](#) from [New Jersey Food Democracy Collaborative](#) (do so by 10/16!) to express your support for an accessible, fair, and transparent Farm-to-Food Pantry program. Write a letter of your own, and attend the [next State Board of Ag meeting](#) (10/22 at 1PM) to connect with NJDA Staff and Leadership to **let them know how much opportunities like this and LFPA mean for you, for your farm, and for the communities supported by LFPA.**

10/18 - Growing Great Garlic Workshop at Wildflower Farm

Fall is the time to plant your garlic! This powerful plant is not only delicious but incredibly healthy, with many medicinal uses. Let Tomia MacQueen demonstrate how to never have to buy garlic again in this easy, 2-hour outdoor workshop.

[MORE INFO](#)

10/23 - Stockton Nursery & Orchard Farm Tour/Happy Hour

Join Stockton Nursery & Orchard Owner for a casual farm tour, orchard walk, and discussion of fall farm activities. Afterwards, continue the conversation at Odd Bird Brewing for more community, pizza, and local cheer.

[MORE INFO](#)

10/29 - Monthly Organic Open House

Join NOFA NJ for our 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.

[MORE INFO](#)

12/07 - West Windsor Community Farmers Market - *Good Grain* Film Screening at West Windsor Arts Center

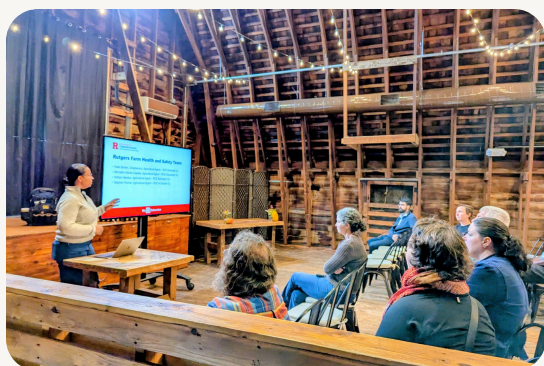
Join NOFA NJ and Hundred Year Films for a screening of *Good Grain* sponsored by the award-winning West Windsor Community Farmers Market (WWCFM) at the West Windsor Arts Council. Enjoy snacks made from local grains and a post-screening discussion/Q&A, learn more about the local grains movement and connect with vendors from WWCFM to purchase artisan, locally-grown grains products..

[MORE INFO](#)

Check out the latest from the NOFA NJ Blog to learn more about the professionals, service providers, and topics covered at our Annual Wellness Day held on 10/13/2025!

READ MORE

COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS



Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent, Kate Brown, gives a presentation on managing heat stress at NOFA NJ's Annual Farmer Wellness Day, held at Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

10/18 - City Green Harvest Festival

City Green's Annual Harvest Festival brings nature-based, fall fun to the Learning Garden in Paterson's Eastside Park. This free event offers families the opportunity to explore our garden and participate in hands-on activities, such as nature crafts, pumpkin decorating, and more! [MORE INFO](#)

10/18 - Zell's Farm Mushroom Festival

Attend for an inside look at mushroom production in Hillsborough, NJ! [MORE INFO](#)

11/01 - NPSNJ Fall Conference: Weird NJ Plants

Join Native Plant Society of New Jersey for their digital fall conference, where speakers will explore "weird" plants (and fungi), which are curiosities, indicators of specialized habitats, key players in complex ecological relationships, and windows into evolutionary history. [MORE INFO](#)

11/08 - *Farmsteads* & Gorgeous Goat Documentary at ACME

Join ACME Screening Room in Lambertville for a discussion and reception with Gorgeous Goat Creamery! Celebrate cheese! Experience the joys and struggles of

11/11 - Understanding NRCS Cost-Share for OG Grain Farmers

This webinar with OATS will break down the programs and practices that are most applicable for organic grain farms, will discuss how cost-share funding can help farmers, and the value of making high-level plans that help advisors and farmers understand farm operations better. [MORE INFO](#)

Keystone Tree Crops Cooperative Seeking Producer Members

KTCC is looking for Producer Members who currently grow, forage, or are interested in producing tree crops (including chestnuts, hickory nuts, hazelnuts, and others) located in PA, NJ, MD, NY, OH, or WV. [MORE INFO](#)

Industry Surveys

Two surveys NOFA NJ has been asked to share:

- University of Vermont - [Measuring Social Processes in Agriculture](#)
- Iowa State University - [Consumer Habits Survey](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Love Grows Farm

Vegetable Manager

Duke Farms

AgroEcology Operations Manager

NJ Dept. of
Agriculture

SADC Deputy Executive Director

Sourland Bread

Counter Help/Barista

American
Farmland Trust

Farms for a New Generation Director

GRANTS & FUNDING

Grants up to \$30,000. Farmers, working with a collaborating technical advisor, lead a research and/or education project that explores innovative solutions to challenges on the farm. [MORE INFO](#)

Northeast Dairy Innovation Grants

This grant will fund projects that help dairy farmers improve their operations for long-term success. Eligible projects may modernize outdated systems or introduce innovative solutions to improve farm viability, reduce climate impacts, improve milk quality or value, improve worker conditions, and strengthen the farm's ability to respond to challenges. [MORE INFO](#)

USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grants

RCDG funding is used improve the economic condition of rural areas by helping nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to start, expand, or improve cooperatives and mutually owned businesses in rural areas. [MORE INFO](#)

:: MARKET CONNECTIONS

NOFA NJ Members are encouraged to share listings - email nofainfo@nofanj.org!

Local Hot Sauce Processor Seeking Hot Peppers

Jersey Organics is seeking habanero, jalapeno, scotch bonnet, and hungarian hot wax peppers for their hot sauce products (along with carrots and onion). Items need to be Certified Organic or grown using organic practices. [MORE INFO](#)

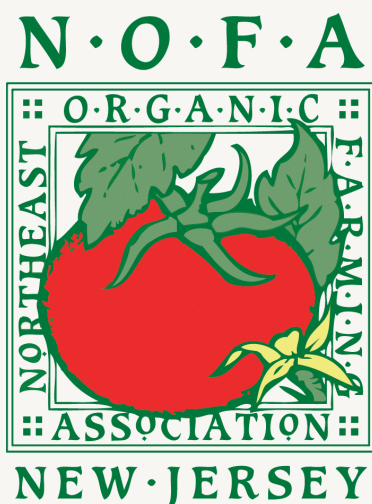
:: SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

PPA works to preserve the Pine Barrens ecosystem, promote wide public awareness of the values of Pinelands resources and issues involved in their preservation, and advance permanent acquisition of land and development



PPA is also home to [Rancocas Creek Farm](#), a 72-acre, chemical-free regenerative farm focused on ecological stewardship, community building, and food security partnerships. Visit the [PPA Visitors Center](#), and when in the mood for an outdoor adventure, connect with their outdoor recreation initiative, [Pinelands Adventures](#)!



Thank You For Supporting
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