

# NOFA · NJ

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### People Vs. Poison, Continued Organic Growth, & A New Kind of Independence

Whether by the pool, at the beach or enjoying a barbecue, NOFA NJ would love to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday!

We'd also ask you keep in mind the many farmers, farmworkers, and food system folks that make the holiday fun possible. These hard-working agrarians aren't afforded the luxury of a holiday and continue to work in dangerously hot and humid conditions. Be kind to your farmers this month, and every month.

There's a not-so-funny irony in celebrating our nation's independence while we remain so heavily dependent on industrialized food, underpaid labor, and foreign imports. We can change that. This 4th of July, fashion your own declaration of independence from big food by shopping local, eating seasonally, and supporting family farms!

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[More on our dependence on foreign imports... according to data](#) provided by the Organic Trade Association (OTA), U.S. Organic sales reached "a new high of \$76.6 billion, reflecting a nearly 7% increase year over year and the strongest growth since the 2020 pandemic." Overall sales are led by produce, berries, and packaged salads, while the fastest growing segment has been Organic beef, which is driven mostly by imports. There is indeed opportunities in the Organic marketplace — our job is to sort out how to make them accessible to our community of producers, and to support the transition and certification of farms willing to adhere to Organic standards.

Project have their eyes on the ball, and have asked us to share an [important podcast and interview](#) with Chuck Benbrook regarding the recent Supreme Court decision that gave Bayer-Monsanto a major victory regarding RoundUp litigation: *"At stake is whether people harmed by pesticides will still be able to seek justice when federal regulators fail, and whether the courts will continue to serve as one of the last meaningful checks on industry power."*

With the consumer demand and growth in Organic foods, along with our cultural values around independence, now seems like the perfect time to reinstate a sovereign food system, free from corporate control, toxic chemicals, and dependence on foreign imports. We can do this is by supporting local producers and advocating for local and Organic in our daily decisions. Use the link below to find farms and businesses in the NOFA NJ Member Directory.

Happy Fourth!

[NOFA NJ Member Directory](#)



*NOFA NJ's TA Team demonstrates the Weed Zapper cultivation tool at NOFA NJ's Organic Grains plot this past Wednesday. In collaboration with Duke Farms, we're exploring how transitioning land to Organic grains supports soil health and improves invertebrate biodiversity while creating new opportunities for farmers.*

[Learn More](#)

## NOFA-NJ EVENTS

NOFA NJ Policy Update: Farm Bill SNAP Changes Could Heavily Impact Farmers

[Read More](#)

### *07/29 - 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. No registration needed - join us on Zoom!

[More Info](#)

### *08/05 - Monthly Technical Assistance Open Hour*

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).

[More Info](#)

### *08/15 - FesTomato! at Ironbound Farm*

[More Info](#)

Back for the 8th year, FesTomato! is an annual event hosted by NOFA NJ to highlight and promote NJ's favorite summer crop and the amazing farms and farmers that grow 'maters. Free and open to the public, FesTomato! events are fun for the whole family, with tomato tastings, farm tours, culinary demonstrations, live music, local vendors, and more.

- **NOFA NJ All-Day Tomato Tasting** Sourced from local NJ farms, sample 20+ varieties of cherry, plum, heirloom, and classic slicing tomatoes

tomatoes for local food security efforts

- **Farm Tours & Educational Sessions** Led by farmers, gardeners, and food professionals, take home knowledge to use in the garden and the kitchen
- **Vendor Marketplace** Connect with community partners, food businesses, and local organizations making a difference in food and agriculture
- **Local Food & Beverage** Enjoy tasty bites from local chefs and quench your thirst with local brews from area breweries
- **Live Music** Find a seat and enjoy the sounds of several live bands!
- **Kids Activities** From temporary tattoo parlors to flower arranging and more, there's something for everyone in the family to enjoy

## COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS

### Clean Cardboard Available for Farmers

There will be a truck load (a standard pick up truck load) of clean cardboard (no tape, no shiny print and no glue) available for the taking the week after July 4th weekend. The material is free to who ever wants it. Contact Kevin at 609-955-0924 or NJcompostman@gmail.com

[More Info](#)

### NJDA Heat-Related Illness Resources

We're a bit late on sharing this for the recent heat wave, but it certainly won't be the last time temps are in the triple digits this Summer. Read up on how to prevent, recognize, and respond to heat stress in the workplace.

[More Info](#)

### USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Funding Now Available!

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program. Producers and handlers are eligible to receive 75% of the costs, up to \$750 for each of the following scopes: crops,

[More Info](#)

applications are received on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds are depleted.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ironbound Farm

Lead Line Cook

Reed's Farm

Animal Care Team Member

Chamarel Farms

Farm Manager

Fairgrown Farm

Logistics Worker

Princeton Waldorf School

Farm Manager

Foodshed Alliance

Growing Forward Program Manager

FoHVOS

Stewardship Project Coordinator

## GRANTS & FUNDING

Grants & Funding updates will now be restricted to the monthly Members-Only email - [become a Member today](#) to receive this and many other benefits!

## MARKET CONNECTIONS

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



## Rimol Greenhouses

Bob Rimol founded Rimol Greenhouse Systems in 1994 with the aim of "building a better mousetrap" for the greenhouse industry. In the three decades since, Rimol Greenhouse Systems has developed into a first-class commercial greenhouse manufacturing and distribution company, shipping greenhouses all over the United States to farms, garden centers, nurseries, educational institutions, homesteads and more.

Rimol Greenhouses is based out of Hooksett, NH where all of their products are designed and fabricated onsite in their state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. Rimol's team of greenhouse experts are located remotely around the country and are available to come onsite to help design a customized greenhouse solution that fits your exact needs.



Thank You For Supporting NOFA NJ!

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