

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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NY Farms! publishes News to Share to provide information about food and farming to a wide range of interested individuals, organizations and businesses. It is a compilation from a variety of sources. Articles do not necessarily represent official positions of NY Farms! For more about NY Farms! Visit www.nyfarms.info. We would appreciate receiving your information and announcements for News to Share, at nyfarms@nyfarms.info. **Please also use this address to subscribe or unsubscribe.**

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NEWS TO SHARE

April 13, 2009

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NEW YORK STATE NEWS

Drivers Urged to Share the Road with Slow Moving Vehicles

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

Commissioner David J. Swarts of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and Chair of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) along with Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Patrick Hooker, representatives from the Department of Transportation and the State Police as well as safety advocates from the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and the Future Farmers of America today reminded motorists to share the road with slow-moving vehicles with safety and courtesy as well as reminded farmers of several changes to the State Vehicle and Traffic Law regarding slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblems and lighting. Governor David Paterson has proclaimed April as "Slow Moving Vehicle Safety" month.

Slow-moving vehicles (SMVs) are all vehicles that operate at 25 mph or less, including: tractors; self-propelled farm equipment; road construction and maintenance machinery; and animal-powered vehicles. Motorists will typically encounter more agricultural slow-moving vehicles from April through October, when farmers are more apt to be planting, maintaining and harvesting crops.

[Read more>>>](#)

NOFA-NY Supports Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York announced its support for the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act, a bill to amend state labor law by removing farm workers from the list of workers excluded from coverage under the New York State Labor Relations Act. Elizabeth Henderson, a farmer in Arcadia, New York and co-chair of the NOFA-NY Policy Committee said, "If we want economically viable food production in New York State, we need a reliable supply of well-trained workers for our farms. Farm workers deserve the same rights as all other workers in our economy."

The members of NOFA-NY strongly support the implementation of local fair trade. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, members unanimously passed a policy resolution stating:

"We believe that everyone involved in the organic supply chain from seed to plate is entitled to living wages, a safe workplace and respectful treatment. Farm prices should enable farmers to cover the costs of production, sustain their families and farms, including a living wage for all farm workers, and additional revenues to ensure the continuing development of the farm. Farmworkers should enjoy the rights to freedom of association that are protected by law for workers in other sectors. Fair and transparent

negotiations should provide long-term contracts between the buyers of organic products and farmers, and between farmers and farmworkers."

The passage of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act will move New York State a small step closer to establishing integrated policies of fair trade for all producers and workers in the food system.

Department Announces Creation Of Maple Task Force

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets today announced the formation and members of the Maple Task Force. The Task Force will be charged with examining the needs of the maple industry and identifying any programmatic and regulatory measures necessary in order to enhance the vitality of New York State's maple industry.

"New York State is one of the world's largest producers of maple products," Deputy Commissioner Jackie Moody-Czub said. "Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement. Whether it is regulatory reform, promotional efforts or developmental programs, this Department is committed to helping this industry grow. I look forward to the discussion amongst the members of this Task Force and learning what the Department can do to help New York's maple industry."

David Campbell of Mapleland Farms in Salem (Washington County), who also serves as the President of the New York State Maple Producers Association, will chair the Task Force. There will also be twelve other members of New York's maple industry,

[Read more>>>](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Farm Risk Management, Crop Insurance and Planning for 2009

Update from the NYS Dept of Ag's Crop Insurance Education program

There are a number of upcoming risk management deadlines that affect wholesale nursery growers, farmers with crop insurance policies for spring-planted crops, and those who did not sign up in 2008 for the SURE program, a new requirement for eligibility for federal disaster payments. Check with your FSA county office about exceptions to the 2008 fee requirements for SURE for farmers who qualify as socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning.

Protecting Nursery Inventory in 2009-10

The deadline of **May 1, 2009** applies to nursery growers seeking crop insurance coverage for the entire insurance year from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. New nursery policies may now be purchased throughout the year with a 30-day waiting period before insurance protection attaches. (The deadline for canceling existing policies is 5/31.) To qualify, growers must wholesale at least 50% of their production. Coverage may apply to all field-grown and/or container nursery plants on the Eligible Plant list (available at www.rma.usda.gov/tools/). Federal disaster payments require enrollment in nursery crop

insurance with higher levels of coverage providing higher guarantees for both crop insurance and SURE. Consult a private crop insurance agent for further details. Agent lists are available at FSA offices or at <http://www3.rma.wsda.gov/apps/agents/>.

Spring crop production reports due April 29

The foundation for protection in most crop insurance policies is the actual yield history. For those enrolled in crop insurance for spring-planted crops, a critical requirement is that yields for each insurance unit be reported to your crop insurance agent no later than April 29. The required written records supporting a producer's reported yields are subject to review to assure accuracy. A spring crop producer's agent will need to know of any additional farms where insured crops are being grown that do **not** have an established yield history.

Extension to May 18 for 2008 SURE Enrollment

The federal Stimulus Bill passed in February changed the eligibility requirements for 2008 disaster payments under SURE (Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance) enacted by the Farm Bill and administered by FSA. Farmers who did not purchase crop insurance last year now have until **May 18, 2009** to pay the fee through their county FSA office to become eligible for SURE.

Producers who take advantage of this extension must agree to purchase crop insurance at levels of 70/100 or higher for the next year for which crop insurance is available. Those who purchased less than 70/100 crop insurance for 2008 or those that paid the FSA fee, either previously or within the new extension period, will be considered to have purchased a 70/100 policy for the calculation of the SURE guarantee. Producers who purchased 70/100 crop insurance or greater for 2008 will see their payment factor (as a basis for calculating the SURE guarantee) increased from 115 to 120 percent. For further details, contact your county FSA office or go to http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/dap_304.pdf.

Visit the NY Crop Insurance Education Program Website [here>>>](#)



New York Crop Insurance Education Program
Risk Management Agency USDA
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets



OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Local Foods Conference: Enhancing Local and Regional Food Systems

This conference is designed for all those seeking to advance the knowledge, education, and practice of local and regional food system development. Whether you are an Extension educator working with local communities and producers, a faculty member seeking to build on the empirical evidence related to effective local food system development, a non-profit or service organization seeking to build strong local food systems, or a government agency wanting to learn more about and contribute to the data and information available to enhance the capacity of your state or region this conference

is for you. **Early registration deadline is April 13, 2009.** Visit <http://nercrd.psu.edu/LocalFoods/Conference.html> for more information.

Wanted: Volunteers for Master Forest Owners Training May 13-17

Cornell Cooperative Extension is looking for a few good forest owners to volunteer to meet and work with their neighbors. For the first time in Northern New York, the Master Forest Owners training program will be offered May 13-17, 2009, at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Adirondack Ecological Center & Huntington Forest in Newcomb, NY (Essex County).

The goal of New York's 19-year-old Master Forest Owners (MFO) Program is to provide private forest owners with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forests to enhance ownership satisfaction. Volunteers who complete the 4-day MFO workshop will join the corps of 175 certified volunteers across the state.

The May 13-17 training will include presentations on maple syrup production, timber sales, and growing agroforestry crops, such as mushrooms, ginseng, Golden seal and Christmas trees. Course work includes tree identification, finding boundaries, forest ecology, wildlife and sawtimber management, water quality best management practices, communication techniques, timber harvesting, and invasive species identification and management.

Registration deadline for the MFO training is April 24. A \$50.00 registration fee upon acceptance helps defray lodging, publications, food, and equipment costs. Prior to applying, those interested in the training must invite a current MFO volunteer to their forest property for a visit and contact their local Cornell Cooperative Extension educator. A program application and a listing of current MFOs are online at www.cornellmfo.info.

Hillside Antiques, Flea & Farmers Market- New Vendors Welcome--Reserve Now!

27th Season Opening Saturday 2 May 2009

Over 150 Spaces--Indoors & Outside. Get Cash!! Sell Your Products or Merchandise.

Open Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays

9.00am--5.00pm Rain or Shine

Still Only \$70.00 per month, \$25.00 per weekend, or \$15.00 per day

2,000 plus potential Customers Daily

Snack Bar and Chicken BBQ for Rent

Take a look! <http://www.hillsidefleamarkets.com>

Email??. hillsidemarkets@frontiernet.net

7753 State Route 3, Pulaski, NY 13142 Phone: 315-298-4085

Vendors Needed for Second Annual Farmers' Market in Canajoharie

The Canajoharie – Palatine Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the second annual Canajoharie Farmers' Market, which will be held weekly on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, 2 Erie Boulevard.

The season will run from May to October. Reservations are available for individual Saturdays and craft vendors are welcome. If you would like to come to one or more markets during the season to introduce your business to our customers, sell your farm products, play music, teach a skill, cook a dish, show off your handiwork or live animals, we want to hear from you.

If you'd like to learn more about the Market, please call the chamber at (518) 673-4434 to request an application packet. Be sure to leave your name, address, telephone number and email address.

Menands Farmers Market Planning Biggest Season Ever

Capital District Farmers Market

The Farmers Market in Menands, on Broadway just south of Route 378, is busy putting together their 2009 season for their retail market. Not only will they have special events every other weekend, their retail market will be open Sundays in addition to Saturdays. The hours are Saturday from 8 to 1 and Sunday from Noon to 4.

The season will kick off Saturday May 2 with the Want Ad Digest Community Garage Sale. Patrons will be able to search for treasures and buy their plants and flowers for the season at the same time, directly from the farmers who started them. The Farmers Market in Menands has been around for over 75 years and, in addition to the retail markets on weekends, farmers still gather every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from the beginning of May to the end of October at 5:30 AM to sell in bulk to each other, local businesses, and people buying in quantity. The market is also home to several wholesalers who deliver to businesses throughout upstate New York and also sell to the general public. Most of the wholesalers are open Monday thru Saturday from 6 AM to 1 PM.

For more information on the market visit their web site at <http://www.capitaldistrictfarmersmarket.org/>, or call them on 465-1023.

CALL TO ACTION

Brooklyn Food Conference: Local Action for Global Change

The Brooklyn Food Conference: Local Action for Global Change is happening on May 2. It is bringing together a broad constituency of people interested in health, sustainability, and social justice in order to change the food system, locally and globally. The conference will have over 60 workshops, combining grassroots activists, non-profit leaders, and academics, peer-led teen activities, cooking demos, an expo, lots of kids activities, and lots of food, of course! The event is free so we are fund raising to keep it totally accessible to all the people who want to come. We are building a political constituency for a Food Democracy movement in Brooklyn!

We need your help in several ways:

*Introduce us to whatever organizations you are connected to. We now have 5 co-sponsoring organizations and over 80 partnering organizations that are helping us to publicize the event (no money, just publicity); please help us find more partners and introduce us to your friends.

*Come to the conference on May 2 and help spread the word. There will be something for everyone there and it will be a great example of what the people can do together-- have a great time, learn together, and make some needed change!

Registration for this free event has just started so please go to our website and join us now: www.brooklynfoodconference.org

RESOURCES

Local Foods Radio Toolkit Available

Farm to Family Connection

Farmers who direct market their locally raised food and farm products need to connect with potential customers. Consumers want to connect with the folks raising their food. Now, a new toolkit will help bring farmers and customers together.

"Making the Connection: A Toolkit for Starting a Radio and Web-based Local Food Campaign" is available for \$22.95 plus sales tax, shipping and handling from Northeast Nebraska RC&D, 702 E. Park Ave., Plainview, NE 68769 or call (402) 582-4866.

Downloadable order forms are available at www.farmtofamily.net.

Spring Edition of the Farmers Market Forum

Farmers Market Federation of NY

The Spring edition of the Farmers Market Forum, the quarterly newsletter of the Farmers Market Federation of NY, is now available on the web. The link to the Spring 2009 Farmers Market Forum is

<http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/PDF2009/NewsletterSpring.doc>

Please feel free to make copies to distribute to the farmers and vendors in your market or direct anyone interested to the website to enroll in the email announcement of the newsletter.

The Spring edition of the Farmers Market Forum is brought to you in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Market's Pride of New York program. Visit their website at www.prideofny.com

Also sponsoring the Spring edition is Johnny's Seeds. Visit www.johnnyseeds.com for a full catalog.

CLASSIFIEDS

Farm Educator/Coordinator Needed

Newton Community Farm

Newton Community Farm, a vital, three year-old community farm dedicated to teaching and modeling sustainable agriculture, is seeking an energetic self-starter to help grow our educational programming. The position, based at Newton Community Farm, 303 Nahanton St., Newton, is currently part-time, ranging from 2 to 25 hours per week over 30-weeks, mid-April through October. Weekday and some weekend hours are expected. Specific hours will vary according to program needs. Our vision sees this staff position growing commensurate with the expansion of our educational offerings. We hope to hire an individual who anticipates long-term involvement with our growing programs. To Apply: Applications by email strongly encouraged. Please send a resume, cover letter and list of three references by April 18, 2009 to: newtoncommunityfarm@comcast.net

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

We're glad you asked. This month we're featuring **LAMB & GOAT**. If you are a farmer and not listed on this website please send us your contact information.

<http://www.nyfarms.info/whatsinseason.html>

SAVE THE DATE

Calendar of Events

For an updated calendar of events, visit: <http://www.nyfarms.info/calendar.html>

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