

NOFA-NJ Schedules Organic Farming Field Days

PENNINGTON, N.J. — The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) is offering four educational field days for the 2003 growing season. All events are open to the public free of charge, but pre-registration with the NOFA-NJ office is requested.

The first event will take place Tuesday, June 10, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Cherry Grove Farm in Lawrence Township, N.J.

Entitled "Get Your Hands Dirty: Evaluating Soil Health," the evening will feature hands-on activities for testing key indicators of soil quality, including percolation rate, aggregate stability, bulk density, compaction, and pH. The program will be led by Dan Kluchinski of Mercer County extension, Dr. Joe Heckman of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and Chris Smith of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. One-on-one soil test consultations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis during a pre-meeting, brown bag dinner hour.

Cherry Grove Farm consists of two independent farm businesses. Cherry Grove Organic Farm CSA, operated by Matt Conner, grows certified organic vegetables and flowers for sale at farmers markets and through a Community Supported Agriculture program, while Cherry Grove Farm proper markets grassfed beef, pork, lamb, and free range eggs under the direction of Kelly Harding. Both farmers will be on hand at the event to talk about their operations and answer questions.

NOFA-NJ's second summer event is scheduled at the Muth Family Farm, 1639 Pitman-Downer Road, Williamstown, N.J. on Friday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored in cooperation with The Rodale Institute (Initiative

for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, USDA-CSREES), The Northeast Organic Network (NEON), and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, this field day will focus on "Transitioning to Organic Vegetable Production in South Jersey."

Bob and Leda Muth will give a tour of their 27-acre, second generation farm, one-third of which is now certified organic, and describe how they have adjusted their marketing, equipment, and soil management strategies as they have transitioned from conventional vegetable production. Other speakers and topics will include Dr. Anu Rangarajan of Cornell University's Department of Horticulture on "Ramping Up Research and Education in Organic Agriculture," Gloucester County Extension Agent Michelle Infante-Casella on "Cover Crop Rotations," Erich Bremer of NOFA-NJ on "Complying with the National Organic Program," and David Wilson and Matt Ryan of The Rodale Institute on "Research Results from the Farming Systems Trials" and "Using Compost Teas." Registration for this event is requested by June 16. Lunch will be served.

NOFA-NJ will continue its "Summer Sunday Farm Tour" series on June 22 at Keller Farm, 601 Moss Mill Road, Germania, N.J. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., farmer Jim Brandt will host a tour of his nine-acre mixed vegetable and poultry farm in Atlantic County. NOFA-NJ certified since 1998, Jim sells to restaurants and at his on-farm stand. He also has a strong interest in alternative energies, using solar panels, a geothermal heat pump, and a windmill to power the farm. Refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, July 9, NOFA-NJ will host "An Organic Success Story" Field Day at Spiral Path

Farm in Loysville, just west of Harrisburg.

This event is offered in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). Spiral Path is a 60-acre, diversified farm serving wholesale markets as well as a 250-member CSA. In 2001 it was selected as one of eleven 'focal farms' for the Northeast Organic Network (NEON).

The NEON focal farm project is conducting case studies of how exceptional organic farms in the Northeast manage soil fertility, pests, weeds, and other systems.

Farmers Mike and Terra Brownback will give a tour, while NEON researchers Anu Rangarajan, David Conner, Chuck Mohler, and Brian Caldwell will summarize NEON findings with regard to farm budgeting, crop rotations, and pest management.

To request a calendar of events, event brochures, or to register for one of these events, contact Bonnie McGee at (609) 737-6848 or bmcgee@nofanj.org, or visit the NOFA-NJ Website at www.nofanj.org.

New Farm Show Team

(Continued from Page A1)

years of experience in a number of organizations to his new position as Farm Show director. A Harrisburg resident, Nielsen most recently served as chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Association Advancement. He has also served as a senior-level executive at the International Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus, Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, and Metzner-Nielsen Associates.

Nielsen's work has included bipartisan relations, creative organizational growth strategies, and financial development. He has a master's degree from Lincoln University.

"With his extensive business and professional experience, team-oriented leadership style, and results-focused management practices, (Nielsen) will lead the Farm Show Complex as it develops a stronger event base and strengthens its fiscal position," Wolff said.

Nielsen could not be reached for comment before *Lancaster Farming* press time this week.

As new chief of Show Management, Weaver will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the livestock show section, the agriculture/equine show section, and the non-agricultural show

section.

Weaver is a fourth-generation owner and manager of Weaverland Valley Farms in New Holland and a former vice president and manager for Trileaf Tobacco Company. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Garden Spot Young Farmers Chapter.

"(Weaver's) strong agricultural background and knowledge base will be critical for his new position at the Farm Show," Wolff said.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Farm Show Bureau operates and maintains the 60-acre Farm Show Complex to help promote agriculture and commerce. The complex contains 20 acres under one roof and has more than one million square feet of exhibition, conference, and banquet space.

Recent construction to the complex added 350,000 square feet of exhibition space, an Exposition Hall totaling 175,000 square feet, an equine arena, and a new livestock barn. In addition to four state-sponsored shows, the complex hosts more than 200 trade shows, exhibits, and activities annually.

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at (717) 787-4737, or visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us.

Texas To Host 2003 Cattle Industry Summer Conference

DENVER, Colo. — More than a thousand cattlemen and women from throughout the country are expected to gather this summer in Dallas, Texas, as three of the industry's leading organizations conduct the 2003 Cattle Industry Summer Conference. The event is scheduled for July 22-26 at the Dallas Adam's Mark Hotel.

The theme of the Conference is "Create Change: Shape the Future — Together!" and producers are invited to bring their ideas and participate in the various industry meetings and events

during the convention. The sponsors of the conference are the Cattlemen's Beef

Promotion and Research Board, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and American National CattleWomen, Inc. (ANCW).

Several "Industry Issues Forums" are slated for Thursday morning, July 24. NCBA state and regional caucus meetings and council meetings will follow that afternoon. Joint industry committee and NCBA policy committee meetings will be conducted on Friday, July 25.

The Cattlemen's Beef Board will conduct its business meeting on Saturday morning, July 26. The NCBA also will conduct its board of directors meeting that day.

Registration and hotel information will be available May 9 through the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) Convention and Meetings Department, (303) 694-0305. Registration fees range from \$95 for ANCW members and \$105 for NCBA or CBB members to \$205 for non-members.

More information and the registration brochure also will be available in the May 9 issue of the Beef Business Bulletin. Updated schedule information is continually available on the industry's Website www.beef.org. (Click on the Events link.)

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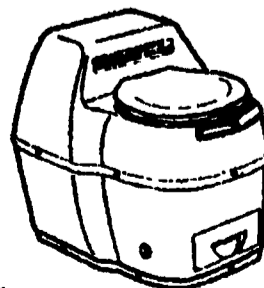
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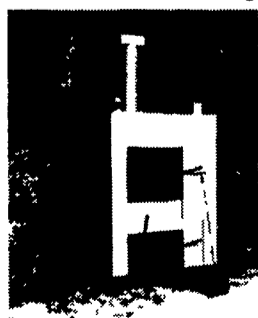
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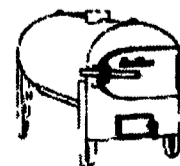
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