

Cultivating Cumberland

July-2011 VOL. 16, ISSUE 7



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Attachments:

USDA Proposed National Leafy Green Marketing Agreement

The USDA is moving forward with rulemaking for the National Leafy Green Marketing Agreement (NLGMA). The agreement was proposed in 2009 by produce industry representatives. USDA held 7 hearings across the country during 2009 and received over 5000 pages of testimony. They have made changes to the proposal after the first comment period among those are:

1. Leafy greens are arugula, cabbage, chard, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale, lettuce, parsley radicchio, spinach and "Spring Mix (baby lettuces, mustards, chards spinach and chicories). Others could be added.
2. The number of administrative zone were increased to 8 state groupings based on similar climates, production environments, crops, agricultural practices, etc. New Jersey is in zone 8 with Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.
3. The administrative board would be made up of 26 members of which 10 would be growers including two small growers, 12 handlers (buyers), 1 retail person, 1 public member, 1 foodservice person and 1 importer; all appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.
4. A Technical Review Committee would assist the board in developing standards for third party audits. The committee will be made up of growers, handlers, food safety experts, FDA, NRCS, etc.
5. All standards that are developed would go out for public comment before taking affect.
6. Any regulations developed by FDA for the Food Safety Modernization act would apply.
7. This is a voluntary handler agreement, however if a handler signs up then he must buy his leafy greens from a grower who is third party audited.
8. An assessment per carton will not exceed \$0.05 per 24-pound carton of leafy green vegetables to cover administrative costs and verification audits for first handlers and their producers, research and education.
9. If a handler signs up and imports leafy greens that product is also covered under the agreement.
10. If you are a grower (no matter what size) that sells to a handler that is a signatory to the Agreement then you would need to follow the agreement.

The full proposal text was published in the Federal Register on April 29. Go to www.ams.usda.gov for a copy. There is a 90 day comment period where anyone can comment anonymously if desired. All comments must be received by July 28, 2011. Read the document and make your feelings known. This will be critical for the leafy green industry in New Jersey.

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Update

Wesley Kline, Agricultural Agent, Cumberland County

The Food and Drug Administration is moving rapidly with the new food safety act. There are public hearings almost each month on different aspects. If you want to keep up-to-date on all webinars, due dates for public comment, etc. check out <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/>. This site covers all parts of the FSMA including seafood, meat, fresh and processing fruits and vegetables.

English GAPs On-line Produce Safety Course

The next English GAP's Online Produce Safety course will begin July 6 and run through July 26th. Registration is now open. Each course is limited to 25 people and there will be a \$50 fee. The \$50 fee is guaranteed only for the next 3 classes due to the expiration of the grant currently funding this class. Tentatively those classes will start July 6th, August 3rd and August 24th.

To register visit: www.ecornell.com/gaps, check the "Add to Cart" checkbox and click the "Add to Cart" button. Any questions contact Elizabeth Bihn by email: eab38@cornell.edu or 315-787-2625.

NJDA, Vegetable Growers Merge Convention

Jeff Beach, NJDA

Two of New Jersey agriculture's most influential annual gatherings are joining forces for the first time in January 2012 to create a formidable showcase of the Garden State's agrarian advances.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey (VGANJ) jointly announced the merging of their respective conventions into one massive convention/trade show. While both groups will conduct separate programs, the combined convention will appeal to New Jersey's diverse agricultural industry by promoting greater participation and interaction among a wider cross-section of industry members from all sectors.

The convention/trade show is slated for the week of January 16, 2012 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City.

Held since 1914, the NJDA conducts a legally mandated annual convention of the state's entire agricultural industry. As specified under New Jersey statutes, each year delegates representing all sectors of the industry must gather to elect two members to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture, elect farmer-members to the Fish and Game Council, and set agricultural policy for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture through a series of formal resolutions voted on by the delegates.

Founded in 1955, the Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey's mission is to disseminate knowledge of the growing and marketing of vegetables through cooperation with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, the New Jersey and U.S. Departments of Agriculture, and all other existing organizations and committees working for or interested in the vegetable industry of the Garden State.

Each year, the VGANJ hosts a convention/trade show where farmers attend educational sessions, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the latest advances in fruit and vegetable research. The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension plan and coordinate these sessions.

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher said the State Board determined that a VGANJ proposal to merge the conventions would benefit all sectors of New Jersey agriculture by bringing the policy aspects of the State Convention together with the broader educational elements of the VGANJ gathering.

"Our convention is all about hearing the opinions and views of members of New Jersey's agricultural community to help us best utilize the Department's resources to serve this very important industry," Secretary Fisher said. "We welcome the opportunity to widen the scope of attendees and expand our ability to hold listening sessions. Hopefully, everyone will find the additional seminars and a trade show beneficial in helping them improve their individual operations."

VGANJ President Joe Marino added that combining the conventions also will help the state's farmers stay abreast of recent developments even in tougher economic times.

"The recent economic climate has made it tough for farm families to expend the money to attend numerous conventions and trade shows typically held during the off-season," Marino said. "We hope that by combining two events into one, convention participants will experience a greater value in attending. If this proves successful, we hope that other New Jersey agricultural entities will want to join us, and make this convention the one 'must-attend' event of the year."

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

This means you may be eligible if:

- 1.** you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period; and
- 2.** the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
- 3.** you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website:
www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community.

If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process.

USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You.

Rutgers Turf Research Field Days – 2011

Mark your calendars now for this year's Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days which will be held on **July 26, 2011** (Golf and Fine Turf Research Field Day at Horticultural Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ) and **July 27, 2011** (Landscape and Sports Turf Research Field Day and Equipment Demonstrations at Adelphia Research Farm, Freehold, NJ). Additional information and directions to each location can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.njturfgrass.org/>.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans is being established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429;

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit: www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547;

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

EPA - Spill Control Rules

This Week in Farm Bureau Vol. XLVIII, No. 24

Farmers are advised to take heed of an on-coming deadline for compliance with EPA's oil spill control prevention program. This is the rule that attracted notoriety for briefly being associated with milk spills on dairy farms and dairy processing facilities. The underlying rule adopted in 1974 governing above-ground storage of petroleum products, however, remains in place and is now subject to enforcement (facilities in place pre 2002; Nov. '11 deadline for later facilities). Businesses including farms subject to the rule that store 1,320 gallons of oil or fuel in above-ground containers (or 42,000 gal.+ in buried containers) must have a control plan if an accidental release could reasonably be expected to discharge into waters of the United States. Amendments to the rule adopted in January 2010 were made to simplify compliance for farmers subject to the rule (example: farmers can self-certify their spill control plan). For details contact Marie Banasiak or Liz Thompson at the Farmhouse 609-393-7163

Calendar of Important Events

📅 Indicates the newly added event since last calendar

July 2011

📅 July 11-14

United States Potato Board Administrative Committee Summer Meeting, Hilton Columbus at Easton, Ohio. For more info contact Robin Angelo by email: rvest@uspotatoes.com

📅 July 13

Train the Trainer Program, 6:30-8:30 pm, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County, Davidson Mill Pond Park, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, NJ. Participants building a rain barrel-cost \$45. For those not building cost is \$10. For further info call 732-398-5273.

📅 July 21-22

Irrigation Association Water Conference, Broomfield, Colorado. For more info visit: www.irrigation.org

📅 July 26

Golf and Fine Turf Day at Hort Farm II, 102 Ryders Lane, North Brunswick NJ. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. For more info call the New Jersey Turfgrass Association 973-812-6467

📅 July 27

Lawn, Landscape & Sports Field Day and the Sports Field Managers Trade Show & Equipment Demos, Adelphia Farm, 594 Halls Mill Road, Freehold, NJ. Registration opens 7:30 a.m. For more info call the NJ Turfgrass Association 973-812-6467.

📅 July 29-31

PMA Foodservice Conference & Exposition, Monterey, Calif. For more info call 302-738-7100 or visit: <http://legacy.pma.com/foodservice/2011>

August 2011

📅 August 9-11

Empire Farm Days, Tuesday & Wednesday 9-5:00; Thursday 9-4:00, Rodman Lott & Son Farm, Seneca Falls. Free Admission; Parking \$10. For more info call 877-697-7837.

August 14-18

95th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America, Wilmington, N.C. For more information visit: www.paa2011.org or contact Craig Yencho 919-513-7417 or by email: Craig_Yencho@ncsu

📅 August 16-18

Ag Progress Days, Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center. For more info call 814-865-2081 or email: agprogressdays@psu.edu

✦ August 31-September 2

IGSA 83rd Annual Summer Convention, Sun Valley, Idaho. For more info contact Travis Blacker 208-529-4400 or email: tblacker@idahoshippers.org

September 2011**✦ September 26-28**

Pack Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. For more info call 703-243-8555 or visit: www.packexpo.com

October 2011**✦ October 3-5**

United Fresh Washington Public Policy Conference, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. For more info visit: www.unitedfresh.org

✦ October 14-18

Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition, Atlanta, GA. For more info visit: www.pma.com

✦ October 15-17

Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit, Atlanta. For more info visit: <http://show.pma.com/freshsummit>

November 2011**✦ November 1-4**

Process Expo, McCormick Place, Chicago. For more info visit: www.myprocessexpo2011.com

✦ November 14-16

Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference & Trade Show, Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, Miss. For more info call 601-955-9298, email: info@msfruitandveg.com or visit: www.msfruitandveg.com

✦ November 16-17

Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association Conference & Trade Show, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Wash. For more info call 509-585-5460 or visit: www.pnva.org

✦ November 23-25

35th International Carrot Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa. For more info email: info@carrotconference.co.za or visit: www.carrotconference.co.za

📅 November 28-30

Southeast Vegetable & Fruit Expo, Kingston Plantation Embassy Suites Resort, Mrytle Beach, S.C. For more info call Cathy Price 919-334-0099 or email: cathyprice09@yahoo.com

December 2011**📅 December 6-8**

Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable & Farm Market EXPO, DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, Mich. For more info visit: www.glexpo.com

📅 December 13-15

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Radisson Hotel, Manchester, N.H. For more info contact Jon Clements 413-478-7219

January 2012**📅 January 4-6**

Potato Expo 2012, Loews Royal Pacific, Orlando, Fla. For more info visit: www.potato-expo.com

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

✓ Indicates meeting will be held at RCE of Cumberland County

<p>✓</p> <p>Pesticide Certification Exam Schedule—Cumberland County 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2011</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 2 Oct 28 Nov 9 Dec 14</p> <p>To Register call 609-984-6614 For directions call 856-451-2800 *****</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn & Carmel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2011</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Jul 13</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Aug 10</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Sep 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct 12</td> <td>Nov 9</td> <td>Dec 14</td> </tr> </table> <p>Meetings start at 7 p.m. Call DeAnn at 856-453-2211 *****</p>	Jul 13	Aug 10	Sep 14	Oct 12	Nov 9	Dec 14	<p>✓</p> <p>Cumberland County Board Of Agriculture 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn & Carmel) 7 pm meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2011</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Sep 15</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Oct 20</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Nov 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dec 15</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>For info call Shirley Kline, President 856-685-3784 *****</p>	Sep 15	Oct 20	Nov 17		Dec 15	
Jul 13	Aug 10	Sep 14												
Oct 12	Nov 9	Dec 14												
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	Dec 15													

**Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA)
Pesticide Container Recycling
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon**

Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex
169 Jesse's Bridge Rd. (located off Route 55 Exit 29)
Deerfield Township, New Jersey

Jul 15	Aug 19	Sep 16
	Oct 21	Nov 18

Sincerely,

James R. Johnson
Agricultural Agent
Nursery Management Commercial
Internet: jjohnson@njaes.rutgers.edu

Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D.
Agricultural Agent
Vegetable & Herb Production
Internet: wkline@njaes.rutgers.edu

Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.

Use of Trade Names: Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label.

Remember to keep up with all the news! Visit our website for present/past issues of "Cultivating Cumberland".
<http://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu/>

Public Notification and Non-discrimination Statement

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Rutgers Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 732-932-5000, ext. 584.

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