



# Cultivating Cumberland

May - 2013 VOL. 18, ISSUE 5

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### Attachments:

## Produce Marketing Opportunity

Donna Gagliardi is the Food and Nutrition Director for South Jersey Healthcare with locations in Bridgeton, Elmer, Vineland and Woodbury. They are looking for Jersey Fresh Vendors.

The goal of South Jersey Healthcare is to educate and provide a mechanism for their staff to purchase Jersey Fresh produce in season. They would also like to purchase and serve Jersey Fresh produce to patients, as well as use it in their retail operations.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this, please contact Donna Gagliardi of the South Jersey Healthcare Food and Nutrition Department by email: [gagliardid@sjhs.com](mailto:gagliardid@sjhs.com).

## Pepper Disease Alert

Wes Kline, RCE Cumberland County

Transplanting time is here and there are still pepper fields standing from last year. This makes no sense if you are concerned about disease management in 2013. These fields are ideal sources for Anthracnose, bacterial blight and Phytophthora. You may not be concerned about your peppers getting disease, but what about your downwind neighbors? Anthracnose has increased over the last few years. Is it because fields are left standing too long after harvest? There is no doubt that this can contribute to disease spread. If a new field of peppers is planted downwind from the old field, be ready to spend a lot of money spraying when it could have been avoided.

## **FDA Food Safety Q&A: Biological Soil Amendments**

Wes Kline, RCE Cumberland County  
Meredith Melendez, RCE Mercer County

The third FDA Proposed Produce Food Safety Rule Q & A conference call, coordinated by the Produce Safety Alliance, was held April 22nd. This conference call focused on soil amendment use in the proposed rule. Details on soil amendments in the proposed rule can be found in Section F Biological Soil Amendments. The FDA officially announced that it will extend the comment period by 120 days, allowing comments until Sept. 16, 2013. Visit the FDA website to comment on these proposed rules. Here are the questions from agricultural organizations and growers and answers from the FDA:

### **1. If raw manure is applied to a field and then plastic is laid prior to seeding or transplanting is this a practice that is accepted to reduce the days to harvest to zero?**

The only situation where raw manure can be applied to a production area and a zero days to harvest would be applicable would be if there was no possible way for that raw manure to touch the harvestable product. Growers must consider the ability of the manure to splash onto the crop during rains or watering as well as the ability of dust to travel onto the crop.

### **2. Was there an attempt to create formulas based on different types of manures (horse, sheep etc.)?**

The FDA recognizes that there are different levels of risk associated with varying types of manures and production methods. The FDA decided to use the most restrictive measures. The FDA does encourage growers to utilize the ability to create alternatives to the rule when there is scientific evidence that an alternative practices would be an acceptable alternative.

### **3. Is domestic animal waste considered to be of animal origin as covered in the rule?**

Yes, it is considered animal manure.

### **4. How are composts that are made from vermiculture and/or cured or cold composted for several years affected by the rule?**

These types of composts will need validation of die-off of human pathogens in order to prove that they meet the standards of the proposed rule.

### **5. What is required of purchased composts to verify that they meet the standards of the proposed rule?**

A certificate of conformance from the producer is needed.

### **6. If you are producing your own compost and using it yourself, is testing required?**

No, testing is not required when you are producing compost for your own use. USDA NRCS and the EPA-California have documents that outline compost production methods that would meet the standards of the proposed rule. Growers are encouraged to adopt these methods of composting so that there is a multiple hurdle approach to reducing pathogens.

**7. If windrows are only turned two times how would that compost be classified?**

It would not have completed the needed turning and would be considered raw manure and therefore need to comply with the raw manure standards.

**8. Are blood meal, bone meal etc. considered to have already completed a kill step?**

These amendments are considered biological and of animal origin. Validated procedure info is needed in order to qualify for the zero days to harvest. A certificate of conformance is needed, but this information may also be found on the product label. (This type of documentation is acceptable.)

**9. How does the National Organic Program and FSMA differ on composting regulations?**

The FDA looked at the NOP regulations when creating FSMA. FDA also reviewed literature that was published after the NOP standards were put into place. The FDA recognizes that composting reduces a significant, but not complete, amount of pathogens. The FDA decided to add 45 days to the timing. This additional time should not affect a significant number of farms.

**10. NOP states that manure should be tilled into the soil 3-4 months prior to harvest, why does FSMA not state this as well?**

If the FDA had information on a validated study showing that tillage adequately reduced pathogens in the soil they would consider it. The FDA does seek comments regarding tillage and raw manure use.

**11. Why is there such a difference in the NOP standard of 120 days and FSMA standard of 9 months from application to harvest?**

The FDA found little scientific basis for the 120 day wait time. The FSMA rule needs to be universally applicable. Again, we expect that some groups will need to rely on the scientifically based alternative methods to the rule.

**12. If there is enough science and comment to validate the 120 days from raw manure application to harvest time frame with the FDA be willing to change the rule as it stands now?**

Yes, provided there is enough scientific information to validate the 120 day wait time.

**13. What exactly qualifies as an alternative method?**

An alternative method is expected to be used by a community/group of growers whose production practices are similar. The foundation of this alternative method is scientifically validated research data on specific production practices.

**14. There does not seem to be a lot of funding out there to research alternative methods and to document practices. Will funding become available?**

The FDA encourages researchers and groups to utilize USDA NIFA and Block Grant funds. Large groups should pool their resources to fund production practice research.

**15. The 9 month waiting period is a hardship, did the FDA take into consideration the short growing season experienced in some regions?**

Yes, this is a good reason to put regional alternative methods into place. Growers are encouraged to use compost rather than raw manure.

**16. Extension labs are experiencing a high number of requests for microbiological testing resources, but there is little funding to support equipment and supplies. Will there be funding for labs?**

There is funding for FSMA technical assistance in NIFA alternatives grants. The contact for food safety at NIFA is Jodi Williams.

**17. The animal feeds rule is expected to impact raw manure use on farms. When can we expect to see that rule released?**

We do not know, but it should be soon. There will be interplay between the two rules and this is in part why the comment period has been extended 120 days.

**18. Is FSMA set up to incorporate new research as it becomes available?**

Yes, the alternative methods provision allows for this.

## **Food Safety Considerations for Direct Market Growers: Assessing Risk**

Meredith Melendez, RCE Mercer County

Growers who sell 100% of their product through direct market methods will likely never have to deal with a third party audit, but food safety is a critical component of producing a quality product. Food safety should be a part of every farm's risk management plan. If you have not attended training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and do not yet have a farm food safety plan in place the process can seem overwhelming. Look for future articles on food safety here in the PPA and information on GAPs trainings this fall.

The California spinach E.coli outbreak in 2006 had a substantial effect on NJ spinach growers. It showed that consumers will not purchase a commodity that has been linked to an outbreak, regardless of where that outbreak occurred and of actual risk. Direct market growers have the ability to educate their customers, an advantage when armed with the right answers about farm practices that reduce cross contamination.

This season a series of articles will be written for the PPA focusing on GAPs for direct market growers. Topics will range from restroom facilities to displaying product for sale. The foundation of any farm food safety plan is assessing risk. Below are areas of risk that growers should focus on and how to properly assess risk.

#### Areas of risk to focus on are:

- Adjacent land (as far as you can see)
- Prior land use
- Farm water use
- Animal activity (wild and domestic)
- Soil Amendments
- Packing house
- Distribution (on farm, market locations, transportation)

#### How do you assess risk?

- Identify the hazards – Detail the hazards including information about the equipment, substances and processes used and who is involved with completing tasks and the type of training they receive
- Identify the potential risk – who, what, where
- Detail the existing control measures that are in place to reduce risk
- What is the chance of and severity of potential harm? Prioritize the needed control measures that will reduce risk
- Document any changes that you have made to your farm practices/policies as a result of the risk assessment
- Monitor the potential hazard points and review the risk reduction procedures for effectiveness

## **GAPs Online Produce Safety Course**

Betsy Bihn, National GAPs Program Coordinator

*Implementing Good Agricultural Practices* is a 3-week web-based course offered through the National GAPs Program. Class size is limited to 25 people on a first come, first serve basis. A minimum of 10 participants must be registered for us to offer the course. Special arrangements can be made for large groups to ensure everyone is in the same class together. The course price is now \$190 due to the expiration of grant funding. The Course will be offered beginning May 8th and ending May 28th, 2013.

Once the course opens, it is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for 3 weeks so you will be able to complete the course when time permits in your schedule. There are no required hours of participation. There is an instructor. The instructor may schedule office hours but you are not required to attend these hours. You will be able to email your instructor at all times during the course and they will respond in a timely manner. All course requirements must be completed within the 3 week window. Do communicate any problems you are having to your instructor or to the eCornell help desk so that we can provide assistance and guidance.

Within the three weeks you are expected to:

- Complete a pre and post test
- Read all course materials
- Turn in 4 assignments for evaluation
- Complete 2 self-tests
- Contribute to the discussion boards.
- Complete Course Evaluation

Most students spend 15 to 20 hours on this course, but depending on your knowledge, more or less time may be required. If this is more than you can manage at the moment, we hope that you will not take the course at this time, but sign up at a later date when you have the time to complete the program.

Development of this course and its content has been a collaborative effort between professionals in government, academia, and industry with funding from the USDA, so we hope you enjoy the course and increase your produce food safety knowledge!

If you have any questions about any of this information, please contact Betsy Bihn at [eab38@cornell.edu](mailto:eab38@cornell.edu) or 315 787 2625.

## Perennial Weed Management in Tomatoes

Gene McAvoy, County Extension Director LaBelle, Florida

Perennial weed infestations in tomato crops can have many negative effects on crops, like lower yields, added costs from losses due to insects and diseases, and reduced-quality products.

The latest Focus on Tomato webcast, titled "Managing Perennial Weeds in Tomatoes," by Dr. Steve Weller at Purdue University summarizes different perennial weed types, shows examples of problem perennial weeds, and discusses techniques available for managing these weeds.

This talk particularly covers...

- Site preparation
- Elimination of perennial weeds before tomato crop planting
- Methods to manage perennial weeds in the tomato crop
- Perennial weeds management in rotation crops, especially agronomic crops

This presentation is open access through July 31, 2013.

Managing Perennial Weeds in Tomatoes: <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/edcenter/seminars/Tomato/ManagingPerennialWeeds>

Users can view other recent webcasts in the Focus on Tomato resource at [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/fot](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/fot).

To take advantage of PMN's full line of resources, please sign up for the PMN Update online newsletter.

The Plant Management Network ([www.plantmanagementnetwork.org](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org)) is a nonprofit online publisher whose mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops. It achieves this mission through applied, science-based resources, like Focus on Tomato.

## Recycle Nursery Pots

Karen Kritz, NJ Dept. of Ag

The CC Improvement Authority has agreed to accept for recycling nursery pots, cell packs, and trays. Small quantities of the material (we do not want tractor trailer loads) will be accepted for **FREE ONLY** during the scheduled pesticide container recycling events. Any other time, the growers/landscapers will be charged the full tipping fee – no exceptions. The plastic must be free of plant material and a majority of the dirt must be knocked out of the container. Usually, tapping the back of the piece will accomplish this. A thin layer of dirt is permissible but excessive dirt or plant material could result in rejection of the load upon inspection. Open trucks or trailers must be tarped before entering the complex.

the materials can be brought to the following location **ONLY** on the dates listed:

**LOCATION:** Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex  
169 Jesse Bridge Road (located off Route 55, Exit 29), Deerfield, New Jersey

Friday May 17	Friday, June 21	Friday, July 19	Friday, August 16
Friday, Sept 20	Friday, October 18	Friday, Nov 15	

If anyone has questions, please call Karen Kritz at 609-984-2506.

**Agricultural Recycling Services Inc.**  
**Waste Consultants and Procurement Specialists**  
**Serving All of New Jersey and Surrounding States**  
**Facility is located in Atlantic County NJ 08330**  
**Contact Keith: 347-439-5585 or Frank: 917-477-5812**  
**ARSrecycling@yahoo.com**

Accepting Mulch film, drip tape and other agricultural films. Nursery, green house film, peat moss bags, silo covers, and hay bale covers. We can accept almost any non-container agricultural plastic including pots and trays. Pots and trays should be separated by type of plastic, i.e.: PP, PE, PS that is stamped on the item.

The program is open to all Growers. Save 25% or more of your landfill cost! Out of state growers are welcome.

Your waste agricultural plastic will be made into new products saving you money and helping to clean our air, water, and soil.

Preparing product for delivery or pick up:

- Shake film and drip tape to remove all foreign material including but not limited to soil and plant material. Also remove any foreign plastics or twine.
- To reduce cost, drip tape and mulch film should be separated and bundles should be secured using either drip tape or film. NO WIRE OR TWINE PLEASE.
- Comingled loads, drip tape and mulch film, will be accepted at a higher price.
- Material should be kept as clean and dry as possible. If stored outside it should be covered with large tarps. Sunlight will degrade the film over time.

**What Are The Fees We Charge?**

- The fees will be different for each location and quality of material, but they will be substantially lower than your land fill costs. We need to see good pictures or do an onsite inspection of your material. Loads that arrive that do not match what we approve will be rejected. Please call or e mail Keith or Frank for a quote.
- We can arrange trucking, but all trucking fees must be pre-paid. For exact delivery location please call Keith or Frank. If you want to estimate trucking costs use the following zip code 08330.

**Please check with us regularly for updates on what we can accept, as our business is evolving. In the near future we may be able to accept other plastics.**



## **Calendar of Important Events**

↪ Indicates the newly added event since last calendar

### **May 2013**

#### **May 7**

**Landscape Design**, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn; 9-noon; \$20. For info or to register, call 856-451-2800 x1.

#### **May 14**

**Turf Culture**, RCE Cumberland County, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn; 9am-noon; \$20. For more info or to register, call 856-451-2800 x1.

#### **May 15, 16 & 17**

**Seafood HACCP Certification Class**, FIC, Piscataway, NJ. For info contact Donna Schaffner at 856-459-1900 x4528 or email: DFSchaffner@njaes.rutgers.edu

#### **May 17**

**Plastic Pesticide Container Collection Day**, CC Solid Waste Complex, 169 Jesse Bridge Road, Deerfield, NJ; 9-noon. 1 CORE issued to license holders.

#### **May 21**

**Turf Pest Management**, CCRCE, 291 Morton Ave., Rosenhayn; 9am-noon; \$20. Recertification credits: 6 each for category 13, 3B & PP2. For info or to register, call 856-451-2800 x1.

### **June 2013**

#### ↪ **June 4-6**

**International Potato Processing and Storage Convention**, Sonesta Hotel, Philadelphia. For more info visit: [www.potatoconvention.com](http://www.potatoconvention.com)

#### **June 5, 6, 7**

**HACCP Certification**, Rutgers Food Innovation Center, Bridgeton, NJ. For info contact Donna Schaffner at 856-459-1900 x4528 or email: DFSchaffner@njaes.rutgers.edu

#### ↪ **June 26-28**

**National Potato Council summer meeting**, Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla, Wash. For more info call 202-682-9456 or email: [hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org](mailto:hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org)

### **July 2013**

#### **July 11-13**

**HACCP Certification**, IFT Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. For info contact Donna Schaffner at 856-459-1900 x4528 or email: DFSchaffner@njaes.rutgers.edu.

### **October 2013**

#### ↪ **October 18-21**

**Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit 2013**, New Orleans. For more info call 302-738-7100, email: [solutionctr@pma.com](mailto:solutionctr@pma.com) or visit: [www.freshsummit.com](http://www.freshsummit.com)

**November 2013****November 13-14**

**Pacific Northwest Vegetable Assoc. Conf. & Trade Show**, Three Rivers Conv. Ctr, Kennewick, Washington.

For info call 509-585-5460 or visit: [www.pnva.org](http://www.pnva.org)

**December 2013****December 2-4**

**Washington State Hort. Assoc. Annual Mtg**, Wenatchee, Wash. Info call 509-665-9641 or visit: [www.wahort.org](http://www.wahort.org)

**December 4-7**

**Joint NCSA/NASGA Conf.**, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, N.C. For info email: [info@ncstrawberry.com](mailto:info@ncstrawberry.com) or

visit: [www.ncstrawberry.com](http://www.ncstrawberry.com)

**December 6**

**Haygrove Owners Conference**. For info call 717-492-4955 or visit: [www.tunnelbuzz.com](http://www.tunnelbuzz.com)

**December 10-12**

**Great Lakes Fruit, Veg & Farm Market EXPO**, DeVos Place Conv. Ctr, Grand Rapids, Mich. For info call 616-794-0492 or visit: [www.glexpo.com](http://www.glexpo.com)

**January 2014****👉 January 8-10**

**Potato Expo 2014**, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas. For info call 202-682-9456, email: [hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org](mailto:hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org) or visit: [www.nationalpotatocouncil.org](http://www.nationalpotatocouncil.org)

**👉 January 10-11**

**National Potato Council annual meeting**, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas. For info call 202-682-9456 or email: [hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org](mailto:hollee@nationalpotatocouncil.org)

**👉 January 20-22**

**Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association**, Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Sandusky, Ohio. For more info visit: [www.opgma.org](http://www.opgma.org)

**👉 January 21-23**

**Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo**, Oncenter Convention Center, Syracuse, NY. For info email Jeanette Marvin at [nysvga@twcny.rr.com](mailto:nysvga@twcny.rr.com)

**👉 January 23-24**

**Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference**, Ankeny, Iowa. For more info contact Adam Hohl by email: [info@ifvga.org](mailto:info@ifvga.org)

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

✓ Indicates meeting will be held at RCE of Cumberland County

<p>✓</p> <p><b>Pesticide Certification Exam Schedule—Cumberland County</b> 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn &amp; Carmel)</p> <p><b><u>2013</u></b></p> <p>Jun 5    Sept 25 Oct 23    Nov 6    Dec 18</p> <p><b>To Register call 609-984-6614 For directions call 856-451-2800</b></p> <p>*****</p>	<p>✓</p> <p><b>Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board</b> 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn &amp; Carmel)</p> <p><b><u>2013</u></b></p> <p>*May 8    Jun 12    Jul 10 Aug 14    Sept 11    Oct 9 Nov 13                      Dec 11</p> <p><b>*Call for meeting location Reg. Meetings start at 7 p.m. Call DeAnn at 856-453-2211</b></p> <p>*****</p>	<p>✓</p> <p><b>Cumberland County Board Of Agriculture</b> 291 Morton Avenue Millville, NJ 08332 (Between Rosenhayn &amp; Carmel) 7 pm meetings</p> <p><b><u>2013</u></b></p> <p>May 16    Sept 19 Oct 17    Nov 21    Dec 19</p> <p><b>For info call Shirley Kline, President 856-685-3784</b></p> <p>*****</p>
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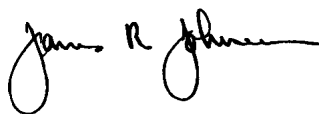
**Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA)  
Pesticide Container Recycling  
9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon**

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

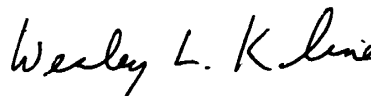
Questions? Call Karen Kritz, NJ Dept. of Ag 609-984-2506

May 17	June 21	July 19	
Aug 16	Sept 20	Oct 18	Nov 15

Sincerely,



James R. Johnson  
Agricultural Agent  
Nursery Management Commercial  
Internet: [jjohnson@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:jjohnson@njaes.rutgers.edu)



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

Have you visited the Cumberland County website for the Present and/or past issues of "Cultivating Cumberland"? It's a great resource for information and dates.....

<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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