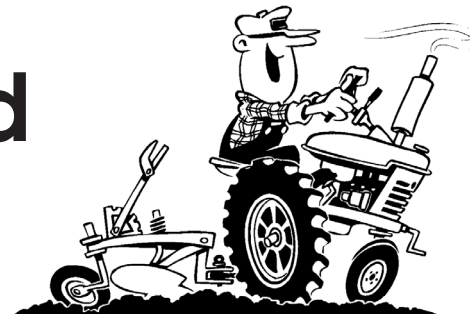


Cultivating Cumberland

December - 2022

Vol. 27, Issue 12



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Happy Holidays

*From The Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Cumberland County*

Attachments:

- Risky to You- Part 2 Webinar
- Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops
- VGA Flyer

Six-Week Annie's Project Farm Management Risk Online Course Offered for New Jersey Women Farmers

Offers important farm management lessons to help women succeed

Robin Brumfield, brumfiel@NJAES.rutgers.edu; November 14, 2022

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) will present a new online version of the popular Annie's Project, over the course of six weeks, one evening per week. "As in the previous Annie's Project programs, this workshop is designed to educate and train new and aspiring farm women on risk management strategies and provide tools for successful business management," says Robin Brumfield, extension specialist in farm management, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

The online training course, titled "Annie Goes Online: Risk Management On Your Kitchen Table," will be held virtually on Zoom on January 11, 18, and 25; February 15 and 22; and March 1 between the hours 6 - 9 p.m.

An optional all day in person tax workshop on February 9th will be offered at the Vegetable Growers Association Meeting held during the 2023 Ag Convention in Atlantic City.

Registration is currently open. Registration is \$150 from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31. Registration includes workshop study materials, and admission to the convention (February 7~9).

Financial assistance, provided by Farm Credit East is available to those in need, who must first fill out a scholarship application. Funds are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

This course is online. Each three-hour recorded session will include review and discussion of the previous week's business or marketing plan assignment or climate-biosecurity plan. Afterwards, extension educators, business industry representatives, and producers will give live presentations.

"The economic instability, supply-chain disruption, and extreme weather impacts of the last few years have led us to focus on the following risk management issues," said Brumfield. The course starts with an insightful session on transition and managing marketing, financial and human resource risks by keynote speaker Wenfei Uva, co-owner of Seaberry Farm – a 36-acre specialty fruit and flower farm in Federalsburg, Maryland. Uva received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in agricultural economics. Uva was an extension leader for the Cornell Horticultural Business Management and Marketing Program from 1999-2007.

In this course, speakers and instructors will cover the following topics: Labor recruitment and labor laws; income profit and loss statements, cash flow statements and personal finances, food safety and water use regulations, insurance coverage and taxes. Production relevant risk management talks will cover soil fertility and soil health, crop, or livestock production budgets, greenhouse-hoophouse controlled environment overview, storm water management, livestock-poultry disease biosecurity, and an overview of marketing and supply channels for crop or livestock production.

"New, aspiring, and current women farmers will gain educational training on the essentials of preparing a

Continued on next page

business plan, considered a vital roadmap to success for any business,” says Brumfield. Participants will also benefit from networking opportunities with their peers and other agricultural professionals.

For more information about the program, visit Rutgers Farm Management Website. Material for this program is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under Award Number 2021-70027-34693.

Become a leader, become a Green Infrastructure Champion!

The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12PM starting January 13, 2023!

All sessions for the 2023 training program will be offered via an online format. Generous support from our funders is allowing us to offer this year’s training for free.

Here is what we can offer as part of the program:

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support
- Assistance with grant writing

2023 Training Program Class Schedule:

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 13)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 27)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 10)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 24)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 10)
6. Green infrastructure projects for schools (March 24)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 7)
8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 21)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 5)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resiliency (May 19)

Registration is required. Coming soon to water.rutgers.edu! Registration will open December 1). Attendance at a minimum of five (5) classes is needed for certification.

Contact Hollie DiMuro (hollie.dimuro@rutgers.edu) if you are interested in becoming a Green Infrastructure Champion.

This program is partially funded by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, William Penn Foundation, and New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and is a collaboration of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of Jersey Water Works.



PennState Extension

Significant H-2A Program Regulation Changes for 2023

On October 6, 2022, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced a final rule to amend the H-2A non-immigrant agricultural worker program visa regulations. Every agricultural employer using or wishing to use H-2A workers needs to become aware of the program changes because they will impact planning for the 2023 growing season. Whether you are new to the process or you have used H-2A workers in the past, Significant H-2A Program Regulation Changes for 2023 will identify key changes to the program for the coming year.

This event is being offered at no charge to participants.

Registration is required to receive the link to access the webinar.

Registrants will also receive access to the webinar recording.

When

Tue., December 13, 2022
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM via Zoom

Who is this for?

- Farming Operations H-2A program users
- Stakeholders
- Members of the public

What will you learn?

- New electronic filing, notices, and signature process
- The latest on minimum wage rates
- Housing standards and new documentation
- Multiple-employer "joint" employment

Find more information and sign up at

<https://web.cvent.com/event/d5141fda-61ae-4e8e-836d-399b868d4fe4/summary>

Sign up by December 13, 2022!

Two Food Safety Webinars

On December 8th there will be two webinars related to on-farm food safety. The first is part of our Lunchtime On-the-Go On-Farm Food Safety Webinar Series.

“Using Sanitizers in a Postharvest Setting: Selecting a Sanitizer and Understanding its Label”

Presented by: Donna Clements, Produce Safety Alliance Coordinator and NE Regional Extension Associate, Food Science Cornell AgriTech from 12:00-1:00. This series is Free! Connect with computer, the mobile app, or by calling in! You will get the link to sign on or call in a few days before the event.

Growers are taught “the label is the law” but finding the right information and understanding what the language means can be difficult. This webinar will make understanding and following the label instructions more manageable in the postharvest setting and discuss the FSMA Postharvest water compliance requirements and timeframes.

At the end of the webinar participants will understand:

- o EPA labeling, what to look for and what it means
- o Ideal chemistries for use in surface sanitation and postharvest water
- o Best practices for sanitizing surfaces and postharvest water
- o Management of postharvest sanitation systems
- o FSMA Postharvest water compliance dates

To sign up or for more information go to: onfarmfoodsafety.rutgers.edu Deadline to register is December 5, 2022

“Agricultural Water “Risky to You?”

The second webinar scheduled from 3:00-5:30 is a continuation of the prior webinar on agricultural water and will feature Dr. Don Schaffner from Rutgers University. He will explain what attributes of a water testing program need to be included if it is to be risk based. The webinar will consist of a one-hour presentation followed by 30 min of interactive Q&A.

Registration link https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GKkO7INqSUGnhPVCdAZX_Q

Flyer for this webinar is attached to this newsletter.

Why Do Spruce Christmas Trees Show Interior Needle Discoloration?

Steve Rettke; October 7, 2022

Occasionally, observations of White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) or Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens*) within landscapes, nurseries, & Christmas tree farms will show current needle growth having a blue or blue-green color, but with older, inner needles having lost the desirable color and turning pale or even yellow. Although sometimes seen on Norway Spruce, these symptoms are most common on the White & Colorado Spruce species. Sometimes symptoms can become dramatic and initiate both aesthetic and plant health concerns. Although the reasons for such symptoms can be from a complex number of conditions, a compromised root system is typically the underlying cause.

The yellowing or off-color of older, interior spruce needles are most likely symptoms of trees having root system problems. However, first eliminate other causes such as spruce spider mite stippling symptoms or dormant oil applications that may have removed the waxy glaucous bloom growth on needles. Unless they are correct, some cynical clients may even make claims that their tree care company sprayed dormant oils on their Colorado blue spruce and caused the loss of the blue color on the older needles. Also, over time, the blue or blue-green waxy bloom on the older needles can be partially removed by natural weathering.

Summer photograph of symptoms from spruce spider mites that infested the interior needles of Colorado blue spruce during the previous spring. During the fall weeks the mites will begin to feed on the newer outer growth.

Compromised root systems result in nutrient deficiencies within the spruce and sometimes, more specifically, the inability of roots to uptake Potassium (K). Also a Magnesium (Mg) deficiency may be involved as well. Furthermore, highly acidic soil pH can be a factor. Although excessively dry soils have also been implicated as a potential cause, most commonly, spruce trees growing in excessively wet soil conditions will be the reason for the symptoms.

Nevertheless, in order to compensate, the tree creates a self-induced deficiency of potassium (K) to older needles by translocation of K to the newest growth needles. Hence, the two-tone coloration of blue/green new growth needles vs. pale to yellowish old growth is created. Stated in other words, when the roots cannot uptake additional K from the soil, then the new growth receives priority. The limited K is now taken from what is available in the older needles and donated to the new growth. Similar to K, nitrogen (N) is also a mobile element and can readily translocate from older to new plant tissues. Immobile elements such as calcium (Ca) do not readily translocate and hence, deficiency symptoms will be observed initially in the upper, new plant tissues.

Most likely, fertilization with potassium (K) will not solve the problem because the cause is from root stress and not a shortage of potassium in the soil. It is important to note that studies have shown excessive nitrogen (N) fertilization within soils that are in fact potassium (K) deficient can even further limit the uptake of this nutrient. The stress of roots growing in anaerobic conditions produced by wet or saturated soils will cause of the symptoms since the movement of soil minerals into and across plant cell membranes requires oxygen. Therefore, a solution to the above concern is probably not more fertilization, but to improve the

drainage. This may not easily be solved in lower areas with soils having a high clay percentage. The same symptoms at some locations may occur periodically during very wet seasons that trigger occasional flooding.

The pale or yellowed older needles often never fully return back to their previous coloration even after soil conditions are corrected or become more optimal. Generally, the flow or transport of potassium (K) is primarily to the new growth. It may take 2 or 3 consecutive years of healthy growth and nutrient transfer from roots to new needle growth to achieve the sought after appearance of uniform coloration of both new and older foliage.



Colorado Spruce showing symptoms of undesirable discoloration of older, inner needles. Photo Credit: Steven K. Rettke of Rutgers Coop. Ext.

FDA to Hold Webinar on the Food Traceability Final Rule

November 17, 2022

The Food and Drug Administration will be holding a webinar on the final food traceability rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act. The final rule goes into effect January 20, 2023, but enforcement does not start until January 26, 2026. This webinar will give growers a chance to help determine whether the rule will affect their operation and whether they may be exempt. Most vegetables, herbs and fruit grown in New Jersey fall under the rule, but some operations will be exempt. This is your opportunity to start understanding the rule.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will hold an informational webinar on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (ET) on the recently released <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-requirements-additional-traceability-records-certain-foods> issued under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The final rule is designed to facilitate faster identification and rapid removal of potentially contaminated food from the market, resulting in fewer foodborne illnesses and/or deaths.

During the webinar, the FDA will provide an overview of the final rule, including the foods and entities covered by the rule, explain the exemptions from the rule, and discuss the recordkeeping requirements of the rule. The FDA will answer pre-submitted questions and take questions during the webinar. Foods subject to the final rule requirements appear on the <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/food-traceability-list> (FTL), and include fresh-cut fruits and vegetables, shell eggs, nut butters, as well as certain fresh fruits, certain fresh vegetables, ready-to-eat deli salads, soft cheeses, and certain seafood products.

Persons who manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods on the FTL must maintain records including Key Data Elements (KDEs) related to Critical Tracking Events (CTEs) in the supply chain for the food (link). Covered entities – including farms, manufacturers, distributors, retail food establishments, and restaurants – will be required to provide this traceability information to the FDA within 24 hours of an official request, or within some reasonable time to which the FDA agrees.

The Food Traceability final rule is a key component of the <https://www.fda.gov/food/new-era-smarter-food-safety/new-era-smarter-food-safety-blueprint> and implements Section 204(d) of FSMA.

Registration is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DYRQFTL>

You may submit a question in advance when registering. You may also submit your question to FSMA204Traceability@fda.hhs.gov.

Questions?

For questions about the webinar, email FSMA204Traceability@fda.hhs.gov.

For questions about the Food Traceability final rule, visit Frequently Asked Questions on FSMA at <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/frequently-asked-questions-fsma>.

Recording

The webinar will be recorded and posted to this page, go to [https://www.fda.gov/food/workshops-meetings-webinars-food-and-dietary-supplements/webinar-food-traceability-final-rule-12072022#:~:text=Attend&text=The%20U.S.%20Food%20%26%20Drug%20Administration,Safety%20Modernization%20Act%20\(FSMA\).](https://www.fda.gov/food/workshops-meetings-webinars-food-and-dietary-supplements/webinar-food-traceability-final-rule-12072022#:~:text=Attend&text=The%20U.S.%20Food%20%26%20Drug%20Administration,Safety%20Modernization%20Act%20(FSMA).)

Additional Information

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-requirements-additional-traceability-records-certain-foods>

UPCOMING RUTGERS ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY TEAM TRAININGS



FSMA Produce Safety Rule Training - 1/11/23 10AM-4PM \$75

RCE Mercer County, 1440 Parkside Ave., Ewing, NJ 08638

FSMA PSR Training at NJ Ag Convention - 2/9/23 10AM-4PM \$50

Harrah's Resort, 777 Harrah's Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Introduction to Harmonized Audits - 2/23/23 9AM-12PM \$15

COURSE HELD ONLINE ONLY

Advanced Audit Training - 3/1/23 9AM-12PM \$15

COURSE HELD ONLINE ONLY

Blueberry Growers Training - 3/15/23 10AM-1PM \$50

Philip E. Marucci Center, 125a Lake Oswego, Chatsworth, NJ 08019

[HTTPS://GO.RUTGERS.EDU/KCX1N6BJ](https://go.rutgers.edu/kcx1n6bj)

FOR MORE INFORMATION 856-451-2800 X 1 OR BRANDIWI@CUMBERLANDCOUNTYNJ.GOV



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

From the Ground Up: Produce Safety for New and Beginning Farmers



Learn On-Farm Produce Safety Skills and Knowledge

- Beginning Farmer Focused Food Safety Training Classes
- On-Farm Food Safety Plan Writing Workshops
- Food Safety Hot Topics Webinar Series
- Best Practices for Training Employees Webinars
- On-Farm Produce Safety Risk Walkthroughs

Classes start Winter 2023

Join the email list now!



<https://onfarmfoodsafety.rutgers.edu/groundup/>



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

USDA Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses

Wes Kline, November 28, 2022

We mentioned a new program from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to off set some expenses to help an operation prepare for food safety requirements earlier this year. The “Food Safety Certification For Specialty Crops” will cost share expenses for:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

There is a fact sheet included in this newsletter with details. The FSCSC application period for 2022 is June 27, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and the application period for 2023 will be announced at a later date. FSA will issue payments at the time of application approval for 2022 and after the application period ends for 2023. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated.

Interested specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) application. The application, along with other required documents, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Producers can visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find their local FSA office. The local FSA office for Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May is located at 1318 South Main Rd., Bldg. 5A, Vineland, NJ 08360, telephone 856-205-1225. Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to assist.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

A second program that has been available for several years is the farm storage loan program. This covers cold storage construction along with equipment in a packing operations such as baggers, brush polishers, bulk bin tippers, cement flooring, circulation fans, dip tanks, conveyors, graders, refrigeration units, sizers, sorting bins and tables, trucks, washers, waxers, etc. A grower may borrow up to \$500,000 for up to 12 years. If an operation needs to make major changes in a packinghouse or needs a refrigerated truck this program is worth considering. Contact the FSA office listed above.

RAM-AMS Harmonized GAP Assistance Program

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) and USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) have covered the cost of voluntary USDA Harmonized GAP and Harmonized Plus audits over several years. This program ended with the announcement of the new FSCSC program. If you have used the RMA program to cover your audit, seriously consider applying for the new program. The advantage of the new program is it covers many things which RMA did not cover.

Calendar of Events

- Indicates a newly added event

December 6 - December 8

2022 Green Expo Turf & Landscape Conference; The Borgata Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ; Early registration ends Nov 1, after that registration is required at the event. More information at www.njturfgrass.org; Register at <http://njta.wildapricot.org/event-4956974>

December 13 - December 15

New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference; Manchester, N.H.; Includes more than 25 educational sessions over three days, covering major vegetable, berry and tree fruit crops as well as various special topics. More information at www.vegetablegrowersnews.com/events/

January 2-4, 2023

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference; Sloan Convention Center Bowling Green, Ky; www.kyhortcouncil.org

January 5-8, 2023

Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference; Savannah, GA; Join us for the 2023 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference and celebrate 21 years of the South's premier fruit and vegetable show; Find more info and register online at <https://seregionalconference.org/>

- **January 7-14, 2023**

107th Pennsylvania Farm Show; 2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA, 17110; Largest indoor agricultural exposition under one roof in the nation; Several events, exhibitors, and learning sessions; Find more information at <https://www.farmshow.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

January 11, 2023

FSMA Produce Safety Rule Training; Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, 1440 Parkside Ave., Ewing, NJ 08638; 10:00AM - 4:00PM; Must register before January 4th; This training meets the FDA requirements for FSMA Produce Rule Training; Lunch is provided; \$75; Find more info and register at <https://go.rutgers.edu/kcx1n6bj>

January 11-13, 2023

Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS); Baltimore Convention Center (BCC), 1 West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201; Gain insights into new products and innovations, network with peers, and source the best plants, nursery stock, landscape and garden items, heavy and light duty equipment, tools, outdoor living essentials, and other allied industry products; Find more info and register online at MANTS.com

- **January 11- 13, 2023**

From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center Springfield, Ill. www.specialtygrowers.org/everythinglocal.html

January 12-13, 2023

Mid- Ohio Growers Meeting; New Hope, OH.; More information at <http://midohiogrowers.com/2017-brochure/>

- **January 13-14, 2023**

Great Plains Growers Conference & Trade Show Missouri Western University St. Joseph, Mo.; www.greatplainsgrowersconference.org/

January 16-17, 2023

Ohio Produce Network; Columbus, OH.; Cover production techniques, disease/pest mitigation, management, marketing, and retailing strategies, food safety, and emerging technologies; More information at <https://www.opgma.org/ohio-produce-network/>

- **January 18-20, 2023**

Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association River's Edge Convention Center; St. Cloud, MN.; www.mfvga.org

January 23-24, 2023

Indiana Horticulture Conference and Expo; Save the date! Registration opening soon; More information at <https://www.indianahortconference.org/>

January 22-24, 2023

The North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA); Hotel Alba Tampa, Tampa, Florida; After two years of virtual conferences, the group will move the conference to the Sunshine State for the first time and gather in person; Visit <https://www.raspberrylblackberry.com/2023-narba-conference/> for more information

January 26-28, 2023

Organic Association of Kentucky Conference; Frankfort, KY; The conference features local experts and national voices, offering on-farm production systems, techniques and practices; Find more information <https://www.oak-ky.org/annual-conference>

- **January 29-31, 2023**

Wisconsin Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conference Kalahari Resort; Wisconsin Dells, WI.; www.freshfruitvegetable.org/

January 31- February 1, 2023

Total Pro, Professional Landscape, Hardscape, Horticulture & Tree Care Expo and Conference; New Jersey Convention Center, Edison, NJ; At the center of TOTAL PRO EXPO, you'll discover unique opportunities to help set your business apart. From original ideas to new products & suppliers, spot-on educational sessions including countless continuing education credits of all types. TOTAL PRO EXPO exposes you and you're staff to what's happening within the Green Industry, current trends and provides new resources you never knew existed and so much more; Register online at www.totalproexpo.com

- **January 31-February 2, 2023**

Berry Health Benefits Symposium Hotel Alba Tampa; Tampa, Fla. www.berryhealth.org/

January 31- February 2, 2023

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention; Hershey, PA; Trade show and educational sessions; This Convention has become one of the premier grower meetings in the Northeast; Find more information <https://www.mafvc.org/>

- **January 31-February 3, 2023**

CiderCon 2023 ;Hilton Chicago, Chicago, Ill; www.ciderassociation.org/cidercon2023/

February 3-7, 2023

North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) Convention; Austin, TX; The convention will have all the great farm tours, educational sessions, presenters, exhibitors, and agritourism connections you have come to expect. Visit www.nafdma.com for more information

February 6-7, 2023

Empire State Producers Expo; Oncenter, Syracuse, NY; Save the date. Registration opens January 2023. Find more information and register at www.nysvga.org

February 7-9, 2023

2023 NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show; Harrahs, Atlantic City, NJ; Vegetable Growers Association will hold their annual convention with educational sessions and trade show. Save the date! Find more information at vganj.com

February 9 2023

FMSA PSR Training at the NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show; 777 Harrahs Blvd, Atlantic City, NJ; 10:00AM - 4:00PM; Must register before February 3rd; This training meets the FDA requirements for FSMA Produce Rule Training; \$50 each; Find more info and register at <https://go.rutgers.edu/kcx1n6bj>

- **February 9-10, 2023**

Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Annual Conference and Trade Show The Lodge at Gulf State Park Gulf Shores, Ala. www.afvga.org/

- **February 12-15, 2023**

IFTA 2023 Annual Conference Amway Grand Plaza Grand Rapids, Mich. www.ifruittree.org

February 16-18, 2023

Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) Annual Conference; Newark, OH; More information at <https://www.oeffa.org/events.php>

- **February 21-22, 2023**

Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference The Westin Westminster, Colo www.coloradoproduce.org/

March 2-3, 2023

Purdue Small Farm Conference; Find more information at https://extension.purdue.edu/anr/_teams/dffs/small_farm_conference/index.html

- **March 7-10, 2023**

NASGA Annual Meeting and Conference; North American Strawberry Grower's Association; This meeting will bring together strawberry researchers, growers and agribusiness from around the world and will feature two and a half days of meetings and a tour of the San Luis Obispo growing area; San Luis Obispo, California; Fine more info at nasga.org

- **March 15**

Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference Hilton Capitol Hill Washington, D.C. www.usapple.org/events/usapple-capitol-hill-day-3

- **March 30-April 1**

Viva Fresh Expo Gaylord Texas Resort Gaylord, Texas www.vivafreshexpo.com/

May 8-11, 2023

Food Safety Summit; Donald E Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL; The Food Safety Summit is a solution-based conference and expo designed to meet the educational and informational needs of the entire food industry. The Summit provides a 3-day comprehensive educational program to learn from subject matter experts, trainers, exchange ideas and find solutions to your current job challenges; Find more information and register online at <https://www.food-safety.com/food-safety-summit>

- **Sept. 25-27**

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association Annual Convention Ritz Carlton Hotel Naples, FL. www.ffva.com/page/convention

- **Nov. 27-Dec 1 2023**

Irrigation Show & Education Week Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center San Antonio, Texas www.irrigation.org/

- **December 5-7**

Washington State Tree Fruit Association Annual Meeting Three Rivers Convention Center Kennewick, Wash. www.wstfa.org/annual-meeting/

- **December 5-7**

Great Lakes Expo DeVos Place Grand Rapids, Mich. www.glte.org/

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Pesticide Credit Exams

December 8th, 10 AM, 12 PM
RCE - Westhampton, NJ

Virtual testing available.

Sign-up and find more
information at
<https://pacer.rutgers.edu/>

Cumberland County Agriculture Development Board

Virtual Meetings Information
can be found on the
Public Meeting Calendar on
co.cumberland.nj.us

Meetings are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month.
Meetings start at 7 p.m.

For more information call the
Dept. of Planning, Tourism,
and Community Affairs
at 856-453-2175

Cumberland County Board of Agriculture

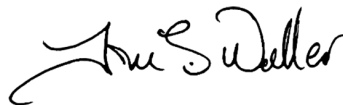
Meetings are held on the
3rd Thursday of September - May
at 7 p.m. in-person at RCE

Virtual Meeting Information
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/my/smangia>
Meeting ID: 529 557 9817
Passcode: Sal2020
or call in at 1 (646) 558 - 8656

Sincerely,



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Mangiafico@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.

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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...

<https://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu/>

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WEBINAR

+ Q&A

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 8TH

3:30 - 5:00 PM ET/
12:30 - 2:00 PM PT



Risky TO YOU? PART 2



DR. DON SCHAFFNER

PROFESSOR AND
EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Register and find more info at
https://viriniatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GKkO7INqSUGnhPVCdAZX_Q

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FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION FOR SPECIALTY CROPS



Overview

The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Program provides assistance to specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety program expenses in 2022 and 2023.

These operations incur significant costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements each year with little opportunity to recover increased costs.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for FSCSC applicants must meet the following:

- Be a specialty crop operation;
- Have obtained or renewed a:
 - 2022 food safety certification that was issued between June 21, 2022 and December 31, 2022; or
 - 2023 food safety certification issued during calendar year 2023; and
 - Have paid eligible expenses;
- Meet the definition of a small business or very small business; and
- Be located in the United States, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PROGRAM YEAR	ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATION DATE	APPLICATION DEADLINE
2022	June 21, 2022 - December 31, 2022	January 31, 2023
2023	January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	TBD

What Expenses are Eligible?

Specialty crop operations may receive reimbursement for developing an initial food safety plan, maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan, food safety certification, certification upload fees, microbiological testing, and training.

Specialty crop operations who obtain their food safety certification through a group model under a food safety management system are eligible for their share of eligible expenses paid by the group, in addition to any eligible expense incurred individually.

What Expenses are not Eligible?

Ineligible expenses include infrastructure improvements, equipment, supplies, salaries and benefits of employees, and fees or penalties for late payment.

What are the Maximum Payment Rates?

PAYMENT AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE COSTS		
CATEGORY OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED FARMER OR RANCHER	ALL OTHER APPLICANTS
Development of a food safety plan for first-time certification	75 percent (no maximum)	50 percent (no maximum)
Maintaining or updating a food safety plan	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$375	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$250
Food safety certification	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$2,000	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$2,000
Certification upload fees	75 percent, up to a maximum of \$375	50 percent, up to a maximum of \$250
Microbiological testing – products	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing – soil amendments	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Microbiological testing – water	75 percent, up to 5 tests	50 percent, up to 5 tests
Training	100 percent, up to a maximum of \$300	100 percent, up to a maximum of \$200

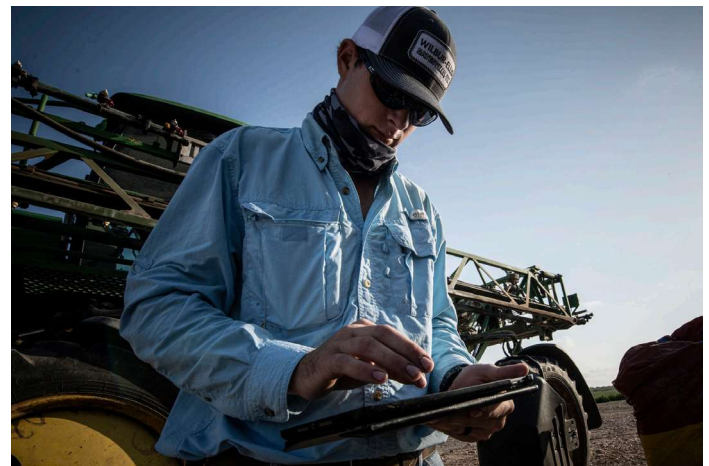
How to Apply

Eligible specialty crop operations may apply for FSCSC by completing the FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops application, and submitting it to any FSA county office. A complete application includes all the following, which may be downloaded at farmers.gov/food-safety:

- FSA-888, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) Application
- AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet, for new customers or existing customers who need to update their customer profile
- CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (if applicable)
- If requested by FSA, the applicant must provide supporting documentation to substantiate the expenses. Examples of supporting documentation include paid invoices, purchase receipts, test results, food safety plans, training documentation, and other records determined acceptable by COC.

Where to Apply

You may apply at one of over 2,100 FSA offices nationwide. Applications may also be submitted by mail, fax, email, hand delivery or by electronic means. Please contact the FSA county office prior to sending applications electronically for instructions and assistance. The FSCSC application and associated forms are available online at farmers.gov/food-safety.



Who to Call for Help

Producers interested in one-on-one support with the FSCSC program application can contact our call center at 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSCSC, visit farmers.gov/food-safety or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator.

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Session I

9:30 - 11:45am

Presentations:

Native Trees for Low Input Landscapes
William Errickson (RCE Agricultural Agent, Monmouth)

Considerations on Irrigation Management of Nursery Crops
Raul Cabrera (Nursery Crop Extension Specialist, Rutgers NJAES)

Nursery IPM Strategies for Promoting Beneficials
Steve Rettke (RCE Program Associate in Nursery IP)

Women in Horticulture Panel
Lauren Errickson (Director of Rutgers Gardens and Campus Stewardship)

Session II

2:45 - 5:00pm

Presentations:

What's the Political, Policy, and Economic Landscape
Adam J. Kantrovich (Clemson University)

FSA/NRCS Programs for Nurseries
FSA/NRCS New Jersey Representatives

Management of Root Diseases
Timothy Waller (RCE Agricultural Agent, Cumberland)

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