



NEWS

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 26, 2014

Contact: Hope Gruzlovic
(609) 984-2504

Leasing-Related Networking Opportunities, Workshops to Be Offered for Farmers and Landowners in March

New Jersey Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher announced today that the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), in conjunction with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ), will offer several meetings and workshops in March for farmland owners and farmers to learn more about land leasing opportunities and leasing-related issues.

“These sessions are intended to foster strong leasing relationships, which are key to helping farmers secure and maintain access to the land they need to operate successful farming businesses,” said Secretary Fisher.

Following is the schedule of meetings:

Leasing Networking Meetings for Farmers, Landowners

5 to 6 p.m.

March 7, 2014, Duke Farms, Hillsborough

March 14, 2014, Ware Agricultural Building, Woodstown

These sessions will provide a brief overview of land leasing opportunities followed by an opportunity for landowners and farmers to meet and network. The networking sessions will be offered in conjunction with a NOFA-NJ training workshop, “Site Evaluation: Tools for Sizing Up Your Farm’s Potential,” that will discuss methods for evaluating the suitability of land for various types of production. The Site Evaluation workshop will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., immediately preceding the networking sessions. Participants may choose to attend either the networking session or workshop, or both. The networking sessions are free; there is a fee for the workshop.

Leasing Workshop on Maintaining Farmland Leases and Managing Conflict

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

March 29, 2014

Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown

This free workshop is intended for landowners and farmers who have concerns about potential or current lease-related conflicts. A land use attorney will discuss the most important components to include in a lease and how to craft an agreement to foster a stable lease partnership. The workshop also will examine conflict management techniques and resources.

For more information or to pre-register for the networking sessions or workshops, contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 or sadc@ag.state.nj.us, or NOFA-NJ via www.nofanj.org or at (908) 371-1111.

These programs are supported by a NOFA-NJ/SADC agreement under Award No. 2011-49400-30739 (Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program) from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The SADC administers New Jersey's Farmland Preservation and Right to Farm programs and promotes innovative approaches to maintaining the viability of agriculture.

###