



Susan Gouveia

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Canning, Sean; Susan Gouveia
Subject: FW: NOFA-NJ March 2014 Newsletter

Categories: Correspondence

Lisa Lashway
Mt. Olive Twp. Clerk
973-691-0900 Ext. 7291
FAX 973-691-2080
PO Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828

From: NOFA-NJ [mailto:sclerico@nofanj.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:59 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: NOFA-NJ March 2014 Newsletter

Issue: #9

March 2014

**New Jersey farmers need Sweeney's
support on GMO labeling**

Opponents of numerous state initiatives to label genetically modified foods have made unreasonable claims that these measures would have drastic economic impacts on food companies, retailers, farmers and consumers. This just isn't true, and New Jersey leaders like Sen. Stephen Sweeney need to know the truth.

GMO labeling would actually help to protect markets for farmers and give consumers the information they want and deserve, without significant cost to food companies or retailers. Polls have consistently shown that the overwhelming majority of Americans are in favor of GE labeling; 93 percent of Americans called for labeling in a 2013 New York Times poll.

In the nearly 20 years that GMO crops have existed, their production has had devastating effects on the state of U.S. agriculture. Along with the introduction of GMO crops in the 1990s came the rapid buy-up of small seed companies by some of the largest biotechnology companies who have patents on the majority of GMO foods. The "Big 6" biotechnology companies (Monsanto, Dow, Dupont, Syngenta, Bayer and BASF) dominate the global seed supply, with the top four firms accounting for half of the entire market share for crop seed and biotechnology.

The bottom line is that consumers deserve the right to know what they're buying and eating.

[Read More](#)

Congratulations to Jess Niederer Owner of Chickadee Creek Farm and NOFA-NJ Member!

Jess received the Edible Jersey 2014 Local Hero Award in the Farm/Farmer category. The Heroes Awards are given to folks involved in the local food movement who have a positive impact in their communities.

Chickadee Creek Farm is a certified organic and certified transitional organic vegetable, flower and herb farm. This is the Jess's fifth growing season and she sells her flavorful produce and beautiful flowers at farmers markets and to Chickadee Creek Farm CSA members.

If running a farm business wasn't enough, Jess somehow finds time to give back to her community. She is a volunteer EMT, monthly attendee at the Mercer County Board of Agriculture meetings, mentor for beginning farmers through her farm apprenticeship program and teaches NOFA-NJ's Exploring the Small Farm Course, a series of classes that helps aspiring farmers decide if farming is the right

career for them.

To learn more about Chickadee Creek Farm and to read the Edible Jersey Local Heroes Article go to:
<http://chickadeecreekfarm.com/>

NOFA-NJ Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 25th, 2014

Join us for NOFA-NJ's Annual Meeting and Panel Discussion to be held 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Tuesday, March 25th at the Duke Farms Orientation Center, 1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ.

The meeting will include a lively and informative panel discussion about "The Integrity of the Certified Organic Label" - including Roger Blobaum, founder of Organic Watch and famed organic consultant and activist; Emily Brown Rosen, working in the Standards Division of the National Organic Program and an author of the original New Jersey organic standards, Liana Hoodes, Executive Director of the National Organic Coalition - an organic integrity activist group and Erich Bremer, Supervisor of the Organic Certification Program in the Division of Marketing and Development with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

This is an important conversation about a topic that affects everyone, so if you are a farmer, gardener, consumer, educator, restaurateur/chef or health care professional, you should plan to attend and add your experience, thoughts and concerns to the discussion. This event is open to all and is free to attend but registration is requested.

Click to
[REGISTER](#)

Get Listed in the Farm & Food Guide

NOFA-NJ is currently planning the 2014-2015 edition of our "Farm & Food Guide" - a free publication that is distributed throughout the state. NOFA-NJ Farm and Business members are listed for free in this extensive directory of local food growers and purveyors, as well as farm and garden suppliers and home landscaping businesses. If you'd like to be included in this edition, of which over 30,000 copies are distributed, now's the time to join or upgrade your membership. If you would like even more visibility - consider purchasing an ad!

Click here to:

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)
[SUBMIT YOUR LISTING](#)
[PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT](#)

Call NOFA-NJ for more information
(908)371-1111 ext.5

Exciting Opportunities to Get Involved With NOFA-NJ

Ambassadors Committee

We are looking for a few individuals to help spread the good word about NOFA-NJ and all the work we do. NOFA-NJ is constantly being asked to speak for gardening clubs, moms clubs, food shows, environmental expos, grade schools, health classes, girl scouts etc. We can't possibly get to all of them so WE NEED YOU! Volunteers are needed to present to requesting groups around the state on topics they feel comfortable with or work event tables and help answer questions. Come to an informational meeting Thursday, March 20th at 6:30pm at the NOFA-NJ office located at 334 River Rd, Hillsborough, NJ. If you want to help but can't make the meeting please contact Camille Miller, Executive Director at cmiller@nofanj.org.

Winter Conference Committee

Our 25th Anniversary Winter Conference is coming quickly. We are looking for volunteers to help plan this exciting event. Help is needed with planning tracks, locating speakers, contacting advertisers and sponsors, marketing the event, coordinating the exhibitors, etc. If you'd like to be a part of this important work please come to our kick-off meeting on Monday, March 31st at 6:30pm at the NOFA-NJ office located at 334 River Rd, Hillsborough, NJ. This committee will meet the third Monday of each month throughout the year. If you want to help but can't make the meeting please contact Camille Miller, Executive Director at cmiller@nofanj.org.

Cookbook Committee

Help us put together the first NOFA-NJ Cookbook! We are looking for 1-3 members to take leadership of this project. Collect homemade recipes from members and local sustainable restaurants, collect advertising support and control design aspects. Contact Camille Miller, Executive Director at cmiller@nofanj.org if interested.

This one day seminar will focus on production strategies and production planning including:

- The latest in crop insurance information
- Food Safety
- Cultural Control of Vegetable Diseases
- Vegetable IPM
- Farm Business Finances
- Draft of a Production Plan
- Tour of the EcoComplex Greenhouses

After the program a tour of the EcoComplex greenhouses, given by Dave Specca, Assistant Director for Bioenergy Technologies and Controlled Environment Agriculture will give participants a chance to see orchid production, living walls and greenhouse basil operation.

To register:

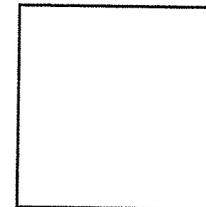
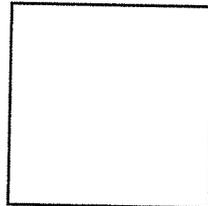
<https://anniesprojectproduction.eventbrite.com>

Upcoming Events

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- 3/14 [Farm Site Evaluation Workshop](#)
 - 3/19 [GE Labeling Law Discussion](#)
 - 3/20 NOFA-NJ Ambassadors Committee Meeting
Volunteers needed - call NOFA office for details
 - 3/22 [Production Strategies for Increased Profit](#)
 - 3/25 [NOFA-NJ Annual Meeting](#)
 - 3/29 [Famland Leases Workshop](#)
 - 3/30 [Organic Orchard Management](#)
 - 3/31 2015 Winter Conference Committee Meeting
Volunteers Needed - call NOFA office for details
 - 4/4 - 5 [Tractor Safety & Maintenance Course](#)
 - 4/26 [On-Farm Poultry Processing Course](#)
 - 5/3 [Fearless Parent - Food & Our Health](#)
 - 5/16-19 [Permaculture Design & Certification](#)
& 6/6-9
 - 5/27 [Food Inc. - Film Showing and Discussion](#)

Click on the event for more information & to register!

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Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey | 334 River Road | Hillsborough | NJ | 08844

