

Farmland owners invited to attend informational meetings on leasing

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) are sponsoring three regional meetings for landowners on June 4, June 6, and June 14 to discuss leasing experiences, resources, and opportunities.

The meetings are specially-designed for farmland owners who are currently making, or interested in making, their land available for farming. Landowners who attend will:

- Learn about the access-to-land issues faced by beginning and established farmers
- Hear from farmer speaker(s) on the leasing needs and perspectives of farmers, and recommendations for landowners to consider
- Network with and hear from other landowners on their leasing experiences and interests
- Provide feedback to help shape the SADC's development of new leasing resources
- Learn more about leasing opportunities through Farm Link, NOFA-NJ, and the new Beginning Farmer Project

The meetings are scheduled for:

North

- Monday, June 4, 2012
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Genesis Farm – Blairstown, NJ

South

- Wednesday, June 6, 2012
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Salem County office

Central

- Thursday, June 14, 2012
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Mercer County office

A fourth meeting for nonprofit, land-trust, and public-entity landowners is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2012 from 2-4 pm at D&R Greenway in Princeton, NJ.

Additional details and registration information is available at <http://nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/> and <http://www.nofanj.org/>.

These programs are sponsored in part by a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Genesis Farm, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and D&R Greenway are also helping sponsor the meetings.