



Hi folks,

Here is the Farmer Programs Newsletter for August 6, 2021. You'll find a few resources and events to help fill in any slack time during this busiest time of year for most of us! If you're looking for back issues, please contact Nicolas Lindholm; also send any suggestions, corrections or advice regarding this newsletter to nlindholm@mofga.org.

The Farmer Programs Roundup

- This month, many of our staff are checking in with farmers involved in the various MOFGA programs including our apprentices and journeypeople, Produce Safety Improvement Grant recipients, livestock and vegetable growers, and many, many others.
- Speakers and workshops for both the upcoming Common Ground Country Fair and the Farmer to Farmer Conference are being lined up and confirmed.
- We are involved in several service provider groups, known as cohorts, with the Farmer and Rancher Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), all of which are applying for grant support for their projects. The cohorts that our staff are part of include the Market Access and Inclusion cohort, the Queer Service Provider cohort, and the PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) Support cohort.
- We are busy in our own fields, pastures, barrens and gardens as well!
- As always, please feel free to reach out to any farmer programs staff with questions about our work or suggestions for future projects or workshops. Visit this informational [handout](#) for staff contacts and to see what is going on in 2021!

Educational Opportunities

- [Women in Livestock Field Days](#). University of New Hampshire is hosting several on-farm field days with women livestock producers this summer, starting with Abby Sadauckas at Apple Creek Farm in Bowdoinham and Nichole Sargent at Southpaw Packing/Windham Butcher Shop in Windham on August 9, 2021 (the other two will be in Massachusetts and New Hampshire/Vermont). Each day will involve a farm tour and discussion of various marketing and production topics. Sadauckas will cover her farm's marketing strategy, livestock handling and equipment, and benefits of rotational grazing for animal health; Sargent will cover working with local processors and animal nutrition from the processing perspective. Participation will be limited to 20 people per day. Registration required.
- [Migrant/Seasonal Farmworkers: Stress Issues and Solutions](#) webinar. August 25, 2021. Hosted by AgrAbility, this webinar will explore sources of stress among migrant/seasonal farmworkers and provide information and resources for assisting this population. Topics will include the impact of musculoskeletal disorders on farmworker mental/behavioral health; the contribution of social and cultural isolation to higher levels of stress in farmworker populations; effects of limited access to culturally appropriate mental/behavioral health services and limited understanding of mental health and stress; challenges in balancing work and family responsibilities due to long hours and separation from family and loved ones; solutions and resources to reach and assist farmworkers experiencing psychological stress and anxiety; and more. A Q&A will follow the presentation. Registration required. Free.

Resources

- [Ag Survey Results Panel Discussion](#) webinar recording. Hosted by University of Maine (UMaine) Extension, this recorded webinar from July 21, 2021, features four presentations of recent surveys of Maine farmers, including the Maine COVID-19 farmer surveys (by Maine Farm Resource Network), the COVID-19 impact and market access survey of farmers (by MOFGA, Maine Farmland Trust, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., and Cooperative Development Institute), the Maine farm worker compensation survey (by UMaine Extension, the Department of Labor and the Maine Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Association), and the Maine heritage industries infrastructure needs survey (by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Economic and Community Development). Running time: 2 hours.
- [Organic Farming Research Foundation's Research Grant Cycle](#) now accepting applications. The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) has opened its 2021 grant program for farmers, ranchers and researchers to submit letters of intent for funding research projects. OFRF will fund projects for up to \$20,000 for one year of research. The focus of this year's grant cycle is on climate mitigation and resilience. BIPOC farmers, ranchers and early career researchers are encouraged to apply and are being prioritized for funding. Project submissions may be research-based or integrated (research, education, and/or extension). The research must take place on property or land that is certified organic. Application deadline: August 20, 2021.

Marketing Opportunity

- [Maine Fibershed Promotional Opportunity](#). The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Real Maine program and Maine Department of Economic and Community Development's Maine Made program are launching a pilot event this fall to help Real Maine farm members enhance their outreach about Maine's fibershed. "Fiber Promotion Sunday" will be October 10, 2021, with open-farm visits and tours and trails designed to coincide with high-traffic visitation to Maine, as well as many makers and artisan events highlighting Maine's fiber communities and businesses. All fiber producers, processors and marketers are invited to join the contact list to get involved in the planning of this event for the economic development, promotion and support of Maine's fibershed. Sign up by August 8, 2021, to add your Real Maine profile to the fall publication and the online map and itinerary.

Do you know anyone who might like to receive this newsletter?

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