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THE NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION NOFA - NY

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, Inc., (NOFA - NY) is a not-for-profit educational association incorporated in 1983. We are a membership organization of consumers, gardeners and farmers creating a sustainable regional food system which is ecologically sound and economically viable. Through demonstration and education, we promote land stewardship, organic food production, and local marketing which brings consumers and farmer closer together to make a high quality food available to all people.

NOFA - NY publishes a bi-monthly newsletter (NOFA - NY NEWS), holds a two day Annual Educational Conference in March and a one day Outreach Conference in the fall and hosts workshops and on-farm tours and demonstrations throughout the year. We bring our educational message to the public at the New York State Fair, the New York Farm Show, and other agricultural and environment fairs and festivals across the state.

NOFA - NY's Organic Farm Certification Program has been the primary organic certification program in New York State since 1984. The program publishes annual production standards for crops, livestock, and some processed commodities. Participants provide documentation of their production practices which are verified by field representatives of the program. In 1994, NOFA - NY certified 108 farms in New York and Pennsylvania representing over 6,000 acres.

NOFA - NY is one of seven independent NOFA organizations in the northeastern states. We work together through an interstate council to publish the quarterly *The Natural Farmer* and host an annual summer conference.

For membership information, contact Ammie Chickering, NOFA - NY, P.O. Box 21, South Butler, NY 13154 (315)365-2299. For information on organic certification, contact Patricia Kane, NOFA - NY Organic Farm Certification Program, 472 Monkey Run Road, Port Crane, NY 13833 (607) 648-5557.

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NEW YORK STATE GRAPE PRODUCTION RESEARCH FUND, INC.

The New York State Grape Production Research Fund, Inc. (Fund) was organized in 1954 by members of the Chautauqua Country Extension Fruit Commodity Committee. It was later expanded to include the major grape producing areas of New York state. Its membership includes most of the New York state processors and wineries, and grower representatives from the major grape producing counties of the state. The Fund is a non profit corporation financed by the voluntary contributions of its members.

Since 1962, the main objectives of the Fund have been to support research aimed at solving current viticultural problems and to dispense information gained from such research to processors and growers.

The Fund assists, or may completely fund, research projects aimed at improving the quantity and/or quality of grape production in New York state. The director and staff members of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station supervise these projects. Each winter Fund members meet with the research staff to discuss previous year's results of supported projects and to accept proposals for the current year. At a later meeting, members evaluate and prioritize proposals. Since 1955, the Fund has contributed over \$1,000,000 to viticultural research.

Several notable breakthroughs in viticulture have come about as a result of Fund sponsored research. One of these was a major research project that led to the development of the commercial grape harvester.

Current research, supported by the Fund and directed toward the development of mechanical pruning and shoot positioning equipment, has the potential to effect substantial reductions in grower labor costs. Other research supported by the Fund is aimed at solving serious industry disease and insect problems. In addition, ongoing research is directed toward improving varietal selection and productivity.

The Fund serves not only to promote research on viticultural problems, but also has demonstrated the close cooperation between growers, processor and government that has been most effective in solving problems that beset this important segment of our agricultural industry.

Thomas G. Davenport
National Grape Cooperative

CORNELL FARMING ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Stimulating Rural Economics Development. The Farming Alternatives Program helps farmers and communities to discover - and act on- new opportunities for agriculture-based economic development. We provide research and education on agricultural diversification, entrepreneurship and market development opportunities to farmers, agricultural educators, planners and community leaders throughout New York.

Promoting Self-Help Solutions For Farm Families. We help farmers develop the entrepreneurial skills and the knowledge they need to improve profitability and environmental impacts. The Annual Transitions Conference, Farming For the Future and other educational programs bring together farmers and agricultural professionals to learn about new enterprise opportunities, technologies and management strategies. Research on production and marketing innovations helps NY farmers to stay in business and to meet environmental goals.

Helping Communities Find Local Solutions. We believe the future of farming will depend on the creativity and commitment of local farmers and their communities, working together to meet the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture today. Over forty community agriculture development groups in New York now rely on the Farming Alternatives Program for information and networking, and this number is steadily growing. Our newsletter, educational programs and research help them identify agriculture development strategies, share information and learn from each others' successes and failures.

Educating the Educators. As part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension System, we work closely with Extension agents, Cornell faculty, staff and students, providing information, training, research and publications on sustainable agriculture and community agriculture development. We provide in-service programs for agricultural educators, on-campus seminar series, and make presentations at local workshops and conferences.

Planning For Tomorrow's Agriculture. The Farming Alternatives Program plays a key role, around the state and within the Cornell community, in raising critical questions and stimulating dialogue about the future of NYS agriculture.

To subscribe to the Farming Alternatives newsletter and find out more about our program and publications, write:

Farming Alternatives Program
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