

Resources for Young & Beginning NJ Farmers

Finding / Financing Farmland:

The New Jersey Land Link by NOFA NJ “is designed to help farmers and landowners connect through a database of farmland available, farming opportunities sought, and land characteristics and production goals.”

The Finding Farmland Course by NYFC is a “one-stop shop to guide you through the financial decisions related to accessing farmland. This free course includes articles, videos, podcasts, activities, and resources, and was created in partnership with a nationwide network of farmland access organizations.” Additionally, **The Finding Farmland Calculator** “serves as a companion tool throughout the course. Use this calculator to build scenarios for purchasing farmland. You can compare detailed estimates of total costs, monthly payments and affordability metrics, then download the results to have on hand when meeting with a loan officer.”

Farm Credit East is a “lender and financial services leader for loans, leases, appraisals, record-keeping, tax prep, crop insurance & more! Farm Credit East is built to finance Northeast agriculture, fishing & forestry with their knowledgeable staff.”

Affording our Land: a Financial Literacy Guidebook for Young Farmers by Agrarian Trust can be used “to interpret the landscape of options available to young and beginning farmers who wish to access land and credit for starting or growing farm businesses.”

USDA Program Guide:

The Farmers' Guide to USDA Programs and Resources by the NSAC “breaks down dozens of federal programs offered by the United States Department of Agriculture for farmers and ranchers - including securing land, conservation initiatives, infrastructure and operating expenses, markets, and risk management.”

Skill Sharing / Training:

The NJYFC Google Group is an online platform used to directly connect and collaborate with farmers across New Jersey. Use this virtual space to start a discussion, offer/request resources, propose a farmer potluck, etc! Additionally, **The NJYFC Google Drive** is home to past coalition workshop resources and recordings.

The JourneyPerson Program by NOFA NJ “is designed to fill the gap between apprenticeship and independent farmer. By providing support, resources and opportunities to new farmers who have completed an apprenticeship or have farmed at least two years, we hope to further develop the skills they need to farm independently and successfully. The program is largely shaped by the agricultural interests and goals of the JourneyPersons and is intended to help new farmers achieve lasting success throughout their farming career.”

Liberation on Land Skillshare Video Series by Soul Fire Farm “pays homage to legacies of African Diasporic and Indigenous wisdom and innovation carried through generations, each

“how to” video tutorial demonstrates practical, hands-on skills for making life and livelihood on land, growing food and medicine for our families and communities, and strengthening community food sovereignty.” Additionally, Soul Fire Farm’s **Ask a Sista Farmer** is a free virtual show where “every first Friday of the month from 4:00-4:40 EST, experienced Black womxn farmers answer audience questions about gardening, livestock, agroforestry, plant medicine, and food preservation. The program centers the voices of Black, Indigenous, Queer, Trans, Disabled, Immigrant, and Poor communities. Everyone is welcome to watch and listen, but please make space for centered folks to share.”

Sattin Hill Farm Course by farmer Josh Sattin “is a free 20 week course on no-till market gardening via YouTube with topics ranging from finding land, soil health, selecting crops, pest/weed management, sales outlets, infrastructure, and so much more.”

Rutgers Beginning Farmer Business Planning “will walk you through each component of a business plan and provide you with additional resources to answer your challenging questions. This free 30-minute course gives you the opportunity to earn a certificate of completion which may be used for educational requirements in some farm loans.”

Cornell Plan Your Farm Workshop “is a free, all-inclusive, self-paced online course that guides you through developing goals, evaluating enterprise ideas, outlining a marketing plan, and ultimately creating your very own business plan.”

Rodale Institute Broadcast Archive “is growing the organic movement through research, farmer training, and consumer education.” Missed one of their live webinars? No worries. They record all of them—free and paid—so you can watch anytime you want.

Organic Certification:

The Vegetable Grower’s Guide to Organic Certification by NYFC “is designed to demystify and encourage organic certification for beginning farmers. The guide is meant for vegetable farmers who embrace the philosophy of organic agriculture but aren’t yet certified. It addresses some of the challenges to certification and helps farmers explore the decision for their own farms.”

The Road to Certification by NOFA NJ where “each spring and fall, in collaboration with the NJ Department of Agriculture and area Organic Farmers, NOFA-NJ offers a course, the Road to Certification to assist prospective farmers learn more about certification.”

Racial Equity in Ag:

The Racial Equity Toolkit by NYFC “aims to orient and incite members toward preliminary consciousness-raising and direct action. This toolkit does not detail a universally applicable pathway toward resolving pervasive racialized oppression; it is an initial resource for people who are overwhelmed by the breadth and depth of the problem, and need help determining how to start dismantling racism in their communities. We hope these resources help build foundations for broader organizing in our networks, and more concrete action toward dismantling racism and reckoning with histories of racialized dispossession and violence. As always, we invite feedback and critique on the structure and content of this document; we plan to create revised versions of this resource in the future.”

Food Safety:

A Small Farmer's Practical Guide to Food Safety & The Produce Safety Resource Library by NYFC "are not exhaustive instructions on how to legally comply with the Produce Safety Rule, but are meant to equip growers with the basics to improve food safety on their farm: training agendas, template standard operating procedures (SOPs), specific options for wildlife management, suggestions for how to set up a washing station, and much more."

General Resources:

New Jersey Young Farmers Coalition (NJYFC)

Northeast Organic Farming Association - New Jersey (NOFA NJ)

Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (NEFOC LT)

Northeast Black Farmer Fund

CATA - The Migrant Farmworker Support Committee

The Agrian Trust

National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC)