

Rutgers Beginner Farmer Training Program Opens Registration for New Class

Linnéa Eberly

Over the past three years, the Rutgers Beginner Farmer Training Program ‘RU Ready to Farm’ has provided hands-on training and education to more than 130 new and beginner farmers across the State of New Jersey. Funded by the USDA-NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, the support of the program and its team have resulted in at least 34 active farmers growing on more than 600 acres of land across New Jersey. The RU Ready to Farm program was also the National Winner of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Search for Excellence award in the “Young, Beginning, or Small Farmers/Ranchers” category for 2023.



Now entering its fourth consecutive year, the RU Ready to Farm program team is excited to welcome a new class of students. Tailored to the needs of beginner farmers, the RU Ready to Farm program is a perfect starting point for anyone looking to enter the agricultural industry.



With over 30 hours of training videos covering the basics of starting a farm business in New Jersey, bi-weekly “office hours” with a team of agricultural experts, and four in-person farm tours, the RU Ready to Farm program offers unparalleled education, support, and hands-on training to beginner farmers statewide. This comprehensive farm training program includes education on business planning, pest and disease management, marketing, soil considerations, and much more. The

sheer amount of knowledge that is broken down and made accessible is excellent, but the aspect that participants have continually talked about the most is the uplifting community that is forged through the program. Even after completing the program, participants will always have access to program resources and agricultural experts. The overarching goal of the RU Ready to Farm program is to be a centralized, comprehensive, and ongoing resource and support system for beginner farmers across New Jersey.

Want to join our farm family? Registration for the 2024 RU Ready to Farm course is now open! Use the QR code to sign up:

