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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Workshops Will Highlight Help Available to Improve Natural Resources

February 21, 2012 –New Jersey farmers and forest land owners who want to know more about how to improve the quality of the soil and other resources on their land are invited to attend one or more of nine morning workshops being offered in March and early April at various locations. Each workshop will include a presentation on the workshop's specific topic, how to develop a conservation plan, and the technical and financial assistance available from NRCS. NRCS soil conservationists will be on hand to help answer questions and help interested attendees begin an application for NRCS assistance.

Energy Audits and Conservation Assistance for New Jersey Farms will be offered three times: March 12 at the Gloucester County Complex, Delsea Drive, Clayton, March 14 at the Monmouth County Ag. Complex / NRCS Service Center, 4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, and March 15 at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Garibaldi Hall on Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. These start at 8:30 a.m.

Expanding Opportunities for Farmers of Ethnic Specialty Crops in NJ will be presented three times: March 16 at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton (Language assistance for speakers of Korean, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese will be available at this workshop.), March 21 at Alstede Farms in Chester, and March 29 at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County in Millville. These start at 8:30 a.m.

Soil Quality and Composting will be discussed at the March 27 workshop at Genesis Farm in Blairstown. Session starts at 8:30 a.m.

Forest Landowners workshop will be presented March 31 at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County in Westampton and again on April 5, at the NRCS Service Center, 51 Cheney Road, Woodstown. Forest landowner's sessions start at 9 a.m.

Registration is required for all workshops. Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is available at all sessions. Please request any necessary disability accommodation when you register. If language assistance is needed, please note that at time of registration and every effort will be made to accommodate these requests. Workshops are sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with Gloucester County Soil Conservation District (SCD), Mercer County Soil Conservation District, and Morris County Soil Conservation District, Visit www.nj.usda.gov/about/events for details and registration information, or call Gloucester County SCD

(856) 589-5250, Morris County SCD (973) 285-2953, or Mercer County SCD (609) 586-9603.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Informative Workshops for New Jersey Farmers

Find help to improve the quality of the soil and other resources on your farm!

Attend one or more of the workshops being offered throughout the state to learn how the Natural Resources Conservation Service can help you improve the natural resources on your operation.

Workshops will feature one specific topic, like energy conservation, forest management, or specialty crops. Each will include presentations about the technical and financial assistance available from NRCS and how to develop a conservation plan. NRCS soil conservationists will be on hand to help answer questions and/or to help you begin an application for NRCS assistance.

Registration is required. Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is available at all sessions. Please request any necessary disability accommodation when you register.

These workshops are offered by NRCS in partnership with:

- Gloucester Soil Conservation District
- Mercer County Soil Conservation District
- Morris County Soil Conservation District

Details and registration forms for all workshops are available online at
<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/about/events>

NRCS conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters, and manage natural resources to benefit your farm operation. Once enrolled, a cooperating farmer could receive payments for implementing conservation practices that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long term agricultural production and sustainability. Participation in NRCS conservation programs is voluntary.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

ENERGY CONSERVATION (3 Locations)

March 12, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Gloucester County Complex in Clayton
Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250

March 14, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

NRCS Service Center in Freehold
Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

March 15, 2012 8:30 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Roseland
Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

ETHNIC SPECIALTY CROPS (3 Locations)

March 16, 2012 - 8:30 a.m. *

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of
Burlington County in Westampton
Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

** Note: Language assistance will be available at this session for native speakers of Korean, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. If you know any farmers who might be interested, please encourage them to register and attend!*

March 21, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Alstede Farms in Chester
Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

March 29, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of
Cumberland County in Millville
Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250

SOIL QUALITY AND COMPOSTING

March 27, 2012 - 8:30 a.m.

Genesis Farm in Blairstown
Contact: Morris Co. SCD (973) 285-2953

FOREST LANDOWNERS (2 Locations)

March 31, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of
Burlington County in Westampton
Contact: Mercer Co. SCD (609) 586-9603

April 5, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.

NRCS Service Center in Woodstown
Contact: Gloucester Co. SCD (856) 589-5250