

History

Formed in 1990, The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Rhode Island (NOFA/RI) is an organization of farmers, gardeners, eaters and environmentalists working to promote organic farming and organic land care practices. NOFA/RI fosters a healthy relationship with the natural world through educational workshops, advocacy and participation in local and regional events.

NOFA/RI works to increase the acres of sustainably and organically managed land and to provide access to local, organic food for all Rhode Islanders. NOFA/RI is affiliated with six other NOFA chapters through the NOFA Interstate Council.

Organic Agriculture

The USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) defines organic agriculture as “an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain or enhance ecological harmony. The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, animals and people.”

(NOSB, 1997)

Learn more at nofari.org

Education

NOFA/RI offers education and outreach to farmers, gardeners and eaters promoting organic farming and land care practices.

CRAFT Workshops

The Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) workshop series shares farmer experiences and best practices between farmers, farm workers, apprentices and gardeners. These workshops are free.

Advanced Grower Seminars

Farmers share their expertise in raising specialty crops, greenhouse management, soil fertility and more. These classroom-based workshops are for farmers, farm workers, apprentices and gardeners at a modest fee.

Organic Farm Advisors

This program provides free technical guidance to farmers wishing to implement organic practices. Experienced organic farmers mentor new, transitioning farmers or growers who wish to produce their crops in a more sustainable manner. Topics include:

- Farm and garden planning
- Marketing, business planning, record keeping
- Soil building, raised bed production
- Cover crops and crop rotation
- Pest and disease management
- Greenhouse, high & low tunnel growing
- Safe tractor, tool and implement use
- Salad green production
- Weed control
- Post-harvest handling and marketing
- Organic certification and NRCS assistance applications



NOFA/RI Membership



NOFA/RI

247 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814

Phone: (401) 369-3303

nofari.org

Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)

The Northeast Organic Farming Association is a non-profit organization of over 5,600 farmers, gardeners, landscape professionals and consumers working to promote organic growing practices, sustainable food systems, healthy eating and living as well as a cleaner environment. Our Carbon campaign works to reduce global climate chaos.



Photo by Evgenia Yaroslavleva

The NOFA Interstate Council

The Northeast Organic Farming Association is an affiliation of seven state chapters:

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

The NOFA Interstate Council (NOFA IC) is the link between the state chapters, conducts the annual NOFA Summer Conference and is the umbrella organization for NOFA chapter projects. Each chapter offers educational conferences, workshops, farm tours and materials to educate farmers, gardeners, consumers and land care professionals.

The Natural Farmer

Our quarterly regional newspaper features in-depth stories on organic certification, growing techniques and environmental policy affecting farmers, gardeners and consumers. Learn about organic farming and gardening, and opportunities for additional education.

Membership Benefits

1. Satisfaction of supporting local, organic agriculture and a sustainable food system
2. Free Admission to our *CRAFT Workshops* for farmers and gardeners
3. Discount admission to *NOFA Winter Conference*
4. Discount admission to the *NOFA Summer Conference*
5. Access to farm mentors through our *Organic Farm Advisor* program
6. Discount on *Accredited Organic Land Care Training*
7. Subscription to *The Natural Farmer*, our regional quarterly newspaper
8. Monthly *NOFA/RI enews*
9. 10% discount on compost at *Earth Care Farm*
10. 10% discount at the *Good Earth Organic Gardening Center*
11. Discounts on organic farm supplies with the *NOFA Spring Bulk Order*
12. Free *Equipment Sharing* - pipe bender for High Tunnel or Low Tunnel hoop production
13. Free postings on our *Classified* web pages and in our enews. Business members may place listings on *Help Wanted* page.
14. Current Business Members build credibility with the *NOFA/RI Logo* on their website and print materials.
15. Business Members may market their events and programs through our online calendar partnership with *What Grows On In Rhode Island!*

NOFA/RI

Name: _____

Business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

I am available to volunteer:

- Lead a workshop
- Mentor other growers
- Staff an informational booth
- Collate evaluations
- Prepare grant reports
- Assist with outreach
- Post events on online calendars
- Other: _____

Membership Level

- Student/Senior (65+) \$25
School Name: _____
- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Farm/Business/Non-Profit \$60
- Supporter \$125
- Friend of NOFA/RI \$250
- Additional Donation: \$_____

Join/renew online at www.nofari.org or
Mail checks payable to NOFA/RI to
247 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814