MOFGA’s Newsletter for Organic Producers

MOFGA’s Primary COVID-19 Resource Document for Farmers

The MOFGA Farmer Programs staff has compiled a clearinghouse of almost every topic and issue related to farming during the COVID-19 crisis [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xcWWU7YZeWkEc8mahncJdY3NiERTfZ6SN71a7tJK7mo/edit?usp=sharing], with links, information and resources about insurance, employees, farmers’ markets, online marketing, loans and grants and more. The document is updated several times daily -- newest updates are highlighted in bold type.

PPE and Other Farm Supplies for COVID-19
This spreadsheet, curated by Nicolas Lindholm of MOFGA, provides a regularly updated list of sources for important items including hand sanitizer, nitrile gloves, face masks and sanitizable produce boxes/totes. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A9vDOM9Nbpu4ds-22XYoGkdKbhXseHAbSdhfYTAc/edit?usp=sharing]

Low-Cost Options for Online Sales Comparison
Easy-to-read chart produced by MOFGA, focusing on seven low-cost choices for farmers to quickly launch an online sales platform. Now posted on the MOFGA website! [https://www.mofga.org/Resources-for-Farmers]

Maine Local Market Report
A new, regularly updated report, produced by Alex Fouliard of Maine Farmland Trust and Nicolas Lindholm of MOFGA. A concise synopsis of views and perceptions of current trends in the Maine local food marketplace. Contains responses from both farmers/producers and buyers/distributors. Currently being released as an email via MEVEG-BERRY and other listservs. To join the MEVEG-BERRY list, email mevec-berry-subscribe-request@lists.maine.edu.

COVID-19 and Maine Ag FAQ
University of Maine Cooperative Extension webpage where farmers’ questions about anything related to the current pandemic are posted and answered. You can post a question or just read through all the other questions and answers. [https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/covid-19-faq/]

Farm to Institution New England (FINE)
A spreadsheet that helps farmers connect with wholesale buyers, and vice versa, throughout northern New England. Google sheet that allows you to list any item you have/can provide or any item you need/are looking for, with contact info for direct communications. Includes tabs for food, storage/cold storage, trucking/distribution, labor, technical assistance and more. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hxTC9FVUCv4ad-_VIOGhOsdYmwLXKm5chzRF6wODM/edit?usp=sharing]

The On-Ramp to Online Sales
Recorded webinar from 4/23/20. Presents what to consider and ways to prepare and launch an online sales platform for your farm products. Includes presentations by Linzy Witherspoon (Farmhand Automation), Nicolas Lindholm (MOFGA), Jonathan Malacarne (Univ. of Maine), with plenty of Q&A from participants. Hosted by Leah Cook (Maine DACF) and Caleb Goosen (MOFGA). 1 hr. 47 mins. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujx7sfrzmo&feature=youtu.be]

Farm Product and Pickup Directory
Shares alternative ways for customers to obtain products to accommodate for social distancing. To have your farm added to the directory map and spreadsheet, complete the Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory submission form. [https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/farm-product-and-pickup-directory/submission-form] Hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. ([https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/farm-product-and-pickup-directory/])