

AGRICULTURE WORK GROUP (AgWG) MINUTES

July 24, 2018

4pm - 5:30pm

Martin Hall (Rutgers University), 88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick

Attendees: Lauren Errickson (Workgroup Co-chair; Rutgers Cooperative Extension/New Brunswick Community Farmers Market), Johnny Malpica (Rutgers Collaborative Center), Luisa Reyes (NBCFA Program Coordinator), Yvette Molina (Elijah's Promise), Suzy Jivotovski (Elijah's Promise), Christina Spoleti (Elijah's Promise; Medical Student), Regina Abiazien (Elijah's Promise), Michele Bakacs (Rutgers Cooperative Extension)

<p>Featured Speaker: Michele Bakacs (RCE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michele gave an informative presentation about soil lead contamination and remediation relative to community gardening in urban areas (thank you to Luisa for recording the presentation, which will be available for all to watch if interested!) • Michele participated in lead testing throughout New Brunswick from approximately 2012 - 2016 • Resources/materials exist in both English and Spanish for gardeners to learn more about gardening to minimize lead exposure in urban areas • Rich Shaw, NJ State Soil Scientist, will test community/school garden soil for lead for free on site • See AgWG "resources" folder for the full presentation and additional handouts, etc., including a simple soil testing sample form
<p>Garden Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise Garden has launched a weekly Garden Club that meets to discuss the importance of gardening, share information, learn new things together, and share food! Contact Yvette Molina at Elijah's Promise for more information.
<p>Speakers for future meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will try to invite speakers and/or activity leaders to each of the AgWG meetings in the future to include a fun and educational component in addition to the routine business of the work group • Please send your suggestions for speakers, topics, or activities to Lauren: lauren.errickson@rutgers.edu or Luisa: nbfoodalliance@gmail.com
<p>NEXT STEPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luisa and Lauren will be meeting to further discuss the metrics and outcomes for AgWG activities; more information to follow
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 25th Tentative time: 4 - 5:30pm Tentative location: NBC Farmers Market Community Gardens, 178 Jones Avenue, New Brunswick</p> <p><i>*Meeting time and location subject to change based on speaker/activity selection. If you would like to host a meeting at your garden or another location, please contact Lauren: lauren.errickson@rutgers.edu</i></p>