



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Cornell University

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR ORGANIC PRODUCE FARMS

### Project Background

- We are looking for certified organic producers to participate in a multi-regional study integrating research-extension risk-based approach to fully assess current management practices affecting the time survival of pathogens and soil health used by the organic industry related to raw manure/untreated manure in crops. The long term goal is to develop an innovative, customized risk-assessment based on GAPs, soil health, microbial testing and environmental factors. The outcomes of this project will benefit organic farmers and consumers by providing strategies to maintain the value of raw manure soil amendments while limiting food safety risks.

### How You Can Help

- Researchers at the University of Maine are enrolling certified organic farms in a multi-regional study.
- MOFGA certified organic farms in Maine using raw manure or untreated manure (dairy cattle, horse or poultry) and producing leafy greens (lettuce, spinach), root vegetables (carrots, radish) and fruits (tomatoes, cantaloupe or melons) are encouraged to participate. The study is voluntary and all locations and names will be kept confidential.
- Researchers will visit enrolled farms 8 times per growing season (2017- 2018) to collect leafy greens/root vegetables/fruits, water, soil and manure. Farmers will be asked to complete a short survey.
- Produce, water & soil samples will be tested for bacterial indicators such as non-pathogenic *E. coli* & pathogen markers. Manure and soil will be cultured for foodborne pathogens.



### How You'll Benefit

- Individual farms participating in the study will receive all testing for free.
- A final report summarizing the overall study findings will be given to participants.
- Farmers will benefit of an on-farm customized risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis to assist producers in minimizing contamination risk of fresh produce.
- A nationwide and regional outreach program (workshops, factsheets and web-based) focused in food safety risk reduction in organic agriculture.

### Project Contacts

For more information and to enroll:

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