

# Southern Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District

## WINTER AG SCHOOL - 2026

Please note location information and meeting type under each class listing.

All classes are free and open to the public unless otherwise specified.

### 1. FORESTRY NIGHT

Wednesday, March 4, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Tom Gilbert, Water Resources Specialist, MFS; Nicole Rogers, Landowner Outreach Forester, MFS; Eric Kingsley, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions; Gabe LeMay, Entomologist, MFS

Location: Meduxnekeag Ramblers Club, Wiley Rd, Littleton

- Overview of Temporary Bridge Program - a Soil and Water Conservation Districts and MFS partnership
- Economic trends in forestry industry in Maine
- Updates on forest pests and diseases, including current information on Spruce budworm and Emerald ash borer
- Learn more about MFS's WoodsWISE Resilience Cost-share Program

**Credits: 4 hr CLP; SAF (requested); 3 Master Logger**

*Forestry Night held in partnership with Maine Forest Service*

### 2. JUMPING WORMS (or, the worms you DON'T want to see in your gardens or our forests)

Thursday, March 5, 6pm - 7:30pm

Brittany Schappach, Entomologist, MFS

Online via Zoom – Register: <https://bit.ly/4tp2EkX>

- Learn about the history and biology of Jumping Worms and how to identify
- Current best management practices – how to be proactive and control methods if you do discover jumping worms
- Maine Forest Service's new online detection map

### 3. COMPOSTING FOR THE HOME GARDENER AND SMALL FARM

Tuesday, March 10, 6pm - 7:30pm

Nicholas Rowley, Sustainable Ag Specialist, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Online via Zoom – Register: <https://bit.ly/4ac7MQI>

- Introduction to the fundamentals of the composting process
- Identifying the right mix for a successful compost pile
- Practical methods for managing compost and the agronomic benefits to soils

**Credits: 2 Nutrient Management**

### 4. HORSES: MUD, MANURE, AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, March 17, 6pm – 7:30pm

Alayne Bickle, horse trainer, educator, and founder of Horses for Clean Water, Idaho

<https://horsesforcleanwater.com/>

Online via Zoom – Register: <https://bit.ly/3M3kJEj>

- Learn basic techniques for good pasture management, including weed management and understanding how grasses grow
- How to manage mud and runoff and learn how it directly impacts horse health
- Ways to improve chore efficiency

### 5. ORCHARD PRUNING

Saturday, March 21

Two separate sessions: 10am - Noon OR 1pm - 3pm

C.J. Walke, MOFGA Orchard Program Manager

Location: Katahdin Children and Families Foundation Orchard, 250 Waters Rd, Patten

Class size is limited – registration required at:

<https://www.mofga.org/event-calendar/pruning-workshop-patten-1/>

- This workshop is directed to those who haven't pruned before or have a little experience
- C.J. will discuss basics of pruning fruit trees with overview of pruning tools and techniques
- Learn to identify branch collars, watersprouts, fruit buds, and about branch training

*Orchard Pruning class is held in partnership with MOFGA and Katahdin Children and Families Foundation. Class is free thanks to funds through MOFGA's Transition to Organic Program.*

**\*In the event of severe weather, this workshop will be held Sunday, March 22**

**If you would like to participate in any of SASWCD's online classes but are unable to attend due to lack of internet access, please let the SASWCD know. We are happy to arrange for a group viewing!**

*SASWCD is an equal opportunity provider. If you require special accommodations, please contact SASWCD*

2026 Winter Ag School is presented by SASWCD with valuable assistance from session speakers. Special thank you to Maine Forest Service

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