

Education & Community Engagement

Education was a defining ideal for Clifford and Melda Snyder. In an era when farmers trusted tradition more than science, Clifford Snyder financed his college education at MIT and Cornell with profits from a borrowed potato field. At a time when most women toiled at home, Melda Snyder was a teacher and school district administrator. The Snyders epitomized hard work, honest dealings, and civic service. As stewards of the farm, we bear – in the words of President Kennedy - *a special obligation to hold fast to the best of the past, as exemplified by the Snyders, and move fast with the best of the future.* We act daily on the responsibility to educate and engage with our community.

Farm Internships

In cooperation with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) offers summer research farming internships. These paid internships provide opportunities for gaining hands-on field science experiences under the mentorship of Rutgers NJAES faculty and staff in a variety of areas. The farms grow crops under real farming practices to conduct research and demonstration. Experiences gained through these internships are invaluable and rare in today's world. We invite you to [read profiles](#) of our past interns, and [apply](#) for what you may find to be a life changing experience.

Collaboration with Local Schools

Melda Snyder opened her farm to area residents for education and enjoyment and that practice continues today. Local school students visit the Snyder Farm for hands-on learning about agroecology, crop production, and food choices as they participate in planting, picking bugs off crops, harvesting, and adding to the compost pile.

In addition, through support provided by Rutgers SEBS, the Snyder Farm reaches out to potential agriculture/environmental science high school students who show an interest in a career in this area. Students learn all aspects of how farms work, planting, pruning, irrigating, and harvesting. It's an exciting experience to be involved with the work on the farm, giving the students a sense of accomplishment many would not have otherwise.



Student Loan Fund

The Clifford E. and Melda C. Snyder Loan Fund, administered by the Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture, provides a minimum award of \$2000 to high school graduates of Hunterdon County who are pursuing an education in the field of agriculture or fields of related study such as veterinary medicine, agricultural research, food science, farm machinery or general research in agricultural subjects. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, extracurricular accomplishments, related work experience, career goals, and letters of evaluation. [Applications](#) must be submitted each year by April 30 to:

Snyder Scholarship Fund

Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture

P.O. Box 2327

Flemington, NJ 08822



Community Service: Hunger Relief

Over the past 15 years, the Snyder Research & Extension farm has donated over 800,000 pounds of produce grown on the premises to local food banks through the volunteer efforts of the Research Farm Staff and Master Gardener volunteer program. Additional volunteers that help with this gleaning effort come from non-profit organizations such as Grow-a-Row, religious organizations, community groups, schools, as well as local corporations. Snyder Research & Extension Farm and Rutgers University (through [Rutgers Against Hunger](#)) are working to make a difference in the lives of those in our community suffering from hunger.