

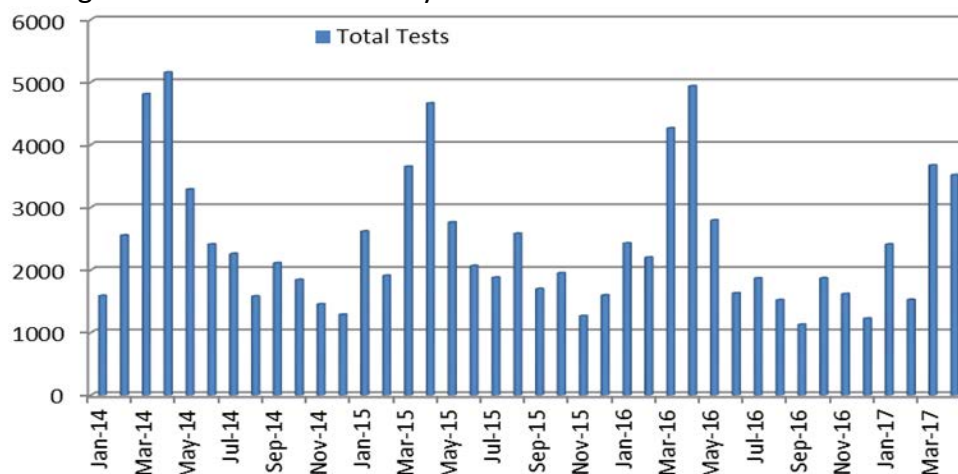
Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture May 24, 2017

Eat Right Move More Program - New York Jets offensive linemen Wesley Johnson and Brandon Shell along with Secretary Fisher visited Pace Charter School of Hamilton to honor the school as the Grand Prize Winner for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Jets PLAY 60 "Eat Right, Move More" Program on May 5. Johnson and Shell visited the school for a fun and educational program and presented the school with a \$15,000 grant to improve school food service and physical education programs, made possible by the Jets and the American Dairy Association Northeast. The next visits for this program will be June 2, 2017 at West New York #2 and Linden High School.

Eastern Produce Council-Jersey Fresh BBQ - The promotion of Jersey Fresh to the Eastern Produce Council has been an annual dinner event for over 20 years. The Department promoted its agricultural products to over 240 EPC attending members representing the NYC regional retail, sales (brokers & buyers), and transportation and service companies related to the produce industry. This year's event was again held at Demarest Farm in Hillsdale, Bergen County. Jersey Fresh typically sponsors half of the costs for this promotional event. The other half of the costs are equally born by the Vegetable Growers Association of N.J., N.J. Blueberry Growers Association and Sunny Valley International which represented the NJ peach industry.

Ag Program Closure - Staff was alerted to the closing of the Hackettstown High School Agriculture program this month. There have been budget cuts and it has been decided to eliminate the agriculture program and teacher. The State FFA Advisor has contacted the administration to provide ongoing activities for FFA members for up to three years, as allowed by the national FFA constitution. OAE staff is waiting to hear the name of the person who will handle FFA chapter logistic from the Assistant Principal. The Hackettstown Agriculture instructional program was in place in 1926.

Number Of Tests Performed – The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) performed a total of 3,517 tests in April 2017. For comparison, historical test numbers are plotted on graph below. Equine infectious anemia testing dropped to its lowest level for the month of April in the history of the laboratory. April is traditionally the busiest month for Coggins testing. The chart below can be used to compare April testing numbers for last several years.



Jersey Fresh Dairy - Applications have been processed from cheese manufactures, milk and milk products processors and dairy producers applying for the use of the Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program. All will potentially have products marketed using the Made with Jersey Fresh Milk logo. During

April, the Department had discussions with three cheese processors regarding the potential use of the "Made With Jersey Fresh" Milk program. Talks will continue with each as they are interested in the program.

Pathology Examinations - The Pathology Laboratory Section for the months of March and April 2017 completed a total of 400 and 335 tests and/or procedures, respectively. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), cytologic and parasitologic preparation and evaluation. Species submitted for testing in the month of April 2017 included dog, cat, cow, horse, goat, sugar glider, pigeon, exotic pet birds (budgie, amazon parrot), zoo birds (penguins) and marine mammal species (seal, porpoise and dolphin). Cases for these months generated additional diagnostic tests for other laboratory sections (e.g. bacteriology, virology and molecular). Results from these case submissions help to support practicing veterinarians (large, mixed and small animal), private food and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo and nonprofit animal facilities.

Apiary Inspection Colony Condition - Beekeepers that controlled Varroa mites and had plenty of food in their hives made it through the winter in good shape. A mild winter and warm February helped colonies build up pretty strong and fast, but low temperatures in the beginning of March put some colonies into food stress. There were more reports of starvation in March than in previous years. Most colonies had large levels of brood but not too much food forcing some beekeepers to feed syrup to keep the colonies from starving.

Summer Food Service Program - The Assistant Coordinator, Nutrition Program Specialists and Temporary Program Field Support Specialists continue to review the 2017 sponsor applications for Coordinator's approval. To date, 116 applications (14 new) have been received and 32 have been approved. The 2017 bid packages continue to be reviewed and 27 are approved. Bid openings for food service contracts were held during the weeks of May 1, 8, and 15. Additional bid openings are scheduled for the weeks of May 22 and 29.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - Larval *Laricobius nigrinus* predator beetles have begun to appear with the number of recoveries increasing during the last week of April. A total of 58 *L. nigrinus* larvae have been recovered with two new recovery sites further south and east than they had been recovered previously. The furthest site is nine miles farther south on Route 206 and two miles further east than the previous recoveries. *L. nigrinus* has also been recovered at Sparta Mountain WMA and Hamburg Mountain WMA which are 13 miles further east than any previous LN recovery. This is significant because it shows that the *L. nigrinus* are dispersing throughout the northern part of the state.

Aquaculture Advisory Council Subcommittee - The Aquaculture Advisory Council Rules Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 10th. The Subcommittee was formed to review the current rules for the Aquatic Farmer License, and inform rule revisions currently under way as part of the rule-making requirement of P.L. 2016, C. 96 (see N.J.A.C. 4:27-10.2 and N.J.A.C. 4:27-10.3). During the discussion several suggestions were made for rule revisions as well as a set of non-regulatory actions the Department could take in partnership with NJDEP and NJDOH to continue to streamline permitting for aquaculture.