

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
June 28, 2017**

**Target/Jersey Fresh** - Jersey Fresh staff has been working with representatives from Target to roll-out Jersey Fresh promotions at each of their South Jersey locations. This marks the first time that Target has highlighted the brand, and reflects a continued shift by the company into the fresh produce business and, in particular, the sourcing/promotion of local farm products.

**Direct Delivery DOD Fresh Produce Program** - 174 of the 262 DOD direct delivery program schools participated during the month of May 2017. A total of 19,631 cases at 444,491 pounds with a value of \$507,558 were ordered during the month of April. Eighty various items of fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered directly to the participating RAs. We have been evaluating the usage by each school and have moved funds away from school districts that are not using the funds to the school districts that have depleted their funds. Currently there is approximately \$150,000 left from the \$7.2 million that was set aside for this school year. All funds set aside for the 2016-2017 school year must be used by June 30.

**Emerald Ash Borer** - Since the initial release of 3,008 larval parasitoids on May 9 in selected ash stands in Montclair Township, Essex County; West Amwell, Hunterdon County; Hopewell and Princeton Townships in Mercer County and Hainesport Township in Burlington County, an additional 3,437 larval parasitoids have been released in the same five sites. These releases are planned to be conducted every other week through the end of September. Division staff has received over 16 calls and emails regarding EAB on private properties, most of which have been diagnosed as not EAB. There was a new positive find of EAB in Harmony Township, Warren County this month.

**Number Of Tests Performed** – The chart below provides an overview of the number of major tests performed by the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory from March 2017 through May 2017.

Test	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017
Aerobic Culture	24	31	39
Avian Influenza Serology	95	203	505
Avian Influenza PCR (molecular)	156	108	225
Avian Influenza Virus Isolation	11	19	26
Brucellosis	20	39	23
Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)	100	86	182
Fecal Parasite Examination	48	36	53
Fish Viral Isolation and PCR	24	11	20
Equine Infectious Anemia	2531	2520	1598
Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)	13	12	25
Johnes (Culture, ELISA, and PCR)	127	4	119
Listeria	5	5	11
Pathology Carcass Examinations	38	23	50
Pathology Slides Read	314	276	230
Salmonella	9	5	25

**88th New Jersey State FFA Convention** - Nearly 700 FFA members, advisors and guests attended the State FFA Convention to recognize FFA members and chapters for their accomplishments throughout the year and conduct State Association business. Fifty-two FFA members received their State Degrees. Fifty members received new FFA jackets through a special project of the New Jersey FFA Foundation. The convention welcomed many distinguished speakers such as New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher; Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Division Director for Ag & Natural Resources, Monique Purcell; New Jersey State Board of Education President, Mark Biedron and National FFA Central Region Vice President, Valerie Earley. The conclusion of the convention saw the election of the 2017-18 State FFA Officer Team. Renee Stillwell of the Allentown FFA Chapter is the new state president.

**Northeast United States Animal Health Meeting (NEUSAHA)** - The NEUSAHA meeting was held May 21-24 at the Tropicana in Atlantic City this year, in combination with a one day Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Directors meeting and the Northeast Participants of the North American Rabies Management Plan. Some of the topics presented included updates on the rabies elimination programs, VFD's and honeybees, USDA APHIS updates, sponsor updates and the Covanta Poultry test burn completed by the NJDA this past summer. The meeting was attended by around 60 participants from various states and agencies, including colleagues from Canada.

**Canadian Blueberry Fruit Program** – Twenty-Nine New Jersey blueberry growers have been approved for this year's Canadian Blueberry Fruit Certification Program (BCP). The BCP program is designed to facilitate the export of fresh blueberry fruit into Canada while protecting against the introduction of blueberry maggot; *Rhagoletis mendax* – a native pest to northeastern United States. Nursery Inspection Program staff members have trained all New Jersey growers in this year's BCP on the current protocols and responsibilities so they comply with CFIA regulations. Shipments to Canadian fresh fruit markets were anticipated to begin around the second full week of June.

**Extra School Lunch Payments** - The Food and Nutrition Division fiscal unit will be issuing an extra payment to each active Public State School Lunch sponsors in Fiscal Year 2017. This extra payment is to expend the balance of the funds in the 2017 State Lunch Account to meet the Federal Matching Funds requirement. These payments will be issued in early July. We are currently reviewing rates and completing an analysis to see whether rates should be increased for FY18.

**Specialty Crop Block Grants** - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has allocated \$670,852 in Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) funds to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) for fiscal year 2018. Recipients of the 2017 Specialty Crop Block Grant program in New Jersey are; The New Jersey Beekeepers Association, Blueberry/Cranberry Research Center, Jersey Fruit Cooperative, New Jersey Agricultural Society, New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, New Jersey Peach Promotion Council, Nursery and Landscape Association, Outer Coastal Plains Vintner Association and Rutgers University.

**Hydrologic Modeling Database Update** - Rutgers University has completed the last update to the database which consists of adding stormwater basin maintenance inspection reports data for every basin in the database. Currently there are approximately 15,000 stormwater basins in the database with new basins being added daily. District staff can now add photographs, documents and reports regarding the condition of these basins and easily generate a PDF report which can be sent to the basin owner. Districts will be available in the near future to provide inspection services for a reasonable fee, to help them comply with NJDEP stormwater infrastructure maintenance requirements.

