

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
July 26, 2017**

Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Accreditation – The Animal Health Diagnostics Lab (AHDL) has received the ISO 17025:2005 accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, making it one of only 18 such labs in the U.S. and the only New Jersey lab with this accreditation. The AHDL will now be able to conduct more types of tests and significantly reduce the time it takes for results to become official, especially important when responding to disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. The accreditation will bring many benefits to the AHDL's service. Among those will be more animal feed testing for pet foods and farm animals with a quicker turnaround for results since the tests will now not have to be sent to an accredited lab to be considered official. The accreditation means the AHDL follows standards in place at all other American Association for Laboratory Accreditation accredited labs.

Gypsy Moth Aerial Defoliation Survey - The statewide 2017 Gypsy Moth Aerial defoliation survey began on June 19th in the southern counties of the state and was completed June 29th in the north. A total of 13, 547 acres were found defoliated by gypsy moth populations this season affecting a total of 68 municipalities in 17 counties. This was about a 1% increase more than the levels experienced in 2016. Once again, the majority of the defoliation occurred in the northern counties of Sussex, Passaic and Warren Counties. Letters were mailed out to the affected municipal officials to inform them of the problem and schedule fall egg mass surveys to delineate potential treatment areas.

A breakdown of the Counties and the acres affected are as follows:

County	Acres
Atlantic	407
Bergen	128
Burlington	873
Camden	55
Cumberland	134
Essex	118
Hunterdon	543
Mercer	71
Middlesex	32
Monmouth	15
Morris	828
Ocean	348
Passaic	2,785
Salem	14
Somerset	479
Sussex	4,381
Warren	2,336

Jersey Fresh Marketing - This season's *Jersey Fresh* promotional activities are now in full swing. Radio ads (including streaming ads), bus wraps, television ads, online ads and trade publication promotions are underway. New radio spots were cut featuring the Secretary. Additionally, the billboard on Rt. 29 leaving Trenton is now live. This is an electronic billboard that features nine-second spots for each ad, so our ad is not up 24/7 but is featured regularly.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) - TEFAP foods for soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries were allocated for July from Safeway Cold Storage. A total of 83,968 cases and 1,731,383 pounds of TEFAP foods were offered as allocation for distribution to six Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suppliers. Foods allocated: Frozen Whole Chicken, Frozen Chicken Leg Quarters, Shredded Yellow Cheddar Cheese, Frozen Whole Eggs, Canned Peaches, Canned Applesauce, Dried Cherries, Cranberry Juice Concentrate, Bottled Grape Juice and Bottled Orange Juice.

FFA Golf Tournament - The 16th Annual FFA Golf Tournament, in honor of John and Laurie Neyhart, welcomed 69 golfers and many sponsors. More than \$12,000 was raised to support scholarships, student leadership development programs, and state officer training.

Pathology Testing – The Pathology Laboratory Section for the months of May and June 2017 completed a total of 348 and 370 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 June included dog, cat, horse, goat, sheep, pig, chicken, duck, pigeon, zoo and exotic species (giraffe, parakeet, parrot, rabbit, snow leopard, ray), wildlife (white tail deer, bobcat, multiple bird species) and marine mammal species (loggerhead turtle, dolphin).

Nursery Inspection Program – A total of three Plant Dealer locations were inspected by horticultural staff to verify that their overwintering nursery stock remains free from insect and disease pests. During the inspections, four rose plants were rejected because they displayed rose mosaic virus symptoms. A total of 268 Nursery/Greenhouse locations were also inspected by horticultural staff members during the month. These annual growing season inspections are a requirement of the New Jersey nursery certification laws and occur in order to ensure that regulated plant materials are free from injurious insect pests and plant diseases.

Food Distribution Program Warehouse Allocation Unit: The NJDA Food Distribution Unit is in the process of completing the annual physical inventory of USDA commodities stored in the school account at the Newark and Safeway warehouses. There has already been \$16,415,913 of USDA Foods purchased for delivery to the warehouse for the 2017-2018 school year. USDA Foods will begin arriving at the state contracted warehouses at the end of July 2017.

FSMA Grant - Plans are underway now for another batch of education and outreach meetings for produce growers affected by the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Safety Rule. Once these dates are announced, the board will be provided with a list of dates/locations. The survey discussed at last month's meeting is being distributed to produce growers throughout the state to help them navigate key compliance dates/requirements under FSMA.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program - The State Soil Conservation Committee has taken action to adopt the revised Topsoil and Land Grading Standards, which together contain the requisite measures for improving soil condition on new construction sites. Pursuant to P.L. 210, Chapter 113, the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act was amended to include requirements to improve soil conditions on construction sites to alleviate soil compaction when and where it occurs. Requirements now include such practices as increased depth of topsoil, testing or de-compaction of subsoil prior to application of topsoil, detailed methods of testing for compaction and areas which are to be excluded from de-compaction due to other needs for engineered soils (such as around foundations, under pavement, etc.). NJDA will be providing comprehensive training on the full suite of Standards in November.

