

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

September 2013 Volume 1, Issue 3

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Important Dates for your Calendar:

September is National Honey Month and Chicken Month

Sept. 17 - National Apple Dumpling Day

Sept. 17 - Johnny Appleseed Day

Sept. 25 - State Board of Ag Meeting, NJDA, Trenton

Oct. 1 - National Vegetarian Day

Oct. 14 - Columbus Day

Oct. 31 - Deadline for nominations for Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

For the second year in a row, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno accepted the Department of Agriculture's invitation to do an agri-business tour to see the varied and many faceted opportunities for agriculture to exist and flourish in this state. During the month of August, I accompanied the Lt. Gov. to Atlantic Blueberry Company, Ellis Farms, the Hoboken Farmers Market, Valley Shepherd Creamery, Cherry Grove Farm, Musky Trout Hatchery and Russo's Fruit and Vegetable Farm. Assistant Secretary Murray joined her at F & S Produce.

The Lt. Governor is a hands-on person who understands how business works and the ways that government can interact for positive outcomes. Lt. Governor Guadagno is always eager to take the time to meet with business owners and farmers to learn more about the issues facing them and craft solutions.

It was clear at each stop that the participants developed an almost instant rapport with the Lt. Governor.

The Department appreciates the Lt. Gov.'s interest in the agricultural industry which contributes enormously to the economy of the state and the quality of our lives in so many ways.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Rob Swanekamp

At the Board's monthly meeting on August 28 at the Rutgers EcoComplex, some of topics of interest included: A Warren County Christmas tree farm was honored on August 10 as its Blue Spruce was named Grand Champion in the Tree of the Year contest held by the National Christmas Tree Association. As winner of the national award, Wyckoff's Christmas Tree Farm in White Twp., Warren County, will present the White House Christmas Tree for the coming holiday season. The honor for the Wyckoff family means the nation will see firsthand the quality of Christmas trees grown in New Jersey. This is the first time a New Jersey grower has won the national award!

A finding of the Chinese Longhorned Beetle or the Mulberry Longhorned Beetle. It was reported that larvae of this beetle were found by USDA APHIS in dried vines originating from China that were stored at a Burlington County farm. The beetle, native to China, will infest dead wood, stressed trees and even structural wood.

As of this writing, the third case in New Jersey of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in 2013 had been confirmed. EEE, a viral disease that affects horses' neurological systems, is transmitted by mosquito bite. EEE is a serious disease that causes inflammation of the brain tissue and has a significantly higher risk of death in horses than West Nile Virus (WNV) infection. Horse owners are urged to vaccinate their animals from mosquito-borne illnesses such as WNV and EEE because animals that are vaccinated are less likely to contract these deadly diseases. Effective equine vaccines for WNV and EEE have been available for several years.

Spotlight on NJDA— Ag & Natural Resources Division

As Division Director, Monique Purcell oversees the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources. The Division is responsible for a variety of services and programs that maintain and enhance the viability of New Jersey agriculture and related agribusinesses.

Land Use Planning Issues

One of the primary responsibilities is interagency coordination and assistance in the development of policy positions on land use planning issues.

State Soil Conservation Committee and Soil Conservation Districts

The Division also administers policies and programs to conserve and develop the state's soil, water and related natural resources on agricultural and urban lands through NJDA's State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC) and the 16 local soil conservation districts (SCDs) in partnership with other federal and state agencies.

Cost-Share Assistance to Farmers for Soil and Water Conservation Projects

The Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources administers programs that provide financial cost-share assistance to farmers for soil and water conservation projects that prevent or control pollution. The Division oversees watershed studies related to the development of storm water models to address water quality issues.

Office of Aquaculture Coordination

Works cooperatively with other state and federal agencies in the development of business-friendly and environmentally sound policy framework to accelerate the growth of aquatic farming.

Technical and Market Development Assistance to Fish and Seafood Industries

Working with New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, the program provides training and assistance to seafood harvesters, wholesalers and

retailers in the implementation of food safety and security programs. Cooperative programs with the Commerce and Economic Growth Commission allow New Jersey seafood companies to reach global markets through trade promotion initiatives.

Agricultural Education

The Agricultural Education program is responsible for providing statewide leadership, resources and services for quality food, agriculture and environmental science education programs in local school districts. The program administers grant initiatives for schools delivering agricultural education, professional development for teachers, the FFA organization, and application processes for students to develop their work-based learning.

For more information on any of these programs, please visit the Division on the web at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/>

Animal Waste Management Regulations

The Department adopted regulations in March, 2009 that require all livestock farm owners to responsibly manage the manure generated on their operations – including those with horses, dairy cows, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry and all other domesticated species defined as livestock. The regulations were rolled out over a 3-year period, with a deadline for full compliance by March, 2012.

The Animal Waste Management regulations require all farms with any livestock to comply with the following **General Requirements**:

Agricultural animal operations shall not allow animals in confined areas to have uncontrolled access to waters of the state.

Manure storage areas shall be located at least 100 linear feet from waters of the state.

Land application of animal waste shall be performed in accordance with the principles of the NJDA Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual.

Dead animals and related animal waste resulting from a reportable contagious disease or an act of bio-terrorism shall not be disposed of without first contacting the State Veterinarian.

Any person entering a farm to conduct official business related to these rules shall follow bio-security protocols.

In addition to the General Requirements, all livestock operations with 8 to 299 "Animal Units" (one Animal Unit = 1,000 pounds) are required to implement either a self-certified or high-density Animal Waste Management Plan:

Operations with 8 to 299 "Animal Units" with animal densities greater than 1 AU per acre are required to have their Animal Waste Management Plan reviewed to ensure conformance with the USDA-NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and approved by their local soil conservation district. Those with densities less than 1 AU per acre only need to submit a Declaration page, certifying the development and implementation of their Plan to their local RCE office.

Operations with 300 or more AUs, regardless of animal density, are required to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and be certified by the NJDA.

Farms that receive or apply 142 or more tons of animal waste per year must also develop an Animal Waste Mgmt. Plan.

Assistance regarding compliance is available at the Division of Agricultural & Natural Resources or the Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex and Burlington County Extension offices.

For additional information, please contact **Ferdows Ali** at (609) 292-5540 or

Mohammad.Ali@ag.state.nj.us

Shipping Agricultural Products Out of State

As New Jersey farmers and producers seek new market opportunities to sell fresh fruits and vegetables and ornamental plants, it is important to be aware of the receiving state's or country's plant quarantine requirements. These regulations protect against the accidental spread of plant pests and plant diseases into new areas.

Recently shipments of green peppers were prevented entry into the State of Texas due to lack of official certification of freedom from the European corn borer (ECB). Texas Department of Agriculture will allow future shipments, if the peppers are grown under an official NJDA-supervised program to manage European corn borer. Similarly, fresh blueberry fruit from New Jersey is shipped to markets in the Eastern provinces of Canada grown under an official NJDA -USDA supervised program to manage blueberry fruit fly.

Growers and shippers are encouraged to contact the Division of Plant Industry before you ship to a new customer out-of-state for up to date information to avoid any costly surprises. Summaries of State regulations may be found on-line at <http://www.nationalplantboard.org/laws/index.html>.

New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer

Mitchell Jones, New Jersey's 2014 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) will be competing in the national OYF competition and hopes to be chosen as one of the twenty-five semi-finalists from across the nation

to complete a more extensive Semi-Finalist Nomination Form. Mr. Jones, from Washington, Warren County should know within the next week if he has been chosen for the top twenty-five. Stay tuned.

And, if you would like more information on the Outstanding Young Farmer program, please contact **Karen Kritz** of the NJDA at **609-984-2506** or karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us



Nominations for 2014 Distinguished Service Award Open

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for the Distinguished Service Citation. The award will be presented to the recipient at the 2014 State Agricultural Convention. You at the county level are best equipped to recommend farmers, agricultural leaders and allies of the industry who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture and to enhancing the quality of rural life in New Jersey. Please submit nominations for deserving citizens through the County Board of Agriculture in which the individual is a resident.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is October 31, 2013, so please send your candidate's name and biography to the appropriate County Board of Agriculture as soon as possible.



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WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!

Ag Recycling Collection Continues

This year, there are expanded opportunities for New Jersey farmers to recycle their agricultural plastics, including for the first time mulch film (any color), drip irrigation tape, row covers, low tunnel film, high tunnel film, silage bags, peat moss bags, silos covers, and hay bale wraps and almost any non-container agricultural plastic including pots and trays. The nursery and greenhouse film recycling program, in its 17th year, is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the nation. This is the 12th year for the free plastic pesticide container recycling program, which collects properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers from all categories of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-licensed pesticide applicators and custom application businesses. Growers also can recycle their drip irrigation tape, nursery pots, plastic flats, trays, and cell packs may recycle tractor trailer loads of the material through a variety of vendors. For more information on the programs, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/recycling.html.

Export Development

The Farmer
has to be an
Optimist or
he wouldn't
still be a
farmer.

~ Will Rogers

Recently, Douglas H. Fisher, NJ Secretary of Agriculture and President of Food Export—Northeast, welcomed more than twenty food companies to a NJDA “Prepare for Export Success” educational seminar in Cherry Hill, N.J. The seminar was hosted in partnership with Food Export USA – Northeast, and focused exclusively on food export education for new to export companies and companies which might be considering exporting. Some of the food export education topics included; how to become export ready, what importers expect from your company, how to respond to export trade leads, creating a solid export quotation and required export documentation.

Food Export USA – Northeast offers many free export readiness training and education resources in addition to market research and direct support for exporters of U.S. food and agricultural products. Food Export USA is a non-profit organization that promotes the export of food and agricultural products from the northeast region of the United States. The organization represents the 10 northeastern State Departments of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and was incorporated in New Jersey in 1973.

For more information on exporting from New Jersey to an international destination, please contact NJDA Export Specialist, **Logan Brown** at **609-292-8856**

Comments?

Joe Atchison, Agricultural Marketing Coordinator for the NJDA, is the editor of this newsletter. If you have comments, concerns or an item that you would like considered for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact him at:

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