

# NEWS FROM THE NJDA

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Department of  
Agriculture

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## Important Dates for your Calendar:

**February is National Black History Month and Cherry Month**

**Feb. 24** - National Tortilla Chip Day

**Feb. 26** - State Board of Ag Meeting at NJDA, Trenton

**Feb. 28** - Floral Design Day

**Mar. 1** - National Pig Day

**Mar. 3** - Peach Blossom Day

**Mar. 11** - Johnny Appleseed Day

**Mar. 17** - St. Patrick's Day

## From the Secretary's Desk



*NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher*

Coming back from the New Jersey State Agricultural Convention, I can report that we had smooth running, successful sessions packed with a lot of helpful information. It was great to see so many people participating, learning and sharing. Very important issues were discussed – defining locally grown, GMO and micro-enterprise, which generated excellent discussion and feedback.

The convention was quite effective in giving the State Board of Agriculture clear direction on where it sees agriculture policy in the state in the coming year.

The convention is always a valuable opportunity to socialize and network while there are still these few spare moments in the winter. Very soon, farmers will be back at work with their preparations for spring. Please check out the agriculture convention webpage [www.nj.gov/agriculture/conventions/2014/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/conventions/2014/index.html) where we will post the finalized resolutions and other information from the convention.

## From the State Board President



*State Board of Agriculture President, Rob Swanekamp*

Members of the State Board of Agriculture were present at the 2014 State Agricultural Convention that was convened on February 5 & 6 in Atlantic City. The South Jersey Open Meeting was held on February 4. Members of the audience were able to ask questions or voice concerns to the members of the State Board. One of the highlights of the Convention was the banquet speech by Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno to a crowd of almost 500 dinner guests. She commended the state's growers for the job that they do each and every day. Another highlight was the awards presentation of the 2014 Outstanding Young Farmer Award to Mitchell D. Jones of Warren County. There were two recipients for the Distinguished Service to Agriculture, Steven Jany, a Mercer County grain farmer and former member and President of the State Board of Agriculture and Dr. Wesley Kline, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Agricultural Agent and Associate Professor at Rutgers. Former State Board member and President Scott Ellis was awarded the Vegetable Grower of the Year.

The final business of the Convention was the nomination of Mitchell Jones (Warren County) and Steve Wagner (Gloucester County) to serve on the State Board of Agriculture for terms beginning (on) July 2014 through June 2018 once approved by the Governor and the Senate.

The Board would like to ask that you keep State Board member David Klemm in your prayers as he was just accepted into a new trial in Maryland and will begin a new round of chemotherapy that begins this week!

## Jany and Kline Honored for Distinguished Service

**Steven R. Jany**, a Mercer County grain farmer, and Dr. Wesley Kline, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County Agricultural Agent and associate professor at Rutgers University were honored February 5 with Distinguished Service Citations to New Jersey Agriculture at the State Agricultural Convention held in Atlantic City.

“Steve Jany has a great love for New Jersey agriculture and has spent the last 50 years in leadership roles that have improved the state’s agriculture industry for all farmers,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. “Steve is regarded as a consensus builder, organizer and mentor to younger farmers.”

Jany began his career in agriculture in 1965 when he worked at a local farm. Four years later, he graduated from the Princeton High School Business Program and immediately got a job at Rustin Farms in Princeton Junction.

In 1971 he left there for Simonson Farms only to return to Rustin as a partner in 1973. The farm is now a thriving 2,000-acre spread that includes grain and Christmas trees. Steve has served his community for many years taking leadership roles in various agricultural committees and boards across the state. He is currently Second Vice President of New Jersey Farm Bureau and also served as treasurer and county director. He was a member of the State Board of Agriculture from 1997-2002 serving as its president for one year. Steve also served as the President of the Mercer County Board of Agriculture from 2001 to 2003. He sat on the Cook College Board of Managers. In addition, Steve has served as an Officer of the Grain and Forage Producers Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey Soybean Board of Directors and a member of the New Jersey DEP’s Water Supply Advisory Board and New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association.



**Dr. Wesley Kline** graduated from Salem College and earned his Masters and Doctorate at Cornell University. He spent time as a horticulturist in the Peace Corps and worked in Somalia, Ecuador and El Salvador. He came to Rutgers in 1996, where he works with growers and agribusiness personnel to the betterment of their livelihoods.

Working with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Dr. Kline helped set up a Food Safety Task Force and has trained more than 5,000 farmers on the Food Safety Modernization Act and third-party audits.

“Serving New Jersey agriculture is not just a job for Dr. Kline but a passion,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. “He has tirelessly worked to educate and assist farmers in Cumberland County and throughout the state on food safety and other topics.”

Kline coordinates the food safety extension training program in New Jersey. And, he was instrumental in the implementation of an educational program in Cumberland County concerning commercial fresh-market and processing vegetable production and herbs. Kline is a frequent invited speaker at conventions, conferences and meetings and has produced several well-respected publications, fact sheets, manuals, newsletters, webinars, websites and CD’s.



Above, Steven Jany displays his Distinguished Service to Agriculture Citation. Left, Secretary Douglas Fisher (l) and State Board President, Robert Swanekamp (r) present Dr. Wesley Kline, his Distinguished Service Citation.

## Leasing-Related Networking Opportunities, Workshops for Farmers and Landowners in March

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), in conjunction with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ), will offer a series of meetings and workshops in March for farmers and farmland owners to learn about land leasing opportunities and leasing-related issues.

### Leasing Networking Meetings for Farmers, Landowners

5 to 6 p.m.

Friday, March 7, 2014

Duke Farms, Hillsborough

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ware Agricultural Building

Woodstown

These sessions will provide a brief overview of land leasing opportunities followed by an opportunity for landowners and farmers to meet and network. The networking sessions will be offered in conjunction with a NOFA-NJ training workshop, "Site Evaluation: Tools for Sizing Up Your Farm's Potential," that will discuss methods for evaluating the suitability of land for various types of production. The workshop will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., immediately preceding the networking sessions. Participants may choose to attend either the networking session or workshop, or both. The networking sessions are free; there is a fee for the workshop.

### Leasing Workshop on Maintaining Farmland Leases and Managing Conflict

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,  
Saturday, March 29, 2014  
Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown

This free workshop is intended for landowners and farmers who have concerns about potential or current lease-related conflicts. A land use attorney will discuss the most important components to include in a lease and how to craft an agreement to foster a stable lease partnership. The workshop also will examine conflict management techniques and resources.

For more information or to pre-register for the networking sessions or workshops, contact the SADC at (609) 984-2504 or [sadc@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:sadc@ag.state.nj.us), or NOFA-NJ via [www.nofanj.org](http://www.nofanj.org) or at (908) 371-1111.

These programs are supported by a NOFA-NJ/SADC agreement under Award No. 2011-49400-30739 (Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program) from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## REMINDER: DEADLINES APPROACHING FOR STATE CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST

### *Winners To Receive Savings Bonds*

If you have children or grandchildren in grades 2-12, New Jersey's Soil Conservation Districts are now accepting entries in a poster contest designed to raise awareness of natural resources and related issues among young people. The theme for this year's poster is "Dig Deeper--Mysteries in the Soil."

Students may compete in the following categories: Grade 2-3; Grade 4-6; Grade 6-8; and Grade 9-12. First place winners in each category will receive \$200 savings bonds; second-place \$100 bonds; and third-place \$50 bonds.

All first-place winners will be entered in the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.

The competition is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Committee, New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts and the state's 15 Soil Conservation Districts, which work to conserve and manage soil and water resources in the state.

### ***Deadlines for the poster contest differ for each Soil Conservation District.***

To find your local Soil Conservation District, go to [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/conservdistricts.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/conservdistricts.html). All entries must be submitted through the local districts.

**For more information and the entry form, visit [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/conservationpostercontest.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/pdf/conservationpostercontest.pdf).**

## Emergency Preparedness for Livestock

Disaster situations can impact pets and livestock of all sizes, shapes and species. Due to their size, livestock such as horses may require special shelter and transport requirements, as well as food and watering needs. Planning ahead for your animals is imperative.

The Center for Food Security and Public Health has developed excellent resources to help communities prepare for disasters and other hazards. They can be found at:

<http://www.prep4agthreats.org/All-Hazard-Preparedness/livestock-and-pet-emergency-preparedness-plan>

## 16th Annual Animal Emergency Working Group Symposium --

The symposium for animal emergency first responders, emergency management personnel and other interested parties will focus on large animal rescue and setting up a shelter. It will be held Monday, April 28 at the Horse Park of New Jersey, 626 Route 524, Allentown, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/events/2014aewgsymposiumreg.doc> for the agenda and registration form.



### SMALL BITES

#### **OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MAILED**

Applications have been sent to all the qualifying nominees for New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer. If you are a nominee or you nominated a grower, please make sure completed applications are returned prior to March 14, 2014. If you have questions, please contact NJ OYF Program Manager, Joe Atchison at 609-984-2223 or via e-mail at [joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us)

#### **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: [joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us) or at 609-984-2223.