

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

April 2014

Volume 2, Issue 2

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Important Dates for your Calendar:

**April is National Lawn &
Garden Month and Keep
America Beautiful Month**

Apr. 19 - National Garlic Day

Apr. 20 - Easter Day

Apr. 23 - State Board of Ag
Meeting, FSA Office, Hamilton
Square - 5:30pm.

Apr. 24 - National Take Your
Child to Work Day

May 5 - Oyster Day

May 10 - Final Planting Day
for Oats - Crop Insurance

May 12 - Wildflower Week

By now, many of you have learned of the passing April 8 of State Board of Agriculture Member Dave Klemm at his home in Fredon Township, Sussex County following an illness. Despite knowing he would be facing serious medical issues, he took a seat on the Board in July 2013, showing his great dedication to the New Jersey agricultural community.

Dave, along with his son, Bradley, second and third-generation farmers, owned Waterwheel Farm, which has been in the family for 50 years. A horse boarding business has been in operation for 35 years and most of the farm's 500 acres are used as pastureland for the horses. They grow grass and hay for the horses and also raise beef and free-range turkeys. Dave earned a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia College in Bronxville, NY in Business Management and in 2009 received his Realtor License. He was a member and past-president of the Sussex County Board of Agriculture and a member and Director Alternate for New Jersey Farm Bureau. He was active in Redeemer Lutheran Church and served as church Vice-President.

Dave is survived by his wife of 35 years, Diane Brockman Klemm, of Fredon Township; three children, Brian Klemm, of Raleigh, N.C., Alissa Meyer and husband, Aaron, of Bronxville, N.Y., and Bradley Klemm, of Fredon Township; and two grandchildren, Evan and Elle Meyer. He also is survived by his father and mother, Willard and Jeanette Klemm; one brother, Danny Klemm and wife, Kathy, of Stillwater; and many loved extended family members.

Our prayers go out to all who knew and loved Dave. We will miss him greatly.



David A. Klemm
1952-2014

On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP Adopted and in Effect

The On-Farm Direct Marketing Agricultural Management Practice (AMP) adopted by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) became effective on publication in the *New Jersey Register* on April 7.

The AMP establishes performance-based standards for Right to Farm protection for a wide variety of on-farm direct marketing facilities, activities and events, including farm stands, farm stores, community-supported agriculture (CSA), pick-your-own, educational activities such as school trips and farm tours, and recreational activities such as corn mazes and hay rides. The AMP also covers on-farm direct marketing events such as product or seasonal harvest festivals, farm open houses, CSA membership meetings and farm-to-table events showcasing the farm's agricultural products.

By providing uniform standards, the AMP is intended to help farmers and their municipalities and neighbors understand what is eligible for Right to Farm protection as it relates to farm markets and agritourism activities on commercial farms, prevent delays in processing Right to Farm complaints and ensure consistent treatment of farming operations across the state.

In the event of a complaint involving an activity that is the subject of an SADC-adopted AMP, the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) would determine whether the activity on the commercial farm in question is being conducted in conformance with the AMP and is therefore protected under the Right to Farm Act.

A commercial farm owner may proactively seek a determination of Right to Farm eligibility by requesting a site-specific agricultural management practice (SSAMP). If an SSAMP addresses an activity covered by an SADC-adopted AMP, the SSAMP must be consistent with the adopted AMP for that activity.

The On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP is available on the SADC's website at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rtfprogram/amps/adoptedamps/>.



From the Division of Food and Nutrition

Farmers and Schools wanted for Farm-to-School Program

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher recently announced a program to recognize schools and farmers who work together to ensure students have access to healthy Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in their school cafeterias.

Applications for the 2014-2015 Jersey Fresh Farm to School Recognition Program are now available to schools and farms who regularly participate in Farm to School activities. The applications can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/1erlfPb>.

“The Department of Agriculture wants to recognize the schools and farmers who are making great efforts to increase students’ consumption of Jersey Fresh produce,” said Secretary Fisher. “The U.S. Department of Agriculture has guidelines that require schools to serve more fresh fruits and vegetables. In most areas of New Jersey there is a farm nearby, so it makes sense for schools and farmers to partner.”

There are many benefits to the schools and farms to participate in the recognition program. For schools, they get the opportunity to expand their farm to school efforts, highlight Jersey Fresh produce in their meals, and to educate students about good nutrition and the New Jersey Agricultural industry. Farmers will find the program is a new marketing opportunity to strengthen

the relationship between their farm and community. Both schools and farmers will receive a Jersey Fresh Farm to School promotional materials kit, including a banner to display informing students and the community of their participation in the program.

For schools to be accepted into the program, they must administer the National School Lunch Program and participate in Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week September 22-26 and National Farm to School Month October 2014. Over the course of the growing season, schools will serve Jersey Fresh produce and promote the consumption of the produce.

For farmers, they also must participate in Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week and National Farm to School Month. They must be a licensed Jersey Fresh farmer and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) - certified farm. Farmers will provide schools with an anticipated list of their Jersey Fresh produce and work collaboratively with them to expand the Farm to School program.

The Jersey Fresh Farm to School initiative aims to connect schools with New Jersey farmers to purchase local produce for school meals. The goal is to teach children where their food comes from by serving them local produce and growing it themselves in school gardens.

To learn more, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html.

Roundtable on Summer Food Service Program Held in Camden

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher joined U.S. Department of Agriculture Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Service Administrator Audrey Rowe on April 7 for a roundtable discussion on ways to improve access to nutritious summer meals for children in Camden.

Last summer, the City of Camden Department of Human Services and Urban Promise Ministries, Inc. provided the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) at 126 sites in Camden. Rowe sought feedback from local officials on the challenges facing Camden to providing more access to the program for local children. The program feeds students who receive free school meals with breakfast and lunch during the summer months. SFSP is administered by the NJDA and is federally funded.

Attending the roundtable were representatives from the office of Camden Mayor Dana Redd and the Food Bank of South Jersey, as well as other state and local officials.

Ninety-six organizations in 2013 participated in the Summer Food Service Program to provide nutritious meals to almost 58,000 children daily during the summer at 1,036 sites around the state.

The Summer Food Service Program reimburses participating organizations for meals served to children who live in areas in which at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

From the Division of Food and Nutrition (cont.)

USDA Under Secretary Concannon Commends New Jersey School Breakfast Program

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher recently welcomed Kevin W. Concannon, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, who came to New Jersey to commend the state for making great strides in increasing participation in the School Breakfast Program.

Fisher joined Concannon in Woodbury City where the school district has increased the school breakfast participation rate by 50 percent. The pair visited Evergreen Avenue Elementary School where all students receive a free breakfast in their classroom at the beginning of the school day.

“A principal goal of the School Breakfast Program is to ensure that all school children have access to a nutritious breakfast to promote learning readiness and healthy eating,” said Under Secretary Concannon. “The program provides children of all economic backgrounds a well-balanced, healthy meal consistent with the latest nutrition science and Dietary Guidelines for Americans.”

This year, the Food Research and Action Center reported in its school breakfast report card that New Jersey increased in national rank to 37th in breakfast participation from

the 2011-2012 to the 2012-2013 school year. New Jersey also was among only nine states to have a five percent or higher increase in breakfast participation. In the current school year, almost 37,000 more students are eating breakfast on a daily basis, a 16.8 percent increase over the 2012-2013 school year. There are about 255,000 children in New Jersey who participate in the program daily.

“New Jersey increased its breakfast participation ranking because we have provided greater program accessibility,” said Secretary Fisher. “We have partnered with the New Jersey Department of Education in support of breakfast after the bell. Through coordination with school administrators, we have encouraged schools to serve breakfast in the classroom and have reinforced this time counts as instructional time, thereby capturing a larger percentage of children who qualify for free or reduced price breakfast who were not able to access the meal before.”

Woodbury City School District first offered free breakfast to elementary students in the classroom in October 2012. In September 2013, all four of the district schools offered free breakfast to all students. There are 82 percent of the district’s students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

“The Woodbury City Public Schools have invested serious energy into ensuring that all students start

school ready to learn,” said Woodbury City Schools Superintendent Joseph Jones III. “This has extended to offering a breakfast in the classroom experience in all of our elementary schools and a breakfast after the bell program in our Junior-Senior High School. The large percentage of students who now take advantage of a school breakfast is an indication of how important it was to shift our delivery away from the traditional before school structure. With thoughtful planning and a dedicated, caring faculty and support staff, we have successfully transitioned our district to a program that put breakfast in easy reach for all children each school day.”

Fisher and Concannon observed the packing of Wednesday morning’s breakfast, which was a filled bagel with cream cheese, fresh fruit and milk. Fresh fruit is served for breakfast three days a week in the district. State law requires breakfast to be served in schools in which 20 percent or more of the students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the federally-funded National School Lunch Program. Of the students who receive free or reduced price lunch, only 44 percent receive school breakfast.

The USDA’s School Breakfast Program provides a nutritious start to each school day for nearly 13.2 million children in more than 89,000 schools and institutions nationwide.

For more information on the School Breakfast Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/school_breakfast.html.

Why Livestock Owners Need to be Prepared for an Emergency

Transporting livestock animals to safety when disaster strikes can be difficult. Disaster preparedness is important for all animals, but it is particularly important for livestock because of the animals' size and the requirements needed to shelter and transport them. If you think that disasters happen only if you live in a flood plain, near an earthquake fault line, or in a coastal area, you may be tragically mistaken. Disasters can happen anywhere and include barn fires, hazardous material spills, propane line explosions, and train derailments, all of which may necessitate evacuation. It is imperative that you be prepared to protect your livestock, whether by evacuating or by sheltering in place.

<http://www.uvm.edu/~ascibios/?Page=Emergency/>

[Disaster Planning for Livestock.html&SM=submenuemergency.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~ascibios/?Page=Emergency/Disaster_Planning_for_Livestock.html&SM=submenuemergency.html)



SMALL BITES

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER ENTRIES IN JUDGING

Completed entries have been sent to Outstanding Young Farmer judges for review and recommendation to the State Board of Agriculture. 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

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 or at **609-984-2223**.