

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

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Important Dates for your Calendar:

September is Honey Month

October is AppleJack Month and Seafood Month

Sept. 26 - Johnny Appleseed Day

Sept. 27-28 - Bergen Cty. 4-H & Master Gardener Fair
Camden County 4-H Fair

Oct. 1 - World Vegetarian Day

Oct. 10 - World Egg Day

Oct. 13 - Columbus Day

Oct. 22 - State Board of Agriculture Meeting, Trenton, NJ

From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

Every year, the last week in September, the Department of Agriculture celebrates Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. The week is dedicated to encouraging school children to eat more local produce and we have worked throughout the year strengthening ties between schools and our New Jersey farmers.

On Tuesday, September 23, we kicked off Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week at Anthony V. Ceres Elementary School in Perth Amboy, one of the schools in our new Farm to School Recognition program. They participate in our Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program, serving fresh, local produce during lunch and growing a beautiful school garden from the seeds of the fruits and vegetables eaten in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

We know there are a great many schools out there like the Ceres School. We look forward to working with schools to increase Farm to School efforts and we encourage our growers to connect with their local schools to expose more children to fresh, healthy, Jersey Fresh produce. This is good for students and good for agriculture.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Rich Norz

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture installed three new members on July 23 during its reorganization meeting held in Ewing – Mitchell Jones of Harmony Township, representing the hay and grain industry, Steven B. Wagner of Franklinville representing the horticulture industry, and Roger Kumpel of Southampton, filling an unexpired term.

Jones and Wagner were elected by the delegates at the February 2014 State Agricultural Convention for recommendation to the Governor for nomination and later confirmed by the State Senate. Kumpel, a hay, long straw, grain and vegetable farmer, was elected by the State Board of Agriculture to temporarily fill the seat left vacant when Board Member David Klemm passed away earlier this year. During the 2015 convention next February, the delegates will elect a person to serve the remainder of Klemm's term, which ends in 2017.

Also during the reorganization meeting, I was elected as President, I am a Somerset County hay, grain and vegetable grower, and Robert Swanekamp, the immediate Board past-president and a Monmouth County flower and plant grower, as Vice President.

At this time, the Board is still accepting nominations for the Distinguished Service Citation to be presented at the 2015 State Agricultural Convention. Also, if your Board or Commodity organization has not sent in your delegate forms, please do so in order to be considered for any Convention Committees.

The next meeting of the State Board will be held on Wednesday, October 22 beginning at 1:30 pm at the Health & Agriculture Building in Trenton.

State Board of Agriculture Installs New Members

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture welcomed three new members during its July 23rd meeting. Joining the board were Mitchell Jones, Steve Wagner and Roger Kumpel.

Mitchell Jones was named New Jersey's 2014 Outstanding Young Farmer by the State Board of Agriculture. As a teenager, he worked on local farms and was a member of FFA, gaining hands-on experience about production agriculture. After graduating from Penn State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in 1998, Jones began renting farmland. Over time he has expanded his rental properties and now owns a small farm. Jones, whose father worked for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, has applied conservation practices to all acreage he owns and rents. He utilizes cover crops to control erosion and increase organic matter; uses minimal till or no till; has installed lined waterways, underground outlets and erosion control measures; has lands enrolled in a Conservation Stewardship Program; implemented Intensive Nutrient Management on farmland; and works with the NRCS in conjunction with the Audubon Society.

Steve Wagner has worked in New Jersey's nursery industry for more than 30 years and as General Manager of Brock Farms Nurseries Inc., a 600-acre production nursery in Bridgeton, since 2006. He implemented trickle irrigation in shade tree production in 1988 at one of the first nurseries to do so, which reduced production time by nearly 33 percent. He is the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association South Jersey Chapter Chairman, member of AmericanHort and American Horticultural Society and served on the Franklin Township Environmental Commission from 1980-1990.

Kumpel previously served on the State Board of Agriculture from 2006-2010, serving as President from 2009-2010. He was awarded a Distinguished Service to Agriculture Citation from the State Board of Agriculture earlier this year. Roger, his wife, Ruth, and their family, own 110 acres, which are permanently preserved, and rent 150+ acres. Kumpel has been extremely active in the community, serving on the Burlington County Board of Agriculture for eight years and on the Rutgers University Board of Managers for six years. He served on the Watershed Management Area 19 Public Advisory Committee, serving as Vice President for one year, Burlington County's Route 130 Delaware River Corridor Extension, Route 206 Farmbelt Corridor Agricultural Viability Task Group; the Southampton Township Agricultural Advisory Board and Environmental Committee; and the Pinelands Ag Advisory Committee.



New State Board of Agriculture Members (from left to right), Roger Kumpel, Steve Wagner and Mitchell Jones.

News from the Division of Animal Health

Swine Enteric Corona Virus Disease outbreak and response

Two novel corona viruses have recently entered the United States and are causing an acute, rapidly spreading diarrhea in swine operations. It is called Swine Enteric Corona Virus Disease and is made up of two viruses: Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) and Porcine Delta Coronavirus (PDCoV). PEDV was first detected in the United States in May 2013 and PDCoV was first reported in 2014. These viruses can be economically devastating to the US pork industry by causing high mortality in suckling piglets. There have been 8,316 samples in 31 states that have tested positive for PEDV. To date, New Jersey does not have any reported cases. USDA issued a Federal Order, on June 5, 2014, that requires the reporting of SECD to the State Veterinarian or to USDA-APHIS.

To help New Jersey swine producers, the NJDA applied for and was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from USDA-APHIS to educate swine producers about SECD. This grant will allow the NJDA to develop an educational campaign that will consist of three elements. The first, a brochure that describes the clinical sign of the disease, how to identify and report suspected cases, and the biosecurity measures to control and mitigate the disease. Next, a webpage devoted to SECD will contain information on state and federal rules. Basic husbandry and management issues will also be outlined on the website, as well as additional links to more specific websites. The last element is the production of a 'Swine Biosecurity Awareness Handbook' that NJDA representatives will have and distribute during one-on-one visits with New Jersey swine operations to discuss biosecurity issues that will help prevent, control and mitigate this disease.

Protecting NJ milk supply and associated industries

On August 26, 2014 The New Jersey Department of Agriculture held its first demonstration of the procedures in the Secure Milk Supply Farm Plan at a dairy farm in Salem County. The Mid-Atlantic Secure Milk Supply Plan is a multi-state business continuity plan that includes 10 cooperating states. This plan allows the movement of milk, both intrastate and interstate, in the event of a Food and Mouth Disease outbreak.

A Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak would lead to a state quarantine of affected farms and the restriction of movement in areas around the farm. FMD is a viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats. The clinical signs in affected animals are blisters in the mouth and feet that later rupture and cause oral erosions. It is a highly contagious disease that can easily spread from farm to farm by vehicles and other fomites that come in contact with the virus. Foot and Mouth Disease doesn't affect humans and the meat and milk are safe to consume. This necessitates the implementation of biosecurity measures that would mitigate the risks of spreading the disease by milk haulers that go to different farms.

The NJDA, in conjunction with the Rutgers extension services, has developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Mid-Atlantic Secure Milk Supply which should prevent the spread of the FMD virus between NJ farms. These protocols involve limiting access to the farm, washing the truck both before and after entering the premise and transferring milk from the bulk tank farm storage units to the tractor trailer during an outbreak. These SOPs were demonstrated to local dairy producers as well members of county emergency management.



Farm to School Week Highlights More Fresh, Local Produce in School Meals

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Mid-Atlantic Region Administrator Patricia Dombroski recently visited Monroe Township High School to talk about the district's success in making students' meals nutritious and appealing.

New Jersey schools over the last three school years have implemented the 2010 federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which required more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, fat-free or low-fat milk, fat-free flavored milk, and limited saturated fat and portion size. It set requirements for school breakfast and snacks as well. "New Jersey schools have embraced the new federal school lunch guidelines and have done so in very creative, exciting ways," said Secretary Fisher. "We are proud of Monroe Township School District officials for their commitment to helping students engage in their own health strategies and finding interesting and new ways to help them learn about how their food is grown."

Secretary Fisher and Administrator Dombroski observed a school lunch period at the high school, which had whole grain mozzarella sticks on the menu, as well as the featured vegetable of the day – green beans, soup du jour, a salad bar, fruit and milk. The ala carte menu included whole wheat crust pizza, wraps, sandwiches and premium salads and grill items, such as burgers, cheese steaks and paninis.

Fisher and Dombroski taste-tested some new and interesting menu items, including buffalo chicken pizza, vegetable and hummus whole grain wrap, and pesto chicken, roasted peppers and baby spinach whole grain panini.

"I applaud Monroe Township High School for offering healthier food choices to their students," said USDA, Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator, Pat Dombroski. "Nothing is more important than the health of our children and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act sets positive standards ensuring that all foods and beverages sold in school, including through vending machines, school stores, a la carte lines and fundraisers, are healthy and nutritious."

District Food Service Director Nancy Mitrocsak said they have gone back to more "from scratch" cooking. They make their own whole wheat pizza dough and use fresh spices and herbs. The high school has a food court with more than 35 menu choices each day. Menu items were developed based on the work of the district's very active Wellness Council.

The food service department also collaborates with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy, using a mobile, edible wall to grow produce and there are plans to start an outdoor greenhouse to grow more foods for the school meals program. "It's exciting to see students engaging in our farm to school program," said Mitrocsak. "For most of the school year we are provided with wonderful fresh herbs to use in our soups and recipes."

To enhance the nutritional value of school meals by adding more local fruits and vegetables, the Department of Agriculture is celebrating Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week September 22-26. Last month, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno signed into law a package of bills to support and streamline the farm to school program.



Photo i.d., left to right: Patricia Dombroski, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Mid-Atlantic Region Administrator, Douglas Fisher, NJ Secretary of Agriculture and Nancy Mitrocsak, Monroe Township Schools Food Service Director check out the "salad pizza" offered on the ala carte lunch line at Monroe Township High School.