

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February 28, 2018**

Retailer Visits – In anticipation of the upcoming Jersey Fresh season, Marketing and Development Division staff kicked off a spate of visits with major retailers with a stop at McCaffrey's headquarters in Langhorne, Pa. McCaffrey's is a chain of six independently owned stores throughout the northeastern suburbs of Philadelphia and in the Princeton area that has long sourced Jersey Fresh product but is looking to expand its program. Division staff shared with their produce and marketing teams the point-of-purchase and online promotional solutions we provide to our retail partners.

Gypsy Moth – A total of 65 municipal ground egg mass surveys were conducted by Division staff in 17 counties of the state. A total of 3,878 acres in 15 blocks had been proposed for treatment in six municipalities in Burlington, Morris, Passaic and Warren Counties for the 2018 season. Two municipalities, West Milford Township and Ringwood Borough in Passaic County, opted out of the program leaving a total of 938 Acres for treatment in May 2018. The breakdown of the remaining seven proposed blocks are as follows:

County	Municipality	Acres
Burlington	Tabernacle Township	81
Morris	Rockaway Township	409
Warren	Blairstown Township	246
	Hardwick Township	202
Total		938

Animal Emergency Working Group Symposium – The 20th Annual AEWG Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the NJPHEAL. We are excited for this year's symposium where we will be continuing to focus on the CARTs. The Game of CART was a huge success last year and based on the feedback from our evaluation forms we will be continuing where we left off focusing on running a CART pet shelter, consolidation and demobilization. This year we will be hosting The Game of CART and JeopCARTy followed by a tour of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC), pending approval.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Foods for soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries were allocated for February from Safeway Cold Storage. A total of 37,097 cases and 1,015,987 pounds of TEFAP Foods were offered as allocation for distribution to six Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suppliers.

2018 Office of Agricultural Education CASE Grant Opportunity Announced – The 2018 CASE grants were distributed to all schools approved by the Department of Education to offer agriculture, food and natural resources programs in January. The available funds are made possible by the New Jersey Department of Education through the Memorandum of Agreement between the NJ DOE and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Funds will be used to continue the development of the CASE program to build programs of study by supporting teacher professional development and expenditures for class/lab equipment and supplies. Grant awards will be announced in March.

Wine Industry Grant Projects – Marketing and Development is in the process of pulling together the necessary information to initiate this year's funding round of Wine Industry Project Grants. These grants are administered by the Department on behalf of the Wine Industry Advisory Council. Through the New Jersey Department of Treasury's Division of Taxation, the Council receives the equivalent of 47 cents per

gallon on all sales of New Jersey wine sold by plenary and farm winery licensees each year. These monies are aggregated and dispersed for grant projects that promote the entire wine industry in N.J.

Plant Pest Survey – Through the Cooperative Agricultural Plant Pest Program (CAPS), a Corn Commodity Survey will be conducted in 2018. The trapping survey will focus on the spotted stem borer (*Chilo partellus*), the small brown planthopper (*Laodelphax striatellus*) and the false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*). In addition, a visual survey will also be conducted for both the cucurbit beetle (*Diabrotica speciosa*) and the black maize beetle (*Heteronychus arator*). Surveys will be conducted in farm fields planted with either field corn or sweet corn. A total of 30 fields will be selected for survey. Traps will be deployed for two months and will be serviced once every two weeks for a total of four service visits. All trap catches will be screened by NJDA staff. Any suspects will be forwarded to USDA for confirmation.

Aquaculture Technical Assistance – NJDA staff have seen an increase in the requested technical assistance for shellfish nursery applications as well as for innovative shellfish growing operations. This is likely due to 2016 permitting changes that now permit nursery systems, as well as the opening of new lease grounds on the Atlantic Coast.

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) Quarantine Facility Veterinarian Trainings – Two DAH Veterinarians and one DAH Animal Health Technician hosted training meetings for the accredited veterinarians who perform the sampling and treatments at the CEM Quarantine Facilities in Bergen and Hunterdon counties. One meeting was held at B.W. Furlong & Associates on January 18 and the other at All-D-Reiterhof Farm on January 19. Topics discussed included CEM paperwork, a review of CEM sampling and treatment, and the new proposed changes for the USDA VS Guidance Document for CEM facilities.

Office of Aquaculture Coordination – Permit coordination staff continues to coordinate with staff at the NJDEP, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring for the Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Permit and (Molluscan Bivalve) Hatchery/Nursery Permit Applications. Specifically, the NJDA Aquatic Farmer License Application can serve as the required Operational Plan for the NJDEP permits. Applications for 2018 permits are now being accepted by the BMWM with the two Departments engaging in continuous data exchange as applications are accepted and reviewed.

Commodity Selection Worksheet – The Commodity Selection Worksheet process for the 2018-2019 school year began on February 5 and will end on March 16. During this period, schools make their commodity (USDA Foods) selections and determine how they will spend their entitlement dollars. They can choose to send their entitlement dollars for processed commodities from specific manufacturers, receive USDA Foods directly from the state-contracted warehouses, or receive fresh DoD produce delivered directly to their school districts. The total amount of entitlement funds that each school district received is based on their Average Daily Participation (ADP) times 180 school days times the cents per meal rate (.335) determined by USDA.

Medical Marijuana Program – A total of five medical marijuana samples underwent extraction and testing for presence of mycotoxins (aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, G2, and ochratoxin A). These toxins are byproducts of mold which can form on improperly stored crops and agricultural commodities. Consumption of mycotoxins can cause immediate and long-term health problems, especially in immunocompromised patients. All samples tested negative for the presence of mycotoxins and a test report was provided to Department of Health.