

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture

July 25, 2018

Spotted Lanternfly Sentinel Trap Program – Plant Industry Division staff set up four sentinel trap locations in Warren County around Phillipsburg and an additional two locations in Lambertville for the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). The sentinel trap program is a means to potentially identify SLF at lower populations using a water ring as a catch basin and bark sprays to kill both nymphs and adults. The traps are inspected every two weeks until the first hard frost to see if any target insects were collected. Overall a total of ten trapping sites have been set in cooperation with staff from the USDA APHIS PPQ in locations in proximity to the Delaware River.

Jersey Fresh Dairy – Applications have been processed from cheese manufacturers, milk and milk products processors and dairy producers applying for the use of the Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program. All will potentially have products marketed using the Made with Jersey Fresh Milk logo. The section received six calls in relation to value added production and potential processing facilities needed for processing. New Jersey is in critical need of small scale Grade A processing facilities or units. Research and planning is under way on how New Jersey can create and fund the needed processing units. During June, the Department had discussions with three cheese processors regarding the potential use of the “Made With Jersey Fresh” Milk program. Talks will continue with each entity interested in the program. The Department also met with a private individual who is developing a potential funding and turn key on farm processing unit. The idea is moving forward but is in its initial stages of development. The Department has fielded more than 31 producer calls on advanced steps to manufacture milk and milk products as value added products. A detailed review of the dairy value-added industry and market is underway in conjunction with Rutgers Extension Salem County.

Agriculture Teacher Vacancies – Filling agriculture teacher vacancies continues to be challenging in New Jersey without a strong agriculture teacher preparation program at the university level. The STAR (State Teach Ag Results Team) continues to work to create a greater awareness about the ag teacher demand. We connect with students who are interested in becoming agriculture teachers, but there is not a strong agriculture teacher preparation program in our state for students in which to enroll. We continue to reach out to neighboring states with job postings; however, there is hesitancy to re-locate to New Jersey and/or to leave their home states. Three of the five open positions have been filled this spring with people from the industry who will pursue alternate route certification (which means none of the three hired have completed a traditional ag teacher preparation program and will have additional coursework/requirements to complete before they receive their teacher certification). Two positions remain unfilled which may impact whether the agriculture program continues in those schools.

Food Distribution Programs – The NJDA Food Distribution Unit is in the process of completing the annual physical inventory of USDA Foods stored in both Newark and Safeway warehouses. Currently, \$15,403,125 of USDA Foods has already been purchased for delivery to the warehouse for the 2018-2019 school year. USDA Foods will begin arriving at the state contracted warehouses at the end of July 2018. For the 2017-2018 Direct Delivery DoD Fresh Produce Program, 245 of the 334 DoD Direct Delivery Program schools participated during the month of June 2018. A total of 25,482 cases at 530,053 pounds with a value of \$645,561 were ordered in June. Approximately 60 various items of fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered directly to the participating resident agencies. Also, 25 additional School Districts have had their accounts activated in FFAVORS for the 2018-19 school year. The participating school districts will begin placing fresh produce orders in September 2018. A total of 343 school districts have signed up to participate in the program for the 2018-2019 school year with \$9,171,791 set aside for purchase of DoD produce.

Major Tests by Animal Health Diagnostic Lab – The chart below provides an overview of the number of major tests performed by the AHDL from March 2018 through June 2018:

Test	April 2018	May 2018	June 2018
Aerobic/Anaerobic Culture	46	93	46
Avian Influenza Serology	440	410	328
Avian Influenza PCR (molecular)	196	357	210
Avian Influenza Virus Isolation	33	27	7
Brucellosis	21	23	25
Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)	92	80	147
Fecal Parasite Examination	67	52	105
Fish Viral Isolation and PCR	3	2	31
Equine Infectious Anemia	2,488	1,576	751
Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)	14	10	28
Johnes (Culture, ELISA, and PCR)	7	82	9
Listeria (Animal Feed and Clinical)	20	16	20
Pathology Carcass Examinations	31	31	31
Pathology Slides Read	256	281	368
Salmonella (Animal Feed and Clinical)	21	20	22

Office of Aquaculture Coordination – Agricultural and Natural Resources staff have been working with editorial members of edibleJERSEY magazine to reproduce a New Jersey oyster guide originally published in the High Summer 2017 Issue of the food- and farm-centric publication. The goal is to have a document that growers can share with consumers while NJDA uses it to promote greater awareness of NJ-grown and harvested oysters. The final product is expected before the end of the month.

Mexican Bean Beetle – A total of 195 Mexican Bean Beetle (MBB) field surveys were conducted by Plant Industry Division staff in Monmouth, Mercer, Gloucester, Burlington, Salem and Cumberland Counties. There continues to be little activity observed in the soybean fields as adult MBB have only been observed in one field. A total of 92,000 *Pediobius foveolatus* have been released in New Jersey thus far with 27 of 49 of the survey sites in soybean fields receiving releases thus far. Three organic farms or community gardens have also received over 34,000 *P. foveolatus*. Field staff continues to survey organic farms for the presence of MBB and for training purposes.

Jersey Fresh Marketing Efforts – The month of June for Marketing and Development was highlighted by agricultural economic development and marketing work that should benefit New Jersey growers. Staff promoted Jersey Fresh to the wholesale and retail produce industry via the distribution of Jersey Fresh point of sale materials to area retailers, wholesalers, and farm marketers. The Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report continues to be disseminated via an e-mailing list. Staff participated in discussions with New Jersey farmers and New Jersey Department of Health WIC Office staff to consider the opportunity for urban agriculturists to become authorized to redeem Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers. Staff also represented the Department as a judge at the Mercer County Fair’s annual exhibitor show and participated in a STAR (State Teach Ag Results) teleconference.