

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
November 15, 2017**

EHV-1 Horse – A Warren County premises was placed under quarantine after a horse tested positive for equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM) caused by equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1). The 25-year-old quarter horse mare was euthanized November 2, 2017. Other horses at the home farm that have been exposed to the positive horse are quarantined for at least 21 days. Immediate biosecurity measures were in effect at the home premises. No other horses have shown signs of EHM. Exposed horses that attended shows are in good health. Organizers of the events attended by these horses have been contacted directly, and attendees have been notified about the possible exposure. Concerned owners should contact their veterinarians.

NJ FFA Member Wins National Award – Cumberland County's Joshua Loew was named the winner of the National FFA Proficiency Award in Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement at the 90th Annual National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Ind, last month. Loew, a member of the Cumberland Regional High School FFA and a Newport resident, was one of four finalists for the award. The proficiency awards recognize outstanding student achievement in agribusiness gained through establishment of a new business, working for an existing company, or otherwise gaining hands-on career experience. The Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement award is one of 47 proficiency program areas FFA members can participate in to develop valuable experience and leadership skills at the local, state, and national levels.

Passing of Tim Weatherbee - New Jersey's blueberry industry and agriculture in general suffered a great loss with the news of the passing of Tim Weatherbee. Tim, principal owner of Diamond Blueberry Inc, has long been active at both the state and national levels in promoting and sustaining the cultivated blueberry industry, including a recent appointment to the National Highbush Blueberry Council. Not only was Tim a peerless ambassador for the blueberry industry. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Jersey Fresh Website - Significant work is now underway on a complete overhaul of the "Jersey Fresh" website. The goal is to have the new website "go live" in the spring of 2018. The site will serve as a hub for all things "Jersey Fresh," including a directory of farm markets, retail establishments and agritourism activities, embedded video and other promotional content, links to ongoing contests and features about New Jersey farmers, among other things. The current website, while serviceable, has significant limitations, so building a new website will position us to direct consumers to better "Jersey Fresh" content.

New Ag Education Logo – The department unveiled a more relevant and colorful new logo to depict the exciting breadth and depth of the instructional program traditionally known as "agricultural education". The instructional program will now be known and identified as 'New Jersey Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education' and utilize the logo depicting various aspects of the global agricultural industry such as: the science of agriculture (microscope), plant systems (plant), animal systems (head of an animal) and food science systems (fork and knife). The words "Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education" appear in bold letters to emphasize the instructional program that prepares students for more than 250 careers in agriculture.

