

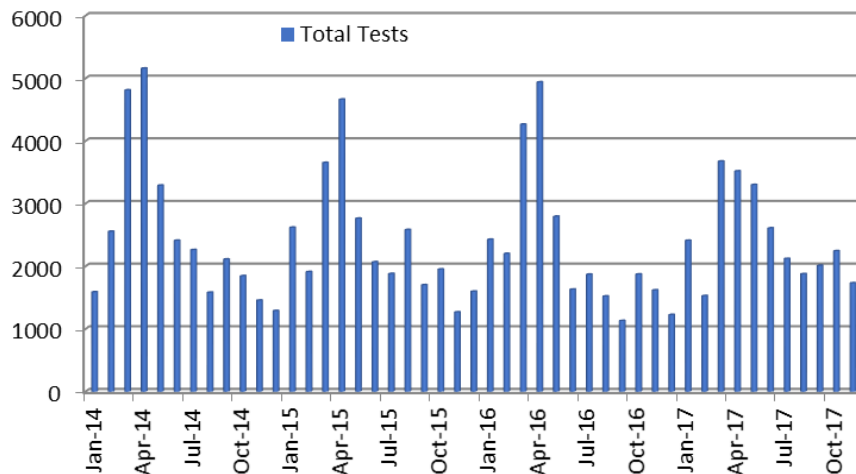
**Secretary’s Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
December 20, 2017**

**Exotic Tick Found in Hunterdon County; Tests Negative** – On November 9, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa confirmed the finding of an exotic East Asian tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), also known as the longhorned tick or bush tick, found on a sheep on a farm in Hunterdon County. This was after initial identification by the Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University and the Hunterdon County Division of Health. This tick is not known to occur in the U.S. The animals and the property where the tick was found were treated to eliminate the tick. Ongoing surveillance is being conducted to determine if the tick has spread to nearby wildlife by the authorities. The sheep was tested for various livestock specific diseases, including Piroplasmiasis, Anaplasmosis, Q fever, Heartwater and various blood parasites at the NVSL, all tests were negative. The sheep is doing well and no additional ticks have been found on the property.

**Marketing Presentations at NJ League of Municipalities** – Marketing staff recently spoke at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference during a “Food for Thought: Growing Healthier Communities” workshop session on “Establishing Community Farmers Markets”. We discussed the benefits of community farmers markets, community-wide strategies for creating and sustaining successful markets, and our farmers redemption of state and federal nutrition incentive program benefits. The program was sponsored by the Community Recreation Society of New Jersey in response to a wave of requests from New Jersey municipal recreation directors who have been asked to develop community farmers markets by their townships. The session also featured a speaker detailing the benefits of community gardens.

**Potential New Food, Ag and Natural Resources Education Programs** – Staff has been contacted about establishing approved FANR Education programs at several locations over the past few months in Hudson, Hunterdon and Burlington counties. CASE has been discussed as the potential option in each situation. Staff will continue to assist in communications and providing resources as appropriate.

**Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Tests** – The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) performed a total of 1,731 tests in November 2017. For comparison, historical test numbers are plotted on graph below.



**Gypsy Moth Surveys** - A total of 65 municipalities requested gypsy moth ground egg mass surveys to be conducted by Division staff. Statewide, surveys have been completed in 60 municipalities (92%) with five

remaining to be completed in three counties. To date, a total of 2,121 acres in four municipalities in Burlington, Morris, Passaic and Warren Counties have been proposed for treatment in the spring of 2018. The remainder of the surveys will be completed by the end of the month.

**Gleaning Grants Awarded** - The deadline for submission of gleaning grant applications was October 2, 2017. Four applications were received by the deadline. The applications were reviewed for compliance with the grant eligibility requirements and were released to the State Board Grants Review Committee. Based on the recommendation of the State Board Grants Review Committee, Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc. was awarded \$7,545; Foodshed Alliance was awarded \$18,042; and the New Jersey Agricultural Society (NJAS) was awarded \$74,413.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** - TEFAP foods for soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries were allocated for December from Safeway Cold Storage. A total of 18,152 cases and 579,854 pounds of TEFAP Foods were offered as allocation for distribution to six Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suppliers. Foods allocated: Chicken Whole Bagged, Grits (Fine Yellow), Canned Cranberry Sauce and Grape Concord Juice (Bottled). At the time of this report, a total of 26,016 cases and 731,766 pounds of TEFAP foods were scheduled for direct shipment to New Jersey for several EFOs from USDA vendors during the month of December.

**Retailer Outreach** – Owing to the success of this summer’s visits to several retailers that actively promote the Jersey Fresh brand, Marketing Division staff is underway with planning for a series of pre-season meetings with retailers throughout the winter. The purpose is to initiate discussions in advance of the growing season to identify opportunities for expanded collaboration, get their input on the types of point-of-purchase materials that work best for their needs and discuss any outstanding issues related to the purchasing and promotion of Jersey Fresh products.

**Spotted Lantern Fly Surveys** - The Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was the focus of the field survey work these last two months. The survey focuses on transportation pathways, rest areas, outdoor recreational parking and other areas that may harbor the pest. Over 44 sites were surveyed from Duck Island in Mercer County to the weigh station on Route 80 East in Sussex County. Division staff also inspected the parking lot at Great Adventure due to the large crowds of people from PA visiting the park. To date all survey locations were negative.

**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.