

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**November 20, 2019**

**Agricultural Marketing** – The Marketing and Development Division has fielded more than 30 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. The dairy section also received two inquiries from out of state farms that are interested in relocating to the state and process value-added milk and milk products.

**Spotted Lanternfly** – USDA-APHIS staff from the USDA, APHIS, PPQ Otis Pest Survey, Detection and Exclusion Laboratory came to the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory to see whether they could develop a cooperative project with us and use some of the facilities at the bug lab and the Public Health Environmental and Agricultural Laboratories (PHEAL) to experiment on *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven). They would be using the general lab room at the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory, plant 10 *Ailanthus* trees on the grounds, and put 10 in the greenhouse at the PHEAL for insecticide testing. APHIS will provide some funding to the division for this project.

**National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education Conference** – Agricultural Education staffers Debra McCluskey and Kristianne Dowd attended the National Association of Supervisors Agricultural Education Conference which was held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. While there, they attended multiple business sessions and professional development sessions. Professional development opportunities included networking with other state supervisors, a panel discussion on innovative state programs, middle school involvement, and inclusion of urban areas in programming. Updates were provided from National FFA, the National Association of Agricultural Educators, and the National Council for Agricultural Education. Debra and Kristianne attended the Eastern Region meeting, and Kristianne had the opportunity to serve on the Audit Committee.

**School Nutrition Programs** – The Food and Nutrition Division's School Nutrition Programs Unit presented an interactive session on the Administrative Review and managed a general information booth at the 57th Annual New Jersey School Nutrition Association (NJSNA) Conference on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Harrah's in Atlantic City. This conference offers training, networking and events for school nutrition professionals.

**United States Animal Health Association Meeting** – The 123rd United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Annual Meeting took place in Providence, RI, and the Division of Animal Health Director (State Veterinarian) and the Animal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator attended. During the meeting, the Division Director was elected 3rd Vice President of the USAHA, representing the Northeast District Board of Directors. He will serve as a member of the Executive Committee for the next 6 years. Topics discussed at the meeting included updates on the USDA Emergency Management Response System and insights on the current response to Virulent Newcastle Disease in California.

**Deer Bait Interest** – Marketing and Development Division staff continued to oversee the marketing of growers' off-grade product as deer bait via an ad in the New Jersey Hunting Digest. This ad continued to generate interest amongst hunters looking for quality deer bait. Liaison disseminated lists of New Jersey growers that are interested in selling their off-grade apples as deer bait thereby providing these growers with an important source of additional farm income.

**Gypsy Moth Surveys** – Fall season gypsy moth ground egg mass surveys continue throughout the state. To date, surveys have been completed in 10 of the 23 municipal requests in Burlington, Hunterdon, Morris, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, and Sussex Counties. These surveys are performed to determine which areas qualify for treatments the following spring season. So far, there are no treatment blocks found from the surveys.

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program** – The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) foods were allocated for November from Safeway Cold Storage. A total of 29,419 cases and 720,776 pounds of TEFAP Foods were available for distribution to six Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suppliers. At the time of this report, a total of 54,458 cases and 1,190,954 pounds of TEFAP foods were scheduled for direct shipment to New Jersey for several EFOs from USDA vendors during the month.

**Live Bird Marketing System** – During the month of October, animal health technicians (AHTs) conducted unannounced inspections at 19 registered New Jersey live bird markets and sampled 12 markets for avian influenza by sampling poultry. Additional activity during the month of October included: 1) The quarterly closure of 20 live bird markets. Quarterly closures consist of cleaning and disinfecting the entire market, followed by a minimum of 24 hours of "down-time." Following the "down-time," environmental samples are taken at the market for testing. 2) The inspection of three poultry distributors. Records were reviewed as well as ensuring compliance with 2:9-4.2(c), reviewing vehicle cleaning and disinfection logbooks. 3) Avian influenza testing of three poultry distributors. This includes any poultry being delivered to live bird markets at the time of inspection. 4) Avian influenza testing of 25 backyard flocks throughout New Jersey.

**Shellfish Aquaculture Working Group** – A full Shellfish Aquaculture Working Group (SAWG) meeting was held on November 13. Moving forward on the development of a Shellfish Aquaculture Microsite (website devoted to only shellfish aquaculture) was a priority for this meeting because the website will ultimately be the platform for distributing work products from the SAWG. Additional discussions included planning stakeholder meetings and potential revisions to permitting. The next SAWG meeting is slated for December 11, 2019.