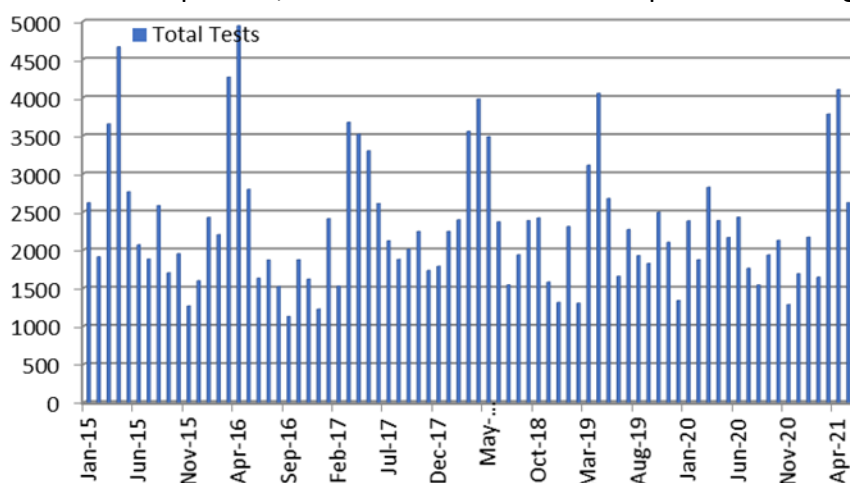


## Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture

June 23, 2021

**Jersey Fresh** – Marketing and Development Division staff completed creative materials for the “Stay Loyal to Local” campaigns, including launching radio, billboards, and social media along with the #JerseyFreshisCooler social media photo contest. Staff is working with the ad agency on product sampling days and on a program with a social media influencer to widen the audience for Jersey Fresh. Also, the Jersey Fresh availability report continues to be published each Monday throughout the season.

**Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Testing** – The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) reported a total of 2,619 tests in May 2021. For comparison, historical test numbers are plotted on the graph below.



**State FFA Golf Tournament** – The State FFA Golf Tournament, which raises money for leadership and college scholarships, is scheduled for June 29. There is still room to sign up golfers and sponsors to raise money for student leadership development and scholarships. Golfers include industry representatives, former FFA members, state officers, current members, parents, NJDA staff, New Jersey Department of Education staff and local chapter supporters. This year's tournament is in honor of the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

**School Nutrition** – The Food and Nutrition Division School Nutrition Program unit specialists have commenced their summer projects. The School Nutrition Electronic Application and Reimbursement System (SNEARS) 2.0 Application Packet Team will be recording 5–7-minute instructional videos for School Food Authorities (SFAs) to highlight all system updates required to accommodate the USDA Nationwide Waivers for the 2021-2022 SNEARS 2.0 Application Packet.

**Spotted Lanternfly Program** – Treatments continued this month for the spotted lanternfly (SLF) survey. Both NJDA and USDA crews are working together to apply insecticides to kill SLF nymphs at priority locations throughout the state. To date, SLF crews completed bark treatments using at 138 properties. Teams are continuing to designate new priority areas and secure permissions for treatment. This month SLF staff collected 18 signed treatment agreements. Properties that grant permission for treatment then need to be assessed for the presence of the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a total of six properties were assessed. In addition, SLF circle traps are also being deployed and maintained at select locations throughout the state. To date, a total of 69 traps have been deployed.

**Child and Adult Food Care Program Forum** – The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) held an

open forum in Microsoft TEAMS called, “Tuesday Tips, In the Know with CACFP” on June 15. This month, the Nationwide Waivers Update for the School Year 2021-2022 Operations were discussed. Copies of the waivers were already distributed via email to all enrolled CACFP institutions. The purpose of the forum is to provide a platform for discussion and questions.

**Farm Conservation Planning** – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff developed a Farm Conservation Plan (FCP) for a Sussex County farm that is participating in a grant project with North Jersey Resources and Conservation and Development to renovate their dilapidated manure storage. The FCP outlines details of the new manure storage project and any other associated practices that are necessary for project completion. A scope of work was developed for this project and farm as well as project narratives specific to this farm’s situation, a set of maps that include topographic maps, wetland and stream maps, soil maps, and practice maps. Engineering plans were sent to the local building inspector and the final FCP out for final approval.

**Animal Emergency Website Updates** – The animal emergency website was updated to include warm weather tips for livestock and poultry owners. A livestock and poultry video tutorial on how to prepare an emergency action plan was also posted on the animal emergency website. In addition, the annual update to the interactive disaster assistance map database, which identifies the location of services such as feed stores and veterinary hospitals, has begun.

**Nursery Inspection Program** – The Plant Industry Division staff detected many virus-infected rose plants at New Jersey’s largest shipping nursery in May. These plants were shipped earlier in the spring and were dormant when they arrived in the state. Virus symptoms were expressed once the plants began actively growing. Inspectors flagged over 5,936 infected roses during these inspections. The plants were removed from the nursery and destroyed.

**Commodity Inspections and Grading** – The Marketing and Development Division’s staff are conducting all requested USDA Terminal Market and Shipping Point inspections (average of 400 per month); scheduling and conducting USDA on-farm Third Party Audits; scheduling and performing Produce Safety inspections; conducting 2021 FDA contract assignments; conducting requested on-farm fertilizer inspections; collecting animal feed and fertilizer samples (80 per month); updating Animal Feed, Produce Safety, and Organic Inventories, developing SOP’s for the Produce Safety grant; preparing aggregate data for Produce Safety Grant; preparing risk evaluations; performing On-Farm Readiness Reviews for the Produce Safety Rule; scheduling and conducting organic inspections; working on 2021 FDA Animal Feed Contract Assignments: participating in numerous meetings with FDA on Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) and Produce Safety Grants; preparing mid-year and end of year reports for AFRPS and Produce Safety grants; participating in Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) trainings for upcoming assignments; and resumed Jersey Fresh Quality Grading inspections.