

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
December 22, 2021

Regional One Health Consortium Meeting – The Division of Animal Health had three staff veterinarians participate in the virtual Regional One Health Consortium meeting on December 13. In attendance were representatives from the CDC's One Health Office, USDA, and various agencies from within Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Each state and entity were provided time in the agenda to report on updates and current priorities. New Jersey's representatives discussed the landmark One Health Task Force legislation and its location within the NJDA Office of the Secretary. It was expressed that NJ could provide information about the formation of this legislation as an example of a pathway to achieve the same in other states.

CACFP Presentation – The Food and Nutrition Division's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) team presented at a virtual conference with the Department of Education on December 15 and December 20. The conference title was "Early Childhood Contacts, Districts Who Contract With Providers, Lead Testing and CACFP". Our team member provided an overview of the benefits of our program, and the availability of pre-school expansion aid.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program – Plant Industry Division staff have completed gypsy moth egg mass ground surveys. Overall, a total of 5,148 acres have been proposed for treatment in seven municipalities in Cape May and Burlington Counties during the spring of 2022. Of this number, 3,037 acres are recommended to be treated a second time due to the large numbers of eggs in the proposed treatment blocks. A Gypsy Moth Scoping Session has been scheduled for January 5, 2022 in the PHEAL Auditorium to outline the proposed suppression program of the Department and NJDEP for the spring of 2022. A total of 37 letters have been mailed to both state and federal governmental agencies, and to New Jersey environmental groups, informing them of the meeting. Municipal gypsy moth regional meetings have also been scheduled January 12 and January 13 to explain the program requirements for participation on the 2022 Gypsy Moth aerial suppression program.

FFA Mission Conference – The New Jersey FFA Association hosted the Mission Conference at the Cook Campus Center at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University on December 4. National FFA released this new curriculum and it is being incorporated into part of the NJ FFA chapter leadership continuum. Eighty-two (82) members and advisors/chaperones attended the event. Two National FFA representatives facilitated the day-long conference. Students at the Mission Conference explored what makes them unique and learned strategies to become more confident and capable. The Mission Conference culminated in students developing their personal mission statement.

Dairy – Reports from processors and major packaged milk dealers in the state to the Marketing and Development Division reveal that fluid milk sales may have seen additional recovery as sales to schools and food services have increased. There are some shortages of product due to processing issues and labor shortages. Processors have cut some stock keeping units to help balance a supply of products going out to consumers.

Emergency Preparedness Training – The Division of Animal Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the Department of Human Services Office of Emergency Management conducted a State Animal Response Team (SART) basic level training that focused on a broad view of the state's procedure for disaster response and State Evacuation Shelter activation. Specifics about when, how, and where the companion animal shelter will exist within the State Emergency Service framework was reviewed. The participants were very engaged with the topic, which helped facilitate conversation among the volunteers and allowed some details within the pet shelter operation itself to be discussed.

Animal Waste Management Plan – The NJDA received an email from the Hunterdon County CADB inquiring on behalf of a producer that wishes to import horse manure to land apply to fields to reduce fertilizer costs. The landowner plans to import more than 142 tons of manure and as such would be required to have an Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP). NJDA staff requested that the producer provide the block and lot of any parcels where manure will be land applied so maps can be made of these parcels identifying sensitive areas before a field visit is performed. After the information is provided, staff will follow up with the landowner to schedule a field visit to evaluate the parcels on which manure will be applied and to write an AWMP for this operation.

Spotted Lanternfly Program – During the winter season, both NJDA and USDA crews are working to prepare sites for future treatments and destroying egg masses by scraping or treating with golden oil. Last month, spotted lanternfly (SLF) crews scraped egg masses at 23 properties. Teams are continuing to designate new priority areas and secure permissions for treatment. This month, SLF staff collected 16 signed treatment agreements. Properties where permission for treatment is secured needs to be assessed for the presence of the tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. During this period, over 108 properties were assessed. Grid surveys have also continued this month, with 118 grids being completed. Also, updated SLF egg mass scraper cards arrived and have been distributed to Rutgers Agricultural Extension Offices and individuals who have requested them.

Livestock Processing – Work continues with the livestock processing project, including compiling results of the Rutgers Survey. The survey is completed and will be shared with producers and interested parties on January 24, 2022 on a virtual statewide meeting through Rutgers Extension. It will include updates on livestock processing, the survey and potential funding programs.

Food Distribution – Earlier this month, members of the Food and Nutrition Division's The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) team met with the Operations Team from Community Food Bank (CFB) in Hillside, N.J. After a tour of the 285 thousand square foot facility, there was a brainstorming session that revolved around increased movement of USDA foods, regularly scheduled meetings, and improved deliveries from the state contracted warehouse.