

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February 23, 2022

Schools Receive Grants for CASE Program – Six New Jersey schools received 2022 Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education (CASE) grants totaling \$28,011.10. Applications were made available to all schools approved by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE) to offer agriculture, food, and natural resources programs. The available funds are made possible through the Memorandum of Agreement between the NJ DOE and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Funds will be used to continue the development of the CASE program to build programs of study by supporting teacher professional development and expenditures for class/lab equipment and supplies.

Live Bird Marketing System Testing – Division of Animal Health staff conducted unannounced inspections at 21 registered NJ live bird markets and sampled poultry from 11 markets for Avian Influenza. Other activity included the quarterly closure of 16 live bird markets, which consists 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 for testing; the inspection of four poultry distributors where records, vehicle cleaning and disinfection logbooks, were reviewed, ensuring compliance with 2:9-4.2(c); Avian Influenza testing of two in-state poultry distributors; and Avian Influenza testing of approximately 15 backyard flocks.

Child and Adult Care Food Program – The Food and Nutrition Division Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) staff continues to process and approve FY2022 CACFP Renewal Applications and COVID-19 Nationwide Waiver Requests. To date, there are 675 renewal applications in the CARES online system and there are 253 nationwide waiver requests for accommodations.

Gypsy Moth Treatment – Plant Industry Division Gypsy Moth Program staff continue to work with the administrations of the seven participating municipalities in Burlington and Cape May Counties to ensure they complete the requirements of participation prior to the anticipated May treatment season. Staff also prepared and submitted a “no cost waiver” application to the New Jersey Department of Treasury to allow for the award of the aerial suppression contract to the winning vendor.

Dairy Margin Coverage Sign up Extension – The USDA announced the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) coverage sign up period for producers has been extended until March 25. This will give time for the announcements about the State DMC program passed by the NJ Legislature and signed into law.

Spotted Lanternfly Program – Plant Industry Division staff collected five signed treatment agreements and assessed 45 properties. Grid surveys were also continued this month as well with 110 grids completed. Since November, nearly 150,000 egg masses have been scraped and 300 egg masses have been treated with golden oil.

Animal Waste Management Plan – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff is developing draft revisions of the Animal Waste Regulations and continues to meet with the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist to discuss revisions. Topics have included the need for soil sampling requirements, nutrient balancing for farms, manure export, and additional acreage claims. Fact sheets will be developed to provide additional guidance for farms to install best management practices.

Livestock Processing – The Rutgers/NJDA livestock virtual meeting held January 24, 2022, had 45 attendees with multiple producers requesting additional information. New Jersey Farm Bureau is sponsoring a meeting with technical support from Rutgers Extension and the NJDA to better inform

producers of all the steps they should consider when forming a meat processing facility. The time and date are 7 p.m., March 9 with an official announcement going out to the public soon.

Food Distribution Program For Schools – Of the 636 school districts participating in food distribution, 129 have finalized their submissions. The first of three weekly deadlines is February 25 for Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, and Ocean counties. Weekly reminders are sent to participating schools in each county via the School Nutrition Electronic Application and Reimbursement System.

Emergency Pet Sheltering Course – The Division of Animal Health hosted a Red Rover emergency pet sheltering course conducted virtually on Saturday, January 29, 2022. There were 50 participants representing County Animal Response Teams, State Animal Response Teams and County Emergency Response Teams, and other emergency first responders. The Red Rover Director of Field Services presented a 4-hour course to educate on the recommended approach for a safe and successful emergency pet sheltering response. Topics included identifying a shelter site, shelter operations, and staff training, veterinary care, biosecurity, and demobilization. Each participant received a certificate of completion.