

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

April 20, 2022

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Preparedness – The Division of Animal Health emergency preparedness efforts have primarily focused on the threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The disease detections have continued to spread throughout the United States while affecting a variety of poultry types, such as chickens, turkeys, and pheasants. The DAH has led weekly virtual meetings with the multi-agency HPAI working group to enable collaboration and coordination for the disease response planning in the state. Additionally, a partnership with the NJOEM All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) has been established. This team consists of emergency managers with expertise in the divisions of the incident command structure, such as logistics, operations, finances/administration, and planning. Through this partnership, the AHIMT will provide instrumental support, co-leadership, and valuable assistance in procuring resources and arrangements in preparation for an HPAI detection in the state.

Jersey Fresh Marketing – The Marketing and Development Division had two staff members attend the Canadian Produce Marketing Association Trade Show and is following up with contacts made. The Division is still receiving and processing “Jersey Raised” livestock marketing pilot program applications and are investigating some labeling technicalities with processors. Also, creative development for the 2022 Jersey Fresh marketing season is nearly complete.

FFA Spring Career Development Events – Nearly 175 Agricultural Education students from 20 different chapters participated in FFA Spring Career Development Events (CDEs) on April 7 at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Twenty-nine industry and education representatives served as event coordinators and judges. These events serve as an extension of the classroom and test students' competency in various areas of agriculture. The first-place winners were Newton FFA in the Agricultural Sales and Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems CDEs, Warren Hills FFA in the Environmental & Natural Resources and Floriculture CDEs, Freehold FFA placed in the Nursery/Landscape CDE and Salem Tech FFA in the Veterinary Science CDE.

Nursery Inspections – There were 28 federal phytosanitary inspections conducted certifying the re-export and export of 35,568 bulbs, tubers, and roots, 159,744 rooted plants, 3,550 individual plants and 6,240 cases of blueberry fruit to Canada. There were 54 domestic shipments that included 1,500 bareroot plants, 443,095 bulbs, 66,525 rhizomes, 17,313 plug plants, 10 plants, 324 trees, 230,532 rooted plants, 2,710 roots, 24,187 seed packages and 1 box of budwood, to California, Idaho, Oregon, Michigan, Oklahoma, Washington, and Puerto Rico.

School Nutrition Program – Food and Nutrition Division School Nutrition Program staff is collaborating with Mathematica representatives about the School Meals Operations (SMO) study. We continue to work together with the Fiscal Unit in disseminating guidance about the Supply Chain Assistance. The Department of Education food service audit documentation was completed and submitted by the April 15 deadline.

Spotted Lanternfly – During the winter months, NJDA and USDA crews worked together to prepare sites for future treatments and destroyed spotted lanternfly (SLF) egg masses by scraping or treating with golden oil. In March, SLF crews assisted the nursery inspection program by scraping SLF egg masses at select shipping nurseries. Teams scraped 76,776 egg masses during the past month totaling 475 acres of trees. Since November more than 263,462 egg masses have been scraped.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff were

among the presenters during a 'lunch 'n learn' event to a consulting engineering firm via Microsoft TEAMS to help educate staff engineers in methods used by the NJDA to design stormwater runoff points of discharge that will not result in downstream erosion. Approximately 60 persons were online for the one-hour training.

Commodity Inspection and Grading – The Division of Marketing and Development commodity inspection and grading staff are conducting all requested USDA Terminal Market and Shipping Point inspections (average of 450 per month); scheduling and conducting USDA on-farm Third Party Audits; 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; verifying Produce Safety farm inventory with in-person visits; working on FDA Animal Feed contract inspections; preparing risk evaluations for Produce Safety inspections; performing on-farm Readiness Reviews for the Produce Safety Rule; and working with NASDA on Produce Safety standards.

Summer Food Service Program – The Food and Nutrition Division's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) staff is virtually participating in the 36th National Child Nutrition Conference scheduled for April 18-22. The conference will bring together SFSP Sponsors, Child and Adult Care Food Program institutions and Day Care Providers, State Agencies, USDA, and Child Nutrition Advocates. There will be workshop sessions in a variety of topics.

Animal Health Pathology Examinations and Testing – In March, the Division of Animal Health's Diagnostic Lab Pathology Section completed 527 tests and/or procedures. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), immunohistochemical, parasitological preparation and evaluation, and these cases generated additional diagnostic tests for other laboratory sections (e.g., bacteriology, virology, and molecular). Cases involved diagnostic testing for disease and/or cause of death diagnosis and routine and/or sporadic disease surveillance for large and small ruminant, companion animal and exotic/zoo species; sudden death with no clinical symptoms; assessment of backyard and small flock health issues; large scale flock disease; law enforcement forensic investigation and animals exhibiting neurologic symptoms. Results from these case submissions help support practicing veterinarians (large, mixed, and small animals), private food and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo, and nonprofit animal facilities.