

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

June 2014

Volume 2, Issue 3

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Important Dates for your Calendar:

June is National Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Month and Dairy Month

June 14 - Flag Day

June 15 - Father's Day

June 16 - Fresh Veggies Day

June 21 - Summer Solstice

June 25 - State Board of Ag Meeting, Location TBA

June 29 - Stars & Stripes Livestock Show - Moorestown

July 4 - Independence Day

From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

I just returned from the Northeast Association of State Departments of Ag (NEASDA) meeting in Boston on June 1st. At this meeting, the Commissioners, Secretaries and Directors of 10 states from Maine to Delaware come together each June to discuss the issues of the day, challenges farmers are facing, and the general state of agriculture in the region and the country.

Last year, one of the main topics was whether or not there was going to be a Farm Bill. Fortunately, that item was taken off the agenda for this session, which allowed us to focus on other important areas. Much time was taken to discuss the new provisions of the latest Farm Bill. One of the main areas that was elaborated on was risk management programs and how farmers must reassess their options on coverage for their crops.

It would pay each farmer to study the new terms of the offerings. Because so much has changed, I would encourage farmers to discuss their options with; USDA Risk Management Agency, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to assure the most economical and effective possible coverage outcomes for their operations.

Other topics discussed were, the implications of declaring a geographical area as "local," GMOs, labor and a number of other subjects I'll be reporting on in the future.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Rob Swanekamp

At the State Board meeting at the Snyder Farm in Pittstown last week, the Board voted unanimously to recommend former State Board President, Roger Kumpel (Burlington County) to the Governor for appointment to serve temporarily until the State Agricultural Convention in February 2015. At that time the delegate body will need to elect someone to fill the vacancy through the Convention process. He will be taking the place of the late David Klemm.

Carl Schulze reported to the Board that the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, has been found in Somerset County. To prevent spread of the beetle, do not move firewood. Firewood is a vehicle for movement of tree-killing forest pests including EAB and Asian longhorned beetle. Use locally-sourced firewood when burning it at home and when travelling, burn firewood where you buy it. Make sure to burn all wood purchased. Report signs of the beetle to the Department of Agriculture at **609-406-6939**.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network Services Available in New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL), under the supervision of the NJDA's Animal Health Division Director, Dr. Manoel Tamassia, is a member laboratory of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). NAHLN is a network of Federal, State, and University veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Networking these resources provides an extensive infrastructure of facilities, equipment, and personnel that are geographically accessible no matter where disease strikes. The laboratories have the capability and capacity to conduct nationwide surveillance testing for the early detection of an animal disease outbreak. They are able to test large numbers of samples rapidly during an outbreak and to demonstrate freedom from disease after eradication. In order to participate in the NAHLN, the laboratories must meet certain requirements of quality assurance. The AHDL meets these requirements, which provides worldwide recognition of the laboratory's results. Consider using the AHDL services and ask your veterinarian to use the state laboratory. More information about the laboratory services can be found at www.jerseyvetlab.nj.gov



Emergency Response Plans

It's always good to have an Emergency Response Plan in place, but as we enter the 2014 hurricane season, it's even more vital. As noted in the ERP section from www.ready.gov:

The actions taken in the initial minutes of an emergency are critical. A prompt warning to employees to evacuate, shelter or lockdown can save lives. A call for help to public emergency services that provides full and accurate information will help the dispatcher send the right responders and equipment. An employee trained to administer first aid or perform CPR can be lifesaving. Action by employees with knowledge of building and process systems can help control a leak and minimize damage to the facility and the environment.

The first step when developing an emergency response plan is to conduct a risk assessment to identify potential emergency scenarios. An understanding of what can happen will enable you to determine resource requirements and to develop plans and procedures to prepare your business. The emergency plan should be consistent with your performance objectives.

At the very least, every facility should develop and implement an emergency plan for protecting employees, visitors, contractors and anyone else in the facility. This part of the emergency plan is called "protective actions for life safety" and includes building evacuation ("fire drills"), sheltering from severe weather such as tornadoes, "shelter-in-place" from an exterior airborne hazard such as a chemical release and lockdown.

For more detailed information, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/emergency>

New Jersey Agricultural Fair Season is Here!

We are entering Ag Fair Season in New Jersey and 2014 NJ Agricultural Fair Ambassador Kayla Vaughn wants to remind everyone to support your local County Agricultural Fair. They are a great opportunity to meet with friends, family and neighbors and discover all that is exciting about agriculture in the Garden State in an environment that is fun for all. For more information on fairs across the state, please visit www.njagfairs.com



SMALL BITES

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED

Judges have reviewed the applications received for the 2015 NJ Outstanding Young Farmer competition. Scores have been tabulated and the State Board of Agriculture has been notified of the judges selection. State Board President, Rob Swanekamp has sent a letter to the winner, who will be featured in next month's newsletter. The winner will now complete an application for the National Outstanding Young Farmer competition.

COMMENTS?

Joe Atchison, Agricultural Marketing Coordinator for the NJDA, is the editor of this newsletter. If you have comments, concerns or an item that you would like considered for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact him at: joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us or at 609-984-2223.