

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
October 25, 2017**

Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriation Request – The Garden State Preservation Trust has approved the SADC's \$29 million appropriation request for FY2018, which includes \$23.2 million in Corporate Business Tax (CBT) funding and \$5.8 million in accrued interest and other earnings from prior bond funds. A total of \$25.2 million will be available for acquisitions and just under \$700,000 (the maximum permitted) will be dedicated to "stewardship" uses, including soil and water cost share grant and future rounds of deer fencing grants. Given the reduced level of funding going forward, the SADC is planning to emphasize funding its various preservation programs in alternate years.

NJDA, Office of Agricultural Education MOU with NJ Department of Education - Details were finalized for the Memorandum of Understanding (2017-18) with the Department of Education to administer the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Education program at the Department of Agriculture. Signatures from both departments are in place and the transfer of funds to NJDA to administer the program has occurred.

Horse Viruses – The fourth and fifth confirmations of Eastern Equine Encephalitis have been reported in 2017 and there has been one case of West Nile Virus in New Jersey horses in 2017. In 2016, New Jersey had 4 cases of equine EEE between mid-August and mid-September. No cases of equine WNV occurred in New Jersey in 2016.

Presentation for Beekeepers – Last month, the Apiarist made a presentation to members of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association at their meeting in Sparta, Sussex County. The presentation covered the colony condition and the importance of Varroa mite control. Over 180 beekeepers attended the meeting. Both Randy Oliver, a bee researcher and Jerry Hayes, the current honey bee expert at Monsanto also spoke at the meeting.

Red Knot Adaptive Management - The Red Knot-Structural Shellfish Aquaculture Adaptive Management process for the 2018 season will consist of several meetings in late October through early November. NJDA staff is participating in the process as a member of the Agency Workgroup, which will review proposed changes (or a proposal for no changes) to the Conservation Measures provided by the Stakeholder Committee, comprised of aquaculture and shorebird interests.

Humane Investigations - Humane investigation requests received by the DAH during the month of September 2017:

DATE	SPECIES	COUNTY	COMPLAINT
9/7/2017	Goats	Burlington	neglect
9/7/2017	Horses	Monmouth	neglect
9/13/2017	baby Chicks & Ducks	Morris	neglect
9/18/2017	Chicken and Ducks	Somerset	neglect
9/19/2017	Horses	Hunterdon	neglect
9/25/2017	horses, Dog, pigs, cats	Burlington	neglect
9/25/2017	Pigs	Burlington	neglect
9/25/2017	Horses	Hunterdon	neglect
9/27/2017	Horses	Hunterdon	neglect

Jersey Fresh Dairy - Applications have been processed from cheese manufactures, milk and milk products processors and dairy producers applying for the use of the Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program. All will potentially have products marketed using the “Made with Jersey Fresh Milk” logo.

National School Lunch Week - Representatives of the SNP Unit celebrated with Neptune Township during National School Lunch Week on October 11th. Neptune Middle School was selected for their best practices in administering the National School Lunch Program. Neptune School District demonstrated their efforts in offering students meals that are nutritious and appealing as well as provide fresh New Jersey produce and teach students about agriculture.

Apple Industry Marketing – Marketing staff continued to oversee the marketing of the NJ apple industry on behalf of the NJ Apple Industry Advisory Council. Staff marketed the on-going harvest season, agri-tourism opportunities, and recipes through blog stories, Instagram photos and Facebook and Twitter posts. Staff continued to distribute newly designed “Where to Find NJ Apples” consumer brochures to inquiring consumers, Travel & Tourist Welcome Centers, and county offices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Cranberry Vine Testing – Cranberry mother plants were sampled this month for virus testing. Vines were clipped from these plants and delivered to the Plant Laboratory for ELISA testing for blueberry scorch virus, blueberry shock virus and tobacco streak virus. All samples were negative. To date, none of these diseases has ever been found in our past testing of cranberries.

Soil and Water Conservation Grants Now Available – The SADC has announced the availability of at least \$500,000 in soil and water conservation cost-share grants for preserved farms. Interested landowners should apply for grants at their local NRCS office. NRCS will conduct technical reviews of applications under an agreement with the SADC.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program - TEFAP foods for soup kitchens, shelters, and pantries were allocated for October from Safeway Cold Storage. A total of 10,325 cases and 225,924 pounds of TEFAP Foods were offered as allocation for distribution to six Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suppliers. Foods allocated: Chicken Whole, Frozen Eggs, Canned Cranbury Sauce, Tomato Sauce, Canned Applesauce, Potatoes Dehydrated, Canned Spaghetti Sauce and Rice.

Pathology Testing - The Pathology Laboratory Section for the months of July and August 2017 completed a total of 305 and 308 tests and/or procedures, respectively. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), cytologic and parasitologic preparation and evaluation. Species submitted for testing in the month of August 2017 included dog, cat, horse, alpaca, goat, sheep, chicken, pigeon, fish (koi), zoo and exotic species (rabbit, hawk, gerbil), wildlife (sparrow, wood turtle, white-tail deer, gulls, fox) and marine mammal (seal).