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**THE
FOODBANK**
of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

A member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

300 food
pantries

Farm to Plate Program

What is the *Farm to Plate* Program?

The FoodBank collects produce donations from farms that would otherwise go to waste due to overproduction, quality standards, or rejected loads. This food is then distributed from our warehouse to pantries or other agencies serving local families in need.



Farm Partnership Opportunities:



- Produce Donations
- Grow a Row
- Volunteer Gleaning



Why Donate?

It's Free - We come to you with our refrigerated truck.

It's Tax Deductible - The FoodBank is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so you can write off up to 2 times the cost of your donated product.

It's Safe - Food donors to food banks are fully protected from civil or criminal liability under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. Our staff is also trained in food safety and our 30,000 sq. ft. warehouse is HACCP certified.

It's Good Growing - Instead of throwing consumable food away, you are donating nutritious food to those in need.

It Cuts Down on Waste - The product does not go to waste, so you will cut waste and disposal costs.

It Makes a Difference - Your contribution really helps those in need, and shows both customers and employees that you care about your community.

Contacts: (732) 918-2600

Mychal Mills - Food Sourcing Supervisor, 732-535-1781

David Goldstein - Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Ext. 5863

Danielle Strain - Senior Operations Supervisor, Ext. 5861

Donna Brandys - Receiving/Food Donation Coordinator, Ext. 5844



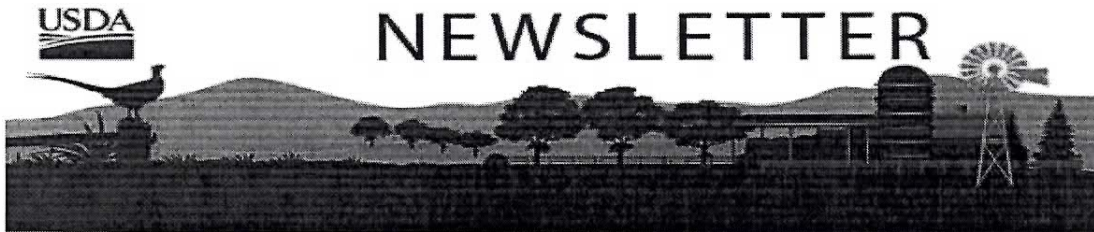
United States Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency
Freehold Service Center
Monmouth Mercer & Middlesex Counties

4000 Kozloski Rd.
P.O. Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728
Phone: (732) 462-0075
Fax: (855) 305-6498

FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY BOARD REPORT- OCTOBER 2014

- **FSFL (Facility Loans) Rates** – Grain Bins, Hay Storage, Cold Storage, Food Safety Equipment
 - 2.125% for FSFL with 7-year loan terms
 - 2.500% for FSFL with 10-year loan terms
 - 2.625% for FSFL with 12-year loan terms
- **ARC/PLC** - Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:
 - Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
 - Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
 - Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
 - October 2015: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.
 - See projections that show what ARC/PLC will mean for you under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc
- **COC** - Ballots for County Committee Elections for LAA 3 will be mailed out starting November 3rd and will be due at our office by December 1st 2014.
- **NAP** – Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
 - NAP will offer buy-up coverage starting in 2015 up to 65%
 - NAP fee waived for beginning, limited resource, and SDAs (minority farmers).
 - 2015 NAP provision are available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=nap>
 - Coverage closing dates
 - November 20, 2014
 - Apricots
 - Blueberries
 - Caneberries
 - Cherries
 - Cranberries
 - Grapes
 - Honey
 - Nectarines
 - Onions
 - Peaches
 - Pears
 - Plums
 - December 31, 2014
 - Asparagus
 - Beets
 - Broccoli
 - Cabbage
 - Carrots
 - Cauliflower
 - Greens
 - Herbs
 - Horseradish
 - Leeks
 - Lettuce
 - Peas
 - Potatoes
 - Radishes
 - Turnips

October 2014



New Jersey State FSA Updates

State Farm Service Agency

300 Clocktower Dr, Ste 202
Hamilton, NJ 08690

www.fsa.usda.gov/nj

State Committee:

Russell J. Marino, Chair
Mary Jo Herbert
Robyn Martinez
Torrey Reade

Executive Director:

Paul J. Hlubik

Executive Officer:

Henri Ann Olsen

Farm Loan Chief:

Kevin P. Murphy

Please contact your local FSA Office for questions specific to your operation or county.

New Jersey FSA Partners With Rutgers Extension to Host Series of Producer Meetings

FSA is partnering with Rutgers Extension Service to host a series of producer meetings throughout the state this fall. These meetings are designed to inform producers of the new programs offered by the 2014 Farm Bill. FSA staff will be providing policy and procedure overviews for some of the new programs and Extension Agents will be outlining some tools producers can use to help in the decision-making process.

Scheduled meetings include:

Margin Protection Program/Dairy Meetings (Registration is Required by RSVPing)

- 10am, Tue, Oct 28 @ Salem County Extension Office (RSVP to 856-769-0090)
- 10am, Wed, Oct 29 @ Sytsema Farm (383 County Road 519, Sussex, NJ 07461, RSVP to 856-769-0090)
- 10am, Thurs, Oct 30 @ Warren County Extension Office (RSVP to 908-475-6503)

ARC/PLC Meetings

- 6pm, Tue, Dec 16 @ Salem County Extension Office
- 6pm, Wed, Dec 17 @ Burlington County Extension Office
- 6pm, Thurs, Dec 18 @ Snyder Farm

For more information on these meetings, please contact the NJ State Office at (609) 587-0104

FSA Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.
- Individual signatures are required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents. For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

USDA Reminds Farmers of 2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Changes

The 2014 Farm Bill implements a change that requires farmers to have a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification (AD-1026) on file.

For farmers to be eligible for premium support on their federal crop insurance, a completed and signed AD-1026 certification form must be on file with the FSA. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for American farmers and ranchers.

Since enactment of the 1985 Farm Bill, eligibility for most commodity, disaster, and conservation programs has been linked to compliance with the highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the requirement that producers adhere to conservation compliance guidelines to be eligible for most programs administered by FSA and NRCS. This includes most financial assistance such as the new price and revenue protection programs, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Livestock Disaster Assistance programs and Marketing Assistance Loans and most programs implemented by FSA. It also includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs implemented by NRCS.

Many FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) programs already have implemented this requirement and therefore most producers should already have an AD-1026 form on file for their associated lands. If however an AD-1026 form has not been filed or is incomplete then farmers are reminded of the deadline of June 1, 2015.

When a farmer completes and submits the AD-1026 certification form, FSA and NRCS staff will review the associated farm records and outline any additional actions that may be required to meet the required compliance with the conservation compliance provisions.

FSA recently released a revised form AD-1026, which is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: www.fsa.usda.gov. USDA will publish a rule later this year that will provide details outlining the connection of conservation compliance with crop insurance premium support. Producers can also contact their local USDA Service Center for information. A listing of service center locations is available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/.

Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) for dairy producers. The new, voluntary risk management program replaces the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program which expires on Sept. 1, 2014.

MPP-Dairy offers protection to dairy producers when the difference (the margin) between the all-milk price and national average feed cost falls below a certain producer selected amount.

Eligible producers may purchase coverage for their dairy operation by paying an annual administrative fee of \$100 and a premium, as applicable, for higher levels of coverage. Producers in the dairy operation will have to select a desired coverage level ranging from \$4.00 to \$8.00, in \$0.50 increments and a desired coverage percentage level ranging from 25 to 90 percent, in 5 percent increments. Producers will also have to decide whether or not to participate in the MPP-Dairy Program or the Livestock Gross Margin program administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA), but they will not be allowed to participate in both.

A decision tool will be made available in the fall of 2014 to help producers make coverage level decisions. Enrollment will also begin this fall. Dairy operators will establish their production history during signup. Verification of the production records will be required. The regulations for MPP-dairy are still being developed. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

For more information, producers can review the LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill webpage](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-up Continues

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Secretary's Report to the NJ State Board of Agriculture September 24, 2014

Farm to School Week – The Department of Agriculture celebrated Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week September 22-26 with stops at three schools. At Anthony V. Ceres Elementary School in Perth Amboy on September 23, Secretary Fisher visited third and fourth grade classes where the children sampled green grapes, mini sweet yellow, red and orange peppers, broccoli and Italian/prune plums as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, a federally-assisted program administered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to provide healthier food choices; expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption. Ceres School Principal Michelle Velez-Jonte said they are very thankful for being selected to participate in the Department's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for a second year. Secretary Fisher also visited the school's "Garden of Healthy Choices," planted with seeds from the fruits and vegetables used in last school year's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The garden is used as an instructional tool to teach students not only how plants grow, but also to learn about local produce. On September 24, Secretary Fisher visited Salem County Career and Technical High School in Mannington where he taste-tested menu items made from Jersey Fresh produce and stepped inside the school's new Farm2You van that will deliver nutrition lessons and Jersey Fresh produce to children around the county. The final stop was at South Hunterdon Regional High School in West Amwell on September 26, where Department officials learned how the Plant Science Agricultural Education class uses a mobile, edible wall to grow produce.

Back to School Lunch – The Department of Agriculture and USDA celebrated the start of the new school year with a visit to Monroe Township High School on September 6. Secretary Fisher and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Mid-Atlantic Region Administrator Patricia Dombroski talked about the district's success in making students' meals nutritious and appealing and enjoyed sampling healthy menu items. The officials also visited a classroom to see a mobile, edible wall students will be using to learn about agriculture this school year.

Fall Gardening Month – Governor Christie proclaimed October as Fall Gardening Month in New Jersey and to celebrate, Secretary Fisher visited Willowood Arboretum in Chester on September 17, joined by New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association representatives and public garden caretakers. Secretary Fisher also encouraged public garden and arboretum visits this fall. He also reminded residents and visitors that fall is a great time to tend to home gardens with new plantings. New Jersey has more than 60 gardens and arboreta in 15 counties for the public to enjoy. Willowood is one of the state's most comprehensive and longest continually operating arboretum and now covers 130 acres and has about 2,100 kinds of native and exotic plants, many of them rare.

New Jersey Wine Week -- Secretary Fisher visited Working Dog Winery in Robbinsville on September 16 to announce the beginning of Wine Week in New Jersey, celebrating the Garden State's 2014 grape harvest. He encouraged people to visit the state's wineries to learn more about the harvest and wine making in our state. Governor Christie signed a proclamation declaring September 19 to 28 New Jersey Wine Week, honoring the wine industry for being a growing contributor to the state's economy. New Jersey has 50 licensed wineries. New Jersey is 10th in the nation in wine production, with 1.6 million gallons produced in 2012. Last year, New Jersey wineries sold 447,425 gallons of wine. Wineries around the state will be celebrating Wine Week. Working Dog Winery will have a live music event on September 21 and is offering wine week case discounts. Working Dog started in 2001 when a group of friends decided it would be great to plant some grapes and make their own wine. They started with three acres of Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay. They now grow 17 acres on permanently preserved farmland. Almost all of their 14 wine varieties are made with fruit they grow. Last year, they harvested 48 tons of grapes and produced 3,700 gallons of wine.

Agritourism – Secretary Fisher visited Liberty Farm's Sussex County Sunflower Maze on September 3, heralding the start of the fall agritourism season. The maze on Route 565 in Augusta is located on 50

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES 2015 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER, SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016 HONOREE

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES 2015 OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER, SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016 HONOREE

Sussex County Farmer to Receive Award at 2015 State Agricultural Convention

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
 (609) 633-2954
lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us



(TRENTON) – Henry Richard Byma, a 36-year-old Sussex County dairy, hay and grain farmer, has been chosen as New Jersey's 2015 Outstanding Young Farmers by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. Byma, who farms 680 acres in Wantage, will be presented with his award at the February 2015 New Jersey State Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City.

"Coming from a premier dairy farming family, Henry Byma continues to innovate and improve his farm operation, enacting practices to increase both milk and grain production while being environmentally responsible," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "He is a leader in the agricultural community and will proudly represent New Jersey in the coming year as Outstanding Young Farmer."



A third-generation dairy farmer, Byma took the Farm and Industry Short Course at the University of Wisconsin at Madison with the goal of growing his family business to continue to be profitable, while at the same time, produce

following criteria: progress in their agricultural career (50 percent of the total score); soil and water conservation practices (25 percent of the total score); and contribution to his/her community, state and nation (25 percent of the total score).

Any individual or organization can nominate deserving young farmers' names. Persons who have been nominated in the past or previous state winners who did not make it to the National competition can be re-nominated. However, these candidates must still meet the eligibility criteria.

Since the first award was presented, eight New Jersey farmers' names have been named National Outstanding Young Farmer: Abbott Lee (1985), James B. Giamarese (1989), Robert Von Thun, Jr. (2001), Jeffrey VanderGroef (2005), H. William Sytsema (2009), Richard Norz (2010), John Melick (2011) and Paul "Duce" Tallamy II (2012).

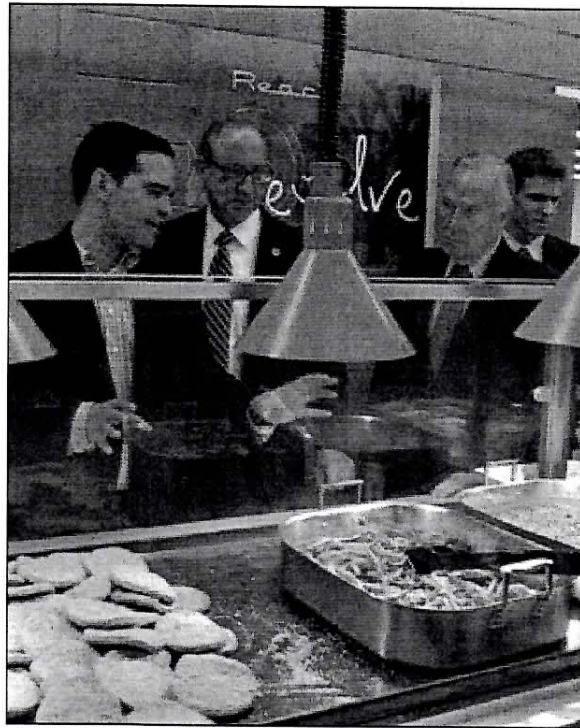
The OYF program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States, with the first group of national winners selected in 1955. The goals of the OYF program are to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of farmers' challenges, as well as the appreciation of their contributions and achievements; to bring about a greater interest in farmers/ranchers; and to help build an urban awareness of the farmers' importance and impact on America's economy. The OYF program encourages a greater interest in agriculture through the appreciation of the farmers' contributions and achievements and recognizes local citizens' contributions and encourages better urban-rural relations. The National OYF program is sponsored by Deere & Company, supported by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA), and is administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA) Fraternity.

For more information on the state's Outstanding Young Farmer program, visit: www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html or call Joe Atchison, OYF Program Manager at (609) 984-2223 or email joe.atchison@ag.state.nj.us.

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Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625



John Santiago shows Secretary Fisher and New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill the food court stations at the middle school

Lunch at New Brunswick Middle School is served in a "food court" style, where students daily have a choice of pizza and other stuffed breads, assorted sandwiches and salads made to order and a traditional rotating menu item. Today's lunch consisted of a chicken patty sandwich bar, plain and vegetable pizza and assorted sandwiches with side dishes including sweet potato fries, carrot sticks, three-bean salad and barbecue baked beans.

Chartwells Resident District Manager John Santiago said a Youth Advisory Council was organized to consult with the food service staff on foods that the students wanted to see on the menu. They also utilize a state of the art menu planning and nutrition analysis tool called Webtrition. They constantly update their menu database to improve overall quality and acceptability of meals.

In addition, New Brunswick highlights foods on a monthly basis to encourage students to try seasonal and nutrient-rich foods. The district's food service provider, Chartwells, has implemented the "Our Simply Good" food and nutrition campaign which focuses on important topics throughout the year such as eating local, eating breakfast and eating complete, well-balanced meals. And their "Chefs2Schools" program brings professional chefs into their cafés to share nutritional information with students in a fun and appealing way by showing them how to create healthy dishes that taste good.

New Jersey schools over the last three school years have implemented the 2010 federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which required more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, fat-free or low-fat milk, fat-free flavored milk, and limited saturated fat and portion size. It set requirements for school breakfast and snacks as well.

This school year schools were required to serve only whole grains and sodium targets began being phased in. There also are suggested maximums for grains and meat/meat alternatives.

National School Lunch Week was created by the School Nutrition Association to encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program and recognize

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search All of NJ



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

Home > News > Press Releases > 2014 > DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFIRMS BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN TWO DEER

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFIRMS BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN TWO DEER

Department of Agriculture Urges Livestock Owners To Report Any Suspected Animal Illnesses



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 10, 2014

Contact: Lawrence Hajna and Bob Considine (609) 984-1795
 Lynne Richmond, Agriculture (609) 633-2954

TRENTON -- The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed New Jersey's first cases of bluetongue virus in two deer.

The virus was confirmed in one deer that died in Basking Ridge, Somerset County on Sept. 4 and another that died in Stirling, Morris County on Sept. 19. The clinical signs of bluetongue are identical to epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD), which has occurred seven times in the state since 1995.

"The bluetongue virus is widely distributed in the United States, but has not been previously found in deer in New Jersey," said Division of Fish and Wildlife Director David Chanda. "Both diseases are spread to animals by the bite of a certain type of midge. Neither disease can be transmitted to people. While EHD is only found in deer populations, the bites of the midge can transmit bluetongue to certain types of livestock."

The clinical signs of disease caused by both viruses are identical, and the two can only be differentiated by testing and virus isolation. The potential for disease transmission will end when frost kills the midges.

People are not at risk by handling infected deer, being bitten by infected midges, or eating infected deer meat, although the Division of Fish and Wildlife strongly advises against consuming meat from any game animal that appears ill.

Unlike EHD, bluetongue is a disease of concern in ruminant livestock such as sheep, llama, alpaca, goats, and cows. It causes a similar disease in all ruminants with variable mortality rates depending on virus strain and livestock species affected. Horses are not affected.

Effects are usually most severe in improved sheep breeds such as fine wool and mutton breeds. No cases of livestock illnesses have been reported.

Livestock that appear to exhibit any of the symptoms associated with bluetongue should be reported to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health at (609) 671-6400.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) can assist in diagnosing suspected bluetongue cases by

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search All of NJ



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- Home
- About NJDA
- Divisions
- E-Licensing/Registration
- Applications and Forms
- Grants, Financial Services
- Publications
- Rule Proposals / Adoptions

▸ News

▸ Press Releases

▸ 2014

▸ 2013

▸ 2012

▸ 2011

▸ 2010

▸ 2009

▸ 2008

▸ 2007

▸ 2006

▸ 2005

▸ 2004

▸ 2003

▸ 2002

▸ 2001

▸ 2000

▸ 1999

▸ 1998

▸ 1997

▸ Hot Topics

▸ Upcoming Events

▸ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNVEILS PROJECT IN BERGEN COUNTY TO EDUCATE CITIZENS ABOUT TREE-KILLING PESTS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNVEILS PROJECT IN BERGEN COUNTY TO EDUCATE CITIZENS ABOUT TREE-KILLING PESTS

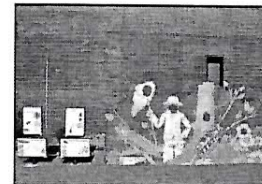
Focus on Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle

For Immediate Release: October 8, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond

(609) 633-2954

lynne.richmond@aq.state.nj.us



(TEANECK) – The New Jersey Department of Agriculture today unveiled a new exhibit at World of Wings in Teaneck designed to educate the public about invasive pests threatening trees in New Jersey.

The display, located at the entrance to the museum, has giant pictures of an emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, with cutouts for children to put their faces into the scene. Along with the fun activity, there are signs explaining the threat the insects pose to state trees and how to contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture in case people spot the bugs.

"The exhibit at World of Wings is part of the Department's outreach efforts to stop the spread of pests responsible for killing millions of trees in our region," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Once the public knows what to look for, they can assist us in finding signs of invasive insects, helping to contain infestations."

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NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



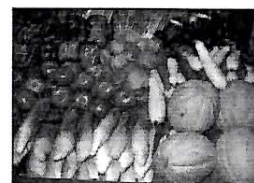
- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION AWARDED \$813,000 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS TO PROMOTE GARDEN STATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION AWARDED \$813,000 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS TO PROMOTE GARDEN STATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

For Immediate Release: October 6, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
(609) 633-2954
lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us



(TRENTON) – The Christie Administration has received a \$813,342 Specialty Crop Block Grant to fund 12 initiatives to benefit Garden State crops such as fruits, vegetables, as well as horticulture and nursery.

The grants are part of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to promote specialty crops in the nation and stimulate food-and agriculturally-based community economic development. Specialty crops account for \$907.7 million in sales annually in the Garden State.

"This federal funding has many benefits for our produce and horticulture industries and consumers," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "The organizations receiving the grants will use the funds for a variety of purposes, including promotional campaigns, research and education."

Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, nursery crops and floriculture. Most of New Jersey agriculture falls into the specialty crop category.

To be eligible for the grant, projects are required to "enhance the competitiveness" of specialty crops and might include, but are not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, "buy local" programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development and developing cooperatives.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture will use \$373,000 of the funding to support the popular Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs. A majority of the projects support agricultural marketing and cooperative development. Several research projects also are included.

The projects to be funded by New Jersey's grant include:

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station -- Evaluate the use of low-tunnels to extend the growing season for specialty crops including strawberries, kale, collards and mustard greens; evaluate both organic and conventional agricultural management systems; educate local farmers on the benefits of low-tunnel use to extend their growing season of these specialty crops; increase farmer awareness of the project through video segments and a

nematodes, which may act as a biological control agent.

The New Jersey grant was announced on October 2 by the USDA, part of \$118 million in Specialty Crop Block Grants funding 838 projects throughout the nation for 2015.

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- ▶ Home
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- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions

News

Press Releases

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009

2008

2007

2006

2005

2004

2003

2002

2001

2000

1999

1998

1997

Hot Topics

Upcoming Events

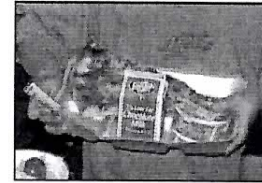
Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM OFFERS FREE DAY-CARE MEALS

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM OFFERS FREE DAY-CARE MEALS

For Immediate Release: September 30, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(TRENTON) -- All day-care facilities and their clients should be aware that children and adults enrolled in day-care facilities may be eligible for free meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, according to New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a federally funded program that reimburses sponsoring agencies that provide healthy meals and snacks at no charge to children and adults enrolled in licensed or approved day-care facilities or family day-care homes.

Meals are available at no separate charge to all enrolled participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and are served without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals for the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015:

ELIGIBILITY INCOME SCALE		
Effective from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015		
Family Size	Free Yearly Income	Reduced Yearly Income
1	\$15,171	\$21,590
2	\$20,449	\$29,101
3	\$25,727	\$36,612
4	\$31,005	\$44,123
Each Additional		
Family Member	+\$ 5,278	+\$7,511

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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Governor Chris Christie • Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

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- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions

▶ News

▶ Press Releases

▶ 2014

▶ 2013

▶ 2012

▶ 2011

▶ 2010

▶ 2009

▶ 2008

▶ 2007

▶ 2006

▶ 2005

▶ 2004

▶ 2003

▶ 2002

▶ 2001

▶ 2000

▶ 1999

▶ 1998

▶ 1997

▶ Hot Topics

▶ Upcoming Events

▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN HUNTERDON COUNTY

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN HUNTERDON COUNTY

Plant Science Students Grow Produce Vertically

For Immediate Release: October 2, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond

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lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us



(WEST AMWELL) – The Department of Agriculture celebrated the fourth annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week on September 26 by visiting the agricultural science plant science class at South Hunterdon Regional High School in West Amwell and learning about their innovations with vertical produce growing.

The Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week, taking place September 22 to 26, highlights efforts to connect schools with New Jersey farmers to purchase local produce for school meals. It also seeks to teach children where their food comes from by growing it themselves in school gardens.

"Farm to School Week is a great time for schools to celebrate New Jersey's abundance of fresh produce grown so close to where we live and to teach children the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables," said Secretary Fisher. "We applaud the schools that have connected with our farmers and regularly serve local produce to their students."

South Hunterdon Regional High School Agricultural Science Instructor Tiffany Morey said they are using a vertical planting wall provided by the New Jersey Farm to School Network. Students in her Plant Science class plant, water, feed, maintain and harvest the wall for the school year. They are currently growing basil, parsley, several varieties of lettuce, spinach, cabbage and Asian greens. The produce is used by the cafeteria staff and culinary arts classes.

"We have a great culinary arts program in our school and supportive cafeteria staff who utilize fresh produce in their dishes, so the wall seemed like it would be a good fit for our school," said Morey. "The agricultural science students were able to grow fresh greens that were turned into salads served during school lunches in the cafeteria and into more complex dishes by the culinary arts program."

By law, Farm to School Week takes place each year the last week in September. For more information about the Farm to School Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html.

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▼ News
 - ▼ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN SALEM COUNTY

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN SALEM COUNTY

Career and Technical H.S. Students Taste-Test Garden Menu Items



For Immediate Release: September 25, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us

(WOODSTOWN) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher celebrated the fourth annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week on Wednesday, September 24 with a visit to Salem County Career and Technical High School in Woodstown, where students taste-tested salsa during their lunch period.

The Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week, taking place September 22 to 26, highlights efforts to connect schools with New Jersey farmers to purchase local produce for school meals. It also seeks to teach children where their food comes from by growing it themselves in school gardens.

"Farm to School Week is a great time for schools to celebrate New Jersey's abundance of fresh produce grown so close to where we live and to teach children the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables," said Secretary Fisher. "We applaud the schools that have connected with our farmers and regularly serve local produce to their students."



Carly Chaapel, school garden coordinator shows Secretary Fisher, Freeholders

September. For more information about the Farm to School Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html.

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Everything Jersey Fresh



It's a Shore Thing



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NJ Farms and Registration Management System

While at Ceres School, Secretary Fisher visited third and fourth grade classes where the children sampled green grapes, mini sweet yellow, red and orange peppers, broccoli and Italian/prune plums as part of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, a federally-assisted program administered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to provide healthier food choices; expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption.

Ceres School Principal Michelle Velez-Jonte said they are very thankful for being selected to participate in the Department's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for a second year.

"This grant has afforded our students the opportunity to develop healthy snack habits by tasting and learning about a variety of vegetables and fruits," said Velez-Jonte. "Our students' interest in eating healthy fruits and vegetables has extended to the home when they tell their parents about something new they tried at school. It has even motivated some of our students to research and learn the origins of some of the new exotic fruits and vegetables they tasted last year, such as the "Dragon Fruit."

Secretary Fisher also visited the school's "Garden of Healthy Choices," planted with seeds from the fruits and vegetables used in last school year's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The garden is used as an instructional tool to teach students not only how plants grow, but also to learn about local produce. As the crops were harvested, they were picked and shown to the students as part of their health lesson.

This school year, the school's after-school program will include a group of students who will germinate seeds, again from the Fruit and Vegetable Program offerings. Each student will be responsible for keeping a log of their plant's growth, research and write about their fruit or vegetable, care for it and plant it in the garden in the spring. They also will help keep the garden watered and weeded.

There has been much focus on Farm to School recently. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno last month signed a package of bills that support New Jersey's Farm to School program by increasing student access to healthy, locally grown foods.

For the first time, the Department of Agriculture will provide additional funds this school year to schools for connecting their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program with the Farm to School Program. The schools must provide Jersey Fresh produce a minimum of two days each month from September to November and from April to June and must verify where the produce was grown. Eighty percent of the 158 schools are participating. The program is available schools with a high percentage of students eligible to receive free and reduced price meals.

The Department also initiated a program this year to recognize schools and farmers who work together to ensure students have access to healthy Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in their school cafeterias. The Jersey Fresh Farm to School Recognition Program helps schools expand their farm to school efforts, highlight Jersey Fresh produce in their meals and educate students about good nutrition and the state's agriculture industry. The program is a new marketing opportunity for farmers to strengthen the relationship between their farm and the community. Schools in the recognition program are required to have programs during Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. The applications for the recognition program can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/1erIfPb>.

By law, Farm to School Week takes place each year the last week in September. For more information about the Farm to School Program, visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/farm_to_school.html.



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NJ Farms and Registration Management System

Bob Heitzman, Vice President of the NJNLA, Dominick Mondì, Executive Director of the NJNLA, Charles Zafonte, Morris County Parks Asst. Deputy Director, Susan Lowry, Nancy Berner and Secretary Fisher

"New Jersey's extraordinary public gardens open your eyes to the state's rich horticultural legacy and its cultural heritage," said Lowry and Berner.

"Reflecting a high level of plantsmanship and dedication to preservation and land conservation, the state's treasure trove of gardens never fail to inspire and educate."

One of the gardens the authors highlighted in their book was Willowood Arboretum, managed by the Morris County Park Commission and the Willowood Foundation since 1980. The land was acquired by brothers Henry and Robert Tubbs in 1908 as their country home. Henry's adopted son, Dr. Benjamin Blackburn developed the property into an arboretum which now covers 130 acres and has about 2,100 kinds of native and exotic plants, many of them rare. Willowood is one of the state's most comprehensive and longest continually operating arboretum.

"Public gardens are places of wonder, solace, knowledge and fun and are important New Jersey cultural resources," said Lesley Parness, Superintendent of Horticultural Education for the Morris County Parks Commission and President of Garden State Gardens Consortium. "Among our member gardens are Gilded Age estates, 21st century LEEDS certified facilities, monocultures, large university settings and tiny, hidden treasure gardens. The range of plant materials in New Jersey's public gardens is matched by the program offerings at these sites, including events and classes for people interested in plants, nature and the environment as well as the arts."

Governor Christie has proclaimed October as New Jersey Fall Gardening Month, encouraging citizens to utilize this prime season to visit our state's nurseries and garden centers and patronize landscape companies to beautify their homes, neighborhoods and businesses and ensure a healthy and robust spring garden.

Horticulture is a \$445 million a year industry for New Jersey, ranking 9th in the nation in nursery, greenhouse, and sod sales.

"Our state's many nurseries and garden centers always enjoy a good spring business, but the fall season is when homeowners should really be planning and expanding their gardens," said Bob Heitzman, New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association Vice-President. "Autumn is the ideal season for planting to maximize garden success, and we applaud the Christie administration for bringing recognition to fall planting season."

The Department of Agriculture offers the Jersey Grown program to identify New Jersey-grown plants, trees, flowers, shrubs, annual bedding plants and Christmas trees, similar to the well-known Jersey Fresh branding program for produce. Jersey Grown also is used to identify local firewood, wood and black oil sunflower seeds for birdseed. To be called Jersey Grown, the item must be grown in New Jersey so it is accustomed to the state's soil and growing conditions, is checked for quality and is disease and pest-free.

To find New Jersey gardens and arboreta and nurseries and garden centers, visit the Jersey Grown website at www.jerseygrown.nj.gov.

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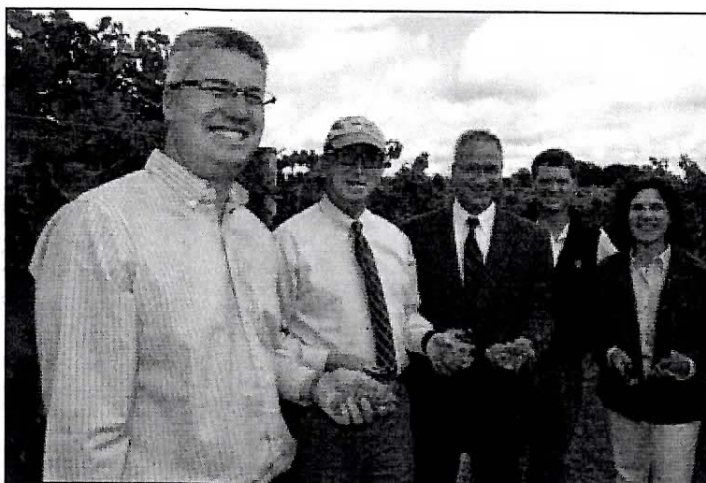
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NJ Farms and Registration Management System



Larry Sharrott, Chairman of the Garden State Wine Growers Association, Secretary Fisher, Director Halfacre, Mark Carduner and East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov showing the chardonnay grapes they just harvested

Wineries around the state will be celebrating Wine Week. Working Dog Winery will have a live music event on September 21 and is offering wine week case discounts.

Working Dog started in 2001 when a group of friends decided it would be great to plant some grapes and make their own wine. They started with three acres of Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay. They now grow 17 acres on permanently preserved farmland. Almost all of their 14 wine varieties are made with fruit they grow. Last year, they harvested 48 tons of grapes and produced 3,700 gallons of wine.

"The New Jersey wine industry is uniquely positioned for growth, due to its incredible grape-friendly soils, favorable climate and wine-hungry customer base," said Mark Carduner, one of the owners of Working Dog Winery.

Working Dog is one of 42 member wineries of the Garden State Wine Growers Association.

"New Jersey Wine Week is a fantastic opportunity for the state's residents to learn about the quality fine wines being grown and produced at the 50 plus vineyards and wineries across the state," said John Cifelli, Garden State Wine Growers Association Executive Director. "The support from our sister industries, the state, and Rutgers University is tremendous and encourages the strong growth trend of New Jersey wine to continue."

The New Jersey Liquor Store Alliance (NJSLA) also will support this year's Wine Week. They have an in-store program, "Greetings from Garden State Wine Growers," now through the holiday season to put a spotlight on local wineries.

Many New Jersey wineries have fall and holiday season activities. For a listing of wineries, visit <http://bit.ly/1a743vf>. For more information about the Garden State Wine Growers Association, go to www.newjerseywines.com.

To enjoy New Jersey wines at home, many wineries offer direct to consumer shipping of their wines within New Jersey and into other states thanks to a 2012 law signed by Governor Christie.

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Sciarappa, Bill

To: Robin Bruins
Cc: Pat Butch
Subject: Ag Rpt. - Oct. 21, 2014 Bill Sciarappa

1. Administrative

- a. Our **new county budget planning** will start near the end of October 2014; not like August of 2013, or January of 2014 but somewhere in the middle. Our RCE Budget Planning is already underway with staff salaries and office supply requests. Budgets are predicted to remain flat or increase a few percent.
- b. **Stewart Newman** is now the head of our solid waste department replacing the retired Larry Zyenga. He will be initiating a new recycle campaign for the county.
- c. **County attorney Andrea Bazer says to not delete any emails for 3 years due to OPRA** for information from the public. (except for really trivial ones) IT is not real happy with the need for more storage space.

2. Agricultural

- a. **Summer crops** are ending - tomato, pepper, sweet corn. Fall crops are getting ready to harvest Field corn, soybeans, pumpkin, winter squash, alfalfa, cole crops,...
- b. **Tomorrow's weather could be a problem.** If the cold northern front packs a wallop in its collision with the warm southern front, the ensuing nor-easter could hit our area with 40 MPH winds or more as well as a bad drenching. This would put a damper on Halloween farm visits and corn mazes as well as cause yield losses with lodged soybeans and field-corn.
- c. **Maritime Forest** re-built with RCE staff and MG volunteers at Fletcher Lake. We again used local nursery stock but did not get the larger, more expensive balled and burlapped stock which did not survive last winter's brutal weather.
- d. **Entrepreneurial Agriculture Class** – Intern seminar at Cook. Intern projects were high tunnel production of Hispanic crops and marigolds, chicken egg production on campus, new hops varieties, and Jerseyfresh tomato sauce Malaysian style. Keynote speakers were Theresa CEO First Field – producers of JerseyFresh ketchup in a jar – old style. As an E-team member I judged their poster contest, questioned their presentations and ended the event with concluding remarks.

3. Conferences

- a. As one of 6 Planning team Members we organized and held the **RCE extension Conference** on campus yesterday.
This was undoubtedly the best one ever as confirmed by the Dean at today's faculty meeting. We developed our own professional training, had program highlights thru a lightning powerpoint sessions (5 minutes each) and a great keynote on multigenerational management as well as live music and good food. I surveyed the 240 extension employees with my audience response devices (clickers) for demographics, professional aspects and personal preferences. I also was selected to give a powerpoint presentation on expanding the use of on-line instruction in extension outreach.
- b. The **State Ag Convention** scheduled for Feb. 3,4 and 5, 2015 at the Taj will probably change Casinos. The Taj just let the Turf Group move their meeting without penalty and the NJVGA is awaiting the same release. A nearby casin can hold about 120 vendors compared to the previous 170 sections at the Taj. This change will also affect our planned Basil Workshop by my research group scheduled concurrently at the same time and place.
- c. Our **Ag Agents** group meets this Thursday at the Rutgers Marucci Cranberry and Blueberry Research Center in Chatsworth and then I travel back to Hazlet to present **Green Infrastructure** at the stormwater meeting for municipal advisors.

Bill Sciarappa - Monmouth County Ag Agent - CEDH



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FARM LOANS

2014 FARM BILL
FACT SHEET

March 2014

Farm Loan Information Chart

The following chart summarizes FSA farm loan information, effective March 12, 2014. Additional details are available at local FSA offices and on FSA's website: www.fsa.usda.gov .			
Program	Maximum Loan Amount	Rates and Terms	Use of Proceeds
Direct Farm Ownership (FO)	\$300,000	- Rate based on agency borrowing costs - Term up to 40 years	- Purchase farm - Construct buildings or other capital improvements - Soil and water conservation - Pay closing costs
Direct Farm Ownership (FO) Participation	\$300,000	- Rate is direct FO rate less 2% with a floor of 2.5% if at least 50% of loan amount provided by other lender - Term up to 40 years	Same as Direct FO
Direct Down Payment Farm Ownership Program	The lesser of: 45% of the purchase price, 45% of the appraised value, \$300,000	- Rate is direct FO rate less 4% with a floor of 1.5% - Term of 20 years - Down payment of at least 5%	Purchase of farm by a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer
Direct Operating (OL)	\$300,000	- Rate based on agency borrowing cost - Term from 1 to 7 years	- Purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals and supplies - Soil and water conservation - Refinance debts with certain limitations
Direct Operating Microloan (ML)	\$35,000	Same as Direct OL	Same as Direct OL
Direct Emergency	100% actual or physical losses \$500,000 maximum program indebtedness	- Rate is based on the OL rate plus 1% - Term from 1 to 7 years for non-real estate purposes - Term up to 40 years for physical losses on real estate	- Restore or replace essential property - Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year - Pay essential family living expenses - Reorganize the farming operation - Refinance debts with certain limitations
Guaranteed Operating	\$1,355,000 (Amount adjusted annually for inflation)	- Rate determined by the lender - Term from 1 to 7 years - Loan guarantee fee is 1.5%	Same as direct OL
Guaranteed Farm Ownership	\$1,355,000 (Amount adjusted annually for inflation)	- Rate determined by the lender - Term up to 40 years - Loan guarantee fee is 1.5%	Same as direct FO except loan may be used to refinance debts
Guaranteed Conservation Loan (CL)	\$1,355,000 (Amount adjusted annually for inflation)	- Rate determined by the lender - Term not to exceed 30 years, or shorter period, based on the life of the security - Loan guarantee fee is 1.5% - Eligibility requirements expanded to include large and financially strong operations	- Implement any conservation practice in an NRCS approved conservation plan - May be used to refinance debts related to implementing an NRCS approved conservation plan
Land Contract (LC) Guarantee	The purchase price of the farm cannot exceed the lesser of: \$500,000 - The current market value of property	- Rate cannot exceed the direct FO interest rate plus 3% - Amortized over a minimum of 20 years with no balloon payments during the first 10 years of loan - Down payment of at least 5%	- Sell real estate through a land contract to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer - Guarantee is with the seller of the real estate

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USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Key Dates for New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

USDA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- **Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015:** Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- **Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015:** Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- **Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015:** Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- **October 2015:** Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Producers can contact their local FSA office for more information or to schedule an appointment.

USDA Unveils Key New Programs to Help Farmers Manage Risk

USDA just unveiled highly anticipated new programs to help farmers better manage risk, ushering in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

New tools are now available to help provide farmers the information they need to choose the new safety net program that is right for their business.

The new programs, Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety net programs in the 2014 Farm Bill, legislation that ended direct payments. Both programs offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses.

To help farmers choose between ARC and PLC, USDA helped create online tools that allow farmers to enter information about their operation and see projections about what each program will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

At this time, farm owners may begin visiting their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices if they want to update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres, the first step before choosing which new program best serves their risk management needs. Letters sent this summer enabled farm owners and producers to analyze their crop planting history in order to decide whether to keep their base acres or reallocate them according to recent plantings.

The next step in USDA's safety net implementation is scheduled for this winter when all producers on a farm begin making their election, which will remain in effect for 2014-2018 crop years between the options offered by ARC and PLC.

Producers can contact their local FSA Office for more information on ARC and PLC or to schedule an appointment to update their yield history and/or reallocate base acres.

USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Department Implementing New Farm Bill Programs, Unveiling New Centralized Online Resource to Support Next Generation of Farmers

USDA has announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA also unveiled www.USDA.gov/newfarmers, a new website that will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed.

USDA's www.usda.gov/newfarmers has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations.

The policy announcements in support of beginning farmers and ranchers include:

- Waiving service fees for new and beginning farmers or ranchers to enroll in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the 2014 crop year. NAP provides risk management tools to farmers who grow crops for which there is no crop insurance product. Under this waiver, announced via an [official notice](#) to Farm Service Agency offices, farmers and ranchers whom already enrolled in NAP for the 2014 crop year and certified to being a beginning farmer or social disadvantaged farmer are eligible for a service fee refund.
- Eliminating payment reductions under the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (CRP) for new and beginning farmers which will allow routine, prescribed, and emergency grazing outside the primary nesting season on enrolled land consistent with approved conservation plans. Previously, farmers and ranchers grazing on CRP land were subject to a reduction in CRP payments of up to 25 percent. Waiving these reductions for new and beginning farmers will provide extra financial support during times of emergency like drought and other natural disasters.
- Increasing payment rates to beginning farmers and ranchers under Emergency Assistance for [Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#). Under this provision, beginning farmers can claim up 90 percent of losses for lost livestock, such as bees, under ELAP. This is a fifty percent increase over previously available payment amounts to new and beginning farmers.

In the near future, USDA will also announce additional crop insurance program changes for beginning farmers and ranchers – including discounted premiums, waiver of administrative fees, and other benefits.

Additional information about USDA actions in support of beginning farmers and ranchers is available [here](#).

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

The enrollment deadline for the 2014 Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) is Nov. 1, 2014. The deadline for 2012 and 2013 ELAP has already passed.

How do I sign up for the FSA Newsletters and Bulletins?



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acres with more than a million blooming black oil sunflowers. Accompanying the maze are a variety of on-farm activities, including a kids' scavenger hunt, build your own scarecrow contest and a self-guided bug safari. Many farms around New Jersey invite the public during the fall season for hay rides, corn mazes, pumpkin and apple picking and many more activities. These activities bring added revenue to farms to make them more viable and helps to ensure that the land remains in active agriculture. New Jersey had 347 farms that offered agritourism activities in 2012 that generated \$18.4 million in revenue. New Jersey ranks 9th in the nation in total agritourism dollars and nine New Jersey counties rank in the top 10 percentile in agritourism sales, including Sussex County, which ranks 85th in the nation with more than \$1.5 million in agritourism sales. The number of farms in the county offering agritourism more than doubled from 22 in 2007 to 49 farms in 2012.

First EEE Cases – Three horses from Burlington, Gloucester and Ocean counties were the first reported cases in 2014 of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a serious, mosquito-borne illness in horses. The 4-year-old mare from Gloucester County began showing neurologic signs of EEE on August 10 and was humanely euthanized on September 10. A 2-year-old Ocean County mare began showing neurologic symptoms on September 11 and died on September 14. The Ocean County horse had been vaccinated for EEE in the spring. The 6-year-old Burlington County gelding was not vaccinated and began showing signs of illness on September 21 and was euthanized that day. EEE causes inflammation of the brain tissue and has a significantly higher risk of death in horses than West Nile Virus infection. West Nile virus is a viral disease that affects horses' neurological systems. The disease is transmitted by mosquito bite. The virus cycles between birds and mosquitoes with horses and humans being incidental hosts. EEE infections in horses are not a significant risk factor for human infection because horses (like humans) are considered to be "dead-end" hosts for the virus. In 2013, New Jersey had two cases of EEE in August. No cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) were reported last year.

Agricultural Achievement Award -- New Jersey residents who are entering their senior year in high school this fall and are planning a career in agriculture or science may apply for the New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award. One winner will be selected and awarded a scholarship to honor their achievements. The New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award, sponsored by Dr. Amy Butewicz, a former New Jersey Equestrian of the Year, was started because of her desire to give back to the community. Worth \$500, this scholarship is meant to assist its recipient in beginning their future in agriculture. The qualifications for receiving this award include submitting an application, found here www.jerseyequine.nj.gov/agachievementapplform.pdf, a resume along with an essay answering the question, "How has your involvement within your respective nominating organization helped to shape your future career choice?" In addition, a contestant is required to be a current, active member of an organization either on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and/or represented at the Youth Reception portion of the New Jersey State Agricultural Convention. Each organization on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and a participant of the State Agricultural Convention is able to nominate a maximum of two contestants. The winner of the Agricultural Achievement Award must attend the Annual New Jersey Bred Equine Breeders Award Luncheon to be held on Sunday, January 26, 2015 in Eastampton and will read his or her essay to the attendees.

NJ Department of Agriculture Hydrologic Stormwater Database -- The Department and the 15 Soil Conservation Districts are continuing to load engineering, GIS and land use data into the Department's web-based stormwater management database. The database warehouses the locations of stormwater management basins, outfall structures and water quality improvement structures along with copies of site plans and management plans for virtually all stormwater basins constructed in New Jersey dating back to 1986. Design and land use data can be used to model stormwater runoff, water quality, perform environmental analysis and planning and identify target areas for basin restoration or retrofits. Future plans include the ability to upload and view stormwater basin maintenance information. Data is viewable online at: <http://hydro.rutgers.edu/sw>



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high-quality products through best practices and environmental health.

After returning from school and working as a full-time employee responsible for the family herd, in 2007 Byma and his father formed a business partnership, By-Acre Holsteins, LLC. Since then, Byma added a 42-stall milking barn to an existing 64-stall barn and made other changes that enabled them to cut costs and increase herd production averages from 18,900 lbs. of milk per year to 21,700 lbs. of milk per year. He installed a 21-stall calf barn to provide a healthier, more efficient environment for calf development and enrolled in the New Jersey Cattle Health Assurance Program in which the farm is evaluated on its handling of herd health and cow comfort and the herd is tested for ailments.

Byma also has undertaken several conservation practices including use of cover crops to reduce soil erosion and water run-off; planted no-till corn to prevent soil erosion; and planted orchard grass to prevent water contamination. In 2012, a complex drainage system was constructed on the farm to reduce barnyard run-off and the farm is currently working with the Wallkill Watershed and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to develop a roof system on farm building to collect rain and consolidate the run-off into the stock pond, already on the premises. They also have implemented a Conservation Nutrient Management Plan that allows them to more efficiently fertilize their fields while reducing any negative effects on water supplies.

"As the father of three young children, I feel it is essential to protect and preserve the natural resources all around us so that our children will have a bright future," said Byma.

Byma said his goal is sustainability of his operation so he has partnered with Lioni Latticini, Inc. to produce fresh mozzarella that is being sold in local supermarkets.

"We believe this partnership is just one more step in making By-Acre dairy a more profitable and, therefore, longer lasting business – a business that will be around for generations to come," said Byma.

Byma and his wife, Christine, are active in the agricultural community. Henry is Vice President of the Sussex County Holstein Association and a member of the Sussex County Milk Producers Co-op, National Holstein Association, New Jersey Holstein Association, New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, Sussex County Board of Agriculture, and New Jersey Farm Bureau. Both he and Christine are active in 4-H and host and organize dairy judging clinics, as well as donate calves to exemplary 4-H members. Henry is a member of the Beemerville Volunteer Fire Company and a Deacon at the Sussex Christian Reformed Church.

The Bymas have three sons, ages 7, 5 and 3.

New Jersey annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of a young farmer who is an upstanding leader, respected agriculturalist and is active in community or faith organizations. The Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Year 2016 Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Award. The submission deadline for nominations is January 15, 2015.

Nominees must be farm operators, deriving a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming and must be between the ages of 21-40, not becoming 41 prior to January 1, 2015. Candidates who have a financial interest in the farm operation (a sole proprietor, partner, or a corporation) will receive higher ranking in the OYF judging process. However, nominees may also include salaried farm managers and employees who are actively involved in policy and management decisions. Submission of a financial statement is not required for state competition.

A panel of five judges reviews each nominee's application based on the

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

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- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▼ **News**

▼ **Press Releases**

▶ **2014**

▶ 2013

▶ 2012

▶ 2011

▶ 2010

▶ 2009

▶ 2008

▶ 2007

▶ 2006

▶ 2005

▶ 2004

▶ 2003

▶ 2002

▶ 2001

▶ 2000

▶ 1999

▶ 1998

▶ 1997

▶ Hot Topics

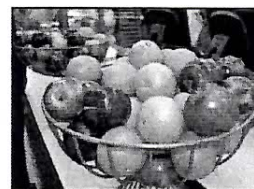
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[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

Secretary Visits New Brunswick Middle School's Lunch Program



For Immediate Release: October 16, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond

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(NEW BRUNSWICK) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today marked National School Lunch Week with a visit to New Brunswick Middle School to applaud the New Brunswick School District's efforts to offer students meals that are nutritious and appealing.

Secretary Fisher observed a school lunch period and spoke with students and food service officials about the healthy menu items being offered.

"We are proud of how school districts around the state have embraced the new federal nutrition school lunch guidelines and have worked hard to involve students in the process," said Secretary Fisher. "We know that serving more nutritious foods at lunch only accomplishes its goal if children eat the meal. We congratulate New Brunswick for being a leader in school lunch."

the school districts providing healthy meals every day. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture administers the program in the Garden State.

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offering testing and necropsy services. The AHDL can be contacted by calling (609) 406-6999 or e-mailing jerseyvetlab@ag.state.nj.us.



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More information about the tests offered can be found on the AHDL website: <http://www.jerseyvetlab.nj.gov/>



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Deer that appear to exhibit any of the symptoms associated with bluetongue or EHD should be reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Wildlife Services at (908) 735-7040 or the Division's Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics at (908) 236-2118.



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Both diseases are contracted from the bite of a species of midge fly known as *Culicoides sp.* Outbreaks typically begin in late summer. Symptoms in deer may include difficulty standing, drooling, and emitting foam from the mouth or nose. Because the disease causes fever, sick or dead deer are often seen in or near water.



Jersey Ag Education



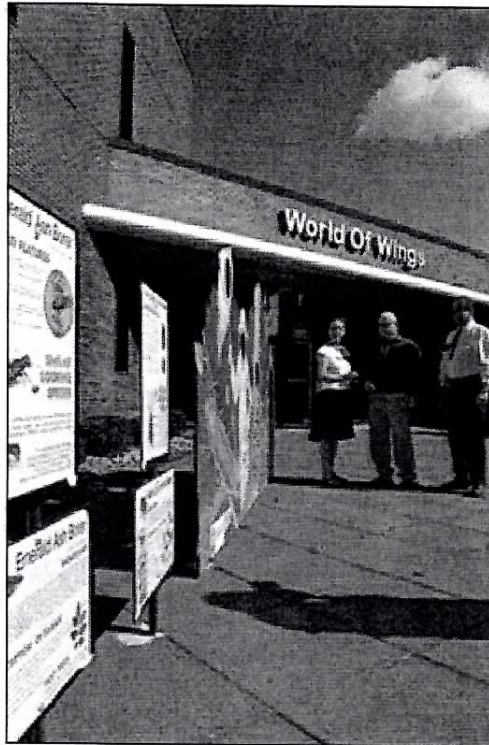
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Clinical signs in livestock include, but are not limited to, fever, listlessness, edema and congestion of mouth, nose, eyes, and coronary bands, mouth sores, lameness and a characteristic swelling of the tongue. Affected animals may act as carriers for an extended period after recovery.

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Florence Rutherford of World of Wings with the NJDA's Paul Kurtz and George Nelson of USDA

The concept and design for the display came from Paul Kurtz, Department entomologist and Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program Manager. He worked with the World of Wings, as well as the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange and the Cape May County Zoo in Cape May Court House to locate displays at the facilities to reach a greater number of people. Each exhibit cost \$3,000, with funding coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program.

World of Wings opened in December of 2012 as an entertainment and education center focused on butterflies, amphibians and reptiles. One major attraction is the Butterfly Atrium, which features butterfly species from around the world, many of which are at risk of extinction. James Yoon of World of Wings said the invasive pest display fits well with the museum's mission.

"Families come to look at the display as they enter," said Yoon. "It's good for taking pictures and educational for the kids."

The Department of Agriculture works to suppress and eradicate harmful insects that kill trees in New Jersey. Currently, the Department is tracking infestations of emerald ash borer in Mercer, Burlington and Somerset counties. Asian longhorned beetle was successfully eradicated in the state by the Department, USDA and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection last year.

Most invasive insect discoveries in the United States have been made by private citizens. In both the New Jersey emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle infestations, members of the public alerted authorities.

To learn more about emerald ash borer, visit the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's website at <http://bit.ly/Zc948> or the USDA's site at <http://bit.ly/1sXM3CW>. For Asian longhorned beetle information, go to <http://asianlonghornedbeetle.com>.

Report signs of these beetles to the Department of Agriculture at 609-406-



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project website; encourage more sustainable management practices including more efficient use of pesticides, fertilizers and water.



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New Jersey Farm Bureau – Facilitate the matching of aspiring urban farmers with farm management expertise of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Using Ag in the City, an association of urban farmers, candidates will be selected for training on urban farming.



Grown Better in the Garden State

New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association – Working with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, provide New Jersey blueberry growers with statewide integrated pest management (IPM) information and work to improve pest management and monitoring practices, while addressing invasive species and the pesticides used to control those pests.



Jersey Equine



Farmland Preservation / Right to Farm

Cape May Beach Plum Association – Increase the number of high quality beach plum plants; create a beach plum marketing and promotion program; offer paid internships to agri-science high school students; educate farmers and educators about what was learned during the project.



Jersey Ag Education



NJ Farms and Registration Management System

Cumberland County Board of Agriculture – Increase awareness of non-farm residents of Cumberland County about the importance of crops grown in the county; increase the number of residents who buy local crops from direct marketing outlets in the county; request retailers source products from local growers; train specialty crop growers in county on marketing strategies.

New Jersey Agricultural Society – Hold educational workshops for New Jersey Agriculture Leadership Development Program geared toward enhancing special crop production; develop website for program to include news articles and success stories of alumni specialty crop growers and specialty crop-related issues.

New Jersey Beekeepers Association – Conduct a study to identify the types and quantities of pesticides being collected by honey bees in different areas of the state at different times of year to learn which areas are least toxic to bees; hives throughout the state will be tested monthly for a broad spectrum of 180 pesticides.

New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association – Develop a Plant Something Campaign marketing program to increase the sale and use of New Jersey-grown landscape flowers, trees and plants.

New Jersey Peach Promotion Council – Promote the quality and availability of locally grown Jersey Fresh peaches; compile the NJ Peach Buyers' Guide and distribute it to consumers retail, institutional and wholesale buyers; plan and stage various media events; consumer and produce merchandising contests, coordinate retail promotional events; provide education and information to consumers, buyers, and the media via print advertising, website and other social media information, and personal contacts and via audio and video methodology; market impact studies, and conduct product development and handling research.

New Jersey White Potato Association – increase in the volume of Jersey Fresh-branded potatoes sold by embracing the slogans "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" and "Locally Grown;" develop point of purchase materials that feature the 11 New Jersey potato farm families to tell the story of the New Jersey potato farmer; distribute to 750 targeted stores over 2 years with the goal of significantly increasing "Jersey Fresh" potato sales.

Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association -- conduct a survey of wine grape pests across the state of New Jersey to identify the distribution and severity of key insect pests in the state; use this information to form a coherent IPM program for New Jersey wine grape growers; conduct a survey for grape root borer larvae in commercial vineyards, allowing us to map locations of high abundance and correlate it to soil type and prevalence of entomopathogenic

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NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

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- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▼ News
 - ▼ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION DISTRIBUTES \$28,000 TO FOOD BANKS FROM COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY CHECK-OFF FUND

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION DISTRIBUTES \$28,000 TO FOOD BANKS FROM COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY CHECK-OFF FUND

Money to Assist in Food Purchases

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(TRENTON) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today announced the distribution of almost \$28,000 to New Jersey's six food banks to supplement their food supplies. The funding represents two years of contributions through the Community Food Pantry Fund, a state income tax form check-off program.

"New Jersey residents have again shown their generosity to their neighbors who find themselves in need to provide food for their families," said Secretary Fisher. "We encourage state taxpayers to seek out this check-off on their income tax form and donate to this worthy cause."

Funds were distributed to: Community Foodbank of New Jersey, Hillside, \$18,277; Food Bank of South Jersey, Pennsauken, \$3,496; FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Neptune, \$3,216; Southern Regional Food Distribution Center, Vineland, \$1,193; Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Ewing, \$1,226; and NORWESCAP, Phillipsburg, \$487.

The fund was the result of recommendations from the state's Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee in an effort to create an on-going funding stream to assist with the acquisition of emergency food to enhance the emergency food provider system.

The check-off was first available on the 2010 tax year forms. It allows taxpayers to either contribute a portion of their tax refund or make a donation. Money collected for the fund administered by the Department of Agriculture must be used exclusively for food purchases. Those wishing to contribute will find the check-off item on their NJ-1040 income tax form.

Governor Christie and the State Legislature allocated \$6,818,000 for the current fiscal year's New Jersey Department of Agriculture State Food Purchase Program (SFPP). That money is distributed quarterly to the state's six food banks for the purchase of healthy foods, with an emphasis on buying produce from New Jersey farmers. The SFPP is in its eighth year.

The Department also distributes United States Department of Agriculture-donated food to the six food banks through the Emergency Food Assistance Program.



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NJ State FFA National Officer Candidate Lauren Fillebrown learns more about the Mobile Edible Wall from a South Hunterdon FFA member during the presentation

More said the wall is a great way to illustrate the farm to table concept within her school and provide students with fresh, nutritious and locally grown produce throughout the year.

Beth Feehan, Executive Director of the New Jersey Farm to School Network, said she first saw an "edible wall" like the South Hunterdon agriculture students are using at a conference and felt it would be beneficial in the Farm to School program.

"These Mobile Edible Walls work as indoor school gardens, allowing students in all different settings to see how plants grow, to experience the successes and failures of growing food and to have hands-on experience right in their classrooms."

There has been much focus on Farm to School recently. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno last month signed a package of bills that support New Jersey's Farm to School program by increasing student access to healthy, locally grown foods.

For the first time, the Department of Agriculture will provide additional funds this school year to schools for connecting their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program with the Farm to School Program. The schools must provide Jersey Fresh produce a minimum of two days each month from September to November and from April to June and must verify where the produce was grown. Eighty percent of the 158 schools are participating. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is federally-funded and administered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to provide healthier food choices; expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption.

The Department also initiated a program this year to recognize schools and farmers who work together to ensure students have access to healthy Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in their school cafeterias. The Jersey Fresh Farm to School Recognition Program helps schools expand their farm to school efforts, highlight Jersey Fresh produce in their meals and educate students about good nutrition and the state's agriculture industry. The program is a new marketing opportunity for farmers to strengthen the relationship between their farm and the community. Schools in the recognition program are required to have programs during Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. The applications for the recognition program can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/1erIfPb>.

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- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > THREE HORSES CONTRACT EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS

THREE HORSES CONTRACT EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS

First Reported Cases of 2014

For Immediate Release: September 25, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(TRENTON) – Three horses from Burlington, Gloucester and Ocean counties are the first reported cases in 2014 of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a serious, mosquito-borne illness in horses.

The 4-year-old mare from Gloucester County began showing neurologic signs of EEE on August 10 and was humanely euthanized on September 10. A 2-year-old Ocean County mare began showing neurologic symptoms on September 11 and died on September 14. The Ocean County horse had been vaccinated for EEE in the spring. The 6-year-old Burlington County gelding was not vaccinated and began showing signs of illness on September 21 and was euthanized that day.

"Horse owners need to be vigilant in vaccinating their animals against diseases spread by mosquitoes," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Vaccinated animals are much less likely to contract deadly diseases such as EEE and West Nile Virus."

EEE causes inflammation of the brain tissue and has a significantly higher risk of death in horses than West Nile Virus infection. West Nile virus is a viral disease that affects horses' neurological systems. The disease is transmitted by mosquito bite. The virus cycles between birds and mosquitoes with horses and humans being incidental hosts. EEE infections in horses are not a significant risk factor for human infection because horses (like humans) are considered to be "dead-end" hosts for the virus.

In 2013, New Jersey had two cases of EEE in August. No cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) were reported last year.

Effective equine vaccines for EEE and WNV are available commercially. Horse owners should contact their veterinarians if their horses are not already up-to-date on their vaccinations against both EEE and WNV.

For more information about EEE in horses, visit www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/easter_wester_venezuelan_equine_ence

EEE and West Nile virus, like other viral diseases affecting horses' neurological systems, must be reported to the state veterinarian at 609-671-6400 within 48 hours of diagnosis. The New Jersey Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory is available to assist with EEE and WNV testing and can be reached at 609-671-



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Julie Acton and Bruce Bobbitt and District Superintendent John Swain

At Salem County Career and Technical High School, Secretary Fisher joined students in taste-testing salsa, visited the school's garden and learned about their Farm2You project. Students also were able to sample produce in the cafeteria from A.T. Buzby Farm in Pilesgrove.

Carly Chaapel, the district's Garden Coordinator, said the salsa was made from the school's summer garden, with yellow pear tomatoes, various heirloom varieties, plum tomatoes and peppers. They had a volunteer day in July where they chopped, cooked and froze the salsa. Last year, she worked with school food service on tastings of local produce and she plans to continue that this year to assist in incorporating new menu items that feature seasonal, fresh produce,

As a FoodCorps service member last school year, Chaapel helped start the school's garden, growing a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs. Now that she works for the district, the school has another FoodCorps service member, Annalise Van Vranken, who is helping with garden projects.

"I try to follow 'seed to plate' when I can, taking the same class out to plant the seeds, tend the plants, harvest and cook," said Chaapel. "I find ways to make learning in the garden applicable to nearly every class, so it really becomes a communal space. The kids want to come out and help all the time."

Chaapel said Farm2You is a joint project between the Salem County Vocation Technical Schools, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, Salem County Health Department, Salem County Health and Wellness Foundation and FoodCorps service members. They received a truck for free from the Special Services District. The students have done all the labor to make the truck into a mobile educational tool that will bring farm to school to Salem and Gloucester counties. She envisions visiting schools with the truck filled with produce purchased from local farmers.

There has been much focus on Farm to School recently. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno last month signed a package of bills that support New Jersey's Farm to School program by increasing student access to healthy, locally grown foods.

For the first time, the Department of Agriculture will provide additional funds this school year to schools for connecting their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program with the Farm to School Program. The schools must provide Jersey Fresh produce a minimum of two days each month from September to November and from April to June and must verify where the produce was grown. Eighty percent of the 158 schools are participating. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is federally-funded and administered by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to provide healthier food choices; expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption.

The Department also initiated a program this year to recognize schools and farmers who work together to ensure students have access to healthy Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables in their school cafeterias. The Jersey Fresh Farm to School Recognition Program helps schools expand their farm to school efforts, highlight Jersey Fresh produce in their meals and educate students about good nutrition and the state's agriculture industry. The program is a new marketing opportunity for farmers to strengthen the relationship between their farm and the community. Schools in the recognition program are required to have programs during Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week. The applications for the recognition program can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/1erIfPb>.

By law, Farm to School Week takes place each year the last week in

Governor Chris Christie • Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno
 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search All of NJ



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▼ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Ceres Elementary School Lauded for Commitment to Jersey Fresh

For Immediate Release: September 23, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(PERTH AMBOY) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today celebrated the fourth annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week with a visit to Anthony V. Ceres Elementary School in Perth Amboy, where Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables are highlighted in their Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and the students grow a school garden.

The Department of Agriculture's Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week, taking place September 22 to 26, highlights efforts to connect schools with New Jersey farmers to purchase local produce for school meals. It also seeks to teach children where their food comes from by growing it themselves in school gardens.

"Farm to School Week is a great time for schools to celebrate New Jersey's abundance of fresh produce grown so close to where we live and to teach children the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables," said Secretary Fisher. "We applaud the schools that have connected with our farmers and regularly serve local produce to their students."



Ceres School Principal Michelle Velez, Secretary Fisher and school health teacher Linda Kovalsky

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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search All of NJ



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ News
 - ▶ Press Releases
 - ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES NJ'S PUBLIC GARDENS AND ARBORETA

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES NJ'S PUBLIC GARDENS AND ARBORETA

Agriculture Secretary Encourages Garden Visits, Fall Planting

For Immediate Release: September 17, 2014

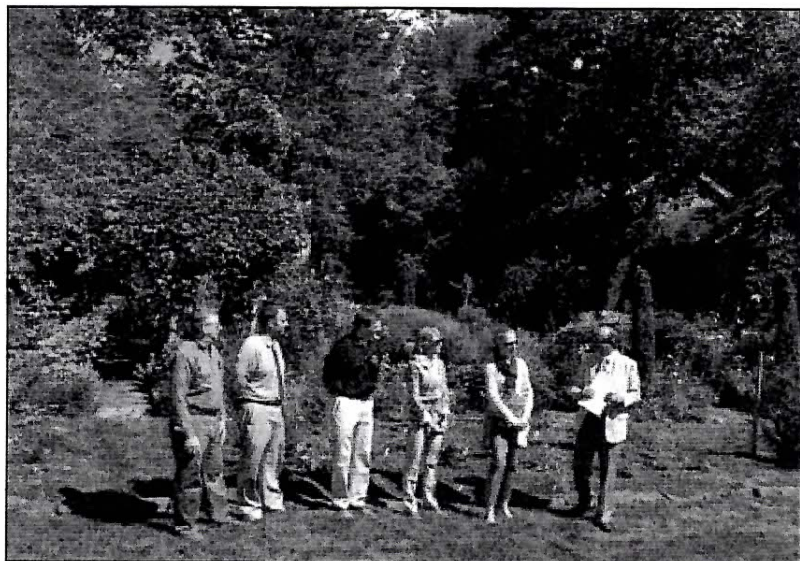
Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(CHESTER) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today visited Willowood Arboretum in Chester and encouraged public garden and arboretum visits this fall. He also reminded residents and visitors that fall is a great time to tend to home gardens with new plantings.

"People in the tri-state region are just a short trip away from dozens of New Jersey public gardens, each offering a unique and special experience," said Secretary Fisher. "At the same time, these gardens offer numerous ideas for the home gardener. This is the perfect time of year to plant for a beautiful spring garden."

New Jersey has more than 60 gardens and arboreta in 15 counties for the public to enjoy. Susan Lowry and Nancy Berner, authors of a new book, "Gardens of the Garden State," spoke about what attracted them to the Garden State – the tradition of agriculture, heritage of garden making and plant collecting, and hundreds of garden clubs around the state. They presented Secretary Fisher with a copy of their book for the State Library.



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 NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

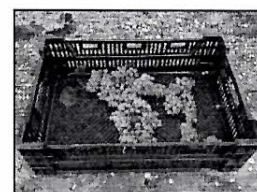


- ▶ Home
- ▶ About NJDA
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ E-Licensing/Registration
- ▶ Applications and Forms
- ▶ Grants, Financial Services
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Rule Proposals / Adoptions
- ▶ **News**
 - ▶ **Press Releases**
 - ▶ **2014**
 - ▶ 2013
 - ▶ 2012
 - ▶ 2011
 - ▶ 2010
 - ▶ 2009
 - ▶ 2008
 - ▶ 2007
 - ▶ 2006
 - ▶ 2005
 - ▶ 2004
 - ▶ 2003
 - ▶ 2002
 - ▶ 2001
 - ▶ 2000
 - ▶ 1999
 - ▶ 1998
 - ▶ 1997
 - ▶ Hot Topics
 - ▶ Upcoming Events
 - ▶ Topics A to Z

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [2014](#) > SHOWCASING NEW JERSEY'S GRAPE HARVEST

SHOWCASING NEW JERSEY'S GRAPE HARVEST

Secretary Fisher Kicks Off New Jersey Wine Week with Visit to Local Garden State Winery



For Immediate Release: September 16, 2014

Contact: Lynne Richmond
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(EAST WINDSOR) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today visited Working Dog Winery in East Windsor to announce the beginning of Wine Week in New Jersey, celebrating the Garden State's 2014 grape harvest. He encouraged people to visit the state's wineries to learn more about the harvest and wine making in our state.

Governor Christie signed a proclamation declaring September 19 to 28 New Jersey Wine Week, honoring the wine industry for being a growing contributor to the state's economy.

"New Jersey's wineries are increasingly being recognized around the nation and the world for producing high quality and unique wines," said Secretary Fisher. "The Garden State wine industry is an integral part of the state's agricultural and tourism industries, contributing to the economy and preserving open space."

New Jersey has 50 licensed wineries. New Jersey is 10th in the nation in wine production, with 1.6 million gallons produced in 2012. Last year, New Jersey wineries sold 447,425 gallons of wine.

"The wine industry is like the wine itself: the environment needs to be right for it to thrive," said Michael Halfacre, Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety. "Our Division is receiving significant interest from wineries looking to expand their businesses and other entrepreneurs who are looking to enter the business for the first time. This is a good time to be a winemaker in New Jersey and celebrate the industry."

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