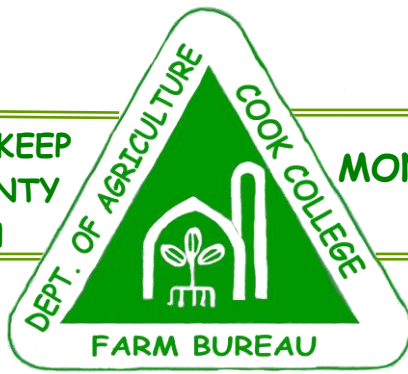


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FARMERS KEEP  
OUR COUNTY  
GREEN

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MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
4000 Kozloski Rd., Box 5033, Freehold, NJ 07728

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Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2011

The executive Committee of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture met on September 20, 2011, at the Agriculture Building in Freehold for the regular meeting. President Gary DeFelice opened the meeting with a flag salute at 7:37 pm. The following were present:, Pat Butch, Martin Bullock, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Kate Everett, Debi Kauffman, Doug Kauffman, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Bill Potter, Bill Sciarappa, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Bill Walker, Meg Whitehouse, Jim Wikoff.

Guests: Mike Damato, Denise Knapp, Jacquelyn Knapp, Sean Magovern.

**Invocation:** Bill Potter

**Treasurer's Report:** Read by Ross Clayton. Mr. DeFelice asked for an approval of the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve was made by B. Potter. Approved

**March May Minutes:** Submitted by Nyna McKittrick. Mr. DeFelice asked for an approval of the March meetings May minutes. A motion to approve was made by J. Wikoff. Approved

**Correspondences:** FFA seeking to fill a position for the Board of Trustees. N. McKittrick will fill the position.

Curtis McKittrick – Thank you for the Scholarship, it will help pay for classes and books.

Presentation from Joan Dancy and Pals (People with ALS). Given by Sean Magovern, and Mike Damato.

They are seeking a 30 acre field to partner with farm artist Roger Baker to create "Field Art" in Monmouth County. The art would include an image of Lou Gehrig and a full scale baseball field. The art would not damage any crops it is made on. A field of grass or hay would be most desirable, and would be used to have an awareness and fund raising event. Contact Mr. Magovern at 732-450-2677.

## **Agents' Report:**

**Bill Sciarappa** – 150 people attended Rich Obal's retirement dinner at Our House Tavern. The Annual report was handed out. The hurricane brought 8-11' of rain to the area. A TV program was produced and shown on channel 12 to promote NJ locally grown food after the rains.

**Kate Everett:** 4-H Fair had animal exhibit numbers up. Thank you to Fair Chair N. McKittrick for helping to coordinate new interactive display areas. They included: Ag education (brought about by Sabrina Brown) and new tent displays/activities including FFA (Brought about by Delany Gray & Clair McKittrick), More hands on Herdsmanship, the Round Robin Showmanship class (brought about by M. Whitehouse and judged by R. Bruins) which helped to push attendance numbers up 5000 visitors at the fair. 4-H has several new clubs starting including one for archery. The program is seeking additional hands-on displays for next year's fair. 4-H has several new clubs including one for archery. A candidate will be chosen for the Agricultural Society Ag Ambassador in November. 4-H staff has been making visits to local schools including the Brielle School and the Bolger school in Keansburg by staff for Ag Security Education, and Rutgers against Hunger (RAH) programs.

**Bill Walker** – NJ Department of Agriculture- Gov. Christie signed the Keep NJ green bill providing 90.6 million dollars for Farmland preservation. He also signed a bill that requires an effort by food stands in government facilities to place Jersey fresh items products on prominent locations. \$23 millions dollars in County Planning Incentive Grants to 43 municipalities to preserve farmland. Revised soil erosion and sediment control standards will be released for public comment, includes restoration of soil quality through implementation of NJDA Erosion Control Standards. Farm to School Week September 26-30. Summer Food Service Institute was held Aug 3&4 at Rutgers. A forest Pest kiosk was placed in Jackson. Gov. approved 20 counties for disaster designation – farmers have 8 months after the designation date to submit claims. Spotted wing drosophila, commonly known as fruit flies or vinegar flies, populations are being tracked.

**Ed Wengryn-Farm Bureau- Written Report submitted-** The big news from the summer break is the passage and signing of the farmland preservation funding bills. The senate environment and energy committee had a hearing on the southern pine beetle and the Senate Budget committee took action on the mobile farm market in the food desert areas of the state.

On Monday the Senate Environment meets again and Bill S-2887 that promotes Big wind systems on preserved farms the committee is considering amendments to the bill that are to address concerns raised by the SADC and the agriculture community when the assembly heard the bill.

The US House of representatives this week are expected to mark up a bill on E-verification, requiring employers to check a all new hires Social security information before hiring the employee,  
Without comprehensive reform to immigration or a change in the agriculture work force rules and regulations this could be problematic for the migrant labor that agriculture counts on.

There is a rule proposal that would lift the ban on moving heavy farm equipment on Sundays from the motor vehicle rules. Comment period ends Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 and county boards should comment if they can in time.

Comments can be sent to

Steven E. Robertson, Director Regulatory and Legislative Affairs

Motor Vehicle Commission 225 East State Street, PO BOX 162, Trenton, NJ 08666-0612

Proposal Number PRN2011-164

Support the amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:21-12.6 the amendments lift the restrictions on moving heavy farm vehicle, implements or machinery that exceeds 12 feet in width and or 60 feet in length

\*The farm Bureau convention is coming up November 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Weston Hotel in Princeton. You need to select delegates and alternates for the convention.

The first week in October we expect to hold the Policy meeting all County Board presidents are encouraged to attend and bring forward Issues from their counties. The current policy book of Farm Bureau can be found on the Farm Bureau website [www.njfb.org](http://www.njfb.org)

**Hugh McKittrick**- State Board of Agriculture- NJDA provides a free test to sample fertilizer deliveries for compliance with label formulations. Fines are returned to the farmer. Predator weevils have been released against "Mile a minute" weed. 80% of Farm Bill budget goes to food and nutrition programs at schools. Agriculture Convention in Atlantic City at the Trump Taj Mahal Hotel. January 17-19 held in conjunction with the Vegetable growers Convention. Tuesday Jan. 17, education and trade show. Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> both groups meet. AM will be listening sessions, PM will be voting on resolutions and presentations of awards. Thurs. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> will have resolutions, elections and listening sessions. Bee Keepers booth at the Convention. Listening session concerns- Areas of concern:  
SADC- Is SADC over regulating farm land owners? Can farm owners buy out of restrictions on preserved farms? Will courts void contracts because definitions have been changed? The horse industry decline.

**Tim Dey** – Farm Service Agency- Written Report submitted- [NAP Loss Filing](#) - Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) a producer must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

### NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates for 2012 Crop Year -

September 1, 2011 – Christmas trees, cut flowers, turf grass.

September 30, 2011 – barley, clover, grass, mixed forage, rye, wheat.

November 20, 2011 – apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, cranberries, grapes, honey, onions, scallions, peaches, pears, plums, walnuts.

December 31, 2011 – asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, greens, herbs, horseradish, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, turnips.

March 15, 2012 – beans, brussel sprouts, cantaloupe, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, oats, okra, peppers, pumpkins, sorghum, squash, sunflower, sweet potato, tomatillos, tomato, watermelon.

**Disaster Assistance** - The Farm Service Agency would like to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs are available to assist with recovery. FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov); click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets. We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process.

**Producers Must Report AGI to IRS** - Producers are reminded they must submit an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) verification consent form (CCC-927 or CCC-928) to the IRS as soon as possible in order to maintain eligibility for 2009 and 2010 program benefits. The consent form authorizes IRS to verify whether a payment recipient's AGI meets the eligibility requirements for FSA programs. Producers who fail to file these forms before Sept. 30, 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2009 and/or 2010 payments.

### **New Business-**

State Agriculture Convention in Atlantic City at the Trump Taj Mahal Hotel. January 17-19 held in conjunction with the Vegetable growers Convention. Tuesday Jan. 17, education and trade show. Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> both groups meet. AM will be listening sessions, PM will be voting on resolutions and presentations of awards. Thurs. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> will have resolutions, elections and listening sessions

**State Ag Convention Delegates:** Gary DeFelice and Debi Kauffman Alt.- Angelo Trapani and Nyna McKittrick

**Farm Bureau Convention November 14-15 - Delegates:** Gary DeFelice, Debi Kauffman, Angelo Trapani, Marty Bullock, Jim Wikoff Alt- Anna Trapani, Tom Freiberger, Dave Holmes, Pat Butch, Meg Whitehouse.

Areas of concern:

- With proposed revision of farmland assessment bill, beekeeping was not being recognized as an agricultural activity that would comply with the rules of the bill.
- There was also concern that large property owners who put a conservation easement on their property could also realize a tax break similar to those who farm their ground or lease it to a farmer. There is fear that this would reduce available farmland to those farmers who rent or have land available to them by property owners who benefit from the tax relief afforded to them through the rules of the Farmland Assessment Act.
- The availability to NJ farmers to be able sell homemade food items as a value added product.
- Farmland assessment/ Senator Jennifer Beck

**Old Business-** Estimates for bronze plaque for Ted Narozanick where secured, the plaque needs to arrive for the November Open House meeting.

Motion to adjourn – 9:45 made by D. Kauffman. Motion carried.