



Agent's Overview

Central Jersey had a very “bad” ending to our farming season. Just when we thought the worst was over with the drought threat, it got even worse - 20-year record rains, tornados, 5,000-year record earthquake tremors and then we were slammed by hurricane Irene and tropical storm Lee leaving about 30 inches of rain in a month - a 100-year storm. What a test! In retrospect, it looks like these environmental standards, meteorological scales and farming practices need some review in order to be better prepared.

From my Ag Agent perspective, I see:

- Widespread destruction of crops as high-value vegetables - tomatoes, sweet corn, and eggplant seasonal produce - pumpkins, gourds and mums.
- Threats to animals, especially the horse industry. Shelter and feeding were an immediate problem.
- Payment programs underutilized and expensive.
- More education and implementation is needed. This disastrous event should make program acceptance easier and generate better sign-ups for various support programs and crop insurance.

From a Resource Management Agent side, I see:

- Less water allocated for farms than ever before, yet more available from Mother Nature. Unfortunately this water surplus gets sent off to residential flood plains and the ocean where potable water becomes contaminated and salty.
- Stormwater management regulations need more “teeth” and sincere implementation plans.
- Over-development is a key issue. Smart development means 100% on-site stormwater recharge using new BMP’s like permeable pavement, rain water, rain barrels and rain gardens.

From my Emergency Management side, I see:

- A tremendous human effort by some great paid personnel and volunteers.
- Destruction, flooding, pollution and human health problems in coastal lakes and along the ocean.
- Wreck Pond overdevelopment, need open space.
- A wake-up call to confront climate change and its accelerating effects.

What a mess.

Bill Sciarappa





STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor Chris Christie Announces Agricultural Natural Disaster Designation Approved For 20 New Jersey Counties

Farmers Suffered Weather-Related Damages During the 2011 Growing Season - For Immediate Release; Friday September 16, 2011; Contact: Michael Drewniak, Kevin Roberts 609-777-2600

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today announced that United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack has granted a Natural Disaster Designation for 20 New Jersey counties following flooding and high winds from Hurricane Irene and several other weather disasters for farmers so far this year.

Governor Christie requested the disaster designation prior to Hurricane Irene but the request was open-ended and covers damages and crop loss beginning May 14, 2011 and continuing. Besides the hurricane, farmers suffered through excessive heat and rain, flash flooding, and hail during 2011.

“Hurricane Irene has had a widespread impact on our state and many farmers have taken a severe hit, not just from the effects of Irene, but from other severe weather throughout the 2011 growing season,” said Governor Christie. “In addition to the federal assistance being provided through President Obama’s federal disaster designation, now farmers who suffered losses will have additional federal agriculture assistance programs at their disposal.”

The designation includes all counties in the state, except for Hudson.

“This Natural Disaster Designation makes farmers, some of whom have lost entire crops, eligible for federal disaster relief programs offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. “We are very thankful for Governor Christie and Secretary Vilsack’s support in bringing this about quickly so our farmers can get the relief they need.”

“Farm Service Agency is in the process of assessing just how severe our farmers’ losses are this year, after a series of extreme weather conditions,” said Paul Hlubik, Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency in New Jersey. “I’m grateful to Secretary Vilsack, Governor

Christie, and Secretary Fisher for their swift action to make the disaster designation possible. It will not only make farmers eligible for low-interest loans and restructuring, it also will provide direct relief through the Supplemental Revenue disaster assistance program to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria.”

The disaster designation makes farm operators eligible to be considered for assistance from Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE).

Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. The loans could cover up to 100 percent of the dollar value of the losses. Farmers must have suffered a 30 percent loss in crop production or physical loss to livestock, inventory or property and meet FSA’s eligibility requirements. FSA considers each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

SURE program applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Farmers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local office, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=nj&agency=fsa>. For more information on FSA’s disaster assistance programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing.

www.nj.gov/governor/

**USDA Farm Service Agency, Freehold Service Center
Tim Dey - County Executive Director
732-462-0075**

FSA Reminds Producers of Disaster Assistance Deadlines - 9/1/2011

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Bruce Nelson reminded producers today about upcoming deadlines for disaster assistance. Nelson emphasized that losses must be the result of a weather event occurring on or before Sept. 30, 2011.

"This year brought a host of extreme weather challenges for America's farmers, ranchers and producers," said Nelson. "USDA is committed to use the resources at our disposal to reduce the impact of these conditions and help producers get back on their feet. And this year, especially, it's important for producers to be aware of program deadlines and to have their records in order so that they get the assistance they need."

The 2008 Farm Bill authorizes coverage of disaster losses through these five programs: Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE); Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP); Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP); Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP); and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP).

SURE applications for 2010 crop losses will be accepted later this fall. SURE applications for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in the fall of 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

FSA is required to determine that the claimed loss was because of a disaster occurring on or before Sept. 30, 2011. FSA must determine if a qualifying loss meets the established disaster relief criteria for at least one crop.

At the time the SURE application for payment is filed, the producer will be required to identify and certify

a crop of economic significance with a qualifying loss of 10 percent or more. At least one such crop with 10-percent losses on or before Sept. 30, 2011, is required by SURE.

"We encourage all producers to read the applicable disaster program fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office. The staff can provide additional information such as the deadline for filing a program application or the initial requirement for filing a notice of loss," Nelson said.

Important dates for the five disaster programs are summarized in the table below.

Program	Deadline to File a Notice of Loss	Application Period
SURE*	No deadline for SURE, but check with your crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) policy	2009: closed 2010: begins fall 2011 2011: begins fall 2012
LFP*	Not applicable	Now through Jan. 30, 2012
LIP/ELAP*	Within 30 days of when the loss is apparent, but not later than Dec. 29, 2011	Now through Jan. 30, 2012
TAP*	Not applicable when loss is apparent	Within 90 days of when loss is apparent

*** Losses must be due to a weather event that occurs on or before Sept. 30, 2011**

Your market is still of excellent quality and supply - don't give up on your Garden State farms at this important time.

Fact sheets for these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

Additional information regarding the programs is at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



Twin Pond Farms served as a striking example of Irene's assault on agriculture. Young farmer George DiGregorio took the time to show NJ News Channel 12 the devastation while putting out the positive message that there still was a good supply of local produce of high quality. The show aired repeatedly and stressed the need to support your local farmer and buy Jersey Fresh. To view http://player.theplatform.com/ps/player/pds/4seVQdOlwe?pid=HLKpQo_SgGAj3O1WS4fuKafdZpGR_hba

Wide Variety of On-Farm Activities Available This Fall in NJ

Corn Mazes, Hay Rides, Pick-Your-Own Up and Running

(MULLICA HILL) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher today savored some freshly pressed apple cider made with Jersey Fresh apples as he heralded in this year’s fall agritourism season at a cider mill in Gloucester County.

Secretary Fisher visited with Fred and Cheryl -Ann Sorbello who make Fralinger’s Apple Cider and their own local brand they sell at their Hill Creek Farms in South Harrison Township.

“Despite many weather challenges this season, New Jersey farmers are welcoming the public on to their farms for everyone’s favorite fall activities, such as corn mazes, hay rides, apple picking, winery tours and festivals,” said Secretary Fisher. “These farm visits create lasting memories for families, teach children about where their food comes from and the importance of sustainable local agriculture, and help generate revenue that keeps farmland in production.”

Agritourism is important to the state’s economy, generating \$60 million annually. In addition to revenues for farmers, a Rutgers University study found that for every dollar in agritourism sales generated on a New Jersey farm, 58 cents of additional sales are generated in a wide range of other allied businesses, such as restaurants, construction companies and insurance providers.

The study, conducted in 2007, also found that more than one-fifth of New Jersey farms offered some form of agritourism, with 43 percent of New Jersey’s total farmland associated with farm operations engaged in agritourism. The study also showed that a large percentage of farms offering agritourism events derived most, if not all their income from those activities.

Freshly-pressed apple cider is often associated with fall farm visits, and Fred Sorbello, a third-generation farmer who left the industry to pursue warehousing and distribution 11 years ago, said making cider started out as a hobby that grew into a business. He and his wife purchased Fralinger’s about a

month ago and hope to produce 250,000 gallons of cider this year.

At Hill Creek Farms, they planted 60 acres of apple trees to supply them with some of the apples, but Sorbello said the rest will be purchased from other farmers in the area, giving their neighbors a market for their fruit. He hopes to plant another 100,000 trees in the future.

At the farm, visitors can take a hay ride and pick their own apples as well as shop in their farm market. A Family Fun Day is planned for October 9 at the farm on Route 45.



“Seeing families enjoy themselves at the farm through wagon rides, taking pictures, buying fresh agricultural products and enjoying the outdoors is as rewarding as anything else I do,” said Sorbello, who comes from a family of peach farmers. “Having the opportunity to share ‘farm experiences’ and telling them about our past is fun for me and hopefully for them. There’s something just right about farming, especially apples in the U.S.A. – it’s American.”

New Jersey agritourism offers a variety of year-round experiences from pick-your-own produce, farm stands, wine tastings and horseback riding to hayrides, corn mazes and cut-your-own Christmas trees. To find activities planned this fall on New Jersey farms, visit www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov/cornmazes.htm, www.visitnjfarms.org, and www.visitnj.org sites.

Lynn Richmond (609)633-2954
lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us



AGENCY UPDATES

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NJDA Seeks More Large Animal Facilities for Emergency Shelters



(TRENTON) – As the result of Hurricane Irene, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture worked with county governments to make facilities available to those large livestock animal owners who needed to evacuate their farms or found themselves without power or water or access to their farms.

While very few farm owners needed the use of these shelters in this most recent storm, the Department of Agriculture is seeking to ensure there are enough facilities available that are able to accommodate large animals in the event of future emergencies or disasters. The Department is asking anyone with a facility that could serve as a large animal shelter to fill out the form at www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/largeanimalfacilitysurvey.doc.

When a facility is made available during evacuations, it is the responsibility of the animal owner to care for that animal, including bringing feed, hay, etc. Please return forms no later than November 1 to:

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Attn: Lynn Mathews

P.O. Box 330

Trenton, NJ 08625

Or by e-mail at debra.moscatiello@ag.state.nj.us
Once compiled, a list of facilities will be made available to county offices of emergency management so they can access those resources in time of need.

Find us on Facebook to learn more about the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
www.facebook.com/NJDeptofAgriculture.

Lynn Richmond (609)633-2954

lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us

FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASE: September is National Preparedness Month

Point of contact: Dave Filson dfilson@psu.edu

Are you Ready Ag?

Fire, flood, feed contamination, foot-and-mouth disease. Farm and ranch disasters can come without warning. Is your crop, livestock or poultry operation secure? Is it biosecure?

A team of Extension professionals from across the US came together to develop an educational tool to assist farm and ranch managers become better prepared for any disaster. The tool is called *ReadyAG*—Disaster and Defense Preparedness for Production Agriculture.

Before disaster strikes, *ReadyAG* can help farmers and ranchers plan and prepare to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all types of damaging incidents. *ReadyAG* is designed to help identify vulnerabilities and prioritize actions to make agricultural operations more resilient and sustainable in the face of adversity.

ReadyAG begins with a general preparedness assessment then has commodity-specific sections including cattle, crops, dairy, fruit and vegetable, swine, and poultry. The assessments can be filled out online and will automatically populate a customized action plan to address items identified as vulnerabilities with a high priority to mitigate.

Farmers and ranchers who access the *ReadyAG* workbook will be encouraged to take the following steps:

- Identify vulnerable areas of production and management
- Prioritize areas to strengthen
- Create an action plan specific for an operation
- Develop an accurate inventory of assets
- Identify and engage local critical services

Find additional helpful resources

The *ReadyAG* workbook can be found at <http://readyag.psu.edu/>.

Calendar

OCTOBER

4 Ag Disaster & Food Safety Twilight meeting - details in box on right

6-8 Bee-ginner's Beekeeping - Rutgers Office of Continuing Education
732-932-9271

14 - 100th Anniversary of Plant Pathology at Rutgers. Gala event

Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick.
<http://plantpathology.100.rutgers.edu>

16-19 ISHS International Symposium on High Tunnel Horticultural Crop
State College, PA. Orzolek 814-863-2251

NOVEMBER

14-15 NJ Farm Bureau Mtg. Westin, Rt. 1 Princeton - 609-393-7163

DECEMBER

6-8 36th Annual Turf & Landscape Conf. - Taj Mahal, Atlantic City
973-812-6467 www.njturfgrass.org

JANUARY 2012

16-19 Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention & Trade Show & 2012 Annual State Agricultural Convention - Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City.

FEBRUARY 2012

3 - Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting - Ag Building, Freehold, NJ
732-431-7260 Ag secretary

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

7:30 PM
10-18, 11-15

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING
CORE 9 am - 1 pm
10-4, 11-1, 12-6

Category 3A - 9 AM - 3 PM
10-18

To register call 800-524-9942

Held at

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building
4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ
732-431-7260

Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn
sciarappa@njaes.rutgers.edu

Past Issues on the web <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?Id=3078>

Agricultural Disaster and Food Safety Twilight Meeting (Fall Meeting of the Integrated Vegetable Crop Management Twilight Series)

EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND

October 4, 2011

Gloucester County Office Building (Bldg. A), 1200 N. Delsea Dr. Clayton, NJ

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

The Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agents of Atlantic, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties invite you to the last twilight meeting of the 2011 season to discuss disaster preparedness, disaster reporting, crop insurance, and food safety. **No need to register.**

7:00 pm

Food Safety and Harvesting Product That Has Been in Flood Conditions

Dr. Wes Kline, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Cumberland Co.

7:30 pm

ReadyAG - a Self-Assessment Tool. Are You Prepared if Disaster Strikes?

Rick VanVranken, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Atlantic Co.

7:50 pm

Update on Crop Insurance

Garden State Crop Insurance Education Initiative Staff, Rutgers NJAES Coop. Ext. Salem County

8:10 pm

Farm Service Agency Disaster Reporting

Al DiBella, FSA Salem/Gloucester and Angela Andreoli, FSA Atlantic/Cumberland/Cape May

8:30 pm

Fall Vegetable Crop Disease Update

Dr. Andy Wyenandt, Specialist in Vegetable Pathology, Rutgers NJAES

9:00 pm-9:30pm

Winter Storage of Pesticides and Reporting Pesticide Use

Michelle Casella, Agricultural Agent, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension Gloucester Co.

Pesticide Recertification Credits have been requested. The facility is handicap accessible.

Sincerely,



Richard W. VanVranken
County Agricultural Agent
Atlantic County

Wesley L. Kline
County Agricultural Agent
Cumberland County

Michelle Infante-Casella
County Agricultural Agent
Gloucester County

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728

Rutgers Cooperative Extension— Agriculture, Family and Community Health Sciences, 4-H Youth Development, Resource Management, and Marine Studies— welcomes this opportunity to send you the enclosed materials for your information and use. Educational programs and information are provided to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs sexual orientation, or marital or family status.



Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

RUTGERS

Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County
4000 Kozloski Road
PO Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728-5033

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FREEHOLD, NJ
PERMIT NO. 166