



## Agent's Overview

Wow – what a fall season! We had the highs of success in running our first “Open Space Pace Festival” at the Freehold Race Track with over 3,000 people. This was then followed by the lows of economic and personal loss due to extreme weather with hurricane Sandy and her follow-up sister snowstorm.

The good news is that our Open Space Pace Festival was attended and/or reviewed by the NJDA Fair Committee. They then approved the new year's application of the Monmouth County Board of Ag for this festival to be held as a state approved, county fair again at the race-track on Saturday, September 21, 2013.

The bad news is that our typical retail Halloween sales of ag products and agri-tourism were sunk by the brutal weather. On-farm activities were disrupted by the lack of electrical power and farm operations like fall harvest, greenhouse heating and poultry production. Phone communications and general equipment use were hampered for 10 days or more. Tree and nursery stock suffered significant breakage, and lodging of agronomic crops remaining in the field was widespread. Fortunately the majority of the crops were already done and many fall crops were harvested early just in advance of the storm.

Let's hope the new year provides some relief and a smoother ride. Please look forward and **save the dates** for three key upcoming events.

1. **The Monmouth County Stakeholders Meeting**
2. **The New Jersey Ag Convention & Trade Show**
3. **The Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting**

The stakeholder meeting on Tuesday evening January 15 gives our Ag, 4-H and Family and Consumer Health Science clients a great opportunity to listen to an extension overview from our RCE staff and administrators and then interact in question and answer sessions regarding our upcoming scope of extension work, office staffing and directions. NJAES Director Larry Katz, Associate Director Mary Jane Willis and other campus representatives will be attending.

The 2013 New Jersey Ag Convention in conjunction with the NJVGA and NJAES is again held in Atlantic City from February 5-7. Please plan on attending as we have arranged a diversity of exciting Ag sessions, a banquet and a lively trade show among numerous other activities at the Taj.

The Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting is planned for Friday, February 2013, a little later than normal as we need to adjust to the new State Convention timing. Nonetheless we plan to have another fine agenda with good food and friends. For more details and contacts, please see our calendar on page 7.

**Happy Holidays to all.**



*Bill Sciarappa*

## Governor's View

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture and 4-H member Clair McKittrick met with Governor Chris Christie when she was volunteering at the Bolger school in Keansburg on November 5th. She was working with Barbara Annuzzi, a teacher in Keansburg, to hand out clothing to families to those that has lost all their belongings. Mrs. Annuzzi came out to check on her students and to make sure they were all accounted for. Her house was without electricity and had some tree damage, however she



was more worried about her students. 50 houses were lost completely, and hundreds of houses in the area will need to be rehabbed. The town also lost one of their schools.

Clair asked the Governor how the agricultural community and 4-H could help out in the efforts to provide food, shelter, and necessities to the people who have lost everything. He was pleased to have volunteers ready as they are needed, and expressed his willingness to call on them, especially as we go into the winter months.

*Nyna McKittrick*



## Jersey Fresh Day at Bolger School

Rutgers Cooperative Extension held its 3rd annual Jersey Fresh Day at Bolger Middle School in Keansburg on September 27. About 75 students and teachers participated as RCE began with an agricultural overview in the large library with the main theme of locally grown Apples and Vegetables. Clickers (student response devices) were used to anonymously survey student opinions about our food and their knowledge base of farming.



The 5th to 8th grade students and teachers really enjoyed this wireless interaction that was displayed on a large screen for all to view.

Then three separate groups rotated among various educational sessions led by 4-H with Kate Everett, Virginia Krzyzanowski, FCSH with Rachel Tansey and Sharese Porter and Ag/MG's via Vivian Quinn, Sabrina Brown, Ellen Simonetti, Alka Lothe and Bill Sciarappa. At the end of the day, the parents picked up the excited children along with large bags full of delicious Jersey

Fresh produce. What a great way to end the day of ag education with locally grown treats.

*How do you like them APPLES!*



### Special Thanks To

**Delicious Orchards**  
**Samaha Farms**  
**Gary DeFelice**  
*Jersey Fresh Day*  
**Delicious Orchards**  
*FFA Event*  
**Kaufman Farms**



## Fall 2012 FFA Career Development Event



The annual **Fruits and Vegetables Career Development Event** was held at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on November 15. Over 250 high school students from 28 high schools in New Jersey attended. This was the 12th year that Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County coordinated the Fruit and Vegetable ID and Judging event. We are once again very grateful to **Delicious Orchards** for their generosity for this event.

Career Development Events allow students to apply classroom instruction and encourage students to excel. These events are important to the future of the agriculture industry because they help direct students to

School	Fruit-Veg	Dairy	Turf	Combined Land/Homesite
Allentown HS	4 <sup>th</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Freehold Twp. HS	5 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Mon Cty. Voc Tech	2 <sup>nd</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
N. Burlington Reg HS	3 <sup>rd</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
Ocean Cty. Voc Tech	6 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>

specific careers. FFA events also help students and schools meet the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Many of these students will be successful in the future because of the skills learned in preparation for career development results.

Results from the event can be found at [www.judgingcard.com](http://www.judgingcard.com). (Click on "Online Results", click "New Jersey Fall CDEs" (Thu, Nov 15, 2012), then click on your respective event.) You can see pictures from the event on the New Jersey State FFA Association Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/NJFFA](http://www.facebook.com/NJFFA).

*Vivian Quinn & Sabrina Brown*

# Before Sandy's Trick - Halloween 2012



Did you know we have World Champion Punkin' Chunkers right here in Warren County, New Jersey? They practice and work on their machine at a great farm in Asbury, New Jersey – the [West Portal Pumpkin Patch](#).

The **West Portal Pumpkin Patch** is one of the first farms in the area to offer the total fall farm experience – corn maze, hay maze, hay rides and pumpkin picking and fall decorations and more.

Interested in helping or coming out to the farm to cheer the team



**Last Fling  
Pumpkin  
Sling**

**October 20 & 21, 2012**  
Warren County, New Jersey

Sign Up For Enews



on (spectating only - there is a charge per question), contact Captain Dan at [Daniel.Collins@ge.com](mailto:Daniel.Collins@ge.com) to receive the e-Newsletters for updates on progress and work sessions. Team Chucky has been competing and WINNING for years in the [World Championship and original Punkin Chunkin](#) near Nassau, DE. In 2011 Chucky II of Washington, NJ came in 1st place in the Adult Catapult category, shooting a winning shot of 2,027.96 feet. Team Chucky anticipates coming to the Last Fling Pumpkin Sling for the first time in 2012.

## the harvest

Hi folks,

As we head into the fall harvest season, I'm excited about what we'll have for you . . . Many easy ways to enjoy more fresh produce—from our Veggie Markets in several stores to our locally grown fruits and vegetables, there's a lot to look forward to.



All of that got me thinking about how our fruit and vegetable sourcing at Wegmans has changed over the years, and how it will continue to evolve. Twenty years ago, to bring you the best and freshest, we flew in tons of produce each year from places like Holland.

Today, most of our produce comes from North America. With rising fuel costs and our interest in buying local, things continue to shift even closer to home—the East coast is really where it's at for much of our fresh produce.

Our partnerships with over 500 local growers help us bring you the best seasonal fruits and vegetables. So does our Wegmans Organic Farm, where we're learning how to extend the growing season here in the Northeast. You can learn more in our story on page 99. Plus, you'll find great tasting vegetable recipes and our easy pan-steaming technique on page 69.



And all of this fits in with the latest recommendations from the federal government on the importance of eating more fruits and vegetables. Their new "Choose My Plate," which replaces the Food Guide Pyramid, is like our own Half-Plate Healthy message—which we've been sharing in recent years. Fill half your plate with fruits and veggies, and you're set.

So we have lots of reasons to be excited about this year's fall harvest.

But that's not all. We're also looking forward to sharing some of our favorite Italian foods in this issue of Wegmans Menu.

We hope you will love this season . . . Let us know what you think! Send us a comment on [wegmans.com](http://wegmans.com).

*Donny Wegman*



## Impatiens Downy Mildew - Diane Larson



On September 25, Kube Pak once again hosted their fall open house where they highlighted the latest collection of mum trials, as well as fall flowering annuals and perennials. Dr. Joseph Bischoff, former national mycologist with APHIS and currently director of government relations with ANLA, spoke about impatiens downy mildew and the effect this disease will have on the nursery and landscape industry.

Many are familiar by now with the symptoms of downy mildew on impatiens, starting with yellowing leaves, white mildew on the lower leaf surface, progressing into stunting of the plants, flower drop, defoliation and finally plant collapse. The spores from this fungus will overwinter in the leaves, stems, and surrounding soil, surviving down to 5F. At this time it's unknown how long those spores will remain in the soil, it could be as long as ten years, so those who think they can just skip a year or two of planting impatiens in an infected area will be faced with the same problem down the road. So what to do? The answer is simple, do not plant impatiens walleriana. Since 31 states have reported the disease this year, there will be no escaping the spores that will be dispersed by wind and water throughout the country, so although disease free plants may be purchased or grown, it's almost a sure bet that that plant will succumb to downy mildew during the growing season. Fungicides, when applied as a preventative, have shown good control.

However, most fungicides have a 7 day residual, so weekly spraying just for the luxury of growing impatiens is rather impractical, especially when there are many other options of flowering annuals that will perform as good, or better, than the standard impatiens. Rob Swanekamp reported that almost none of their landscapers are taking the risk of planting impatiens in 2013. Kube Pak will be cutting back their production of impatiens dramatically. Most growers are doing the same, if they are even growing it at all. On the other hand, some growers, expecting the impending impatiens shortage, are increasing their production. His recommendation is that if a garden center chooses to sell impatiens plants, they should have a disclaimer saying the plants are disease free when purchased but it's almost guaranteed that they will succumb to downy mildew during the season. Since only the walleriana species of impatiens are affected, Rob suggested planting New Guinea impatiens this year, or the new Sunpatiens, neither of which have any walleriana susceptibility in them. Other excellent replacements for impatiens walleriana are begonias, both the BIG and Dragon Wing series, Coleus, Angelonia, Torenia, Lobelia, Vinca, and Alyssum.

For more information on impatiens downy mildew, including articles, fungicide recommendations, webinars, and updates, visit [www.impatiensdownymildew.com](http://www.impatiensdownymildew.com).

## Biotech HS students excel at National FFA Agriscience Competition

(TRENTON) - Biotechnology High School FFA members placed first in three of the 24 Agriscience Fair categories, second in four of the categories, and third in one of the categories at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October.

The Agriscience Fair is a competition for FFA members who are interested in the science and technology of agriculture. It is held annually at the national convention.

"We are proud of the Biotechnology FFA members, whose intense science and math coursework helped them excel in agriscience on the national level," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Advanced science, math and technology skills are necessary for New Jersey agriculture to stay competitive." The competition recognizes students studying the appli-



cation of scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises. The students conduct a scientific research project pertaining to the agriculture and food science industries and present their findings to a panel of judges with a display and report. Twenty-one Biotech students participated in the Fair's pre-qualification round after placing first in the state event held last

spring and fifteen students advanced to the national competition. Biotechnology High School, in Freehold Township, is part of the Monmouth County Vocational School District. The school has one of New Jersey's newer FFA chapters, chartered in 2006. NJ has 35 FFA chapters with 2,528 members this school year.

## AGENCY UPDATES

**HURRICANE SANDY:** Farmers who have experienced damage from the Hurricane Sandy natural disaster are encouraged to contact their USDA-FSA Service Center and inquire about programs now available to support them. One program in particular, ECP (Emergency Conservation Program), has now been activated. Sign-up dates are as follows: **Hackettstown Office-Jan. 7; Freeholds Office-Jan. 15; Frenchtown Office-Jan. 24; Columbus Office-TBA;** Vineland and Woodstown-make general inquiry. Fish hatcheries in coastal areas may be eligible. Note: damage to deer fencing and hoop houses are not now eligible, but a request to have that included is pending. Submit the damage estimate regardless and await the outcome. Gov. Christie and the entire New Jersey congressional delegation met in the Statehouse last Tuesday before the holiday and are joining forces to seek federal financial relief for storm damages. This week, the governor asked the federal government for \$36.8 billion in disaster relief.

Farmers holding DEP water allocation certifications may be wondering what happened to their 5-year renewals. Because of the Permit Extension Act, enacted under Governor Corzine's term in 2008, anyone holding a state permit (such as a water "cert") set to expire in 2008 or later was automatically extended to June 1, 2013. Another bill is pending with the governor that could push the extension to June 1, 2015. So, farmers holding valid water use certifications for 2008 or later are still authorized to use water at least through June 1, 2013. In the interim, the DEP has implemented measures to improve the renewal process for those few exceptions that still need to be processed. Eventually, the DEP will announce a schedule to re-start the process of renewals and batch them to spread out the work flow for themselves and county agricultural agents.



Sign up for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) began Friday November 16th 2012 and will continue through **January 15th 2012**. ECP provides cost share to help restore eligible farmland and conservation structure damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Eligible practices include, but are not limited to, obstruction removal (which includes fallen tree removal) and livestock fencing.\*

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for implementing emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Funding for ECP is appropriated by Congress. **For More Information** available at FSA offices and on FSA's Web site at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

\*Livestock fencing is limited to eligible livestock which excludes horses or any animal "used for recreational activities or recreational business, such as, race horses, pack animals, rodeo stock, and polo ponies...maintained for slaughter purposes other than human consumption such as, glue or fur." (1-ECP Exhibit 2)

### Calendar

#### January 2013

**15 - RCE Monmouth County Stakeholder Meeting.**  
5:30-7:30 PM RSVP 732-431-7260  
26-27 Annual NOFA Winter Conference. Brookdale Community College. <http://www.nofanj.org>

#### February 2013

**5, 6 - NJ Agricultural Convention & Trade Show.** Taj Mahal  
[www.njveggies.org/convention.htm](http://www.njveggies.org/convention.htm)  
**6-7 NJ State Agricultural Convention.** Taj Mahal.  
<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/conventions/2013/index.html>

**15 - Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting**  
- Ag Bldg. Freehold. 732-431-7260 x7261- Madge  
**20, 21 & 22 - NJ Farm Women Conference**  
3 locations see page 7 for details.

### STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County  
**Tuesday, Jan. 15 - 5:30 to 7:30 PM**

**Ag Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd, Freehold**

- **Program Overview**
- **NJAES Directors Report**
- **Your Questions & Comments**

**Please RSVP 732-431-7260 X7261 Madge/ Sandy**





**TAKE ALL 3 COURSES  
IN ALL 3 LOCATIONS!**

## NEW JERSEY FARM WOMEN CONFERENCE

February 20, 2013: Cumberland County College, 3322 College Dr., Vineland, NJ 08360 (Cumberland County)  
February 21, 2013: Conference Center at Mercer, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550 (Mercer County)  
February 22, 2013: The University Center, Drew University, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940 (Morris County)

Choose one of three tracks:

**Are you planning for profit?**

**Financial Planning & Insurance Track!**

*Is the financial plan component of your business plan holding you up?*

Learn to calculate financial health measures for your farm such as debt-to-asset ratios and how to insure against the next "Superstorm Sandy". Breanna Fulper grew up the daughter of a dairy farmer and owns her own financial planning business. Along with Dr. Barbara O'Neill of Rutgers they will get your financial plan rolling.

**Are you prepared?**

**Estate Planning Track!**

*All farms need a plan, but less than 2% of NJ farm women have one.*

Popular estate planning speaker, Bob Parsons, a Cooperative Extension Specialist, grew up as a northeast farm boy, so knows the problems faced by northeast farms. He speaks in plain language, not "legalese" and uses humor to guide you through the issues in a lively manner. An attorney will also talk about legal specifics and will be available to answer your questions!

**Failing to plan is planning to fail.**

**Business Plan Writing Track!**

*According to the IRS a business without a business plan is just a hobby.*

Annie's Project NJ leader, Dr. Robin Brumfield, knows how to inspire women to create business plans that help drive the future of successful entrepreneurial farms. Jenny Carleo, Agricultural Agent, joins her in teaching this guided writing workshop that will send you home with a first draft. The USDA Farm Service Agency will be on hand to talk about why it's important to have a business plan when applying for financing.



*"The learning, the networking, the confidence building for the participants has been simply amazing!"*

*"Things I have thought about doing for years I finally sat down and did."*

\$25.00 for the day, including lunch



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Register online at: <http://njfarmwomenconference.eventbrite.com>

Or call (609) 465-5115, ext. 607 or email [carleo@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:carleo@aesop.rutgers.edu)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



*Jenny S. Carleo*  
Cape May County Agricultural Agent



**MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA - 7:30 PM - Ag Building, Freehold**  
**Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 7, June 11 - 2013**

**FARMERS KEEP OUR  
COUNTY GREEN**

**BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING** - To register call 800-524-9942  
**CORE 9 am - 1 pm** - Jan. 8, Feb.12, Mar 5, Mar 26, Apr 16, May 7, June 4  
**3A Ornamental** - Jan 15, Mar 12 - 9 AM - 3 PM  
**3B Turf** - Feb 5, Apr 9 - 9 AM - 3 PM  
Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building  
4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260

**PESTICIDE CONTROL  
PROGRAM WEBSITE**  
[www.pcpnj.org](http://www.pcpnj.org)



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

**Central Jersey  
Vegetable Meeting  
Friday, Feb. 15, 2013  
"Ag Building" Freehold  
NJAES—RCE  
DEP Credits  
Register  
732-431-7260 x7261**

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

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**Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent**  
**Extension Department Head**

*Photos: B. Sciarappa, V. Quinn, Nyna McKittrick, NJ Dept. of Agriculture*

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

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