



Join in the excitement!



Parade of Horses
down Main Street
Freehold
9:30am



**Harness Racing
& Activities**
Celebrity, Amateur, Under Saddle
and feature Open Space PACE Race!
Music, Food & Family Fun!
at Freehold Raceway
11:00 am to 4:30 pm



Concert
**Southside Johnny
and the Asbury Jukes!**
4:30 pm
Advance Tickets \$15 - visit OpenSpacePace.org
or call (908) 839-6564
Tickets at the Gate - \$20



Medieval Times
Performance

FREE! Everyone is welcome!

at the inaugural
OPEN SPACE PACE
& Festival of Horses!
for preservation of open space in New Jersey



**Sports
Celebrities!**
Jon Mecklo
Ron Greichner
Nick Falis
Gerry Cooney
Keith Elias



Lou Russo

443 The Point

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012
AT FREEHOLD RACEWAY

Presented by UMH Properties, Inc. and Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corporation (MREIC).
For more information and sponsorship opportunities call (908) 839-6564.



www.OpenSpacePace.org

Agent's Overview

As you can see from our front page, this month has a very important inaugural event called the **Open Space Pace**. The main mission is to gather various supporters for preserving open space in New Jersey. This agricultural and economic issue is of long-term concern to farmland and farmers, especially the Equine industry. The dwindling purses at NJ Racetracks as Freehold has caused a migration of breeding horse farms to neighboring states because those purses are larger there and being bred in their states provides a better financial bonus. A direct result is that we have less and less farms and the industry that support equine operations and their pastures and will dwindle as well.

Aside from the seriousness of the subject, there will be **lots of festivity – a horse parade** through the street of Freehold starts at 9:30, arrives at the Route 33 Racetrack to tour **tailgaters, vendors** and **Ag education booths**. Celebrity sports stars and **celebrity races** (one pitting radio DJ's Lew and Liz) on the sulkies. A **horse jousting** match between knights of the **crew from Medieval**

Times should be quite exciting. A full schedule of harness racing with local music played throughout the day is planned. All this is topped off with a special concert by local and global musician **Southside Johnny**. Either you can hear and see Southside from a short distance for free or pay \$15.00 to enter the concert area.

For more details, visit the Open Space Pace <http://www.openspacepace.org/> website or the Equine Science Center <http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/> website and view the video. Equine Science Center director and horsewoman **Karyn Malinowski** and committee leader, farm owner and retired racer **Sam Landy** will be on hand to discuss Open Space issues and harness race problems as well as many of the **Agricultural community** – Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Ag & 4-H, Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, NJ Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau.

So **"Join In The Excitement"** – September 29th, Saturday

See you there

Bill Sciarappa

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Summer Picnic & Twilight Tour

The Board of Agriculture of Monmouth County held its summer picnic and twilight tour at the **Rutgers Fruit and Research Center in Cream Ridge** on August 2nd. A crowd of about 40 were greeted by **Farm Director, Dr. Joe Goffreda** and **BOA President, Gary DeFelice** as well as a contingent of Rutgers Extension Faculty and farm crew.



After a quick overview of the farm's history and current research program, two large wagons were loaded up to tour the 275 acre facility. The beautiful farmland and innovative experiments were eye openers to many; stone fruit breeding trials, new forest



pest threats entering orchards, IR-4 studies on minor crop and their pesticides, blueberry growth on upland soils, pot-in-pot horticulture, pheromone and mating disruption trials and many others.

At the tours end, the group off-loaded to a great spread of food arranged by several Board Members as Robin Bruins, Linda Trappani and other volunteers. Lots of lively conversation and general socialization occurred. After a long spell relaxing, the group slowly departed to a beautiful and balmy night with a very bright moon and a star-filled sky shining overhead in this country jewel of our Garden State.



Monmouth County Fair 2012 - Diane Larson & Vivian Quinn

The Agriculture Tent lived up to its name at this year's Monmouth County Fair. Sited appropriately with the antique tractors, the Board of Agriculture's display was beneath a backdrop of New Jersey farm photos beautifully arranged by Anne Tripani. The interactive putting green was a big hit, and a bonus for all who stopped by was a strawberry plant from Gary DeFelice.



The Master Gardeners shared the tent with other Monmouth County offices, with a focal point of a raised formal herb garden and antique wagon wheel filled with herbs. Closer to the Ag tent they created a display of container gardens with the focus being on vegetable planters,



so the public could see that it's possible to grow food even without a yard or large property by growing vegetables in containers. Up in the Home and Garden Tent, the MG displays focused on water usage with a rain barrel display and handouts on home water conservation. Although the fair seemed to be shut down due to weather more than it was up and running,



The Home & Garden competitions in arts & crafts, gardening and consumables from children, teens and adults were outstanding and duly awarded with ribbons for respective placement.



(for complete results see)

<http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?ID=4082&mode=1>

based on the popularity of the displays it was a success none the less.

Photos upper L to R: The Fruit & Vegetable event was judged by RCE staff, Master Gardeners and retired County Agent Rich Obal. BOA President Gary DeFelice greets Rutgers Dean Rick Ludescher. Lower L to R: Classic tractors were eye-catching conversation pieces as usual. Water usage with rain barrel display & handouts on conservation were presented by the Master Gardeners.



The storm that closed the Monmouth County Fair on Saturday evening also caused widespread crop damage in some surrounding farms due to very high winds and pelting hailstones. The wind made sweet corn stalks lean and tree fruit limbs crack while the hail pelted foliage and fruit. The photos show the destruction of a great crop of tomatoes, peaches and apples. A pretty ugly, depressing scene.



Yield Expectations for Mixed Stand, Small-Scale Agriculture

Horticultural row crop yield expectations from commercial fields are well confirmed by multiple studies. Agricultural professionals use these target yields to assist them in predicting cost and return budgets, number of seeds or plants needed, fertilizer and other inputs, packaging supplies, and estimating revenues.

Yield expectations are an equally important planning tool for mixed stands of vegetables and small fruit crops grown in community gardens and small-scale agriculture enterprises. Yet, few yield studies are available for these operations.

Knowledge for Non-Agriculturalists

This report makes mixed stand yield expectations available to non-agriculture professionals: community economic development sociologists, urban policy planning professionals, and professionals preparing grant proposals.

Realistic yield expectations:

- Matter the moment participants sell crops, i.e., advance from gardening lifestyle activities to commercial market gardening or small-scale agriculture enterprises.
- Enable individuals unfamiliar with farm productivity to estimate food garden output based on parcel size when preparing grants and community garden project proposals.
- Enable quick estimates of “food security” production required for calculating daily fruit and vegetable servings generated from a particular parcel of land.
- Enable cost-benefit analysis of public or private investments in urban market garden projects.
- Give guidance in determining which crops to grow efficiently and economically in small spaces; estimating how much there may be to sell; and estimating profitability.

Mixed Stand Experiences

Yields reported by Smith and Stoner back in 1978 and more recently by Jett, are confirmed by the experiences of home and community market garden analyses. In 2009, the National Gardening Association polled 2,559 households. Respondents with an average of 12 years of food gardening experience and an average garden size 600 ft² reported 300 lb yield mixed vegetables. **They concluded a well maintained food garden can yield 0.5 lb/ft² produce over a growing season.** Also in 2009, Penn Center Public Health Initiatives collected yields from 48 gardens in Camden, NJ. An aggregate of 60,621 ft² yielded 30,836 lb of diversified produce, or 0.5 lb/ft².



Wide rows on a u-pick farm provide space for people to make multiple harvests. Plant spacing affects yield. Lee Turkey Farm, East Windsor, NJ

*As a General Guideline,
a Yield Expectation of
•0.5 lb/square foot*
is a realistic value for
Mixed Stand, Small-Scale Agriculture*

Summary

Realistic yield expectations are an important factor when planning mixed stand, small-scale agricultural endeavors. Comparing reported historical market garden yields with recent small-scale operation yields under modern conditions, and yields from current community gardens, give insight into yield expectations. We **conclude that yields ranging from a low of approximately 0.25 lb/ft² to a high of approximately 1.25 lb/ft² may be expected.** As a general guideline, when factoring in yield expectations for mixed stand small-scale agriculture ventures, 0.5 lb/ft² is an acceptable and realistic value.

For more information on yields and related articles go on-line to <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/urbanfringe/pdfs/urbanfringe-v07n01.pdf>

*Jack Rabin, Associate Director – Farm Programs,
Gladis Zinati, Ph.D., Research Manager – Sustainable Soil Science
Peter Nitzsche, County Agricultural Agent, Morris County*

Grow Your Career in Agriculture

Dean Robert M. Goodman

The summer of 2012 has been hot and dry — so hot and so dry that July was the hottest month ever recorded in the United States and much of the country is in the grip of the worst drought in decades. But however hot and dry it's felt in New Jersey, the state is not suffering from the same severe drought conditions plaguing other parts of the country.

Although we experienced a dry spell from late June to mid-July, and some parts of the state have received below-average rainfall, crops are generally thriving. Most of our cropland is in good shape, and our farmers have access to wells, rivers and streams that offer water for irrigation.

So far this year we can count our blessings. Among them are **New Jersey's 10,000 farms** and the people who own and run them. They are some of the most creative, innovative farmers in the United States, perhaps in the world, growing everything from flowers to fish, with lots of traditional fruits, nuts and vegetables in between. Organic farms are a small but growing part of the picture, with 211 such farms working more than 3,000 acres in New Jersey. Farmers are reaching directly to consumers through farm stands, farmers' markets and nearly 100 community-supported agriculture operations.

But the extreme heat and drought that have devastated farmers in other parts of the country highlight the fact that we need to pay more attention to the ability of agriculture to meet this century's demands for food, feed and fuel while reducing the environmental impact of production.

Farming is an inherently risky business. Around the world, farmers struggle with the ramifications of climate change — rising temperatures, too little water in



some places, too much in others. Each year, farmers spend money — often, borrowed money — on seed, fertilizer and equipment based on what they think they can get out of the ground and what they think consumers need and want.

The world needs more farmers, better-educated farmers who can adapt to weather extremes, and it needs all of us to take a deep interest in what we eat, where our food comes from and how it arrives on our tables. We ought to consider whether the food we eat is grown sustainably or not, whether convenience is more important than freshness. We ought to consider growing our own food where that's possible — which is more possible than you might think, even if you live in an apartment or in a city. There's nothing like hands-in-the-dirt experience to connect us to our food and our planet.

Finally, we ought to consider agriculture as a career. At a time when opportunities are shrinking in many industries, they're growing in agriculture. Concerns about food shortages, land use, climate change and biodiversity have created a huge need for interdisciplinary researchers to focus on agriculture. Farmers, agronomists, agricultural economists and other such specialists are needed all over the world, New Jersey included.

If you're a young person starting college, consider growing food or helping others to grow it. The bumper sticker that decorates many pickups in rural areas has it right: **No farmers, no food.**

Robert M. Goodman is the Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Asbury Park Press, Aug. 22, 2012

West Nile Alert

(TRENTON) — An 11-year-old quarter horse mare from Salem County has tested positive for West Nile Virus, the first case in NJ this year. The animal began showing signs of illness on August 4 and was euthanized. "We want to remind people to vaccinate their horses against mosquito-borne diseases," said NJ Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Horse owners should contact their veterinarians to protect their animals from these preventable diseases."

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a viral disease that affects horses' neurological systems when infected mosquitoes bite them. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) causes inflammation of the brain tissue and has a significantly higher risk of death in horses than WNV infection. The diseases cannot be spread from horse to horse or from an infected horse to humans or domestic pets.

In 2011, New Jersey had one case of WNV and one case of equine EEE. One animal was euthanized, the other

(Continued on page 6)

AGENCY UPDATES - Lynn Richmond (609) 633-2954

New members take seats on State Board of Agriculture



TRENTON — A Monmouth County hay and grain farmer and a Burlington County fruit and vegetable grower were sworn in as the two newest members of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture during the board's reorganization meeting in Eastampton on Aug. 22.

Martin Bullock and Marilyn L. Russo were selected for the positions at the January 2012 State Agricultural Convention and later nominated by Gov. Chris Christie and confirmed by the State Senate.

"Martin Bullock and Marilyn Russo's families have been farming in New Jersey for generations," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher. "With their vast knowledge and leadership experience, they are fabulous additions to the State Board, which sets policy for agriculture." Also during the reorganization meeting, **James Giamarese**, an East Brunswick vegetable farmer, was selected to serve as board president and Dr. Lewis J. DeEugenio Jr., a Glassboro fruit farmer, as vice president. Bullock operates Bullock Farms along with his brother, their wives and children. The home farm in Upper Freehold Township has been in the family since 1860. They also rent land in Ocean and Burlington counties. They grow 200 acres of soybeans, 150 acres of corn, 40 acres of wheat, 40 acres of pumpkins, gourds and winter squash and 60 acres of rye. During the winter, they have a choose and cut Christmas tree operation, also selling wreaths, blankets and gifts. Last season, the farm began growing heirloom tomatoes, with plans to expand to other vegetables. A graduate of Allen-

town High School, Bullock has been an active leader in the agricultural industry, serving as an officer on the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture since 1985 and the county Agricultural Development Board since 2002. He serves as a director for the New Jersey Grain and Forage Council and Farmers Brokerage and Supply. He has held positions on the New Jersey Soybean Board and Mid-Atlantic Soybean Board and served as a supervisor for the Freehold Soil Conservation District.

The Russo family has been farming in New Jersey since 1960, establishing Russo's Orchard Lane Farm in Chesterfield in the 1970's. The 300-acre farm, run by Marilyn, her husband, Nicholas, and their son, Michael, has a seasonal farm market, pick-your-own fruits and vegetables and offers educational tours and birthday parties. Their fall activities include a corn maze, pumpkin picking and hay rides. The Russos sell their produce at the Trenton Farmers Market, which Nicholas' grandfather, Anthony, helped to establish. Marilyn Russo also has taken a leadership role in her community. She is a member of the Burlington County Board of Agriculture and the New Jersey Farm Bureau and Burlington County Farm Bureau's Women's Committees. She served with the Burlington County Farm Fair for many years and was on the Rutgers Board of Managers. She also was a Northern Burlington Regional High School Board of Education member, serving as president from 1990 to 1992. Russo is a graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mount Holly.

The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Its members serve for four years, with two members being replaced each year. By law, at least four of its members must represent the top commodity groups in the state. Members serve without salary, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

For more information, visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/>

(Continued from page 5)

recovered. Both cases came in October after Hurricane Irene and subsequent rains caused flooding that resulted in much higher than normal mosquito populations. For more info, visit the NJ Dept. of Ag at www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/diseaseworksheets.

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 Department of Agriculture's Animal Diagnostic Laboratory provides disease testing, as well as necropsies. For more info visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/lab.html>.

Calendar

September 2012

18 - BOA Reorganization Mtg. 7:30 - Ag Building, Freehold
29 - Open Space Pace - Freehold Raceway 10:30a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Call Brett Taft (908) 839-6564 or website <http://openspacepace.org>

November 2012

12 & 13 NJ Farm Bureau Convention
 For more info LizT@NJFB.org
4-6 International Pepper Conference, Naples, FL. Info <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/Pepper2012>
7-8 Northeast Greenhouse Conf. & Expo. - Worcester, MA. Info visit: <http://www.negreenhouse.org/index>

January 2013

22-24 Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo. Syracuse, NY, More info JeanetteMarvin.nysvga@twcny.rr.com
29-31 Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. Hershey PA. Info: William Troxell 717-694-3596 or: www.mafvc.org

February 2013

5-7 NJ Agricultural Convention & Trade Show, NJ Veg Growers, Atlantic City, NJ - more info coming soon
15 - Central Jersey Veg Mtg. - Ag Bldg. Freehold. More info coming soon. Call Madge 732-431-7260 X7261

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

9-18, 10-16, 11-20, 12-18

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

CORE 9 am - 1 pm

9-11, 10-9, 11-13, 12-11

Category 3B - 9 AM - 3 PM

11-23

To register call 800-524-9942 or njpcassoc@aol.com

Held at

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building
 4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ**

Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn
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Past Issues on the web <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?Id=3078>









Vegetable Crops Online Resources Center
<http://njveg.rutgers.edu/>
 Prof. Andy Wyenandt
 Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology

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 <p>Food, Nutrition & Health Health summits, food safety, fitness, school wellness, family health history, obesity and disease prevention</p>	 <p>Home, Lawn & Garden Gardening, home care, lawns, weeds, deer resistant plants, bedbugs, stinkbugs, insects, mosquitoes, tomatoes, bats, landscapes, wildlife management</p>	 <p>Youth, Community & Economic Development 4-H and positive youth opportunities, childcare, community and economic development, parenting, elder caregiving</p>

Sign Up for FSA Fence Post for Daily Updates The Farm Service Agency Fence Post is an online newsletter that is updated on an almost daily basis. It contains articles of interest on the agency's programs and departments, as well as success stories from the field. To access Fence Post visit <http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com> Producers can sign up for weekly Fence Post updates by putting an email address in box that says "Get Email Updates."

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

www.pcpnj.org

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

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

Photos: V. Quinn, Bill Sciarappa, NJ Dept. of Agriculture website

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