



Spotlight - Dean's Report

Rain did little to dampen the celebratory mood of the 2010 **Cook College Convocation** that was held on May 18 at the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) in Piscataway. The RAC was filled with the usual pomp and ceremony, made more poignant as the members of the last matriculated class of Cook College walked across the stage to accept their diplomas and awards.



"Overall it has been a pretty good run: 37 years, four degrees, three jobs, one wife and many friends," he said of his time spent at New Jersey's state university. He drove home a message: "Today you are at your intellectual peak. "When Mozart was your age, he had already composed all his violin concertos; when Mozart was my age, he had already been dead for 20 years."

Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Delivering the convocation

speech to this final graduating class of **Cook College** was **Dr. Mark Robson** (Entomology; Dean of agricultural and urban programs) who received his Bachelor's degree in 1977 as a member of the first class of Cook College students to matriculate in 1973. A locally grown product of the **Robson Farm family**, Mark is now well known as a humorist. He quipped, "In 1973, my Mom dropped me off at Rutgers, and I am still waiting for her to come back and get me."

Robert M. Goodman, paid tribute to the founders and the founding of Cook College and shared a letter sent by **Charles Hess, the Founding Dean** in 1973 of the newly-minted Cook College. Hess is now Professor and Dean Emeritus at the University of California-Davis. Class Representative **David Sorkin** (Food Science '10) recognized his fellow graduates as a "new generation of leaders...that had arrived...and were reporting for duty."

2010 Board of Agriculture

Despite a horrendous downpour, downed power lines and traffic snarled throughout the Freehold area; the **Monmouth County Board of Ag** managed to get through another excellent Annual Dinner. Amidst flickering lights, emergency generator hum and wailing police sirens, **BOA President**



Current officers shown above - L to R - Robin Bruins - Corresponding Secretary; Nyna McKittrick - Recording Secretary; Gary DeFelice - President; Debbie Kauffman - Vice President; Ross Clayton - Treasurer

Gary DeFelice hosted an unexpectedly exciting social event with fine food, outstanding FFA presentations and the awarding of the **Outstanding Service**

Award to Jacque and Cyndee Roszel (page 2).

We were impressed not only by these award winners, but by the crowd in general and how well they handled the extreme weather. In fact, this group is pretty much on-the-ground experts. Nonetheless, we're very happy everyone got home okay. We hope the

weather dries out and wish everyone a productive summer and fall season.

Bill Sciarappa

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RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Jacque and Cyndee Roszel—2010 Award Recipients

The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture takes great pride in publicly recognizing your outstanding service to agriculture. You met one another on the campus of Delaware Valley College where you were both received your Bachelor of Science degrees in 1972 and 1974 and were married in 1975. After graduation, our Agricultural industry was so fortunate that the Roszel's both came to teach **Agricultural Education at Allentown High School** to begin such dedicated careers. Teaching at Allentown High School for **64 combined years**, Jacque and Cyndee have truly made a positive difference in the lives of over **5000 students**.

Armed with their **Master's of Science** degrees in education from **Rutgers University**, Jacque and Cyndee's devotion to the agricultural education profession has been readily apparent and exemplified by their commitment to student success. The agricultural education program has been in existence at Allentown High School since 1938, but for many years only included production agriculture classes for males. In 1974, with the support of the Advisory Committee, Jacque and Cyndee began the work of converting the traditional program into a modern Ag Education format. With classes such as Animal Science, Plant Science, Equine Science and Environmental Science, Allentown was one of the first agricultural education programs in the state and region to change to this innovative layout.

The teaching methods of Jacque and Cyndee have emphasized student responsibility and confidence by providing students with both knowledge and hands on experience.



BOA President Gary DeFelice presents 2010 service award The Roszels with FFA representative

Jacque and Cyndee's students have been taught through real world experience by participation in debates, hands-on demonstrations, and various farming projects. Through the basic principles of experiential learning, many former students of Jacque and Cyndee have been highly successful and influential in the agricultural industry. Because of the learning approach, the achievements of the **Allentown FFA Chapter** are numerous, including over 100 first place finishes in State Career Development Events. With the guidance of the Roszels, more than 85 of the Allentown's FFA members have attained the State FFA Degree, over 15 members have received their American Degree, and greater than 40 members have served as state FFA officers. That is an outstanding track record you can both be so very proud of.

Jacque and Cyndee's commitment to agricultural education has been demonstrated through their active participation in many local, state and national organizations including the National Association of Agricultural Educators, New Jersey Agricultural Education Association, the Vocational Education Association of New Jersey, and life members of the National FFA Alumni Association. Jacque and Cyndee have been on the NJAEA executive board for more than 45 combined years and have both served terms as the **NJAEA executive board president**.

Jacques and Cyndee, for all these personal, educational and agricultural contributions, on behalf of Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, we would like to present you with this plaque in recognition of your service & dedication to our agricultural community.

Presented March 13, 2010



Early Ag Education J. Roszel - circa mid '50's

CALENDAR

JUNE

22 - Sustainable Twilight Tree Fruit & Wine Grape Research Meeting, Tour & Picnic - Rutgers Ag Research & Extension Ctr. Bridgeton Jerome Frecon 856-307-6450
18-19 Beyond the Basics: Practical Hive Mgt. Tools for Beekeepers - 732-932-9271 www.epe.rutgers.edu/bees

JULY

9 - Weed Science Field Day - Rutgers Ag Research & Extension Center Upper Deerfield; 856-455-3100 ext. 4102
13-14 "Are You Crazy" Retail Farm Market Tour. For information www.PaFarm.com 610-391-9840
21-25 Monmouth County Fair
27—Golf & Fine Turf Research Field Day at Hort Farm II, New Brunswick www.njturfgrass.org
28 - Landscape & Sports Turf Research Field Day & Equipment Demo - Adelphia Research Farm www.njturfgrass.org

Questions about crop insurance? Call our toll-free information line 800-308-2449
Or visit us online at <http://salem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance>

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA
 7:30 PM - 9-21, 10-19, 9-16, 12-21
BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING 2010 - CORE—9 am - 1 pm
 7-13, 8-10, 9-14, 10-5, 11-9, 12-7
Category 3A - 9 AM - 3 PM 10-26
 To register call 800-524-9942
Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building 4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ

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2010 MONMOUTH COUNTY FAIR

Wed. July 21—Sun. July 25



WEDNESDAY, JULY 21
 5PM - 11PM
FAIR OPEN
 • Senior Center & Adult Day Programs Competition
 Pre-registration Required See judging results beginning at 5 pm
SATURDAY, JULY 24
 11AM - 11PM
FAIR OPEN
 • Bakers Day
 Accepting all Baked Goods entries from 8 am-11 am
 Judging: 12 noon
 Baked Goods may be picked up from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm only

THURSDAY, JULY 22
 5PM - 11PM
FAIR OPEN
 • Craft Day
 Ongoing Demonstrations
SUNDAY, JULY 25
 11AM - 6PM
FAIR OPEN
 • Senior Citizen's Day
 • Pie Eating Contest for Adults and Children
 Registration begins at 11 am

FRIDAY, JULY 23
 5PM - 11PM
FAIR OPEN
 • Gardeners Day
 Accepting Entries of Vegetables, Flowers & Plants 8 am - 11 am
 Judging begins at 12 noon



NJ AG FAIRS - <http://www.njagfairs.com/fairs.htm>

Freedom Fest - July 6-11 Burlington - July 21-24
 Mercer - July 31- Aug 1 Ocean - July 13-18



<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/plantandpestadvisory>

A new Rutgers online resource for vegetable growers. Easily access all vegetable info in one spot. Log in and sign up to receive new content as it becomes available.
www.njveg.rutgers.edu

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE
 Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
 4000 Kozloski Rd, PO Box 5033
 Freehold, NJ 07728
 Agriculture: 732-431-7260
 Family & Consumer Science: 732-431-7271
 4-H: 732-431-7263; 7264
 Fax: 732-409-4813

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, national origin, or handicap

Richard G. Obal
 County Agricultural Agent

Bill Sciarappa
 County Agricultural Agent

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

AGENCY UPDATES



Farm Service Agency

Farm Storage Facility Loans - The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program has been amended to allow producers to build cold storage facilities to store their fresh fruits and vegetables. To be eligible, cold storage facilities must have a useful life of 15 years and can include new structures suitable for a cold storage facility, new permanently-affixed cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment, or an Electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; or an addition or modification to an existing storage facility.

Acreage Reporting - Acreage reporting time is here again. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses by July 15th, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date. Keep in mind that acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs.

SURE Signup - Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) is ongoing and a signup deadline has not yet been announced. SURE 2008 is for those who suffered crop production losses, defined as all crops in which a producer had an interest nationwide, during crop year 2008.

Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe



The changing technologies farmers adopt in response to rising costs of crop production **energy inputs** lie at the core – the very heart – of **agricultural viability and sustainability**. Ultimately, energy used in farming finds its way into our food security, national security, and national freedom. These technology challenges focus us on immediate gains realizable from on-farm energy conservation, through longer-term development of **renewable energy resources from agriculture**.

Decades before and after the 1970s energy crisis, Rutgers provided energy input and conservation with crop variety improvements offering higher yield per acre using fewer inputs, reduced tillage, drip irrigation, efficient greenhouse heating, and numerous other technologies. We continue developing technologies improving the economic sustainability of agriculture after the 2005 spike in energy prices.

While conservation is where farmers and the university make great immediate impacts; renewable energy sources, particularly **biomass energy**, gained significant attention because of agriculture's ability to capture the sun's energy in plant biomass. Biomass energy comes from two main sources: crop production (i.e., corn grain, switchgrass) or plant residues and wastes (i.e. corn stalks, municipal leaves, wood chips, food wastes). The **Rutgers' EcoComplex** has projects on utilizing waste products for energy. Among them is methane extraction from the neighboring Burlington County landfill for combustion powering gas micro turbines supplying energy needs to modern, efficient greenhouses. Another project involves converting the combination of **food waste and horse manure** to biogas through **anaerobic digestion**.

A recent comprehensive study by NJAES (commissioned by NJ Board of Public Utilities) identified the availability and conversion potential of many agricultural and municipal waste streams in each county of New Jersey.

For urban fringe farmers on high value land, biomass energy opportunities potentially exist growing crops for energy; particularly on lands not well-suited for food or feed crops production. Switchgrass and other tall growing perennial grasses receive attention as biomass energy

crops in the U.S. and here in New Jersey. Switchgrass is a native, perennial Prairie grass growing 7 to 8 feet tall. Once established, it can produce five or more tons per acre from one fall or winter harvest; even on marginal soils with low inputs.

Dr. Stacy Bonos, a Rutgers NJAES grass breeder, is conducting evaluations and breeding of several grasses adapted to less productive soils in New Jersey, using minimum inputs and conservation properties. Conservation uses have been a focus with several species by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in New Jersey at the Turf Center in Adelphia. Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of **Middlesex County's EARTH Center** recently established a demonstration trial where Switchgrass varieties will be compared, and followed through harvesting, pelletizing, and burning in a biomass furnace/boiler to provide heat for onsite buildings.

Wood pellets are a source of fuel for smaller furnaces and stoves, but their recent popularity has led to price increases or shortages. Thus, pellets are a potential alternative market for crop biomass. Rutgers' results suggest weathered forage grasses can have energy/ash values approaching that of wood.

Although farming in the urban environment of New Jersey offers many challenges, it also provides opportunities marketing higher value horticultural crops. Growing energy crops on good quality, high-value land will not be economically competitive compared with fruits, vegetables, nursery, and other crops. However our Rutgers work to date suggests that **utilizing biomass wastes/residues, like rained-on hay, or growing crops on unmanaged open preserved farmlands**, may provide farmers with alternative outlets for such biomass and sources of local energy. This production does not compete directly with large farm states, where there are huge contiguous cropland acres to feed big biomass refineries, but may provide farmers with opportunities to produce energy sustainably in meeting part of their energy needs.



Stacy Bonos - Adelphia - Miscanthus giganteus

Zane Helsel, Ph.D.
Extension Specialist
Agriculture Energy

Christmas Tree Management Twilight Program—Yuletide Christmas Tree Farm

138 Evergreen Road, New Egypt, NJ, 6:00 pm, 8 June 2010

Sponsored by the NJ Christmas Tree Growers Association
& Rutgers Cooperative Extension



The NJ Christmas Tree Growers Association and Rutgers Cooperative Extension will co-sponsor a Christmas Tree Management Twilight Program on Yuletide Christmas Tree Farm 6:00p.m. Monday, 8 June. The Perry family is the owner and host for the farm.

Discussions will be conducted by Dr. Mark Vodak, Forestry Extension Specialist, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Mr. John Perry. Discussion topics will include species selection, weed management, insect and disease control, erosion control practices, deer issues and marketing. Proper shearing techniques will be demonstrated. For further information or questions regarding the twilight meeting call 732.932.8993x14.

Farmers Needed for New Community Farmers' Markets



Pier Village, Long Branch – Contact George Turner, 732-539-9507

E-mail – gturner@belfercom.com

Haworth – Bergen County – Possibility – Contact Ron Good 609-984-2278

Lakewood – Contact Harold Herskowitz 908-216-5261

Ramsey – Contact Nancy Boone 201-675-6866 e-mail amorfeti@aol.com

Medford Lakes – Contact Steven Bruder - 732-779-9591

Denville - Contact Liisi – monaliisi@hotmail.com

Old Bridge – Contact Gail Lemaldi – 732-609-7920 - OBEDC@oldbridge.com

POSSIBLE MARKETS: Sparta – Contact - Mitch Morrison 973-222-4703, **Basking Ridge** – Contact Chrystia

Woroch 908-559-4714 **Jersey City**-Communapaw Avenue-Contact Daphney-201-451-5790

Established farm markets can be found on our web site at:www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh Contact: Ron Good or Bill Walker at 609-984-2278 or 292-8854

New Vineyard Association

The newly formed Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association sponsored a wine growing symposium “**Bordeau - An Old World Terroir with Lessons for New Jersey**” in conjunction with Rutgers NJ Ag Experiment Station at the Extension Center in Bridgeton. Extension Specialist **Dr. Dan Ward** welcomed the packed house and thanked the supporters - Garden State Wine Growers Association and the USDA NJDA specialty crop block grant. **OCPVA President, Dr. Larry Coia**, explained that the Association is dedicated to the establishment and promotion of sustainable and economically viable viticulture in the **Outer Coastal Plain AVA of NJ**. AVA is short for “American Viticultural



President Larry Coia discusses NJ wines

Area” an area devoted to the study and practice of grape growing in recognition of the fundamental importance of quality fruit in the wine industry triad of the grape grower, wine maker, and consumer. Their motto is: **Fiat Vinum in Vinea (Let the Wine be Made in the Vineyard)**.

Vineyards and Wineries of this very large growing region (2.25 million acres) range from Mon-

mouth County to Cape May around to Philadelphia.

In order for a region to be approved as an AVA, it must be able to prove its identity as a unique physiographic region that is beneficial to grape growing.

Experts with experience from France, New Zealand, Chile, and Oregon provided invaluable growing tips. This information was recorded for future interests.

After a wonderful wine tasting session of Jersey Fresh wines, **Secretary of Ag Doug Fisher** and Director of the ABC Jerry Fisher gave enthusiastic support to this agriculture effort. Look for more details at:

www.outercoastalplain.com

Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market

The **Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market** began in **1934** when a 10 acre tract of land, located just outside the colonial town of **Hightstown**, was purchased from Bertha Taylor for \$1. Seventy six years later, this cornerstone of central Jersey's Ag community is having a rebirth. If real estate professionals can claim location is the key factor in determining the value of a property, then the auction has it in spades. If a target were laid over the State of New Jersey, the auction would be the bull's eye. Five minutes from exit 8 on the NJ Turnpike and next to Route 130, the facility is easily accessible for both growers and consumers.

For years the Coop seemed to be losing ground; the peelings paint a sign of age if not neglect. But last year, the year of its 75th Anniversary, Tri-County made a tremendous recovery. Even with a struggling economy and a poor production year, the Coop **increased sales by 62% and exceeded the targeted goal of \$1,000,000**.

2008 was the first year that there were signs of better things to come. A new steel roof on the old potato building was a big upgrade and is the first step in reclaiming the building for sales and storage of product. **The Coop received a \$35,000 block grant** from the USDA through the NJDA for a new refrigeration unit.

2009 started by opening the facility in May, on Wednesday nights. This included bedding plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, and nursery stock, as well as early spring produce. The addition of Kevin Flaim and his Panther Brand capitalized on the earlier season enjoyed by our south Jersey farmers and enabled the auction to offer a wide range of greens, herbs and early squash in addition to local asparagus and

strawberries. What really took off were the Direct Sales. Customers were given the opportunity to purchase product from farmers at the price the farmer set. This was allowed up until the time the auction began at 7PM. Payment continued to go through the Coop. Customers that shied away from a long night in the stadium seats came, shopped and



Sec. Doug Fisher, Grower Jim Giamarese & Al Murray, Assistant Secretary at Customer Appreciation Day

went home with what they came for. Long time auction customers began to purchase critical items "Direct", eliminating the risk of not getting the items they really needed, then stayed for the auction. In addition, Jeff Whalen kept the Coop supplied with blueberries during the season, which had always been few and far between in the past. This kept the buyers coming back for more each week. Later in the year Tim Haines brought in dry harvested cranberries. By the end of the year, Direct Sales accounted for 26% of total sales.

Another innovation for 2009 was the introduction of a CSA. Not quite a traditional **Community Supported Agriculture** farm, it was named a **Community Shares Agriculture** program. Nine local families participated for \$500 each. They received 20 weeks of fresh produce available for pickup on Thursday mornings. With **73 growers in the Coop**, a wide selection of product was available and the program was well received and an increase in membership is expected.

For 2010 the upgrade of the open dock with a second USDA grant to replace the overhead doors is underway. Once completed, the creation of a secure area will facilitate the storage of product both for growers that need to protect product placed on the dock and purchasers that may not fit everything on their truck they have purchased at auction. The success of the 2009 season encouraged an even earlier opening in 2010 and the Wednesdays in April saw early produce from south Jersey as well as green house products and lots of nursery stock. Two Saturday nursery auctions were also added.

All growers and buyers are invited back for 2010. The public is invited; Restaurateurs are invited as well. So are distributors, farm market owners, tailgate marketers and Mom & Pop. Produce is sold by the case, but even through the auction, if the winning bidder wants only one case out of a lot, they may take just the one. The rest of the lot will be offered to the back-up bidder.

Tri-County Coop is a throw back in time with a serious plan for the future. **Buy local. Eat local.** Eat lots of fresh veggies. **Support your local farmer.** At Tri-County Coop you can do all of these things.

For more information visit www.Tricountvcoop.net.



Rain Garden Specialist Training



L to R—Michele Bakacs, Cty. Environmental & Resource, instructs in the Ag Building classroom; Next day at Thompson Park, Jamesburg, trainees construct the garden. Stormwater will enter the garden from a curb cut, flow over the rocks which will slow the velocity and filter sediment/pollutants before going into the ponding area. Weed mat will help prevent soil erosion as grass grows in.

RCE Monmouth County hosted its second Rain Garden Certification-Trainer seminar in April. Forty specialists were trained and certified to assist with rain garden education and construction. We trained 60 people last summer and 75 others were trained this spring throughout the Rain Garden State.

Our Monmouth County demonstration rain garden led to over 30 more public demo gardens which led to **over 200 private rain gardens**. **Our goal is 1,000 gardens** in Monmouth County

A rain garden is a planted, shallow depression that is designed to **capture rainwater runoff** — also called stormwater — from impervious surfaces like driveways, rooftops, walkways and compacted lawn areas. This runoff can carry salt, sand, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, oil, litter and other pollutants into nearby waterways. The polluted water captured in the depression is taken up by the plants, infiltrates into the ground or evaporates as water vapor back into the atmosphere.

After a day in the classroom, everyone headed to Thompson Park in Jamesburg for the hands-on, fun portion of the session. The team **constructed a 1,300 square foot rain garden** to capture stormwater runoff before it flows into the park's Manalapan Lake.

Rain Garden Specialists can use this knowledge to install their own rain garden and teach others about the benefits of these landscape features. For more information on Rutgers' Rain Garden Program Visit www.water.rutgers.edu.