



Agent's Overview

What a great time of the year! Seems like we quickly went from winter through a short spring to full-blown summer in central Jersey. Rainfall and soil moisture have been more than sufficient in general. Total heat units/growing degree days are now slightly above average after being over two weeks behind. Summer crops are coming into abundance and general quality is very good, especially the sweet corn where you growers create an amazingly tasty product. Of course our state vegetable, the Jersey tomato, is also just coming into peak production with outstanding flavor. Even our early season peaches are coming on the market. As a result

of these great growing conditions in this humid summer weather, our extension office has recently seen a flurry of typical diseases on soybeans, yellow squash, zucchini and tomatoes and some weeds and insects in corn. In order to more effectively communicate emerging cropping crises in vegetables and field crops, we just began a free fax service called "Crop Production Advisor." This fax line alerts growers about emerging pest problems in production agriculture and suggests some IPM solutions. To join up, call our Monmouth County office with your fax number or e-mail address.

I just returned from the National Ag Agents Conference in Buffalo, New York where 1,500 people attended. Our Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension group led by Chair Dan Kluchinski had a strong

contingent of 25 participants as we helped co-host this large professional improvement event. The theme and take home message was "The Power of Teamwork." Teamwork was quite evident throughout this five day event among the agents, administrators, the ag industry and farmers; and teamwork was evident from the collaboration in the two years of regional planning beforehand. The NJ agents especially thank the various county Board of Agriculture groups for their significant financial contributions in our fundraising efforts. In the educational sessions, we all gained up-to-date information in crop production, horticulture, livestock, ag education and natural resource management. These extension tips and practices will be put

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Celebrating Monmouth County's Agriculture

NJ Agriculture Secretary Charles Kuperus visits our county - Vivian Quinn

Although Monmouth County is well known for sprawl, it can still be proud of its agriculture industry which supplies locally grown products to the Garden State and elsewhere. Recently NJ Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus and county agriculture officials spent a day visiting businesses representing the Department of Agriculture's *Jersey Fresh*, *Jersey Grown*, and *Jersey Seafood* brands.

The tour included Twin Pond Farm in Howell, Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck, Four Seasons Nursery and Landscape Co in Englishtown and Bahrs Landing Restaurant in Highlands. These establishments showed the diversification and availability of Jersey

grown fruits, vegetables, seafood and nursery stock.

The county has 47,198 acres of farmland and ranks second in the state in the number of nurseries (209) and nursery stock acreage (3,800). Monmouth is fourth among the state's 21 counties in acres harvested for both

bell peppers (250 acres) and sweet corn (600). Belford, located in northern Monmouth County, is one of the state's six fishing ports. Monmouth has the largest number of horses and ponies in the state and is second in number of horse farms.

Secretary Kuperus was enthusiastic and sincere when he said, "Monmouth County has it all when it comes to farming and fishing, from beautiful nurseries with a vast array of plants, to fields of sweet corn and other produce, and pastures of grazing horses, to a fishing port bringing in a wide array of seafood." "Monmouth County is a good example of how agriculture enhances our quality of life in New

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Secretary Kuperus and
 Grower Angelo DiGregorio

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Jersey and how towns and counties need to plan for agriculture to keep the state green and growing.”

Four Seasons Nursery and Landscape, Englishtown, started in 1972 by Roy and Scott Daum, now consists of 70 acres of nursery stock. Alfred W. Murray, the department’s Marketing and Development Director, wants consumers to know that local nursery stock is better suited for planting here and is less expensive. “If a shrub is already grown here, it’s adapted to the climate and soil here, and there’s less stress on it when the consumer takes it home,” said Murray.



Charles Kuperus, Tom Gesualdo and Bill McDonald at Delicious Orchards

Angelo DiGregorio gave the group a tour of his Twin Pond Farm which consists of a 120-acre farm on Havens Bridge Road, a farm stand on Adelphia Road and a garden center on Route 9. Angelo and his family have been working the farmland for more than 40 years, and presently the farm is managed by his sons.

Delicious Orchards has been a favorite Monmouth County retail establishment for over 50 years, known for home-baked pies, cider and produce. Bill McDonald and Tom Gesualdo graciously hosted

the group through the store. Jersey Fresh strawberries and asparagus were fresh and abundant and will soon be followed by other Jersey grown fruits and vegetables.

Bahrs Landing and Seafood Restaurant, Highlands, was established in 1917 by John and Florence Bahrs. The restaurant is owned and operated today by fourth generation great-grandson Jay Cosgrove and his father Ray. They can seafood soup and sell it all over the county.

To find out more about Jersey Fresh, Jersey Grown and Jersey Seafood visit the NJ Department of Agriculture website at www.state.nj.us/agriculture and support our Garden State by buying “Jersey.”



MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

- ◆ 472 - Square miles, total county land area
- ◆ 892 - Number of farms
- ◆ \$81 million - Market value of ag products sold
- ◆ 5,029 - Number of horses
- ◆ 377 - Number of horse farms

NEW JERSEY STATE FFA HONORS MEMBERS

(NEW BRUNSWICK) -- More than 425 FFA members, advisers and guests from across the state attended the 76th annual New Jersey State FFA Convention May 24-26 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick to honor fellow members for their achievements, elect new officers and conduct other business.

More than \$8,200 in college scholarships were awarded to FFA members, with an additional \$5,300 in awards presented to FFA chapters and individuals. Scholarships and awards were sponsored by the State and National FFA Foundations, the State FFA Association and other agricultural organizations.



2005 FFA Officers—Kristina Jones, Lara Lee Remson, Dale Cruzan III, Dan Delcher, Matt Hood

FFA is a national organization of more than 464,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA develops students’ potential for premier leadership, personal growth and

career success through agricultural education.

The culmination of the event was the election of the 2005-2006 State FFA Officer team, the group of FFA members chosen to provide leadership for the coming year in the New Jersey FFA Association. The new officers are Dale Cruzan III, Cumberland Regional FFA, Bridgeton, State President; Dan Delcher, Buena FFA, Buena, State Vice President; Lara Lee Remson, Burlington County Institute of Technology-Medford FFA, Medford, State Secretary; Matthew Hood, Warren Hills FFA, Washington, State Treasurer; and Kristina Jones, Middlesex-Piscataway FFA, Piscataway, State Reporter.

REMEMBER WHEN...THE CLAYTON FARM

VIVIAN QUINN & DEBBIE CLAYTON

In 1918, Roscoe Clayton, Ross Clayton's grandfather, relocated his farm to Route 537 in Freehold because it had more acreage and better soil. This was the start of the third generation owned and operated 140-acre Clayton Farm.

Prior to Clayton ownership, the farm was known as the Thomas Smith Farm in 1800 and then the James Parker Farm in the 1850's. The farmhouse is circa 1862 and is all that remains of the original farm after a fire in May 1900. The present day 105-year-old barn has had modifications to its doors to accommodate the newer and larger equipment but has remained much the same.

In the early years, the Clayton farm crops included potatoes along with grains such as wheat, rye and hay. Ross recalls the good times when the "potato chip man" came to the farm to test their potatoes for making good chips. He would fry them in his portable fryer and all enjoyed a hot potato chip treat. In 1969, potato farming ceased due to low market prices and changing labor issues, and the farm became strictly a grain farming operation. The Claytons remember when their farm grew certified wheat, barley and soybean seeds. They would walk the fields and pull out or clip the unwanted plants. Now they walk the fields to pick up everyone's litter and junk.

Ross took over the farm in 1980 from his father. Debbie mar-



Kim, Ross, Debbie & Jen Clayton

ried into farm life remembering her mother-in-law telling her "do not learn too much." Fortunately Debbie did not heed the warning and works side by side with Ross in the daily operation. "We each have our responsibilities and specialties which is what makes our farm prosper," says Debbie. Along with their two daughters Kim, 16, and Jen, 11, the Clayton family work long and difficult hours. Farm life has taught the girls responsibilities and good public relation skills. The downside is the lack of community respect for farms and farm life. There is always work to do and no time to enjoy much needed family getaways. After working in the field, Ross continues to serve the agricultural community. He has been

"We each have our responsibilities and specialties which is what makes our farm prosper" Debbie Clayton

a member of the Farm Service Agency for 16 years and the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture for 25 years, currently serving as treasurer. In the past Ross served as committeeman for Englishtown Agway and was on the Board of Directors for Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association.

As the area changed and their rented ground was lost to developments, the Claytons altered their farming practices in order to survive as a viable farm. They started growing pumpkins and Indian corn for

wholesale and selling retail from their decorated barnyard. Mums were added but they still needed to diversify. Next, they added sweet corn and began roadside sales from a canopy-covered farm wagon. They added tomatoes, watermelons, other vegetables, sunflowers and cut flowers. The farmstand is very popular and offers customers fresh picked quality. A small greenhouse enables Debbie to create beautiful Mother's Day floral baskets, a seasonal favorite.

The Claytons would like to continue their diversified, successful business, but it may not be possible. It is difficult thriving as a viable farm in an area where "the last crop has been planted," as Ross refers to the housing developments surrounding the farm. Why a crop of houses is termed a "farm" is another issue. "No, that was not our farm across the street," referring to the Clayton Farm housing development.

For the future, "diversification and community support will be the key to our farm viability," says Ross and Debbie. Direct marketing through the farmstand will be a big part of the operation; however, they worry about the invasion of the mega superstores. The Claytons attend workshops to learn and implement new information and technology and about new varieties to ensure best quality. They hope to expand the greenhouse and farmstand. We wish them good fortune and hope our readers help support this historic local enterprise.



Farmhouse Circa 1862



The "Farm Wagon"

A Busy Year for the Farmland Preservation Program - *Ecologic Spring 2005*

The Monmouth County Farmland Preservation Program was very busy in 2004. The county acquired twelve agricultural easements and partnered in the preservation of a 13th farm. In all, 757 acres of farmland were permanently protected in Colts Neck, Howell, Manalapan and Upper Freehold. Nine farms were deed-restricted through the County Easement Purchase Program. Three farms were protected through the relatively new Planning Incentive Grant Program. Both programs enable the purchase of development rights with a combination of state, county, and municipal funds. If the property is ever sold, the deed-restricted land must remain in agriculture. The 12 preserved farms are:

- Victory Stables, a 30-acre horse farm owned by Mario and Irene Sessa, on Five Points Road in Colts Neck Township.
- 106-acre Emelar Farm on Mill Road in Manalapan Township owned by Katherine C. and Catherine K. Smith.
- 21.5-acre Misty Meadow Farm, a beef cattle operation on Dey Grove Road in Manalapan owned by Donald and Wanda Holland.
- 22-acre Trenton farm on Wygant Road in Upper Freehold owned by Albert and Barbara Trenton, who cultivate hay.
- 11-acre farm of Michael and Barbara Kizis on Holmes Mill Road in Upper Freehold, where they raise goats and grow hay, corn, pumpkins and mums.
- 18-acre Sensi farm on Hill Road in Upper Freehold, owned by Herbert and Karen Sensi, consists of nursery stock



Freeholder Narozanick and SADC Executive Director Susan Craft announce the preservation of a record number of farms by Monmouth County in 2004, while at the Giambrone farm

- and alfalfa that is cut for hay.
- 20-acre farm owned by Margaret Valnoski on Hill Road in Upper Freehold, that produces hay and has a small equine operation.
- John Smith farm on Hill Road in Upper Freehold is an 18.5 acre farm that produces ornamental nursery stock and hay.
- 19-acre O'Hare horse farm on Burlington Path Road in Upper Freehold is owned by Martin and Deborah O'Hare.
- River Bend Farm on Casino Drive in Howell is a 10-acre equine operation, owned by the Marchese family.
- Brocklebank Farm is a 47-acre hay, equine and nursery operation on Brickyard Road in Howell, owned by S. Wayne Brocklebank.
- Giambrone Farm is an equine operation, approximately 16 acres in size on Brickyard Road in Howell, owned by Arthur and Mona Giambrone.

Farms in Howell were funded through the relatively new P.I.G. (Planning Incentive Grant) Program.

Acquisition partners included the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Monmouth County Planning Board, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), the Township of Howell, and Monmouth Conservation Foundation.

Another significant transaction for the Farmland Preservation Program concluded at the end of December. The State of New Jersey deed-restricted 408 acres of the Reed Sod Farm in Upper Freehold through the Direct Easement Purchase Program. Monmouth

County and the municipality each agreed to contribute \$650,000: ten percent of the total acquisition costs. The D&R Greenway Land Trust (former the Delaware & Raritan Greenway), a Princeton-based nonprofit organization, spearheaded the deal. With the completion of this project, and the other aforementioned easement acquisitions, Upper Freehold will be approaching 7000 acres of preserved farmland. It has the most permanently protected agricultural land of any municipality in NJ.



View of River Bend Farm, the first farm preserved in Howell Township through the Planning Incentive Grant program.

Asian Ambrosia Beetles in New Jersey Nurseries

Rich Buckley, Diagnostic Lab; Dr. Jim Lashomb, Nursery Entomologist and Rich Obal, Agricultural Agent

The Asian Ambrosia Beetle (AAB), *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, was first detected in the US near Charleston, South Carolina in 1974. This tiny beetle has become a pest on many woody ornamental trees, in nurseries and landscapes throughout the southeast from Texas to the west and Maryland to the North. There were three reported findings in 2004 in New Jersey. In 2005, several nurseries in various parts of the state have reported tree mortality due to AAB. Oddly, different trees were attacked at each site and damage ranged from 5% to 90% of the particular species at each nursery. Unlike the many other ambrosia beetles in NJ that attack damaged or stressed trees, the AAB will attack apparently healthy trees, which was the case at the various nursery sites.

Asian Ambrosia Beetle has a very wide host range. Branches and trunks of thin bark ornamental trees; 1 to 3 inches in diameter are most commonly attacked. Maples, elm, zelkova, cherries, dogwood, magnolia, beech, linden, redbud, sophora, golden rain, yellowwood, and viburnum; have been observed as hosts in New Jersey nurseries

and occasionally on landscape sites. Peach, plum, styrax, and sweetgum are also common hosts.

DAMAGE: The tiny (3/32") brownish black female beetles bore into the sapwood of susceptible host trees in early spring. Though attracted to stressed, damaged or transplanted trees; they will also attack apparently healthy trees. Wilted foliage and the appearance of toothpick-like strands (1 to 3 inches long) of sawdust protruding from the small boring holes of the beetle are the characteristic symptoms of an AAB infested tree. Up to 50 beetles can be found in individual trees. The beetles excavate galleries in the wood and introduce a fungus that grows in the tunnels to provide food for the beetles and their larvae. As with other ambrosia beetles, AAB do not eat the wood. Heavily infested trees are killed when the fungus clogs the conduction system. Plant parasitic fungi will also invade the tree through the



insect wounds. Larger trees may survive and even recover but small trees are killed. Research from Tennessee indicate that the AAB will complete its life cycle in about 55 days. It is not known if there is a second generation here in New Jersey. Beetle flight has been observed via traps in the fall but tree entry in the nursery or adjacent landscape trees has not been observed. Where and how they overwinter is part of ongoing research.

CONTROL: Heavily infested trees should be removed and destroyed. Beetles can not be killed once they are in the tree and fungicides are ineffective against the internal fungi. Alcohol traps can be used to determine when the adults are emerging in early spring and potential host trees should be scouted and sprayed as needed. The synthetic pyrethroids (bifenthrin or permethrin) have been shown to be highly effective in deterring AAB attack when applied at the highest labeled rate in early spring. Trees are most susceptible to attack when they are breaking dormancy. More than one application may be necessary at three week intervals. Trees in full leaf will not attract AAB.

(Continued from page 1)

to good use throughout the north-east region. Many pre- and post-farm tours of agriculture in New York State showed that it is extremely diverse. Many non-farmers, can't imagine that there is more to New York than New York City. The reality is that this beautifully green neighboring state has highly productive soils and climate that favor successful commercial operations. Like us, much of the state is within a short day's drive of 40 million retail consumers while other ag businesses are focused around com-

mercial wholesale markets. NY agriculture returns over \$3.1 billion dollars to the local farm economy and using 25% of the land base. This was quite an eye opener for our western and central ag agents.

Our summer issue touts a lot of the ag strength here in central Jersey starting with a recent tour of our Monmouth County plant industry and aquaculture by NJ Ag Secretary Charles Kuperus. Future strength in agriculture is seen in our article on the FFA Annual Convention and generational changes in ag operations is seen in our interview with

the Clayton Farm Family. Learn about current county efforts being made in farmland preservation before we lose too much more cropland. Also, learn of a new threat to our nursery industry, the Asian Ambrosia Beetle and keep current with agency updates and your ag calendar. Hope you scheduled a half day to enjoy the Monmouth County Fair and visit old friends and meet some new ones. Try to stay cool out there in the field and work safely. Keep Growing Strong,

Bill Sciarappa


AGENCY UPDATES

USDA/FSA

Crop Disaster Program 2003/2004

(CDP) - Sign-up for the 2003/2004 Crop Disaster Program continues. This program provides assistance for losses due to low yields, prevented planting, and reduced quality due to adverse weather conditions. Producers have the option of receiving a payment for either the 2003 or the 2004 crop year, but not both. Any crop loss must have been in *excess of 35 percent* in either year to receive benefits. CDP payments will be limited to \$80,000 per producer. The payment rate has been increased to 65 percent of an established price for producers who had crop insurance or NAP coverage, as

Crop Insurance Website
<http://saalem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance/>



Dates to Remember!
November 4, 2005 – All County Committee ballots mailed out to voters.
Continuous – Accepting applications for FSA’s Livestock Assistance Program and CREP.

well as for those producers for which crop insurance or NAP was not available. A lower rate of 60 percent of an established price will be paid to producers who did not obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage. An ending sign-up date has not been established yet, so if losses were suffered, gather up the documentation and call the office to make an appointment to sign up!

NJDA

NJ and Pennsylvania Reach Agreement on Commercial Drivers’ License Exemption for Farmers

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kupeus and New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Sharon A. Harrington announced that New Jersey and Pennsylvania have signed an agreement allowing operators of farm vehicles to drive their vehicles across state borders.

The reciprocal agreement recognizes each state’s exemption from the commercial drivers license requirement for farmers, enabling farmers to drive their vehicles into the other state without being cited.

The “Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986” requires a person who operates a vehicle that has a gross weight rating in excess of 26,000, carries 15 or more passengers or transports hazardous materials to

have a commercial drivers license (DCL). However, states have the authority to exempt certain drivers, including operators of farm vehicles, from the CDL requirement, which both New Jersey and Pennsylvania have done.

The CDL exemption applies to vehicles controlled and operated by farmers, their employees or family members that are used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or both to and from a farm, provided they are within 150 miles of their farms.

Karen Kritz, Agribusiness Development, Representative, NJ Department of Agriculture, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330, Phone 609-984-2506, Fax: 609-633-7229 or email: karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us

Changes to Farmer Licenses

The underlined sentences are the most important section changes that will be of interest to farmers. The Legislature removed the word “exclusively” and farm products “raised or produced on his farm”. **39:3-25 “Farmer” license plate, issuance, fee & expiration.**

39:3-25. In addition to the motor vehicle licenses authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the administrator shall issue, upon application therefore, a license plate for trucks marked “farmer,” which shall be issued upon evidence satisfactory to the administrator that the applicant is a farmer and is actually engaged in the growing, raising and producing of

farm products as an occupation. License plates issued under authority of this section shall be placed upon motor trucks engaged in the carrying or transportation of farm products, and farm supplies, and not engaged in hauling for hire, except for a truck being operated under contract with a municipality to remove snow.

The term “farmer” means any person engaged in commercial raising, growing and producing of farm products on a farm not less than five acres in area; the term “farm products” means any crop, livestock or fur products; and the term “farm supplies” means any farm-related supply or repair item.

CALENDAR

August 2005

8-12 - Deer Fence Seminar - Cream Ridge. Call John 908-730-9419.

8-18 - Vegetable Integrated Crop Management Twilight Meeting - Rutgers Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Upper Deerfield, NJ, Wes Kline - 856-451-2800.

8-20- 4-H Equestrian of the Year- Monmouth County 4-H office, Freehold. Carol Ward 908-526-6644.

8-24-05 - Cream Ridge Nursery Research & Extension Meeting - 1:30 - 6:00 PM Cream Ridge, NJ. For more information call 732-431-7260.

8-26 - State Horse Show Day 1 of 3 - State Horse Park of NJ. Carol Ward 908-526-6644.

September 2005

9-27 - Vegetable Integrated Crop Management Twilight Meeting - 6:30-8:30, Gloucester County Wes Kline - 856-451-2800.

October 2005

10-25 - Vegetable Integrated Crop Management Twilight Meeting - 6:30-8:30, Atlantic County

Monmouth County Board of Ag
7:30 PM
9/20, 10/18, 11/15/, 12/20

Basic Pesticide Training
CORE—9 am - 1 pm
8/ 9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/9 & 12/6

3A—10/25 - 9 am - 3 pm
3B—11/15 - 9 am - 3pm

To register call 800-524-9942

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

USING THE PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

To get information on Certification/Licensing/Exam Sign-Up, etc.

1. At the home page click on Licensing (left hand column)
2. Click on the category or topic of interest

To check personal information

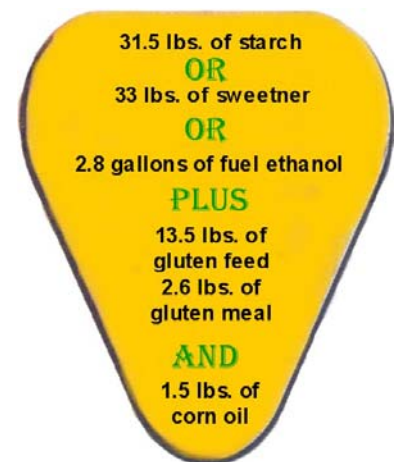
1. On the home page click on Online Reports (left hand column)
2. Click on DEP On Line Reports Portal (highlighted middle of page)

For your License information click on:

1. [Commercial Certified Pesticide Applicators](#) – Specific Information
2. [Private Certified Pesticide Applicators](#) – Specific Information
3. [For your exam information click on: Pesticide Certification Exam Sign-up Info](#)
4. [For recertification courses availability and dates click on: Recertification Courses Available](#) (at the bottom of page)



One bushel of corn (56 lbs.) provides



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Rutgers Cooperative Research & 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, ,

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