



Honoring the Memory of Stephen P. Dey, II

The state's horse industry is mourning the death of prominent equine veterinarian, farmer, and long-time friend of the Equine Science Center Dr. Stephen Perrine Dey II, who passed away on February 28, 2011 at the age of 74.

Dr. Dey earned a statewide reputation as a supporter of New Jersey agriculture and the equine industry. He graduated from Allentown High School in 1954 and the NY State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell in 1960.

Dr. Dey, a lifelong resident of Allentown, NJ, had been a practicing equine veterinarian since 1962. His practice was based at his family's 500-acre Heritage Hill Farm, one of the founding farms of the New Jersey Sire Stakes Program, where he focused primarily on standardbred racehorses as well as breeding and foaling mares. Heritage Hill was honored as the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey's Breeder of the Year in 2009.

Dr. Dey was a tireless advocate for agriculture and the equine industry, who gave generously of his time to his community. He served as vice chair of the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement (RUBEA) for the Equine Science Center, president of the board of managers of Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station, and long-time member and past chairman of NJ Equine Advancement

"I have been fortunate to call him a dear colleague and friend for over 30 years and will truly miss his insight, wisdom and wonderful sense of humor."

Karyn Malinowski



Dr. Dey, Doug Fisher, Karyn Malinowski

sory Board. He was a founding member and current president of the Horse Park of New Jersey, member of the Upper Freehold Township Board of Health, the Freehold Economic Development Committee, the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture, past-President of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture and was currently serving on the State Agricultural Development Committee and the N.J. State Water Advisory Council.

"There is no one person whom I have known who has worked more selflessly and tirelessly on behalf of horses, the horse industry and agriculture in the Garden State than Stephen P. Dey," said his longtime friend and colleague Karyn Malinowski, director of Rutgers Equine Science Center. "I have been fortunate to call him a dear colleague and friend for over 30 years and will truly miss his insight, wisdom and wonderful sense of humor."

In 2007, Dr. Dey was honored with the Center's "Spirit of the Horse" award as well as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Award. He was named "NJ Horse Person of the Year" in 1990 and 2004.

Dr. Dey is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two sons who carry on the family business as veterinarians, Dr. Stephen P. Dey III and Dr. Gregory S. Dey and a daughter, Wendy D. Martin.

Courtesy of Rutgers Equine Science Center, 2011



Bob Freiberger

Service Award Honoree

The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture takes great pride in publicly recognizing your outstanding service to Agriculture. You were born Rupert "Bob" Freiberger on August 2, 1948. One year later, your father bought the farm just outside Allentown and began raising Holstein cows and selling milk. Growing up you developed a keen sense of farming operations and graduated Allentown High School. There you became very active in the FFA program; eventually becoming State President in 1967 and selected Outstanding Young Farmer in 1970. Also in 1970, you purchased the family farming business from your father which consisted of a 75 head dairy herd.

In 1993, as milk prices fell you decided to sell the dairy herd and focus on growing hay for the rising equine markets in the Central Jersey area. At that time there were only three other dairy herds left in Monmouth County; today there are none, while there are over 12,000 horses in Monmouth County alone.

Home life was much more stable as Bob has been married to wife Kathy for over 40 years. You have two sons Thomas and Patrick and especially enjoy baling hay when your two sons are in the same field. Currently, your family farm covers 1,000 acres which consist mainly of hay, corn and soybeans. The family enrolled the home farm into the Farmland Preservation Program. This transaction enabled them to purchase additional land that was also previously preserved.

Over these productive years, you put your FFA leadership training and agri-business experience to good use in being elected to the Upper Freehold Township Committee where you served as Mayor for 3 terms. You were also Chairman of the local Zoning Board of Adjustments. Currently, you serve as a member of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Executive Committee, a Township Planning Board Member and as President of the State Grain and Forage Producers Association.

Bob's most recent hobby is spending time with his two grandsons Ryan and Chase.

Bob, on behalf of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture we would like to present you with this plaque in recognition of your service and dedication to the agricultural community.

Presented March 5, 2011



BOA President Gary DiFelice presents award to Bob



The Bob Freiberger Family and Friends at the Annual Board of Ag Dinner held March 5 at the Bistro in Freehold



Ag Agents Rich Obal & Bill Sciarappa flank former Freeholder Ted Narozanick & Freeholder Lillian Burry

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Farming has always been a risky business. Sustainable agriculture is essentially managing that risk successfully. The recent industrialization of agriculture has addressed many production risks and led to unprecedented production success. However, there are new risks and uncertainty adding to the burden that farmers bear in our state. While the demand for farm products continues to increase dramatically, this demand cannot be met in an environment of increasing risk and decreasing numbers of working farms.

Risk has had a significant effect on the farms of New Jersey. In the last 25 years we have lost 30% of our prime farmland. If this trend continues to the point that there are no active, working farms in our state, will it matter? Intuitively we know the answer is yes. In fact, research has shown that preserving our local farms is critical for food security, energy

independence, and healthy communities.

No one wants New Jersey farms to disappear. The issues involved in sustaining farms in New Jersey are complex and often clouded with emotional and political overtones. Solutions for sustainable production in our state will be found by weaving together strategies from traditional farming, green revolution farming, and methods yet to be developed.

Farming remains a noble profession. The ability of farmers to think for themselves, to shape their own destinies will be the key to sustaining agricultural profitability and therefore, sustainability. We at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station are here to serve the farmers of our state by providing up-to-date, scientifically proven methods that yield long-term profits, ensure stewardship of the environment, and create high quality of life for our farmers and the communities surrounding them.

NJ YOUNG FARMERS TOPS IN THE NATION 3 YEARS IN A ROW

(TRENTON) – For the third year in a row and the fifth time in the last 11 years, a New Jersey farmer has been chosen as a National Outstanding Young Farmer. John Melick, a fruit and vegetable farmer from Oldwick, Hunterdon County, was named one of the four 2011 National Outstanding Young Farmers on February 19 by the United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees) at their Awards Congress in Louisville, Kentucky. John Melick is a tenth-generation farmer, who, after earning a civil engineering degree and working in that field, returned to the family farm. He has helped expand Melick's Town Farm to include two all-season markets and a third rented farm market; participation in 10 community farmers markets; and, more pick-your-own. Melick has helped foster technological advances at the farm,

using drip irrigation, integrated pest management, reducing pesticide rates; and using UV to treat the farm's apple cider, eliminating heat pasteurization.

"New Jersey boasts some of the finest, most innovative farmers in the nation and John Melick is a talented and motivated leader in our industry who deserves to be recognized," said NJ Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. Richard A. Norz from Hillsborough and H. William Sytsema from Wantage, were 2010 and 2009 New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmers who went on to become national winners. Since 1999, every New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer has been among the top 10 National Outstanding Young Farmers, as well.

For info on the Outstanding Young Farmer Program, www.nj.gov/agriculture/about/sba/cover.html.

Tri-County Cooperative Auction Market Association, Inc. - Gearing up for 2011



Tri-County Cooperative Auction has been around for a long time; since 1934 to be exact. When it comes up in conversation it is almost always referred to as the Hightstown auction. It is not in Hightstown. Never was. It is in East Windsor, around the corner from Route 130, five minutes from Exit 8 on the New Jersey Turnpike and dead center in the State of New Jersey. If the Garden State had a bull's eye, Tri-County would be it. So if looking at the facility from a real estate perspective, Tri-County has what every business strives for: location, location, location. Granted it is next to Hightstown, but if you try to get there via your GPS you will never get there. But you need to get there. It is a happenin' place. In the last three years, in spite of a crippled economy and really discouraging growing seasons two years in a row, sales have almost doubled. There are lots reasons this has happened which include a dedicated Board of Directors, a new manager, and lots of pulling together for the greater good. The four grants the Coop has received have made an enormous difference in the upgrading of the facility as well as funds for marketing and promotion. The 29X37 foot cooler has been a boon to the consolidation of product to meet the demands of larger buyers. It has also allowed for the constant supply of blueberries and peaches. More improvements are on the way. The single biggest factor in the sales increase is the shift from the traditional auction to Direct Sales. The 2010 season had 86% Direct Sales and a \$2.47 average increase per piece. Many buyers, some longstanding and almost all of the new buyers, preferred the "get in, get what you



want, and go home" approach. They were willing to pay what the seller asked for the benefit of getting home at a decent hour. Another draw was the advantage of having the cooler combined with Direct Sales. Many buyers prefer to call

orders, either direct to the grower or through the Coop. That way they know certain critical items will be waiting for them when they arrive. Once at the facility they round out their purchases with what is available. This certainty in getting what is needed makes many buyers willing to make the trip that didn't seem worthwhile when all purchases were dependent on the caprice of the auction. In some cases, buyers may have been unable to be present a particular night, but when they called in advance, their order was waiting for them the next morning.

To accommodate this shift in buying preferences the Coop is switching to predominantly Direct Sales. Our spring schedule is Wednesdays nights in April and May, with Direct Sales beginning at 5:30. Spring products will include early season south Jersey produce as well as lots of plant material. Trees, shrubs, plugs, flats, hanging baskets, perennials, grasses, vegetable transplants, container gardens and just about anything else that someone may be interested at the onset of the season. Seasonal produce is available throughout the year. The schedule shifts to Wednesday and Friday for the first two weeks in June and starting the week of June 13, to a new schedule of M-W-T-F. Thursdays will be "Auction Only" with growers picking numbers at 5:30 and the auction beginning at 6 PM. So for those sellers and buyers that prefer the excitement of the auction, Thursday night is your night.

In addition, Tri-County is holding two Saturday Auctions for nursery stock, plants and ornamentals. These dates are April 9 and May 7. The auction will begin at 10 AM with the opportunity to come in and preview the products prior to that. Buyers do need to arrive early enough to get a bidding number.

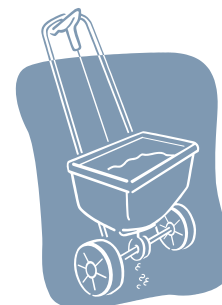
New sellers are welcome to try the Coop without becoming a member in the spring, including for our Nursery Auctions. Once we open for our full schedule in mid June, these sellers must join if they wish to continue. New growers can also try the Coop without joining ONE time during the season. These are one time offers and can not be repeated in subsequent years. For more information visit Tri-County's website at www.TricountyCoop.net

Pegi Ballister-Howells

Quick Facts: 2011 New Jersey Fertilizer Law, A2290

The New Jersey Fertilizer Law, A2290, was conceived to protect all New Jersey surface and ground waters from impairment by minimizing nitrogen and phosphorus loading that may be derived from lawn fertilizer. Generally, excess nitrogen is a threat to coastal water (estuaries) quality while excess phosphorus is a greater concern for fresh water quality. Both nutrients are also important for plant growth and health. This law:

- ◆ Establishes statewide fertilizer standards, pre-empting the multitude of local municipal ordinances.
- ◆ Requires professional fertilizer applicators to undergo training and become certified.
- ◆ Limits the time that fertilizer can be used: fertilizer may not be applied during the “blackout dates” of November 15th – March 1st for consumers, and December 1st – March 1st for professionals.
- ◆ Prohibits fertilizer application during or just before heavy rainfall, onto an impervious surface, or onto frozen ground.
- ◆ Restricts the amount of nitrogen used per application as well as the total for the year:
 - Professionals: can apply no more than 0.7 pound of water-soluble nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per application, and the total nitrogen applied cannot exceed 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per application. The annual total for all applications should not exceed 4.25 pounds nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
 - Consumers: fertilizers products, when applied according to label directions, will apply no more than 0.7 pound water-soluble-nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per application, and the total nitrogen applied cannot exceed 0.9 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per application. The annual total for all applications should not exceed 3.2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
- ◆ Restricts fertilizer content.
 - Fertilizer sold as consumer/retail products must have at least 20% of its nitrogen content in slow-release form
 - Fertilizers that contain phosphorus can not be applied to turf except when:
 1. a soil test, no more than three years old, indicates the need for phosphorus;
 2. establishing turf and vegetation for the first time;
 3. repairing or re-establishing turf;
 4. applying liquid or granular fertilizer under the soil surface, directly to roots; or
 5. the fertilizer consists of manipulated animal or vegetable manure (organic sources). In this case, phosphorus can be included if no more than 0.25 pound of phosphorus per 1,000 sq. ft. is applied, when used according to instructions on the container.
- ◆ Stipulates that fertilizer bag label language follows AAPCO standard for turf fertilizer label to avoid the issue of a NJ only turf fertilizer label.
- ◆ Establishes buffers. Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus can not be applied to turf within 25 feet of any waterbody, except where a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector, or targeted spray liquid is used, then the buffer
 - ◆ may be reduced to 10 feet. A professional applicator may apply one “rescue treatment” annually to turf in a buffer as per rules above.
- ◆ Sets fines for noncompliance: \$500 fine for the 1st offense and up to \$1000 for the 2nd and each subsequent offense for professional applicators. No fines for consumers.
- ◆ Exempts commercial farms and golf courses, except that no person, other than a certified professional fertilizer applicator or a person trained and supervised by the certified fertilizer applicator, may apply fertilizer to a golf course.



When will specific parts of the law go into effect?

- ◆ Effective Immediately: Sections 1: Definitions; Section 2: Prohibited fertilizer applications when: raining, on impervious surfaces, before March 1st or after December 1st or any time ground is frozen, and Section 9: Authorization for DEP in consultation with Department of Agriculture to adopt rules. Effective January 5, 2012 –One (1) year from date of signing, the bill will go into effect requiring: All professionals to be certified; Setting limits of nitrogen content to be used by consumers and professionals and banning the use of phosphorus without soil test.
- ◆ January 5, 2013 –Section 11 (label and content requirements) shall take effect two (2) years after the date of signing outlawing fertilizer products that do not meet the new content standards set by the law.

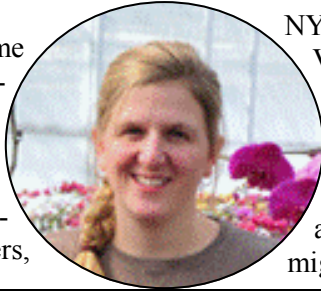
QUESTIONS? Contact Stephanie Murphy, Ph.D. Director of the NJAES Soil Testing Lab

Jack Rabin - Director NJAES

Greetings from Mercer County - New Ag Coordinator

Spring has certainly brought me more opportunities to serve the agricultural community in Mercer County, and I look forward to getting to know the growers better as the season progresses. My position in Mercer County is agriculturally broad covering vegetable growers, nurserymen, field crops, fruit growers and more. I have the opportunity to learn new things each day based on the queries that come my way, and I enjoy working with the faculty and staff within Rutgers and the Mercer County office.

Prior to working in Mercer County I served as the horticulture consultant for RCE at the Burlington County office for four years. I've also had the opportunity to teach agriculture and serve as an FFA advisor, manage rooftop production greenhouses in



Meredith Melendez

Senior Program Coordinator, Agriculture
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County

NYC, grow organic greenhouse tomatoes in Vermont, and work in both the retail and wholesale nursery industry.

I enjoy being a source of information, and have spent the past four years honing my answer finding skills. I am always gathering information that might be of use to growers and I disseminate

that information through regular FYI emails and The Mercer County Grower Newsletter. The Mercer County Grower is a quarterly newsletter focusing

on timely agricultural topics for the region and is available via email and snail mail. If you are not receiving this newsletter and would like to please contact me at: melendez@njaes.rutgers.edu or 609-989-6830. I hope you have a wonderful growing season and I look forward to meeting you!

Meredith

AGENCY UPDATES



Farm Service Agency

Farm Management During Tough Economic Times

Many farms in the northeast are facing tough economic circumstances at the same time when state budgets are being cut. Unfortunately, there are fewer extension staff with farm management training. To survive, producers need to be even better managers than in the past. In general, producers continue to be weak on records keeping. Extension educators and specialists are invited to participate in an agricultural risk and business management training opportunity.

This one-day, in-service training workshop, will be held **June 20-21, 2011** at the **Mt. Airy Resort and Casino in Mount Pocono, PA.**

A committee of extension specialists in farm business management from the Northeastern states will be offering a training opportunity on how to use business management tools to administer agricultural risks.

Funding is provided by the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education. Topics include social media, eXtension, marketing, pricing, financing, tax tips, crop insurance and a keynote address on getting farmers to use on-line tools.

This workshop has no registration fee and all meals and some rooms will be provided. The workshop will start 12:00 pm on June 20th. Seating is limited so please register early. Contact Dmiley@RCI.rutgers.edu



Calendar

April

30 - Ag Field Day -
<http://agfieldday.rutgers.edu>

May

16-18 - Bee-ginner's Beekeeping - For more information or to register call 732-932-9271 or www.cpe.rutgers.edu/bees
 24 - Twilight Blueberry Growers Mtg Chatsworth, NJ

June

1 - Twilight Wine Grape Growers Meeting—Site TBD Northern NJ - call Win Cowgill 908-788-1339 or Gary Pavlis 609-625-0056.
 2 - Beyond the Basics: Practical Hive Mgt. Tools for Beekeepers— Bordentown NJ

July

12-17 - Ocean County Fair, Rt. 530 Berkeley Twp.
 20-23 - Burlington County Farm Fair, Lumberton
 27-31 Monmouth County Fair - East Freehold Showgrounds

August

31 - Great Tomato Tasting, Snyder Research & Ext Farm, Pittstown

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA
 7:30 PM 5-17
 BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING
 CORE—9 am - 1 pm
 4-19, 5-17, 6-14
 Category 3A - 3 PM-9PM 6-07
 To register call 800-524-9942
 Held at
 Rutgers Cooperative Extension
 Ag Building
 4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold,
 NJ 732-431-7260

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37th Annual Monmouth County Fair
 Wednesday, July 27-Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Nursery and Greenhouse Plastic Recycling

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher encouraged all agricultural operations to recycle the plastic used in their businesses. Two regional sites accept film year-round – the Burlington County Occupational Training Center in Mt. Holly and the Cumberland County Solid Waste Complex in Deerfield. To find out more about these recycling programs, contact Karen Kritz at 609-984-2506 or Karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us or visit the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Agricultural Recycling webpage at www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/recycling.html



<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.

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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 New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

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 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 infor-

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.

New Jersey Agricultural
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