



2013 Monmouth County Board of Agriculture Annual Dinner

Wow what a good night! Monmouth County Board of Agriculture held its Annual Dinner celebration on March 7, at the American Hotel. BOA President Angelo Trapani led the program committee of his wife Anna, Gary Defelice, Nyna McKittrick, Jim Wycoff and others. Selecting this grand old restored restaurant facility set the stage for a bumper crowd of about 100 guests; including our NJ Commissioner of Agriculture Doug Fischer, USDA-FSA Director Paul Hlubik, Freeholder Director Tom Arnone and his Freeholder team of Deputy Director Serena DiMaso, John Curley, Lillian Burry and emeritus Ted Narozanick. After some rousing talks by the Commissioner and our new Farm Bureau President Ryck Suydam, President Trapani presented a special recognition award to Freeholder Lillian Burry from Colts Neck for her strong support of Monmouth County Agriculture, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Master Gardeners – all which provide large economic and educational impacts.



President Trapani also presented longtime farm couple Ross and Debbie Clayton for their outstanding agricultural achievements and community service to the NJ farming community. Everyone knows their beautiful and historic farm site and farm market leaving out of town on Rt. 537 west.



The FFA groups from Freehold Township, Monmouth Career Center, Biotechnology High School and Allentown high school worked together and formed an entertaining agricultural game show quiz with wireless audience response devices. The festive competition strained a lot of brains and drew a lot of laughter.



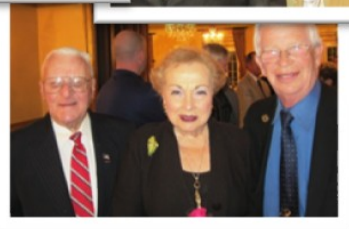
The food and company were top notch as the group mixed fun and net-



working in a very pleasant atmosphere. We all enjoyed the time to socialize and catch up before the growing season begins again.



We also look forward to a productive and prosperous 2013.



Looking Forward,
Bill Sciarappa



New Jersey Farm Bureau Works for You

Like many industries, Agriculture is also faced with emerging issues that affect our industry every day. Minimum wage, labor availability, farmland assessment, environmental regulations, water allocation, and right to farm, are just a few of those issues that affect the way we do business in Agriculture. As these issues emerge in our legislature, we should ask ourselves, 'who is there to help protect our best interest and preserve Agriculture as we know it today?'

New Jersey Farm Bureau has been a grass roots, member association that has represented the voices of our state's Agriculture community at all levels of government – local, county, state, and national. They have taken on these issues through influence on regulations and laws with our legislators, creating positive public relations through the media, and exploring all initiatives, activities and ventures to help the Agricultural industry remain profitable and viable. They do all this through a democratic policy development process achieved by representatives from each county in the state.

New Jersey Farm Bureau, takes seriously, its mission to promote all segments of Agriculture without bias to any one of those segments. They work in collaboration with all the specific agricultural commodity associations throughout the state on the different issues each faces. It keeps all its members informed of policy changes and initiatives that impact our industry and the way you do business through its weekly newsletter and a quarterly newspaper. They also maintain an informative website that is constantly updated, informing its members and anyone interested in Agriculture on what is happening in the industry.

If you are engaged in any segment of agriculture, as a farmer, equestrian, landscaper, hobby gardener, or even someone who supports agriculture in our state, then membership in New Jersey Farm Bureau would benefit you in many ways. By joining Farm Bureau, you automatically become a member of your local county board of agriculture, which allows you to become involved on a local level and get to know other farmers and agricultural enthusiasts in your community. You also

automatically become a member in the six million plus strong, American Farm Bureau, which represents all of Agriculture's interest at the national level. Your membership would also support your County Board of Agriculture, which in turn supports many of the your local organizations that are involved in agriculture, such as the 4-H, FFA, and Master Gardener programs. You will also find valuable member benefits such as a discount of Farm Family Insurance policies, discounts on GM vehicles, Dell computers, Grainger Supply, hotel reservations and car rentals, along with many other numerous affinity programs. Taking advantage of these discounts that you would use in your operations and daily lives, would more than pay for the annual membership in Nj Farm Bureau.

As a member of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, and the Monmouth County Director to New Jersey Farm Bureau, I have seen first-hand how their knowledgeable staff truly works for all advocates of the Agricultural industry. It was they who supported us to help keep all the current Ag. offices under one roof at Kosloski Rd. in Freehold. It was they who helped develop the recent Farmland Assessment legislation waiting for the Governor's signature that lent minimal impact to real farmers in our state. And it will be they who will continue to represent the best interests for all Agriculture on the many issues we face here in our county and state.

The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture encourages everyone who has a true interest in supporting agriculture to become a member of New Jersey Farm Bureau. There are different levels of membership, from a 'Regular Farmer Member', to an 'Associate Member' and/or 'Friends of Agriculture Member'. By joining, you will create a larger voice in helping to continue to promote the viability of Agriculture and the Open Space we have all come to love.

To learn more about New Jersey Farm Bureau and the benefits of becoming a member, please visit their website at www.njfb.org or contact Debbie Pribell at the Farmhouse: 609-393-7163.

Gary DiFelice, Treasurer Monmouth County BOA

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HONORS FREEHOLD WOMAN AS NEW JERSEY HORSEPERSON OF THE YEAR 2012

(TRENTON) – New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher awarded the 2012 Governor’s Award for Horseperson of the Year to Linda Toscano, one of harness racing’s most successful trainers, at the 56th annual Breeders’ Luncheon in Eastampton on 1/27/13.

Toscano, who lives in Freehold, trained the 2012 Standardbred Horse of the Year, Chapter Seven. Over the course of her career, Toscano has had 1,439 wins and \$34 million in purses. This year she won a career best of \$6.71 million.

“Linda Toscano is a committed and passionate advocate for the harness racing industry in New Jersey,” said Secretary Fisher. “Through her hard work and dedication, she has contributed to the success of several Jersey Bred horses, bringing great pride to the Garden State over the years.”

On behalf of the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board, a committee of past Horsepersons of the Year chose to recognize Toscano, who, in August, became the first female trainer to win the prestigious Hambletonian with Jersey-bred Market Share. She began her career by working summers at the stables at Roosevelt Raceway in Westbury, NY. During her career, she worked with veteran trainer Buddy Regan and Hall of Famers Buddy Gilmour and John Campbell.



Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Rutgers Equine Science Center (left) & Agriculture Secretary Doug Fisher (right) present the Governor’s Cup to Linda Toscano. (photo CHodes)



Secretary of Agriculture Award for New Jersey-bred Thoroughbred Horse of the Year: *Javerre*. Owned by Smith Farm & Stable and trained by Cal Lynch, Javerre was a winner of four of his seven starts this year. He won his first three races of the year at Monmouth Park, quickly becoming one of the more talked about horses during the early portion of the 2012 Monmouth Park meet. The son of Outflanker captured the \$60,000 NJ Breeder’s Handicap on September 15 at Monmouth Park in his fifth start. Bred in New Jersey by Gunsmith Stables, Javerre finished the year with \$158,170 in earnings. Javerre is the product of a NJ broodmare family bred by Gunsmith Stables that goes back to the multiple graded stakes winner, Avie’s Fancy. Avie’s Fancy, the third dam of Javerre, earned \$402,909 during her career.

New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award: Kristie VonThun, Monmouth Junction. VonThun was awarded a \$500 scholarship, sponsored by Amy Butewicz, a former New Jersey Equestrian of the Year who wanted to give back to the community. She was selected based upon her essay, which answered the question: “How has your involvement within 4-H helped to shape your future career choice?”

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County Class of 2012 Graduation



The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County celebrated the accomplishments of their 14th class on January 23rd at Hominy Hill. The interns volunteered over 2,800 hours, and over 3,000 lbs of produce from the 'Plant a Row for the Hungry' garden grown and donated to local food pantries.

Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting 2013 held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County

Over 130 farmers & ag interests attended an exciting, informative and social conference on Feb. 15 at the Freehold Ag Building.



Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe



High Farmland Value—Low Farmland Rent Unintended Consequence

Jack Rabin, Assoc. Dir.—Farm Programs

A commonly held opinion is that high farmland prices are a formidable barrier to those wishing to enter farming. This month, we discuss how extraordinarily high New Jersey farmland prices—among the highest in the US—became coupled to low cost leasing. These conditions may offer a ‘silver lining’ opportunity for individuals who desire to enter the profession of farming, and to society, which values farmland stewardship. Bob Bruch, retired NJ Department of Ag, describes a NJ phenomenon he calls *reverse rent*, in which owners provide highly attractive lease terms to farmers. Rent may be for near the cost of Farmland Tax Assessment (FTA), near zero, or owners may even pay to have their land actively farmed to maintain FTA. These terms are uncommon in other farming regions. They are the externalities—the unintended consequences—of FTA, without which there would likely be no commercial farming remaining in NJ. Society benefits because FTA land remains actively farmed open space.

Table 1 (see p. 5) shows that farmland ownership in NJ requires investment capital beyond the reach of new farmers. Even with nearby customers, New Jersey’s extraordinary high land values present a unique disadvantage for farmland purchases by new farmers.

Policies Lead to Unintended Consequences 50 years of New Jersey policies have attempted to address pressures on loss of farmland and loss of farming from urbanization, and the reduced quality of life sprawl brings to all residents and taxpayers. These include a combination of FTA, Farmland Preservation, Right-to-Farm, and insidious downzoning ordinances or “environmental takings” regulations.

Opportunities for Growers

Despite high purchase prices for farmland, there are compelling low cost opportunities to enter farming by leasing; taking advantage of the requirement on land-owners to maintain FTA. There are thousands of acres of

preserved farmland held by public and private organizations whose goals include maintaining access to productive working farmland.

Make Lease Terms Attractive & Cheap

Owners of preserved NJ farmland, especially public or not-for-profit owners, should offer generously flexible and longer-term (not annual) lease terms if they want to attract working farmers. Owners should resist the temptation to overly proscribe farming practices in lease terms. In suburban New England communities, where the effects of urban fringe cultivated land abandonment are widespread, conservation groups, communities, and other public farmland owners frequently offer below market \$1 per acre “reverse rent” leases. This is one method they use to get farmland moving back in the direction of working farms and economically contributing to surrounding communities. Below market “reverse rent” leasing will likely be required here to entice active husbandry by new farmers. Low leasing rates offer new or part-time farmers the opportunities to work hard, sacrifice, and save. They can generate cash income without mortgage debt service, begin accumulating equipment, and go through the farming learning curve with lower risk on leased land.

Benefits to Society

For societal benefits of stewardship to emerge, public and private farmland owners need to offer attractive 5-year and longer leases. Why long leases? Farmers’ incentives to sustainably improve productivity on leased land are lower than on land they own. As former Secretary of the Treasury and Harvard President Larry Summers humorously explained, “No one in the history of the world ever washed a rented car.” Why? Because they don’t own it. Summers knows that farmers who don’t own their land won’t worry about depleting soil. Preserving someone else’s long-term value is not as important to them as preserving their own short-term viability.

Table 1. USDA 2012 and 2008 cropland average value per acre in NJ and approx. 20 states with significant urban fringe production for comparison.

State	2012 Cropland Value/A \$	2008 Cropland Value/A \$	2008 Avg. Cash Rent \$
NJ	12,300	15,600	irrig. is higher 53
CA	9,810	9,880	irrig. 360
AZ	8,500	11,500	irrig. 180
DE	7,800	9,800	72
IA	7,300	4,260	170
MD	7,000	7,800	67
NE states (composite of CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)	6,940	7,930	
IL	6,800	4,850	163
FL	5,730	6,980	40
PA	5,650	6,000	55
VA	4,700	5,350	41
MI	4,000	3,480	78
WV	3,500	3,800	28
NY	2,600	2,150	42
OR	2,510	2,380	irrig. 195
WA	2,230	1,830	irrig. 250
US Average	3,550	2,760	86
NE Avg.	5,260	5,590	52

AGENCY UPDATES

POSITION:

County 4-H Agent, Monmouth County Department of 4-H Youth Development
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

LOCATION: Freehold, NJ (Monmouth County)

AVAILABLE: August 1, 2013

<http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/jobs/>



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Frank: 917-477-5812

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USDA Finalizes New Microloan Program

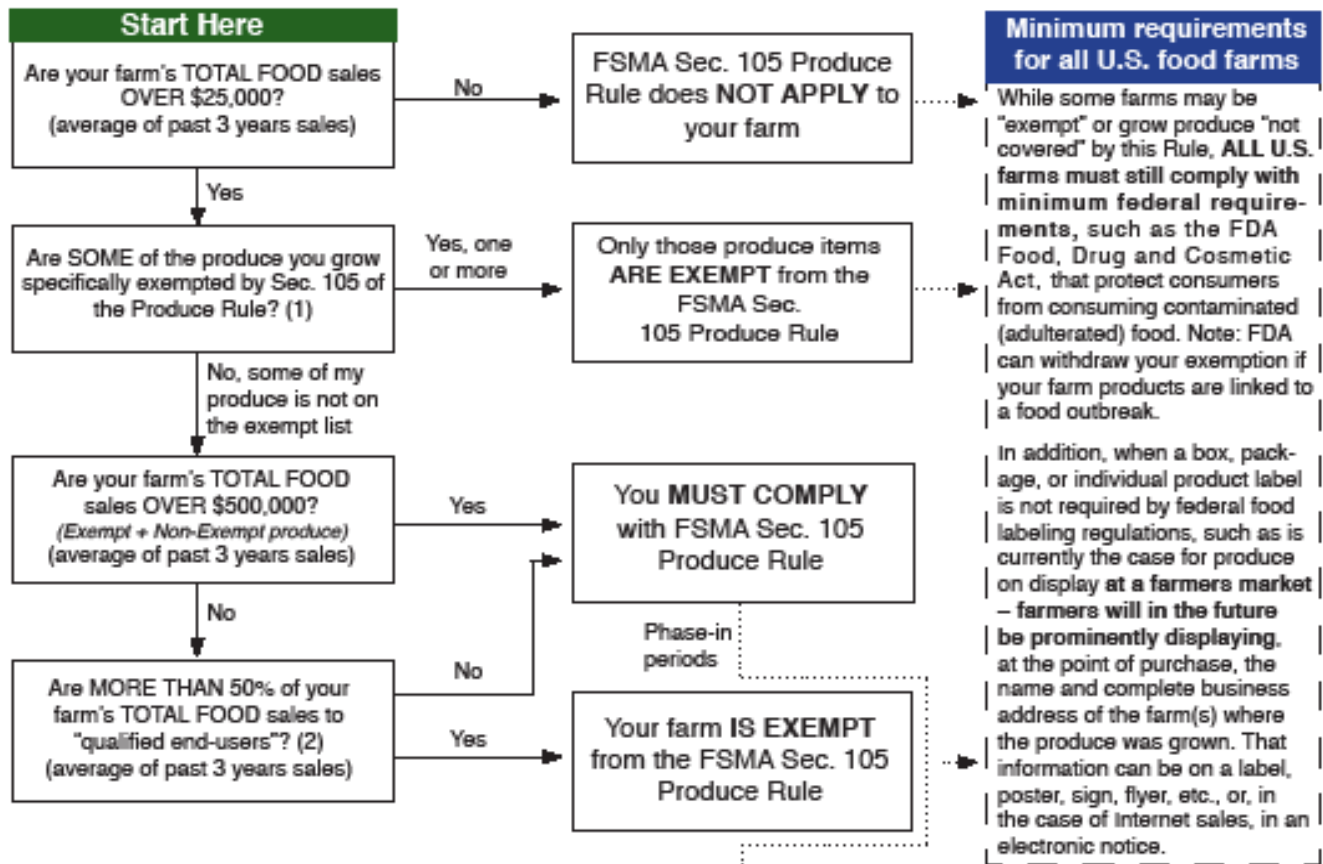
Microloans up to \$35,000 aim to assist small farmers, veterans, and disadvantaged producers

MEMPHIS, Jan. 15, 2013—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a new microloan program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designed to help small and family operations, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers secure loans under \$35,000. The new microloan program is aimed at bolstering the progress of producers through their start-up years by providing needed resources and helping to increase equity so that farmers may eventually graduate to commercial credit and expand their operations. **Contact: Office of Communications 202-720-4623**

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act

PROPOSED - Sec. 105 Produce Rule - Compliance Decision Tree for U.S. Growers of Fruits, Vegetables, Nuts, Mushrooms, Herbs, or Sprouts

Attention. Being "exempt" or growing produce that is "not covered" in the regulation does not automatically result in exemption from the marketplace or buyer requirements. Farmers' market managers or others, for example, could require GAPs, third party audits, and/or adherence to the regulation for vendors or suppliers. Visit the Produce Safety Alliance website to find GAPs educators in your state who can help you implement food safety practices to meet GAP requirements (www.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu).



Compliance Phase-in Scope and Timing

The amount of time farmers have to begin complying with the Produce Rule depends on the dollar amount of **TOTAL FOOD sales** from that farm each year:

Very Small Businesses—a very small business is defined as having, on a rolling basis, an average annual monetary value of food sold during the previous three years of no more than \$250,000. These farms would have **four years after the effective date** to comply; for some of the water requirements, they would have six years.

Small Businesses—a small business is defined as having, on a rolling basis, an average annual monetary value of food sold during the previous three years of no more than \$500,000. These farms would have **three years after the effective date** to comply; for some of the water requirements, they would have five years.

Other Businesses—other businesses would have to comply **two years after the effective date**. For some of the water requirements, they would have four years to comply.

Notes:

(1) **Exempt produce** includes produce that receives commercial processing that adequately reduces the presence of microorganisms of public health significance (e.g., green beans that will be canned) or that is rarely consumed raw, specifically arrowhead, arrowroot, artichokes, asparagus, beets, black-eyed peas, bok choy, brussels sprouts, chick-peas, collard greens, crab apples, cranberries, eggplant, figs, ginger root, kale, kidney beans, lentils, lima beans, okra, parsnips, peanuts, pinto beans, plantains, potatoes, pumpkin, rhubarb, rutabaga, sugar beet, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, taro, turnips, water chestnuts, winter squash (acorn and butternut squash), and yams.

(2) A **qualified end-user** is either (a) the consumer of the food or (b) a restaurant or retail food establishment that is located in the same state or, if located out of state, no more than 275 miles away from the farm.



Saturday, April 27
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

<http://rutgersday.rutgers.edu/>

Calendar

April 2013

19 - Farm Food Safety: What Every Farmer Needs to Know, Mercer Cty Ext, 930 Spruce St., Trenton. NOFA members \$45; non-members \$55. Info call 908-371-1111 x4.

24 - FFA—Agri-Science Fair - 3:15 Rutgers Eco-Complex

27 - Ag Field Day - Rutgers event –Cook Campus all day.

May 2013

1 - Crop Insurance Deadline for NJ Nursery. (see below for details)

14-15 - NJ Ag Agents Retreat AAANJ. Stokes State Forest. Call Bill 732-431-7260 X7278

4 - NJ-Enviro-thon Sustainable Management, Camp Kettle Run, Medford, NJ

17-18 - Master Gardener Plant Sale. 4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold. Fri. 9-5; Sat. 9-3. Info 732-303-7614

July 2013

24-28 Monmouth County Fair—Freehold NJ, Wed.-Sat 5 to 11 PM; Sun 11 to 6 PM.

Crop Insurance Deadline for NJ Nursery

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announces NJ nursery producers should be aware that the **final date** for a new applicant to **apply for 2014 nursery crop insurance is May 1, 2013.** New applications for crop year 2014 may be accepted until May 1, 2013, with coverage beginning 30 days afterwards.

COMING TO FREEHOLD RACEWAY . . .



SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

Bring the Family!

- Great Food
- Fun Family Activities
- Live Music & Fireworks
- Entertainment
- Celebrity Amateur Races
- Demonstrations
- Educational Exhibits
- Tailgate Spaces
- Under-Saddle Races
- Car Show & Petting Zoo

And Much More!

2nd ANNUAL OPEN SPACE PACE PARADE & FESTIVAL

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Parade of Horses
Down Main Street
Freehold Boro to Freehold Raceway
Begins at 10:00 a.m.

Medieval Times Performances

All Events Will Follow Throughout the Day At Freehold Raceway

OpenSpacePACE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS OR TO BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR VISIT:
www.OpenSpacePace.com/events





MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

4/16, 5/21, 6/18

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

WEBSITE www.pcpnj.org

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

CORE 9 am - 1 pm - 3/16, 5/7, 6/4

To register call 800-524-9942

Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Building

4000 Kozloski Rd. Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260

*Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn
sciarappa@njaes.rutgers.edu*

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

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728

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

Photos: R. Chodosh, B. Sciarappa

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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