



Extending Knowledge - Changing Lives in New Jersey & Beyond

In 2014, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which officially created the national Cooperative Extension System. This national celebration will highlight Extension's past and focus on the contemporary application of Extension's transformational, educational programming into the future.

The national celebration will be complemented by state and county activities throughout the year. May 8, 2014 will be the primary day of [the national celebration](#) to signify the actual day the Smith-Lever Act was signed in 1914.

In 1862, Rutgers College accepted the commitment as a land-grant institution with the passage of [the Morrill Act](#). This act specified that the annual income derived from the sale of



public lands which had been allotted on the basis of 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in Congress, should be paid to the Trustees of Rutgers College. This money, a little more than \$5,000 in annual payments, was a "nest egg" and with supplemental state and federal appropriations for faculty, equipment, buildings, and land...

Besides making provisions for resident instruction and research, the Morrill Act charged the Board of Trustees to provide at least one free lecture about agriculture in each county every year.

Willing as they were to comply, the trustees found that taking the college to the people put some severe strains on the resident teaching staff. As the lectures sharpened farmers' appetites for more knowledge, they were supplemented with bulletins, reports, and new articles.

(Continued on page 3)



NJ FARMS GETTING BIGGER, INCREASING INCOME

2012 Census of Agriculture Preliminary Data Released

(TRENTON) – The U.S. Department of Agriculture 2012 Census of Agriculture released in February shows the average New Jersey farm is larger and more productive than it was in 2007.

Preliminary data from the census show the average size of a New Jersey farm increased from 71 to 79 acres from 2007 to 2012. The market value of products sold on those farms went up from \$95,564 to \$111,030 per farm. In total, the market value of products sold on all New Jersey farms increased from \$986.9 million to \$1.01 billion.

"We are seeing consolidation in every industry," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. "Farms are expanding, becoming more diverse in operations and increasing their production."

Between 2007 and 2012 there was a decrease in the number of the state's smallest farms, those between one and nine acres. That number dropped 24 percent from 2,950 to 2,237. However, the number of farms between 50 and 179 acres increased 7 percent from 1,675 to 1,790 during that time period. The census also

showed farmers in the U.S. are getting older. The average age of a New Jersey farmer went up from 57 in 2007 to 59 in 2012.

Conducted since 1840, the Census of Agriculture accounts for all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. When available in May, the final report will provide even more detailed information for New Jersey providing data on all farm operators and data down to the county level. The publication also will provide new insights into the agriculture industry reporting new or expanded data on Internet access, regional food systems, biomass production, agro-forestry and equine.

To be counted in the federal census, a farm must have sold or had the potential to sell at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products.

News from the

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**



SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HONORS THE LANDY FAMILY AS NEW JERSEY HORSEPERSONS OF THE YEAR

(TRENTON) -- The 2013 Governor's Award for Horseperson of the Year was awarded to the Landy family January 26 at the annual Breeders Luncheon by New Jersey Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Alfred Murray.

The Landy's, who own the 200-acre Congress Hill Farm in Monroe Township, have bred and trained horses from childhood and in past years have produced champion horses such as The Porter Grey who was the New Jersey Sire Stakes Champion at 3 and 4 years old.

"The Landy family has a commitment to their surrounding community, bringing horses and people together for their mutual benefit," said Secretary Fisher. "They have many accomplishments through their lifetime of hard work and dedication to the equine industry."

A committee of past horsepersons of the year awarded the honor to the Landy Family for their many achievements, including the creation of the Open Space Pace, the newest agricultural fair in New Jersey which has been



Gloria, Eugene & Harry Landy accept award from Dr. Karyn Malinowski, Director of Rutgers Equine Science Center, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Al Murray.

running for two years. Its inaugural event was held in September of 2012.

In addition to the Open Space Pace, the Landy family also created the 4-H "Bits and Bridles" and "Share a Horse" programs, which offer children in the area different opportunities to ride and show horses beginning at a young age. They also started the internationally-known program, "Special Strides," which provides therapy to 140 children in the New Jersey area.

The annual Breeder's Luncheon celebrated the state's best in the equine field in 2013. Other awards presented at this event were:

New Jersey Equestrian of the Year: Angela Howard, Mullica Hill, is a Junior at Kingsway Regional High School, received a \$250 scholarship and was chosen based on her ability to communicate and her knowledge of horses, as well her essay about how horse owners prepare for disasters.

Lynne Richmond (609)633-2954 Lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us

Monmouth County FFA Chapters Shine Brightly at NJ 2014 Spring C.D.E's

Future Farmers of America, or the F.F.A., is a national youth organization invested in promoting youth involvement in agriculture. On April 10th the New Jersey State Spring Career Development Events were held at Rutgers University. The Spring CDEs included Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems, Agricultural Sales, Environmental & Natural Resources, Floriculture, Nursery/ Landscape, and Veterinary Science. Out of the numerous chapters that attended, four were Monmouth County representatives. These included the Monmouth County Vocational School, Allentown High School, Freehold Township High School, and the Biotechnology High School.



All of our chapters did exceedingly well, both individually and as teams! In Agricultural Sales Freehold Township High School placed first in the state as a team, and will be traveling to next year's National F.F.A. Convention to represent New Jersey. Allentown High School placed first in Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems. They will also represent New Jersey in the upcoming National competition. Monmouth County Vocational School will do the same, due to their first place ranking in Nursery/ Landscape. Biotechnology also placed first in a C.D.E., Veterinary Science.

Claire Brown, FFA Allentown Chapter Member

100th Anniversary of Cooperative Extension

(Continued from page 1)

Those early professors with the Extension vision channeled their information through meetings of county boards of agriculture, farmers' institutes, and later by agricultural trains bearing exhibits and lectures that went from town to town.

These statewide activities proved a serious drain on the time of resident professors. The volume of knowledge kept expanding and so did the requests for help from farmers.

About two years before the passage of the New Jersey Farm Demonstration Act, the farmers of Sussex County got together with the Lackawanna Railroad and the local chamber of commerce, to form the first formal Cooperative Extension program in this state in 1912.

Excerpted from the 2000 Policy Handbook and RCE Website

Establishment of Cooperative Extension Work in NJ Counties

1912	1914	1915
Sussex Mercer	Monmouth Bergen Atlantic	Cape May Middlesex Burlington Cumberland

The Christie Administration has declared this month of May as Cooperative Extension Month in New Jersey. Many counties and Rutgers University have planned several celebrations in regards to this 100th Year Anniversary. In Monmouth County at the end of May, our Extension Department will be inviting Stakeholders to attend our celebration at the Ag Building of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County in Freehold. The Master Gardeners have selected the planting of an American Holly, developed at Rutgers, named Red Beauty.

Did You Know ?

100 years ago...

Some history as we start the 100th Year of Cooperative Extension:

Milk—\$ 0.32 a gallon
Eggs—\$ 0.35 a dozen
Bacon—\$ 0.28 per lb.
Potatoes—\$ 0.18 per lb.
Sirloin Steak—\$ 0.26 per lb.

Union Hourly Wages:

Bricklayer \$ 0.75
Carpenter \$ 0.65
Painter \$ 0.50
Plumber \$ 0.69
Monthly farm wage *with Board* - \$ 21.05 - *without Board* \$ 29.88

Voices of RCE

As part of the celebration, RCE is are working on a [Voices of RCE History Project](#) and collecting statements, stories, photos and videos from past and present Extension personnel to share the scope of our work and its impact on New Jersey residents. Visit the voices below for some stories from past and present RCE employees at the RCE coordinated website coordinated by Smith-Lever Celebration Committee Chair Jeanette Kea-Keywood.

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension100years>



L to R: William Roberts, Extension Specialist; Brevort Conover, 4-H Youth Development Agent; Enos J. Perry, Rutgers Extension Specialist

Our Stories RCE History Project:

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension100years/voices.html>

Charles M. Holmes **Morris S. Fabian**
Calvin G. Wettstein



Rutgers Cooperative Extension 1947

Roller Crimper Tips for NJ Growers — Jack Rabin

Roller Crimpers offer superior benefits to vegetable growers who use them along with herbicides, producing better quality main season crops such as, pumpkin, winter squash, and processing tomato with reduced inputs. The dense cover crop mat acts as a contact barrier between fruit and soil, minimizing fruit defects and splash disseminated diseases that affect marketing. We share lessons learned during our four years of experience using the roller crimper. Armed with this knowledge, decide if Roller Crimper use fits into your operation.

Key Points on Roller Crimper Use—Imagine growing pumpkins with longer retail sales life, good handles, fewer scars, scabs or scuffing, in fields cleaner for u-pick patrons harvest. Imagine seeing these benefits while simultaneously building soil quality, lowering fungicide inputs, and covering soils resulting in weed suppression and soil moisture conservation.

Success Depends on a Dense Mat Treat the cover crop as you would a cash crop to produce a dense stand for best outcomes. On main season vegetables, a dense residue mat does more than help suppress weeds. It reduces ground contact for crops like pumpkin, winter squash, processing tomato, and u-pick. The physical barrier can result in cleaner, more attractive marketable crops that are more likely to be freer from ground contact defects, and aid in suppression of diseases spread by soil contact and water splashing. Therefore, pay attention to production details such as: fall seedbed preparation free of ruts, high (2+ bu/a) rye seeding rate, ideal fall seeding date, adequate fertility, and cover crop termination at the correct time.



Reliable When Used Together with Burndown Herbicide—In four years of field experiences, we found roller crimper no-till most reliably suppressed weeds when used in combination with herbicides, not as a complete alternative. Burndown herbicide at rolling suppresses perennials, germinated annuals, and terminates cover crops much more uniformly and efficiently. View videos documenting an Indiana grower's experience in 2013: <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMAP-dB0LIKnAse6mVU3LoOAK9jYnF3h>

NOT for Use with Early Crops - Roller crimper practices are adaptable for producing main-season crops whose marketing success doesn't depend on early maturity (later sweet corn, snap beans, pumpkin, no-till field crops, no-till livestock grains and forages). Growing the mature cover crop biomass to ideal period in May for rolling and crimping sets later planting dates. Roller crimper practices work best when cover crops are terminated 1-3 weeks before crop planting. To read more information on the Roller crimper:

<http://sustainable-farming.rutgers.edu/roller-crimper-tips-for-nj-growers/>



The NRCS has Roller crimpers available to NJ Growers on a Loan-out basis. Contact them for details @609-267-7410 EMAIL:

admin@bscd.org

[Click to View Roller Crimper Resources on the Blog](#)

The Food Safety Modernization Act is in affect so I'm not going to farm - Wes Kline

That is what I keep hearing from some growers! Well, it is wrong! The final rules still have not been published for FSMA. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will not release the rules until sometime in 2015. When the rules apply to your operation depends on the size and what you grow. Under the present proposal farms are exempt from the rule if they meet the following criteria:

1. Average annual food sold in the previous three years is less than \$500,000.
2. Sell is direct to the end user (consumer, restaurant, supermarket, etc.).
3. The sold produce is within the same state or 275 miles where it is grown.

In reality most wholesale growers will not qualify for this exemption and retail growers who also sell hay, grain, etc. will not qualify since those commodities are included in the total food sold.

For those that do not qualify for the exemption there is a phase in period for the rules:

1. Very small farms (\$25,000-\$250,000) have four years from the time the final rules are published for most parts and additional two years to implement the water provisions. That means 2019 for every-thing except water and 2021 for the water provisions.

2. Small farms (\$250,000-\$500,000) 3 years for most parts plus 2 additional years for water (2018 & 2020).
3. Large farms (over \$500,000) two years for everything except water and two more years for water (2017 and 2019).

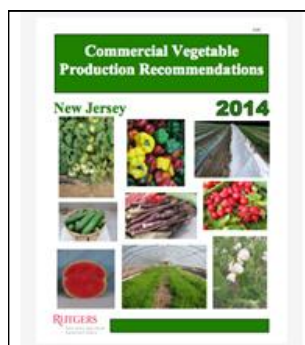
You have one more opportunity to propose changes to the rules. FDA will be requesting comments for certain parts of the rules sometime in May. We will notify the industry when the comment period opens. This will be your last opportunity to make suggestions. Once the final rule is written it will be very difficult to make changes. It would need to go through the whole rule making process which means public hearings, comment periods, etc.

There will be several training sessions once the final rules are published so everyone knows what is included. These training sessions will cover all aspects of production and post-harvest handling to help bring everyone to the same level of food safety understanding. The FDA considers FSMA as the basis where everyone should be in food safety. This does not replace third party audits. Most third party audits will require more information and have stricter requirements than FSMA. Audits are not government regula-tions, but required by your customers. If you do not like doing third party audits consider other customers who do not require them. However, audits are not going away and more customers will be asking that you complete one.

First fact sheet in the food safety series available

Worker Health and Hygiene - Fact Sheet 1230 is now available online at njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs1230. The fact sheet authored by Meredith Melendez and Wesley Kline from the Rutgers Food Safety Team covers all aspects of worker health and hygiene. This can be used as part of training materials for workers.

Commercial Vegetable Recommendations 2014 Available Online



The Rutgers Commercial Vegetable Production Recommendations for NJ, newly updated for 2014, is available for free download. Each section, crop, and topic is available separately. <http://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/?p=8384>

Having printed copies in your pesticide building or in pickup truck is also desirable. Contact <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/county/> to purchase printed editions.

Jack Rabin & Andy Wyenandt

AGENCY UPDATES

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report for April 28, 2014 <http://www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov/>



Hello New Jersey produce industry. Here is our second 2014 "Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report" of the season. Please be forewarned though that radical weather changes will have an influence on the ripening of produce and harvest date of availability. Hopefully, this information can help you with some of your purchasing and marketing decisions.

According to NJ State Climatologist David Robinson of Rutgers University, temperatures were much below normal for the first three months of this year. The enduring winter chill resulted in a December through March average statewide temperature of 31.9° (3.5° below the 1981-2010 normal 2.3°, below the 1895-2014 normal). It was the coldest Winter in 36 years. The 12 months ending with March was also the coolest such interval (52.2°) since February 2003 – January 2004. Our long and cold Winter should have produced sufficient "chilling units" for peaches and other fruits that need some Winter chill to develop. This same Winter chill should also cause less insect pressure this season due to the below average temperatures and extensive Winter kill.

Winter precipitation was near normal but very erratic in timing and location around the State. Last month for instance, the southeast part of the State came in as much as 2" above the monthly average while the northwest about 1.5" below average. Since most of the commercial volume of produce in NJ tends to come from the southern part of the State, our cold and wet recent weather has resulted in much of our produce production being

several weeks behind recent years earlier than normal starts. Over-wintered produce such as cilantro, spinach, leeks, parsley, and kale have had a bit of a rough time over-wintering this year with variable quality and lower volumes than normal starting to become available. Some over-wintered products such as leeks & parsley have been particularly hurt this Winter as our long, cold, and wet Winter has severely hurt them.

Most farmers first field work didn't get started until about a month ago when the planting of spring greens, lettuces and other cool season crops started in between cold snaps around Vineland. Warming temperatures and drier weather since then have also alternated with cold and/or rainy weather. Most transplanted crops are under protective cover. Blueberry bud break was near normal, pushed a bit by some warmer temperatures, but then stopped by near freezing temps several weeks ago. Growers are anticipating a slightly later than normal start this season, but won't know until full blossom occurs.

Warmer weather is here but temperatures are still fluctuating daily with cooler temperatures. Temperatures are in the low-60's now and will fall into the mid-50's as rains will bring in slightly cooler weather. Cool overnights still prevail at this time of year but are starting to warm. . It will continue to take some time to slowly increase our current soil temperatures to encourage germination.

Bill Walker, NJDA

RCE ACTION

Professor Win Cowgill and crew prune and plant new apple cultivars in slender spindle system with feathered branching.



CALENDAR

May 2014

13-14 - ARMA Dept. Retreat. Stokes State Forest

16 & 17 - Master Gardener Plant Sale. Rain or Shine...cash or check. Plants, Helpline, free gardening talks. Ag Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold.

<http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=173>

21 Vegetable Working Group Meeting—RCE Burlington/NJACTS Planning. Rick vanVranken 609-625-0056

30 - ESP Meeting - Smith-Lever Celebration. Roebling Museum, Burlington. Jeannette Rea-Keywood - 856-459-1900 x4522
reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu

June 2014

June 23-27 - North American Blueberry Research & Extension Meeting - Atlantic City. <http://group-res.com/NEBREW/default.aspx> - G. Pavlis 609-625-0056

June 30 - Equine Issues Panel, Library Manalapan.

July 2014

20-24 - NACAA, Abilene, Louisiana

23-27 Monmouth County Fair - East Freehold Park.

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA
5-20, 9-16, 10-21, 11-18, 12-16

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING
CORE 9 am - 1 pm— 6-3
3A - 6 -17, 9 AM—3 PM
3B - 5-13 9 AM—3 PM

To register call 800-524-9942

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



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

**RUTGERS
COOPERATIVE**



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

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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, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political

Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

Photos: B. Sciarappa, NJ Dept. of Agriculture, Rutgers University

New Jersey Agricultural
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