



## Christie Administration Celebrates June as Month of the Horse



Secretary Fisher with Monmouth County Dep. Director Serena DiMaso, Freeholder Lillian Burry, Bix Dimeo & Mayor Nancy Grbelja

A kickoff celebration for the Month of the Horse occurred June 11, 2013 at Showplace Farms, a harness-racing training facility. Among attendees were New Jersey **Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher**, **Farm Bureau President Ryck Suydam**, **Freeholder Deputy Director Serena DiMaso**, **Freeholder Lillian Burry**, Millstone Township **Mayor Nancy Grbelja** and **Bix Dimeo**, **Showplace Farms** General Manager. The finale of the event was Secretary Fisher riding around the farm's 1,000 meter track in a jog cart with Linda Toscano, a trainer at the facility.



Secretary Fisher riding Bettors Edge with Linda Toscano

**Showplace Farms** is one of the leading harness-racing training and rehabilitation service facilities for Standardbred horses in New Jersey. Worth over \$20 million with almost **400 horses**, it is the site of training for many accomplished harness-racing trainers and horses. Bix Dimeo, states: "At Showplace, we strive to create a **premier facility** for those in the Standardbred industry and provide them with what they will need to continue to train Standardbreds in New Jersey."

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## Happy Horse Month!

The **Monmouth County Library** held a program in honor of **Horse Month in New Jersey**. Our state animal was the featured topic for a panel discussion on the Standardbred horse industry in Monmouth County. This event



was held at the county library headquarters in Manalapan, Monday evening June 17<sup>th</sup>. Before the panel discussion, visitors were greeted at the entrance by **Indy**, a **champion standardbred** also known as Independent Act and owned by **Suzanne D 'Ambrose**. Indy wowed the crowd with a striking appearance and a gentle and friendly demeanor. The children loved to touch his beautiful coat, feed some carrots, pet the gelding and "talk" to the equine star.

The program began with some casual socialization and networking. Featured panelists included **Harriet Honigfeld, Administrator** of the Monmouth County Farmland Preservation program; **Sam Landy, Esq. President** of the Open Space Pace and owner/breeder of Congress Hill Farms; **President Tom Luchento** of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey and Dr. **Karyn Malinowski, Director** of the Rutgers Equine Science Center. **Moderator, Bill Sciarappa Rutgers Ag & Resource Management Agent**, structured a list of pertinent issues for the session. Harriet Honigfeld began with an overview of the open space effort in Monmouth

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Upper L to R: Mayor Grbelja, Indy & owner Suzanne D'Ambrose; Freeholder Burry, Sam Landy, Don Burry, Brett Taft, Indy & Suzanne D'Ambrose  
 Lower Left L to R: Panel: Harriet Honigfeld, Sam Landy, Tom Luchento, Dr. Karyn Malinowski; Lower right L to R: Horse Festival leaders Taft & Landy, Head Librarian Mary Jane Kehoe, Moderator Bill Sciarappa & Equine Science Center Director Karyn Malinowski

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County in terms of acreage and expansion as well as the enjoyment and aesthetic value of horse farms. Tom and Sam used their longterm experience in giving an overview of the history of Standardbreds in NJ as well as an up-to-date explanation of current times that have sharply changed due to legal and regulatory mandates. Karyn provided important statistics on how important this Equine industry is to economic development of our state, especially in regards to employment numbers and revenue generation of over **1 billion dollars per year**. **Freeholder Lillian Burry and Mayor Nancy Grbelja** spoke of the difficult political issues and competing interests by the casino industry. Nonetheless, their zeal to continue this "fight" was very evident.

Even though other nearby states like Pennsylvania and New York have thrived with their conversion to racinos with their gaming devices, New Jersey has not taken this important step. This extra economic boost leads to sharply higher purses to the racers which then causes migration of breeding horses and farmers from NJ to those competing states. The flood of our valuable

Equine Industry in moving to more supportive states continues to increase. Our group spent considerable time in discussing ways to regrow and recapture our fair share. Several ways to gather support were simply political activism and action in talking with government representatives and stressing the advantages brought by equine operation to the economy and the tax base. Additionally, the environmental advantages of ag-land use and open space in areas dominated by horse and hay farms that store drinking or irrigation water. Vince Dominion, a member of the **Monmouth County Steering Committee** for the **Master Plan** said many of these points will be emphasized in an upcoming version. The lively audience had a slew of pertinent questions such as the struggles of young owners, how to get engaged, evolve approaches to new racing audiences, etc. and the panel responded with some solid suggestions. One educative outreach event is scheduled for **September 21, 2013** at Freehold raceway – The Open Space Pace and Horse Festival – now a state approved county agricultural fair (see the following page) and website [www.openspacepace.org](http://www.openspacepace.org) Please save the date and come and join the celebration.

*Bill Sciarappa*

# NJ's Newest County **AG FAIR!**

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!*

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
OPEN SPACE PACE  
PARADE &  
FESTIVAL**

*Live Music &  
Racing*

**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

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

OpenSpace **PACE**  
A New Jersey Non-Profit Organization

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The equine industry is a major component in today's economy, especially that in New Jersey. It has been estimated by **Rutgers Equine Science Center** that the equine industry in New Jersey is worth about **\$4 billion**, creating a profit of about \$1.1 billion each year. In fact, according to Governor Christie, New Jersey-sired Standardbreds are recognized for their high quality internationally. In New Jersey alone, there are 7,200 equine facilities housing more than 42,500 equine animals. Secretary Fisher stated that New Jersey was home to various

high-quality equine facilities, including The United States Equestrian Foundation. It is important to support this industry, as it benefits not only our state economy, but according to Secretary Fisher, makes New Jersey a **"special place to live and visit."**

For more information on the NJ Department of Agriculture's equine programs, visit the Jersey Equine website at <http://www.jerseyequine.nj.gov>

*Vivian Quinn & Rebecca Barrisi*

# MY INTERNSHIP AT RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Rebecca Barresi—Biotechnology High School

The past couple of weeks, I had the pleasure of interning for the Monmouth County Rutgers Cooperative Extension office. A key aspect of the curriculum for a senior at **Biotechnology High School** is to participate in an internship at a company of their choice; this ultimately allows students to take knowledge acquired over the past four years and apply it while working in a field that fits their career interest. Biotechnology



High School, **located in Freehold, NJ**, is part of the Monmouth County Vocational School District. It was recently ranked as the **#8 high school in the nation and #1 in the state (US News)**. This high school is also an International Baccalaureate World School, in which students participate in a rigorous curriculum over the course of two years in order to earn an IB diploma. Students at Biotechnology High School strive to play an active role in their community.

Biotechnology High School also has an active **FFA** chapter, in which most people recognize for members' participation in the **Agriscience Fair and Career Development Events**. With over **70 active members**, this chapter is



*BTHS FFA in Indianapolis*

anything but boring. It has participated in both state and national level Agriscience Fairs and the **Veterinary Science Career Development Event**. In addition to attending NJ state convention on Rutgers' Cook Campus, members traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, to attend national convention. The BTHS FFA chapter has also worked closely with other Monmouth County **FFA chapters to prepare for the annual Monmouth County Board of Agriculture dinner**. Here, the officers of the BTHS chapter interacted with members of the board, such as Rutgers Ag Agents and the NJ Secretary of Agriculture. After maintaining **the role of president of this chapter for the past two years**, I am proud of what our chapter has blossomed into and its involvement in the community.

The past couple of weeks at the RCE office have been enriched with various tasks that both strengthened the knowledge I previously acquired and allowed me to learn new skills. I participated in various jobs, such as studying the microbiology present in different soil samples; by doing so, I learned how to obtain a soil sample, completed a



*Soil Sampling*

**Solvita Soil Respiration Test** to determine the microbial activity of the sample, and analyzed and applied results. In doing this, I was able to help the RCE office jumpstart its own service to conduct the Solvita Soil Test on site. I also completed water sampling and testing of various streams in the **Colts Neck Watershed**. From this, we were able to study the water's pH, dissolved oxygen levels, nitrate levels, ammonia levels, and more.

From extending knowledge while planting a vegetable garden with students at Bolger Middle School in Keansburg to learning new information from various seminars to even **meeting the NJ Secretary of Agriculture**, I can confidently say that this internship has not only been filled with real-life applications of what I have learned throughout my educational career, but has also been the best in allowing a **hands-on approach in teaching**.



*Working at Bolger Middle School*

## NEW SOIL HEALTH TEST AT RCE MONMOUTH COUNTY

### Bill Sciarappa, Ag Agent

Our Agricultural and Resource Management group of Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Freehold has begun assessing the utility of a new type of soil evaluation. The process is called the **Solvita Soil Respiration test** which is designed to assess the biological soil health of farmlands. Most of our standard soil tests measure the physical and chemical components of farm soils but do not take into account the microbial contributions such as nitrogen production through the conversion of carbon pools /organic matter in the soil. These traditional tests are used to make soil management recommendations based on the nutritional needs of the plant, but they do not figure in the untapped reservoir that may be freely obtained in healthy soils. With the high price of synthetic fertilizer, especially for nitrogen derived from petrochemical sources, it is more economical than ever to precisely apply the correct amount of nutrients.

A recent study by the **USDA-NRCS of 4100 farms** throughout the United States showed that less than half of the nitrogen utilized by the crops came from external synthetic application while the larger half came from the naturally produced reserve of a healthy soil. Furthermore, this **biological N** was highly correlated with water-soluble organic carbon as these two organic pools are basic sources of plant nutrition, growth, and health.

Keys to creating and maintaining healthy soils are keeping the soil covered throughout the year, disturbing the soil as little as possible, using cover crops, applying compost and rotating crops. These investments can lead to long-term financial savings by increasing this supply of **natural capital**. We are not completely sure how depleted or how healthy our farm soils are in New Jersey. This new soil health test from Solvita Systems (<http://solvita.com>) shows promise in providing a relatively simple approach to gathering more information.



We plan to use this new system in various ways such as:

- To survey the biological status of county soils.
- To monitor soil cropping techniques and determine their effects on overall soil health.
- To estimate potential nitrogen mineralization for adjustment of fertilizer recommendations.
- To determine any potential cost savings.

This May and June, our team began a general survey from **15 selected farms** in our area growing blueberries, tomatoes, sweet corn, field corn, strawberries and pastures. We trained at the Rutgers soil lab under **Director Stephanie Murphy**. Then we purchased our own Solvita system that is working out quite well in our Freehold Office. Our aim this season is to continue surveying farm soils used to grow small fruit, agronomic crops, specialty vegetables, pasture, hay, turf, bioenergy crops and composted materials. Hopefully this research project will allow us to get an ex-



*Director Murphy demonstrates soil test*

expanded overview as to the soil situation of local farms or cropping operations as well as fine tune our sampling and analysis methods. Basically, random soil samples are taken with a standard soil probe and the samples are dried. This causes the soil microbes to go dormant. The soils are then rewetted which revitalizes the microbial population leading to a **carbon dioxide burst** from their increased respiration known as a CO<sub>2</sub> burst. Measurements of this gaseous release are made with a color sensitive gel probe and digital color reader - left side photo. The carbon dioxide production is proportional to the microbial biomass and potential carbon to nitrogen mineralization. **Biological nitrogen** is more slowly released by microbial action and is as not nearly as subject to leaching as soluble N is highly subject to; such as synthetic nitrate/urea. We hope to report on our findings after the season and if feasible we may pursue a low cost or no-cost service to our Central Jersey farmers. In any event, our take home message is always to utilize **best ag practices in building healthy soils**.

# AGENCY UPDATES



<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/bulletins/7f74bd>



## 2012 CROP PRODUCTION RECORDS DUE JULY 15, 2013

While the deadline to file an application for payment for the 2012 NAP program and to provide production for the 2012 crop year is July 15, 2013, we are requesting that program participants provide their production no later than June 30, 2013 to allow time for our staff to complete and process the necessary your paper work.

## ACREAGE REPORTING DEADLINES

Deadlines for farmers' FSA acreage report.

Nursery Crops for 2014 Crop Year - **May 31, 2013**

Spring Seeded Forage - **June 15, 2013** (This year you will have until the next business day, **June 17, 2013**)

All Other Crops - **July 15, 2013**

Processing Beans and CRP - **August 15, 2013**

Christmas Trees, Sod, Cut Flowers for 2014 Crop Year - **September 30, 2013**

## FARMING OPERATION CHANGES AND RECONSTITUTIONS

If you have bought or sold land, or you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. Failure to maintain

accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties.

Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by **August 1** for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

**Designation of Landowner Method** — In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least 3 years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

**DCP Cropland Method** — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

**Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

**Note - Reconstitutions must be requested by August 1 of the FY for farms subject to DCP.**

### **Retail Farm Market Employee Professional Development On-line** - Penn State Extension (USDA/NIFA Award #2010-49200-06201)

This educational material is designed for people that market through a CSA, Farmers' Markets stand, and On-Farm Markets. This on-line education is part of a full day workshop that provides employees with knowledge and skills for responding to preserving product quality and serving customer needs. If you missed this full day workshop, here is a chance to enhance your direct-to-consumer farm marketing skills.

**Topics include: Produce Handling and Quality, Produce Merchandising, Customer Service, Sanitation.**

The materials are designed to address the science of produce and the art of retail marketing. From the workshops delivered this spring we find this material is appropriate for new employee training and as a refresher for existing employees. Five brief on-line videos are available at no fee. You can use them as your and your employees schedule permits. To take advantage of this unique training opportunity, visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/psufoodandfarmbiz>

### **10-DVD Greenhouse Tomato Grower's Survival Kit** **Mississippi State University Extension**

A complete 10-DVD Greenhouse Tomato Grower's Survival Kit is available to help greenhouse vegetable growers succeed in the business of raising high quality tomatoes and other greenhouse vegetables. The 10 DVD's include all of the speakers and presentations from a 3 day Greenhouse Tomato Short Course.

The Greenhouse Tomato Short Course is a national conference with growers and exhibitors participating from over 25 states, Canada and other countries. For more information visit: <http://greenhousetomatoes.com>. This is your chance to see what you missed and to have reference materials at your fingertips to help you succeed.

To order DVD set, send \$75.00 check or money order (no credit cards) to Dr. Richard G. Snyder, Prof. & Veg. Specialist, Mississippi State Univ., PO Box 231, Crystal Springs, MS 39059.

## CALENDAR

### July 2013

**16-Direct Marketing Twilight Mtg.** 7 PM. Duffield's Farm Market. [www.duffieldsfarm.com](http://www.duffieldsfarm.com)

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

**24 - Rutgers Equine Science Center Open House** - 10 am-12, Red Barn, college farm Rd. Tiffany Cody 848-932-9419 [cody@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:cody@njaes.rutgers.edu)

**30-31 - Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days** Hort Farm II, New Brunswick. 973-812-6467 or [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org) Pesticide credits available.

### August 2013

**28—Annual Rutgers Great Tomato Tasting**, Pittstown NJ. 908-730-7419 <http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/tomatoes.html>

### September 2013

**16-19** - National Meeting Ag Agents - NACAA, Pittsburgh

**21 - Open Space Pace Festival of Horses** - Freehold Raceway. [www.openspacepace.com/events](http://www.openspacepace.com/events)



<http://www.monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?>



**Welcome to the Monmouth County Fair!**

*Presented by the Monmouth County Park System  
in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H Association*

**The Original Monmouth County Agricultural Fair**

**2013 Fair is July 24-28**  
Wednesday-Saturday from 5-11pm  
Sunday from 11am-6pm

**East Freehold Showgrounds**  
Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ

**Admission \$7 Children 12 & Under Free**



### ANNUAL RUTGERS GREAT TOMATO TASTING

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013—3 pm to dusk

Snyder Farm, Pittstown, NJ

908-730-9419

<http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/tomatoes>



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

#### MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

9-17, 10,15, 11-19

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING

CORE 9 am - 1 pm -

To register call 800-524-9942

Held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Ag Bldg.

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

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

WEBSITE [www.pcpnj.org](http://www.pcpnj.org)

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*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: V. Quinn, R. Chodosh, B. Sciarappa, R. Barrisi

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

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