



# Changing Times



Volume I, Issue 2

Winter 2003-04

Welcome to the Winter edition of Changing Times. We hope that you've wrapped up this wet fall season and had a warm Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It's important to recharge and relieve a lot of stress from this tough season of 2003. Your vegetables are done, Halloween's over, your field corn is cut, your beans are in, your cover crop is planted and your hay loft is filled. If you're still going gangbusters, your probably into sod, nursery and greenhouse production. In any event, take a long deep breath and start to think about the season ahead. Think about how things went this past season and consider any adjustments and then write down a new farm plan with specific changes in mind.

Some ways to stimulate new ideas may be found at upcoming ag meetings. Please check the calendar in this newsletter and especially remember the Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting in Freehold on February 6. Take advantage of these opportunities to learn about new crops, new methods and new markets in ratcheting up your operation.

Back down to earth, it may be a good time for you to replenish your soils before the ground freezes with the deep incorporation of some aged horse manure. There's a lot around, so contact your nearest horse farm neighbor and see if you can recycle some of that good stuff and save a little money on your fertilizer bill. Test your soils first and then develop a nutrient management plan.

Speaking of horses, it's pretty neat to see your boss racing a pacer at Freehold Raceway. Dean Karyn Malinowski has been exciting the crowds for several weekends at the track with her hard-charging style and winning record aboard Could Be Magic. As you know, there are many similarities between the risks of farming and the risks at the track.

Hopefully you'll find a little magic yourself and can horse around a bit over the winter holidays. But, aim to emerge into the new year recharged and re-tooled, ready to implement your new and improved farm plan amidst these changing times. Happy Holidays.

*Bill Sciarappa*

## She Believed in Magic—A Professor's Ride to the Winner's Circle

*Reprinted from Rutgers Magazine Fall 2003*

There isn't much that horse aficionado Karyn Malinowski hasn't done as a professor of equine science: acquired horses for the animal science department; lectured on their breeding, nutrition, and metabolic bone disease; even used her own money so that Rutgers mascot Lord Nelson could live out his life under her care. But last spring she took her lifelong love affair with horses to another level. "I've had a passion for harness racing and, after 20 years of working with standard-bred horses, I wanted to finally sit in the sulky and experience that part of it," says Malinowski, who recently became dean of the Outreach and Extension Program at Cook College.

With that in mind, she joined the American Harness Drivers Club and bought Could Be Magic, a 10-year-old standard-bred gelding who was near the end of a successful professional racing career. She also hired a trainer and caretaker. "I've never been addicted to anything in my life, but I am to this," says Malinowski, who won two of the four races she entered last spring and qualified for the

state amateur harness racing finals at the Meadowlands.

"Driving takes superior vision and fast reflexes. You've got a split second to make your move for position—any hesitation and the opening is gone. "Malinowski, who plans to be in the sulky again when the fall season starts at Freehold Raceway on Sept. 20, is itching to make it back to the Meadowlands and win the \$5,000 purse.



*In her debut race in April, Malinowski kept her cool as her gelding struggled but then pulled ahead by two lengths to win.*

# Remember When...

## From College Farm to College Campus

Edward V. Lipman\*

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In 1911, a fire destroyed the College Farm horse barn, cow barn, and many of the adjacent buildings, and that made the administration of the College of Agriculture think about moving the livestock away from the Dean's House and the College Farm Pond, which is the proper name for Passion Puddle. The issue of sanitation had already caused some discussion of this relocation, but the fire settled the matter. And so they moved the surviving farm buildings and the herds out to what was then called the New Dairy. Then they built Lipman Drive. These things changed the entire structure and ambience of the campus. Then they started to build buildings. At that time, as I recollect, the campus had only Waller Hall—that was the Short Course Building built in 1906—and a few little gray and brown buildings. The first new building was called the Main Building, which evolved to Administration Building and then to Martin Hall. It was built in 1914, and something very unusual happened to that building. It had lovely tile pillars in the front. It was very attractive, but, during a couple of cold winters, water got in behind the tiles and froze. The result was big chunks of tile floating down on peoples' heads as they were climbing the front steps. Unfortunately, they had to tear out all the tiles and all the pillars and rebuild the front of the building. Next to be built were the horticulture building, now called Blake Hall, the poultry building, now called Thompson Hall, and then the dairy building, which is now Bartlett Hall. These were all built in a kind of horseshoe on the ridge that partly encloses the pond, and they were all completed in the 1920s.

I think it all turned out pretty well.

I should add one more interesting development. My father was a soil microbiologist, probably the first in the East. He loved the soil and the creatures that live in it, and he wanted a soil science building. It was approved in the late 1920s, and it was to be built where the present Lipman Hall is. Unfortunately, the architect employed by Rutgers and the head of Buildings and Grounds—a wonderfully fascinating man named Howard Huber—disagreed about the shape of the windows. Before they could work out



Equine Science Center expands to Hort Farm

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their disagreement, the governor announced that the Depression had come to New Jersey. That meant all construction was canceled, unless ground had already been broken.

Pop did not get his building. It was built later, of course, after World War II, but he was dead by then.

*\*Edward V. Lipman was a son of Jacob G. Lipman, who served as the 3rd dean and director of the college and experiment station, from 1911-1939. In 1997 he shared some memories from that period with ConneXions's editors.*

*The above article was reprinted from ConneXions—Fall 2003—newsletter of Cook College and the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station.*

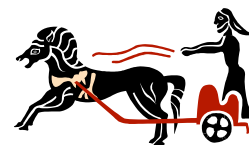
### News Update - Equine Science Center Spring 2003 Edition

Over 400 equine professionals and enthusiasts converged on Rutgers' Cook College campus March 29 and 30 to network, share experiences and learn more about aspects of the equine industry in the state, the region and the nation via the third annual "Horses 2003" conference.

Copies of the Horses 2003 Proceedings are now available at \$25 per copy, postpaid, by phoning 732-932-9415 or via e-mail, [horvath@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:horvath@aesop.rutgers.edu)

### From the Clubhouse - Dr. Karyn Malinowski

New headquarters for the Equine Science Center will be at the NJ Museum of Agriculture on College Farm Road on the Cook campus, sharing facilities with the Ag Museum staff. You can reach the office at its regular telephone number 732-932-9419.



# Crop Disaster Program

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Applications are still being accepted for the 2001 & 2002 Crop Disaster Program which will provide assistance for losses due to low yields, prevented planting and reduced quality due to adverse weather conditions. You will have the option of receiving a payment for either the 2001 or the 2002 crop year, but not both. The crop loss must also have been in excess of 35 percent in either year. Crop disaster payments will be calculated in a similar manner to that used for the disaster program covering the 2000 crop year. The crop value used for payment calculations will be the higher of the Actual Production History (APH) price election or the national (NASS) seasonal average price. CDP payments will be limited to \$80,000 per producer. The payment rate will be 50 percent of an established price for producers who had crop insurance or NAP coverage, as well as for those producers for which crop insurance or NAP was not available. A lower rate of 45 percent of an established price will be paid to producers who did not obtain crop insurance or NAP coverage. Your disaster payments plus crop insurance and NAP payments cannot exceed 95 percent of what the producer would have received in the absence of a disaster. If a benefit is received, you must agree to purchase crop insurance and/or NAP for each of the next two available years. If the recipient fails to purchase coverage, the producer must refund the disaster payment. In the absence of insurance RMA data at signup, you will need to provide a summary of reliable and verifiable production evidence. Any producer without such production evidence may be assigned production. Also, the noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) has a deadline for many vegetables on December 31. Please contact Farm Service Agency for more details or to schedule an appointment.

## Farm Service Agency—Monmouth, Mercer & Middlesex

303 West Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728

732-462-0075

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

### NJ INSURABLE CROPS 2004



A list of Sales Closing Dates for some NJ Insurable Crops for 2004 are as follows:

**November 20, 2003:** Apples, Blueberries, Cranberries & Peaches

**December 31, 2003:** Potatoes

**March 15, 2004:** Corn, Soybeans, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Oats, Processing Beans, Tomatoes & Winter Squash

**May 31, 2004:** Nursery (only first year policies)

For additional information regarding insurance providers check the web at

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The EQIP program is a voluntary conservation program through which producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to adopt land management practices such as irrigation water management, integrated crop management, soil management, and prescribed grazing. EQIP offers a continuous sign up period, although this round of applications will close on December 12, 2003. To sign up for EQIP, please contact your local NRCS office at 732-642-1079 for an application. If you later decide not to participate, you may write a letter requesting to withdraw your application. Applicants that are not funded will roll over to the next round unless a producer requests to be withdrawn. This year, five (5) additional points will be credited to the pre-ranking process for farms that have been permanently deed restricted for agricultural purposes.

*Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn*

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*Look for our next issue Spring 2004*

# BBQ & Farm Tour

Bill Sciarappa & Vivian Quinn



The first day of fall, September 23, started with torrential rain and a tornado in parts of New Jersey; however, by 5 PM the weather was ideal for a barbecue and farm tour of Rutgers Fruit Research and Extension Center hosted by RCE of Monmouth County. The 60 plus attendees included the Board of Agriculture, Master Gardeners and Extension staff from Monmouth and Ocean counties, and also included several spouses and children.

Everyone enjoyed the meal of traditional BBQ and vegetables grown on the farm. Dr. Joe Goffreda, Director of the Research Farm, welcomed the guests and especially thanked the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Monmouth County for their dedicated work over the years. From May to October, Master Gardeners assist with planting, recording data and weeding and harvesting of Bill Sciarappa's Specialty Vegetable studies. Approximately half of the 804 Master Gardener volunteer hours dedicated to Rutgers research in 2002 took place at Cream Ridge.

Bill Sciarappa introduced Art Brown to the crowd before starting the tour. The former Secretary of Agriculture and now Director of Outreach at the Food Policy Institute at Rutgers has assumed a part-time ag agent position in Ocean County. Mr. Brown said he was happy to be among a lot of old friends and working out in the field again. He was enjoying new experiences in his new role. He said, "I never had the opportunity to work with Master Gardeners before, and I see a lot of them here tonight." "It is a very rewarding type of program and a great opportunity to get people involved in agriculture of NJ."

The tour started with Dr. Ed Durner explaining his work on producing strawberry tips here in NJ because our Canadian source often can't supply the demand. We then headed to the greenhouse and saw Dr. Durner's innovative "sewer pipe" production method for strawberries. He explained

that the research was focused on producing strawberries in New Jersey for the Thanksgiving and Christmas market. This involves working with secret manipulations of photo periods and temperatures to get fruit to ripen early and heavily. Sweet Charley, a cultivar out of Florida, is showing promise.

Tom Frieberger explained that Rutgers University, Cook College and NJ Agricultural Experiment Station are working to develop an ornamental research center at Cream Ridge. Tom has been given the task to get things started. The main objective of IR-4 is to get new and expanded pesticide labeling for minor-use crops.

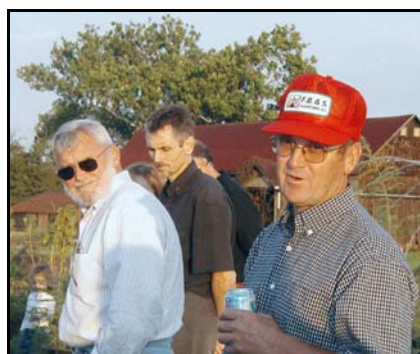
Bill Sciarappa spoke on his high-value specialty crop research and seasonal rotation of crops. Bill also talked about oriental beetle mating disruption trials being conducted on the ornamentals by Dr. Jim Lashomb and Rich Obal. The OB population is quite high in NJ, and it is important to control this pest so we can avoid quarantine issues and continue to ship our ornamentals to other states.

The apple orchard was our next stop. Dr. Joe Goffreda spoke on his apple breeding program and how varieties differ in not only taste and appearance but susceptibility to diseases as well. He then invited everyone to taste and pick some amazingly good new apple varieties. Both adults and children indulged before moving to Bill's human grade soybean plot. Bill and Tommy briefly explained how these new soybean varieties differ from conventional animal feed beans in having higher protein, better human digestibility and a 2 to 3X price advantage per bushel.

The evening brought together researchers, growers and volunteers. Even though we all have different roles in agriculture and plant science, we all need to work together to keep NJ green and growing.



Dr. Ed Durner



R to L: Marty Bullock, BOA President; Bill Walker, NJDA; Master Gardener Kent Fleming



Tom Frieberger

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## CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

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### DECEMBER

**Dec. 4th & 5th** - Annual Future of Our Food & Farms Summit - Wilmington Syndhan Hotel, DE. Call 215/568-0830 x10 or [contact@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:contact@thefoodtrust.org)

**Dec. 9, 10, 11** - NJ Turf Grass Expo and Trade Show, Atlantic City.

### JANUARY 2004

**Jan 13-15** - Vegetable Growers Association New Jersey Annual Meeting—Borgata Hotel Casino in Atlantic City, NJ. Info will be provided as available.

**January 24** - NOFA Organic Growers meeting in News Brunswick

**January 27** - Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference, Hershey, PA. Call Bill Troxell 717/694-3596. <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu/midatlantic/>

### February 2004

Feb. 6 - Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Annual Meeting - Freehold Gardens, Freehold, NJ. Call 732-431-7260 for information.

Feb. 25—Central Jersey Turf and Ornamental Institute—Freehold.

**Monmouth County Board of Ag Meetings**  
7:30 PM - Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 16

**Basic Pesticide Training 9 AM - 1 PM**  
Jan. 7, 18; Feb. 25; March 18; Apr. 14, May 11, June 2  
To register call 800-524-9942

**Held at**  
**Rutgers Cooperative Extension,**  
**20 Court St., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**732-431-7260**

At the November 25, 2003 Monmouth County Board of Agriculture reorganization meeting held in the RCE Freehold office, The 2004 slate for the Executive Committee was approved. The slate of nominations are as follows:

**President - Marty Bullock**  
**Vice President - Tom Freiberger**  
**Secretary - Bill McCormack**  
**Treasurer - Ross Clayton**  
**Recording Secretary - Don Holland**

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## Vegetable Field Day at Bridgeton Research Draws Tasters

Joe Colanero -*The New Jersey Farmer*—September 1, 2003

You could almost hear the pleasure, or displeasure, among the mixed crowd of invited taste testers munching on dozens of heirloom and hybrid champion grape tomato wannabees filling the bins at the sampling table. Mulling over the suggested 1 to 5 scoring, it was obvious that some varieties had to be tested again and again, while others didn't make the cut. This juicy event took place on August 25 at the Bridgeton Research Center's Vegetable and Specialty Crops Field Day and Heirloom Tomato Taste Testing pulled together by Cumberland County Ag Agent, Wes Kline.

Before the crowd took to the wagons to tour the fields, Maureen Scaramella, Rutgers Ag and Food Marketing Agent, worked the crowd of tasters to gather anecdotal comments concerning the varieties. This event, Scaramella told me, was part of an ongoing effort to research the opinions of the public, and at other events tailored specifically for chefs, to interest them in advancing Jersey tomatoes.

Dr. Steve Garrison, Ag Agent Vegetable Specialist, demonstrated both the plots trialed with hybrid tomatoes and heirloom tomatoes. As to the heirloom plot, Garrison said the heirlooms offered more customers

choices of special tastes and colors. "Although customers at the market want perfect tomatoes, there is an increasing number of discerning buyers who want more than a good looking tomato, they want flavor, and unique flavors, as well," said Garrison. Another question posed to Garrison was whether they save the seed. "Most tomato flowers are self pollinating, but because of 1-2 percent of out-crossing, we buy fresh seed every year as we have numerous varieties in these plots," Garrison said.

The fields studying late blight on tomatoes were strictly off limits to attendees as clothing or shoes easily carry the spores to infect other fields. Viewing samples of infected leaves, more of a large necrotic area than the spotty sporation of early blight, showed that they can and do wipe out full fields of tomatoes. "Though it's a problem in the plants, blight is not a problem with fresh tomatoes at the market," said Kline.



*(Continued on page 7)*

# 2003 – Spring Greenhouse Production

Rich Obal



Monmouth County has over 300 acres of greenhouses devoted to the production of Spring bedding plants and hanging baskets. There are at least 100 growers, ranging in size from huge gutter connected plant factories to the backyard enthusiasts with 1 or 2 polyhouses (2001 NJDA). With the residential building boom, a strong economy and the ready availability of plugs and rooted cuttings, the number of greenhouses and growers is increasing. Like any agricultural venture nothing is a sure thing. Overall 2003 was a poor to mediocre year for most growers.

Four factors affected sales this spring; the economy, customer preferences, this year's weather and last year's weather.

This year's weather was terrible. Almost 80% of the bedding plant sales occur during a 12-week period between mid-April and mid-June. It was a very cool wet spring and it rained 10 of the 12 weekends. The customers stayed home and those that did buy, purchased less because of economics or fears of a repeat of last year's drought and water restrictions.

The customers' likes and dislikes are always a puzzlement to growers. Some things were hot and some old standbys were not hot this spring. Sales of flats (packs) were way down. Petunias, marigolds, begonias, vegetables and even impatiens sales were dismal. New Guinea impatiens, geraniums and fuchsias in pots or hanging baskets also took a hit. What did sell was anything that was new or in larger containers. This was especially evident with all the new, patented,

vegetatively propagated annuals. The power of advertising and promotion is strong. The newer varieties and colors sold better than some of the old. Scaevola (fan flower) did not sell as well as the newer lantanas and Million Bells. Large containers and hanging baskets with mixed plantings were hot. I guess the consumer is getting lazy.

The irony of this business is that fall mum sales, a notoriously up and down commodity; were excellent.

## NOBEL PRIZE

A farmer is driving down a country road when he spots his county agent standing in the middle of a huge grassy hay field. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the agent is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing. Was he scouting for insects or maybe taking soil samples? The farmer gets out of the car walks all the way out to the agent and asks him, "Ah excuse me Larry but what are you doing?"

Larry replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize." "How?" asks the farmer puzzled. "Well, I'm trying to make tenure at the university and I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."

## RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF MONMOUTH COUNTY New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

20 Court St, Freehold, NJ 07728  
Agriculture: 732-431-7260  
Family & Consumer Science: 732-431-7271  
4-H: 732-431-7263;7264  
Fax: 732-409-4813

Rutgers Cooperative Extension— Agriculture, Family and Consumer 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, , national origin, or handicap

Richard G. Obal, County Agricultural Agent  
Extension Dept. Head

Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent

# What do you do with Your Manure?

Bill Sciarappa

**M**onmouth County has the largest number of horses in the state – over 12,000 – the highest of any county in the USA. New Jersey has over 50,000 horses statewide having a diversity of uses; recreational, racing, working and dressage. The manure generated from these animals on our numerous small farms can result in spreading and disposal problems around nearby lakes, streams, rivers, bays and ocean. To deal with the situation, Rutgers Cooperative Extension recently held another educational meeting on horse manure management at the Allentown Firehouse in November. Over 60 participants learned about best pasture management methods and procedures for properly composting manure. Drs. Michael Westendorf and Uta Krogmann provided specific procedures for the group and answered their questions. Water quality specialist Chris Obrupta wowed the crowd in showing several flagrant management problems and offered some excellent practical solutions to protect the environment. Janice Reid of the Natural Resources Conservation Service provided some technical literature for horse farmers as well as detailed some incentive programs to fix farm problems. Jim Sadley of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture spoke on the importance of nutrient management planning and how the more we do voluntarily, the less governmental regulation we might expect. Later we toured a working compost station at Riding High Farm where different sections of a 50-foot bin held manure in various stages of decomposition ranging from fairly fresh to some beautiful black gold after about 6 months of occasional turning.



*An enthusiastic crowd from North, South and Central New Jersey attended the seminar in Allentown.*



*Drs. Westendorf and Krogmann demonstrated how moving manure from compartment to compartment results in beautiful black compost in about 6 months.*

**“Remember, any complaint about horses reflects on all horse owners. Realize that not everyone loves horses. Consider yourself an ambassador for horses by good stewardship of land and water resources.”**

**Dr. Chris Obrupta**

*(Continued from page 5)*

For tomato growers, high tunnels with hinged doors that permit small tractor bed preparation and spray control, were demonstrated by Arend-jan (A.J.) Both, an Ag. Engineer from Holland. “The idea here is to study the costs of extending the season with high tunnels and to compare manually operated side-wall venting with mechanically operated systems. Motorizing the venting can double the costs. The tunnels can last 10 years (3-4 years for the plastic, no-drip coating).

The winner of the cherry and grape tomato-size taste study? The heirloom variety Snow White, a yellow, small cherry-size tomato, easily dwarfed all other challengers as having the best flavor, texture and appearance. Not only is it an heirloom variety that bested the hybrids, but according to Wes Kline, early indications in the field plots indicate that it is a consistent high yielder as well. Snow White is available from a number of seed companies Kline said.

One of the tasters, Everett Powell, from Bridgeton said that the tomatoes tasted so sweet that they tasted like fruit.

Funny, marketers have been preferring to call them vegetables all these years.