



The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture's November meeting was preceded by an unveiling of a bronze plaque for service to agriculture dedicated to former Freeholder Theodore Narozanick by the Board. Freeholder Narozanick was a true friend to agriculture in the county and inspired many initiatives including the "One Stop Shopping" idea of grouping necessary offices for agriculture in one building to facilitate the use of the services from the county, state and federal government. In the planning stages for many years, the Agriculture Building on Kozloski Road opened its doors in 2004. It houses the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, both divisions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the state's Freehold Soil Conservation District, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Monmouth County Board of Ag.

"Ted has long been associated with agriculture and it was his vision that led to the creation of this building," Freeholder Lillian G. Burry said. "Ted is from English-town, and I don't think he ever forgot where his roots were planted, because among his many accomplishments as a Freeholder was the **Open Space Trust Fund**."

Mr. Narozanick said in an interview in 2000, "I started here in 1986, I have been a full-time Freeholder. This has been my occupation. I am here to



Lto R: Freeholders Amy Mallet, Robert Clifton, Ted Narozanick (Freeholder Emeritus), Lillian Burry, Thomas Arnone, John Curley & Freeholder elect Gary Rich - Photos B. Heine

really help the people. It makes no difference to me what party affiliation they have. If I can help, then that's what I want to do. I think we have done many major things in the County of Monmouth that have been for the betterment of everybody. I am a great supporter of open spaces. As a matter of fact, I had a great deal to do with the original legislation that came about in 1987, giving us the opportunity to raise additional money for acquiring open spaces. So that was a major step. We could have a coordinated effort then with Health activities. The Park system, the Library system, the Solid Waste system are also important projects. Basically my career has been based on a love of County Government, the knowledge of it to know what we can and cannot do, and how we can be helpful to all the people."

The **Guests of Honor** were: Freeholder Thomas Arnone, Lillian Burry, Robert Clifton, John Curly, and Amy Mallet. State Board of Agriculture members, Hugh McKittrick and Rob Swanekamp, former County Agricultural Agent Rich Obal, and present Agent Bill Sci-

arappa. 4-H Agent Kate Everett, and Program Assistant Vivian Quinn. MCBOA Executive Members, President Gary DeFelice, VP- Debi Kauffman, Recording Secretary-Nyna McKittrick, Corresponding Secretary-Robin Bruins, Treasurer-Ross Clayton, as well as many board members and guests.

Nyna McKittrick



Left: John Tobia, Marty Bullock, Bill Potter, Ross Clayton; Center: former Freeholder Ted Narozanick, Freeholder Lillian Burry; Right - BOA President Gary DeFelice and Ted Narozanick admire the plaque in the front lobby of the Ag Building

Master Gardener Class of 2011 Graduation - November 17, 2011

On Thursday evening, November 17, twenty-six members of this year's Master Gardener program celebrated their graduation at **Hominy Hill Golf Course** in Colts Neck. Speakers for the evening included Freeholder Lillian Burry, who thanked the class for growing and donating over 2,500 pounds of food from their '**Plant A Row for the Hungry**' garden, located behind the Agriculture Building. She estimated that the value of this donation was over \$5,000 received by Open Door in Freehold and Lunchbreak in Red Bank. The assistant director of the **Monmouth County Park System, Bruce Gollnick**, also spoke to the **150 in attendance**, congratulating them and stressing that **there's no 'I' in 'Volunteering', only 'U'**. He also thanked the Master Gardeners for volunteering in 10 of the county parks this past year.



Diane Larson, Freeholder Burry & Professor Kudile

The night's program was run by Diane Larson, County Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator. Distinguished guests included Dr. William Sciarappa, Agricultural Agent for Monmouth County, Richard Obal, retired Agricultural Agent for Monmouth County, and Ron Kudile, professor of Biology at Brookdale Community College.

Besides the graduates, awards were given to Master Gardeners receiving milestone awards from 100 hours to 2,000 hours volunteered to the Master Gardener program. Additionally, 10 Master Gardeners received an award for being active in the program for 10 years, and 6 MG's received Awards of Excellence for their outstanding volunteer work. This year's Master Gardeners volunteered at **134 different sites** in 2011, including **21 childrens gardens, 20 community vegetable gardens, 8 shade tree commissions, and 10 rain gardens** throughout Monmouth County.

Diane Larson

Fall 2011 FFA Career Development Event



School	Fruit-Veg	Dairy	Turf	Combined Land/Homesite
Allentown HS	1st			1st
Freehold Twp. HS	3rd	7th	3rd	6th
Monmouth County Voc Tech	2nd		2nd	
N. Burlington Reg. HS	5th	6th	1st	
Ocean County Voc Tech		10th	11th	



Left - Identification competition - students have 35 seconds at each station to identify 40 fruits and vegetables.

Right - Judging competition - students are required to identify the item and grade the 1st, 2nd or 3rd quality.

The annual **Fruits and Vegetables Career Development Event** was held at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on November 17. Over 250 high school students from 28 high schools in New Jersey attended. This was the 11th year that Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County coordinated the Fruit and Vegetable ID and Judging event. **Delicious Orchards** generously allows us to fill our carts with donated fruits and vegetables needed for the competition. We are once again very grateful for their generosity.

Career Development Events allow students to apply classroom instruction and encourage students to excel. These events are important to the future of the agri-

culture industry because they help direct students to specific careers. FFA events also help students and schools meet the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Many of these students will be successful in the future because of the skills learned in preparation for career development results.

Results from the event can be found at www.judgingcard.com. (Click on "Online Results", click "New Jersey Fall CDEs" Thu, Nov 17, 2011, then click on your respective event.) You can also see pictures from the event on the NJ State FFA Association Facebook page – www.facebook.com/NJFFA

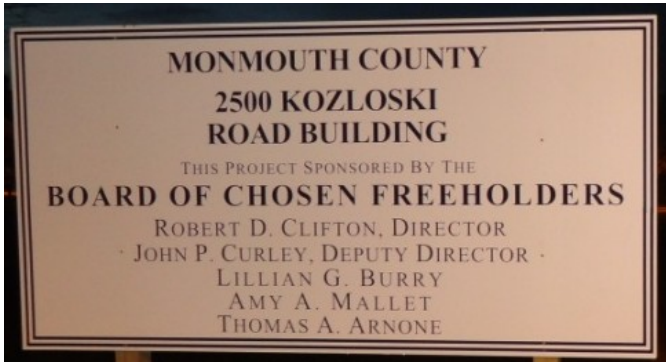
Vivian Quinn

Agent's Overview

Ag Building goes Green



Lighting up our future with clean and cost effective conversion to renewable solar energy, the Monmouth County Ag Building is the final installation steps for rooftop and parking lot solar power. This alternative energy source should power most of the needs of the building and more, with the excess going into the "grid." See in the photos how these new units look from our rooftop view as well as the parking lot collectors that feature fluorescent lighting for easy access and safety. Many thanks to the progressive proponents and foresight of the Monmouth County Freeholders.



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension of
Monmouth County

**Central Jersey
Vegetable Meeting**

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012

"Ag Building"
Freehold



DEP Pesticide Credits
CORE - 4
Category 1A - 3
Category PP2 - 3
Category 10 - 3

- 8:30 **Registration**
 9:00 **Welcome** – Moderator *Bill Sciarappa*
 9:05 **Board of Agriculture Update** – Gary DeFelice
 9:15 **NJ Farm Bureau Report** - *Rich Nieuwenhuis*
 9:35 **Pesticide Safety Equipment** - *Pat Hastings*
 10:20 **Ag in the Middle** - Jack Rabin
 10:45 **Transplant Vegetable Diseases** – Andy Wyenandt
 11:10 **Brown Marmorated Stinkbug in Vegetables** - *Kris Holstrom*
 11:35 **Flood Damage in Central Jersey Ag** – Bill Sciarappa
 11:50 **Crop Insurance** – Coleen Megarity
 12:00 **LUNCH**
 1:00 **Welcome Back** - Moderator Bill Hlubik
 1:05 **Agency Updates** — *NJDA, FSA-USDA, NRCS, FSCD, DEP, Tri-county..*
 1:30 **Agritourism Developments** — Bill Hlubik
 1:45 **Safety Concerns in Ag Entertainment** - *Jenny Carleo*
 2:45 **DEP Pesticide Credits**
 3:00 **Adjourn**

To register: Return \$25 check payable to Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
 Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County, PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd.,
 Freehold, New Jersey 07728 Attention: Terry Hansen

New Website - Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe

<http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/agritourism.html>



We are pleased to roll out of comprehensive new website resources supporting Agritourism in NJ [Agritourism Sustaining Urban Fringe Farming](#). There are four main resource sections to the site for - Farmers, - Ag Educators and Tourism Professionals, - Land Use or Policy Planner Professionals, and - Farm Visitors. These web resources are rich in practical checklists for farmers: business planning tools, hospitality training practices for family and employees, and understanding Accepted Management Practices (AMPs) and Right-to-Farm as they apply to Agritourism.

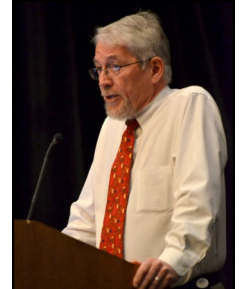
Soil Fertility Considerations

Meredith Melendez, Senior Program Coordinator, Agriculture, RCE Mercer County

The deluge of rains in August brought on many headaches for growers in NJ; crop contamination, crop loss, disease pressures, top soil loss, and more. Fall activities affecting soil fertility may have also been altered. Growers should think about the potential long lasting affects of the July drought and the August rains on the fertility of their soil. A soil with balanced fertility is better able to support crops through drought and rain than a soil out of balance. Drought can cause for a reduction in nutrient loss from the soil due to a lack of plant uptake and a lack of leaching from rains. Flooding can cause a greater amount of soil nutrients to be leached from the soil. Accumulation of decaying plant material in fields can cause soil N to become immobilized. Soil testing, once the soil surface is dry, is critical in determining soil nutrient levels after extreme weather events. Remember that soil samples should be taken from 6" below the soil surface. If you are unable to take a sample from that depth it is best to wait until you are able to, rather than waste your time and money on an inaccurate soil report.

Nutrients can also play a role in enabling or suppressing vegetable diseases. Wade Elmer, Plant Pathologist with The Connecticut Ag Experiment Station has been conducting research on the effects of soil fertility on vegetable diseases. Elmer feels that complete and balanced nutrition should be a growers first line of defense in protecting crops against disease pressures. He acknowledges that the nutritional requirements vary from crop to crop, and that different nutritional levels can have varying affects on differing crops. Chemical interactions with the soil, pH, and microorganisms can influence the development of disease. Elmer's initial research has shown that the form of nitrogen used as a N source has an affect on plant disease. Nitrate can have a suppression effect on one particular disease and enhance the growth of a differing disease. These different forms of N metabolize differently, therefore causing differing environments for diseases to thrive or die in. Research still needs to be done for conclusive results, other fertilizers and recommendations. For a copy of his VGANJ talk please email me at melendez@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Rutgers Extension at NJ Farm Bureau Conference - IPM Group Awarded



Left to Right: NJAES Director Jack Rabin presents Ag in the Middle, RCE IPM Group receives award from Farm Bureau, RU Pathologist Dr. Peter Oudemans discusses using GPS technology in farming, Dean Bob Goodman provides university overview - Photos courtesy of FB IT Jim Reilly - pp. 4 & 6

Supporting NJ Ag-in-the-Middle

Growing attention is emerging on Ag-in-the-Middle (AIM), defined as mid-size farms with gross sales of \$250,000 to \$1 million. New Jersey's AIM sector accounts for only 5% (496) of our farms, but fully 1/3 of all cropland, 1/4 of all agricultural sales, and 1/5 of all invested capital infrastructure in land, buildings, machinery, and equipment. Mid-size farms are vitally important in terms of the sustainability of the agricultural supply chain and infrastructure in New Jersey, yet they are our farms most at risk. If AIM farms decline, all NJ farms are at risk because the support infrastructure will collapse.

AIM farms often lack the size to compete in economies of scale-driven commodity markets, and lack the capital or management needed to effectively diversify into higher-margin activities. From 1987-2007, New Jersey saw a dramatic decline in the percentage of AIM farms, from 10.3% to 4.9%. Continued losses threaten the infrastructure needed to support the thousands of smaller NJ farms making up the majority of agricultural operations.

Ag-in-the-Middle describes the increasing barbell structure of New Jersey farms when viewed by size and sales contributions they make to the State and regional farm economy. On one end of the barbell is a large and increasing number of very small farms, who received ample attention in recent years and contribute an expanding but insignificant amount to our farm economy. On the other barbell end is a stable small number of large, effi-

cient, full-time commercial farms whose sales both contributed and increased the most of all farms from 2002-07. Caught on the long skinny barbell are 496 full-time NJ farms in precarious position. Their plight was captured so succinctly in CAST Report 114 to US Congress on Agricultural Viability in 1988 that it still rings true for us: *"The future viability of the adequate size, well-managed commercial farms, and the part-time smaller farms is not in doubt. The future is much in doubt, however, for full-time family farms lacking a strong financial or managerial base, too small to realize economies of size, and too demanding of labor and management for the operator and family to earn substantial off-farm income."*

Several existing NJAES programs assist mid-size farms, such as agritourism development, high tunnels, specialty crops research, integrated pest management, new varieties through plant breeding, the Food Innovation Center, and food safety training with Good Ag Practices (GAPs) farm audits to sell into wholesale markets. The team of Margaret Brennan-Tonetta, Brian Schilling, Jack Rabin, Richard VanVranken, Lucas Marxen, and Kevin Sullivan are seeking to better understand the financial structure, fiscal stability, characteristics, role, and threats to Ag-in-the-Middle NJ farms. New NJAES programming specifically targeted to AIM farms will be developed as a result of this research.

Jack Rabin



Registration Form

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



We are pleased to present this conference on three dates, in three locations close to you! Register for any day/location you wish to choose. Charge is \$10 and includes morning coffee, lunch and educational materials.

\$10 per person fee—Checks payable to NJFB
Mail Registrations and payment to:
NJ Farm Bureau
168 West State St., Trenton, NJ 08608

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Circle Location: North Jan. 24 Central Jan. 25 South Jan. 26

Agritourism Conference Schedule

Morning Theme: Potential of Agritourism

9:00 Registration
9:15 Opening Remarks
9:30 **Brian Schilling** – "Agritourism in NJ, Where Are We Now and What is the Potential?"
10:00 **Stephen Komar** – "Is Agritourism Right for You?"
10:20 **Dr. Samantha Rozier Rich**, Assistant Professor and Tourism Ext. Specialist, NCSU and **Sue Colucci**, Area Specialized Agent, Agriculture, North Carolina Coop. Ext. "Using Communication Technology to Expand Your Business"
11:00 **Jenny Carleo** – "Creating the Customer Experience"
11:40 **Luanne Hughes** – "Using Health and Nutrition to Market Fresh Produce"
12:00 Lunch

Afternoon Theme: Realities of Agritourism

1:00 **Jenny Carleo** – "Getting Started with a Business Plan"
1:30 **Bill Bamka** – "Farm Safety From a Bird's-Eye View"
2:00 Speaker TBA – "Risk Management/Insurance Realities of Agritourism"
2:30 **Michelle Casella** – "Trials and Tribulations of Creating a Statewide AMP for On-Farm Direct Marketing"
3:00 Discussions with Q & A
3:30 Adjourn



Three Location Choices and Three dates in New Jersey!

January 24—North Jersey – Snyder Research and Extension Farm, 140 Locust Grove Rd, Pittstown, NJ
January 25—Central Jersey – Rutgers Coop. Ext., Burlington County, 2 Academy Dr, Westampton, NJ
January 26—South Jersey – Rutgers Coop. Ext., Gloucester County, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ

Happy Holidays from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Monmouth County



AGENCY UPDATES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Sign-Up Period for Conservation Stewardship Program

WASHINGTON, December 9, 2011 – USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today announced that the ranking period cut-off date for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is January 13, 2012. Producers interested in CSP should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline so that their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

"CSP is one of our most popular conservation programs, and we expect to receive many applications," NRCS Chief Dave White said. "I encourage all farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying to contact their local NRCS office as soon as possible." Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial private forest land. A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. It is available from local NRCS offices and on the [CSP Web page](#).

NJ Farm Bureau holds a lively 2 day Annual Conference in Princeton



L-R: Farm Bureau President Rich Nieuwenhuis, Farm Bureau Delegates in session, Secretary of Agriculture Doug Fisher, Farmer Extraordinaire Art Brown

Calendar

JANUARY 2012

3-5 ASHS & NEWSS - Philadelphia

5-8 Southeast Regional Fruit & Veg Conf.—Savannah, GA. 877-994-3842

17-18 Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention & Trade Show & 2012 Annual State Agricultural Convention - Taj Mahal, AC, Michelle 856-307-6450 X1.

18-19 NJ Ag Convention—Trump Taj Mahal, 609-292-8896

24, 25, 26—Agritourism Conferences NJFB & NJAES - see page 5.

24-25 NJ Plants - nursery, landscape, garden center trade show & conference. NJ Convention Center, Edison, 800-332-3976; www.NJPlantShow.com

28-29 NOFA-NJ Winter Conf. Princeton, NJ, 908-371-1111 www.nofanj.org

FEBRUARY 2012

3 - Central Jersey Vegetable Growers Meeting - Ag Building, Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260 X7280 Terry/Madge.

7—Soil & Fertilizer RCE Cumberland, For info 856-451-2800

15 - North Jersey Vegetable Meeting Snyder Farm - 908-735-8290

MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA

1-24, 2-21, 3-20, 4-24

BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING CORE 9 am - 1 pm

1-10, 2-14, 2-28, 3-6, 3-27, 4-17, 5-15, 6-12

Category 3A - 9 AM - 3 PM

1-17, 4-10 and 3B 2-7

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
sciara@njaes.rutgers.edu

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

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Mercer County
930 Spruce Street
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Small and Beginning Farmer Workshop

February 7, 2011

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Backpack Sprayer Calibration

John Grande, Director Rutgers Snyder Research Farm

Learn more effective ways to use a backpack sprayer: increase sprayer accuracy, successfully apply alternative organic products, create greater farmer/operator ease, make better use of precious time and money, and increase safety.

Hand Tools for Weed Control

Ed Dager, Farm Supervisor Rutgers Snyder Research Farm

Observations from Rutgers trials of kaolin clay sprays on apples, potatoes and eggplant

Win Cowgill, Rutgers Agricultural Agent Hunterdon County

\$20.00 Includes

Lunch and Pesticide Credits



Bring appropriate clothing for a brief session outside

Held at: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County
930 Spruce Street Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Small and Beginning Farmer Workshop 3/7/2011

RSVP with payment by February 1, 2012

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email _____

Attending _____ x \$20.00 = Total payment _____

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.

PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM WEBSITE

Go to website: www.pcpnj.org

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

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

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 beliefs sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent
Extension Department Head

Photos: Bill Heine, Monmouth County Director of Public Information; Jim Reilly, Farm Bureau, Brett Bullock, Bullock Farms, Vivian Quinn and Bill Sciarappa - RCE Monmouth County

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

RUTGERS

Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County
4000 Kozloski Road
PO Box 5033
Freehold, NJ 07728-5033

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FREEHOLD, NJ
PERMIT NO. 166