



*Happy Holidays !*

RCE of Monmouth County wishes you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. While it's getting really tough to remain profitable in Ag and Hort operations nowadays, RCE remains committed to supporting your agri-business with knowledge, research and advice.

We're also concerned about the next generation of growers in New Jersey. To this end, Professor Albert Ayeni created a new business-oriented class called Entrepreneurial Agriculture, along with an extension team from RU-SEBS, the RU Eco-complex, the RU Food Innovation Center and County Extension.

After a very successful spring semester with twenty students, five of the best students were awarded summer

scholarships to work in the real agri-business world. They learned quickly through this experiential, hands-on program. Then, these talented new "Aggies" presented results of their work accomplishments in a seminar at Cook College (see photo aside).

We'll be sure to pass on more of their entrepreneurial activities and results to you all and maybe someday soon we'll have more experienced employees and lead-

ers for our Garden State agricultural enterprises.

*Looking Forward to a bountiful and blessed 2014.*

*Bill Sciarappa*



**Governor's Environmental Excellence Award**

NJAES, Rutgers: New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University

The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards are the State's premier environmental awards program for recognizing outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state. These awards honor and recognize individuals, businesses, educators, institutions, communities, youth and others who have made significant contributions to environmental protection in NJ.

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) is the research and outreach arm of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Staff members deliver educational programs that focus on agriculture, fisheries, community outreach, youth development, food, nutrition and health, and

workforce development. Extension faculty members have developed a training program for rain garden specialists, demonstration rain gardens, and community rain garden walking tours, developed online training tools and a certification program for the lawn-care industry to help the DEP implement the state's fertilizer use law.

Recipient Bill Sciarappa and the Monmouth County RCE Staff also developed online pollution and sustainable agriculture courses for undergraduate students, public education efforts about impacts from stormwater and proper gardening and landscape methods.



*Photo: Governor Jim "Super Fund" Florio, Vivian Quinn, Bill Sciarappa, Diane Larson and Bob Martin, NJDEP Commissioner.*

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(WHITE TOWNSHIP) – As part of the Christie Administration’s third annual ‘Season of Service’ Initiative, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher and Department of Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake cut a Christmas tree at Wyckoff’s Christmas Tree Farm in White Township, Warren County, ceremonially kicking off the choose and cut Christmas tree season. Governor Christie proclaimed December 2, 2013 as Jersey Grown Christmas Tree Day, encouraging NJ residents to support the state’s farmers and visit choose and cut Christmas tree farms. “A visit to a New Jersey Christmas tree farm provides families with life-long memories,” said Secretary Fisher. “Not only do our farmers grow some of the most beautiful and healthy trees in the nation, they also are extremely generous to their surrounding community, donating trees to families in need to brighten their holiday seasons.”

The Belvidere FFA chapter presented the Wyckoffs with \$2,025 in cash donations they received to purchase 81 trees for the Trees for Troops effort. Part of the Garden State’s four seasons of agritourism, now is the time many families visit tree farms to cut their own Christmas trees. Almost 79,000 trees are cut in New Jersey each year. The 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture ranked New Jersey sixth in the nation in the number of

Christmas tree growers, with 1,150 farms that grow more than 6,000 acres of Christmas trees in the state. A blue spruce from Wyckoff’s Tree Farm this year won the annual contest held by the Christmas Tree Growers’ Association for the best Christmas tree in the state. The Wyckoffs went on to compete in the National Christmas Tree Association’s tree contest and became the first in New Jersey to be named national champion. The tree was delivered to the White House over Thanksgiving weekend. The 172-acre farm in White Township, outside of Belvidere, has been owned by the Wyckoff family since 1839 and is now being farmed by the sixth and seventh generations of Wyckoffs. They have 55 acres of Christmas trees with 5,000 trees available this season. They offer Fraser, Douglas, Concolor, and Canaan Firs, Norway, Blue, and Serbian Spruces and White Pine. Christmas tree growers in New Jersey may participate in the *Jersey Grown* program, which allows farmers to tag their trees with the *Jersey Grown* brand. The New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers’ Association is a statewide organization of growers, professionals and industry leaders. A listing of farms consumers can visit is available at: [www.njchristmastrees.org/where\\_find\\_christmas\\_tree.html](http://www.njchristmastrees.org/where_find_christmas_tree.html).

Lynne Richmond (609)633-2954 [Lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:Lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us)

### Holy Hazelnuts!

When the Principal of Neptune’s **Green Grove Elementary School** called RCE requesting agricultural and horticultural help, the staff knew just what to do in planning, planting, and designing the 2 acre site. We discussed planting options to create an educational fruit farm for learning in **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. **Horticulturalist Diane Larson** drew up a diverse

planting design that featured cherry, figs, raspberry, strawberry, kiwi, blueberry, grape and hazelnuts. Yes hazelnuts!! These new experimental varieties can succeed in New Jersey. Rutgers plant breeder **Dr. Tom Molinar** donated 4 new cultivars to test in a long term field experiment of growth, disease resistance and yield. After soil testing and deer fencing, the **Master Gardeners** supervised the students transplanting hazelnuts/filberts in this exciting plant science program.



## CALENDAR

### January 2014

- 6-9 Northeast ASHS & NEWSS, Philadelphia
- 14 through Feb. 26 - Annie’s Project NJ 609-465-5115 [APNJGreenhouse.eventbrite.com](http://APNJGreenhouse.eventbrite.com)
- 14-16 - **Integrated Pest Management** - Rutgers Continuing Education. Info 732-932-9271, email: [ocpe@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:ocpe@njaes.rutgers.edu) or visit [www.cpe.rutgers.edu](http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu)
- 21-22—**NJ Plants Professional Landscape & Nursery Trade Show**, NJ Convention Ctr., Edison, [www.njplantshow.com](http://www.njplantshow.com)
- 25-26 - **NOFA 2014 Annual Conference** - Brookdale Community College [www.nofanj.org](http://www.nofanj.org)
- 27 - **Getting Started in Vegetable Production** - Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conf., Hershey Pa. (see right).
- 27, 28, 29 Feb. 3, 4 **Organic Land Care Certificate Course for Professionals** - Bordentown, NJ [www.njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare)
- 28 - **Organic Turfgrass Management**—Rutgers Continuing Education, 732-932-9271 or [www.cpe.rutgers.edu](http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu)
- 29—**Pesticide Calibration (Session II)**, Rutgers Continuing Ed - 732-932-9271 or [www.cpe.rutgers.edu](http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu)

### February 2014

- 4-6 - **NJ Agricultural Convention & Trade Show & Annual State Ag Convention**—Taj Mahal, AC: 856-797-1686 [www.njveggies.org](http://www.njveggies.org)
- 9 - **Horse Management Seminar** - 8 AM to 4 PM, Cook Campus Center. [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu)
- 21 - **Central Jersey Vegetable Meeting** - Ag Building, Freehold, NJ 732-431-7260 x7280 Joanne
- 22 **Grape Expectations** - 732-764-9463
- 26-28—**North American Blueberry Research Meeting Atlantic City**, Gary Pavlis 609-625-0056
- 27 - **MC BOA Dinner** - American Hotel, Freehold

### March 2014

- 3 **Speciality Ethnic Crops**, King of Prussia, PA Kathy Kelley@kmk17psu 814-863-2196

**MONMOUTH COUNTY BOA**  
12-17, 1-21, 2-18, 3-18, 4-22, 5-20  
**BASIC PESTICIDE TRAINING**  
**CORE 9 am - 1 pm**—1-14, 2-11, 3-4, 3-18, 6-3  
3A 1-28, 3-25, 4-22, 6-17, 9 AM—3 PM  
3B 2-18, 3-11, 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**

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.

**Feb. 4-6, 2014 Taj Mahal**

MID-ATLANTIC fruit & vegetable convention

**2014 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention**

**January 28 to 30**

**Hershey Lodge and Convention Center**

The [Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention](http://www.mafvc.org/) has become the premier grower meeting in the Northeast combining three days of six or more concurrent [educational sessions](#) with a large industry [trade show](#) and numerous networking opportunities - all designed to enable fruit, vegetable and berry growers as well as direct marketers to stay on the cutting edge of their industries. About 2,200 persons from throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond gather each year at the [Hershey Lodge and Convention Center](#) for the Convention. For the 2014 Convention, the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association and the Virginia State Horticultural Society will also be meeting in Hershey. [Registration](#) is open to all interested commercial fruit, vegetable and berry growers, direct marketers and allied industry personnel.

<http://www.mafvc.org/>

**Vegetable Crops Online Resources Center**

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

Changing Times is produced and edited by Bill Sciarappa and Vivian Quinn [sciarappa@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:sciarappa@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
Past Issues on the web <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?id=3078>

**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MONMOUTH COUNTY**  
**New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station**  
**PO Box 5033, 4000 Kozloski Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728**

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

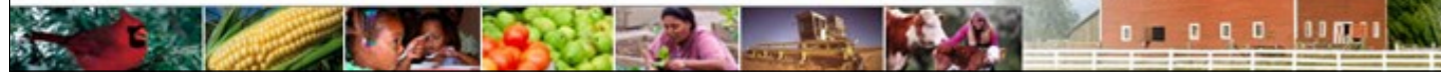
**Bill Sciarappa, County Agricultural Agent**  
**Extension Department Head**

Photos: V. Quinn, B. Sciarappa, Farm Bureau, S. Brown, NJ Dept. of Agriculture

# AGENCY UPDATES

USDA FSA United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency

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



## “Caring for Your Equine Athlete”

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – “Caring for Your Equine Athlete” is the over-arching theme of the upcoming Horse Management Seminar hosted by the **Rutgers Equine Science Center and Rutgers Cooperative Extension**. The seminar, scheduled from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 9, 2014, will feature presentations by several equine industry experts.

“With the World Equestrian Games (WEG) being held in Normandy, France in 2014, we thought this would be the perfect time to focus on the equine athlete,” says Dr. **Carey Williams, Extension Equine Specialist** and Associate Director of Extension for the Equine Science Center. “Our goal in presenting this workshop is to give participants a glimpse into the life of a WEG rider and valuable advice for any equine athlete, whether it’s an international champion or a trusted lesson horse.”

Williams has assembled presenters who are recognized as experts in their field to offer perspectives and personal insight. The morning will start with a panel of top competitors from WEG disciplines, including endurance rider Meg Sleeper, combined driving/dressage rider Sara Schmitt, and reiner Matthew Palmer, with more riders to be announced from eventing and jumping. They will discuss their beginnings, ways for inter-

### Horse Management Seminar

#### “Caring for Your Equine Athlete”

Advice from top competitors and tips on how to keep your exercising horse comfortable and healthy.



February 9, 2014  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Cook Campus Center  
Rutgers, the State University

ested riders to get started in their disciplines, trials and tribulations of competing at an elite level, and of course they will be open to questions from the audience.

Other topics and speakers will include “Getting Riders and Horses Ready for WEG” by Jim Wolf, Executive Director of Sport Programs for the United States Equestrian Federation; “Saddle Fitting for All Disciplines” by **Rick Wills and Charlie O’Brien from Rick’s Saddle Shop**; “Conditioning for Your Equestrian Sport” by Dr. Meg Sleeper, cardiology veterinarian for the Department of Clinical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and “Hoof Balance and Horse Performance” by Patrick Reilly, Chief of Farrier Services and Director of the Applied Polymer Research Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to the educational presentations, the seminar will feature informational displays, networking opportunities with industry companies and area organizations, and ample time for one-on-one discussions with the day’s presenters.

Complete program, registration information, and seminar brochure are posted on the Equine Science Center website at [esc.rutgers.edu](http://esc.rutgers.edu). For more information, contact Laura Gladney at 848-932-3229, [gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu), or Dr. Carey Williams at 848-932-5529, [cwiliams@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cwiliams@aesop.rutgers.edu).

## To Your Health!

This 2014 Calendar contains practical ways to keep family members safe on the farm in the upcoming year. Please post in a common area.

<http://www.childsafety.org/files/2014%20CASN%20Calendar%20Electronic%20Version.pdf>



## CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION AWARDS GRANT TO GLEANING ORGANIZATION

*Farmers Against Hunger Collects Donated Produce, Delivers to Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens*

(COLTS NECK) – **New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher** announced on Wednesday, November 20, that Farmers Against Hunger is the recipient of a **\$100,000 Gleaning Support Grant**, made possible through the Department of Agriculture’s State Food Purchase Program. Fisher made the announcement at **Eastmont Orchards** in Colts Neck, where he joined teachers from the **Monmouth County Career Center** in Freehold in harvesting Brussels sprouts that will be distributed by Farmers Against Hunger (FAH) to agencies preparing Thanksgiving dinner baskets for those in need.

“Farmers Against Hunger utilizes an army of volunteers to pick produce that otherwise might have gone to waste and distribute it to emergency feeding agencies,” said Secretary Fisher. “There are many generous farmers in the state who give back to their communities in this way. It is a win-win for all involved.”

This is the second season **Eastmont Orchards** has worked with Farmers Against Hunger. So far, farm owner **David Barclay has donated 13,000 pounds of apples and 24,000 pounds of various types of squash**, most of which was gleaned – or picked – by FAH volunteers..

Thirty-three farms, including seven new farms, donated their surplus produce to FAH this season. Since July, FAH collected more than **430,000 pounds of fresh produce** from those farms, which was distributed to more than 70 organizations, including soup kitchens, food pantries and the state’s food banks. Much of that produce was gleaned by FAH volunteers.

**Kristina Guttadora, Farmers Against Hunger program director**, said the Gleaning Support Grant will be used for general operations including staff, truck fuel, maintenance and programmatic expenses. Last year’s grant allowed them to expand to accept new farms, host additional gleanings and reach new feeding organizations. They also added a third part-time driver to help host gleanings and make deliveries. One of the new distributions established this year was to Camden on a weekly basis from July through September.

“The State Food Purchase Program Gleaning Grant provides a significant portion of the necessary funding for our program’s success,” said Guttadora. “We are so grateful to receive this financial support which helps us



*Kristina Guttadora, Farmers Against Hunger Program Director, and Secretary Fisher glean Brussels sprouts at Eastmont Orchards*

provide our produce at no cost to the food banks, soup kitchens, and other agencies receiving the donations. The entire community benefits from this program - as gleaning volunteers become connected to **New Jersey’s farms**, as farmers utilize an efficient way of donating their surplus produce, and as the 16 percent of our neighbors in need receive healthy, nutritious food for their next meal.” Farmers Against Hunger operates with a staff of just one full time, and four part-time employees, as well as a network of dedicated volunteers and supporters.

Gleaning Support Program grants must be used by the gleaning organizations for collection, distribution and administrative costs. The groups must distribute the gleaned New Jersey grown produce or non-farm nutrient dense rescued food gleaned from non-farm sources outside of the growing season only to New Jersey residents.

The funding for the grants comes from the **State Food Purchase Program**, for which **Governor Christie** allocated **\$6.8 million dollar this year** to be distributed quarterly to the **state’s six food banks** to purchase healthy food, with a **high priority on buying locally grown produce** from New Jersey farmers.

News from the

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FARM BUREAU CONVENTION 2013

**Convention Highlights:** The 95<sup>th</sup> annual meeting is now finished... a good convention with an excellent turnout for delegate voting sessions and the annual banquet... several veteran observers noted “a very impressive display of grassroots policy development and consensus building”; “this year’s convention was especially lively for me.” **President Suydam** was at the helm for the first time this year, prompting a compliment from a delegate at the Business Session “for keeping things moving along.” During the elections of officers, **Allen Carter, Jr.** of Cape May County was elected first vice-president to succeed retiring **Tom Byrne** of Middlesex County. Re-elected to a full two year term as treasurer was **Jim Etsch** of Middlesex County.

**DEP Commissioner Bob Martin** was well-received as the banquet speaker on Monday evening, drawing spontaneous applause from the banquet guests when he spoke of



sending DEP’s 2,800 employees to customer service training. “Just a common sense thing to do for an organization like ours,” he said, as he otherwise spoke of his dedication to protecting New Jersey’s environment while affecting a “**transformation of culture**” at DEP.

There was some added attention this year given to the issue of bio-engineered food, capped by an illuminating talk by Maryland Farmer Jennie Schmidt. Other talks on the status of forestry in New Jersey (consulting forester Steve Kalleser) and the **Rutgers Climate Change Alliance (researcher Tony Broccoli)** held everyone’s interest. Other topics drawing attention from the delegates dealt with local food (chef Chris Albrecht spoke at the banquet) and grappling with the definition of “locally grown.” Appearances are duly noted by **Ag Secretary Doug Fisher, NJAES Executive Dean Bob Goodman & Director Larry Katz.**

## FFA 2013 CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT - Vivian Quinn & Sabrina Brown



School	Fruit-Veg	Dairy	Turf	Combined Land/Homesite
Allentown HS	2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
N. Burlington Middle	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>		
Mon Cty Voc	7 <sup>th</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup>	
Freehold Twp HS	10 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
N. Burlington HS	14 <sup>th</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>

The annual **Fruits and Vegetables Career Development Event** was held at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on November 14. Over 250 high school students from 28 high schools in New Jersey attended. This was the 13th year that Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County coordinated the Fruit and Vegetable ID and Judging event. We are once again very grateful to **Delicious Orchards** for their generosity for this event.

Career Development Events allow students to apply classroom instruction and encourage students to excel. These events are important to the future of the agriculture 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 <https://www.judgingcard.com/Results/Events.aspx?ID=3340>



## Annie's Project NJ Greenhouse Growers

**WHEN:** Tuesdays from Jan. 14 to Feb. 25, 2014  
**WHERE:** Cooperative Extension of Burlington Cty, 2 Academy Drive, Westampton, NJ 08060  
**TIME:** 6 - 9 PM  
**COST:** \$100, including all materials and dinner for 6-week course and webinars  
**DETAILS:** Class meets once a week on Tuesday, followed by a webinar every Thursday viewed from home from 7-8 pm. No class the week of Feb.3.

**TO REGISTER:** [APNJGreenhouse.eventbrite.com](http://APNJGreenhouse.eventbrite.com) or to register by phone or email contact Dana Tyndall at 609-465-5115 ext. 607 or [DTYNDALL@co.cape-may.nj.us](mailto:DTYNDALL@co.cape-may.nj.us)

Offered by: *Jenny Carleo, CMC Agricultural Agent*

For six weeks starting January 14, 2014, join fellow Greenhouse Growers as they learn from experts across the state and nation. Create sustainable relationships with farm women, meet industry professionals and create a business plan to help ensure the success of your business. Register today!

## Miss Rodeo New Jersey

On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> youth and adult fans of the sport of Rodeo were treated to an exhibit by **Amanda Thompson, 2014 Miss Rodeo N.J.** Amanda rode her barrel racing horse “**Rambo**” at The **Horse Park of New Jersey** for the crowd as well as engaged the children in games on stick-horses, scrap-booking activities and an informative lecture about the sport of rodeo and her life as a rodeo queen. The exhibit was coordinated by the **Monmouth County 4-H Department of Rutgers Cooperative Extension** and sponsored by the **4-H Horse Leader’s Advisory and the Horse Park of New Jersey.**



Come in from the cold and join us for **The Winter Horse Veterinary Lecture Series** to be held at the **Agricultural Building, 4000 Kozloski Rd, Freehold.** Lectures will be presented by **Colts Head Veterinary Services**, Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 7p.m Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m. and Thursday, March 13, 7p.m. This series is free and open to the public.

Please R.S.V.P to Colt’s Head Veterinary [PracticeMy-HorseVet@aol.com](mailto:PracticeMy-HorseVet@aol.com)

*Sabrina Brown, Program Assistant Monmouth Cty 4-H*