

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
September 28, 2022

Plant Laboratory Testing – Staff at the Plant Industry Division's Plant Laboratory have developed a method to test nine cannabinoids in dry hemp material and oil by using High Pressure Liquid Chromatography Diode-Array Detection (HPLC-DAD). This method will measure nine major cannabinoids in under 15 minutes of runtime. The method is currently undergoing a validation process. The Plant Laboratory tested National Institute of Standards and Technology Proficiency Testing (NIST PT) samples for the new method. Results were updated on the NIST portal.

Marketing – Marketing and Development Division staff attended the North American Agriculture Marketing Officials (NAAMO) conference in late July where they communicated with other marketing officials from around the country. The Division also exhibited at the well-attended Northeast Produce Council (NEPC) trade show in Boston. Staff is planning to attend conferences and trade shows including the Food Export Conference in early October and the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA) show in late October along with the New York Produce Show scheduled for December.

Farm Visit – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff toured an exemplary farm in Salem County that was utilizing a comprehensive approach for its cattle and pig operation. This progressive farm was growing grazable cover crops, actively employing crop rotation and pasture management in its fields and maintaining a successful farm store that marketed meat from the operation as well as other locally sourced products. The farm was able to build a Heavy Use Area for its cattle and pigs by participating in Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which allows them to rest their fields from the livestock during inclement weather and the winter season, preventing overgrazing and erosion. Staff worked with the producer to complete the Animal Waste Management Declaration Page and remit to Rutgers Cooperative Extension for filing.

Emergency Preparedness - The NJDA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) response plan was reviewed, and additional information included into the document. Specific details ascertained amongst the HPAI working group, regarding the plan and state capabilities, were added. Options for disposal determined with NJDEP OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and Waste Management were also included in the plan. The All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Concept of Operations (ConOps) was included as a new appendix into the plan. With the updates and additional information now included, the NJDA has a more thorough, accurate, and specific guidance document to follow in the event of an HPAI outbreak in the state.

Spotted Lanternfly Treatments – The NJDA and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are working in a joint effort to treat trees at high priority locations such as seaports, airports, train yards and high-volume shipping operations to slow the spread of the spotted lanternfly. Application of systemic insecticides began in July using Transtect (dinotefuran). Transtect treatments are only applied to Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and cause the entire tree to become toxic to spotted lanternfly adults when they feed. This month, crews treated 1,453 trees in 32 areas totaling over 30 acres with Transtect.

School Nutrition Program – The Division of Food and Nutrition school nutrition program unit prepared for the new school year's administrative reviews by providing many trainings during the months of July and August. Some included the "Welcome Back to National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program", "Community Eligibility" webinars for repeaters and new enrollees, "New Sponsors" training, and the Administrative Review Reminders/Q&As for School Food Authorities. A memo that highlighted key changes titled, "Back to School Reminders for SY 2022-23" reinforced prior training sessions. The

unit also provided the “Determining Applications” annual webinar that covers the different eligibility categories and how to determine them.

Shellfish Aquaculture Website – The interagency New Jersey Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture website is now available to the public at <https://dep.nj.gov/aquaculture/>. The website is a clearinghouse of information for prospective, new, and current shellfish farmers in the state. Content ranges from the basics of shellfish farming, to permitting and sales and includes contact details for the agencies involved in shellfish aquaculture. The site is the result of interagency coordination efforts over the past several years and addresses stakeholder feedback requesting all shellfish aquaculture information in one, easy to access location.

USDA Foods Conference – The NJDA USDA Foods Conference is scheduled for December 13, 2022. Vendor packets have been provided to 44 processors that participate in our National School Lunch Program. The conference will be at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Edison. The entire Division of Food and Nutrition team will participate in the event with training sessions as well as having staff at help stations.

Livestock Project – The Marketing and Development Division continues to work on the livestock processing project including discussions between the groups and potential funding sources at the state and federal level. The Department is assisting any processor group or processor in obtaining federal grants that their operation may be eligible for. Staff are also watching for additional funding to assist all producers.

Necropsy Examinations and Pathology Testing – The Division of Animal Health’s Pathology Laboratory Section for the month of August 2022 completed a total of 184 tests and/or procedures. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), immunohistochemical and parasitological preparation and evaluation. These cases generated additional diagnostic tests for other laboratory sections (e.g., bacteriology, virology and molecular). Results from these case submissions help to support practicing veterinarians (large, mixed, and small animal), private food and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo, and nonprofit animal facilities. Cases involved diagnostic testing for disease and/or cause of death diagnosis and routine and/or sporadic disease surveillance for large and small ruminant, companion animal and exotic/zoo species; sudden death with no clinical symptoms; assessment of backyard and small flock health issues; large scale flock disease; law enforcement forensic investigation and animals exhibiting neurologic symptoms.