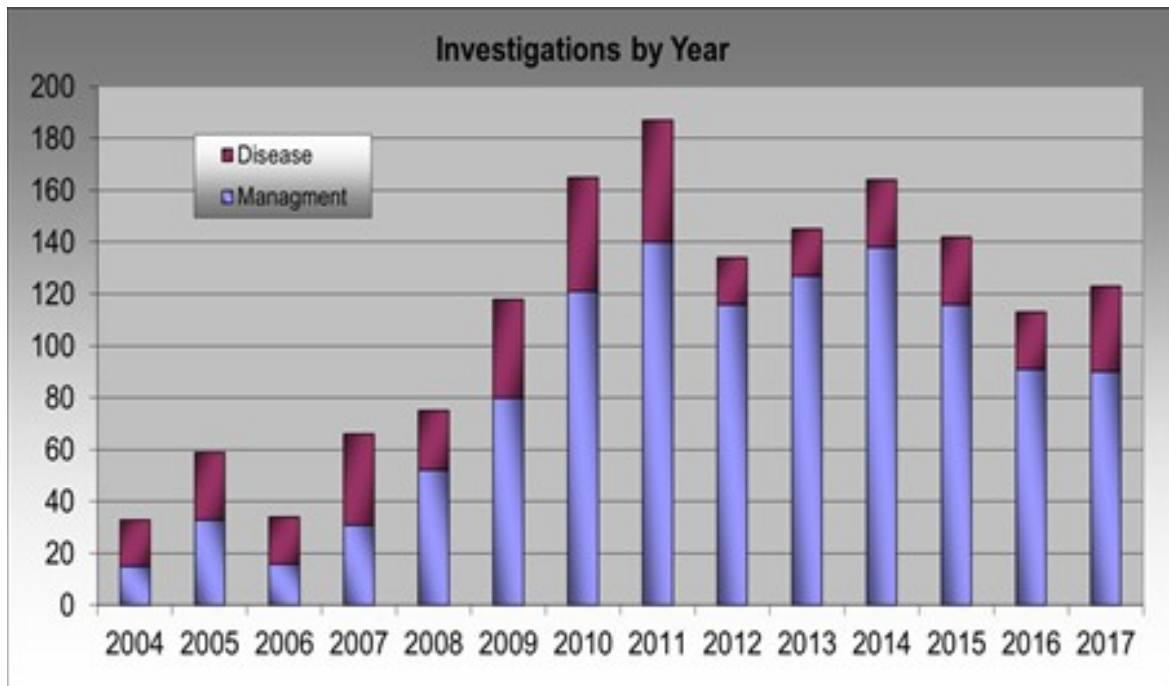


**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
January 24, 2018**

**Investigations Performed by NJDA-DAH** - NJDA continues to experience a reduced number of management related cases (mostly humane complaints) being reported compared to previous years (see chart below). The reason is unclear but recent management issues at NJSPCA may have played a role in the reduced number of complaints being forwarded to the DAH. The NJSPCA is a major receiver of complaints from the public and should report livestock related complaints to the DAH as per N.J.A.C. 2:8.



**Bureau of Commodity Inspection and Grading** – For December 2017, Shipping Point inspections totaled 327,880 pounds of Apples (298,280 pounds) and Onions (29,600 pounds). Terminal Market Inspections totaled 4,264,322 pounds of 32 various fresh fruits and vegetables received from other growing regions. The principal commodities certified were Avocados (1,252,056 pounds), Oranges (830,588 pounds) and Kiwi Fruit (485,928 pounds). A southern N.J. shell egg facility received 27,373 cases of 30 dozen shell eggs, of which 17,006 cases were officially sampled and graded by New Jersey state graders.

**State FFA Officers Attend International Leadership Seminar** - Sarah Kelly, State FFA Treasurer and McKenna Moore, State FFA Sentinel are currently in South Africa for the 2018 International Leadership Seminar for State Officers hosted by the National FFA Organization. Sarah and McKenna are two (2) of sixty-six (66) state officers/past state officers attending from 23 states. Participants will visit an abalone farm, an ostrich ranch, a grape farm, commercial crocodile farm, an embryo transfer center, a Boer goat stud farm, a banana, avocado and macadamia nut farm as well as the Panorama Route, the US Embassy, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the Apartheid Museum, and a Private Game Reserve. They have been posting pictures of their experience on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Direct Delivery Department of Defense (DOD) Program** - All 334 of the DOD direct delivery program schools participated during the month of December 2017. A total of 27,775 cases at 617,230 pounds with a value of \$791,002.65 were ordered during the month of December. Approximately 70 various items of fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered directly to the participating recipient agencies.

**State Wildlife Action Plan** - The 2017 New Jersey State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revisions are near completion and were open for public comment until Friday, January 19, 2018. The purpose of the SWAP is to identify species that are in greatest need of conservation prior to listing as threatened or endangered at the state or federal level, as well as to identify actions that can be taken to preserve species and habitat. The SWAP is a national program and is a requirement of funding through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State Wildlife Grant Program. NJDA staff are reviewing the 2017 SWAP revisions and submitting comments to the DEP.

**Pathology Examinations and Testing** – The Pathology Laboratory Section for the months of November and December 2017 completed a total of 298 and 396 tests and/or procedures. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), cytologic and parasitologic preparation and evaluation. Species submitted for testing in the month of December 2017 included dog, cat, pig, horse, goat, alpaca, chicken, peacock, pigeon, zoo and exotic species (macaw, rabbit, snake, bearded dragon, ferret, sugar glider and frog), wildlife (black bear) and marine mammal species (harbor seal).

**Apiary Inspections** – Cold weather has brought an end to regular brood nest inspections. It is unknown how this winter's bitter cold has affected the clustered honey bee colonies. Usually when there is adequate food stored in the colony the cold does not affect them. However, prolonged levels of severe cold will not allow the cluster to move about in the hive to areas where there is more food. Once the honey in the cluster area has been consumed the colony can starve with other honey just inches away.

**Jersey Fresh Dairy** – Applications have been processed from cheese manufactures, milk and milk products processors and dairy producers applying for the use of the Jersey Fresh Quality Grading Program. All will potentially have products marketed using the Made with Jersey Fresh Milk logo. Due to the number of producers that are reporting now we are unable to report the pounds of product being sold and keep confidentiality for each licensee. The section received three calls in relation to value added product production and potential processing facilities needed for processing. New Jersey is in critical need of small scale Grade A processing facilities or units. Research and planning is under way on how New Jersey can create and fund the needed processing units.

**Gypsy Moth Sessions Held** - A Gypsy Moth Scoping Session was conducted on January 3rd to inform the public about the Department's and NJDEP's treatment plans. Regional meetings were also held with the participating municipalities on January 16th and 18th to outline the responsibilities of both the Department and the municipalities prior to the conduction of any treatment activities in May.

**Office of Aquaculture Coordination** - Permit coordination staff continues to coordinate with staff at the NJDEP, Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring for the Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Permit and (Molluscan Bivalve) Hatchery/Nursery Permit Applications. Specifically, the NJDA Aquatic Farmer License Application can serve as the required Operational Plan for the NJDEP permits. Applications for 2018 permits are now being accepted by the BMWM with the two Departments engaging in continuous data exchange as applications are accepted and reviewed.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program** – Food and Nutrition staff is preparing for the upcoming Department of Health training where NJDA will present information on Farm to School, CACFP New Meal Pattern, and Procurement Standards. The nine trainings are regionally scheduled throughout New Jersey.