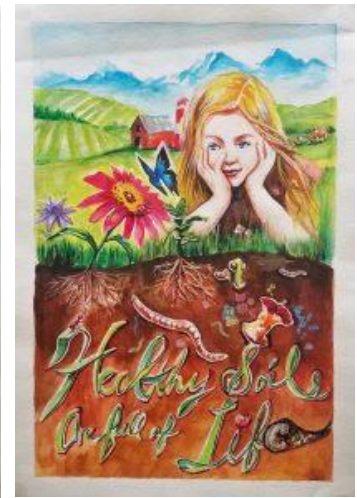
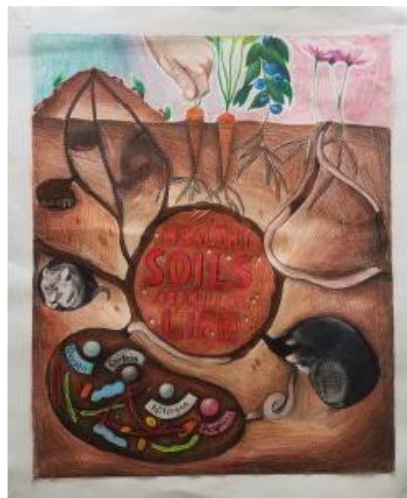


**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**March 28, 2018**

**Farm Market Managers Meetings** – Marketing Division staff participated in a pre-season seminar for community farm market managers. The purpose of the seminar was to get market managers, farmer-vendors and other interested groups in the room to share best practices, create connections and identify new marketing and branding opportunities. Christine Fries from the Jersey Fresh team participated in a panel discussion on social media marketing, offering insights on how these platforms have benefitted our Jersey Fresh marketing activities in recent years. A second meeting is scheduled for April 4th specifically for managers of urban farm markets.

**School Nutrition Visits** – The Food and Nutrition Division celebrated National Nutrition Month with a School Breakfast Week visit to the Paterson Board of Education on March 27. Also, Child and Adult Care Food Program Week was celebrated with a visit to Ocean Inc. Kids Child Development Center in Ocean County on March 13 and a Farm To Preschool/Child and Adult Care Food Program visit to Alphabets Preschool in Asbury Park on Friday, March 16.

**New Jersey Students Win National Poster Contest** – Xinyi Zhang of South Brunswick and Cassie Wang from Princeton Junction received first place honors in the National Association of Conservation Districts National poster contest in the Grade 7-9 and Grade 4-6 categories and will receive \$200 and a certificate. Shiamak Bhatt of Wallington and Abigail Gray of Princeton both received Honorable Mention in the Grade 2-3 and Grade 10-12 categories and will receive a certificate from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Their posters were also displayed at the NACD's 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville, which was held January 27-31. The 2017 theme was "Healthy Soils are Full of Life".



**Union County EHV-1 Horses** – A Union County property was quarantined by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture after two horses developed the highly infectious equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), one for the neurological form and the second for the respiratory form of equine herpes. The horses were moved into an isolation barn. Temperatures continue to be taken twice daily on all horses on the property. No horses have moved onto or off the property in approximately a month, therefore exposure to horses outside the area is considered unlikely.

**CASE Grant Awards** – Due to the Memorandum of Agreement between the New Jersey Departments of Education and Agriculture and related funding, Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) grant applications were reviewed and grants to six schools with approved agricultural education programs are being considered. Final determination will depend on the receipt of pending information. In all cases, funds will continue the development of the CASE model to build programs of study by supporting teacher professional development and expenditures for class/lab equipment and supplies. CASE is being implemented statewide in 21 schools by 28 teachers certified in up to nine courses, with many teachers holding multiple certifications.

**Forest Pest Outreach** – Plant Industry Division outreach staff attended three events for a total of seven days. Staff set up a tabletop display at the New Jersey Annual Agricultural Convention in Atlantic City with that display featuring Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lanternfly literature to further their knowledge about these invasive exotic insects. On February 22-25, staff attended the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show at the New Jersey Convention Center in Edison. A total of 4,000 people visited the display during this four-day event. On February 28, staff attended New Jersey Landscape Contractor Association Trade Show at the New Jersey Convention Center in Secaucus. At this event, the display featured the Emerald Ash Borer. Over 1,500 people stopped at the table and another 60 people attended the lecture. Staff have been working on securing other future events and searching for avenues to capture new audiences for outreach education.

**Tick-borne Disease Subcommittee Meeting** – A member of NJDA attended the tick-borne disease subcommittee meeting on February 26th; this is a subcommittee of the Vectorborne Disease Working Group. Rutgers recently released, in conjunction with the Hunterdon County Health Department, a case report for the *H. longicornis* discovery. They also received a small grant called the Northeast IPM partnership grant for a “tick blitz.” This will provide training to county mosquito control groups and a one-day tick collection day for each county. These ticks will be analyzed by Rutgers for diseases, with a focus on American Dog Ticks. This will occur in May.

**Direct Delivery Department of Defense Program** – Two hundred and ninety-two of the 334 DoD Direct Delivery Program schools participated during the month of January 2018. A total of 36,771 cases at 822,292 pounds with a value of \$1,032,526 were ordered during the month of January. Approximately 70 various items of fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered directly to the participating resident agencies.

**State Honey Show** – The State Honey Show was held February 10-16 at the State House Annex in Trenton. There were 82 beekeepers who had 98 entries. Best of show was won by Kathy Blumig from Somerset. The Best Exhibitor was won by Landi Simone of Boonton. The Best Tasting Honey was awarded to Jamie Winters of the North-East Chapter of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. This was the fourth year that the state house employees tasted and voted on the best tasting honey in the black box class.

**North Jersey Fruit Meeting** – Marketing staff represented the Department at the annual North Jersey Fruit Meeting sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension where more than 50 growers attended. Farmers were updated on the Jersey Fresh marketing program, community farmers market opportunities, and staff solicited farmer participation in the WIC & Seniors FMNP voucher program. Staff also discussed departmental programs and activities, especially on the updating of the Jersey Fresh website.