

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

August 2013

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Important Dates for your Calendar:

Aug. 2-11 - New Jersey State
Fair in Sussex County

Aug. 3 - Nat'l Watermelon Day

Aug. 5-11 - Middlesex County
Agricultural Fair

Aug. 6-9 - Salem Cty. Fair

Aug. 7-10 - Somerset County
4-H Fair

Aug. 8 - Sneak Some Zucchini
onto a Neighbor's Porch Day

Aug. 8-10 - Atlantic County
4-H Fair

Aug. 21-25 - Hunterdon Cty.
4-H Fair & Agricultural Fair

From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

The Department is always involved in promoting agriculture through a number of activities around the state. Being in the height of the growing season, we want to make every effort to encourage people to buy Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables. We have been talking about various distribution channels, such as CSA's, farmers markets and supermarkets, helping to inform people about the ways they can access our wonderful crops.

Last month, we visited five farm stands in Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties and met with the multi-generational farmers who run them. On August 6th, we celebrated Farmers Market Week with a visit to the Delran Farmers Market, along with Health Commissioner Mary O'Dowd and USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Administrator Patricia Dombroski.

We are currently in the midst of Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno's second annual AgriBusiness Tour, which has taken us to Atlantic Blueberry Company in Hammonton and Ellis Farms in Yardville and will continue throughout the month with several more stops.

And, I've had the honor of assisting with the opening ceremonies of several county agricultural fairs around the state.

Every farm has a story to tell and something they can showcase. You are invited to remind us what we can do to help promote New Jersey agriculture through our websites, social media, and on-the-ground activities.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Rob Swanekamp

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture installed two new members on July 24 during its reorganization meeting held in Eastampton -- David Klemm of Newton, representing the equine industry, and Santo John Maccherone of Mullica Hill, representing the fruit industry.

Klemm and his son, Bradley, second and third-generation farmers, own Waterwheel Farm, which has been in the family for 50 years. A horse boarding business has been in operation for 35 years and most of the farm's 500 acres are used as pastureland for the horses. Klemm grows grass and hay for the horses and also raises beef and free-range turkeys.

Maccherone's Circle M Farms was established in 1942 and is a fourth-generation family owned and operated business. He farms 339 acres primarily of peaches and nectarines and small grains as well as apples, plums, and asparagus in Gloucester and Salem Counties. Maccherone also produces peach cider, peach preserves, peach salsa and plum cider under the Circle M label.

Also during the reorganization meeting, I was selected to serve as Board President and Francisco Allende, a South Jersey peach farmer, as Vice President.

I am a Monmouth County flower and plant grower and I look forward to serving as Board President. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in helping with issues your operation may be facing.

Spotlight on NJDA— Plant Industry Division

According to NJDA Plant Industry Division Director, Carl Schulze, the Division's purpose and objective is the protection of New Jersey's plant resources from injurious insects, weeds and disease. This purpose is basic to the vitality of the state's agricultural industry, natural environment, and homeowners. Plant pests can cost farmers, woodland and natural area owners, and eventually the consumer, millions of dollars through crop damage and pest control costs. The programs of the Division of Plant Industry provide protection to New Jersey food crops, forests and other plant resources against injurious plant insects and diseases through detection, control, and eradication programs. The Division helps to ensure that farmers, businesses and consumers buy and sell high quality pest-free plants and plant products.

The Division of Plant Industry's goal is to safeguard New Jersey's plant resources from injurious insect and disease pests. Through its detection, inspection, eradication and control programs, the division helps to ensure that farmers and others who buy and sell plants and plant products enjoy high quality, pest-free products. The division oversees programs that certify plant stock for interstate and international shipments, protects forested communities from tree loss caused by the gypsy moth and Asian longhorned beetle, inspects honeybees for harmful bee diseases and pests, regulates the quality of plant seeds, and produces and releases beneficial insects to reduce crop and environmental damage and decrease dependence on chemical pesticides.

The Division also certifies growers who wish to participate in the NJDA's Jersey Grown horticultural marketing program. New Jersey growers who are certified by the Department to sell or distribute nursery stock or plant material are permitted to apply for the use of the "Jersey Grown" logo in marketing their nursery stock and plant material.

For more information on the NJDA Division of Plant Industry or any of its programs, please visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/> or call **609-406-6939**.

Update on Gypsy Moth Populations

This summer's annual New Jersey Department of Agriculture statewide gypsy moth aerial defoliation survey showed 2,887 acres of trees in 51 municipalities in 17 counties received moderate to severe damage this year from the leaf-eating invasive pests. In 2012, 1,068 acres of trees in 21 municipalities in 10 counties were defoliated by gypsy moth caterpillars -- the lowest recorded defoliation since the Department's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program began in 1970.

The defoliation survey was conducted in late June and early July. Tree damage was found in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties. The most damage seen was in Bloomingdale Borough and West Milford Township, both in Passaic County, which had a total of 1,087 acres of trees heavily damaged. For more details from the survey, go to www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/2013gmsurvey.pdf.

The NJ Department of Agriculture will conduct an egg mass survey this fall to determine where spraying is warranted. Gypsy moth caterpillars lay their eggs on trees and emerge in May and early June. This year, no spray program was needed due to low populations of the bugs.

To qualify for the spray program, a residential or recreational forest must have an average of more than 500 egg masses per acre and be at least 50 acres in size. A single egg mass contains up to 1,000 eggs.

Gypsy moth populations can be cyclical. Tree damage from the insects reached a high of 339,240 in 2008, but through the combination of the Department's aggressive spray program, a number of beneficial insects and weather that supported a fungus that impacts gypsy moths, populations have collapsed over the last several years.

Vigilance is necessary for continued success of the program. Two to three consecutive years of significant defoliation (defined as 75 percent or more) can kill an otherwise healthy tree. However, any gypsy moth defoliation can make trees more susceptible to other damage that can lead to the death of the tree. Oak trees are the preferred host for gypsy moths, but the caterpillars can be found feeding on almost any tree in the vicinity.

For more information on New Jersey's gypsy moth suppression program, visit: www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/gypsymoth.html. Also, for national gypsy moth material, visit www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/gm/.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding

NJDA Economic Development Staff has submitted the application for 2014 Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBG) to the USDA. In accordance with the Farm Bill all state departments of agriculture receive an allocation of SCBG funds based on that state's percentage of the national production of specialty crops. The majority of specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, horticultural products, nursery stock, Christmas trees and tree nuts.

For 2014 the New Jersey Department of Agriculture was allocated \$770,362.00. The largest allocation of the funds is scheduled to be received by ten agricultural organizations representing the specialty crop producers of New Jersey. The SCBG program will also be used to support the popular state wide Jersey Fresh program. The recipient organizations are the American Cranberry Growers Association, Garden State Wine Growers Association, Jersey Fruit Cooperative, Mercer County Board of Agriculture, New Jersey Agricultural Society, New Jersey Blueberry and Cranberry Research Center, New Jersey Blueberry Growers Association, New Jersey Peach Promotion Council, Outer Coastal Plains Vintner Association and Rutgers University. The funded projects include; the promotion of the health benefits of fresh produce consumption, consumer awareness and advertising, agricultural sustainability, food safety, agricultural leadership development, insect pest control and the introduction of new small fruit varieties.

The USDA is expected to approve the application by September 29, 2013. The funds will be available for the approved projects from January 2014 until September 2016.

For more information on this program, please contact Logan Brown at 609-292-8856.

Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory Services Offered

The NJDA, through its Division of Animal Health, operates the New Jersey Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL).

The AHDL provides diagnostic testing services to support disease control programs, health management, and productivity of livestock, equine, poultry, fish, and wild-

life. The AHDL serves New Jersey's companion animal owners by providing fast, accurate, convenient, and cost effective services to diagnose diseases in dogs, cats, exotics, and other pets. The AHDL serves as an expert veterinary diagnostic resource to state agencies, federal agencies, veterinari-

ans, clinics, animal organizations, and universities.

The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory can be reached at (609) 406-6999 if you would like to know more about services offered.

And watch for a "Spotlight on the Division of Animal Health" next month.



Deadline to Submit Comments on AMP

August 16th is the deadline to submit written comments to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) on proposed new and amended rules that would establish an On-Farm Direct Marketing Agricultural Management Practice (AMP) and streamline the Right-to-Farm site-specific AMP and complaint processes.

The new AMP would establish performance-based standards for commercial farms seeking eligibility for Right-to-Farm protection for on-farm direct marketing facilities, activities and events that are used to facilitate and provide for direct farmer-to-consumer sales, such as farm stands, farm stores, community-supported agriculture and pick-your-own operations, as well as associated activities and events that fit within the scope of the Right to Farm Act. The proposed Right-to-Farm process rules clarify the roles of county agriculture development boards (CADBs) and the SADC in the review process and also identify hearing requirements for CADBs and the SADC when they are considering site-specific AMP requests and Right-to-Farm complaints.

The proposed rules, which were published in the New Jersey Register on June 17th, can be accessed via the SADC's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/sadc/ruleprop/>.



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WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!

Information from USDA-FSA

Acreage Reporting Deadlines:

August 15, 2013 – Processing Beans; Deadlines to report **2014** acreage: **September 30, 2013** – Turfgrass Sod, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Aquaculture.

DCP: Final date to enroll in DCP has been extended to Sept 16, 2013.

Upcoming NAP Deadlines: 9/1/13 is the deadline to purchase coverage for your 2014 crop of Christmas Trees, Fin Fish, Floriculture (NOT nursery) and Turfgrass sod. 9/30/13 is the deadline for 2014 crops of Barley, Clover, Grass, Mixed Forage, Rye and Wheat.

2013 Financial Assistance Program: The Risk Management Agency (RMA) will provide a fixed premium reduction of \$225.00 per crop policy for eligible producers who purchase buy-up insurance for the 2013 crop year with acreage reporting or inventory reporting dates prior to 9/30/13. Catastrophic (CAT) risk protection policies are not eligible for financial assistance. RMA is making \$5,694,000 available for this initiative to producers in 16 targeted states including New Jersey. No additional application is necessary to qualify for FAP. Financial assistance will be applied automatically to all applicable crop policies which meet the eligibility criteria.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your state USDA-FSA office at **609-587-0104**.

Small Bites

Farming
is not
just a
JOB,
it's a
WAY of
LIFE!

- Owners of heavy highway vehicles are reminded that their next federal highway use tax return is due August 31. The Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax Return (Form 2290), for the tax period that begins on July 1, 2013, applies to vehicles used during July, as well as those first used during August or September. Under federal law, state governments are required to receive proof of payment of the federal highway use tax as a condition of vehicle registration. The IRS no longer mails the form to owners of heavy highway vehicles. To get a copy of the form, visit www.irs.gov.
- Reminder: In accordance with new federal regulations, New Jersey CDL holders must submit a valid (non-expired) medical certificate to the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). Failure to submit a valid Medical Certificate or Medical Variance may result in the CDL being disqualified. Every CDL holder licensed in NJ must submit a signed CDL Holder Self Certification. For further information, visit www.state.nj.us/mvc/Commercial/cdlmed.htm

Joe Atchison, Agricultural Marketing Coordinator for the NJDA, is the editor of this newsletter. If you have comments, concerns or an item that you would like considered for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact him at:

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