

NEWS FROM THE NJDA

New Jersey
Department of
Agriculture

Inside this issue:

- From the Secretary's Desk 1
- From the State Board 1
- Dual-Appraisal 2
- Provision Expires
- Governor Signs Bill for Wineries on 2
- Preserved Farmland
- Fair Season is Here! 2

Important Dates for your Calendar:

July is National Blueberry Month and Hot Dog Month

July 15 - Burlington County Farm Fair Begins

July 17 - Cape May County 4-H Fair Begins

July 17 - Morris County 4-H Fair Begins

July 23 - Monmouth County Fair Begins

July 23 - State Board of Agriculture Mtg., W. Trenton

July 24 - Gloucester Cty. 4-H

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From the Secretary's Desk



NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas H. Fisher

We are in the heart of the summer produce season and the Department has been busy promoting Jersey Fresh, Jersey Grown and Jersey Seafood.

On June 27, on behalf of Governor Christie, I crowned the state's top seafood chef, Jeffrey Wierzbicki of Winberie's in Summit. He was the winner of the Jersey Seafood Challenge with his delicious Jersey Scallops BLT and will represent the state in the Great American Seafood Cook off in New Orleans in early August.

To kick-off the Farmers Market season, I helped open the new Brigantine Farmers Market with a ceremonial "toast" with fresh New Jersey blueberries on June 28.

On July 2, I joined Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno as she kicked off her third annual Agribusiness Tour at Halka Tree Farm in Millstone. There we met with the Halka Family and learned about the many national monuments that have been beautified by their large trees. The second stop of the tour was on July 9 at Fulper Farms, an innovative and progressive dairy in West Amwell. Three generations of Fulpers were there to greet the Lt. Governor.

Just before Independence Day, I toured three more of our state's 149 community farmers markets — Princeton Farmers Market, West End Farmers Market and Chesterfield Health Community Farmers Market. I urged consumers to seek out their nearest market to support our hard-working farmers and to also take advantage of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

And, be sure to listen to NJ 101.5 radio for Jersey Fresh weekend on July 26 and 27. The on-air personalities will be giving away Jersey Fresh prize packs, including tee-shirts, hats and aprons, all weekend long.

From the State Board President



State Board of Agriculture President, Rob Swanekamp

As the State Board year comes to a close, I'd like to thank the members of the Board for their support this past year and look forward to the year ahead. We look forward to welcoming new Board members Mitchell Jones and Steve Wagner. We thank former Board President Roger Kumpel for his willingness to return to service to the Board to fill the vacancy left by the passing of our dear friend, David Klemm.

We would also like to thank Vice President Francisco Allende and board member Hugh McKittrick for their years of dedicated service to the State Board of Agriculture.

While there are many issues that the agricultural industry faces every day, we all need to continue to work together in a positive direction as we try to resolve them.

Information from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC)

Dual-Appraisal Provision Expires in Highlands

Farms in the Highlands region applying for farmland preservation are no longer eligible for the dual-appraisal provision unless their applications were received by the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) by June 30, 2014 – the date the provision expired.

The dual appraisal provision in the Garden State Preservation Trust Act permitted the SADC to value Highlands farms for preservation in two ways: based on zoning and State environmental laws and regulations in effect currently, or in effect on January 1, 2004, with the landowner offered the higher value.

Legislation (S1050/A3058) was introduced to extend the dual appraisal provision through June 30, 2019 but was not approved by the Senate and Assembly before the Legislature's summer recess.

Governor Signs Bill Establishing Pilot Program for Wineries on Preserved Farms

Governor Christie on July 2 signed into law S837 that directs the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to establish a pilot program to allow wineries on preserved farms to conduct special occasion events under certain conditions.

Special occasion events are defined as “a wedding, lifetime milestone event, or other cultural or social event as defined by the appropriate county agriculture development board.” Therefore, county agriculture development boards will have a unique role in implementing this law by determining what constitutes a special occasion event in each county.

Under the new law's requirements, special occasion events must account for less than 50 percent of the winery's gross income for the calendar year and are largely subject to municipal regulation, including for traffic, curfews, the protection of public health and safety, and site plan review and other applicable development approvals.

The pilot program is scheduled to expire on March 1, 2018.



Agricultural Fair Season is Here!

The Ag Fair Season in New Jersey is in full swing and 2014 NJ Agricultural Fair Ambassador Kayla Vaughn wants to remind everyone to support your local County Agricultural Fair. They are a great opportunity to meet with friends, family and neighbors and discover all that is exciting about agriculture in the Garden State in an environment that is fun for all. For more information on fairs across the state, please visit www.njagfairs.com