

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**March 27, 2019**

**Agricultural Marketing** – Marketing and Development Division staff represented the Department at the annual North Jersey Fruit Meeting sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Council of Farmers & Communities. Staff updated the attending farmers and market managers on the Jersey Fresh marketing program, solicited farmer participation in the WIC & Seniors FMNP voucher program, and discussed agritourism and community farmers market opportunities. Jersey Fresh promotional materials and departmental publications were distributed while also engaging in discussions with numerous members of the agricultural community concerning departmental programs and activities; especially the updating of the Jersey Fresh website. The annual North Jersey Fruit Meeting continues to be successful with over 50 North Jersey fruit growers attending. The New Jersey Council of Farmers & Communities was attended by about a dozen community farmers market managers and a handful of farmers and vendors.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program Week** – March is National Nutrition Month. During March Secretary Fisher joined the Food and Nutrition Division by celebrating Child and Adult Care Food Program Week on March 17 – 23 with visits to Circle of Friends, an adult day care location in Springfield, Union County, and Acelero Learning Monmouth/Middlesex, a preschool in North Brunswick. CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually during the third week of March by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.

**Spotted Lanternfly Education** – NJDA staff performed a spotted lanternfly training with the New Jersey Garden Club in Cranford and New Jersey Landscape Contractor Association Trade Show at the NJ Convention Center in Secaucus to educate those in attendance about the impacts of this pest to New Jersey agricultural and environmental resources. The program manager also made a presentation at Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting in Bordentown in February. There were 75 people in attendance to become educated about the impacts of this exotic invasive pest and discuss permitting for log haulers to reduce the spread of the insect to other areas.

**Animal Health Lab Pathology Testing** – The Pathology Laboratory Section for the months of January and February 2019 completed a total of 307 and 331 tests and/or procedures, respectively. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), cytologic and parasitologic preparation and evaluation. Species submitted for testing in the month of February 2019 included ovine, caprine, equine, canine, feline, domestic poultry/backyard birds, pigeons, marine mammal (seal, porpoise), zoo/exotic (sugar glider, rabbit, parrot) and wildlife (deer, waterfowl) species. Cases for these months 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), and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo, and nonprofit animal facilities.

**FFA Day of Service Preparation** – The New Jersey FFA Association is partnering with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Program at Rutgers University to support their Bat House Distribution Program. As the result of a Living to Serve grant received through the National FFA Organization, New Jersey FFA members will construct bat houses at the 90th State FFA Convention in May during the

inaugural Day of Service event. Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources staff met with Wildlife Conservation and Management Program staff to discuss the details of the project. The overall goal of the project is to construct 100 bat houses that can be distributed to those needing to perform a bat eviction.

**Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program** – Engineering staff attended the 26th annual Dam Safety Conference on the topic of Information Sharing and Risk Communication. Presenters offered real world examples of both success and failures in communicating timely and important information between government and the public. This is especially valuable for NJ Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) who work directly with the public as well as professional engineers and builders. Staff continues to assist SCDs and professional engineers with interpretation and application of erosion control design standards to various projects around the state.

**Animal Health Education and Outreach** – Veterinary Accreditation was held in February for 35 veterinarians from around the state. Veterinarians were given orientation on such things as emergency preparedness, state regulations, the appropriate way to fill out a certificate of veterinary inspection as well as other disease testing forms, rabies and Department of Health regulations, and the USDA core accreditation requirements.

**Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Inspections** – Marketing and Development Division staff within the Bureau of Commodity Inspection and Grading will initiate formal FSMA Produce Safety inspections during the 2019 growing season for farms with \$500k+ in average annual sales. These inspections will remain educational in nature, but affected growers should nevertheless be aware of the process. Growers will receive prior communication from our office in advance of an onsite inspection.

**School Nutrition Program** – Secretary Fisher joined the School Nutrition Program (SNP) staff by starting off the month of March celebrating National School Breakfast Week at Parsons Elementary School in North Brunswick to observe and highlight Breakfast after the Bell. The SNP Team also presented three webinars this month with RFP Contract Training for FSMC Representatives on March 7, Fixed Price Contracts & Addenda in ECAS on March 14<sup>th</sup> and SOARing Through the Administrative Review, RCCI Edition on March 14.

**Nursery Inspection Program** – Nurseries have begun importing roses for the upcoming 2019 season. To protect the health and quality of rose plants purchased by New Jersey consumers and growers, and to prevent the movement into the State of diseased, virus-infected rose plants, New Jersey requires that rose shipments be accompanied by an official certificate or statement issued by the proper state official in the state of origin, certifying that the plants were inspected during the growing season at a time when symptoms would be apparent and found visibly free of plant viruses. To date, two producers have provided this certification for the import of 221,299 rose plants from three suppliers into New Jersey.