

**Secretary’s Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**July 24, 2019**

**Animal Health Employees Lauded by USDA** – Two Animal Health employees were recognized by USDA Veterinary Services for providing essential assistance in two different situations. Jennifer Niper’s extensive knowledge and ties to the New Jersey Live Bird Markets allowed the USDA to close a trace associated with a Low Path Avian Influenza Outbreak in Pennsylvania. The only information provided to start the trace was the name of a driver. Jen knew a driver by that name for a delivery company, which was essential in allowing the USDA to follow up and test the birds. The USDA said if Jen had not stepped in, it would have been a dead-end trace, and that ducks in Connecticut would never have been tested. Also, when a USDA-VS employee called in sick on an auction day, Dr. Nicole Lewis took time from an extremely busy schedule and tested birds at the auction. The USDA said Dr. Lewis “saved the day!”

**Jersey Fresh Chef Series Videos** – The Marketing and Development Division continues to roll-out professionally produced Jersey Fresh chef series videos. So far, chefs, food bloggers and restaurateurs from Hackettstown to Haddon Heights have been featured, showcasing dishes that use everything from Jersey Fresh blueberries to peppers. These videos will continue to be promoted throughout the growing season. They can be viewed on the Jersey Fresh Facebook page and at FindJerseyFresh.com.

**Gypsy Moth Survey** – The 2019 Gypsy Moth aerial defoliation survey was accomplished in four days beginning June 21 in southern New Jersey and completed on July 2 in the northern counties. A total of 1,704 acres were found defoliated in 41 areas in 28 municipalities in 12 counties throughout the state. This number represents a 45 percent reduction in defoliation compared to what was observed in 2018. A summary by county as follows:

<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Burlington	95
Hunterdon	399
Mercer	356
Middlesex	8
Monmouth	65
Morris	27
Ocean	18
Passaic	164
Salem	29
Somerset	177
Sussex	315
Warren	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,704</b>

**FFA Golf Tournament** – The 18th Annual FFA Golf Tournament at Gambler Ridge in Cream Ridge, held in honor of the Brooks Family, welcomed 57 golfers and many sponsors. More than \$21,000 was raised to support scholarships, student leadership development programs, and state officer training. This year was the second highest grossing golf tournament.

**Summer Food Service Program** – Sponsor site visits have started as summer monitors are in the field four days a week completing their assigned sponsored sites. Weekly meetings are scheduled with monitors to

review their visits. The USDA/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office will conduct site reviews with the summer monitors during the week of July 22.

**Jersey Fresh Dairy** – The Department has fielded more than 40 producer calls on advanced steps to manufacture milk and milk products as value added products. A detailed review of the dairy value-added industry and market is underway in conjunction with Rutgers Extension Salem County. The dairy section also received two inquiries from out of state farms that wish to relocate to the state and process value added milk and milk products.

**Food Distribution Program** – The Food and Nutrition Division’s Food Distribution Unit has completed annual physical inventories of USDA commodities stored in the school account at the Newark and Safeway warehouses. The Manager and Assistant Manager will be meeting with representatives from both warehouses in the month of July to sign off on the inventory results as well as to discuss the deliveries and shipments for the 2019-2020 school year. For the 2019-2020 school year, \$16,314,590 worth of USDA Foods has been purchased for delivery to the warehouses. Shipments begin arriving at the state contracted warehouses at the end of July.

**Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Accreditation** – The AHDL and the Plant Laboratory underwent an ISO 17025 accreditation renewal audit by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) in June 2019. A2LA found no deficiencies resulting in the renewal of accreditation until August 2021. The accreditation is required to maintain the USDA and FDA funding to protect animal agriculture, food safety, and public health.

**Nursery Inspection Program** – Plant dealer locations were inspected by Plant Industry Division horticultural staff to verify their nursery stock remains free from insect and disease pests. As part of their plant dealer inspections, program staff inspected 161 containers of agricultural, vegetable, flower, and turf seeds for germination test expirations. A total of 168 Nursery/Greenhouse locations were visited by horticultural staff during the month. These inspections occur annually throughout the growing season to ensure that regulated ornamental plant material is free from injurious pests, insects and diseases.

**Water Supply Advisory Council** – The Council heard two presentations. Dr. Tony Broccoli, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University and Co-Director of the Rutgers Climate Institute presented on climate change and impacts to New Jersey. Dr. Amy Shallcross, Manager, Water Resource Operations for the Delaware River Basin Commission, presented on Water Supply Operations Under Future Climate Scenarios.