

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**January 22, 2020**

**Hemp Program** – Department Hemp regulations were approved and accepted by the USDA in late December. Departmental staff developed, reviewed and finalized applications to be used for participation in the Program. Applications, regulations and instructions were emailed to interested individuals and posted on the Department's website. The Division has been ramping up staffing and laboratory needs to be ready to begin inspection and testing activities in the 2020 growing season. The Plant Industry Division will oversee the hemp program.

**Jersey Fresh Dairy** – During the preceding months, the Department conducted follow up questions to producers about value-added products. Talks will now continue with interested parties to advance the Jersey Fresh Value-Added Dairy program. The Department also met with a group of producers and a potential dealer interested in developing Micro Dairy Processing and on farm processing units. The idea is moving forward but is in its initial stages of development.

**Water Supply Advisory Council** – The sub-committee has coordinated with Rutgers Extension staff who have been contacted by 16 producers who would like to participate in the USGS grant project for the 2020 growing season. Participants will install an irrigation line water meter, while continuing to keep traditional well capacity/run time logs to calculate water use. The study will compare the results. At the completion of the study the meter will be given to the producer.

**Department of Defense Program** – A total of 288 of the 360 Department of Defense direct delivery schools participated in the Food and Nutrition Division program during December 2019. A total of 26,911 cases at 619,782 pounds with a value of \$787,128 were ordered during December. Approximately 70 various items of fresh fruits and vegetables were delivered directly to the participating resident agencies.

**Live Bird Marketing System** – During the month of December, Division of Animal Health technicians conducted unannounced inspections on 25 registered NJ live bird markets and tested seven of these markets for avian influenza by sampling poultry located in the markets. Additional activities during the month of December included:

- The quarterly closure of 11 live bird markets. Quarterly closures consist of cleaning and disinfecting the entire market, followed by a minimum of 24 hours of "down-time." Following the "down-time," environmental samples are collected at the market for testing.
- The inspection of three poultry distributors. Records were reviewed as well as ensuring compliance with 2:9-4.2(c), reviewing vehicle cleaning and disinfection logbooks.
- Avian influenza testing of seven poultry distributors. This includes any poultry being delivered to live bird markets at the time of inspection.
- Avian influenza testing of nine backyard flocks throughout New Jersey.

**Tri-County Cooperative Market Meeting** – Marketing Division staff represented the Department at the annual meeting of the Tri-County Cooperative Market. Staff updated the attending farmers on the Jersey Fresh marketing program, community farmers market opportunities, and solicited farmer participation in the WIC & Seniors FMNP voucher program. Staff also disseminated Jersey Fresh promotional materials and departmental publications and engaged in discussions with numerous members of the agricultural community concerning departmental programs and activities. There were 60 Tri-County Auction Association member farmers attending this meeting.

**Spotted Lanternfly** – Plant Industry Division field crews continue to work on the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Program. Survey crews are working from Salem County to Warren County to identify woodlots with infestations of these insects and assess properties for treatment by USDA-contracted applicators. Initial property surveys involve finding any stage of SLF. Cumulatively a total of 115,415 properties are in the project encompassing 366,988 acres. Of this number, trees on 8,030 parcels (9,138 acres) have been assessed and do not need treatments, while trees on 225 parcels (3,674 acres) have been added for treatment this coming spring.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program** – On January 8, 2020, Food and Nutrition Division representatives presented an overview of the CACFP at the NJ Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to collaborate with other State and local agencies to explore options for the Preschool Development Grant. New Jersey was one of 18 states selected to receive a Preschool Development Grant of up to \$17.5 million a year. This funding will help the betterment of more preschool programs, which includes more nutritious meals.

**Division of Animal Health Education and Outreach** – The Division Director attended the 2019 National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) Summit in Bellevue Wash. The DAH work on Animal Emergency Response and Preparedness led to the invitation to present at the NASAAEP Summit. The presentation was entitled “Discovery and Immediate Emergency Response to the Invasive Asian Longhorned Tick in New Jersey.” NASAAEP is a national organization that facilitates and promotes the development of a national emergency management framework through coordination and capacity building between and among states and the membership.

**Environmental Training** – On December 17-18, Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff presented at a Northeast Environmental Enforcement Project training in Vermont on New Jersey’s Animal Waste Management regulations. This event was well attended by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, University of Vermont Extension, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Presentations included: Nutrient Management Plans and NRCS 590 Standards and Checklist; Nutrient Management Plan panel discussion focusing on compliance assistance; Pennsylvania Nutrient Management requirements, Compliance & Enforcement; and De-escalation Techniques, Note Taking and Technical Report Writing. This was a valuable educational and networking experience for staff - learning about and discussing nutrient management issues and regulations in two states with a robust agricultural industry and well-developed regulations.