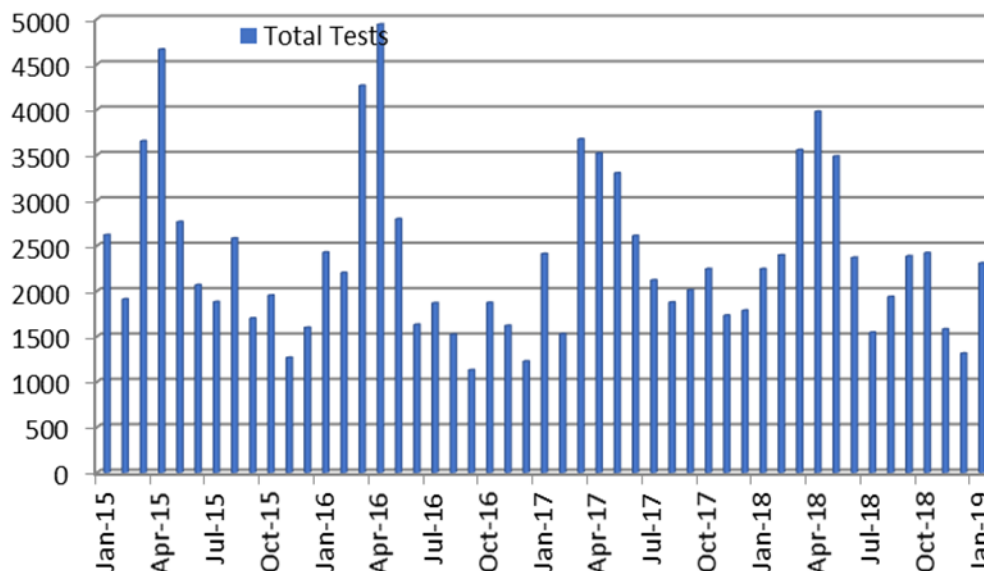


Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
February 27, 2019

CASE Grants Awarded – Five schools received 2019 CASE grants totaling \$34,688.42. Applications were made available to all schools approved by the Dept. of Education to offer agriculture, food and natural resources programs. The available funds are made possible by the New Jersey Department of Education through the Memorandum of Agreement between the NJ DOE and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Funds will be used to continue the development of the CASE program to build programs of study by supporting teacher professional development and expenditures for class/lab equipment and supplies.

Agricultural Marketing – The month of February was highlighted by staff efforts on agricultural marketing and economic development projects. Staff represented the Department at the annual meetings of the Vegetable Growers Association of NJ, Tri-County Cooperative Market, and the Central and North Jersey Vegetable meetings sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Staff represented the Department at a meeting of the NJ Agricultural Education Advisory Council and at the annual FFA Advocacy & Legislative Leadership Day (ALLD). As the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Keystone Development Center, staff chaired the Nominating Committee and participated in a KDC quarterly organizational meeting. Staff also participated in teleconference calls to plan the agenda for a statewide urban farmers markets conference, coordinated a meeting of the NJ White Potato Industry Advisory Council and responded to a handful of requests from organizations that are interested in developing community farmers markets.

Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Tests – The Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) performed a total of 2,307 tests in January 2019. For comparison, historical test numbers are plotted on the graph below.



CACFP Reviews – The week of February 11, 2019, USDA Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (MARO) Management Evaluation (ME) team and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) staff began the institution review portion of the ME. The review took place in Bridgeton, NJ at the Gateway Community Action Program. The ME focuses on various CACFP operational areas with the objective of documenting the progress of corrective action on findings disclosed during previous ME's, improvements in staffing,

implementation of the new Financial Management instruction, integrity improvements, and other pertinent areas.

Spotted Lanternfly Survey Candidates – Division staff continue to reach out in recruiting and interviewing additional seasonal candidates for survey activities on the 2019 Spotted Lanternfly program. Additional federal funding is also being requested to increase survey and control measures substantially over the levels conducted in 2018.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program – Engineering staff provided technical assistance to Soil Conservation Districts in the review of complex hydrologic site plan designs including channel stability analysis and stormwater runoff modeling. Soil Conservation District staff continue to upload stormwater management basin information into the Department's on-line database which is viewable by the public: <https://hydro.rutgers.edu>. NJDA and Districts use the database to map locations of stormwater management infrastructure and provide basin inspection services to municipalities who must comply with the State's Municipal Storm Sewer Service (MS4) permit program at NJDEP. Municipalities and other basin owners can enter into agreements with local conservation districts who can perform annual basin inspections and document the need for maintenance, repair or retrofitting of stormwater basins, all of which is stored in the Department's database.

Humane Standards Training – Three staff members from NJDA provided training on January 17th, 2019 on the humane standards of domestic livestock to officers in Mercer County. This was part of a multi-day training that was being held for Mercer County humane law enforcement officers. NJDA staff discussed the humane standards, biosecurity, and the various roles during an investigation.

Horse Breeding and Development – The New Jersey Equine Advisory Board hosted its annual Breeder Award Luncheon at the Hilton Gardens Inn in Robbinsville on Sunday, January 27. With over 120 in attendance, the Horse of the Year for both the Thoroughbreds and the Standardbreds were honored as well as Superior Achievement Awards to outstanding pleasure horses. The 2019 Equestrian of the Year is Riley Chenoweth Hafner who represented the NJ Pony Breeder and Owners Association in the competition. The Horseperson of the Year was Dr. Dan Keenan of Chesterfield.

Food Processed Commodities – The Commodity Selection Worksheet process during which the schools make their commodity (USDA Foods) selections for the 2019-2020 school year began on February 1, 2019 and will end on March 8, 2019. This is the opportunity for the school districts to decide how they would like to spend their USDA Foods Planned Assistance Level. They can choose to send their entitlement dollars for processed commodities from specific manufacturers, can receive USDA Foods directly from the state contracted warehouses or receive fresh DoD produce delivered directly to their school districts. The total amount of entitlement funds that each school district received is based on their Average Daily Participation (ADP) multiplied by 180 school days multiplied by the cents per meal rate (.335) determined by USDA.

Industrial Hemp Regulations – Division staff continue to work on writing and editing the proposed regulations for industrial hemp. The proposed regulations will be published for public comment following legal reviews of the document.