

**Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture**  
**December 18, 2019**

**Agricultural Marketing** – Marketing and Development Division staff interacted with a representative of the Social Impact and Community Investment Department at RWJ Barnabas Health related to one of their initiatives: a mobile educational van called “Wellness on Wheels”. Their mission is to educate communities about a healthy diet and cooking. They also have a farmers market at the Newark Beth Israel hospital that became a SNAP certified vendor in 2017 and is in the process of becoming a WIC vendor. They want to make their Wellness on Wheels van a mobile extension of their farmers market so that it could be used as both an educational tool with mobile cooking and sampling, and a vendor of produce from their farmers market.

**Gypsy Moth** – Gypsy Moth ground egg mass surveys are finished for the season by the Plant Industry Division. A total of 23 municipalities requested surveys in Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties. All of those surveys were completed. They are performed to determine areas for treatment in the following spring season. There have been no areas recommended for treatment yet for Spring 2020. Plans are to conduct additional surveys for gypsy moth in areas which historically have been treated for this insect.

**Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program** – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff saw over 5,300 new applications for development submitted to the State’s 15 Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) in Fiscal Year 2019. These applications encompassed 10,650 acres of land. SCD staff conducted 54,700 inspections requiring 101,900 employee hours to implement (this does not include the NJDA hours for engaging in administrative and engineering support). Department engineering personnel provided assistance to several SCD offices in the review and ongoing implementation of very large plans. One such plan encompasses 640 acres (1 square mile) in Ocean County. Numerous stormwater basins and associated structures are proposed to control and manage runoff. The NJDA provides ongoing training and technical support to all the SCD offices.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program** – A Food and Nutrition Division Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) staff member was a panelist at the 7th Annual Conference - Building A Culture of Health Inspiring Community Changemakers, located in The Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset, NJ. The purpose of participation was to provide an overview of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its benefits.

**Animal Emergency Preparedness** – The animal emergency preparedness coordinator participated in the New Jersey County Office of Emergency Management Coordinators meeting. With many counties represented at this meeting, it was an opportunity to remind each Office of Emergency Management (OEM) of the importance of considering livestock animals and pets during any disaster situation. The role of the Division of Animal Health within Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 was discussed, as well as how the animal emergency preparedness coordinator interacts with each county OEM and County Animal Response Team.

**Specialty Crop Block Grants** – Memorandums Of Understanding have been written, signed and mailed to all subgrantees for the 2019-2020 Specialty Crop Block Grants. The Division of Marketing and Development continues to work on the year-end report processes for all three active grant years and will work with sub-grantees on these reports that are due to the USDA no later than December 28, 2019.

**Spotted Lanternfly Research** – Stratified *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven) seeds were soaked, potted in cells and set up in one of the rearing rooms. Seedlings have sprouted and will be moved into pots. These plants are being grown with the hope of rearing Spotted Lanternfly in the spring. Field staff continue to scrape off SLF egg masses and deliver them to PABIL for overwintering. A total of 10 large Ailanthus trees have been transplanted to the PABIL grounds to be ready for work by USDA-APHIS staff in the spring. Another 10 trees will be transplanted into the PHEAL greenhouse over the next couple of weeks.

**Food Distribution** – Allocations for the month of January 2020 were created and electronically sent to all participating recipient agencies (RAs) during the month of December by the Food and Nutrition Division's Food Distribution Program Warehouse Allocation Unit. At Newark Refrigerated Warehouse, a total of 36,749 cases at 1,081,101 pounds were offered to 298 RAs - 30 items were offered on the regular allocation. At Safeway Warehouse, a total of 23,294 cases at 728,078 pounds were offered to 179 RAs; Thirty items were offered on the regular allocation. The offering also included two bonus items purchased through the National School Lunch Trade Mitigation Program. These items were red kidney beans and frozen pulled pork.

**Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Testing** – The Pathology Laboratory Section for November 2019 completed a total of 283 tests and/or procedures. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic) and parasitological preparation and evaluation. Species submitted for testing in the month of November 2019 included equine, bovine, ovine, caprine, canine, feline, domestic poultry/backyard birds, zoo/exotic and wildlife 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 support practicing veterinarians (large, mixed, and small animal), private food and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo and nonprofit animal facilities.

**Ag Education Teacher Mentor Orientation** – Twenty-six teacher mentors, early career teachers and guests, attended the first annual Teacher Mentor Orientation on November 17. This event was sponsored by the State Teach Agriculture Results (STAR) Program and hosted by the Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education and the New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators. There are 15 teachers in the state identified as being in their first or second year of teaching agriculture. It is crucial that these individuals receive support and guidance as they work through the first part of their career. Retention efforts, such as this, will ensure a stable and consistent delivery of food, agriculture and natural resources education throughout the state.