

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
December 16, 2020

Ag Education Teachers Honored – Monmouth County Career Center ag teacher Kristina Guttadora was recognized as the Association for Career and Technical Education Region 1 Teacher of the Year and being a national finalist for the award. Salem County Technical School ag teacher Keely DiTizio was recognized with the 2020 Innovation Award for CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education). Northern Burlington County Regional Middle School ag teacher Robin McLean completed her first term as the NAAE (National Association of Agricultural Educators) Region VI Vice President.

Spotted Lanternfly Treatment Program – A new method of treatment besides scraping and destroying egg masses has begun for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). Egg masses are now also being treated using “Golden Oil”. This soybean-based oil is effective when applied at high rates (50 percent) and is effective for destroying both SLF and gypsy moth egg masses. During November, treatments for SLF concluded for the season. Final numbers for the 2020 season are as follows: 82,934 “hack and squirt” herbicide trees, 51,060 foliar herbicide applications (saplings), and 1,681 insecticide trees. Treatments will resume in May 2021. The field crews are working to designate new priority areas for the 2021 season based on numbers of egg masses and SLF adults observed, as well as monitoring traps for the USDA Otis laboratory. A new SLF treatment agreement has been developed and is being used now by both NJDA and USDA field staff.

Marketing Grant Programs – Marketing and Development Division staff are fulfilling required obligations under our grant programs. They are Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG), Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS), Produce Safety, Livestock, Risk Management (RMA), Rural Development, Organic Cost Share, and Wine Industry Grants, including research and development. In addition, we are monitoring Grant Proposal Awards and preparing proposals. The 2021 SCBG has been submitted to the USDA and is awaiting award.

Animal Health Emergency Preparedness Meeting – The Animal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator conducted an outdoor meeting in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS), New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJ OEM), County Animal Response Teams and State Animal Response Teams to educate new volunteers on New Jersey's emergency pet sheltering efforts. The Director and Deputy Director of NJ DHS, and NJ OEM were present and explained how critical volunteers are to the state's emergency sheltering plans. One of the two stocked state emergency shelter pet shelter trailers was on display. The attendees were able to review the inventory items within the trailer and evaluate how the supplies would be utilized in an emergency pet shelter. The nine different emergency pet shelter areas were briefly explained, and the supplies required within each.

USDA Site Finder Reports – The USDA has extended the site finder reporting and the reports are submitted to the USDA every Wednesday for national posting on Thursdays. Reports show all open sites where children and parents can pick up free meals. The reports will continue to be sent to the USDA as needed through the end of the year based on the waiver extensions.

NJ Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference District Staff Training – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff, with assistance from the Ocean County Soil Conservation District, conducted a virtual webinar for all NJ SCD staff to introduce them to the new “Green Infrastructure” Rules and Best Management Practices adopted by the NJDEP. The concept of “green infrastructure” (GI) involves the use of multiple stormwater management structures that rely on vegetation and infiltration to treat, infiltrate and manage stormwater runoff in a distributed network rather than with a single “basin” structure. Guest speakers included Gabriel Mahon, P.E., Bureau Chief NonPoint Pollution Control of the NJDEP who reviewed and explained the rule requirements, and Jeromie Lange, P.E., P.P.,

C.M.E. a consultant for Maser Engineering who provided real-world design examples and explained concepts of distributed hydrologic modeling.

Livestock Survey – The livestock survey being crafted by Rutgers and the NJDA has been adjusted after input from a committee member and by a review of some Rutgers staff. Multiple producers are still reporting long waits for processing times at current slaughter facilities. It appears that multiple producers are looking into the possibility of creating their own on-farm processing. Information has been sent to those looking into this type of processing to see if they want to undertake the task of building a USDA approved harvest facility.

Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Testing – During the month of November, the Pathology Laboratory Section completed 141 tests and/or procedures. Tests and/or procedures involved gross necropsy examination, histopathologic (microscopic), immunohistochemical and parasitological preparation and evaluation, and these cases 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), private food and companion animal owners, NJ State Agencies, racetrack, wildlife, zoo, and nonprofit animal facilities. Cases involved diagnostic testing for disease and/or cause of death diagnosis and routine and/or sporadic disease surveillance for large and small ruminant, companion animal, and exotic/zoo species; sudden death with no clinical symptoms; assessment of backyard and small flock health issues; large scale flock disease; law enforcement forensic investigation and animals exhibiting neurologic symptoms.

Child and Adult Care Food Program – Food and Nutrition Division staff have received approximately 220 Waiver Requests forms. These waivers allow for nationwide program flexibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – Plant Industry Division staff at the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Lab maintain a non-diapausing colony of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) in preparation for the release of *Trissolcus japonicus*, a wasp biocontrol that develops in the stink bug eggs. In the meantime, BMSB eggs and adults are sold to different federal and university researchers that work on projects to help control BMSB in the United States. Laboratory rearing of BMSB has continued at normal levels. This month a total of 600 BMSB adults and 450 egg masses were shipped out to cooperators. The BMSB, *Halyomorpha halys*, is native to Asia and a general agricultural pest introduced to Pennsylvania in the late 90's.