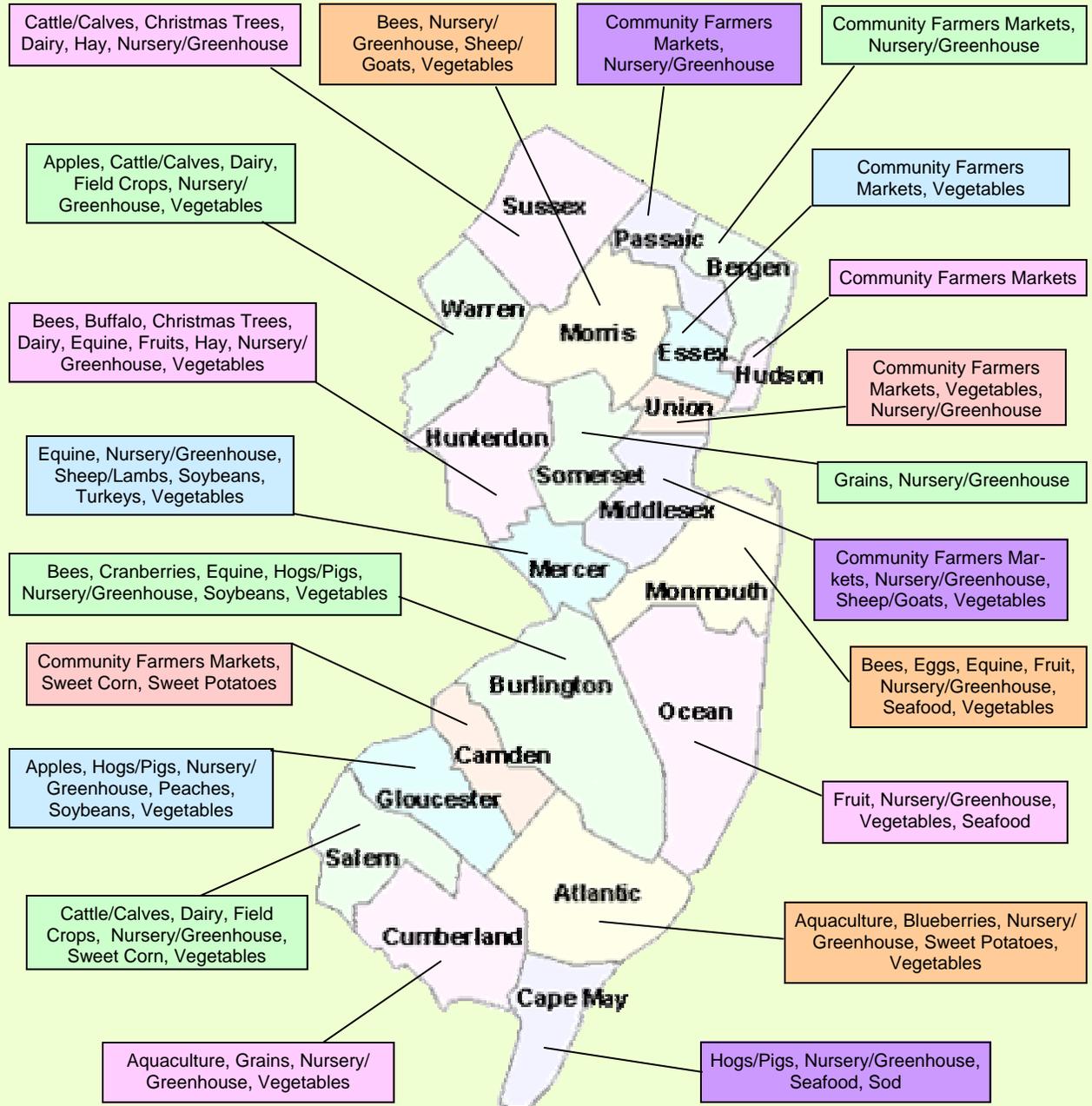


# New Jersey Agriculture Annual Report and Agricultural Statistics

# 2009

## Unmistakably...The GARDEN State



# New Jersey Department of Agriculture

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## Our Mission:



To promote and provide high quality, nutritious, abundant, safe and affordable food and other agricultural products; improve the economic viability of the agricultural industry and foster opportunities for farm profitability; preserve and protect agricultural and natural resources; and provide leadership and excellence in services to New Jersey agriculture and the general public.

## A Message from Governor Chris Christie

As I travel through New Jersey, I celebrate its geographic and cultural diversity. From cities to beaches, from mountains to farmland – all in the most densely populated state in the nation -- we find a thriving agriculture that is close to where people live. This proximity provides many benefits to our residents, including access to the freshest, highest quality produce; farm visits to pick your own fruits and vegetables; facilities to watch world class equine events; nurseries filled with the widest variety of flowers, plants, trees and shrubs; and the best seafood caught or harvested anywhere.



Agriculture is so much more than farms.

*Chris Christie, New Jersey Governor*

It is the inspections that ensure our food is safe to eat; it is the feeding programs in schools and day care centers that provide nutritious meals to our children; it is the testing and surveillance that ensures animals and plants are free from disease.

Agriculture also has a major impact on our state's economy, with billions of dollars in sales annually. Having productive farmland in a community helps control tax rates, generating more in property taxes than farmland requires in municipal services.

Farming is part of New Jersey's heritage and is an essential part of our state's future if we are to maintain jobs and the quality of life we enjoy in this great Garden State. I look forward to working with the agricultural community to help grow and strengthen this important industry.

# 2009 New Jersey State Board of Agriculture



**Roger Kumpel**  
**President**  
 Burlington County  
*Hay/Grain Industry*



**W. Scott Ellis**  
**Vice President**  
 Mercer County  
*Vegetable Industry*

The State Board of Agriculture, comprising eight members, is the policy-making body of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Its members serve for four years, with two members being replaced each year. By law, at least four of its members must represent the top commodity groups in the state. Members serve without salary.



**Ann Dorsett**  
**Board Member**  
 Gloucester Cty  
*Equine Industry*



**Andrew Borisuk**  
**Board Member**  
 Sussex County  
*Hay/Grain Industry*



**Henry DuBois**  
**Board Member**  
 Salem County  
*Vegetable Industry*



**Hugh McKittrick**  
**Board Member**  
 Monmouth County  
*Nursery Industry*



**Dr. Lewis J. DeEugenio Jr.**  
**Board Member**  
 Gloucester Cty  
*Fruit Industry*



**James Giamarese**  
**Board Member**  
 Middlesex County  
*Vegetable Industry*

The New Jersey State Board of Agriculture has been working to keep the New Jersey Department of Agriculture viable so it can maintain the high level of services provided to the agriculture industry, school children and the needy.

The Board has stressed the important role the Secretary of Agriculture plays, as a communicator between the Board and the community, as well as with the Governor and state lawmakers. The Board has worked with Secretary Fisher and sought his guidance on a number of major issues vital to the state's agriculture and well-being of its citizens over the course of the year.

One of the most critical issues currently facing the agriculture industry is maintaining food safety and protecting the public. The Board is working with Department staff to assist producers who are facing ever increasing requirements about traceability demanded by the buying public.

A major accomplishment in 2009 was completing reciprocity agreements with all neighboring states allowing farmers to drive farm vehicles between the states without costly extra requirements and threat of being detained or ticketed.

Other issues the Board worked on in 2009 were farmland assessment, wind and solar generation on farms, road signage for agritourism businesses, and direct shipping for wineries.

In addition, the Board toured agriculture businesses throughout the state to speak to farmers about the issues they are facing and how the Department can better serve them.

The Board visited greenhouses, an agritourism operation and a dairy farm while touring Warren County. Members went to a nursery, roadside market, supermarket, and a varied retail market/pick-your-own farm while traveling throughout Burlington County.

And, Board members accompanied state Legislators on the Department and New Jersey Agricultural Society's Annual Farm Tour, which in 2009, took them throughout Middlesex County to an agritourism venue and Christmas tree, spinach, turkey and research farms.



*Senator Marcia Karrow talks with Roger Kumpel at Von Thun's Country Farm Market during Legislators Tour*

# A Message from Secretary Douglas H. Fisher

Agriculture is a cornerstone of New Jersey's economy. Our geography, our land and water resources, even our proximity to major cities and their vast markets, all perfectly position New Jersey to remain an agricultural powerhouse in the nation.

We rank in the Top 10 nationwide in the production of numerous agricultural products, including blueberries, cranberries, peaches, peppers, lettuces and other greens. Ornamental horticulture, our state's biggest agricultural sector, supplies the plants, flowers, sod and turf grasses that beautify residential, commercial and recreational areas. And our seafood – from scallops and clams to finfish – is on par with any in the world.

Our equine sector contributes millions upon millions of dollars to the economy, not only through breeding championship-caliber racehorses, but through the riding facilities, tack shops and other suppliers to the pleasure-horse industry.



*Douglas H. Fisher, N.J. Secretary of Agriculture*

But it is not enough to simply rest on these accomplishments. New Jersey must look to the future and prepare its current and upcoming farmers and fishermen to take advantage of trends in the industry, like the growing demand for locally grown products, as epitomized by our *Jersey Fresh*, *Jersey Grown*, *Jersey Seafood* and other state brands.

Foremost among these trends is the move to make sure New Jersey agricultural products can be available even beyond their traditional seasons. By incorporating our raw agricultural products into restaurant menus and developing more ways to use them in processed foods, we can all enjoy the great taste of Jersey-grown fruits, vegetables, seafood, dairy and meat products throughout the year.

This also will help our industry offer great New Jersey products to our children longer into the school year. The School Nutrition Policy adopted by the Department a few years back will benefit from having these products that can be offered in our schools' cafeterias well beyond the time they were harvested.

Focusing on the future also means helping our farmers reach school children and restaurant patrons through Farm to School and Farm to Fork, and attract more customers through agritourism, such as pick-your-own produce, hayrides, as well as other ways for people to experience a taste of life on the farm.

Surely, life on the farm in 2009 was a daunting challenge. The wild extremes in weather and the ongoing economic downturn put everyone in the industry to the test. On the up side, 2009 also saw voters in New Jersey reaffirming their commitment to preserving farmland, and we will continue making the most of that funding as we approach the preservation of 200,000 acres of productive, privately managed open space.

Our Department's mission will continue to be ensuring the safety and quality of the Garden State's agricultural products, protecting our agricultural and natural resources, giving school children and the needy access to nutritious food, improving the economic viability of the industry and providing the highest level of service to New Jersey agriculture and the general public.

The future of agriculture in New Jersey is limited only by our own willingness to explore new opportunities. With the Garden State home to some of the most innovative growers in the nation, supported by aggressive farmland preservation and a close-in market of more than 100 million people, agriculture clearly is a growth industry in New Jersey and a continued force in our state's economy.



# 2009 Highlights

**Listening Tour/Farm Tours:** Secretary Fisher embarked on an unprecedented Listening Tour in March, visiting every County Board of Agriculture in the state to learn about the issues facing New Jersey's agriculture industry and hear what board members would like addressed. Fisher also toured agricultural areas in all parts of the state. He visited pick-your-own farms, wineries, fruit farms, dairies, nurseries, horse farms, an Asian garden center, agritourism operations food processors and farms leading the way in bioenergy.

**Reciprocity Agreements with Neighboring States:** In 2009, New Jersey gained recognition for farmer vehicle usage in all surrounding states. New Jersey signed agreements with both Delaware and New York allowing operators of vehicles with 'farmer' license plates to drive those vehicles between the states without being cited by police. In addition, Maryland underscored its recognition of New Jersey farm plates as restricted, exempting them from the need for significantly more expensive commercial registrations. New Jersey similarly signed an agreement with Pennsylvania several years ago.

**Farmland Preservation:** Voters in November continued their support for New Jersey's preservation efforts by approving a \$400 million bond referendum that will provide \$146 million for farmland preservation. Salem and Gloucester counties were among those celebrating preservation milestones in 2009, with Gloucester marking the preservation of 15,000 acres – the majority of it farmland – and Salem County welcoming its 200<sup>th</sup> preserved farm. By the close of the year, approximately 1,900 farms covering 183,000 acres had been permanently preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program. Counties and towns participating in County and Municipal Planning Incentive Grant programs have targeted the preservation of more than 200,000 additional acres of farmland over the next 10 years.



**Disaster Declaration:** Following the rainiest summer since 1975, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack in October declared a natural disaster for 15 New Jersey counties, allowing farmers who suffered crop loss and property damage to be eligible for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs. Heavy rainfall, hail, a tornado and associated plant diseases led to the crop losses in Atlantic, Cape May, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties. Morris, Passaic and Union Counties were named as contiguous disaster counties.

**Gypsy Moth:** For the first time since 2003, the amount of tree damage caused by gypsy moth caterpillars decreased. The Department's annual gypsy moth aerial defoliation survey showed 91,890 acres of trees experienced some level of leaf loss in the state this year, as compared with 339,240 acres last year. A combination of regular life cycle drop-off, beneficial fungus and natural predator increases combined with the Department's aggressive spray program led to the downturn. Fall egg mass surveys also produced few areas that qualify for the spray program in 2010.



**Animal Waste Rule Adopted:** The final adoption of the Criteria and Standards for Animal Waste Management rule occurred in March. The rule requires certain farms to develop Animal Waste Management Plans to proactively address non-point source pollution that might emanate from agricultural animal operations. The Department has worked with Rutgers Cooperative Extension to provide workshops to help farmers develop these plans.

**DRBC Water Agreement:** Responding to farmers who were facing duplicative application processes from both the Department of Environmental Protection and Delaware River Basin Commission for water allocation, the Department fostered an agreement that eliminates the need for farmers withdrawing water within the basin to apply to the DRBC when applying to the DEP for agricultural water certifications. Agricultural withdrawals in New Jersey no longer are subject to DRBC review unless review and docket action or technical assistance is requested by the DEP Commissioner.

## Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources

**DRBC Revised Administrative Agreement:** The Department facilitated the updating of the Administrative Agreement between the Delaware River Basin Commission and the state Department of Environmental Protection. The revised Agreement, signed in December, eliminates the need for farmers withdrawing water from the Delaware River Basin to apply for water certifications with both the DEP and DRBC. Farmers now need only apply to the DEP, which also eliminated the DRBC administrative fee. Agricultural water withdrawals in New Jersey are not subjected to DRBC review unless review and docket action or technical assistance is requested by the DEP Commissioner of one of the compact states (NJ, NY, PA, DE).

**Animal Waste Rule Adopted:** After adoption of the rule in March, the Division developed a web page at [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html) to assist producers with rule compliance. On the page is the full rule text, the BMP manual and appendix, frequently asked questions and the link to the Rutgers website that has important information about best management practices and the dates of the NJDA-sponsored training sessions that inform producers about the rule and assists with the development of Animal Waste Management Plans.

**Lunch with the Secretary:** In an effort to encourage young people now involved in agricultural education programs to pursue careers in the agriculture industry in New Jersey, Secretary Fisher initiated his *Lunch with the Secretary*, a lunch-time discussion program with FFA members, with Cumberland Regional High School's FFA chapter. He learned that the threat of development to agriculture, the high cost of farming in the state and potential new food safety regulations were the students' top concerns.

**Warren Hills Agricultural Education Center Opening:** Secretary Fisher was joined by state Education Commissioner Lucille Davy and local Assemblymen Michael Doherty and John DiMaio in May at Warren Hills Regional High School for the ribbon cutting for the school's new state-of-the-art agricultural education facility. The group toured the facility, which includes an over-sized classroom, storage room, animal/floral room and a greenhouse.

**National Conservation Poster Contest Winners:** A Montgomery High School student placed first in the National Conservation Poster Contest in 2009. Of the 15 winning posters, New Jersey students produced

*The Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources is responsible for a variety of services and programs that maintain and enhance the viability of New Jersey Agriculture and related agribusinesses. It provides interagency coordination and assistance in the development of policy positions on land use planning issues and represents the Department on the State Planning Commission and its subcommittees. It is fully engaged in Highlands Regional Master Plan process. It administers programs to conserve soil, water and related natural resources through the State Soil Conservation Committee and the 15 local soil conservation districts and provides and oversees the administration of financial cost-share assistance to farmers for soil and water conservation projects. The Division works cooperatively with state and federal agencies in the development of the aquaculture industry in New Jersey and administers the Agricultural Education Program, which reaches more than 1,800 students throughout the state.*

three. Wilson Pei's poster about the theme, "Water is Life," won first prize in the Grades 10-12 category in the National Association of Conservation Districts conservation poster contest. Connie Han of Chatham, a third-grade student at Southern Boulevard School, received second place honors in the Grades 2-3 category and Phoebe Chou of Parsippany, an eighth-grader at Central Middle School, won second place in the Grades 7-9 category. One hundred and fifty posters from 35 states were entered in the 18<sup>th</sup> annual contest.

**Envirothon:** Kittatinny Regional High School represented New Jersey in the 2009 Canon Envirothon held at the University of North Carolina in August, placing 30<sup>th</sup> out of 42 teams from the U.S. and Canada. More than 260 students competed on environmental issues and resource conservation. Kittatinny's team placed first in the state level Envirothon out of 46 teams in May.

**Seafood Cook-off:** Jersey Seafood took center stage in New Orleans, LA, in July, as New Jersey's representative in the Great American Seafood Cook-off, Peter Fischbach of Toms River, came in second in the competition behind a highly esteemed New Orleans chef. Fischbach and his assistant, Erik Weatherspool, competed against 14 other chefs from coastal states renowned for their fine seafood with their dish, Barnegat Light Scallops.



## Division of Animal Health

**H1N1 and Agriculture:** With the threat of a Novel H1N1 Influenza A outbreak, the Department created a web page to provide the public with the most up-to-date information about the virus and clear up any misperceptions about how it relates to animal agriculture. The page, located at [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/novelh1n1.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/novelh1n1.html), includes frequently asked questions, links to the state Department of Health and USDA's H1N1 web pages and a link to USDA's H1N1 confirmations in animals. In addition to the web page, the Division is offering a test for presumptive diagnosis of the novel H1N1 Influenza in pets.

**EEE and West Nile Virus:** The wet spring and summer of 2009 led to an increase in the number of horses and other animals contracting Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). There were six horses and one alpaca confirmed with EEE and three additional presumptive positives in horses. There was one West Nile Virus case. Both EEE and WNV are mosquito-borne illnesses and can be prevented with vaccinations. There were no cases of either disease in New Jersey in 2008.



**Equine Infectious Anemia:** In 2009, the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory connected with GlobalVetLink for online submittals of Equine Infectious Anemia (EISA/Coggins) tests. Equine Infectious Anemia is a viral disease for which there is no vaccine or cure. Most horses die from EIA, but some horses recover and become carriers. It is believed the disease is spread by any blood-sucking fly or mosquitoes. To protect the health of other horses, the Coggins test checks for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) antibodies in the horse's blood. The test is required to sell and move horses into and within the State of New Jersey. With Global VetLink's system, the NJDA lab now has the ability to more efficiently turn around lab results, while adding an official electronic signature from the resulting technician. In December, a pony sold in Pennsylvania to a rescue farm in Warren County tested positive for this rare, but chronically fatal disease, and was subsequently euthanized.

*The Division of Animal Health oversees programs protecting the health and well being of livestock, the food supply, international trade and the economy; operates an animal health diagnostic laboratory to support animal disease-control programs protecting animals and the food supply. It is active in disaster preparedness and response, including efforts of the Animal Emergency Working Group to develop animal emergency response teams. Ongoing issues include implementing the Humane Standards for care of livestock, surveillance and response to the potential of an Avian Influenza outbreak, as well as other diseases impacting livestock, horses, poultry, aquaculture, and animals raised for fur. The Division represents the Department as the NJ Emergency Support Function #11 Lead for animals, agriculture, and food.*

**Equine Piroplasmosis:** As the result of a nationwide investigation, three New Jersey horses that came from a premise in Texas tested positive for Equine Piroplasmosis, a disease transmitted to horses, donkeys and mules by ticks and from animal to animal by contaminated needles. Throughout the U.S., 860 horses have tested positive for the disease, all originating at the Texas premise. Symptoms include: fever, anemia, jaundiced mucous membranes, swollen abdomens, and labored breathing. In milder form, the disease can cause equine to appear weak and show lack of appetite.

**Contagious Equine Metritis:** In 2009, New Jersey was involved in a national Contagious Equine Metritis incident. The highly communicable venereal disease in horses can cause temporary infertility in mares. Nine New Jersey mares were exposed to a positive horse, placed under quarantine and later found to be healthy. The investigation began in December 2008 when a Quarter Horse stallion on a Kentucky farm tested positive during routine screening for international semen shipment.

**Avian Influenza:** The Division continued its successful Avian Influenza surveillance program in 2009, controlling the disease in the state's 36 live bird markets over the past five years. In 2009, all tests for the disease were negative. With resources from USDA, New Jersey conducts unannounced monthly inspections and quarterly testing of all live bird markets and poultry distributors in the state. Out-of-state distributors are randomly sampled for movement into New Jersey. A list of hundreds of poultry premises has been compiled from data generated from avian influenza surveillance for communication in the event of a disease outbreak. With continued oversight and education, ongoing surveillance, routine closures and reliance on neighboring states to be vigilant, the program's success is expected to continue.

## Division of Food and Nutrition

**State Food Purchase Program:** Governor Jon S. Corzine and the Legislature reauthorized the SFPP for another fiscal year in July, allocating \$3.9 million for the purchase of nutritious foods for our state's neediest residents. Due to the recession, the number of those seeking food assistance increased in some areas of the state by as much as 50 to 60 percent over the previous year. Over the course of 2009, the state's six food banks received \$5,600,575 in SFPP funds, which they used to buy nutrient-dense food, including fresh produce from New Jersey farmers.

**Providing Food for the Hungry:** Through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Department of Agriculture distributed 22,371,261 pounds of federally-donated food in 2009 to eligible needy persons throughout the state. The large increase in the amount of USDA commodities accepted into the state through TEFAP was made possible by the capability of the states contracted Emergency Feeding Organizations to receive and manage large quantities of direct shipments and in conjunction with the Department's limited ability to store commodities at its contracted storage facility using federal administrative funds. This enabled the Department to procure many bonus food items from USDA. In addition, President Obama's economic stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, added 2.7 million pounds of food in the form of canned peaches and applesauce. In 2008, the Department received just over 9 million pounds of USDA donated commodities to help the hungry.

**School Food Service Stimulus Grants:** School food service equipment grants were given to 105 New Jersey school districts or individual schools in June as part of President Barack Obama's effort to stimulate activity within the American Economy. The grants, in the amount of \$1,859,763, were distributed to the districts or schools to purchase, renovate, or replace equipment used in the provision of the National School Lunch Program. To receive a grant, the school or school district had to be a part of the National School Lunch Program. The Act also required that priority was to be given to schools that had 50 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals. The list of grant recipients may be accessed at: [www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/EquipAwards.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/EquipAwards.pdf).

**Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program:** Students in 59 schools around New Jersey are participating in the United States Department of Agriculture Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in the 2009-2010 school year. The program provides school children with free fresh

*The Division of Food and Nutrition operates programs providing approximately millions of pounds of federally donated food annually to schools, institutions, summer camps, day care centers and those most in need. The Division administers the federal School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and works with the Department of Defense to provide nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables to schools. The Division administers the nation's most comprehensive School Nutrition Policy, which set nutritional standards. Ongoing issues include administering increased food-purchase funding and working with glean-ing organizations to serve the 793 food pantries, homeless shelters and soup kitchens throughout New Jersey.*

fruits and vegetables during the school day, which increases their fruit and vegetable consumption, ultimately leading to improved lifelong dietary habits. In 09-10, schools in 18 of the state's 21 counties are participating.

### **School Lunch and Breakfast Participation:**

Increased joblessness and a faltering economy are being cited as reasons for increases of children qualifying for free

and reduced price lunch in the 2008-2009 school year. There was an 11 percent increase in the number of students qualifying for free lunch and a 10 percent increase in the number qualifying for reduced price lunch. In all,



663,105 children participated in the National School Lunch Program in New Jersey, with more than half, 341,872 qualifying for free or reduced price meals.

**Jets Eat Right, Move More Program:** The 2009-2010 school year kicked off the fourth year of the program with the New York Jets, designed to encourage New Jersey school children to take advantage of healthy foods in their school cafeterias and become more active. The program, made possible through a partnership with the Jets and American Dairy Association & Dairy Council's Fuel Up to Play 60 campaign, included a \$5,000 kitchen makeover for the grand-prize winning school, Harrison High School. The school purchased a salad bar with the money. Harrison High School also was honored at the Jets' December 19 game. The other winning schools, Brookside School in Allendale, Elmwood Park Memorial High School/Middle School in Elmwood Park, Cold Springs School in Gloucester City, Summit High School in Summit and Old Turnpike School in Tewksbury, will get visits from a Jets player later in the school year.

## Division of Marketing and Development

**Community Farmers Markets:** There were 131 community farmers markets operating in New Jersey in 2009, with about 20 of those new for the season. There were farmers markets in every county of the state, providing access to fresh produce and farm products in the state's cities, suburban and rural areas. Many farmers who sell at those markets participate in the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, which provides vouchers for participants to purchase food from those farmers. In 2009, the Departments of Human Services and Agriculture partnered on a pilot program to allow food stamp recipients for the first time to be able to purchase produce at farmers markets using their electronic benefits transfer card. The program is being evaluated to determine how it will proceed in the future.



**Eat Local Challenge:** In August, during National Community Farmers Market Week, Secretary Fisher challenged all New Jersey residents to eat an all-New Jersey meal. He visited the Woodstown Farmers Market to shop for his all-local ingredient meal, which included Jersey tomato and cucumber salad, Jersey Seafood sea scallops from Salty's Seafood Market in Point Pleasant Beach, corn pudding made with sweet corn from A.T. Buzby Farm in Woodstown, an Asian pear wine from Chestnut Run Farm of Pilesgrove and a pie made with Jersey peaches from the Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Pilesgrove. The Eat Local Challenge helped to promote New Jersey's agricultural brands by directing consumers to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Seafood websites to find nearby community farmers markets and outlets where Jersey Seafood is available.

**Chinatown Tour:** Secretary Fisher and NJDA staff visited New York's Chinatown community in July to discuss ways in which large food distributors there could purchase more fresh produce and seafood from new Jersey farmers and fishermen. The visit also helped the Department to better understand the buying preferences of Chinese residents. As a result of the visit, it was discovered that there is an interest among residents of Chinatown to visit New Jersey farms. The Department has been working with the state's Division

*The Division of Marketing and Development administers inspection programs for eggs, milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other items, including feed and fertilizer. It oversees Jersey Fresh quality grading and promotion campaign for fruits and vegetables, as well as the Jersey Grown program for ornamental plants, the Jersey Seafood program for fish and shellfish, and the Jersey Bred program for equine. The Division also works to develop regional, national, and international markets for agricultural products. Helps organize and support urban Community Farmers Markets, bringing fresh produce to downtowns and shortening the market chain between producers and consumers. It protects farmers through the licensing and bonding program, administers the state's dairy program, administers the Sires Stakes horse-racing program, and works to promote pleasure horse breeding programs.*

of Travel and Tourism on a pilot project for six to 10 farms in North Jersey to advertise in Chinese language newspapers to offer on-farm visits and fun activities.

**Marketing Grant:** New Jersey received an \$89,000 matching grant for an agricultural market research and demonstration project from USDA. The grant will go to Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Department, the University of Delaware, Penn State University, the New Jersey Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Association, and New Jersey Farm Bureau to document the characteristics of direct-marketing patrons in the Mid-Atlantic region, describe product attributes and agritourism activities preferred by consumers, develop forecasting models of direct marketing activity and estimate the economic impact of direct marketing and agritourism in the region.

**Disaster Declaration:** Division staff drafted letters to Governor Corzine and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting a natural disaster be declared in counties severely impacted by harsh weather over the 2009 growing season. The NJDA website was utilized to inform farmers of the assistance available [www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/disaster.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/disaster.html).

**Specialty Crop Block Grants:** In 2009, the Department received funds from the USDA Specialty Crop Grant Program: \$26,000 to support the Agricultural Leadership Development Program and an entrepreneurial development training program and \$656,000 to promote the Jersey Fresh branding Program.

**Sytsema National Outstanding Young Farmer:** In February, H. William Sytsema, a fifth generation dairy and cattle farmer from Wantage, Sussex County, was chosen as one of four National Outstanding Young Farmers by the United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees). Sytsema was the 2009 New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer and only the fifth farmer from New Jersey to gain the national recognition.

## Division of Plant Industry

**Gypsy Moth:** Several factors have led to a collapse of the gypsy moth population, as identified in egg mass surveys conducted in the last few months of 2009. A natural occurring fungus that kills gypsy moth caterpillars, natural predators released by the Department many years ago, and an aggressive spray program all worked together to reduce gypsy moth populations heading into the 2010 season. While no spray program has been proposed for 2010, an aggressive surveillance program continues to be necessary to suppress the voracious caterpillars, whose repeated defoliation of trees weakens and then kills the trees.

**Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness:** The Department joined other Northeastern states in August in calling attention to the threat of the Asian longhorned beetle to trees in the region. The campaign included radio advertisements throughout New Jersey, tree surveys in high-risk areas and a press event in Monmouth County. People were advised to not move firewood to prevent the spread of the tree-killing insect. The Division continues its surveillance of an infestation in Middlesex and Union Counties. No beetles or beetle damage have been detected there since April of 2006.



**Bee Population:** The rainy, cool 2009 growing season led to one of the worst years for New Jersey beekeepers. Twenty-four days of rain in June – one of the main honey months – made it very difficult for the bees to forage for nectar. The result was a poor honey crop. The beekeepers were looking forward to a good goldenrod flow because of all the rain through the growing season, however there was no nectar produced by the goldenrod this year. State Apiarist Tim Schuler found colonies starving to death by the second week of September and advised beekeepers to check their colonies for food stores and many started feeding. Those that

*The Division of Plant Industry provides disease and pest protection for food and ornamental crops, forests and other plant resources through detection, control and eradication. It also works to enhance marketability of New Jersey-grown plant products, through annual inspections of nurseries and plant dealers. The Division also operates the Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory, where insects are bred to control pests and diseases without the use of pesticides. Ongoing major issues include the effort to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle, continuing to suppress the gypsy moth population and ensuring sufficient honeybee colonies for plant and crop pollination.*

did feed had strong colonies going into winter. In addition, beekeepers were alerted to high Varroa mite loads in September and October so they could treat their colonies. Schuler will continue to advise beekeepers and will assess the bee population in the spring. In 2009, the effort continued to train new and existing beekeepers. Since 2006, about 1,000 people became new beekeepers, spurred on by Department of Agriculture beginning beekeeper incentive programs offered in 2006 and 2008. The new beekeepers had to take the Bee-ginners Beekeeping course through Rutgers Office of Continuing Education, taught by state Apiarist Schuler. Many of those new beekeepers requested more advanced classes to further refine their beekeeping skills, and in June, 60 people took the Beyond the Basics Advanced Beekeeping Course, again taught by the Schuler and Bob Hughes of the New Jersey Beekeepers Association. Interest in beekeeping continues to grow. Two classes of Bee-ginners Beekeeping will be held in spring 2010.



### **Division Director Heads National Plant Board:**

In August, Plant Industry Division Director Carl P. Schulze Jr. was installed as the President of the National Plant Board, an organization of state plant regulatory agencies. Schulze, a 28-year veteran of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture who has served as Division Director since 2002, will serve as President of the plant board through 2011.

## State Agriculture Development Committee

**Preservation Funding** – New Jersey voters in November 2009 approved by a 53-47 percent margin a public question that provides \$400 million to continue New Jersey's preservation efforts, including \$146 million for farmland preservation. This marked the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive statewide open space ballot question approved since 1961.

**Preservation Accomplishments** – A total of 117 farms covering 8,841 acres were preserved in 2009, including 26 farms covering 2,132 acres in the Highlands and 10 farms covering 1,096 acres in the Pinelands. Major milestones of the year included the preservation of the 200<sup>th</sup> farm in Salem County in July and the preservation of the 15,000<sup>th</sup> acre of farmland and open space in Gloucester County in August. At the close of the year,



183,410 acres of farmland had been permanently preserved statewide since the inception of the Farmland Preservation Program, including 33,233 acres in the Highlands and 10,973 acres in the Pinelands.

**Dual Appraisal Valuation** – The SADC in April acted to clarify the conditions that needed to be met for farms applying for farmland preservation to still qualify for the Garden State Preservation Trust Act's dual appraisal provision, which was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2009. The provision required that when State, local or nonprofit agencies sought to acquire land for preservation, they valued it using the zoning and State environmental laws and regulations currently in place as well as those in place as of January 1, 2004. This appraisal approach yielded two different values, the higher of which was to be used as the basis for negotiating with the landowner. The provision was critical to landowners statewide, particularly in the Highlands region, whose land values had been affected by State environmental laws and regulations or downzoning. The SADC adopted an interpretation of the statutory provision that was as flexible as possible to enable the maximum number of landowners – particularly those in the Highlands – to continue to realize the benefit of the provision before it expired.

**Preservation Planning** – At year's end, 17 counties and 43 municipalities were participating in the SADC's

*The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) administers the state Farmland Preservation Program and promotes innovative approaches to maintaining the viability of agriculture. It administers New Jersey's Right to Farm program, which administers the Right to Farm Act that protects responsible commercial farms from restrictive municipal ordinances and public and private nuisance actions; staffs the Transfer of Development Rights Bank that works to promote and advance the implementation of TDR statewide; and operates a Farm Link Program to assist farmers in locating land and other resources.*

County and Municipal Planning Incentive Grant programs. The comprehensive farmland preservation plans they developed target the preservation of more than 200,000 acres of farmland over a 10-year period at an estimated total cost of \$2.9 billion, with a projected State cost-share of \$1.8 billion.

**Deed of Easement Interpretation** – The SADC's Deed of Easement Subcommittee began meeting in January 2009 to examine various issues related to interpreting the farmland preservation deed of easement. The overriding goal of the Subcommittee's work is to ensure consistent interpretation of the deed of easement across the state, regardless of whether the SADC, a CADB or a nonprofit organization is the holder of the easement. A major focus of the Subcommittee's efforts is developing a better understanding of the effects of soil disturbance and construction of improvements on preserved farmland to help determine to what extent these activities can occur while ensuring compliance with the deed of easement. Other areas of review include various types of personal, recreational and commercial uses on preserved farmland.

**Agritourism/Farm Market Tours** – SADC members in September visited several farms to improve their understanding of farm markets and the growing agritourism sector, particularly as they relate to preserved farms and Right to Farm. The SADC plans to reconstitute an agritourism/farm market working group in 2010 aimed at developing agricultural management practices for farm markets and agritourism operations by the end of the year.



## 2009 Agricultural Legislation



Full bill details on legislation impacting New Jersey agriculture can be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us).

### Signed into law:

**S2712** – Appropriates \$27.75 million from “2007 Farmland Preservation Fund” and “Garden State Farmland Preservation Fund” for planning incentive grants to municipalities for farmland preservation purposes. *P.L. 2009, c. 93, signed 8/6/09*

**S2713** – Appropriates \$49.65 million from “2007 Farmland Preservation Fund” for farmland preservation purposes. *P.L. 2009, c. 94, signed 8/6/09*

**S2714** - Appropriates \$6.45 million from “2007 Farmland Preservation Fund” and “Garden State Farmland preservation Trust Fund” for grants to certain nonprofit organizations for farmland preservation purposes. *P.L. 2009, c. 95, signed 8/6/09*

**S2715** – Appropriates \$11,293,478 from various farmland preservation bond funds and “Garden State Farmland Preservation Trust fund” for farmland preservation purposes. *P.L. 2009, c. 96, signed 8/6/09*

**S1303** – Defines “inherently beneficial use” for purposes of zoning variance and specifically includes facilities and structures that supply electrical energy produced from wind, solar, or photovoltaic technologies. *P.L. 2009, c. 146, signed 11/20/09*

**S1816** – Authorizes counties and municipalities to acquire real property, and to resell or lease it with agricultural deed restrictions attached, for farmland preservation purposes. *P.L. 2009, c. 147, signed 11/20/09*

**S520** – Requires drivers to make all reasonable efforts to remove ice or snow from vehicles, creates fine. *P.L. 2009, c. 138, signed 6/25/09*

**A2513** – Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns to Community Food Pantry Fund and to Cat and Dog Spay/Neuter Fund. *P.L. 2009, c. 124, signed 9/8/09*

**SJR22/AJR81** – Declares November of each year as “New Jersey Wine Month”. *Signed 5/6/09*

**A3239/S713** – This Forest Stewardship would loosen the criteria needed to qualify for farmland assessment. There is no agricultural production necessary to obtain farmland assessment under this bill.

**A804/S119** – Medical Marijuana legislation which allows marijuana to be grown for medicinal purposes only.

**S1538** – Allows solar and wind energy generation on preserved farms under certain circumstances, and includes solar and wind energy generation as agricultural use for farmland assessment purposes and as protected activity under “Right to Farm Act”.

# New Jersey Agriculture At a Glance



## **Aquaculture**

Angelfish  
Bluegill  
Brook trout  
Brown trout  
Comet  
Discus  
Eastern oysters  
Fathead minnow  
Hybrid striped bass  
Koi  
Largemouth bass  
Mummichog  
Northern quahog  
Rainbow trout  
Tilapia  
Triplloid grass carp  
White sucker  
Yellow perch  
Various ornamental plants

## **Christmas Trees**

Canaan fir  
Fraser fir  
Concolor fir  
Norway spruce  
Blue spruce  
White pine  
Scotch pine

## **Field Crops**

Barley  
Corn  
Hay  
Potatoes  
Soybeans  
Sweet Potatoes  
Winter Wheat

## **Floriculture/Nursery**

Aquatic Plants  
Bedding/Garden Plants  
Bulbs  
Chrysanthemums  
Foliage  
Geraniums  
Hostas  
Impatiens  
Lilies  
Marigolds  
New Guinea Impatiens  
Pansies  
Petunias  
Poinsettias  
Potted Plants  
Shrubs  
Sod  
Trees

## **Fruit**

Apples  
Blackberries  
Blueberries  
Cantaloupe  
Cranberries  
Nectarines  
Peaches  
Rasberries  
Sour cherries  
Strawberries  
Watermelon

## **Herbs**

Arugula  
Basil  
Cilantro  
Dill  
Marjoram  
Methi  
Mint  
Oregano  
Parsley  
Sage  
Tarragon  
Thyme

## **Livestock/Poultry**

Alpaca  
Bees  
Bison  
Cattle  
Chickens  
Cows, beef and milk  
Deer  
Donkeys  
Ducks  
Elk  
Emus  
Geese  
Goats, meat and milk  
Horses  
Llamas  
Mules  
Ostriches  
Pheasants  
Pigeons  
Pigs  
Rabbits  
Quail  
Sheep  
Turkeys

## **Specialty Products**

Asian Fruits and Vegetables  
Baby Arugula  
Baby Spinach  
Chestnuts

Corn Stalks  
Cut Flowers  
Garlic  
Grapes and Wines  
Hay  
Honey  
Indian Corn  
Maple Syrup  
Mums  
Popcorn  
Shell Eggs  
Straw  
Tomatillos

## **Vegetables**

Asparagus  
Beans, green, pole and snap  
Beets  
Bok Choy  
Broccoli  
Broccoli Raab  
Cabbage, red, green, Chinese, Savoy  
Cauliflower  
Celery  
Collards  
Corn, sweet  
Cucumbers  
Dandelion Greens  
Eggplant  
Eggplant, Sicilian  
Escarole  
Fennel  
Horseradish root  
Kale  
Kohlrabi  
Leeks  
Lettuces  
Mustard greens  
Okra  
Onions  
Parsnips  
Peas  
Peppers  
Pickles  
Potatoes  
Pumpkins  
Radishes  
Rhubarb  
Rutabaga  
Shallots  
Spinach  
Squash  
Sweet Potatoes  
Swiss Chard  
Tomatoes  
Turnips  
Turnip Greens

