



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Philip D. Murphy, Governor
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Douglas H. Fisher, Secretary of Agriculture





About the cover: New Jersey remains a leader the nation in the production of several fruits and vegetables, including being No. 1 in eggplant as well as in the top 10 in tomatoes, blueberries, peppers, squash, cucumbers and asparagus, all included in the cover photo. Above, Secretary Fisher talks with Michiah Hall, who owns and operates Free Haven Farms in Camden County. On the adjacent page, Secretary Fisher, First Lady Tammy Murphy, Governor Murphy and Garden State Wine Growers Association Executive Director Tom Cosentino were on hand for the Governor's Cup Awards given out at Drumthwacket to celebrate New Jersey Wine Week in November.

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Douglas H. Fisher

New Jersey farmers consistently stand as the top producers in the nation on an amazing array of agricultural outputs. Our state rightfully can boast about the fabulous operators that grow and produce crops for millions of consumers here and in other states as well as international markets. We grow hundreds of varieties of fruits and vegetables, large amounts of hay and grain, and raise significant livestock, poultry, equine and horticulture.

While we are the most densely populated state in the nation, we are blessed to have almost 10,000 farms that serve the buying public the finest agricultural products in any number of venues, from community farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture, farm stands to supermarkets.

While markets fluctuate and what we grow and raise on our farms will surely change each year, there is one fact that never wavers: New Jersey farmers are consistently among the best anywhere on the globe. This report is issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:1-14 and marks many of the achievements and activities that took place in our industry.

Support our farmers and farms in the great Garden State!





Secretary Fisher visited the Landisville Co-Op to see romaine lettuce and other leafy greens ready for consumers.

2019 - 2020

New Jersey State Board of Agriculture



August Wuillermin
President
Atlantic County
Vegetable Industry



Dan Farrand
Vice President
Morris County
Hay/Grain Industry



Dr. Ernest Beier
Board Member
Gloucester County
Livestock Industry



David DeFrange II
Board Member
Hunterdon County
Nursery Industry



Erick Doyle
Board Member
Hunterdon County
Livestock Industry



Paul Hlubik
Board Member
Burlington County
Hay/Grain Industry



Alfred Natali
Board Member
Cape May County
Fruit Industry



Debbie Norz
Board Member
Somerset County
Vegetable Industry



2019

Highlights



NJ Among First Approved for Hemp

In late December, Secretary Fisher announced that New Jersey's plan for the production and testing of hemp and hemp products was approved by the USDA.

New Jersey was among the first three states to have their plans authorized.

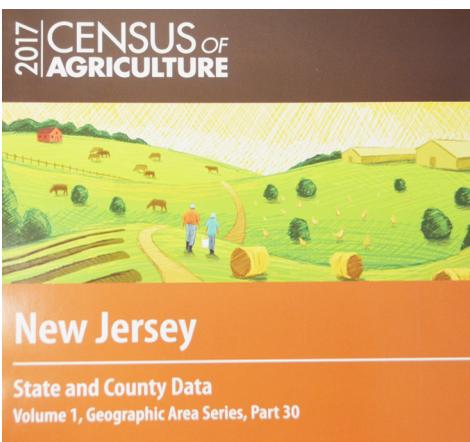
"This is exciting news as New Jersey is adding an alternative crop for our state's agricultural community," Secretary Fisher said.

In a letter informing the NJDA of the approval, USDA Deputy Administrator Sonia N. Jimenez stated: "With the approval of your hemp plan, New Jersey has assumed primary regulatory responsibility for hemp production within its jurisdiction."

New Jersey hemp legislation at the state-level was signed into law by Governor Murphy on August 9, 2019, after which followed the process of New Jersey filing for USDA approval.

The NJDA's Division of Plant Industry will be responsible for inspecting hemp-growing facilities and testing hemp varieties to ensure that the THC content is within the limits set by the USDA. The manufacturing of products for human and animal consumption derived from hemp remains the purview of the Federal Food & Drug Administration.

There are more than 25,000 reported uses for hemp products globally according to a 2018 Congressional Research Service report.



Ag Census Shows Growth for Garden State

The U.S. Department of Agriculture 2017 Census of Agriculture released in April showed the number of farms in New Jersey had risen by more than 800 since the previous census in 2012. New Jersey is now listed as having 9,883 farms. The amount of land in farms had an increase of almost 20,000 acres at 734,000 acres.

We take great pride in knowing that so many more residents of our state have decided to become intricately involved in agriculture," Secretary Fisher said.

New Jersey's overall agriculture products sold increased from just over \$1 billion in 2012, to almost \$1.1 billion.

The data also showed that the nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod industry continues to be New Jersey's leading agricultural sector with sales at almost \$500 million, an increase of \$93 million from 2012.

Four New Members Join State Board of Agriculture

Gloucester County veterinarian Ernest Beier III, Hunterdon County landscape and nursery owner David DeFrange II, Somerset County farmer Debbie Norz and Burlington County farmer Paul Hlubik were each sworn in to their terms on the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture during the Board's regular monthly meetings in June and July.

The board's annual reorganization meeting in July also included Atlantic County's August Wuillermin being elected President and Morris County's Dan Farrand Vice President.

Norz and her husband Rich Norz, who served on the state board from 2011-15, own and operate Norz Hill Farm and Market in Hillsborough. They are the first husband and wife to each be elected to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture.

Each of the members were elected at the State Agricultural Convention to be nominated by the Governor, and later confirmed by the State Senate.



Floriculture Census Shows That New Jersey Is Fourth in U.S. in Sales



The 2018 wholesale value of New Jersey floriculture crops rose six percent from 2015, according to the USDA's Census of Floriculture released in May.

The total crop value at wholesale for all growers with \$10,000 or more in sales is estimated at \$216.2 million for 2018, fourth-highest nationally. Producers in the sales category of \$10,000 to \$19,000 increased from 25 to 44. Total producers increased to 303.

In the U.S., the 2018 wholesale value of floriculture crops rose six percent from the 2015. The crop value at wholesale for growers with \$10,000 or more in sales was estimated at \$4.63 billion for 2018, compared with \$4.37 billion for 2015. For 2018, the top five States were California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.



Boost In Horse Racing Purses Brings More Breeders Into State

Secretary Fisher highlighted the horse breeding industry in New Jersey with a visit to Deo Volente Farms in Hunterdon County in the spring. The farm was in the middle of foaling season, which was more active in 2019 due to the addition of \$20 million per year for horse racing purses for the next five years.

According to the New Jersey Horse Racing Commission annual report, New Jersey remains a leader in Harness Racing in the region as more than \$1.2 million was wagered in 2017, well ahead of the surrounding states.

Also, the number of Standardbred horses bred in New Jersey has risen from 279 in 2017, to 435 in 2018 to an expected more than 700 in 2019.

2019

Accomplishments Overview

Division of AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Newton Ag Education Teacher Wins ACTE Region Honor

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced Jenny Allen (pictured at right), a Teacher of Agriculture at Newton High School in Sussex County, as the 2019 ACTE Region I New Teacher of the Year. She was one of five finalists for the 2019 national award.

The award recognizes new ACTE teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

Allen is in her fourth year at Newton High School as the Introduction to Agricultural Technology, Introduction to Aquaculture, Floral Design I and II, Landscape/Turf Management Operations, and Landscape Design teacher. She is also one of two FFA advisors. After graduating from Delaware Valley University, Allen worked at Belvidere High School where she trained its Floriculture Career Development Experience (CDE) team for three years.



2,300
Approximate Number
of State FFA Members in 2019

Manahawkin Envirothon Team Places at Nationals

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Sciences (MATES) team (pictured at left) from Manahawkin competed at the 2019 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon. MATES, the New Jersey State Champion, finished 15th out of 53 teams in the international environmental and natural resources education competition for high schoolers at North Carolina State University.



Erin Noble Leading Ag Education/FFA

Erin Noble was named the new State Program Leader for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education/State FFA Advisor in New Jersey earlier this year. Noble had been the State FFA Specialist for the last 11 years for the Department.

“Erin’s experience, knowledge and passion for Ag Education and FFA made her an ideal candidate for this position,” Secretary Fisher said.

As the State FFA Specialist, Noble planned and conducted statewide FFA events, mentored and coached state FFA officers and provided technical assistance to FFA advisors.

At the 2018 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Noble won the Outstanding Executive Secretary Award.

“I am extremely excited to shift my focus to providing leadership and coordination for the New Jersey Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education program and to creating professional development opportunities for ag education teachers as well as providing resources for program improvement,” Noble said.



Engineering Staff Assists With Several Soil Projects

Engineering staff from the Division assisted several Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) with large development projects for single family housing. The level of activity had not been seen in many years. Staff also assisted SCDs with numerous commercial projects. Of special note was the renovation of the face of the Round Valley Reservoir dam. The earthen dam will be regraded with improved drainage structures. This is a large and complex project which includes grouting, new drainage and reforestation.

Staff continued to provide training to SCD staff for engineering plan review concepts including hydrologic analysis, open channel flow and stormwater basin routing. Staff also assisted Districts with the review of agricultural construction projects.

Warren, Sussex Districts Consolidate

At the December 9th State Soil Conservation Committee meeting, the consolidation of the Sussex and Warren Soil Conservation District offices was approved effective July 1, 2020. The new District will be known as the Upper Delaware Soil Conservation District and will be located at 224 Stiger Street, Hackettstown. All functions of the Sussex and Warren Districts will transfer to the Upper Delaware District.



NJDA Staff Supports Many Farms With Management Plans

The NJDA’s Sandra Howland and Kelly Steimle (pictured from left above) were among staff that provided 14 farmers across the state with conservation technical assistance in developing Animal Waste Management Plans for their farms. Numerous additional site visits were performed to follow up on alleged neighbor complaints and to aid farmers with regulatory compliance as well as general conservation guidance.

A grant awarded to Rutgers in 2015 was completed and assisted 12 farms, resulting in significant improvements to soil and water quality through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

Projects included the installation of stormwater handling infrastructure, silage leachate capture, heavy use area protections, improved manure storage, and exclusionary fencing.

Division of ANIMAL HEALTH

AEWG Symposium Focuses On Foreign Animal Disease

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture hosted the 21st Annual Animal Emergency Working Group (AEWG) Symposium in May with 45 attendees from 10 counties. The Symposium is conducted annually to provide animal responders the opportunity to keep their skills sharp and their understanding of their roles in the event of an emergency or disaster. Representatives from CARTs, GSART, prosecutor's office, and Humane Law Enforcement Officers were present. The event was organized by the NJDA and was held at Rutgers University Cook College.

This year's event was focused on foreign animal disease and emerging disease threats in the state of New Jersey. An overview of agricultural terrorism was presented by an FBI special agent. Also, a USDA/APHIS veterinarian explained to the group the importance of biosecurity. He demonstrated the process of donning personal protective equipment and briefly illustrated his recent experience in California as part of the depopulation for New Castle Disease in poultry.

A scenario exercise on the occurrence of African Swine Fever in New Jersey was led by an NJDA veterinarian. Four groups were asked to critically think of their role at various steps within a foreign animal disease outbreak. Throughout the exercise, input from the USDA and NJDA veterinarians assisted to clarify both their individual and collaborative roles. The event was capped off with exposure to the basics of livestock handling. The four groups were able to witness demonstrations of and participate in handling swine, cattle, sheep, and horses.



Asian Longhorned Tick In 9 New Jersey Counties

After its original discovery in Hunterdon County in 2017, the Asian Longhorned Tick (pictured at left) was confirmed to be in nine counties in New Jersey in 2019. The USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) made confirmations that the tick was found in Bergen, Camden, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties. Some of the findings came as a result of residents submitting ticks to the county drop off locations, where they are picked up and sent for testing.



Animal Health Diagnostic Lab Honored With Special Governor’s Award

Animal Health Diagnostic Lab staff members received an Innovation and Efficiency Award at the State Employee Recognition Day in May. The award recognized employees who have identified and implemented business processes that make services more accessible to our clients, link budget decisions and program priorities more closely with program performance to achieve cost savings, generate revenue enhancements, and implement more efficient methods of service delivery. The award was presented to recognize ISO 17025 accreditation of the laboratory services. The lab received the accreditation from the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation in 2018, making it one of only 18 such labs in the U.S. and the only New Jersey lab with this accreditation. The AHDL can conduct more types of tests and significantly reduce the time it takes for results to become official, which is especially important when responding to disease outbreaks and other emergency situations.

The accreditation brought many benefits to the AHDL’s service. Among those have been more animal feed testing for pet foods and farm animals with a quicker turnaround for results since the tests will now not have to be sent to an accredited lab to be considered official. The accreditation means the AHDL follows standards in place at all other American Association for Laboratory Accreditation accredited labs.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, EHV-1 Among Viruses Discovered In NJ Animals In 2019

The Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus was confirmed to be in nine horses and one alpaca in New Jersey in 2019.

The cases were confirmed to be in horses in Atlantic, Morris, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties, and an alpaca in Camden County. Each of these animals was not vaccinated for Eastern Equine Encephalitis and had to be euthanized.

10

Number of Animals in New Jersey Confirmed To Have Eastern Equine Encephalitis in 2019

EEE has been known to affect both horses and camelids, such as alpacas, and causes inflammation of the brain tissue and has a significantly higher risk of death in horses and camelids than

West Nile Virus infection. West Nile Virus is a viral disease that affects horses’ and camelids’ neurological system.

The disease is transmitted by a mosquito bite. The virus cycles between birds and mosquitoes with horses, camelids and humans being incidental hosts. EEE infections in horses and alpacas are not a significant risk factor for human infection because horses and camelids (like humans) are considered “dead-end” hosts for the virus.

Horse and alpaca owners should contact their veterinarians if their animals are not already up-to-date on their vaccinations against both EEE and WNV.

EEE and West Nile Virus, like other viral diseases affecting a horse’s neurological system, must be reported to the state veterinarian at 609-671-6400 within 48 hours of diagnosis.







Division of FOOD AND NUTRITION



Jersey Fresh Farm To School Promotes Produce For Students

During 2018-19 school year, the Farm to School Program continued to serve New Jersey schools and advocate for students to have access to Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Ninth Annual Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week events in September included:

- Philip's Academy Charter School in Newark being honored with the "Best in New Jersey Farm to School Award" on the school's rooftop garden. Philip's Academy includes the EcoSpaces Program in its curriculum and EcoSpaces Founding Director Frank Montesana and team, along with school Principal Yasmeen Sampson, culinary staff and approximately 40 students were on hand to accept the award. EcoSpaces Education connects farm to school activities in all aspects of the curriculum and classroom as well as in lunchroom settings.
- Secretary Fisher recognized Cecil Creek Farm in Gloucester County as the winning farm for the Jersey Fresh Farm to School

Farmer Recognition Award. Cecil Creek Farm features a robust environmental education program and the farm also engages students with on the farm and in-school field trips and day camps in the summer. Cecil Creek once had a school assembly with chickens. Frank Ferrucci, co-owner and farmer at Cecil Creek, also assisted a local school with starting a school garden by helping break ground on the project and providing plants and expertise. Cecil Creek Farm was started in 2014 and has 42 acres featuring certified organic produce and has a Community Supported Agriculture program for sale in its market.

The Jersey Fresh Farm to School Program includes more than 250 schools purchasing local produce from their main distributor, more than 200 districts buying local produce directly from farms, more than 200 districts using a curriculum that ties cafeteria meals to healthy eating education and more than 100 districts organizing field trips to farms.

SNEARS 2.0 Gives Schools Easier Access To Nutrition Information

The Division's School Nutrition Program unit celebrated the kick off the School Nutrition Electronic Application System (SNEARS) 2.0 on June 13. Secretary Fisher was on hand to congratulate staff as they highlighted the upgrading of the system. Division staff was proud to celebrate such an accomplishment. SNEARS 2.0 allows for school officials to indicate the nutrition programs in which they participate and provides access to the annual agreement between the State agency and the schools for participating in the nutrition programs.



Department of Defense Program Provides Fresh Food Opportunity

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce that gets directly shipped to their district. New Jersey joined this effort in 2015, with 152 participating school districts, resulting in over 3.6 million pounds of fresh produce being distributed.

7.3

The millions of pounds of fresh produce provided to New Jersey Schools through the Department of Defense Program

Currently, the DoD Program in New Jersey distributes more than 7.3 million pounds of fresh

produce during the school year and works with 360 program participants. All produce is required to be grown in the United States. Vendors are encouraged to provide local products in season. Local produce must be priced competitively and meet contract requirements for quality, therefore, supporting New Jersey's growers of fresh fruits and vegetables.



CACFP Week Includes Visits to Child, Adult Sites

Secretary Fisher, NJDA Food and Nutrition Division Director Rose Tricario (pictured with children at right) and local officials commemorated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week with visits to Union and Middlesex Counties in March.

The Union County visit highlighted the breakfast program at Circle of Friends Inc. in Springfield Township, which feeds approximately 150 adults breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack each day. The Middlesex County visit featured the Acelero Learning Monmouth/Middlesex Inc. location in North Brunswick, which feeds approximately 60 children per day and is one of the nine Acelero Centers that combines to feed nearly 1,000 children daily through the CACFP.

Circle of Friends and Acelero Learning were each given a CACFP Achievement Award from the USDA for their outstanding work.

A new part of the Acelero Learning program is installing school gardens at each of their centers. After a successful pilot program at their South Amboy location last year, Acelero is looking to expand the garden program this year.

Governor Murphy proclaimed March 17-23 as Child and Adult Care Food Program Week in New Jersey, based on National CACFP Week, a national education and information campaign designed to raise awareness of how the Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The program also brings healthy foods to the table for adults in day care and children in child care homes, centers, and in afterschool feeding programs across the country. In New Jersey, the CACFP provides meals and snacks to 142,727 eligible participants under 686 sponsors.



New Jersey Shows Increase In Number Of Afterschool Meals

More New Jersey children are receiving snacks and suppers after school, contributing to their health and academic achievement, according to a Food Research and Action Center report.

Afterschool Suppers: A Snapshot of Participation, found that the number of children receiving afterschool meals through two federal programs increased more than 10 percent from October 2017 to October 2018, when nearly 67,000 children received a snack or meal on an average day.

Most of the growth occurred in the Child and Adult Care Food Program's At-Risk Afterschool Supper and Snack Program.

The At-risk Afterschool Supper meal was added as a reimbursable meal for the first time in New Jersey, which was established through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (At-Risk Afterschool Snacks have been available since the 1990s).

Division of MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT



Cranberry Production A Proud Sector Of New Jersey Agriculture

Secretary Fisher along with state officials and staff visited Cutts Brothers Cranberry Farm in Bass River in Burlington County to highlight cranberry season in October. New Jersey is annually among the top three producers of cranberries in the U.S. according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The visit included seeing a flooded cranberry bog, which is when the berries are harvested. The berries are then taken for processing. New Jersey farmers harvested 51.2 million pounds of cranberries on 3,100 acres in 2018 for a production value of \$15.8 million, making the Garden State the No. 3 producer in the nation.

“Cranberries have long been a staple of New Jersey agriculture with many families growing this crop for more than 100 years,” Secretary Fisher said. “The beautiful harvest we saw is the result of a year-round process of caring for these berries. We are one of the handful of states in the country that produce a high volume of this fruit and it’s a testament to all of our cranberry growers.”

New Jersey Leads U.S. In FSMA Inspections

The Department continues to be a national leader in food safety training and education. Under two multi-year grant agreements with the US Food and Drug Administration, the Department has implemented the Food Safety Modernization Act’s Produce Safety and Animal Feed rules at the state level.

This year’s focus was on grower education and training. Department staff conducted 100 produce safety inspections, more than any other state.

These inspections are intended to assure that growers are prepared to meet their obligations as FSMA becomes fully implemented in the coming years.

Cutts Brothers Cranberry Farm has been growing cranberries since 1906, including on the current property since the 1930s, and is operated by brothers Bill and Ernest Cutts and their sons, who are the fourth generation of the family. The farm has 29 cranberry bogs over its 128 acres. The Cutts’ farm grows traditional varieties such as the Early Blacks and Stevens as well as some newer varieties developed by Rutgers University.

Cutts Brothers Cranberry Farm is one of about 25 cranberry operations in New Jersey.

51.2
Millions of Pounds
of Cranberries Harvested by
New Jersey Farmers in 2018



Gaines A Finalist For The National Young Farmer Honor

Atlantic County's Ned Gaines is New Jersey's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2019. Gaines, who harvests oysters and clams as part of his aquaculture operation, is also one of 10 finalists for the National Outstanding Young Farmer Award.



Gaines (pictured at left) is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y. He earned degrees in Marine Biology and Marine Resource Management from Stockton University, and a masters degree in biology from Rutgers University, which eventually led to him growing oysters for Rutgers in Cape May. With his love for aquaculture fully realized, Gaines then became the first person to acquire a fully permitted aquaculture lease when New Jersey opened the Aquaculture Development Zone to allow shellfish farming in 2012. Gaines now farms just over 600 acres.

Gaines is the 54th Outstanding Young Farmer for New Jersey. The Outstanding Young Farmer program is the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States, with the first group of national winners selected in 1955.



Jersey Fresh Chef Series Features Local Produce

A new video series highlighting chefs from around New Jersey that use Jersey Fresh products debuted this year. These talented men and women are passionate about preparing dishes using Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables when in season. The videos appear at www.findjerseyfresh.com and on the Jersey Fresh Facebook page.

The series included recipes prepared by Peter Pascale, Executive Chef, RWJ University Hospital Somerset; Nikki Marie, a food blogger who authored the cookbook *Simple, Elegant Pasta Dishes*; John Pilarz, the Chef and Owner of Anthony's Italian Creative Cuisine in Haddon Township; Marilyn Schlossbach, the Executive Chef and Owner of The Marilyn Schlossbach Group; Mark Smith (pictured above), the Owner and Chef at The Tortilla Press in Collingswood and The Tortilla Press Cantina in Pennsauken; and Anthony Iannone, Owner and Sous Chef at Anthony's Italian Creative Cuisine in Haddon Heights.

Census Reveals that New Jersey Now No. 1 in U.S. in Eggplant Production

Secretary Fisher along with state, county and local officials visited Flaim Farms in Vineland to highlight Jersey Fresh eggplant in September. New Jersey is No. 1 in the nation in acres of eggplant harvested, according to the Census of Agriculture released in April.

The visit included seeing a field of eggplant grown on the farm as well as a tour of the packing house. The census lists New Jersey as harvesting 849 acres of eggplant annually, ahead of California's 705, Florida's 685 and Georgia's 624. No other state had more than



500 acres of eggplant harvested.

"New Jersey is the Garden State and Flaim Farms is an outstanding grower and packer," Fisher said. "They produce several different varieties of eggplant and cater to a large range of needs in making delicious

recipes for restaurants as well as for home consumption."

Flaim Farms grows the Italian, regular, Sicilian, Indian, zebra, white and fairytale varieties of eggplant. During the peak of the season, which was in early September, they harvest 900 bushels of eggplant a day. Flaim's eggplant is shipped to Chicago, Maine and along the Eastern seaboard.

Flaim Farms is one of the original six farms to join the Jersey Fresh program that began in 1984. It is a fourth-generation farm that started in 1934 and grows on about 400 acres.





Division of PLANT INDUSTRY

New Jersey Honey Queen Earns American Honey Princess Honor

Nicole Medina, of Sussex County, was named the 2019 American Honey Princess, the first time a New Jersey resident has earned the honor. Medina was the 2018 New Jersey Honey Queen and her new role allowed her to travel around the country to promote the importance of honey bees. The Newton High School graduate traveled to the Florida State Fair in 2019 to represent the industry.

"It's wonderful that we have someone from New Jersey who will be an ambassador in educating the public about the importance of honey bees for society," Secretary Fisher said. "Nicole has extensive experience with honey bees and fully understands the essential role they play in agriculture."

Medina has been a beekeeper for seven years. She and her father Joel Medina have about a dozen hives. Like some, Medina had concerns about getting stung when she started handling bees at age 13, but that fear has long since been alleviated.

"I've only been stung once in my lifetime," she said. "Honey bees don't want to sting you because if they do they will die. Honey bees are gentle. They don't want to hurt us."

Because of the extensive travel, Medina shared the spokesperson role with American Honey Queen Hannah Sjostrom of Wisconsin.

Medina is confident bees will always be a part of the future, too.

"I plan on keeping bees as a hobby no matter where I go," she said. "I really have a passion for it and no matter where I end up, I'll have some in my backyard."



Spotted Lanternfly Treatments Continue in 2019

Plant Industry Division field crews continued to work on the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Program. Survey crews worked 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 involved finding any of the three stages of SLF.

A total of 107,686 properties were included in the survey and treatment project encompassing 349,786 acres. Of this number, trees on 13,861 acres were treated last season and 3,331 acres have been added for treatment for the spring of 2020.

There are eight counties in New Jersey under quarantine for the Spotted Lanternfly. They are Warren, Hunterdon, Mercer, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, and Somerset counties.

While the adult Spotted Lanternfly cannot survive the winter, it does lay egg masses that hatch in the spring. The Spotted Lanternfly has three stages after hatching. It is black with white spots in the first nymph stage, then changes to red with white spots before becoming a full adult in mid-August. It is believed the SLF needs Tree of Heaven (pictured at left with Plant Industry Division Director Joe Zoltowski) to reproduce.

The Spotted Lanternfly, which is native to China, India, Vietnam and East Asia, was first located in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has spread to 14 counties there, which are also quarantined. While the Spotted Lanternfly is not a threat to humans or pets, it prefers Tree of Heaven as its host and can feed on 70 other different plant species. Surveillance and treatment will continue this year in New Jersey.



No Gypsy Moth Treatments Recommended In NJ For Second Straight Year

For the second consecutive year, there are no areas in New Jersey that are recommended for treatment of gypsy moth.

The 2019 annual statewide gypsy moth aerial defoliation resulted in the identification of 1,704 acres of defoliation in 28 municipalities in 12 counties of the state. The Department contacts the administrations of these affected municipalities to perform ground egg mass surveys to identify areas for treatment the following spring.

Overall, 23 municipalities requested such surveys and all were completed in Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex

and Warren counties. There have been no areas recommended for treatment for the Spring 2020. There were also no areas recommended for treatment in 2019. Plans are to conduct additional surveys for gypsy moth in areas which historically have been treated for this insect.

0
Number of locations in New Jersey that have been recommended for Gypsy Moth treatment the last two years

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture promotes an integrated pest management approach, which encourages natural controls to reduce gypsy moth feeding and subsequent tree loss.

The Department's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a voluntary cooperative program involving New Jersey municipalities, county agencies, state agencies, and the USDA Forest Service.

The combination of treatments and wet weather the last two years has helped limit the gypsy moth population, which had spread across thousands of acres in New Jersey and peaked in the late 2000s.

Fight to Reduce Emerald Ash Borer Continues With More Releases of Parasitoids in New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been fighting the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) since 2016 with biocontrol releases of egg and larval parasitoids, *Oobius agrili*, and *Tetrastichus planipennisi*.

Beginning in 2017 another larval parasitoid, *Spathius galinae*, was released. These releases have occurred in 21 sites in 10 counties: Sussex, Warren, Passaic, Essex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Burlington and Camden.

The parasitoids were produced and shipped to New Jersey by the USDA APHIS PPQ Biological Control Production Facility in Brighton, Michigan.

In the last four years, the Department has released 165,752 Emerald

Ashborer Parasitoids in 21 locations throughout New Jersey.

Through biocontrol measures, only the large, old trees will be susceptible to attack by the EAB. Eventually ash trees will regenerate with the impact of the EAB lessened but not eliminated.

The goal of the biocontrol program is long-term and to bring the pest population back into balance with the environment by lowering the carrying capacity of the EAB.

The Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County.

Infestations throughout the United States and Canada have killed millions of ash trees since 2002.

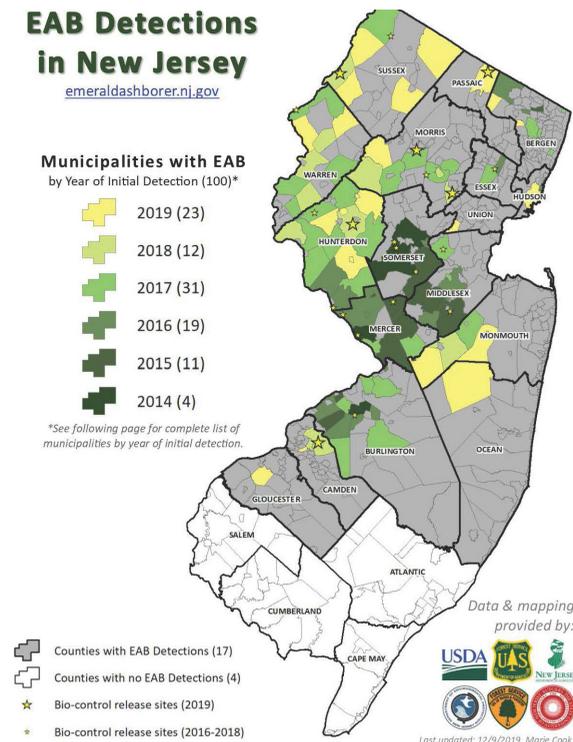
EAB Detections in New Jersey

emeraldashborer.nj.gov

Municipalities with EAB by Year of Initial Detection (100)*

- 2019 (23)
- 2018 (12)
- 2017 (31)
- 2016 (19)
- 2015 (11)
- 2014 (4)

*See following page for complete list of municipalities by year of initial detection.



Data & mapping provided by:



Last updated: 12/9/2019, Marie Cook

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Preservation Acreage Surpasses 235,000 With Fiscal Year 2019 Additions

The State Agriculture Development Committee preserved 61 more farms consisting of 4,204 acres across nine counties and 33 municipalities in Fiscal Year 2019. Overall, that brings the total of preserved farmland in New Jersey to 235,229 acres on 2,625 farms in 182 municipalities that have been permanently preserved under the program. In terms of number of acres preserved, Salem County continues to be the leader at 39,160 acres, followed by Hunterdon County at 33,639 and Burlington County at 28,943. Hunterdon County is the leader in the number of farms preserved with 430 followed by Salem County at 346 and Warren County at 278.

Burlington County has the most municipalities with preserved land at 21, followed by Warren County with 19 and Hunterdon County with 17. The counties with the largest average farm size that

is preserved are Burlington at 123 acres, Salem at 113 acres, Sussex at 107 acres, Atlantic at 106 acres and Cumberland at 96 acres. The SADC has played a major role in making New Jersey the

leader in the nation in State Investment Preservation programs at nearly \$1.7 billion. Approximately 33 percent of New Jersey's farmlands have been preserved. That is the highest percentage of any state in the country.

61
Number of farms
preserved in Fiscal
Year 2019

New Bill Brings Consistent Funding for Land Preservation

Governor Murphy signed S2920 (2R) into law in June and this bill supplemented and amended the "Preserve New Jersey Act".

This bill establishes funding allocations for constitutionally dedicated Corporate Business Tax (CBT) revenues for Fiscal Year 2020 and thereafter offering consistent funding year to year in support of Acquisition, Stewardship and Agriculture Development goals of the SADC and preservation partners.

Highlights included maintaining a 31 percent

share of the CBT funds for farmland preservation purposes, increasing the amount that may be used for stewardship activities on preserved farmland to 4 percent, amending the definition of "stewardship activity" to include projects that improve the resiliency of farmland soils, and allowing qualified farms preserved through Highlands Development Credit (HDC) and Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) programs as eligible to apply for stewardship funding from the SADC.



Grants Provided For Deer Fencing on Preserved Farms



Completed Fencing Projects Now Cover 16 Miles Across 764 Acres in N.J.

Cost-sharing grants were offered by the SADC to New Jersey farmers to assist with installing deer fencing on permanently preserved farms to protect against crop losses.

The SADC provided 50 percent matching grants to eligible farmers for the cost of fencing materials and installation. The maximum grant award was \$200 per acre of permanently preserved farmland owned or \$20,000 total.

Following up on the successful first round of Deer Fencing Grants

in Fiscal Year 2017, the SADC held a second round in FY2019. Between the two rounds, by the close of FY 2019, the SADC had approved 47 grant applications, and 13 deer fence projects had been completed.

The finished fencing covers 16 miles across 764 acres.

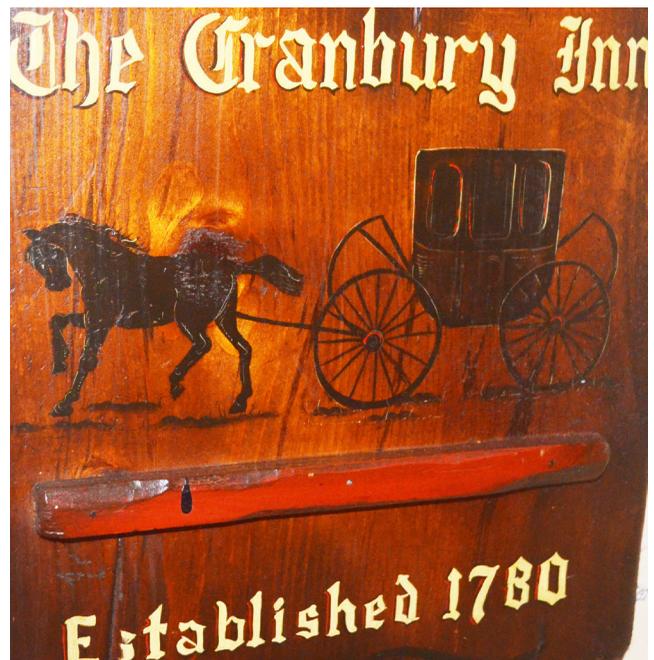
The funds were derived from a portion of the SADC's state farmland preservation monies that are allocated to promoting stewardship activities on preserved farms.

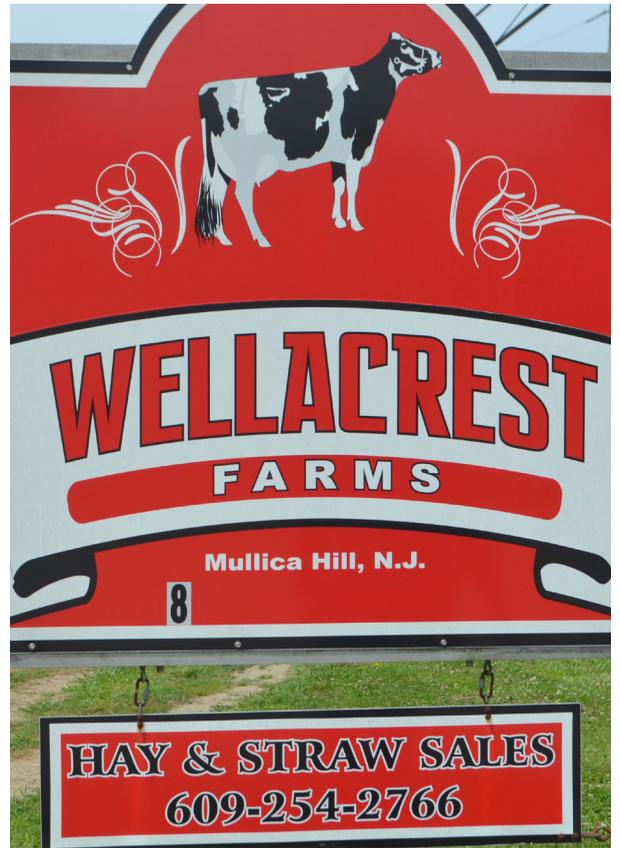
Land Access Workshops Advise Beginning Farmers

New and Beginning Farmer Land Access Training Workshops were held in February and April on leasing and purchasing land and assessing farmland.

The workshops included covering resources found online to gain familiarity of a farm's characteristics in order to assess the property before physically visiting the property, researching topics such as soils, zoning, roads/access, buildings and if it is a preserved farm. Resources included USDA Web Soil Survey and Rowan University's NJMap2.com; how to assess the characteristics of land such as slope, drainage, access to water, infrastructure and land use to ground what a perspective farmer may have learned online; Duke Farms Manager of Sustainable Agriculture addressing the workshop participants and providing real-world knowledge, stories and experience in addition to answering numerous questions from the audience.







New Jersey is a National Top Ten Producer of Fruits and Vegetables

2018 Statistics	Produce	Rank	Production	Production Value	Acres
	eggplant	1st	15.8 million lbs.	\$6 million	800
	peaches	3rd	46 million lbs.	\$41 million	4,100
	cranberries	3rd	512,000 barrels	\$15.8 million	3,100
	asparagus	4th	6.9 million lbs.	\$11.5 million	2,100
	bell peppers	4th	93.5 million lbs.	\$39.7 million	3,400
	spinach	4th	23 million lbs.	\$5.2 million	2,000
	blueberries	6th	44 million lbs.	\$62.4 million	9,000
	squash	6th	32.5 million lbs.	\$8.3 million	3,500
	tomatoes	6th	94.3 million lbs.	\$42.4 million	4,100
	cucumbers	9th	24.4 million lbs.	\$7 million	2,600



