

**NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

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September 12, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Jersey to celebrate first “New Jersey Gleaning Week” and “Farmers Against Hunger Day”

[Bordentown, NJ] ---- The New Jersey legislature passed three bills in 2016 to support the promotion of “gleaning”, the practice of recovering surplus fresh produce for donation to those in need. The bills designate the third week in September as *New Jersey Gleaning Week* and the Wednesday of that week as *Farmers Against Hunger Day* and directs the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to take measures to publicize both.

Assemblymen Bob Andrzejczak (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland), Timothy Eustace (Passaic and Bergen), Adam Taliaferro (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) and Gilbert “Whip” Wilson (Camden) sponsored the three bill package.

Farmers Against Hunger is a program of the New Jersey Agricultural Society, which annually recovers 1.4 million pounds of surplus produce, reducing food waste and providing a healthy, nutritious source of food for New Jersey residents in need who are struggling with food insecurity and malnutrition. FAH delivers weekly to four main sites in Browns Mills, Camden, Trenton, and Mt. Holly and also partners with churches, senior centers, food banks and pantries statewide to efficiently distribute fresh produce. The fresh produce is usually harvested that day and delivered free of charge to the 75+ organizations receiving it. Thousands of community volunteers contribute to the mission by helping to “glean” or harvest at local farms, helping to serve an average of 7500-8000 people weekly.

Farmers Against Hunger will be promoting Gleaning Week with various events which benefit the program including: **Customer Appreciation at Ort Farms** (Sept 17, Long Valley) and **“Hunger Hoedown: Dinner on the Farm” at Hlubik Farms** (Sept 18th, Chesterfield, NJ). A **Community Gleaning** event will be held at Giamarese Farms (September 19th) and other gleanings will fill in the rest of the schedule and posted on the website: www.njagsociety.org under the “Gleaning Week” Calendar. A statewide **Gleaning Summit** will be held at Fernbrook Farms in Chesterfield on September 20th and will bring together legislators, farmers, emergency feeding partners and volunteers to discuss gleaning and will be followed by a gleaning event. New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, Doug Fisher, will attend and present a proclamation and Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak will provide remarks. **Farmers Against Hunger Day** will take place on September 21st, which will include a gleaning with New Jersey American Water in Chesterfield and other social media contests/events.

The New Jersey Agricultural Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit dedicated to preserving and enhancing agriculture, farming and related activities and businesses in New Jersey through educational, informational, and promotional programs. New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger (FAH) was started in 1996 by farmers who sought to have their surplus produce go to good use by feeding those in need, and continues to be led by farmers who support the mission. For more information, please visit: www.njagsociety.org; Facebook: @ NJ Farmers Against Hunger; Twitter: @ NJ_FAH.