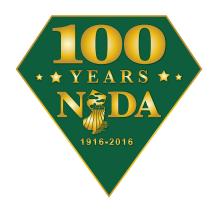
# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



2016

New Jersey State Agricultural Convention

February 10 & 11, 2016

Harrah's Resort and Waterfront Conference Center
Atlantic City, NJ







**Douglas H. Fisher** Secretary of Agriculture New Jersey



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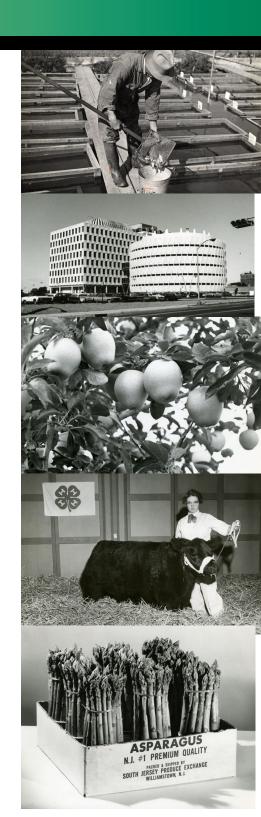
Angelo Trapani Board Member Monmouth County Beekeeping Industry

### The New Jersey Department of Agriculture

was created by law on March 29, 1916 to form a single agency to promote, protect and serve New Jersey's agricultural interests. The new Department would include divisions such as the Bureau of Animal Industry; the Bureau of Lands, Crops and Markets; and the Bureau of Statistics and Inspection. The positions of Secretary of Agriculture, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and the eight-member State Board of Agriculture were established.

Before the Department would become a working entity, Board members had to be elected. During the first Agricultural
Convention on May 17, 1916 all eight members were elected to the Board and given the responsibility of selecting the heads of bureaus as well as the first Secretary of Agriculture, Alva Agee, a college agriculture professor. The first Board consisted of Joseph S. Frelinghuysen (Somerville), Theodore Brown (Swedesboro), Henry W. Jeffers (Plainsboro), Edward A. Mechling (Moorestown), L. Willard Minch (Bridgeton), Thomas E. Inslee (Newton), F. M. Curtis (Harrington Park) and E. A. Sexsmith (Belmar, R.F.D.).

Much has changed in 100 years since the creation of the Department of Agriculture. There have been seven Secretaries of Agriculture, four buildings, and new divisions added, from Food and Nutrition to Agricultural and Natural Resources. Throughout all of these changes, the main goals of the Department have always stayed the same; to nurture and protect the agricultural interests of The Garden State.



# **SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE**

# **Alva Agee**



Alva Agee was this first New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture. Prior to his appointment, Agee was in charge of Agricultural Extension at State College, Pennsylvania. He originally came to New Jersey to become the director of the Division of Extension in Agriculture and Home Economics at Rutgers College. In 1916, he was appointed as the Secretary of Agriculture by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. Agee is credited with creating the outline which has made the Department so successful.

1916 - 1925

# **William B. Duryee**

Prior to becoming the Secretary of Agriculture. William B. Duryee was a very active member of the New Jersey agriculture community. A graduate of the College of Agriculture at Rutgers University, he owned and operated a farm in Monmouth County for most of his life. In 1917, Durvee was appointed by the State Board of Agriculture as a specialist in farm management and assigned to the farms of state-owned institutions. Secretary Duryee had many firsts in New Jersey agriculture. Duryee was the first Agriculture Agent in New Jersey, serving Monmouth County, and also the first vocational agriculture teacher in the state. He was named Secretary of Agriculture in 1925. After leaving the Department of Agriculture in 1938, he became an associate executive in the New York office of Sheffield Farms, Inc.





## Willard H. Allen

After graduating from Connecticut Agriculture College, **Willard H. Allen** became the extension specialist in poultry at his alma mater. Just a year later, Allen left to serve overseas in WWI. After the war ended, Allen moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey where he became the director of research at Acetol Production Company. After his time at Acetol, Allen was appointed the state county agent leader in Extension Services, and a professor at the College of Agriculture. In 1934, in addition to all of his prior commitments, Allen led the Agricultural Adjustment Administration



activities in New Jersey, supervising the corn-hog, wheat, and soil conservation programs. From 1933 to 1936, he was director of the Institute of Rural Economics. Allen was one of the founders of the Jersey Chick Association and served as secretary of the association as well as the State Poultry Association. His diverse experience in the state agricultural industry prompted his appointment as Secretary of Agriculture in 1938. In 1949, Allen was named Outstanding Citizen of New Jersey by the Advertising Club of New Jersey, commending all of his work for agriculture and the state of New Jersey.



# **Phillip Alampi**



Phillip Alampi was a farmer, teacher, coach, and the longest serving Secretary of Agriculture. Alampi was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but grew up on a small farm in Williamstown, New Jersey where his love of agriculture began. As a youngster, he was a member of the Future Farmers of America and started the 4-H club in Gloucester County. Alampi attended Rutgers University where he received his undergraduate degree in agriculture as well as his Masters in Education. From 1935 to 1945, Alampi taught vocational

agriculture at Woodstown High School in Salem County. In addition to being an agriculture teacher, he also coached football and basketball. After teaching, Alampi had a career in broadcasting, doing segments on farming on WABC radio in New York City.



Later he moved to WNBC and WNBC-TV to conduct farm and garden radio and television shows. In 1956, he was named Secretary of Agriculture. During his tenure, he earned the nickname, "Mr. Garden State," thanks to his persistant work on farmland preservation and marketing of the state's agricultural goods. He was instrumental in the passage of such legislation as the Farmland Assessment Act of 1963 and the Farmland Retention Bond Issue of 1981. After his retirement in 1982, Alampi worked as a consultant on agriculture to public agencies and corporations. Alampi held an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Rutgers University, multiple scholarships in his name and the Department named the Phillip Alampi Beneficial Rearing Laboratory after the former Secretary.

## Arthur R. Brown Jr.



Art Brown was raised on a dairy farm in Blackstone, Massachusetts, where Brown realized his love for agriculture. After receiving his degree in animal science from the University of Massachusetts, Brown came to New Jersey to work at Seabrook Farms. After working at the farm, Brown became the Agriculture Agent in Atlantic County. In 1971, he joined Rutgers Cooperative Extension and began his Masters in Horticulture at Cook College where, after

graduating, he became a professor. In 1982, he was appointed Secretary of Agriculture under Govenor Thomas H. Kean. Throughout his 20 years as Secretary of Agriculture, Brown focused on farmland preservation and created the Jersey Fresh brand. He also was instrumental in reforming the Right to Farm Act, which protects farmers from nuisance complaints. After leaving the Department of Agriculture, Brown began teaching once more at Rutgers' School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (formerly Cook College). Brown has received the National FFA Association's highest honor, the Honorary American FFA Degree; the Southern New Jersey Development Council's Statesman Award; the Golden Flower Award from the New Jersey State Florists Association and the New Jersey Plant and Flower Growers Association; and the New Jersey Education Association's 1996 Leadership Award. In 1996, he received the President's Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association, and in 1995, the New Jersey Horse Council named him Horseman of the Year. He was the recipient of the New Jersey Agricultural Society's Gold Medallion and is part of Rutgers University's Hall of Distinguished Alumni at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Even in retirement, he continues to farm in Atlantic County with his wife, Carolyn.



# **Charles M. Kuperus**

Charles Kuperus was raised on the family dairy farm in Sussex County, New Jersey. Three years after graduating from Eastern Christian High School, he founded his own nursery and garden center. From 1987 to 1992, Kuperus served on the Sussex Borough Council, where he was instrumental in planning and implementing upgrades to potable water and wastewater systems. From 1995 to 2001, he served as a commissioner on the New Jersey State Planning Commission; as chairman of the Plan Development Committee, he led the process to final plan adoption in March 2001. Kuperus was elected to the Sussex



County Board of Chosen Freeholders serving in 2001 until his appointment as Secretary of Agriculture in 2002. While in office, Kuperus focused on building the Jersey Fresh brand, farmland preservation, Child Nutrition programs, and promoting agricultural education. As Secretary, Kuperus preserved 1,100 farms, helped create 61 new farmers markets, developed school nutrition guidelines and put forth a Smart Growth for Agriculture plan. He also created the Jersey Grown and Jersey Seafood brands. He left the position in 2008, going back to his farm, garden center and florist business.

2002 - 2008

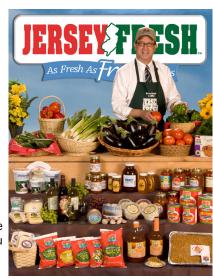


# **Douglas H. Fisher**



**Douglas Fisher** is the current New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture. He serves as the Northeastern Regional representative to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). He is a former Secretary/Treasurer of NASDA, President of Food Export-Northeast, and President of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture. After a 30 year career as a supermarket owner and operator, he worked as a Realtor and New Jersey owner of The Entrepreneur's Source. From 2001 to 2009,

he served as a New Jersey State Assemblyman, holding the chairmanship of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, as well as Deputy Majority Whip. He also served on the Budget, Commerce, Regulated Professions and Authorities committees. Fisher was Director of the **Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders** for five years, a Bridgeton City Councilman and was Treasurer of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization. In 2014, he was awarded the Thomas W. Kelly New Jersey Food Council Government Service Award; in 2010, he received an Honorary American FFA Degree: in 2009, he was given the South Jersey Freeholders Southern Star Award; in 2008, he was named Legislator of the Year by the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association; and in 2005, New Jersey Farm Bureau named him Legislator of the Year. Fisher proudly served in the New Jersey National Guard.



# The New Jersey Department of Agriculture THROUGH THE YEARS





#### March 29, 1916

The Department of Agriculture was formed by law. Under the new law, the divisions of Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Lands, Crops and Markets, and Bureau of Statistics and Inspection were created. The Department was originally located on the second floor of the New Jersey State House.

#### May 17, 1916

The first New Jersey State Agricultural Convention was held in the State House in Trenton. There, the first State Board of Agriculture was elected and Secretary of Agriculture was appointed.

### ... January, 1931

The Department of Agriculture moved into 168 West State Street.



#### 1944

A law is passed that stated the Secretary of Agriculture is still appointed by the Board, but must be approved by the Governor as well.



#### 1959

The State Soil Conservation Committee was transferred into the Department of Agriculture.



#### . 1960

The Department of Agriculture moved into the Trenton Trust building. The Department of Agriculture and its labs were on the seventh floor, while the elevator only reached the sixth, requiring samples, including animals, to be carried up a flight of stairs.

### **..... 1**963

The ground breaking for the new Department of Agriculture building at Market and South Warren Streets was held.



#### November 5, 1963

The New Jersey Farmland Assessment Amendment was added to the New Jersey State Constitution via a public vote, which seven out of 10 voters approved.



#### 1964

The New Jersey
Farmland Assessment
Act was signed into
law. This act keeps
property taxes lower on
farmland, not including
houses, to make it
easier for farmers to
continue to farm in
New Jersey.



#### 1965

The Department of Agriculture moved into its current building at 369 South Warren Street.

#### **April 1973**

The Blueprint Commission on the Future of New Jersey Agriculture issued a report, which included a plan to preserve basic land for agriculture and made recommendations to enable agriculture to continue and thrive permanently in the Garden State. It was the forerunner to the subsequent Grassroots Report and led directly to farmland preservation legislation in 1981.

#### January 26, 1983

The Farmland Preservation
Act was signed into law.
This law gives farmers
monetary incentives to keep
farmland in use as farms
rather than development.

Right to Farm was signed into law. This law protects responsible farmers from unreasonable public and private nuisance actions.





#### 1984

The Jersey Fresh brand was created by Agriculture Secretary Art Brown to help farmers inform consumers about the availability and variety of fruits and vegetables grown in New Jersey.

#### ... 1985

The first New Jersey farm was preserved under the Farmland Preservation Act.



#### 1985

The Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Rearing Laboratory opened. The lab has made it possible for entomologists to develop insect-rearing techniques and mass produce beneficial insects to be used to help reduce invasive insect and weed populations at a low cost without the use of chemicals.

#### July 1995

The Agricultural Education Program moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture, bringing the FFA to the Department.

### 1995

The New Jersey State Legislature mandated that the Department of Agriculture develop and adopt regulations governing the minimum standards of humane raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing and sale of domestic livestock and poultry. Working with industry, New Jersey Farm Bureau, veterinarians, Rutgers University and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, N.J.A.C. 2:8 was passed in June 2004, becoming the first regulations of their kind in the country.

### July 1997

The Bureau of Child Nutrition Program moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture. The program includes National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, Child and Adult Care Food and Summer Food Service.

#### 2002

The Department reached the first 100,000 acres of New Jersey farmland preserved under the Farmland Preservation Act.



#### **April 2005**

The Jersey Grown program was developed to certify that plants, trees, shrubs and flowers are grown in New Jersey.

#### October 2004

The Jersey Seafood brand was created to promote and certify Jersey-caught seafood.



### May 2007

The Department of Agriculture was accredited by USDA to conduct in-state organic certification services to farmers and processors.



#### October 2010

Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week was created by law. The Department of Agriculture must hold events the fourth week of September each year promoting the use of local and fresh produce in school meals.

#### March 2012

The Department's Division of Animal Health and Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) moved from Trenton to the new New Jersey Public Health, Environmental, and Agricultural Laboratories (NJPHEAL) facility in Ewing. The move enabled the AHDL to expand its services. The Division of Plant Industry and its lab moved to the NJPHEAL shortly after.

#### .... October 2012

New Jersey hit 200,000 acres of preserved farmland.



#### August 25, 2014

A package of bills was signed into law to help establish the importance of what farm to school programs do to benefit our state's farms and school children. These bills required the Department of Agriculture to post on its website information regarding the state's Farm to School program, establish "Best in New Jersey 'Farm to School' Award Program" to annually recognize the best Farm to School programs implemented by a school or school district, create a clearinghouse website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast programs, lunch programs and food banks, and allow monetary donations to the Farm to School program.



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