

Secretary's Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture

April 24, 2019

Agricultural Marketing Trade Shows and Outreach – Marketing and Development Division staff attended the Canadian Produce Marketing Association Trade Show and Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Eastern Canada remains the third largest market for Jersey Fresh produce, trailing only the Tri-State area and Greater New England. Also, this month, Division staff participated in the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Expo at the Meadowlands. The event, hosted by the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association, provides an opportunity to connect with chefs and restaurateurs to encourage the sourcing and use of Jersey Fresh products as part of their food service programs.

Canadian Blueberry Fruit Certification – Applications for the 2019 Canadian Blueberry Fruit Certification (BCP) and Blueberry Plant Certification programs were prepared by Plant Industry Division program staff during March. New Jersey blueberry growers wishing to be certified by either of these programs enroll after April 1 each year. The BCP (Canadian Policy Directive: D-02-04) outlines the phytosanitary requirements in which New Jersey blueberry growers who wish to ship fresh blueberry fruit into Canada must comply with to prevent the spread of blueberry Maggot.

FFA Career Development Events – Twelve different career development events have occurred throughout April. These events serve as an extension of the classroom and test students' competency in various areas of agriculture. Twenty-three students from seven chapters participated in the Horse Evaluation CDE on April 7 at Dream Park in Gloucester County. This event was held in partnership with New Jersey 4-H. One hundred and ninety-two agriculture students from 25 different chapters participated in Spring Career Development Events (CDE) on April 11 at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Events included Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems, Environmental & Natural Resources, Floriculture, Nursery/Landscape and Veterinary Science.

Summer Food Service Program – As the summer operating season is fast approaching, the Food and Nutrition Division's temporary staff are trickling in and the entire unit is preparing for upcoming Sponsor Operations training. The process for N.J.S.A.18A:33-24 through N.J.S.A.18A:33-27, Implementation of the Summer Food Service Program is final. There were 127 School Food Authorities (SFAs) affected by the law and 23 will become sponsors or sites this summer. The remaining SFAs have been approved to waive the requirement this year and will plan implementation for Summer 2020. SFSP staff continue to review and approve applications and bid packets. Sponsor bid openings begin on April 10th.

Vectorborne Disease Working Group – A Division of Animal Health staff veterinarian attended the Vectorborne Disease Working Group meeting in late March, which was attended by several agencies. The DAH staff veterinarian provided an update on the Longhorned tick finding in Kentucky, the potential for funding through the cooperative agreement for tick surveillance, their invitation to speak about the Longhorned tick at the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) meeting in Wisconsin, and an update on the African Swine Fever situation. There was a discussion on the bill that was introduced with regards to a pilot project in which NJDA would be the coordinating body. The state veterinarian spoke at a recent hearing of the Assembly Ag and Natural Resources Committee regarding tick surveillance and control in the state.

Spotted Lanternfly Staffing – The Division of Plant Industry is seeking to hire 25 temporary hourly employees to conduct field work for the 2019/2020 Spotted Lanternfly Survey and Control program. The

survey pathologist has been working with Human Resources to recruit and interview applicants for these positions. Twenty-two applicants have been interviewed thus far and 13 have accepted. The proposed starting dates for the new hires are April 29th. The Department is also planning to hire one full-time hourly employee to function as an office assistant to support the operations of the Spotted Lanternfly Survey. So far two interviews have been conducted and five more are planned.

Child and Adult Care Food Program – The Food and Nutrition Division’s Child and Adult Care Food Program representatives are attending the 33rd National CACFP Sponsors Association Child Nutrition Conference in Chicago from April 23-25. Organizations and State Agency representatives nationwide will come together for training, networking, and learning about eliminating childhood hunger, combating childhood obesity, improving the health of participants through nutrition and physical activity, and raising families out of poverty. The national conference is strategically planned with speakers who will provide needed child nutrition policy information and who will motivate attendees towards future success.

Community Farmers Markets – Marketing and Development Division staff has responded to requests from local governmental and municipal organizations that are working on developing community farmers markets, advising them on the process and assisting them in informing the farm community of these new marketing opportunities. The towns of Rochelle Park, Garfield, Berkeley Heights, Passaic and Military Park in Newark are all considering the opportunity to host a community farmers market.

Emergency Planning and Preparedness – The Division of Animal Health has a new field veterinarian that will be working as Animal Emergency Coordinator. During the initial transition period, the employee will work on updating the NJDA Animal Emergency website (<https://www.animalemergency.nj.gov/>) and re-establishing communications with the county’s Office of Emergency Management coordinators and County Animal Response Team (CART) leaders.

Water Supply Advisory Council – Agricultural and Natural Resources Division staff are working with Dave Specca (the Ag representative on the Council) and members of the Council to address concerns around Agricultural Water Allocation issues, including: accuracy of crop use coefficients and use estimates, water use monitoring and reporting, and developing a pilot project to assess use, monitoring, and reporting.