

A MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

February 2008

Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

Jim Murphy (turf management specialist) received the 2007 Recognition Award from the New Jersey Turfgrass Association at the Green Industry Expo in December for his research and extension efforts in support of the turf industry in New Jersey.

At the annual meeting of the New Jersey Food Processors Association (NJFPA), held on January 23, 2008, **Lou Cooperhouse** (Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center) was elected as one of three incoming directors.

Jack Rabin, associate director of Farm Programs at the Rutgers NJAES, [spoke with WNYC's Brian Lehrer](#) about the resuscitation of the "Ramapo Tomato" for this summer's growing season.

Student Activities and Accomplishments

Kristen Barlett-Healy (graduate program in Entomology) was named a runner up in the 2007 American Mosquito Control Association's Student Paper Competition for the Hollandsworth Prize. **Ben McGraw** (graduate program in Entomology) received the 2nd place Presidents Prize at the 2007 Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. **Jessica Ware** (graduate program in Entomology) received the Student and Young Professional Participation Award from the Entomological Society of America, which came with a \$50 honorarium.

Grants

Lisa Rodenburg (Environmental Sciences) and Robert Miskewitz (EcoComplex) have received a \$30,000 grant from the New Jersey Water Resources Research Institute for "Volatilization of PCBs from the Tappan Zee region of the Hudson River."

George Hamilton (Entomology) and **G. Williams** received a \$60,000 USDA NE Regional IPM grant for "Development of Novel Application Technology for the Control of the Asian Tiger Mosquito in Urban Environments."

Stacy Bonos, **Bingru Huang**, and **T. Gianfagna** (all of Plant Biology and Pathology) received \$50,000 for two years from the U.S. Golf Association for "Confirmation of QTL Markers for Dollar Spot Resistance in Creeping Bentgrass." **Huang**, **Bonos**, and **Faith Belanger** also received \$89,912 for three years from the U.S. Golf Association for "Identification of Quantitative Trait Loci Associated with Drought and Heat Tolerance in Creeping Bentgrass."

Albrecht Koppenhöfer (associate extension specialist) and V. Fournier received \$19,380 from the U.S. Golf Association for "Optimizing Oriental Beetle Mating Disruption through a Better Understanding of the Beetle's Dispersal Behaviors."

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Jim Murphy (extension specialist in turf management), and **Bruce Clarke** (specialist in turfgrass pathology) received \$30,000 for two years from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the GCSAA New Jersey Chapter for “Management Practices Effects on Anthracnose Severity of Annual Bluegrass Putting Green Turf.” Murphy and Clarke also received \$90,000 from U.S. Golf Association for “Development of Best Management Practices for Anthracnose Disease on Annual Bluegrass Putting Green Turf.”

Jeannette Rea-Keywood (Cumberland County 4-H agent), Pamela Cooper, and Kelly Leman received a \$15,000 competitive grant for the Autistic Youth Explore Science Through Horticulture and Gardening Program from the Ronald McDonald Foundation.

Conferences, Seminars, and Other Events

The **Rutgers NJAES Food Innovation Center** has been leading a comprehensive study to better understand New Jersey’s farmer’s markets, identify best practices, and benchmark measures of success. It is anticipated that this research will result in improved profitability for farmer participants in New Jersey farmer’s markets, and create new opportunities and destinations for the state’s rural and urban municipalities. An extensive survey has been conducted and focus groups and interviews have been held. A series of three forums will be held to highlight the findings of the center’s research efforts. These will be free and will be held on:

- April 1 – from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holly House in Rutgers Gardens, Log Cabin Road and Ryders Lane, New Brunswick
- April 2 – from 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Freeholder’s Meeting Room on the first floor of the Passaic County Administration Building Annex, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson, NJ
- April 3 – from 9:30 to 1:00 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center, 87 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, NJ

For more information on these forums and to register to attend these free seminars, please see <http://www.foodinnovation.rutgers.edu/FarmersMarketRegistration.pdf>.

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension personnel continue to collaborate with the NJ Environmental Federation, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and others to develop and conduct **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** trainings focusing on the landscape and turf component for school district IPM programs. A session was held on December 6, 2007 in Sparta, NJ. Fifty-four principals and facilities managers/head custodians attended. **Madeline Flahive DiNardo** (Union County agricultural agent) presented. Ratings of the training were excellent. At year end, 1,008 IPM coordinators had been trained at 17 training sessions held across New Jersey.

FYI

Mark your calendars for the 90th Ag Field Day celebration! Join us April 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the G. H. Cook Campus. For more information on the event and to register as a vendor or exhibitor, please visit <http://agfieldday.rutgers.edu/>.

